

simply JESUS

simply JESUS

NAME: _____

Prepared by Rowena Miers 2008
98 Wells Street East Gosford
row@davemiers.com

ccecyouth year 7 - term one - studies and trek reading notes

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JESUS

- most talked about person in history
- more popular than Australian Idol
- walked on water, healed, preached
- rejected
- dead, buried, **RISEN**
- simplyJESUS is simply about... Jesus**

simplyJESUS

simplyJESUS FOR LEADERS

simplyJESUS has 2 aims:

- 1) To help the teenagers in our year 7 settle into our youth group
- 2) To introduce Jesus to teenagers in year 7-9 who don't yet know him

It's important to keep in mind the bigger picture of the series as you lead each week. It's important to do the TREK notes in your own preparation. While there may be many overlaps in the treks and the studies, there may be questions arising from the TREK notes that you can help to answer in your weekly study time.

The following are the big ideas for each week's Bible study (they are written at the top of each study)

- 1) In order to understand why it's important to follow Jesus, first we need to understand what God is like.
- 2) In order to understand why it's important to follow Jesus it is also important to understand what we are really like as people.
- 3) In order to understand why it's important to follow Jesus it's important to understand who Jesus is.
- 4) It is important to follow Jesus because it is only through his offer of salvation that we have forgiveness for our rebellion against God.
- 5) Following Jesus leads to eternal life with God. Rejecting Jesus will lead to God's rejection of you.

Be prayerful in your preparation. Ask other leaders if you need help with any of the questions.

Pray that Jesus would be honoured through the studies that you lead.

simply**JESUS** FOR LEADERS

PURPOSE OF STUDYING THE BIBLE IN G-TEAMS

As we sit down to study the Bible in our G-Teams, the aim is not to get through a set of questions. The aim is to get to know Jesus better through his Word. The questions in the end are simply to help us to understand the passage and therefore know Jesus better.

2 Timothy has this to say about the Bible:

14But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Why read the Bible?

→ v15 It makes us wise for Salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

→ v16 Because It's the very word of God

→ v17 It's useful in lots of ways.

Why study the Bible in our G-TEAMS?

- 1) So that we can know the salvation that comes by trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection.
- 2) As we read the Bible we are listening to the very voice of God!
- 3) The Bible will thoroughly equip us to live as Christians and serve God.

WELCOME TO YEAR 7

WELCOME TO CCECYOUTH

WELCOME TO JESUS!

Year 7 brings many changes. More teachers, more homework, more freedom, more fun. But there's one person that doesn't change... JESUS!

The aim of simplyJESUS is to make sure you know Jesus. You may already know Jesus, you may not yet know him.

simplyJESUS is a 5 week series of studies that ccecyouth runs. You may have friends who can be part of a simplyJESUS group later on so that they too can know Jesus.

IN THIS BOOKLET ARE THE STUDIES FOR USE IN YOUR G-TEAM EACH WEEK + *TREK* DAILY READING NOTES FOR USE AT HOME.

TREK INTRODUCTION

[trek] is a daily tour guide to help you journey into the bible. It's aims are to:

t - train you to live God's way

r - remind you God is the one who saved you, through Jesus

e - encourage you to tell others about Jesus

k - know the truth so you can't be tricked by lies

[trek] is all about journeying into the bible because it is only in the bible that God speaks to us clearly and completely. When we read the bible, we are hearing what God has to say to us today. That is a seriously special thing! So get into it.

TREK INSTRUCTIONS

To get the most out of **[trek]**, work out a time each day when you can read the bible using **[trek]** for 5-10 minutes (by all means read for longer). There are 5 readings. Here's how we suggest you use **[trek]** each day:

1) Ask God to help you understand this part of the bible.

2) Read the part of the bible for that day.

3) As you think about the passage, answer the questions. (Writing may help)

4) Thank God & ask him to help you obey what this passage says.

5) Put what you've learnt into practice in your life.

NOTE: Much more can be said about each passage... you may use the "reflections or questions I have..." box for further thought.

week one >>>>

simply **GOD**

simply **ME**

simply **JESUS**

simply **RESCUED**

simple **RESPONSE**

5. Which is the right answer? If I don't make any response to Jesus in this life:

a) **Nothing good or bad will happen to me as God is not really concerned with what humans do?**

b) **God will reject me because I have rejected his son Jesus, the only way to be in a right relationship with God.**

c) **God will still accept me anyway and give me eternal life when I die as all people end up in heaven anyway except those who are really bad.**

6. As a result of what I have learnt in simplyJESUS, this is my next step

simply **JESUS**

Pray I SORRY, THANKS & PLEASE

Sorry God that I have rejected you and tried to run life my own way.
Thank you that loved me and you sent Jesus to die in my place
Please help me to trust in Jesus and live for Jesus.
Amen.

simply **JESUS**

After learning about the rescue Jesus offers us to free us from the punishment we deserve we have to decide whether to accept or reject this offer...

Read John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Read John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

1. From these verses what has God done for people though Jesus?

2a. What do these verses say about those who **ACCEPT** Jesus?

2b. What do these verses say about those who **REJECT** Jesus?

3. Which you at the moment, someone who **accepts** Jesus rescue or someone who **rejects** it?

4. Which would you like to be?

simplyGOD
TREK DAY 1

This week we are going to be learning about God. The whole of the Bible is about God. So there's lots that could be said about him!!

List down all the things you already know about God.

Try and summarise all that you know about God into 1 sentence:

PRAY and ask God to help you get to know him better this week.

simplyGOD
TREK DAY 2

Yesterday you wrote down some things you already know about God. For the next 3 days we are going to look at different Bible passages and some of the things they say about God.

Read Revelation 4:11

> What is God worthy of?

> What has God done to be worthy? ("For you... and...")

PRAY and thank God that he is the Creator. Ask God that he would help you to treat him as you should.

simplyGOD TREK DAY 3

Lots of people treat things that aren't God as if they are God! Here are some different gods that people you know might have:

*Surfing or Sport
Money or Success
Being Popular*

Can you think of any others?

Read Isaiah 45:5

- > What does this verse say about God?
- > Which one would you rather trust - the God of the Bible? Or the little gods that people make up (like the ones above)?

THANK God that he is the One, True and Living God.

simplyGOD TREK DAY 4

Have you ever thought about "forever"? Forever is a long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long time! The Bible says that God has been around forever and he will be around forever more.

Read Psalm 90:1-2

- > What word is used to show that God is forever?
- > The Bible says that it's possible for people to live forever. Do you know how to live forever with God? (more in weeks to come!)

PRAISE God that he is from everlasting to everlasting. Ask him that you would know for certain what it means to live forever by the end of simplyJESUS.

simpleRESPONSE

FOR STARTERS I Play a game of word associations to see who has the fastest on the spot response.

BIG IDEA I Following Jesus leads to eternal life with God. Rejecting Jesus will lead to God's rejection of you.

KICK OFF I What is the hardest choice you have ever had to make? What was the consequence of that decision?

simple**RESPONSE**

TREK DAY 3

The most famous verse in the Bible is John 3:16. There are Christians who want the world to know this verse who have gone to sporting events and held up signs that say JOHN 3:16. If you don't know John 3:16—MEMORISE IT!!

Read John 3:16

- > What response to Jesus is described in John 3:16
- > Do you have friends who need to know about this verse?

Pray that God would help you to believe in Jesus. Pray also for your friends who don't yet know Jesus that they too would hear about him and believe in him too.

simple**RESPONSE**

TREK DAY 4

Choices. We make choices all the time. Probably 1000s every day! Some of them are not that important: it doesn't really matter if you put on your left sock or your right sock first, it doesn't really matter if you have 5 weet-bix instead of 6. But Some of our decisions are important: it does matter if you disobey a sign on the edge of a cliff that says 'danger steep cliff', it does matter how you respond to Jesus.

Read John 3:36

- > What are the 2 responses to Jesus in this passage?
- > What is the result (or consequences) of each choice?

Thank God that Jesus died and rose again and for all the things you've learnt and been reminded of in simple**JESUS**—ask God to help you respond to Jesus in the right way.

simply**GOD**

FOR STARTERS | 2 Truths 1 Lie. Each person in the group needs to think of 3 statements about themselves. 2 True, 1 False. Share yours with the group - see if they can guess which one is false.

BIG IDEA | In order to understand why it's important to follow Jesus, first we need to understand what God is like.

KICK OFF | Draw a picture or write down some thoughts that show what you think God is like, be creative!

1. What do the following verses tell us about God?

"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being." **(Revelation 4:11)**

GOD IS...

I am the LORD, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God. **(Isaiah 45:5)**

GOD IS...

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.
Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **(Psalm 90:1-2)**

GOD IS...

2. God is the Creator, the one and only, and everlasting God. What place of authority should God have in our world?

3. Do we see this in our world?

4. How do you think that God feels when people reject his authority over them? *(circle the best answer)*

a. God doesn't care what people think of him.

b. God hates that people reject him and wants to bring people back into a right relationship with himself.

c. God would prefer that we didn't reject him but knows we can't help it.

d. God just turns a blind eye to our rejection of him and pretends that it doesn't happen.

simple**RESPONSE**

TREK DAY 1

This is our final week in the simplyJESUS series. Hopefully it's been good for you to learn or be reminded of some basic truths about Jesus and Christianity.

> What new things have you learnt during simpleJESUS?

> What old things have you been reminded of during simplyJESUS?

> What questions do you still have about simplyJESUS?

Pray about each of the above things.

simple**RESPONSE**

TREK DAY 2

In week 1 we learnt that God is the creator, true and living and everlasting God. In week 2 we learn that, although we are created in the image of God, we have all sinned against God and deserve judgment. In week 3 we learnt that Jesus is different from us. We learnt that Jesus hadn't sinned and that he was always perfect. In week 4 we learn that sinless Jesus died to rescue us from the judgment that we deserve.

How will you respond?

Read Romans 10:9

> What response is described in this verse?

> What happens for all those who respond like that?

Prayer: maybe you'd like to pray a prayer straight from the above verse.

week five >>>>

simply GOD
simply ME
simply JESUS
simply RESCUED
simple RESPONSE

5. John 3:16 says: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in him can have eternal life".

We have rejected God. Yet God sent Jesus to die to bring us back into friendship with Him. What does this show us about God?

Pray | Thank God that he is the creator, the one and only, and everlasting God of the universe. Praise him that he has loves us and sent Jesus to die for us.

simply JESUS

simply JESUS

week two >>>>

simply **GOD**
simply **ME**
simply **JESUS**
simply **RESCUED**
simple **RESPONSE**

5. Which of these do you think is correct? The way that I can become friends with God is:

- a. **By trying to obey him.**
- b. **By going to church.**
- c. **By making up for all the wrong things I've done.**
- d. **By accepting Jesus has suffered my punishment and asking him to forgive me.**

Pray | Thank God for the rescue that Jesus provides for us through his death and resurrection that we might no longer have to fear the punishment we deserve for our rejection of God.

simply **JESUS**

simply **JESUS**

2. Despite the fact that we deserve God's punishment and judgement read the following passages to find out what Jesus does for us:

Last week we learnt more things about God. This week we are going to learn more about ourselves. Who are you? What things do you like? Who do you want to be when you grow up? Today we are going to see who God made us to be.

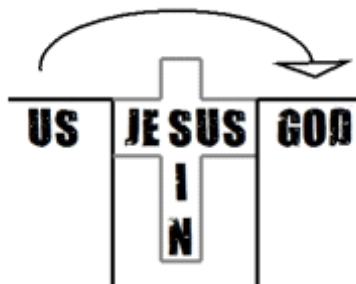
Read Genesis 1:27-31

- > In whose image have people been created? (v27)
- > What do you think this means?
- > God saw all that he had made, and it was _____ (v31).

Thank God for his good creation. Thank him that out of everything he made he made YOU in a special way!

<p>Read 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.</p> <p>What has Jesus done?</p>	<p>Read 1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.</p> <p>What has Jesus done?</p>
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3. Where do we now stand with God?



4. Fill in the gaps in the following sentence to explain the above diagram:

Because we are s ___ f ___ we cannot be friends with a Holy G ___
 BUT Because Jesus d ___ in our place
 we can now be b _____ back to God
 (if you don't understand the diagram talk about it with your leader)

Yesterday we saw that we were made in the image of God. As people made in the image of God, we have been given a special role in God's creation.

Re-Read Genesis 1:27-31

- > What special role did God give people to do in his world?
- > Do you think that people have done a good job or bad job at looking after God's creation? Why?

For the adventurous... look at Genesis 3 to see what happened to God's good world. Look up Genesis 6:5 to see what people became after Genesis 3.

Pray that God would help you to keep understanding more from the Bible. Pray also for a friend to come to youth group.

simplyME
TREK DAY 3

Even though God made us, and God continues to be kind to people, people are not kind to God or one another. Not treating God as God and not loving other people as we should is called sin.

Read Romans 3:23

> Who has sinned according to this verse?

Read Romans 1:20-23

> What have people failed to do in this passage?

> Do you think this is serious? Why?

Ask God that he would help you to see yourself clearly so that you can see Jesus even more clearly.

simplyME
TREK DAY 4

Sin does matter. Sin has consequences. If you don't do your homework, there may be consequences from your teacher. If you steal something from the shops, there may be consequences from the police. When you sin against God... there are always consequences!

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

> What does this verse say will happen to those who disobey God?

> It sounds terrifying! If all have disobeyed God, is there any hope for you?

Thank God that there is hope... and pray that you would understand how Jesus makes it possible to be rescued from the judgment you deserve.

YOU WILL NEED TO BRING A BABY PHOTO TO YOUR G-TEAM—SPEAK TO YOUR LEADER—IT MIGHT BE EVEN BETTER TO EMAIL IT TO THEM BEFORE HAND...

simplyRESCUED

FOR STARTERS I Classic saves - in your group act out a classic save. Idea: a school teacher saves his/her class from a killer penguin on a field trip to the zoo. (You may even act this out for the larger group.)

BIG IDEA I It is important to follow Jesus because it is only through his offer of salvation that we have forgiveness for our rebellion against God.

KICK OFF I What is the worst situation that you have ever been saved from?

1. From our previous weeks of study we have seen that we have all rejected God's rule of our lives.

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

8He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

What do we deserve for our rebellion against God?

simplyRESCUED

TREK DAY 3

We've already seen that Jesus is sinless, yet people are sinful. In today's verse we are going to see what sinless Jesus has done to rescue sinful people.

Read 1 Peter 3:18

> What has Jesus done to rescue us?

Write out a prayer in response to this verse:

simplyRESCUED

TREK DAY 4

In the following verse the word "tree" is referring to the cross that Jesus died on. If you haven't yet worked it out—the most important thing that Jesus did to rescue us happened on that tree 2000 years ago.

Read 1 Peter 2:24

> What has Jesus done to rescue us?

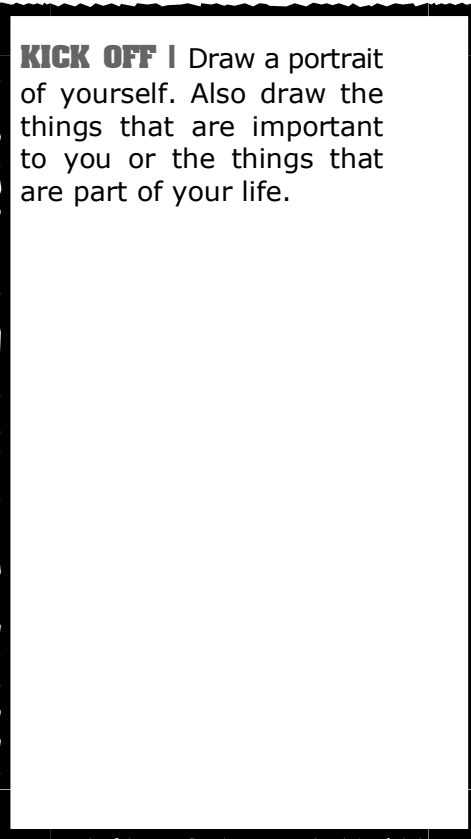
Write out a prayer in response to this verse:

simplyMIE

FOR STARTERS I Baby photos. Jumble all of your baby photos. Try and guess who each baby is.

BIG IDEA I In order to understand why it's important to follow Jesus it is also important to understand what we are really like as people.

KICK OFF I Draw a portrait of yourself. Also draw the things that are important to you or the things that are part of your life.



READ GENESIS 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

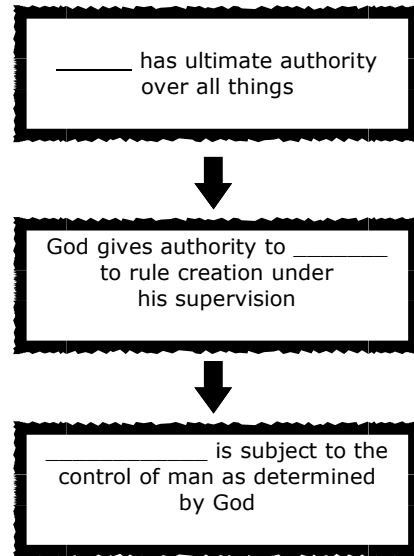
28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

1. When God made us what sort of people did he make us to be? (v27)

2. Fill in the following diagram to show the role that people were to have in world.



3. How did God feel about his creation and the people he made?

4. Despite God pronouncing his creation as being totally "good". Is this what the world is like now? Why, why not?

READ ROMANS 1:20-23

20For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. 21For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

5. Despite God reaching out to people and wanting to relate to them what have all people done to God?

Week 1 = God. Week 2 = Me. Week 3 = Jesus.

This week we are talking about RESCUE. Have you ever needed to be rescued? **Describe it or a draw a picture of the event.**

SUMMARY—look back over your notes and studies from the last 3 weeks.

- > What did we learn about GOD?
- > What did we learn about ME?
- > What did we learn about JESUS?
- > Who and why might someone need rescuing?
- > Who do you think will be the rescuer?

Pray for God's help in understanding the Bible this week.

For the next 3 days we are going to ask one simple question of each verse. It's easy to love those who love us. In today's verse—Jesus shows incredible love by loving those who hate him.

Read Romans 5:8

- > What has Jesus done to rescue us?

Write out a prayer in response to this verse:

week four >>>>

simply **GOD**
simply **ME**
simply **JESUS**
simply **RESCUED**
simple **RESPONSE**

READ 2 THESSALONIANS 1:8-9

8He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

6. What do all people deserve for their rejection of God?

7. If I were to meet up with God right now what would he say to me about how I am living my life?

Pray | Thank God that he made you in his image. Say sorry to God for not always treating him as God. Thank him that Jesus died so that you could be forgiven.

John 3:16 says: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in him can have eternal life".

simply **JESUS**

simply **JESUS**

week three >>>>

simply **GOD**
simply **ME**
simply **JESUS**
simply **RESCUED**
simple **RESPONSE**

5. Fill out the following table

What are the hardest things to understand about Jesus....	What are the qualities in Jesus that I admire the most....

6. I think Jesus would want me to respond to him by:

- a. Keeping away from him because he is just too big and scary to understand.
- b. Relating to him when it suites me and its convenient and ignoring him the rest of the time.
- c. Seeking to understand more about him and living in relationship with him.

Pray I Thank God that, unlike us, Jesus obeyed God. Thank him also for wanting to be in a relationship with us.

simply **JESUS**

simply **JESUS**

READ COLOSSIANS 1:16-19

16For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.

1. What do these verses tell us about who Jesus is?

2. As the God who created all people and all things what is the rightful place that Jesus should have in people's lives?

3. Where do you stand in relation to Jesus?

READ 1 PETER 2:22

22"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

4. How was Jesus different from anyone else who has ever lived?

*Week 1 = God. Week 2 = Me. This week = Jesus. Last week was a confronting week. We are told by lots of people that we are good. But the Bible says we aren't. Because we reject God we are in a desperate situation. THE GOOD NEWS IS... **JESUS!** This week we are going to learn about how Jesus is different from us and can therefore help us with our greatest problem.*

> List 10 things you already know about Jesus:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 10 |

Ask God that he'd help you to learn more about Jesus this week.

There are some Bible passages that are just chockers with good stuff about Jesus. Today we going to look at one of the most chockeriest!

Read Colossians 1:15-20

> List some of the special things said about Jesus in this passage.

> Are there any you don't understand?

Thank God that Jesus is the best. Thank God that Jesus is supreme. Thank God that Jesus is the king. Ask God to help you treat him as king.

simply JESUS

TREK DAY 3

Have you ever been really thirsty? Like really really thirsty? Not just thirsty from walking from the school bus home, but thirsty almost dead thirsty? Jesus has been. He wasn't just thirsty—but he was hot and hungry in the desert. Let's see how he handled the situation...

Read Matthew 4:1-11

In the Old Testament, Israel wandered around in the desert for 40 years. While they were there—they sinned against God. In Matthew 4, Jesus was out in the desert for 40 days.

- > Did Jesus sin while he was in the desert?
- > How did Jesus respond to the devil?
- > How is Jesus different from Israel?

Thank God that Jesus didn't sin. Thank God that Jesus is perfect.

simply JESUS

TREK DAY 4

Jesus is seriously special. Yesterday we saw that unlike every other person—JESUS NEVER SINNED!! That's very impressive. Today we are going to look at one verse. It could be a good verse to try and remember.

Read 1 Peter 2:22

"Jesus committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

- > How is Jesus different from you?
- > How is Jesus different from your friend?
- > Why do you think it is important that Jesus has never sinned?

Thank God that Jesus is the perfect sinless one.

simply JESUS

FOR STARTERS I Play a game of celebrity heads. Who is best at guessing the identity of their celebrity?

BIG IDEA I In order to understand why it's important to follow Jesus it's important to understand who Jesus is.

KICK OFF I Who do people say Jesus was?