

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. John 1:14 & 18 – The Word always existed (Jesus) and became flesh to live among us. Eugene Peterson's translation of the Message says it this way, "The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood." God came close in Jesus. God is not just an idea or an impersonal force – God has revealed Godself in Jesus. Over and over again in John's Gospel, the theme of signs or touching and experiencing Jesus for oneself is emphasized.
2. Mark 1:14-15 – The time being fulfilled marks the appointed time for the ministry of Jesus to begin. What do you think about when you hear the word "repent?" People often think it means to feel bad enough about your sins, so you'll stop doing them. Repentance is about realizing you're going the wrong way. It's about turning around and starting off in the right way to a better destination.
3. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 20-28 – We all have our personal experience in relationship with Christ, which often can't be verified by others. Paul is making his case for Christ's resurrection based on his personal experience and historical evidence. The case is further made for Christ's return and overcoming of death.
4. As Christ-followers, we are to be the Kingdom Community joining Jesus in His way of love, sacrifice, and suffering to help usher in His dream for the world. Every time we feed the hungry, we partner with Jesus for what's ahead. Every time we reconcile people and people groups, we partner with Jesus for what's ahead. Every time we connect the lonely to community, we partner with Jesus for what's ahead.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND QUOTES

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized?
4. Who have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.?

"If there were a God you would not relate to him like someone on the first story of a building would relate to someone on the second story, that if you just went upstairs you would find them. If there is a God you would relate to him in the way Hamlet would relate to Shakespeare. Hamlet will not find Shakespeare by going backstage or looking up in the rafters. The only way Hamlet discovers anything about Shakespeare is if Shakespeare writes himself into the play." -C.S. Lewis

"[When Jesus spoke these words], it was a radically new concept. Jesus insisted that his return will be with such power that the very material world and universe will be purged of all decay and brokenness. All will be healed... Christians, then, are the true revolutionaries who work for justice and truth and we labor in expectation of a perfect world in which He will wipe away every tear from their eyes." -Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*