

christianity explained

discovering the Christian message from Mark's Gospel



ce[®]

workbook



**“I have come that you may have life,
and have it to the full” - Jesus**

- a New Life

Please read this before continuing....

- 1.** This presentation, as you know, is called ‘Christianity Explained.’
- 2.** ‘Christianity’, as the name implies, is all about the person called Jesus Christ.
- 3.** All that we need to know about Jesus is found in the Bible. The record (or story) of Jesus’ life and death is found in four books of the Bible named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- 4.** For this presentation, we have chosen to focus on just one of these books, and we have chosen the book named ‘Mark.’

(Refer to the index in your Bible if necessary)

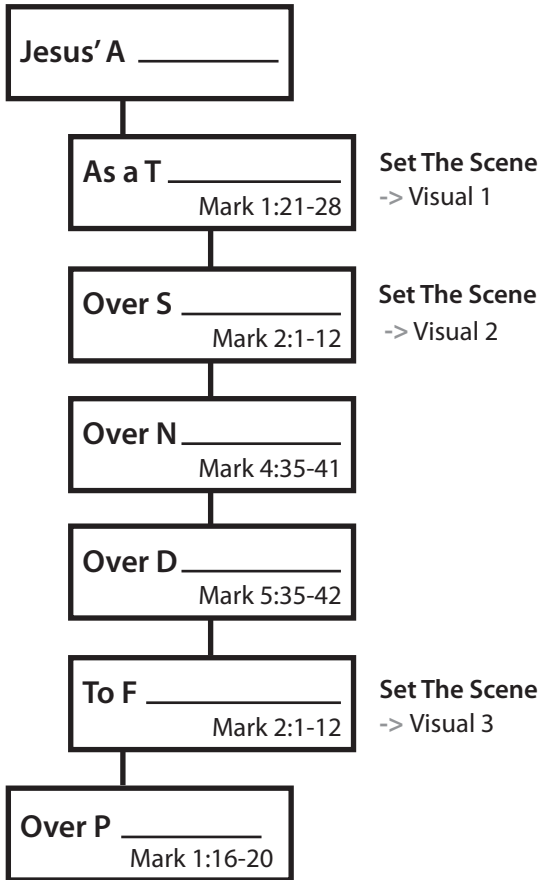
Session 1

Jesus, SON OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

- Bible – 66 Books, 40 authors, 1,500 years
- Mark... the writer?
- Read Mark 1:1

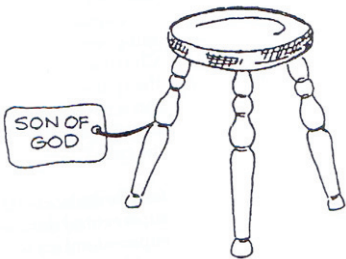
Q. What does it mean to say that Jesus is “the Son of God”?



SUMMARY:

- Jesus' great authority
- He is GOD
- Decision

L _____
L _____
L _____



*"I have come that you may have
life and have it to the full"*
-A NEW LIFE (Jesus)

Session 2

Jesus - HIS CRUCIFIXION

Discuss reading of Mark Ch 1-5 now

- Cross – worn as jewellery
- Cross – burial symbol
- Cross – central to Christian faith

CONCLUSION:

- His crucifixion is sufficient payment for any person. However...
- Benefit is not automatically given to everyone
- We must accept Jesus individually by 'faith'



What does it mean?

Mark 15:33-39

The Darkness

Mark 15:33



The Cry

Mark 15:34



**"The Book" visual from
CE Manual Session 2**

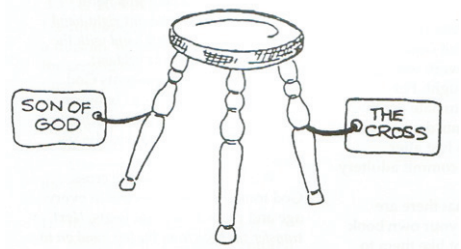
The Curtain

Mark 15:38

Set The Scene
-> Visual 3

Ransom

Mark 10:45



During this week, read Mark, Chapter 6-10

Session 3

Jesus - HIS RESURRECTION

Discuss reading of Mark Ch 6-10 now

- Predicted - Mk 10:32-34
- Proved - Mk 16:1-8
- Meaning - Acts 10:39-43

Peter meets Cornelius:

- Visual 1 – Joppa to Caesarea

All people will be R _____

Verse 42

All people will be J _____

Verse 42

The risen Jesus will be the
J _____

Verse 42

All people divided - two groups

- Positive
- Negative

See Mark 8:38

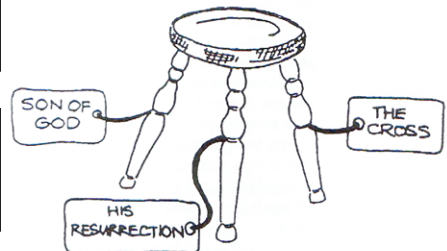
Division is F _____

2 Thessalonians 1:8-10

CONCLUSION:

Summary; Jesus' attitude to me is, if I...

- Accept Him now –
He will accept me T _____
- Reject Him now –
He will reject me T _____



During this week, read Mark, Chapter 11-16

Session4

GRACE NOT WORKS

Discuss reading of Mark Ch 11-16 now

Visual - The envelope illustration from CE Manual Session 4

- Q1. Do you know for certain that you have eternal life?
- Q2. Suppose you died today and God asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you reply?

WRONG ANSWER



G _ _ d Works

Keeping God's R _ _ _ _

Helping the P _ _ _

F _ m _ ly

Reading God's b _ _ k

Pr _ _ ing

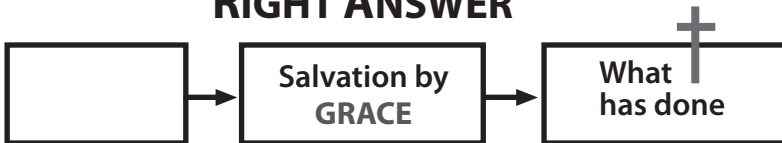
Religious Meetings

Religious practices:

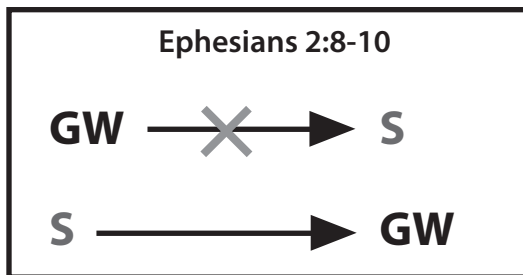
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WHY NOT?
MarK 7:14-23

RIGHT ANSWER



Grace means an undeserved f_____ g_____ from God



CONCLUSION:

- You do not/cannot earn salvation
- Free gift! ... must be received!

During this week, read the small booklet "One Man You Really Must Meet" or the booklet you have been given.

Also, re-read these passages, asking, "What does it mean for me to follow Jesus?"

Mark 1:15

Mark 8:34 - 38

Mark 9:43 - 48

Mark 10:29 - 31

Session5

Receive Gift: 'REPENT'

Discuss home reading now

- Public survey question:
 "What is a Christian?" Read Mark 1:14-15
- **Definition:** Someone who B_____ to the Kingdom of God
- What two things does a person need to do to belong to the Kingdom of God? (v.15)

R _____ & B _____

Q: What does it mean to REPENT?

I put Jesus F _____

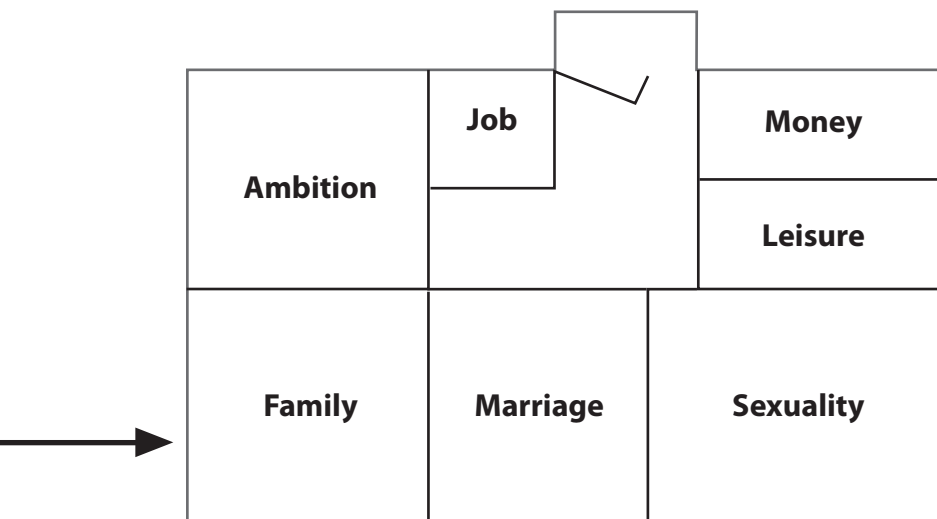
Before my W _____
Mark 8:34-35

Before my A _____
Mark 8:36-37, Matthew 6:33

Before my P _____
Mark 8:38

Before my ? _____
Mark 9:43 - 48

Sounds too hard?
Mark 10:29-31



Read "My response" on pages 17, 18 & 19 of this workbook.

What 3 gifts are given to those who come to Jesus? Complete:

Mark 1:8 _____

Mark 2:10 _____

Mark 29:30 _____

Session6

Receive Gift: 'BELIEVE'

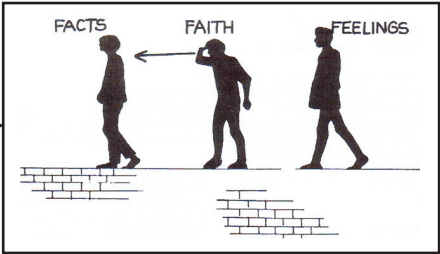
Discuss home reading now

A person belongs to God when he/she... (Mark 1:15)

REPENTS AND BELIEVES

BELIEVE means _____

Taking Jesus
at His W _____
Mark 5:21-24, 35-43



Reaching out to J _____
Mark 5:25-34

Having a 'child-like' T _____
Mark 10:13-16

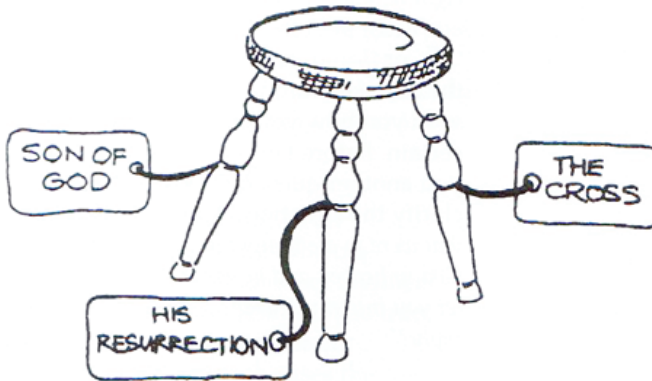
Visual 4

Receiveing Jesus
as your K _____
Mark 10:15

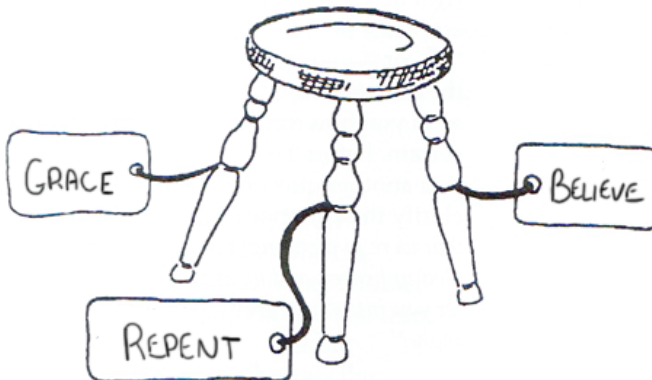
Recap and next step - see next page —————>

SUMMARY...

JESUS:



MY RESPONSE:



Jesus once said:

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to LIFE, and only a few find it."

To receive this life, Jesus said I must enter through the narrow gate. This gate is Jesus himself.

But how am I to do this? >>>

MY RESPONSE:

We could summarise it in these four steps.

A. ... Admit -

You need first to admit and acknowledge your own sinfulness before God. Sin is not just doing, saying or even thinking wrong things. Sin is an attitude that comes from your heart, and attitude that says to God 'I do not want you, God, running my life or telling me how to live. Yes, I am happy to pay lip service to you from time to time, especially when I am in need or in trouble. But apart from that, leave me alone to be the master of my own destiny.' This is Sin with a capital! Then there is...

B. ... Believe -

We have seen there are three great truths about Jesus you must believe to be a Christian. First, he was and is the Son of God. He was a great teacher and healer, but he was far more than that. He came to earth as God in human form. He came, secondly, with the express purpose of dying on the cross as the perfect sacrifice to God his Father for sins. Our sins are so offensive in God's sight that no lesser sacrifice could wipe the slate clean. Then, Jesus came back to life to show he had conquered mankind's greatest unanswered fear, the age old problem of death. Then, there is...

C. ... Consider -

Because Jesus is alive today and forever, he claims the right to be the master, king and governor of your life. You must consider, or count, the cost of becoming a disciple and follower of Jesus. The world, generally, is not impressed with people who take this life-changing step. Friends and family members may actively oppose your new found faith. Jesus predicted this could happen. Also, from now on, you are to look to God and his Word for guidance on how to live and behave in this world. Finally, there is...

D. ... Decide -

Although salvation is a free gift, and by Grace alone, there is a response you need to make. Jesus taught that you need to receive the Kingdom of God with child-like trust in God's desire for your best. 'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full,' Jesus promised – a NEW LIFE. The Bible says you must believe in Jesus as your Saviour, the one who will forgive all your sin through his death on the cross. You must also receive him as Number One in your life, the one who will direct and govern your life from now on.

Some people find it helpful to pray a prayer like the following as a way of saying 'Thank you' to God for sending Jesus as Saviour and Lord:

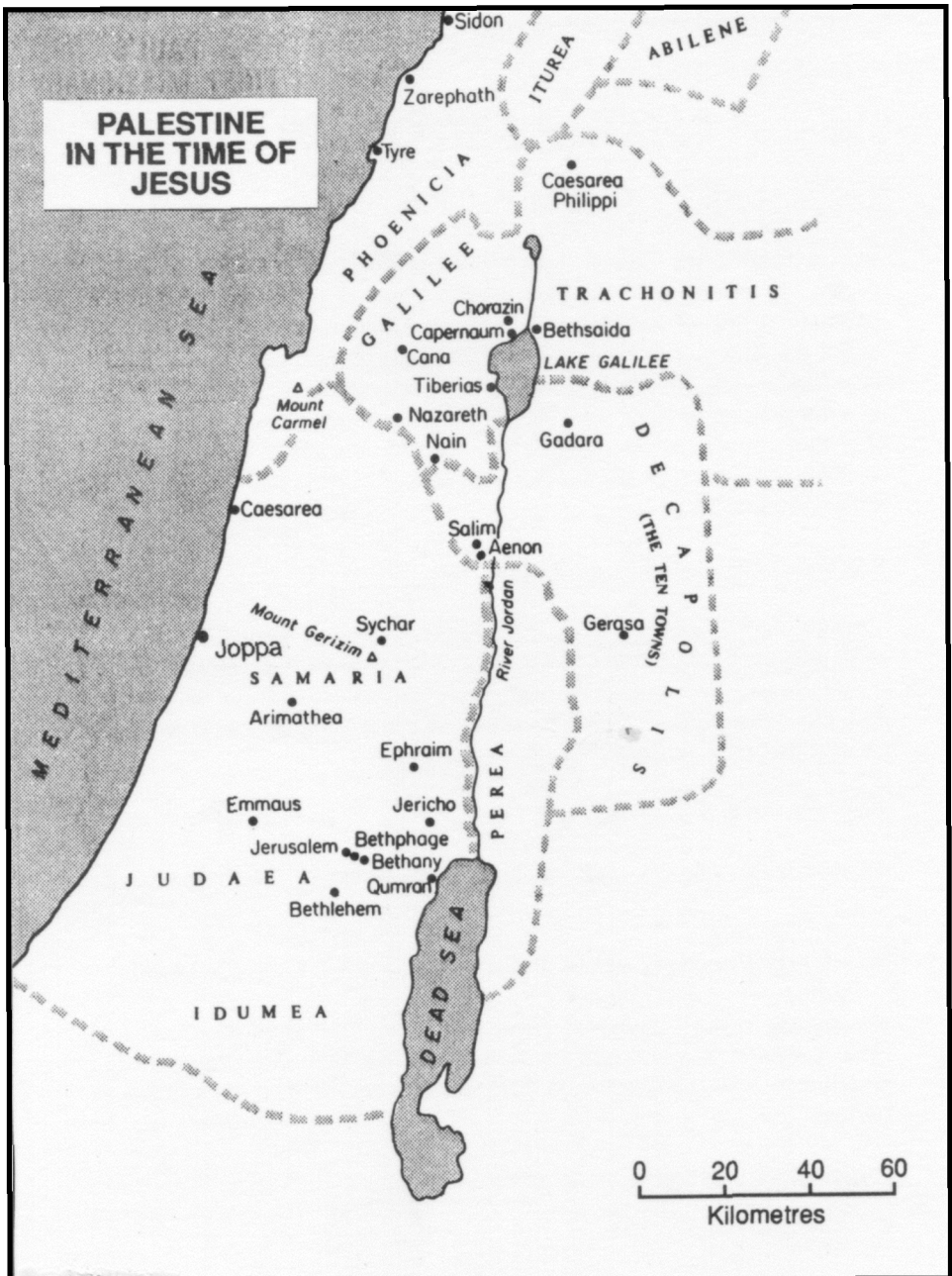
"Dear God,

Thank you for sending your own Son into our world. I do believe he died on the cross for my sins, and rose from the dead to be the king of the Universe, and I do receive him as my Saviour and Lord.

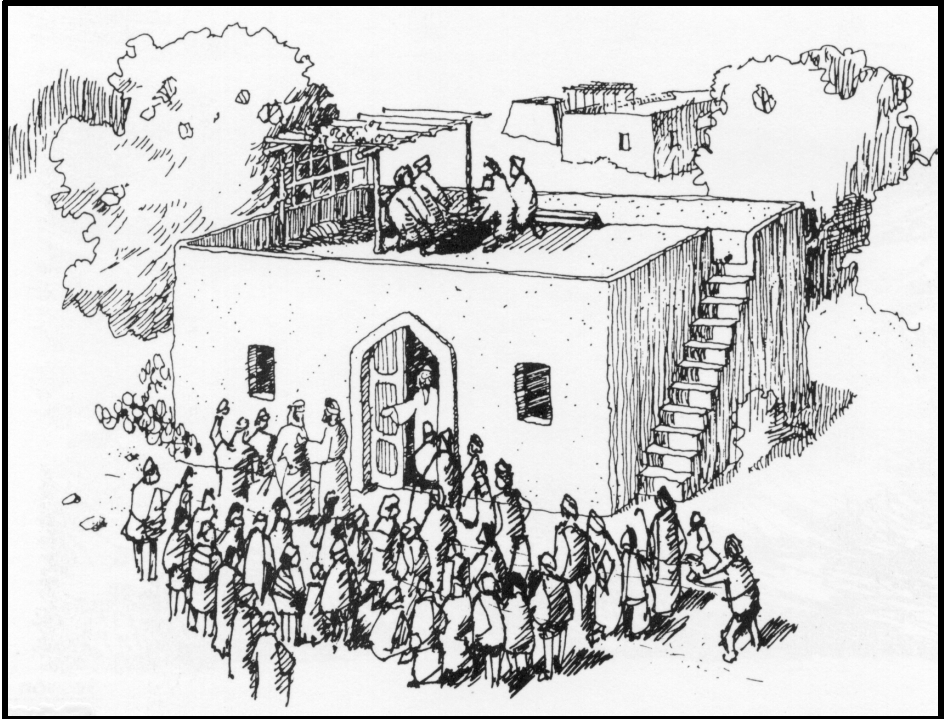
I confess that I am guilty of doing many bad things. I have tried to run my life without you, and I have made a bit of a mess of it. Please help me to be a better person with the help of your Spirit within me. Help me honour you in all I do, think and say. And please forgive me should I sometimes fail.

In Jesus' name, Amen."

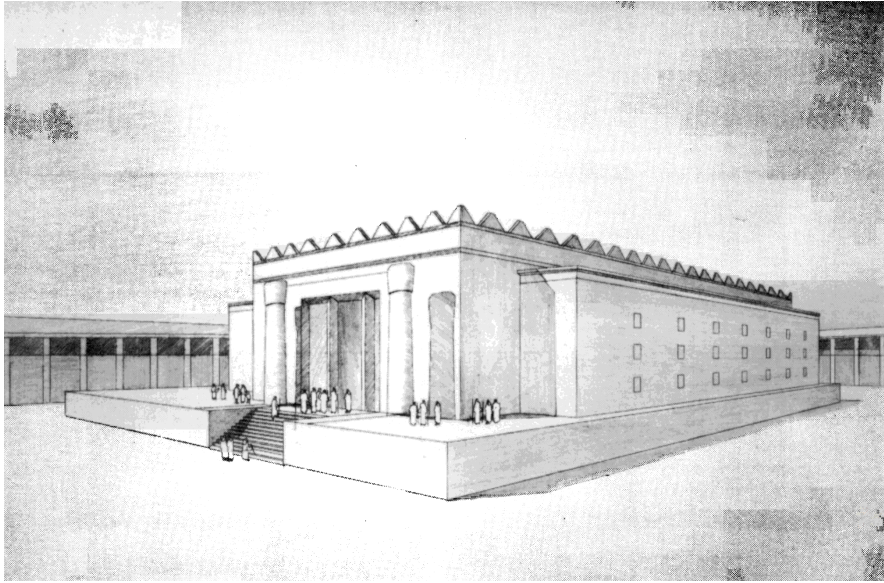
VISUAL 1



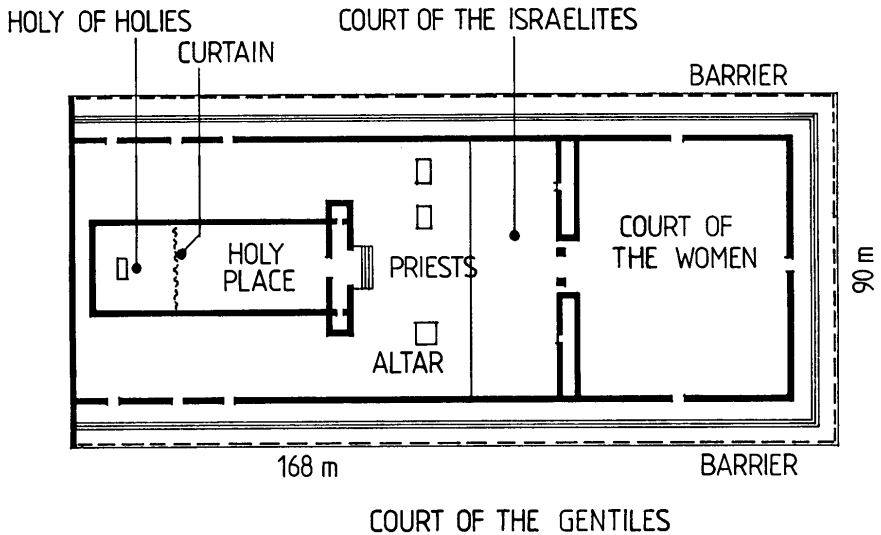
VISUAL 2



VISUAL 3



COURT OF THE GENTILES



VISUAL 4

CHARLES BLONDIN, 1824 – 97

Blondin was a very gifted French acrobat and tightrope walker. He began his career as 'The Little Wonder' at the age of 6. His most celebrated act, done when 35, was to cross Niagra Falls on a tightrope. The rope stretched 1,100 feet across from one side to the other and was 160 feet above the water. He crossed it blindfolded, then in a sack, then on stilts, then pushing a wheelbarrow and then with a man on his back. On one occasion he sat in the middle of the rope and cooked and ate an omelette. At 72 he was still doing somersaults on stilts 170 feet above the floor of the Crystal Palace of London.

There is a story told by Blondin.

One day he crossed Niagara pushing a wheelbarrow. The crowd went mad with excitement. He was feted by thousands of spectators.

Then he asked the crowd if they believed that he could cross to the other side pushing the barrow with a person in it.

With one voice they all replied, 'Yes, of course you can.'

Then he went up to the nearest admirer and said to him 'You there, hop in.'

Now it was a long way across and a long way down to certain death.

It was easy to say 'I have faith in you, Blondin. I believe that you can take someone across.' But the acid test of his faith in Blondin was whether he was really willing to trust him with his life and get into the barrow.

Otherwise, it was just so much talk.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLAINED

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Tick appropriate answers.

Please be honest and frank.

Please feel free not to answer any of these questions.

Name Phone

1. Before you began this course, how would you have described yourself?

- a. ☐ I didn't believe in God.
- b. ☐ I didn't know if there was a God or not.
- c. ☐ I believed in God, but not in Jesus Christ.
- d. ☐ I thought I was a Christian, but now I know I was not.
- e. ☐ A Christian (ie. a personal commitment to Jesus Christ).
- f. ☐ Something else

2. How would you assess your position now in relation to Jesus Christ?

- a. ☐ I have genuinely repented and come to believe in Jesus, and I have received him as my Lord and Saviour.
- b. ☐ I'm interested in learning more, but as yet I have not committed my life to Jesus.
- c. ☐ Other

3. If you have not yet become a Christian, what is stopping you?

.....

.....

.....

4. Have you reached the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that you have eternal life? If you died tonight, would you go to heaven?

☐ YES ☐ NO

5. Suppose you were to die tonight and you stood before God in heaven and he asked, *'Why should I let you into heaven?'* What would you reply?

'You should let me in because
.....
.....

6. Quite often, people who have finished this course want to go on and discover more about the Christian faith. To cater for this need, we offer a further six-week course, which looks at what it means to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ. Would you be interested in doing this course?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ YES, BUT LATER

7. a. ☐ I am satisfied with the church I go to.
b. ☐ I do not regularly attend church, but I would like to be introduced to a church where there is warm fellowship and good teaching.
c. ☐ I do not wish to attend church at this stage.

8. What comments would you like to make about the course, either positive negative?

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

NOTE:

This workbook is designed to be used in conjunction with the main textbook 'Christianity Explained' Some small differences may be found between the two, as for instance with the addition of some new material on pages 17-19 of this book.

Where differences are found, follow this workbook in preference.

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