

# CONNECTING with the KING



8 studies by Matthew Meek



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## Introduction

This set of eight studies is designed for Christians to use with their non-Christian friends to lead them to accept Jesus as their King and Saviour. The studies follow the logic of the "Two Ways to Live" (hereafter referred to as "2WTL") tract published by Matthias Media, which cover the theological issues of creation, sin, judgment, atonement, resurrection, repentance and faith. As such, it would be helpful but not essential if users are already familiar with the 2WTL tract.

I have written them for use with international students in mind (my current ministry at University of Wollongong), but I believe they are simple and clear enough to be used by a much broader range of people. Christians who have done the 2WTL training could also use them as a refresher course in their efforts to explain the tract to others.

Topical studies like these (using systematic theology) inevitably mean that there will be a lot of looking up of verses from different parts of the Bible. To "compensate" for this I have tried (as best as possible) to limit the questions within each study to several Bible books, and place the questions in order of their Biblical reference order.

I am thankful to many for the feedback they have given on the studies, especially Helen Bell and Naomi Donald (AFES LaTrobe). May God bless the use of these studies to the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ  
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# Honouring God

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## Our good Creator King

1. What are some theories about how this world and people came into being?

2. What is your idea of "God"?

### Read Genesis 1:1

3. Who created our world?

God has a purpose that develops from the beginning of the Bible to the end that can be described using the following diagram.



### Read Genesis 1:26-31

4. Apart from the world what else did God create?

5. What does God want His created people to do for Him?

6. If God commands people to rule over the world, then who is the King or Ruler over people?

7. How does God describe everything He's made?



**Read Psalm 100:3-5**

8. To whom do you belong?

9. Why should people thank and praise God?

**Read Acts 17:24-25**

10. Does God need people?

11. What does God give people?

12. Is there anyone greater than God?<sup>1</sup>

13. After doing this study how would you describe God?

14. Based on this study complete the following sentence: "God is the best king for my life because ..."<sup>2</sup>

**Write down any other questions you have:**

<sup>1</sup> See also Psalm 95:3.

<sup>2</sup> Compare Psalm 25:8-10, Isaiah 48:17.

# 2 Sin

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## Rebelling against God

1. When God first created the world it was 'very good'<sup>3</sup>. How do you explain the trouble (wars, fighting, pollution etc) in our world now?

### Read Genesis 2:15-17

2. What good things does God do for the man?

### Read Genesis 3:1-6

3. What is the serpent like?

4. Compare what God and the Serpent said would happen if Adam and Eve were to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil:

**What God said** (Genesis 2:17)

**What the Serpent said** (Genesis 3:4)

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5. In Psalm 100:5 (in Study 1) we learnt that God's character is good and faithful. So, whom should the people trust: God or the serpent?

6. Who did Adam and Eve trust?

### Read Genesis 3:7-13

7. Adam and Eve have not yet died 'physically' as God promised (see Genesis 2:17 & 5:5) but relationships of trust between God and humans have been damaged. Describe the relationship between:

a) People and God <sup>4</sup>

b) Adam and Eve <sup>5</sup>



### **Read Genesis 5:5**

8. The serpent told Eve that she would not die if she ate the fruit (Genesis 3:4). God told them that they would (Genesis 2:17). Was God or the serpent speaking the truth?

### **Read Romans 1:18-25**

9. This attitude of not trusting God and rejecting His right as our Creator King to rule our lives is called 'sin'. If it is clear that God created us and that we should thank and honour him, why don't people do that?

### **Read Romans 1:28-32**

10. What is a world full of sinners like?

11. How does sin show itself in your life?

### **Read 1 John 1:8<sup>6</sup>**

12. What would God say to someone who says 'I am not a sinner'?

**Write down any other questions you have:**

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 1:31.

<sup>4</sup> Compare Isaiah 59:2.

<sup>5</sup> Compare the openness between Adam & Eve in Genesis 2:25.

<sup>6</sup> See also Romans 3:10-12; Psalm 36:1-4, Psalm 51:5; Genesis 8:21.

# 3 Judgement

## God judges rebels

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1. Can you give an example of where somebody has done something wrong but escaped fair punishment?

### Read Genesis 1:31, 2:15-18

2. Who determines what is 'good' or 'not good' for our world and its people?

3. Why does God have the right to decide what is right or wrong and to judge us? <sup>7</sup>

### Read Genesis 3:4-6

4. God had said not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but the woman saw that it was 'good' for food. How would you describe their act of eating in relation to God's command?

### Read Genesis 3:16-19 <sup>8</sup>

5. How does God judge those who have rebelled against him?

Creature	Verse	Judgment
Woman / Eve	3:16a	
	3:16b	
Man / Adam	3:17-18	
	3:19	

6. God had created Adam from the earth and given him life (Genesis 2:7). Adam will return to the earth as judgment (Genesis 3:19). Is it fair that God, who gives us life, takes life away? <sup>9</sup> Why?

7. In our world people die from old age, cancer, accidents, murder and so on, but from God's point of view why do people die? <sup>10</sup>





**Read Ezekiel 18:26-32**

8. On what basis will God judge people?

9. How does God feel about punishing wicked (sinful) humans?

10. What does God want sinful people to do?

**Read Romans 3:10-12, 23**

11. God is perfectly good, so all people who fall short of his standard are by definition 'not good'. How does God describe the attitude of all people (including you) to Him?

**Read Hebrews 9:27**

12. What two things will every human face in the future?

13. God will judge us for the way we treat him and the way we treat the other people whom he created and loves. How do you think God should judge your life? What do you deserve?

**Write down any other questions you have:**

<sup>7</sup> See Revelation 14:7.

<sup>8</sup> Note that God judges the serpent also.

<sup>9</sup> See also Job 1:21-22; Romans 2:2,11.

<sup>10</sup> See also Romans 6:23a.

# 4 Jesus' death

## God solves the problem of judgement

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1. Can you give an example of where someone sacrificed himself to help other people?

### Read John 3:16

2. Why did God send Jesus into the world?

### Read John 19:30-35

3. What evidence is there that Jesus really died? <sup>11</sup>

### Read Romans 5:6-11

4. Complete the following table:

Verses	What were <u>we</u> like?	What did God/Christ do for us?	What will happen to us in the future?
6-7			
8-9			
10-11			

5. Thinking what we were like, how would you describe God's love for us?

6. How is it possible for sinful people to be justified (right with God)?

### Read 1 Peter 3:18

7. When Jesus died what words are used to describe:

a) Jesus?

b) Us?



8. Was Jesus sinful? <sup>12</sup>

9. If death is God's punishment for sin, did Jesus deserve to die? <sup>13</sup>

10. If Jesus did not die as a punishment for his own sin, whose sins did he die for? <sup>14</sup>

11. Why did Jesus die for us?

12. From this study, in your own words write down how Jesus saves people?

13. Do you believe that Jesus died to take the punishment you should receive for living without God as the king of your life? Yes/No.

Why?

**Write down any other questions you have:**

"The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man"

John Stott, *The Cross of Christ* (Leicester: IVP, 1986), p 160.

<sup>11</sup> The Islamic Holy Book, the Qur'an written 600 years after the Bible states that Jesus didn't really die (Qur'an, 4:157). However Roman historian, Tacitus, writing around 64AD in his *Annals of Imperial Rome*, states that Jesus did die.

<sup>12</sup> See also 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:14-15, 1 Peter 2:21-22, 1 John 3:5.

<sup>13</sup> See also Deuteronomy 24:26.

<sup>14</sup> See also 1 Peter 2:24-25, 1 John 2:2.

# 5 Resurrection

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## The True King is stronger than death

1. What do you think will happen after you die? <sup>15</sup>

**Read Luke 9:20-22**

2. What did Jesus claim would happen to him after he died?

**Read Luke 24:1-8**

3. What happened to Jesus after he died?

**Read Luke 24:36-43** <sup>16</sup>

4. What proof did Jesus give that he really rose from death?

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-6**

5. What other evidence is there that Jesus rose from the dead?

**Read Acts 10:34-44**

6. How did Jesus show that He was King during his life on earth?

7. People rejected Jesus as God's King and killed him (verse 39). What did God do to show people that Jesus is God's chosen King (verses 40-41)?



8. Apart from being King of our world what other role has God given to Jesus (verse 42)?

9. How can people escape the judgment and be forgiven for rejecting Jesus as God's chosen King for us (verse 43)?

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:7-17**

10. What kind of life does God want us to live?

11. God has raised Jesus up to rule the world from heaven (Acts 2:32-33). What will happen when Jesus returns to our world again?

12. Answer the following:

a) Who is stronger: you or death? Why?

b) Who is stronger: Jesus or death? <sup>17</sup> Why?

c) Whom should you trust to give you victory over death? <sup>18</sup>

**Write down any other questions you have:**

<sup>15</sup> Look back to your answer in Study 3, Question 13.

<sup>16</sup> See also Matthew 28:9-10.

<sup>17</sup> See also Acts 2:22-24.

<sup>18</sup> See 1 Peter 1:3.

# 6 Repentance

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## Turning to Jesus the True King

1. Change happens every day, every year. Write down something you do and do not like to change:

a. I want to change ...

b. I don't want to change ...

### Read Mark 1:14-15 <sup>19</sup>

2. When you enter Jesus' kingdom, you come under his rule and become a 'Christ-ian' or follower of Christ. What two things does Jesus call people to do? <sup>20</sup>

### Read Luke 9:23-24

3. Logically we can't follow Jesus our king, and continue to live as king of our own lives. How does a Christian live a life of repentance? <sup>21</sup>

### Read Acts 3:19 <sup>22</sup>

4. What words following 'repent' explain what 'repent' means?

5. What will happen for the person who repents?

### Read Acts 8:22

6. How can we communicate to God our decision to repent?

### Read Romans 8:9-14

7. What does God give us to show that we belong to Jesus (verse 9)?

8. What will happen if the Spirit of the risen Jesus lives in us (verses 10-11)?



9. What will Christians living by God's Spirit do to show we have become sons of God (verse 13)?

**Read Colossians 3:5-17**

10. List practical ways in which repentance will change our lives:

**Things I need to stop doing or get rid of as a Christian**  
(verses 5-9)

**Things I will start doing or put on as a Christian**  
(verses 12-17)

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**Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

11. The word 'repentance' literally means, 'change of mind'.<sup>23</sup> How can we change our minds (and behaviour) to honour Jesus as King?

**Write down any other questions you have:**

<sup>19</sup> See also Luke 24:44-47.

<sup>20</sup> In this Study 6 we look at repentance, and in Study 7 we look at faith.

<sup>21</sup> See also Acts 26:20.

<sup>22</sup> See also Acts 5:31.

<sup>23</sup> From the Greek *metanoia*.

# 7 Faith

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## Trusting Jesus as King and Saviour

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1. Give an example of something/someone that is:

a) Trustworthy:

b) Untrustworthy:

In English we often use the words "believe" or "faith" about something which is not based on proof, e.g. "I believe in UFOs". However the Bible uses the words "faith" or "believe" to mean, "trust or depend on". God calls us to trust his trustworthy Son and Word.

### Read John 14:1-6

2. Jesus asks people to trust him as much as they trust in God (verse 1). He also calls himself 'the Truth'. What does this teach us about how trustworthy Jesus is?

3. Is it possible to have life with God in heaven apart from Jesus?

### Read John 20:30-31

4. Why did John write down the miraculous things Jesus did?

### Read Romans 4:1-5, 20-25

5. God made promises to bless Abraham. How was Abraham considered to have 'righteousness' or be right with God (verses 2-5)?

6. How does verse 21 explain 'faith'?

7. How can we have 'righteousness' or be right with God (verse 24)?





**Read Romans 10:9-10**

8. How will faith be shown in your life?

**Read Ephesians 2:4-10**

9. How is it possible for people (who are spiritually dead in their relationship with God) to be saved and have faith in God?

10. Can you boast about saving yourself? Why or why not?

11. Good works don't save us, but after we have been saved what does God want us to do, to show our faith in Him (verse 10)?

**Read Colossians 2:6-7**

12. After we have placed our faith and trust in Jesus as Lord what should we do?

Write down any other questions you have:

# 8 The Decision

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## Will you accept Jesus as your King?

1. Give an example of a big decision that you have made in your life.

**Read John 3:36**

2. Write down the consequences of believing or rejecting Jesus as King.

Believing the Son (Jesus)	Rejecting the Son (Jesus)

**Read Acts 17:30**

3. Repentance is a command from God. When should we turn to Jesus in repentance?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

4. Jesus has died and risen. For whom should we now live our lives?

**Read 2 Peter 1:1-3**

5. If God has given us all we need to know in order to have life with Jesus, what more do you need to live life God's way?

**Read 2 Peter 3:3-10**

6. What will happen to ungodly people when Jesus returns (verse 7)?

7. Why has Jesus' coming back to earth been delayed (verse 9)?

8. What is the danger if you haven't repented before Jesus returns?



**Read Revelation 21:1-5**

9. What will life be like for those who trust in Jesus when Jesus returns?

**Read Philippians 2:5-11**

10. God has given Jesus the highest place as King of our world (verse 9). Where are you in your relationship to Jesus as the King of your life?

Tick one of the following three boxes:

**I believe that I am already a Christian.**

If so, you should be able to agree with the prayer below. Please explain how and when you became a Christian.

**I am not yet ready to become a Christian.**

If not, what is holding you back from trusting Jesus as the king of your life?

**I would like to become Christian now.**

If so, will you tell God your decision to become a Christian by saying the following prayer now?

*Dear God,*

*I believe that you created me and that I should honour you.  
I admit that I have sinned, ignoring you and living life my own way.  
I know that you should punish me for rejecting you as my king.  
Thank you that Jesus died to take the punishment I rightly deserve.  
I now submit to Jesus as the best and only king for my life.  
Please help me to live Jesus' way as I wait for his return.*

*Amen.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_