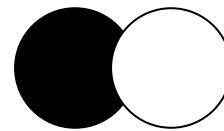


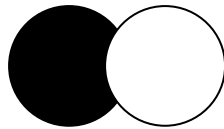
exist.org.uk

discover
prog 5:
what if death isn't the end?



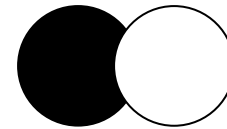
prog 5: what if death isn't the end?

wk 1: living one.	discover the living one.
wk 2: keys of death.	discover jesus' authority.
wk 3: keys of hell.	discover the truth about God.
wk 4: everything new.	discover renewal.
wk 5: a and z .	discover the way to God.
wk 6: alive forever.	discover eternal life.
wk 7: resurrection.	discover life with God.



programmes

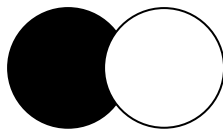
helping you discover jesus of nazareth



our mission

exist exists to:

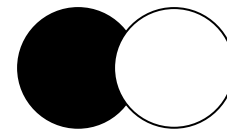
inspire devotion to jesus of nazareth
by disseminating his words
in innovative formats



café exist

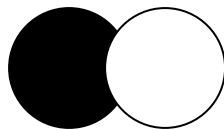
meet up with people in your area and talk over
the issues raised in prog 3

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



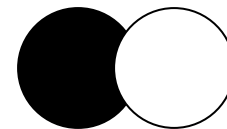
resources

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](mailto:info@exist.org.uk)

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

wk 1: i am the living one.

notes:

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

day 1:
origin

everything has a beginning
an origin.
but God?
God exists before the origin.

his name?
he calls himself 'i am'
it means, i am the living one
i am alive forever
before all things began
seems jesus of nazareth says that about himself too
now that's got me really wondering

jesus of nazareth
i am the living one

day 2:
source

where does life come from?
what's its source?
sure life's chemical
biological
natural
but it's source?
it's source must super-natural
beyond nature
so i'm looking outside the universe
to God
to jesus of nazareth
who gives life
after all, he died
then he took his own life back up again

jesus of nazareth

day 3:
gift.

life's a gift
a valuable gift
it's a precious thing
to be cherished.

but a gift is to be enjoyed
it's given in order to delight

sad then, when it's taken for granted
when it's giver receives no thanks
i'm saying thank you to jesus of nazareth
the life giver

jesus of nazareth
i am the living one

day 4:
receive.

i've been offered something special
it's a present
i'm not sure i know what's in it
what it holds
but i know i want it
so, i'll receive it
i'll take it with thanks
it's the gift of life
it's jesus of nazareth who's giving it
it's his to give

jesus of nazareth
i am the living one

day 5:
claim.

whoever would claim to give life?
whoever would claim to live forever?
someone say that, i'd be laughing at them
i mean really laughing

so why's it i'm not laughing at jesus of nazareth?
why's it what he says rings true?
he's speaking right to me.
inside

jesus of nazareth
i am the living one

day 6:
the
one

how many people ever came back from the dead?
not just resuscitation
but resurrection?

how many?
only one that i ever heard of.

so, i'm thinking:
if millions of people say they've met jesus of
nazareth
maybe the claims are true
maybe there's something
in all of this
after all

jesus of nazareth
i am the living one

day 7:
living

living
dying
they seem like opposites
worlds apart
but in reality they're close
side by side
just a breath apart

jesus of nazareth: an infant takes his first breath
his lungs fill with air
jesus of nazareth: crucified, dead, buried
he breaths in
his lungs fill with air
alive again

jesus of nazareth
i am the living one

wk 2: the keys of death.

notes:

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

day 1:
authority

he speaks like someone with authority
like he's in charge.

he speaks
and his words make me feel everything'll be ok
like he's in control
so,
even when things look really bleak
and it seems there's no purpose to life
well, even then
jesus of nazareth comes and brings peace

jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of death

day 2:
taboo

there's some things we don't talk about
things that make us feel uncomfortable
things we'd rather not think about
for example:
dying
that's one thing we'd rather not face
something we'd prefer to put on one side
it's taboo
except with jesus of nazareth's followers
why?
'cause he's defeated death

jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of death

day 3:
lock

death's door's locked
a door of solid steel
reinforced
impassable
and behind that door's a strongroom

no-one's getting out of there
no-one at all
and no-one's about to open that door
or break it down
or pick the lock

except maybe someone with a key
someone like jesus of nazareth

jesus of nazareth

day 4:
prisoners

life.
it's a life sentence spent on death row.
we fill our days, but at night as we lie in bed,
we know there's an end approaching.
it's the shadow of death
it hangs over us all

but jesus of nazareth sets prisoners free
he releases us from death row

jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of death

day 5:
tomb

dark
cold
silent, friendless
that's what i'm thinking
when i think about a tomb
any tomb, anywhere in the world
but especially the tomb where jesus of nazareth was laid
then,
in the dark
and in the cold
in the silent stillness
something stirs
his eyes open
alive again
forever

jesus of nazareth: i hold the keys of death

day 6:
liberty

i'm dancing down the street
clicking my heels together
i'm leaping in the air
i've been set free
i never expected to be released
never thought i'd experience liberty like this

but then,
i never had a friend like jesus of nazareth before
he turned the key in the lock

jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of death

day 7:
release

today
there's a great explosion of joy in me

why?
'cause i've been released

it's as though my spirit's been in chains all my life
until today
today i met jesus of nazareth
now i know he holds the keys of death
'cause he was once dead
now he's alive

jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of death

wk 3: the keys of hell.

notes:

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

**day 1:
living hell**

sometimes life goes wrong
relationships break down
arguments start.

then there's the wars of attrition
and the squabbles
and the fights
and the hate

is this a living hell?
well, it sure can feel like it.
jesus of nazareth holds the keys that set us free from a
living hell

**jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of hell**

**day 2:
hell on earth**

God makes earth
it's a paradise,
a paradise for us to live in

but we decide paradise can be improved - how?
by pushing God out

the end result?
God turns us out
paradise becomes hell on earth.
just as well for us that jesus of nazareth came to
restore things

**jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of hell**

**day 3:
separation**

it's said:
'absence makes the heart grow fonder'
but separation's painful as well.

like when we're separated from the one who made us
from our creator
and separated, not just for a moment,
but forever
now that's hell
and it's only jesus of nazareth who can bring about a
reunion.

**jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of hell**

**day 4:
judgement**

i suppose i should get what i deserve
i guess that's what we'd call judgement

so when it comes to God
what should i get?
by what standards does God judge?

does God judge thoughts as well as actions?

if so, that's an uncomfortable prospect
i'll be asking for mercy

**jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of hell**

**day 5:
mercy**

alongside judgement stands mercy
the twin arms of God's character
two arms outstretched
and nailed to a cross
arms wide open

in those arms is mercy
forgiveness

those two arms that embrace the world
are outstretched to embrace you
and me

jesus of nazareth - God's mercy in human form

**jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of hell**

**day 6:
open**

every door can be opened
even locked doors

but what about the kind of doors we close around ourselves?
doors that can only be opened from the inside.

what if i were to open myself up?
what if i were to open up to jesus of nazareth?
what'd happen then?

**jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of hell**

**day 7:
heaven**

if jesus of nazareth's unlocked the door
the door of hell
then what's he unlocked it for?
what's waiting for me?

some people call it heaven
some call it paradise
some call it eternal life
all i know is that this is heaven to me:
to know jesus of nazareth

**jesus of nazareth
i hold the keys of hell**

wk 4: everything new

notes:

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

day 1:
renew

when things get old and tired
it's time to renew them
it's time to start again
to redesign
reinvent
rethink
so jesus of nazareth says he'll do that with everything
new sky
new earth
a new universe
and a new body for me
i guess i'm going to need one

jesus of nazareth
i am making everything new

day 2:
overhaul

he's going to give everything a good going over
a real overhaul

all the things that need replaced... they'll be out
in the trash can
all the bits that've broken
they'll go too.

what about people?
what about me and you?

can he overhaul human lives?
i'm told he can

jesus of nazareth
i am making everything new

day 3:
makeover

a new image
a makeover
a new look

looking like new
no wonder it's so popular
who doesn't want to want to look brand new
again?

i'd try it except that i'm afraid it'd only be
cosmetic
all on the outside

but if jesus of nazareth would makeover my soul...

jesus of nazareth
i am making everything new

day 4:
facelift

i'm feeling tired
life's cares are showing in my face
i think that pretty soon i'll be due a facelift

i think the same applies to my spirit
tired
life's cares weighing me down

can jesus of nazareth nip/tuck my soul?
i asked him
and he did more than nip/tuck

jesus of nazareth
i am making everything new

day 5:
entire

everything
start to finish
top to bottom
beginning to end
the whole jing bang
jesus of nazareth is making everything new

entirely
that's stars and planets
solar systems and galaxies
heaven and earth and human lives too
only someone who's got his power could ever say that
and be believed

jesus of nazareth
i am making everything new

day 6:
rebuild

from the ground up
jesus of nazareth rebuilds lives like mine

first he takes things down
right down to the foundations
then he rebuilds the entire building
one brick at a time
until he's constructed something new
something wonderful
until i'm remade in his image
completely rebuilt in his likeness

jesus of nazareth
i am making everything new

day 7:
reinvent

to start again
that's a challenge
to completely rethink everything

well, i know that i'd be struggling
i mean, i'd always be referring back to what's been before

but jesus of nazareth
he's inventive
he's creative

he says he'll make everything new
he's created once
and he'll do it again

jesus of nazareth
i am making everything new

wk 5: i am the a and the z.

notes:

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

day 1:
complete

everything.
the a and the z
the start and the finish
the beginning and the end

jesus of nazareth's all of that
he gathers everything up in his arms
and in him everything's complete
there's nothing outside of him
there's no loose ends
or bits left over
it's all his

jesus of nazareth
i am the a and the z

day 2:
bookends

like bookends
at the two outer edges of existence
jesus of nazareth holds everything together
he holds together time and space
and life and death
and light and dark

and everything in between?
all the books on the shelf?
well, they're all his too
he wrote them all
every one

jesus of nazareth
i am the a and the z

day 3:
beyond

he's beyond beginning and end
after all
to even talk of beginnings and endings
only makes sense in a world where time exists

so, he says he's the creator
the creator of everything
including time
that means jesus of nazareth began all beginnings
and one day he'll end all endings

jesus of nazareth
i am the a and the z

day 4:
all
encompassing

he throws his arms around the universe
his embrace is all encompassing
he throws his arms around me
round the whole world too
including you
why does he love so much?
why was he willing to die for it?
is it because he knows that love is stronger than death?

jesus of nazareth
i am the a and the z

day 5:
first

first
before everyone else
it's the place that everyone wants to be
ahead of the pack
at the forefront

thing is though, about jesus of nazareth
he's got the right to be first
'cause of who he is
and he showed us who he is
by putting other people first

jesus of nazareth
i am the a and the z

day 6:
last

he's got the final say
he's got the last word
there's nothing else to say
after jesus of nazareth has spoken
he silences all objections
and just by who he is
he quells dissent

there's no arguing with someone who died
and then came back to life
it's pretty conclusive

jesus of nazareth
i am the a and the z

day 7:
outside

what's outside of everything?
nothing?

impossible.

there must be something
something outside must've caused things to begin
how else could it all exist?

i don't know about you
but these thoughts are too big for me

so, i'm looking to jesus of nazareth for answers
after all, he started it

jesus of nazareth
i am the a and the z

wk 6: i am alive forever

notes:

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

day 1:
time

i'm watching the sun rise in the sky
and i'm watching it set
it counts off my days
and marks my life

alongside God who spoke everything into existence
i'm nothing
compared with jesus of nazareth who's alive forever
my time here's as nothing

amazing that he thinks of me

jesus of nazareth:
i am alive forever

day 2:
eternity

to live forever
that's been the dream of humanity for ... well,
forever

elixirs of life
rejuvenating springs
but none of them seem to work
then comes jesus of nazareth - he says he's alive forever
and ever
not only that, he offers to share his life around
with me
and you

jesus of nazareth:
i am alive forever

day 3:
measure

how do we measure a life?

maybe by its length?
or by what's packed into it?
maybe by the cash value of what's left behind?

i wonder how God measures mine?
by what i've done?
by what i'm doing right now?
or maybe by my attitude towards jesus of nazareth?

jesus of nazareth:
i am alive forever

day 4:
quality

quality of life's important
to possess things that're of real value
that's what life's all about really, isn't it?

so, i'm looking to 'possess' jesus of nazareth
by all accounts anyone that embraces him finds life
they find a quality of life like no other
and that's of real value

jesus of nazareth:
i am alive forever

day 5:
unquestionable

it's a big claim
a claim like no-one else has made
ever
or even dared to
'i am alive for ever'

i'd question the validity of that claim
i'd question the sanity of the one who said it

unless
the evidence was overwhelming
unless
the facts made it unquestionably true

jesus of nazareth:
i am alive forever

day 6:
encounter

suppose i encountered someone who's been alive forever
and who's going to live forever
what would they look like?

old?
wizened?
i'm thinking now of jesus of nazareth
does this apply to him?
no it doesn't
sure, he's alive forever
but he gives new life
it actually generates from him

jesus of nazareth:
i am alive forever

day 7:
know

i'd like to know him better
jesus of nazareth that is

after all,
'alive for ever' - that's something i'd want to share in

that's one offer i'd certainly consider taking up
'specially if it's on free offer

i think he and me had better talk
pretty soon
like, right now

jesus of nazareth:
i am alive forever

wk 7: i am the resurrection and life

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

day 1:
tears

how many tears have we cried?
and how many have we still to shed
over people we loved
now gone

are the world's blue oceans deep enough to hold our
tears?
to hold our outpourings of grief?

even jesus of nazareth wept at his friend's grave
he knows our pain

jesus of nazareth:
i am the resurrection and the life

day 2:
trauma

to lose a loved one's bad enough
but to first see them tortured
right there - before you eyes
to see them suffer and die
the trauma doesn't bear thinking about

then to go view the body
but to find it gone

then to see him
through tears
alive again

jesus of nazareth
i am the resurrection and the life

day 3:
awake

it's all quiet
outside it's still dark
people are sleeping
even the birds are still and silent
awaiting the dawn

inside it's dark too
a body lies lifeless
motionless
dead

jesus of nazareth, what happened to your
promises?

then, it happens
something no-one's expecting
suddenly you're awake
you're alive

day 4:
alive

the spark of life
it enlivens each one of us
it turns us from lifeless dust
into living being

who can breath life into dry earth?
or spark life into a dead body?
who can make it alive?

jesus of nazareth, can you give life?
will you make me live?

jesus of nazareth
i am the resurrection and the life

day 5:
risen

no violins
no fanfares
no symphonic crescendos
no wide screen cinematic moments
no human eye to see
no witness to verify
no need for that
no doubting
not now

in silence God's masterstroke takes place
jesus of nazareth rises from death
soon every eye will see
no doubting
not then

jesus of nazareth
i am the resurrection and the life

day 6:
reunion

when we're separated
when we're apart
even though it's just for a little while
even still it feels so long

in my darker moments it feels like we'll never be together
again
then comes the reunion
only you, jesus of nazareth, crossed from life to death
and came back again

jesus of nazareth
i am the resurrection and the life

day 7:
retored

one time i felt like everything was destroyed
all plans for the future
all hope
all faith
all gone

everything was thrown into turmoil
like there was no point in going on
that's when i found out jesus of nazareth restores
all faith
and hope
and plans for the future

jesus of nazareth
i am the resurrection and the life

