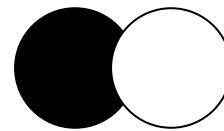


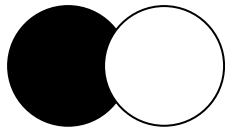
exist.org.uk

discover
prog 4: part1
who am i?



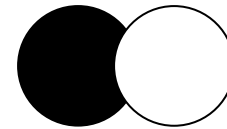
prog 4: part 1: who am i?

wk 1: who am i. discover who jesus is.
wk 2: way. discover the way to God.
wk 3: truth. discover the truth about God.
wk 4: life. discover life with God.



programmes

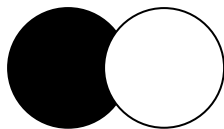
helping you discover jesus of nazareth



our mission

exist exists to:

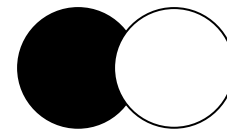
inspire devotion to jesus of nazareth
by disseminating his words
in innovative formats



café exist

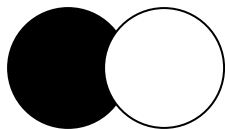
meet up with people in your area and talk over
the issues raised in prog 3

who's running café exist near you?
contact us to find out: info@exist.org.uk



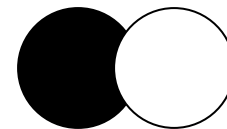
resources

download and share flash and powerpoint
presentations relating to this programme @
exist.org.uk/resources



existature

exist literature (existature) comes in display
stand style, themed, e-boxes of 200 items
advent e-box
easter e-box
hope e-box
image e-box
i am e-box



info

further information: info@exist.org.uk

exist is an initiative of newton mearns baptist church,
glasgow
uk
www.newtonmearnsbaptist.org.uk

wk 1: who am i?

notes:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

day 1:
identity

who am i?
we all know who we are
at least we think we do
we all know our own identity
at least as much as we'll admit to ourselves

when jesus of nazareth asks,
'who am i?'
he doesn't ask the question of himself
he asks it of me

jesus of nazareth
who do you say i am?

day 2:
direct

it's a direct question
no beating about the bush
no dodging the issue
it's full on
straight talking
jesus of nazareth looks me in the eye and asks me
where do you stand?

it would be more comfortable if he were less direct
easier to avoid giving a straight answer

jesus of nazareth
who do you say i am?

day 3:
question

his question needs an answer
an honest one
'i don't know' - that's a starting point
but even that feels like a lie.

somehow deep inside
i know exactly who jesus of nazareth is
it's in what he does and says
there's authority in his words that no-one else possesses

jesus of nazareth
who do you say i am?

day 4:
opinion

everyone's got an opinion
a view
they say, 'jesus of nazareth? - he's a teacher
a prophet
a revolutionary
a martyr'

some say, 'he's deluded' or worse - 'a deceiver'

me?
i see something in him that's beyond all of that
in him, i see God
living in a human body

jesus of nazareth
who do you say i am?

day 5:
decision

so, what happens now?
now that i've weighed up all the evidence?

well, i guess now there's a decision to be made
a choice
who *do* i say jesus of nazareth is?

after thinking through all that i've heard and read
what's my decision?
where do i stand?
for
against

jesus of nazareth
who do you say i am?

day 6:
reveal

after reading everything that's to be read
and after hearing so many opinions
after listening to all the experts
somehow, something more's needed.

it's as though facts in themselves can't reveal the truth
when it comes to knowing who jesus of nazareth is -
something needs to be revealed
by God

jesus of nazareth
who do you say i am?

day 7:
declare

well, i know where i stand
and i'll declare it for all the world to hear
i'll tell anyone who asks
i'll tell people who don't

i'll even tell people who don't want to hear
why?
because i can't keep quiet about jesus of nazareth
he's too important for that

jesus of nazareth
who do you say i am?

wk 2: the way.

notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

day 1:
lost

without him
without jesus of Nazareth, i'd be lost
it's not that i couldn't get by
i guess i could
well, after all, millions of people do
but i'd be lost
not just in finding my way in this world
but lost in knowing how to get to the next one

jesus of nazareth
i am the way

day 2:
road.

he's laid out the road before me
planned it for me
not that i can't make choices
i do that every day
but i make them in discussion with him
and then he keeps me on the road

where is that road leading me?
it's leading me back home to jesus of nazareth

jesus of nazareth
i am the way

day 3:
the way

'i am the way'
says jesus of nazareth
and that's got me wondering
how can a person be the way?
does he mean he'll show the way?
or maybe that he knows the way?

if i take 'i am the way' at face value
it means something more than that

jesus of nazareth
i am the way

day 4:
signpost

look!
there's a signpost
thank heaven for that
i was beginning to think i'd been left all alone to make my
decisions
it's a signpost from God
a route-finder for life
it points one way
it points to jesus of nazareth
well, that's the route i'm going to follow

jesus of nazareth
i am the way

day 5:
crossroads

i'm standing at a crossroads
which way now?
don't all roads lead me to the same place?
i guess not
i'm thinking some choices'll lead to very different destinations
the only thing to do is ask jesus on nazareth to walk with me
that way, whatever road i take -
he's there

jesus of nazareth
i am the way

day 6:
map.

if i could map out my life
if i could draw its course
i know what route i'd take
i'd drive the highway that God's built
it leads through some tough territory that's for sure
but it takes me straight to where i need to go
no diversions
no delays

jesus of nazareth
i am the way

day 7:
journey

it's a long journey when you've no companions
every step's an effort
every hill's a mountain
every valley's a chasm

jesus of nazareth's been my companion these last twenty-
five years

with him by my side
every step's been a pleasure
every mountain's been a hill
every chasm's been a valley

jesus of nazareth
i am the way

wk 3: the truth.

notes:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

day 1:
lies

a lie
it's easy to do
it just slips out
without even trying
a neat way out of trouble
a convenient way of saving face

jesus of nazareth does more than tell the truth
he does more than teach the truth
he embodies truth
he is truth
through and through

jesus of nazareth
i am the truth

day 2:
believe

jesus of nazareth says 'believe in me'
but what does that mean?
to believe he existed?
to believe he actually said and did what's written
about him?

no, i don't think that's all he asks
he wants me to believe he lives
and for that to affect how i live

jesus of nazareth
i am the truth

day 3:
speak

believing the truth
that's one thing
but speaking it out
that's it's partner
i can believe without speaking,
but somehow it feels, well, incomplete

and what does jesus of nazareth require of me?
just this
that i should believe in my heart
and speak with my mouth
that he's God

jesus of nazareth
i am the truth

day 4:
tell

i promise to tell the truth
the whole truth
and nothing but the truth
so help me God

familiar words
but if i'm to do it,
i'm going to need God's help

after all
if i don't ask God's help
i'm wide open to the evil one
and his lies

jesus of nazareth
i am the truth

day 5:
whole

the whole truth
all of it
in it's entirety

that's an uncomfortable thought
'cause there's things i'd rather not hear
or have other people know about me
but jesus of nazareth, he knows it all

and knowing that he knows
and that he still accepts me
that makes me whole

jesus of nazareth
i am the truth

day 6:
ultimate

is there such a thing as ultimate truth?
or is everything relative?
shades of grey?
confused?
blurred?
hazy?

when i look to jesus of nazareth
the haze clears
blurred edges sharpen
confusion turns to clarity
shades of grey to black and white
now i know there's an ultimate, unmoveable truth

jesus of nazareth
i am the truth

day 7:
truth is

truth is...
after all's said and done
there comes a moment of decision

a point when i've to align my life with what i believe

and what do i believe?
who do i believe?
it's jesus of nazareth
he says he's the truth

so, truth is...
i'm believing no-one else

jesus of nazareth
i am the truth

wk 4: the life.

notes:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

day 1:
death

death
it's the final frontier
the point beyond which no-one's ever gone
and come back to tell the tale

no-one that is except jesus of nazareth
so, when he says he is 'the life'
well, i guess his words carry some authority

i guess that make him worth listening to

jesus of nazareth
i am the life

day 2:
full

a life that's full
that's what jesus of nazareth offers

but not just a life full of activity
not just filled with busy-ness
or with the frenetic rush of 21st century living

but a life that's full of meaning
full of peace
filled with joy
filled right up to overflowing

jesus of nazareth
i am the life

day 3:
long

it's in our psyche to long for a long life

but in God's eye's
it's not the length of a life that gives it value
it's the quality
it's the closeness to him.

in his 30s, jesus of nazareth laid down his life
then he took it back up again

jesus of nazareth
i am the life

day 4:
forever

who wants to live forever?
who wants life to go on and on and on?
well, no-one if everyday's the same

but when jesus of nazareth talks eternal life
he's talking of life with God
where yesterday, today and forever merge together
fused into one exquisite moment in his presence

jesus of nazareth
i am the life

day 5:
give

who can give life?
not me, that's for sure
other than through having children of course.

but to give life
to create it
from scratch
out of nothing
that's what jesus of nazareth -the life giver - says he did
and it's not just idle talk either
he's the creator

jesus of nazareth
i am the life

day 6:
take

who can take a life?
well, any one of us can

a flash of anger
and it's over
in a second

or pre-meditated
calculated to eliminate an enemy
that's what they did to jesus of nazareth
but although his life was taken from him - he took it back up
himself

jesus of nazareth
i am the life

day 7:
cheap

human lives're cheap
millions begin each day
and millions end
they cost nothing to produce
and little to sustain

but jesus of nazareth, he values human life
it's not cheap to him
and he paid a high price
so's people like me
and you
could know that God loves us

jesus of nazareth
i am the life

