

THE4POINTS COURSE

MESSAGE IN PRISONS
LESSON PLANS

PARTICIPANT GUIDE





Session 1

GOD LOVES ME

Welcome to the4points course. Over the next four sessions, we will be learning some of the basics of the Christian faith.

This first session is titled 'God loves me'. Throughout this session we will be unpacking this statement and figuring out what that really means for each of us personally.

Let's get started.

VIDEO CLIP 1

Who is God? Why not write down some of your thoughts here.

Do you agree/disagree with any of the answers on the film? Why or why not?

VIDEO CLIP 2

You will read the following verses with the group, why not write down some of what enters your mind as you read them? How do they make you feel?

Romans 8:38–39

'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

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.'

TESTIMONY VIDEO (SARAH'S STORY)

Let's watch Sarah's story of how coming to know God's love dramatically impacted her life.

Use this space to write down anything that stands out to you as you listen.

Sarah talked about how God's love has shown her what her true value and identity is. Let's read some passages from the Bible that talk about this. Again, please use this space to write down any notes.

Psalm 139:13-18

'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand - when I awake, I am still with you.'

Luke 12:24-28

'Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?'

Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you - you of little faith!'

VIDEO CLIP 4

Our session is almost over, do you have any questions you'd like to discuss before we finish?

SPACE FOR EXTRA NOTES

NEXT TIME

We will be looking at the topic 'I have sinned' or 'I've made mistakes'.

Come back next time to find out more.



Session 2

I HAVE MADE MISTAKES

Welcome back to the4points course. Throughout these sessions, we will be learning some of the basics of the Christian faith.

This second session is titled, 'I've made mistakes' or 'I have sinned'. Throughout this session we will be unpacking this statement and figuring out what that really means for each of us personally.

Let's get started.

What is sin? Why not write down some of your thoughts here.

VIDEO CLIP 1

Do you agree/disagree with any of the answers on the film? Why or why not?

Can you name the 10 commandments?



Session 3

JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN

Welcome back to the4points course. Throughout these sessions, we will be learning some of the basics of the Christian faith.

This third session is titled, 'Jesus died and rose again'. Throughout this session we will be unpacking this statement and figuring out what that really means for each of us personally.

Let's get started.

Who is Jesus? Why not write down some of your thoughts here.

VIDEO CLIP 1

Do you agree/disagree with any of the answers on the film? Why or why not?

John 14:6

'Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Luke 22:69

'But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.'

These are big, controversial claims – what do you think of them?

What do you know about the Christian teaching of why Jesus died? Do you have any thoughts on this?

VIDEO CLIP 2

Do you think Jesus had a choice as to whether he would die?

VIDEO CLIP 3

After watching or reading about the arrest, torture and crucifixion of Jesus, use this space to write any reflections you may have.

If you have been affected by this subject, please don't leave the session without speaking to one of the group facilitators about what you're feeling.

VIDEO CLIP 4

Our session is almost over, do you have any questions you'd like to discuss before we finish?

SPACE FOR EXTRA NOTES

NEXT TIME

We will be looking at the topic 'I have a choice to make'.

Come back next time to find out more.



Session 4

I HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE

Welcome back to the4points course. Throughout these sessions, we will be learning some of the basics of the Christian faith.

This fourth and final session is titled, 'I have a choice to make'. Throughout this session we will be unpacking this statement and figuring out what that really means for each of us personally.

Let's get started.

Can you remember all of the four points? Write them here.

VIDEO CLIP 1

Why do you think a relationship would be better if built on choice?

Romans 10:9-10 says:

'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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.'

VIDEO CLIP 2

Use the space below to write any reflections you have whilst looking at these verses:

Matthew 5:11

'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.'

1 John 1:9

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'

VIDEO CLIP 3

Have a think about your life, right now. Take time to reflect on where you're currently at and write down any things you may want to let go of, as well as the new and different things you would like to see in your life.

VIDEO CLIP 4

Think about how the story makes you feel. Can you relate to any of the characters? Why?

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them.

'Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who

sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

'When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." So he got up and went to his father.

'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

'But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

'Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."

'The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

VIDEO CLIP 5

Has anyone ever shared their faith with you? How did it make you feel?

Wherever you are on your faith journey, why not think about who you can tell. You don't have to have your faith completely 'sorted' before you can share it with other people. Even if you're not sure what you believe yet, who can you tell about what you've learned through these studies?

Write down some names of people you could share with, and challenge yourself to find time in the coming days to do so.

VIDEO CLIP 6

If you prayed the prayer that your group leader prayed, why not write the date here so that you can remember this day as the day that you chose to step into all that God has for you.

Date: _____

Our session is almost over, do you have any questions you'd like to discuss before we finish?

SPACE FOR EXTRA NOTES

WHAT'S NEXT?

Make sure you don't leave today's session before asking any questions that you have.

If you have made the decision to step into relationship with Jesus, then we're not done here. Take some time to go and see one of the group facilitators or Christian chaplains in your establishment and ask them about some next steps; they'll be able to point you to some great resources and any groups that are running which will encourage you in your faith alongside others who are on the same journey.

If you didn't feel ready to pray that prayer today but want to keep learning, then we'd encourage you to talk to one of the facilitators or Christian chaplains too. They'll be able to point you towards some helpful reading and resources and would be happy to answer any additional questions that you may have.

We hope that these sessions have been helpful to you in your faith journey, whatever stage you're at. It is our prayer that you will come away from these sessions with a greater understanding of God's love for you, and therefore the value that you have.



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