DARKROOM FAITH Easter Series





Making the Case for a Real and Risen Savior

Darkroom's mission is to help students build lasting faith by providing a safe place for them to honestly explore their doubts and questions.

Our prayer is that this 3-week Easter series will help your youth develop a more confident understanding of the historical Jesus, his promises, his resurrection, and their personal need for a Savior.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

SET-UP

- Download videos to your device so there are no streaming issues
- Test audio-visual and remote control device for pausing the video
- Arrange seating in roundtables to best facilitate conversation

FORMAT

 Break into small discussion groups of 6-10 students with 1 adult facilitator to allow everyone time to share

BEST PRACTICES

- Listen to understand, not to respond
- Allow the Holy Spirit to work
- Pray for your students

Listening is Loving

One of the most important aspects of fruitful discipleship is listening. It is difficult to not want to respond to every opinion expressed by our students with correct theology. But we must make space for students to feel comfortable expressing their doubts so they can work out their faith. Thank you for engaging students in conversation about Jesus. We are excited to hear about how God moves in the lives of your students!

Topics Covered

Week 1 - Truth, Morality, and Evidence for Jesus

Week 2 - Justice, Jesus' Sacrifice, and Living Free

Week 3 - Supernatural Jesus, Miracles, and the Resurrection

Series Format

Each video contains short clips from a selection of our existing Darkroom Faith videos and <u>PAUSE</u> prompts to:

- → Discuss the Question
- → Look up Scripture

At the end of each lesson have students take time to pray and reflect. There is a reflection worksheet for Weeks 1 & 2. In Week 3, an opening activity and a closing salvation prayer prompt are provided.

Each session is intended to be 1 hour in length but feel free to tailor the duration to your group by pausing for longer or shorter periods if you need to slow down or speed up your lesson.

Each week's video can stand alone but the series was curated to work together--building to Easter.

WATCH * PAUSE * DISCUSS * REPEAT







Truth, Morality, and Evidence for Jesus

Welcome to the first session of the Darkroom Faith Easter series!

In week 1 we will be exploring:

- Whether truth exists
- · What sin is and how we all fall short
- Evidence for Jesus and how other worldviews perceive him

KEY SCRIPTURE:

John 14:6-7 (NLT)

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"

Romans 3:22-23 (NLT)

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

1 John 1:1 (NLT)

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of Life. **Discussion Questions**

Q1 How can our doubts bring us closer to the truth?

Supporting Questions

- If you could ask God anything, what would it be?
- o What is a core truth you live by and why?
- Do you think beliefs can contradict each other and all be true?

Q2 How do you know what is right and wrong?

Supporting Questions

- Why shouldn't we just follow our hearts?
- o How can God's boundaries be loving and freeing?
- Imagine all of your worst thoughts are recorded and made available to your friends and family.
 What do you think would happen?

Q3 What do other worldviews believe about Jesus?

Supporting Questions

- o How is Christianity different from other religions?
- o Who did Jesus say he was?
- What evidence do we have that Jesus was a real person and that the resurrection really happened?



Reflect & Pray

Give each student the Week 1 Handout to reflect on today's lesson. After they are done, encourage students to pray individually with a few prompts:

- Thank God for something
- Confess a sin / repent
- Open up about doubts and questions
- To reveal truth to you

Pray as you normally would for your group to close.



WEEK 1 REFLECTION



Q1 What are some doubts or questions you would like answered about God, Jesus, or the Bible?

Q2 How confident are you that Jesus was a real person in history and physically rose from the dead?

Definitely Not							1	Absolutely Sure	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Q3 Why are you at that level?

Q4 Do you think there is one truth and one way to God? Why or why not?



MEEK 5



Justice, Jesus' Sacrifice, and Living Free

In week one, we determined that truth exists and that the Christian worldview claims God as the creator of morality.

In week 2 we will be exploring:

- God's justice against evil & sin
- · Jesus' sacrifice to satisfy God's justice
- How Christ sets us free from sin

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Romans 2:8 (NLT)

But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Galatians 5:1, 13-14 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Discussion Questions**

Q1 Why do you think justice is important to God?

Supporting Questions

- What are some injustices that you want addressed?
- Why do you think society has failed to eradicate injustice?
- How can you do more to help drive justice forward?

Q2 Do you think God's justice is ever unfair?

Supporting Questions

- Why does God offer eternal life to anyone in spite of anything they might have done?
- Why is it hard for people to surrender and submit to God?
- What does the life and death of Jesus teach us about justice?

Q3 How does God set us free?

Supporting Questions

- What are some ways you have felt chained or weighed down by life?
- o What do you think God desires for you?
- How can you live free in Christ and invite others to join?



Reflect & Pray

Give each student the Week 2 Handout to reflect on today's lesson. After they are done, encourage students to pray individually with a few prompts:

- Forgive someone
- Experience freedom and peace in Jesus
- Guide your thoughts and actions
- Ask for comfort or healing

Pray as you normally would for your group to close.

WATCH * PAUSE * DISCUSS * REPEAT

WEEK 2 REFLECTION



Q1 What is wrong in the world? Where do you see evidence of brokenness?

Q2 What are some things that are weighing you down that you would like to give over to Jesus?

Q3 Do you feel far away or near to God? Why?

Q4 How can God exercise justice on humanity's evil and still be loving?

WEEK 3 OPENING ACTIVITY



Grab your Bible and a partner and record as many of Jesus' miracles you can find in the gospel of Matthew!



Check Your Answers!





Supernatural, Miracles, and the Resurrection

Begin with the Week 3 activity. In this final week we will further explore what Jesus claimed and taught, the meaning & evidence of his miracles, and the Resurrection. If all of this is true, how should we respond?



KEY SCRIPTURE:

John 11:25-26 (NIV) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV) And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NLT)

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. **Discussion Questions**

Q1 What did Jesus claim about himself?

Supporting Questions

- · Which of Jesus' claims are the most powerful to you?
- How open do you think our culture is to miracles? Why or why not?
- Which of Jesus' miracles or actions is the most impactful to you?

Q2 Why is the resurrection essential to the Christian faith?

Supporting Questions

- Can you be a Christian without believing in the resurrection?
- If Jesus really rose from the dead, what does that mean for you?
- How do you put faith in something or someone that you haven't seen or experienced directly?

Q3 What questions or doubts do you have about Jesus?

Supporting Questions

- Do you think the historical accounts provide ample evidence that Jesus is who he says he was?
- What proof do we have that Jesus' miracles, including His resurrection, are real and not myths invented by men?
- If all of this is true, how will you respond?



Salvation Prayer

Invite students who haven't accepted Jesus to do so:

"Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner and ask for Your forgiveness. I believe you are the Son of God, willingly died for my sins, and rose to life again. I commit my life to serving You and ask for the Holy Spirit to transform and guide me. Thank you. In Jesus' name. Amen."



Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



WEEK 1 - TRUTH, MORALITY, AND EVIDENCE FOR JESUS



Relativism vs. Universal Truth Video (1 min) R. McLaughlin



How is Christianity unique? Video (1 min) D. Platt



Freedom with Boundaries? Article (2 min) Darkroom Faith



Don't all roads lead to God? Article (3 min) Darkroom Faith



How can Jesus be the only way? Video (5 mins) Dr. Craig

WEEK 2 - JUSTICE, JESUS' SACRIFICE, AND LIVING FREE



Justice Video (6 mins) BibleProject



Sacrifice & Atonement Video (7 mins) BibleProject



What does the life of Jesus teach us about justice? Darkroom Article (2 mins)



Freedom in Christ Article (2 mins) GotQuestions.org

WEEK 3 - SUPERNATURAL, MIRACLES, AND THE RESURRECTION



Who did Jesus think he was? Video (6 mins) Dr. Craig



The Resurrection Video (5 mins) BibleProject



Part 1 - Did Jesus rise from the dead? Video (7 mins) Dr. Craig



Part 2 - Did Jesus rise from the dead? Video (7 mins) Dr. Craig



Is the New Testament reliable? Video (4 mins) Sean McDowell



Access all Darkroom Articles