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online soldiership lessons

Doctrine 4: In Search of Jesus

We believe

That in the person of Jesus Christ

The Divine and human natures are united,

so that he is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.

Ready:

Read before Lesson 4: In Search of Jesus”.

These can be accessed online from within the website.

OR Print out reading assignments before the session.

***For most impact, have students come to the session having read the assignment. Encourage students to use a “highlighter” or underline words or sentences that stand out to them, that catches their attention, or that brings up questions. They should have this ready for group time.

Print out any handouts, if applicable. (There are no additional handouts in this lesson).
Have your POWERPOINT PRESENTATION / WEBSITE UP AND READY



OPTIONAL:

REVIEW the Doctrines VIDEO—
link in Leader’s PowerPoint and in the webpage.

Set:

Go to: <https://armyofcompassion.me/2014/09/22/lesson-4-in-search-of-jesus/>

*Link is in Leader’s PowerPoint and on armyovcompassion.me Lesson 4 webpage.
PLAY VIDEO from inside Lesson 4: Who is Jesus?
This will set up your Lesson.



***Group Prayer:** Open your time together with Sentence Prayers that express your gratefulness for Christ's work in your life. Often we walk through our days unaware of His presence and working in our lives.

Have each person (as they feel comfortable) give a very short (just a few sentences-1 min max) testimony of one thing that Christ is revealing to them, or teaching them in their relationship with him and others.

VIDEO: William Booth's "Vision of the Lost" A Parable for his time, and ours.
Leader's PowerPoint and online in Lesson 4.

[illegible]

1. How does “William Booth’s Vision of the Lost” speak to you in the context of our world?
2. What happens (or doesn’t happen) if we do not catch this vision?

Lesson 4: In Search of Jesus

[illegible]

are contained in your reading this week. Others include John 8:48-59; 10:36; 14:6). Jesus' life matters because of HOW HE LIVED. While tempted and exposed to darkness, suffering, evil and spiritual forces, Jesus chose obedience. He lived a sinless life that becomes a template for the highest life we can choose to live. Every prophecy in the Old Testament and every teaching throughout his ministry reinforce both his identity, his motives and his mission. Christians look at his teachings and find an authority, the Truth, and a pattern for their own lives that cannot be found anywhere else.

There is an eternal essence to God's plan which begins at mankind's fall and is pulled into a trajectory hurling through history towards the Cross. God's love of his children is at the very center of the narrative. Jesus' birth-his coming. His living. His obedience. They all matter. But we cannot separate these from the crucial moments that brought about our salvation. This is where it gets personal. His death was in our place.

There are also verses that can be assigned to be read.

PowerPoint Slide: "Why It Matters" Because of who He WAS... and IS
John 8:48-59, John 10: 36, John 14:6, Matthew 16:15-16

VIDEO: "You Take it On" by Redux.

Theme: Because Christ is who Scripture claims Him to Be, He is able to take our sin, and we can be clean.

The Torah- those first books of the Old Testament- reveal our need for a Savior. God loves his people, and leads them, establishing a **relationship** and showing them his character of holiness and compassion. He set up a system in which they could understand this relational God who desires obedience and yet, who wants the very best for his people. The Old Testament is a history of YHWH who will not let his people go. The New Testament reveals the Savior prophesied of in the Old. We are left unable to stand before God because of his holy character, are separated by sin that ultimately leaves us spiritually dead.

Jesus' death matters. Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin that we could not. This is the ultimate sacrifice that takes the whole of the Old Testament concepts / visual examples about the shedding of blood covering sin and brings it all into focus. Restoration in our relationship with God is now possible. We must remember that this is never the result of ritual or symbols but of covenant- of relationship.

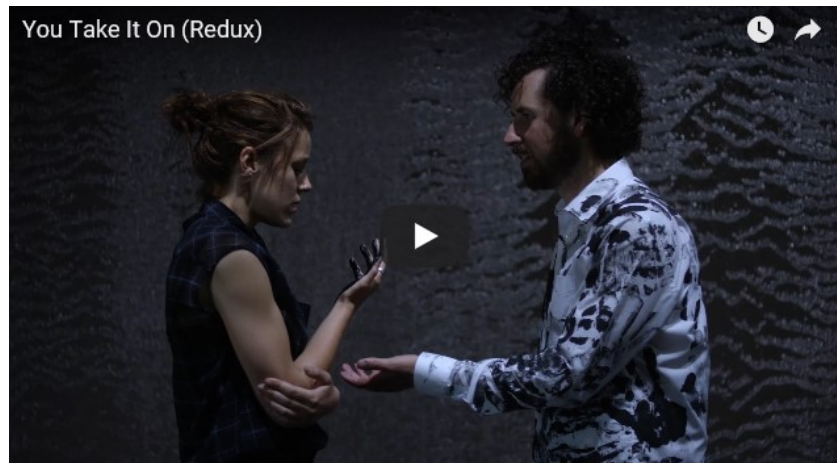
His resurrection matters. When looking at the scope of his life and ministry, while each is important they pale when we see the "universe altering" exchange that was completed in the resurrection! This is this absolute miracle which gives each of us a new future, a new beginning in life. We look forward with new trust, hope, and boldness for our everyday lives. Peter 1:3 "Because Jesus was raised from the dead we've been given a brand new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven".

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OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:

(For discussion, as posed by "Equipped for Battle"-see resources)

1. In what ways is Christianity a relationship? In what ways is our faith religious?
2. If a relationship to Jesus is the foundation of Christianity, what role might religious rites play in our most basic faith?
3. Why does it matter if Jesus was "fully God and fully man"? What difference would it have made



in he had been God only appearing to be human? Or a good man claiming to be godly?
How could we respond to a person who claims to believe in God, but sees him just as a prophet or teacher?

GROUP: Sing as a closing chorus: **Because He Lives**



God sent his son, they called him Jesus,
He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives.

[Chorus]
Because he lives
I can face tomorrow
Because he lives
All fear is gone
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because he lives

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FYI / CK IT OUT this week: (*OPTIONAL)
Salvation Army Culture: Where is the Street Corner today?
Social Media-online ministries... let's transform lives by utilizing
whatever means are possible!
We need a strong Christian presence.
Be genuine. Be true. Video in Lesson 4 online / General Andre Cox.

Boots on the Ground: An opportunity to put your faith into action

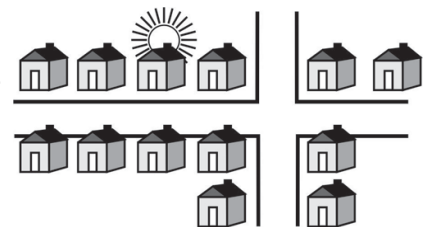
ACTIVITY: "WALK THE BLOCK"

As a group for the closing 15-20 minutes of your session together- --

"Walk the block"- where your group meets.

Remembering "William Booth's Vision of the Lost", pray as you walk...

with eyes fully open. Ask yourself: "Who are the lost in my neighborhood?" Pray for them.



Prayer Walk

How To Pray:

- Ideally, find a friend or two to walk with you.
- Walk the streets of your neighborhood, silently praying for each person, each house.
- Pray for specific needs if you know them, or just pray for God's truth and blessings for each person.
- Pray walking should be low-profile. You don't need to carry a Bible, pray out loud or tell everyone what you're doing. Just quietly pray as you walk.

This can also be adapted for each persons
"neighborhood of residence"

Encourage them to take this activity home - "Walk their Block" this week.

Hand out the printed "Lesson Reading" assignments for Lesson 5 so that students will be ready for the next session.