

Episode 2 What did Jesus teach, and how?

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1. So what did Jesus teach?

If you were going to summarise Jesus' teaching, what kinds of things would you include?

What is your greatest challenge about loving your neighbour?

2. Jesus talked a great deal about the Kingdom of God. What is that all about?

Jo described the Kingdom of God as something that is partly achievable here and now and partly unreachable, a way of being that turns our earthly power structures on their head. What is your experience and understanding of the Kingdom of God?

3. Jesus modelled the importance of keeping in touch with God. What does that look like?

What works to still your heart, to create space for God's still, small voice? In what ways has God's communication surprised you? Tell of a time you felt close to God.

4. Jesus taught people that loving their neighbour was important. Not judging others is a part of that love, right?

What is judging really about?

What does it take for someone to be able to drive away or ignore fear, insecurity and pain and welcome others?

5. You have mentioned 'flourishing' here and there. What might that look like?

John 10:10 says that Jesus came to give us abundant lives. That sounds like flourishing! What is it about Jesus teaching that has encouraged you to flourish? Tell of a time when you welcomed God's love, creativity or passion into your life. What happened?

6. Jesus teaches how connected we are with each other. Therefore, how we live makes a difference to others. How does that work?

What surprises you most in the summary list of Jesus' teaching in question 12?

What aspect of Jesus' teaching matters most to you?

7. What did Jesus teach or model about being counter-cultural when necessary?

In what ways should Christians be counter-cultural?

To what extent do you find it useful to be live/speak out/promote things that are different from the main ideas you find around you?

8. What did Jesus teach about communicating the message of the Kingdom of God to others?

Sharing the good news of Jesus' life and love can be as simple as sharing time and space together. When have you felt the simplicity of genuine connection with others? Was Jesus or faith mentioned?

9. How did Jesus teach? What techniques did he use?

Jesus used a number of teaching methods. He taught colloquially. He taught with parables. He taught with miracles. He used Q&A. And there are more! Which of these appeal to you and why?

10. Jesus taught in the community and related to individuals. Tell us about that dynamic...

Think of a time that Jesus' teaching turned something on its head for you, or when a Jesus story spoke particularly to your needs.

11. Why was what Jesus taught and how he taught such a big deal to people?

When and where have you experienced people who thought Jesus was a big deal.

How do you react to the statement that "what you've done wrong is not as important as God's grace and love"?

12. Why was what Jesus taught surprising to people?

See if you can think of anything missing from this list. Identify the ideas that you have found most profound in your life.

The Major Teachings of Jesus include:

- a) *God loves you. Love God! Make God #1. God has a plan so don't stress.*
- b) *Look forward to the Kingdom of God and live as if it's already here, by...*
 - a. *Keeping in touch with God*
 - b. *Loving your neighbour by -*
 - 1. *Serving others.*
 - 2. *Not judging others.*
 - 3. *Forgiving others.*
 - c. *Living with the understanding that our life influences others: that we can live a positive impactful life. If you mess up, ask for forgiveness from God.*
 - d. *Being countercultural – Living God's way even if it is unpopular or against the rules.*
 - e. *Telling others about the Kingdom*

13. Why does Jesus matter to you personally?

Discuss the teachings of Jesus that influenced you at particular times of your life.