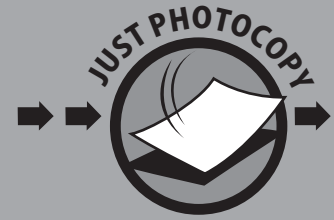




Leader's notes

What is a Christian?



Individual studies

Aim

By the end of the study the group members will know what a Christian believes and be challenged to think about what they believe.

Share Ask everyone to answer the sharing question. Their answers may give you some insight into what they believe. Accept both thoughtful and trivial answers.

What do you think MAKES someone a Christian? Here are the answers

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| a) Being baptised in a church. | T/F | e) Helping others. | T/F |
| b) Doing good things. | T/F | f) Going to church as much as possible. | T/F |
| c) Trusting in Jesus. | T/F | g) Reading the Bible every day. | T/F |
| d) Believing that God exist | T/F | h) Eating healthy food. | T/F |

Ask the young people to share their answers and be prepared to discuss briefly questions that may not be covered in this study. Some helpful Bible verses for you to know as you answer are: Ephesians 2:8-9 and James 2:19. You may need to make the distinction between what MAKES someone a Christian and what a Christian does BECAUSE they are a Christian.

What does a Christian believe?

Allocate people to read the following passages. After they read each passage ask for volunteers to explain what it says a Christian believes.

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 You are saved by the gospel, which is Jesus? death and resurrection for our sin.
- 1 Peter 3:18 Jesus, who was righteous, died for us who are unrighteous, to bring us to God.
- Romans 6:23 Sin leads to death but Jesus brings eternal life.
- 1 John 1:8-9 We are all sinful, but if we confess our sin we are forgiven.
- Romans 10:9 If we confess Jesus is Lord (outward sign) and believe it in our heart (inward sign) we will be saved.
- 1 John 4:15 If we acknowledge that Jesus is God?s son, God lives in us.
- 1 John 2:3-6 A Christian is someone who obeys Jesus.

Ask for volunteers to complete the two statements about what is clear and unclear to them regarding what a Christian believes.

From the Bible passages above answer: How does a person become a Christian? Ask the group to reflect on the passages above and come up with an answer as to how someone becomes a Christian. The important issues are what God has done through Jesus, what a person believes about what God has done and how they express that belief.

What do I believe?

What are some hesitations people have about becoming a Christian? Ask for volunteers to give opinions about the hesitations people have and as they do ask everyone to write down all answers. Once you have a list ask them to circle the hesitations they also have and then ask for volunteers to share their answers.

Ask the group to tick the statements that are true for them and then discuss their answers.

Further reading Encourage them to think about reading the Gospel of John.

Pray Share matters for prayer and pray together.

Christian

What is a Christian?



Share If you could ask God any question, what would you ask him?

✓ One thing that is clear to me about what a Christian believes is

What do you think MAKES someone a Christian?
Try this quick quiz:

- a) Being baptised in a church. T/F
- b) Doing good things. T/F
- c) Trusting in Jesus. T/F
- d) Believing that God exists. T/F
- e) Helping others. T/F
- f) Going to church as much as possible. T/F
- g) Reading the Bible every day. T/F
- h) Eating healthy food. T/F

✗ One thing that is NOT clear to me about what a Christian believes is

From the Bible passages above answer:
How does a person become a Christian?

Discuss your answers.

What does a Christian believe?

A Christian follows the teachings in the Bible. Below are some passages that outline the basic teachings of the Bible. What do the following passages tell us about what a Christian believes?

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

1 Peter 3:18

Romans 6:23

1 John 1:8-9

Romans 10:9

1 John 4:15

1 John 2:3-6

What do I believe?

What are some hesitations people have about becoming a Christian?
As you share your answers make a list below.

Circle any hesitations on the list that you might also share with others.

Tick below the statements that are true for you:

- I believe Jesus is the Son of God.
- I believe Jesus rose from the dead.
- I believe I am forgiven for my sin.
- I am certain I will go to heaven.
- I tell others I believe in Jesus.
- I believe the Bible tells me the truth about Jesus.
- I follow Jesus every day.
- People know I am a Christian.

Discuss your answers.

Further reading

The Gospel of John was written so that we might believe in Jesus and have eternal life (John 20:30-31). Think about reading the Gospel of John over the coming weeks.