



Illyricum Movement

L.I.F.T. Youth Project: Loving in Fellowship and Truth

ENTIRE COURSE CURRICULUM

BOTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE



January 2023

www.illyricum.org

L.I.F.T. Syllabus

Loving in Fellowship and Truth

Master Curriculum

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Weekly Themes:

1. Introduction (In Person) Feb. 5th, 2023
2. Introduction (Online) Feb. 12th
3. Who am I? (In Person) Feb. 19
4. Exchange of Cultures (Online) Feb. 26th
5. Why am I here? (In Person) March 5th
6. Examining Languages (Online) March 12th
7. Where did we Come From? (In Person) March 19th
8. Is there Someone Out There? (Online) March 26th
9. So What About Good and Evil? (Online) April 2nd
10. Game Day April 8th (Saturday; Easter off)
11. Gender & Identity (In Person) April 16th
12. What About the Bible? (Online) April 23rd
13. Christianity versus Other Religions (In Person) April 30th
14. What's Next? (Online) May 7th
15. Christ (In Person) May 14th
16. The Gospel (Online) May 21st
17. Celebration Day May 28th

Introduction (In Person)

February 5th, 2023

Materials Needed:

1. Prepared posterboard for keeping track of points (we will fill out team names in the meeting)
2. Prepared bags with notebook, pen & name tag
3. Colorful pens or markers for them to write their names on the name tags
4. For Games: *5 bottles of 0.5 liters of coke and two people who are ready with mops just in case, papers, pencils and pens*

Schedule

15:00 Welcome

- We'll have music playing on the church system with a countdown until the meeting will begin
- As the students come in, we will have bags to give them that contain a **notebook, pen & name tag**
- They will write their names on the **name tags**
- They will have ping pong, basketball, drinks, a table with card games, etc. available

15:15 Introduction of the Staff Members & Program

- We'll gather the students together and Ermal will introduce each of the staff members. Noel and Franko can be present online, with the TV. We can each share an interesting fact about us, or something fun like that.
- We'll give an overview of the program (i.e. explain that we'll be having fun with games, and also that we will have discussions about...), how the point system will work, and what the final prize is.

15:30 Division into groups

By school—10 students (5 boys and 5 girls). Each group will be in a separate part of the church.

Group introductions—the students will learn each others' names.

They will play a Name Game as groups

They will stand in a circle.

We will have a ball or item they pass around, saying their name, and then saying a friend's name and passing the ball.

Introduction (In Person)

February 5th, 2023

Schedule (continued)

15:45 Big Group Introductions

We will gather again as big groups of all the boys and all the girls and play the name game together as boys and girls, and then come together with all of them for a final name game.

16:00 Game 1: Head, Knees, Shoe (In Person)— game for boys

Materials: five shoes—maybe five students can volunteer to offer up their shoes— just not the students who will be playing because we don't want them to be shoe-less

Time: 15 minutes

- We will choose two boys from each big group totaling 10 boys
- Boys line up head-to-head (like American football)
- There will be an object between each pair (like a shoe)
- A leader will call out "Head," or "Knees", or "Shoe", and as they call out the instruction, the boys need to put their hands on their head, or on their knees, or – if "shoe" – they grab the shoe.
- The boy who grabs it the fastest then advances to the next round, totaling in 5 boys.
- Since it is an odd number, we do a "drawing" of papers and whoever draws the paper with the "x" immediately advances to the next round, and waits.
- The other four students who had advanced now play each other.
- The two winners then do rock paper scissors (three rounds) and best two out of three moves on to the final and waits. The loser plays head, knees, shoe with the person who advanced automatically (see step above).
- The last two finalists play each other and the winner receives **5 points**.
- **Mark down the points on their track sheet or give them the chips representing their points for them to put in their team's jar.**

16:15 Game 2: Soda, Strength & Speed— game for boys

Materials: 5 bottles of 0.5 liters of coke and two people who are ready with mops just in case.

Time: 10 minutes

- One player from each team (who did not play previous game) totaling 5

Introduction (In Person)

February 5th, 2023

Schedule (continued)

Soda, Speed and Strength (continued)

-We count down "3, 2, 1" and they need to chug the coke and then immediately do 10 pushups. Whoever drinks and finishes the pushups first wins and receive **5 points**.

-If there is a tie, they do it again.

16:25 Game 3: Logo Design Game—game for girls

Materials: paper, pencils or pens

Time: 20 minutes

-Before this game begins, split all the kids into their teams; then the entire 10-person team has 5 minutes to decide on a team name.

-Then all the girls in each team will work on creating a logo (10 minutes)

-Each team will present their logo design and the other teams will discuss among their own team members for how many points from 1-10 for how well it was drawn.

-The team with the highest score wins **5 points** for their team.

-They can then write their team names on the point tracking sheet.

16:45 Point Awarding

We will gather the kids one last time and award points for each of their presence (1 per student) and then gather all the points that were earned for the games and put them on the tracking sheet.

16:50 Soda & Goodbye

We can play music again and offer a drink as the students gather their things and depart. :)

Introduction (Online)

February 12th, 2023

Points for Online Meetings: we will keep track of their attendance so we can award them points for attendance.

Schedule

16:00 Greetings

We all meet as online participants in a Zoom meeting. We can all say our name and favorite dessert or something.

16:05 Game: Two Truths and One Fiction

Time: 20 minutes

-We have the whole group of 10 Albanians and 10 Americans (20 total)

-The **Albanian group leader** chooses one American student to start the game name (for example, Trevor)

-Now Trevor tells two truths and one fiction about himself.

-The **Albanians** now need to find which one is a fiction.

-Whichever students find the fiction have the opportunity to go next. (If there's only one, they automatically go next...)

-If there are multiple people who have found the correct answer of which is the fiction, *or* if there aren't any people who have found it, the **American leader** will choose one Albanian student to go next.

-It goes back and forth until five Americans and five Albanians have gone, or until we have reached 20 minutes of game play.

16:30 Discussion: Introducing Ourselves

-The leaders will split the Albanians into pairs. These pairs will remain the same throughout the duration of the program. **We will create the pairs from a name list ahead of time.**

-Each pair of students will then have a discussion just telling a little bit about themselves, and asking questions of each other.

Introduction (Online)

February 12th, 2023

Schedule Continued

Questions they can ask one another. It is really just a guideline. :-)

- Are you easy to talk to?
- What do you like doing in your free time?
- What are your hobbies?
- How would you describe yourself?
- Do you have a favorite sport? Why?
- What makes you angry?
- What makes you unique?
- If you could change the ending of any famous movie, which movie
- would it be? What would your new ending be?
- What song will you never forget the lyrics to?
- What word do you always mispronounce?
- Have you ever met a real person with an unfortunate name? What
- was it?
- What would your superhero power be?
- What's your favorite snack?
- What's the worst food you've ever tried?
- What's your favorite animal?
- If you could meet anyone, who would you meet?

When each pair has finished, they will end the meeting on their own.

Who Am I?

February 19th, 2023

Materials Needed:

1. Papers with situations written on them
2. Personality, Disc, Love Language Tests We will have these printed out beforehand
3. Extra pens or pencils for them to use in case they don't have theirs.
4. A small explanation sheet assigning the Exchanging Cultures Project for their next online meeting.

Schedule

15:00 Welcome

-We'll have music playing on the church system with a countdown.

-Game/mingle time

15:15 Icebreaker Game: "Switch Places if..."

-To reinforce their names as learned last time, we will play the name games again, or a different variety of them.

Switch Places If... Students sit in a circle, but there is someone in the middle. The person in the middle says "Switch places if... [you are wearing white socks]." Everyone wearing white socks must get up and switch places with someone else. The person left out then takes the center and creates a new topic. We can put them in their separate groups of 10 and each team will be playing at the same time in their separate locations.

15:30 Game: Acting Out Situations

Time: 10 minutes to prepare a script and up to 5 minutes per group to act it out. (About 30 minutes total with the time included for the students to select a group leader and for the teams to be scored.)

Materials: Papers with situations

-Divide into their teams.

-Each team chooses a member to lead them. The student then organizes the other team members to create a small skit acting out each of the following situations.

-They will draw a paper with a situation on it, and then have to act it out.

Who Am I?

February 19th, 2023

Schedule Continued

Situations:

1. Teacher in Class
2. Gabi
3. Sobalavatrice
4. Being stuck on a bus
5. Neighborhood busy-body

-The youth leaders give each team a score and the winner receives **5 points**.

16:00 Tests to Get to Know Ourselves

We will have a variety of Personality tests for the students to fill out. We need to select the tests and have them printed out.

They will spread out to various parts of the church and fill out the tests individually.

16:30 Share A Little Bit with Others

We can gather the students together again, and then ask for volunteers (or randomly select) a few students to share a little bit about what they learned about themselves.

16:40 Assigning the Cultural Exchange Project

Explain that at their next online meeting they will prepare a small presentation describing what life is like in their city for someone their age, what they do for fun there, etc.

We will also print out an assignment page that also includes some ideas for them:

(Some ideas include what a day in their life is like, what holidays they celebrate and how, what school is like, what the weather is in their area, any after school activities they participate in, what their favorite type of food is, what their favorite restaurant is, what they do over summer vacation, what their neighborhood is like, etc.)

Their American partner will share something similar with them.

16:45 Point Awarding

We will award points for each of their presence (1 per student) and then gather all the points that were earned for the games and put them on the tracking sheet.

16:50 Drinks & Goodbye

We can play music again and offer snacks as the students gather their things and depart. :)

Exchanging Cultures (Online)

February 26th, 2023

Schedule

16:00 Greetings

We all meet as online participants in a Zoom meeting. We can all say our names again and then say the last movie we watched or something like that.

16:05 Game: Five Things

Time: 15 minutes

Participants have 15 seconds to name 5 things in the given categories.

The American leader selects an Albanian student and give the topic, then switch.

Materials: List of Categories

1. Albanians—five U.S. States
Americans—five European Capitals
2. Albanians – five American Football Teams
Americans – five European Soccer (Futbol) teams
3. Albanians – five American TV shows
Americans – five European Authors
4. Albanians – five American founding Fathers
Americans – five ancient philosophers
5. Albanians – five U.S. Presidents
Americans – five Roman emperors
6. Albanians – five American celebrities
Americans – five European celebrities
7. Albanians – five American clothing brands
Americans – five European clothing brands
8. Albanians – five ancient explorers
Americans – five famous ancient conquerors
9. Albanians – five mountains
Americans – five seas

16:20 Discussion: Exchanging Cultures

-Each pair of students will meet separately and give their presentations describing what life is like in their city for someone their age, what they do for fun there, etc.

When each pair has finished, they will end the meeting on their own.

Why am I here? (In person)

March 5th, 2023

Materials Needed:

1. Sandwich-making supplies
2. Pencil and Paper

Schedule

15:00 Welcome

-We'll have music playing on the church system, mingle time

15:15 Ice-Breaker Game

-To reinforce their names as learned the times before, maybe we could play a name game, but them saying their names backwards. OR they could say an adjective before their name, like "Extraordinary Ermal, Nervous Noel, Funny Franko", etc.)

15:30 Game 1: Toilet/Driver Game

Time: 15 minutes (3 minutes per performer)

-We will choose one person from each team (totaling 5 people). They will go in a different room and receive instructions that they will be performing a skit as though they are a truck driver, going from Tirana to Kukes and the road is very bad. They will act that out.

-In the other room with the main group we will explain that the actor will perform a skit that -they are on the toilet.

-Each player will come out one by one, and the other players will wait their turn in the other class-room.

-This will result in a lot of laughs.

The best performance will receive **3 points**, as each team can vote on which one they thought was the best (except they can't vote on their own team member—similarly to how we voted on the logo design game)

Why am I here? (In person)

March 5th, 2023

Schedule Continued

15:45 Game 2: Sandwich Preparation

Time: 10 minutes

Materials: Sandwich supplies, a flat surface

-Two people are selected from each team (totaling 10 people) and then are tied together. One can only use the right hand, the other can only use the left. They must prepare a sandwich together and then feed it to a third member (a willing volunteer) whose hands are tied behind their back.

-(2 points for cleanest and 3 points for fastest, as determined by the youth leaders)

15:55 Game 3: Charades/Pantomime

Time: 20 minutes

Materials: Pencil and paper to keep track of who has won each round

-The students are divided into their teams. One player per group is “it”.

-The word or phrase that the players must act out will be determined by a different competing team. We could even do it like we have groups 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5—so group 1 comes up with the word the player from group 2 will act out, while group 2 will come up with the word the player from group 3 will act out, and so on.

-The team leaders will check to see what word has been chosen to make sure that it is not too difficult.

-The players who are “it” will receive their secret word from the other team and have 2-3 minutes to act it out for their team, without speaking, and try to get their fellow teammates to guess the correct word.

Whichever team ends first wins. We could play multiple rounds, and then the team with the highest score at the end wins **3 points**.

16:15 Topic Introduction: Speaker

The speaker will share about today’s theme: **the Meaning of Life/Why Am I Here?** The following points will be covered:

- “Life is Short” picture explanation -> We have a graphic showing the different stages in life, from baby all the way to elderly person and then death.

Why am I here?

March 5th, 2023

Schedule Continued

(Introduction of Topic Continued)

- We were created intentionally, by design
- We are not a result of chance or coincidence
- The perspective that we see from the Christian worldview, that we were created with dignity and worth by a loving God

16:30 Small Group Discussions

After the speaker has finished, we will break the students up into their groups, and each team will meet with their team leader staff member.

The team leader will lead the group through the following discussion questions:

- What is the meaning of your life?
- What would you be happy with? (Answer Ecclesiastes 1:2)
- Tell them about Solomon and his life background
- What would you tell Solomon?
- Tell them Paul's story
- Read Phil 4:11-13
- Compare Solomon and Paul
- Where did they find the purpose in their life to keep on going?
- Where do you find the purpose in your life to keep on going?

The goal is to lead the students to consider what really makes life worth living—where Solomon had everything he could ever possibly want, and yet was dissatisfied with it all, whereas Paul had a life full of troubles and difficulties, yet had found the secret of real joy.

16:45 Point Awarding

We will award points for each of their presence (1 per student) and then gather all the points that were earned for the games and put them on the tracking sheet.

16:50 Drinks & Goodbye

We can play music again and offer snacks as the students gather their things and depart. :)

Examining Languages (Online)

March 12th, 2023

Schedule

16:00 Greetings

We all meet as online participants in a Zoom meeting.

The American youth leader will then introduce him or herself in Albanian, hopefully making the Albanian students smile, and then share that we will be discussing the origin of languages and societies in our meeting. :-)

16:05 Game: Read My Lips

Time: 15 minutes

Either the American or Albanian leader will explain the game:

- Americans are on one team, and the Albanians on the other team.
- The leader will choose a student to start (or someone could volunteer) and the leader will zoom message that student a word.
- The selected student will mute him or herself and say the word as clearly as possible so the other team will be able to guess what the word is. Once the One American will mute himself and say a word, and the Albanians have to find it, and vice versa.
- We will do five Americans, five Albanians.

American's words for the Albanians:

Albania
Evolution
Language
Change
Alphabet

Albanians' words for the Americans

America
English
Origin
Grammar
Country

Examining Languages (Online)

March 12th, 2023

Schedule Continued

16:20 Discussion: Languages

The American student will introduce him or herself in Albanian, which will make the Albanian smile we hope :-)

“Puhr-shuhn-det-yeh, oon yam (name). Oon yetoy nuh (name of where you live). Oon yam (age – you can say it in English) vyeç.”

(This is what it looks like in Albanian, just so you can see)

“Përshëndetje, unë jam (name). Unë jetoj në (name of where you live). Unë jam (age – you can say it in English) vjeç.”

Then they will go through the following discussion questions:

- What makes your language special?
- How has your language changed over time? (You could give an example of modern English compared to the English of the King James Bible from the 1600s.)

Psalm 23:1-3 (KJV) “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” (KJV)

Psalm 23:1-3 (ESV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

- What about slang? What are some examples of slang in your culture?
- Why do you think human beings have the ability to communicate with a complex spoken language, while animals do not? Where do you think this ability came from?

“Human language appears to be a unique phenomenon, without significant analogue [something comparable] in the animal world.”*

*<https://creation.com/origin-of-language>

- How do you think we got so many different languages?

“When people rebelled at the Tower of Babel, God confused their language. Their new languages then lost complexity as small people groups spread out. The languages created then were the forerunners of today’s languages.” (<https://answersingenesis.org/tower-of-babel/the-mother-tongue>)

Where did we Come From? (In Person)

March 19th, 2023

Ahead of time, we will reach out to them on the group WhatsApp so they can prepare to know what they think about the topic.

Materials Needed:

1. Balloons
2. Music on the sound system for the balloon dance game
3. TV connected to Zoom so Noel can share his presentation on Evolution versus Creation

Schedule

15:00 Welcome

-We'll have music playing on the church system

15:15 Grab the Rag (*If there is time*)

Time: 15 minutes

- We can select two girls and two boys per group. All the girls line up on one side of the church and all the boys line up on the other side of the church. The lines should be even. They have a number from 1-10 (So there will be one girl and one boy with the number "1", and so on for the whole line of players.
- A leader stands in the center holding out a rag. They call out a number, and both the girl and boy with that number must race to grab the rag and return to their place in line. If they are tagged by the opposing player, then the other team gets the point, but if they make it back with the rag, their team gets the point.
- Play until tired, keeping track of points as you go.
- *No points; just a fun game. :-)*

15:30 Balloon Dance-Off

Materials: balloons, music

Time: 15 minutes

- Girls and girls, boys and boys, pairing up so everyone has a partner.
- They will need to keep a balloon between them as they dance. If the balloon falls, they are eliminated.
- Last couple standing wins **2 points** each person.

Where did we Come From?

March 19th, 2023

Schedule Continued

15:45 Game 3: Balloon Cup Pyramid

Materials: Balloons, cups

Time: 15 minutes

- *All the boys in their respective teams are going to play.*
- *Aim of the game is for each team to form a pyramid of cups using only a balloon, their hands must be behind their back.*
- *The team must form a stacked pyramid of at least 6 cups, this is achieved with the balloon in their mouth; whilst in their mouth they put the balloon in the cup and inflate the balloon to secure the cup.*
- *They then move the cup over to their target table and put it on the table by deflating the balloon.*
- *The next person in the team does the next cup and so on.*
- *The team winner is the fastest to get the cups in a pyramid stack using just this balloon technique*

3 points fastest

16:00 Gathering for Topic: Where did we come from?

- **Gathering:** As we gather, we will have Noel on a Zoom call so that he can see the students. We will introduce the topic of the Origin of Life and how it is that we are here on this earth.
- **Sharing Opinions:** We will invite the students to share their opinions on the topic. The leader can choose a group, and then someone from that group will share their thoughts.
- **Presentation:** Noel will share about the different evidences for creation versus evolution.
- **Question and Answer:** The students will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have for Noel to answer. :-)

If the presentation/discussion time doesn't go as long as we anticipate, we can do a no-prep game here.

16:45 Awarding Points

16:50 Drinks & Goodbye

Is there Someone Out There? (Online)

March 26th, 2023

Schedule

16:00 Greetings

We all meet as online participants in a Zoom meeting.

16:05 Game: Spot the Difference

Time: 15 minutes

Either the American or Albanian leader will explain the game:

- A person will be “it”. All the other players will study that person’s screen.
- After a minute or so, the chosen player will turn off their camera, and then change something either on him or herself, or in their surroundings.
- They will turn the camera back on and all the others will have to find what has changed.
- The person who finds the difference first takes the next turn.
- Play for as long as desired, or until 15 minutes is up.

16:20 Leader Introduces Topic: Is Someone Out There?/Does God Exist?

- The leader will introduce our topic by beginning with:

Everyone knows about the Mona Lisa or the Statue of liberty. Do you think it is reasonable to assume that they were both designed by intelligent beings? Would you think I am unreasonable if I said that they were created over thousands and thousands of years by themselves?

Think also about complex machines such cars...

“Design is everywhere. It would never enter our minds that metal, left to itself, would eventually form into engines, transmissions, wheels, and all the other intricate parts needed to produce an automobile.” -Ken Ham¹

- Then the students will be released into their breakout groups and discuss the following:
 1. Do you think the world has a Designer?
 2. The following questions are if they say no:
 - 2a. Why not?
 - 2b. What would you consider proof?

Is there Someone Out There? (Online)

March 26th, 2023

Schedule Continued

Discussion Continued

2c. Fine tuning the Universe so life is possible

There are an innumerable amount of factors in our universe that must be absolutely perfect (as they are) in order for life to exist—things like the distance of the earth from the sun, the placement of Mars and Jupiter in their exact distance from the earth, and the position of our solar system in the Milky Way galaxy. These are just three of countless examples.

“The probabilities involved with the fine-tuning of the universe aren’t comparable to winning the lottery or being struck by lightning. Lottery odds are represented using eight or nine digits, e.g., $1:10^9$. Randomly dealing a deck of 52 playing cards in perfect order presents odds of $1:10^{68}$. Physicists express the odds of “randomly” arranging universal physical constants in the present arrangement using numbers more like $1:10^{120}$.

In that sense, a universe capable of sustaining intelligent life is like a treasure hidden in safe whose dial has millions of numbers and whose proper combination is millions of digits long. A single wrong digit, anywhere, and there is no result. It can’t be partly opened, or mostly opened—the door is entirely closed unless the combination is perfect...Fine-tuning points to specific properties of the universe and posits that some higher power deliberately chose their arrangement.”

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2d. YOU ARE LIVING PROOF THAT GOD EXISTS!

Think about the human brain...

“In man is a [1.4 kilogram] brain, which, as far as we know, is the most complex and orderly arrangement of matter in the universe.” -Isaac Asimov²

Consider: is it more likely that *matter* created a *mind*, or that a *mind* created *matter*?

“[The human brain] is much more complex than the most complicated computer ever built. Wouldn’t it be logical to assume that if man’s highly intelligent brain designed the computer, then the human brain was also the product of design?” -Ken Ham³

3. The following questions are if they say yes:

3a. Why do you think the world has a designer?

3b. Tell them about your personal relationship with God.

3c. Ask them if they have one.

3d. IF YOU WANT YOU CAN TELL THEM ABOUT THE 3 PROOFS FOR GOD’S EXISTENCE ABOVE.

Is there Someone Out There? (Online)

March 26th, 2023

Schedule Continued

Bonus Thought: Who Created God?

We come to a crisis: either matter has existed eternally, or a God who created it has existed eternally.

“By very definition, and Infinite Being has always existed—nobody created God. He is the Self-existing One...He is outside of time—in fact, He created time.” - Ken Ham⁴

Assignment for the next week: Find 15 Expressions from your culture that relates to morality. (For example, in English we have the phrase “The grass is always greener on the other side,” meaning that it always seems like someone else has things better than you do...and this relates to the idea of coveting what someone else has, which is a moral concept).

When each pair has finished, they will end the meeting on their own.

¹Is there REALLY a GOD? Ken Ham, pg. 4

²Is there REALLY a GOD? Ken Kam, citing Isaac Asimov, pg. 5

³Is there REALLY a GOD? Ken Kam, pg. 6

⁴Is there REALLY a GOD? Ken Kam, pg. 6

So What About Good and Evil? (Online)

April 2nd, 2023

Schedule

16:00 Greetings

We all meet as online participants in a Zoom meeting.

16:05 Game: Black-Out Truth or Dare

Time: about 15 or 20 minutes

Either the American or Albanian leader will explain the game:

- Everyone has their cameras on. The leader will choose someone to do a truth or dare, and the leader will come up with either the truth or dare on the spot.
- If they decide to pass, they must close their camera and are disqualified.
- The Leaders will lead the questions.
- Play until there is one last player standing, or until 15 or 20 minutes have passed.

16:20 Leader Introduces Topic: So What About Good and Evil?/Morality

The American youth leader will approach the topic by giving a parable of a “virus” (where the virus represents sin, but we won’t reveal that yet). It will go something like this...

(Example): “Say there was a healthy person who was introduced to a virus. The virus entered the person and after a few days they started showing symptoms of getting the cold.

Today we’re going to talk about morality, and the existence of good and evil. Keep in mind this short story about the virus and think about how it may relate to the topic of morality.”

The point of this is to reveal the issue that sin lives inside each of us, similar to a virus or sickness.

The problem of evil is not just “out there” in the world, but we see that it also resides in us.

16:25 Break-out Discussions

The students will divide into their pairs and discuss the prompts given on the following page

So What About Good and Evil? (Online)

April 2nd, 2023

Schedule Continued

Discussion Prompts:

1. Share the 15 expressions in both English and Albanian (with the English translations) that relate to morality.
2. Consider why certain actions are seen as obviously good or as evil on a universal level (For example, in every culture it is considered *good* to love and take care of your children, and seen as *evil* to murder people.)
3. Discuss the idea that human beings seem to naturally recognize a moral standard and that affects how we view certain things in the world. For example, when we read on the news about a school shooting or a murder or kidnapping, we grieve because we know that this is wrong. Discuss the idea that we can only recognize evil because it is the opposite of good—how things *should* be.

Where did these standards come from?

4. Discuss the existence of evil...why is there evil in the world?
5. Consider the existence of the conscience, how we feel bad inside when we have done something wrong. Why is this?
6. Discuss morality on a person level...how do you view yourself? Are you a good/moral person? Why?
7. How do you deal with things when you have done something wrong?
8. How do you think the virus story relates to this discussion?
9. Discuss the idea that evil exists because it comes from inside of humans...it is like a virus that exists inside of us and we can see the effects is both “small” and “big” things, like in our own personal lives or in tragic world events like bombings and killings.
10. Discuss that this idea comes from the Bible, and also according to the Bible, there is a hope for the condition that the world is in, and also for us personally!

When each pair has finished, they will end the meeting on their own.

Game Day :-)

April 8th, 2023 (Saturday, not Sunday)

Materials Needed:

1. Board and Card Games
2. Basketball, ping pong balls and paddles
3. Craft supplies

Schedule

15:00 Welcome

-We'll have music playing on the church system as well as a countdown.

-We'll have different games set up in different parts of the church, including board and card games, as well as basketball and ping pong available.

15:15 Let the Games Begin

Maybe we can have a leader organizing a ping pong and basketball team game...

We will just have fun hanging out all together and playing games. :-)

We can also have crafts available.

No points this day—it's just for fun. :-)

16:45 Goodbye

Invite all the students to join us for our Easter service the following day. :-)

Gender & Identity (In Person)

April 16th, 2023

We will assign the topic ahead of time on the WhatsApp Group; maybe we can have a list of questions we can ask them to gently open the conversation and hear what they think and what is on their hearts.

Materials Needed:

1. List of world leaders

Schedule

15:00 Welcome

-We'll have music playing on the church system as well as a countdown.

15:15 Game 1: Human Knot

Time: 15 minutes

- Each team will gather together and bunch up very closely.
- They will randomly reach out their hands and grasp two other hands in the group.
- The group must untangle themselves as quickly as possible without letting go.
- The fastest group earns **3 points**.

15:30 Game 2: Who is in Charge Here?

Time: 15 minutes

- The entire group stands in a circle (or you can split it in two groups if desired and just have two games going at the same time)
- One student is chosen/volunteers to be the "Guesser" and leaves the room.
- Meanwhile another student is chosen/volunteers to be the "Leader".
- The Guesser comes back in the room and stands in the middle of the circle.
- The Leader leads the group in any given motion (jumping jacks, clapping, twirling, etc.) and all the other group members must follow the motion. The Leader must try to keep their identity a secret, and the other players also don't draw attention to who the Leader is. The Leader and other players cannot talk, but the Guesser is allowed to.
- The Guesser has 3 chances to guess who the Leader is.
- The Leader should change motions frequently.
- If the Guesser correctly finds the Leader, the round ends. If they don't find the Leader, the round ends after three guesses and the Leader's identity is revealed.

Gender & Identity (In Person)

April 16th, 2023

Schedule Continued

- Can be played for as long as desired.
- We'll just give **1 point per group** for participating.

15:45 Game 3: Guess the World Leader

Time: 15 minutes

Materials: List of world leaders, written out on slips of papers.

- Each team/group will choose someone to be "it"
- That person will draw a name of a world leader and proceed to, without words, act out that person to the best of their ability to get their team mates to guess who they are acting.
- The first team who guesses the leader correctly scores **1 point**.
- All the teams will be competing at the same time.

16:00 Gathering for Topic: Gender & Identity

- **Gathering:** We have our special guest speaker either in person or on a Zoom call, and we will gather the students together.
- **Sharing Opinions:** We will invite the students to share their opinions on the topic.
- **Presentation:** Our speaker will briefly share about the design we see in Scripture for where our identity is found as human beings and the way God designed us.
- **Question and Answer:** The students will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have for us to answer. :-)

If the presentation/discussion time doesn't go as long as we anticipate, we can do a no-prep game here.

16:45 Awarding Points

16:50 Drinks & Goodbye

What about the Bible? (Online)

April 23rd, 2023

Schedule

16:00 Greetings

We all meet as online participants in a Zoom meeting.

16:05 Game: Musical Chairs

Time: 15 minutes

Either the American or Albanian leader will explain the game:

- The leader (either the American or Albanian) will have control of the music.
- Each player must have their cameras turned on.
- While the music is playing, they will dance, but when the music is turned off, they must freeze. Anyone who moves will be eliminated.
- Last player standing wins :)

16:20 Leader Introduces Topic: The Bible

They can share something like... "There are many religious books in the world. So why do Christians believe the Bible is true, and is God's Word? This is what we're going to discuss today."

16:25 Break-out Discussions

The students will divide into their pairs and discuss the following prompts:

- Have you ever read the Bible or heard someone talk about what it says?
- What are some facts you know about the Bible?
- There are many reasons we can trust the Bible (use wisdom as to what to share)

1. The Bible is consistent.

Consistent - in agreement with something, having the same meaning

- 40 authors, 3 different languages, written over the span of 1500 years but all parts of the Bible agree and have the same message

2. There are many reliable manuscripts.

Reliable - able to be trusted or believed

Manuscript - ancient handwritten copy

- Thousands of full or partial manuscripts but no major revisions (mainly spelling variations)

What about the Bible? (Online)

April 23rd, 2023

Schedule Continued

3. The Bible is historically accurate.

Accurate - correct or exact

- Proven historically, geographically, and archeologically

4. The Bible contains fulfilled prophecy.

Prophecy - something someone says about what will happen in the future

- 300 specific Old Testament prophecies about Jesus that came true (i.e. - Jesus born in Bethlehem, from the line of Abraham, betrayed, crucified, resurrected)

5. The Bible consists of eyewitness testimony.

Eyewitness - someone who saw something happen

Testimony - a statement about what someone knows or believes is true

6. The Bible is timeless.

Timeless - not changing because of time or fashion

- Even after so many years, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time. It is still around, and it still applies to our lives today.

7. The Bible is powerful.

- It came from God and has the power to change people's lives.

The Bible accurately describes the state of the world as we can see it.

The students will end their meetings on their own when they have finished discussing.

Extra Resources about the Bible

What is the Bible?

“The Bible is an extraordinary work of literature, and it makes some astonishing claims. It records the details of the creation of the universe, the origin of life, the moral law of God, the history of man’s rebellion against God, and the historical details of God’s work of redemption for all who trust in His Son. Moreover, the Bible claims to be God’s revelation to mankind. If true, this has implications for all aspects of life: how we should live, why we exist, what happens when we die, and what our meaning and purpose is. But how do we know if the claims of the Bible are *true*?” -Jason Lisle*

*[How do we Know the Bible is True?](#) Page 15

Possible Questions the Albanian Student May Raise:

Hasn't the Bible changed over the years?

Any unbiased document scholar will agree that the Bible has been remarkably well-preserved over the centuries. Copies of the Bible dating to the 14th century AD are nearly identical in content to copies from the 3rd century AD. When the [Dead Sea Scrolls](#) were discovered, scholars were shocked to see how similar they were to other ancient copies of the Old Testament, even though the Dead Sea Scrolls were hundreds of years older than anything previously discovered. Even many hardened skeptics and critics of the Bible admit that the Bible has been transmitted over the centuries far more accurately than any other ancient document.

There is absolutely no evidence that the Bible has been revised, edited, or tampered with in any systematic manner. The sheer volume of biblical manuscripts makes it simple to recognize any attempt to distort God’s Word. There is no major doctrine of the Bible that is put in doubt as a result of the inconsequential differences among the manuscripts.

— got question (source)

Who chose what books ended up in the Bible anyway?

Short Answer:

The Bible is a collection of many different writings that were written at different points in history. So how did we get this particular set of books?

The next time someone asks how the books of the Bible were chosen, here are three things to remember:

1. Early faith communities accepted the texts that became the Bible because they understood that God was their ultimate author.
2. The decision to recognize a text as scripture was based upon multiple factors.
3. Books that didn’t measure up were rejected because they didn’t meet the criteria.

Extra Resources about the Bible

Long Answer

The next time someone asks how the books of the Bible were chosen, here are 3 things to remember:

Number 1: Early faith communities accepted the texts that became the Bible because they understood that God was their ultimate author. The books in the Bible weren't the only religious texts available in ancient times. *But faith communities didn't respect all texts the same way. Some were considered scripture and gathered into the collection we call the Bible, but others were not.*

When Moses descended from Mt. Sinai he reported what God had told him. His message was God's word and Israel accepted it as such because they knew God was its author. The recognition that God was the source of scripture became the most important criteria in accepting books into the Bible. Faith communities would go on to establish additional criteria to help them recognize which books they would consider scripture. Eventually, the question was taken up by Church councils. At the Council of Hippo, held in north Africa in AD 393, a group of church leaders recognized a list of books that they believed to be scripture. Later, the Council of Carthage affirmed that decision in AD 397.

But did these councils create the Bible? Not quite. The Church had already inherited the Hebrew scriptures, the Old Testament, from Jewish communities by the time of Jesus' ascension. Early Christians were Jewish and the Hebrew Bible speaks of Christ. By the time Church councils got around to discussing texts for the New Testament, Christian faith communities had already recognized the four gospels and a large majority of the epistles as scripture. The Muratorian Canon, a document written in the second century AD, lists the books that were considered by most to be scripture at that time. *The list suggests that most of the New Testament we have today was already regarded as scripture by Christians 100 years before Church councils took up the matter. In addition, the list mentions some books that were rejected by Christians, suggesting that very early on, before church councils got involved, Christians were in the habit of carefully discerning which writings should and should not be part of the Bible.*

Number 2: The decision to recognize a text as scripture was based upon multiple factors. As faith communities wrestled with accepting various texts, they established a set of criteria upon which to base their decisions.

One of these criteria was whether the author was known to be a trustworthy source. Moses delivered the sermons in Deuteronomy. Jeremiah was a well-known prophet. Paul planted many churches. John was a famous apostle. The writings associated with these men came with their credibility.

Faith communities were able to authenticate their writings and trusted them. In some cases, the name of the human author of a text has been lost to us. But the original faith communities must have known who the authors were, and they recognized the voice of God in the text because it was a faithful witness to what God had revealed before. For example, we don't know who wrote the Old Testament books of Ruth or Chronicles, or the New Testament book of Hebrews, but the theology of the books agrees with what was previously revealed.

Number 3: Books that didn't measure up were rejected because they didn't meet the criteria.

Extra Resources about the Bible

One reason some books were not included is that they didn't measure up to the standard. This is to be expected when we consider that every collection of books is gathered with a standard in mind. The Bible is no different. The Jewish historian Josephus, writing at the end of the first century AD, argued that Jewish communities recognized only a small set of books as scripture. His list includes the 39 books of what would become the Protestant Old Testament; it does not include the books of Tobit, 1-2 Maccabees, Sirach, or Judith to name a few. Some books considered for the New Testament canon, like the Shepherd of Hermas, or the Gospel of Thomas, were excluded because they included doctrine that was inconsistent with what was believed and taught by the apostles. One of these issues, for example, had to do with the nature of Christ. When the Church councils officially rejected these books for the New Testament canon, they weren't doing so to suppress the other so-called "Christian" options. They were working to ensure that false teaching didn't corrupt the church.

Christianity Compared to Other Religions (In Person)

April 30th, 2023

Materials Needed:

1. Deck of Cards
2. Music and chairs

Schedule

15:00 Welcome

-We'll have music playing on the church system as well as a countdown.

15:15 Game 1: Wink Murder

Time: 30 minutes

We can modify the game by choosing two or three cards as the Killer Cards, so the game will go faster and possibly be more fun. :-)

Materials: deck of cards

- Before gameplay begins, decide upon a playing card that will be the "Killer Card." For example, the Ace of Diamonds or a Joker Card.
- Including the "Killer Card", reduce the number of cards in the deck to the number of players in the game. For example, if there are 10 players, include 9 cards + the "Killer Card" in your deck.
- Gather everyone in a circle.
- Shuffle and pass out the cards, face down. No player should reveal their card.
- Players hold onto their card until the end of the round, careful to not show it to anyone.
- Instruct the group about which card is the "Killer Card."
- Ask the group to discreetly check their cards.
- Players should not speak or make any indications about what their card is.
- Gameplay begins as each player looks one another in the eye, searching for "The Killer."
- "The Killer's" job is to attempt to take out as many players as possible by winking at a player.
- "The Killer" should avoid being detected as much as possible and wink discreetly at other players.
- "The Killer" does not have to wink at a player every time they look at them and can wait for the right opportunity to do so.
- If "The Killer" looks at a player and winks, that player must silently count to 5 before "Dying," either by pretending to pass out or stepping away from the group.

Christianity Compared to Other Religions (In Person)

April 30th, 2023

Schedule Continued

Wink Murder Continued

- If any player suspects that they know “The Killer,” they must raise their hand, at which point gameplay stops.
- After raising their hand, that player says, “I accuse” and waits for another player to also raise their hand to join them in accusation.
- After both have raised their hand, both players immediately point at how they believe to be “The Killer.”
- If each player points to different people, both are eliminated from that round.
- If both players point to the same person as “The Killer,” that person must immediately admit or deny honestly that they are the Killer, or reveal that they are holding the “Killer Card.” **Each of the students who guessed correctly earn 2 points.**
- The game continues as long as possible, until “The Killer” is identified. In the unlikely event that “The Killer” manages to eliminate all but one player, the round also ends and “The Killer” is revealed. **The “Killer” then earns 2 points.**

15:45 Game 2: Musical Chairs

Time: 15 minutes

Materials: 50ish chairs, music on the speakers.

- Split group in half or thirds and have two or three circles of chairs.
- Each circle of chairs should be minus one the number of players.
- When the music plays, the students circle the chairs, and when it stops, they must all sit down as quickly as possible. The student without a chair is eliminated.
- Play until one student remains. If doing the separate circles, all the finalists can do one last round competing with each other.
- The player who wins in the end receives **2 points** for their team.

16:00 Small Presentation: Christianity compared to other religions.

Ermal will give a 10-minute presentation about Christianity compared to other religions.

We will divide into our team-groups, each with their youth leader. We will discuss the following prompts:

1. What is Religion?
2. Why is it important?

Christianity Compared to Other Religions (In Person)

April 30th, 2023

16:00 Schedule Continued

Discussion Continued

3. What do different religions/belief systems teach: Islam, Bektashi, Atheism, Agnosticism?

4. What about Christianity, what does Christianity teach?

5. Either read to them, or have them read from Luke 15:11-20

a. What do you think, should his father let him back into the house as long as the son works hard to pay him back? Then he should be able to get a place at the family table, right?

Read Luke 15:20-24

b. Although Jesus told this as a story, he was actually presenting his view of the truth. In the story, the father represents God, so is Jesus teaching that God forgives selfish people before they have repaid their wrongs against him and others?

c. In Jesus' view it's impossible for a person to repay God for their bad deeds. God is a PERFECT JUDGE Who cannot be bought off with anything we have to offer. Jesus said that when we die, we will face God with all our deeds laid out. None of us is completely morally perfect and none of us will stand a chance of justifying ourselves. Then is there hope for us?

d. But why in this story did the father feed his son and welcome him back before he did any work?

e. Jesus claimed to be God in human form who came to pay our moral debt with his innocent life. He taught that if anyone truly believes and surrenders to Him, they will receive a full pardon from God and the power to change how they live.

f. Other religions teach that our own self-sacrifice can repay our debt. BUT Jesus taught that only God's own self-sacrifice can pay our debt.

All other religious founders claim to be guides to lead our starving souls to bread. Jesus claimed to be the bread our souls starve for.

16:45 Awarding Points

Also assign the short essay (250 words) for our next week's topic: "What's Next?" In the essay they will share their thoughts/opinions about the possibility of an afterlife.

16:50 Drinks & Goodbye

What's Next? (Online)

May 7th, 2023

Schedule

16:00 Welcome

-We'll have music playing on the church system as well as a countdown.

16:05 Game 1: Crazy Story

Time: 20 minutes

- Split into two teams: Americans versus the Albanians
- Each team will meet and decide a leader to write down their crazy story.
- They will try to come up with the craziest story possible. A fun way to do this is have someone start out, say a sentence or two, and then the turn passes to the next person and so on, with each one adding crazy details, until all ten players have contributed.
- After twenty minutes they will meet together to share their story

16:25 Leader Introduces Topic: What's Next?

They can introduce the topic by sharing the story of the twins in the mother's womb, which goes something like this:

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover if there is life, then why has no one has ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

What's Next? (Online)

May 7th, 2023

Schedule Continued

Leader Introduction Continued

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

**<http://growforhumans.co.uk/uncategorized/conversation-womb-parable-life-delivery/>*

16:35 Break-out Discussions: What's Next?

We will then break into our team/groups and discuss the following prompts:

1. What do you think happens after death?
2. Do you think this life is all there is?
3. Do you believe in the existence of heaven or hell? Why?
4. Why do you suppose some people don't believe there's an afterlife?
5. *The Bible has a lot to say about an afterlife—the Kingdom of Heaven. One very short passage, however, surrounding Jesus dying on the cross, speaks about this issue in a clear and simple way...*

Read Luke 23:38-43

- a. The God-fearing thief believed that Jesus would be entering his kingdom after both of them died on their crosses. Do you suppose this thief believed Jesus was who Jesus claimed to be (God's Son) before being sent to the cross...or after?
- b. At what time did Jesus say the believing thief would be "with me in paradise"?
- c. Do you believe this passage proves that there is a heaven and an afterlife? Why or why not?
- d. What about the mocking thief? Do you suppose that since he didn't demonstrate belief in Jesus that he didn't meet Jesus in paradise?
- e. Let's suppose that the mocking thief did NOT meet Jesus in paradise. Do you believe that he just ceased to exist...or that he went to that place we call "hell"?

What's Next? (Online)

May 7th, 2023

Schedule Continued

Discussion Continued

a. Close with the Atheist vs Believer Bet Story, which goes something like this:

This is something worth really thinking about, researching about, and being sure about. Think about it this way: What do you lose by giving real consideration to this? If the atheist is correct, and the believer is wrong, what has the believer lost? But if the atheist is wrong, and the believer is correct, the atheist has lost a lot; with potentially eternal consequences.

As each pair finishes, they will end their calls on their own.

Christ (In Person)

May 14th, 2023

Materials Needed:

1. 10 toilet paper rolls

Schedule

15:00 Welcome

-We'll have music playing on the church system as well as a countdown.

15:15 Game 1: Toilet Paper Fashion Show

Time: 15 minutes

Materials: two toilet paper rolls per team.

- Each team will select one person to be the "model"
- Using their rolls of toilet paper, they will create the best outfit they can on their model.
- Each student will then display their outfits, and then the leaders will vote on which one is the most creative.
- Winning team earns **2 points**.

15:30 Game 2: Keep the Balance

Time: 15 minutes

Materials: 20 chairs (4 per group)

- Four people are selected from each team.
- Four chairs are put in a square per team. Each person will sit and then lean back and need to lay back into their team member's lap.
- We remove the chairs and whoever keeps balance longest wins.
- Winning team scores **5 points**.

15:45 Game 3: Zip and Bang

- Form a circle, standing closely together. Pick a player to begin. The first player says "Zip" or "Bang."
- If they say "Zip, the turn passes to the player at their left. If they say "Bang" it passes to the player to their right. The next player must respond quickly, within a second, by saying "Zip" or "Bang" to pass the turn.
- If you don't respond within a second when it's your turn, you're out.

Christ (In Person)

May 14th, 2023

Schedule Continued

Zip and Bang Continued

- Also, if you speak out of turn or laugh, you're out. Only the player whose turn it is may speak, and they can only say "Zip" or "Bang."
- The game continues until there are only two players left – both of whom will be declared the winners (who each win **2 points** for their teams)

16:00 Gathering for Topic: Christ

- **Gathering:** We will have Edi on a Zoom call.
- **Sharing Opinions:** We will invite the students to share their opinions on the topic.
- **Presentation:** Edi will share about historical evidences for Christ, who Jesus claimed to be, and what he did.
- **Question and Answer:** The students will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have for us to answer. :-)

If the discussion finished sooner than expected, we can play another no-prep game here.

16:45 Awarding Points

16:50 Drinks & Goodbye

Rejoice that the Lord's Kingdom will go forward and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it!

Christ (In Person) - Extra Resources

Jesus' Crucifixion

Historical Proof: The Roman historian Tacitus writing between 115-117A.D wrote about Christ's crucifixion.

Historical Proof: The Roman soldiers were professional executioners and they were prepared to put to death a murderer like Barabbas and not Jesus. It was their duty to do their job well – all facts that lead to the truth that Jesus was crucified and he wasn't mistaken for someone else. They really did crucify Jesus and not some other person.

Jesus' Resurrection

The Empty Tomb

The empty tomb is one of the most puzzling parts of the story to those who are not certain what to believe about Jesus rising from the dead. It raises many questions.

Did they actually put Jesus' body in the grave at all? The grave He is said to have been put in was owned by a prominent Jewish leader. His burial plot would not have been secret or obscure. If the disciples were hoping to make up a story about an empty tomb, they might have chosen a more obscure location. Anyone in Jerusalem at the time could have visited the tomb and verified that it was empty.

Jesus' followers are recorded to have spread the story of the resurrection very soon after it happened. Yet we have no accounts from the time claiming that the disciples were caught in a lie — that Jesus' body was still buried and could prove that He was still dead, or that He had never been buried.

Also, Roman guards were posted outside the tomb and the entrance was sealed. Roman officials would not have bothered to guard a tomb that was not occupied.

The most convincing argument for the empty tomb was the fact that Romans and high-ranking Jewish officials accused Jesus' followers of stealing the body. By making such an accusation, they confirmed they were in agreement with this fact: *that the tomb was occupied by Jesus' body at one time but later was not.*

If the body never came to the tomb, they would have said so, and if the body never left the tomb, they could have just pointed to the fact that the tomb they were guarding had been left undisturbed. They would have been able to say, "The body is still there. Look for yourself." But rather than disputing that the tomb was empty, they accused others of taking the body.

People Saw Him Alive

The Bible records that the first people to see that Jesus had risen from the dead were women. The fact that followers of Jesus claim that the first witnesses to the living Jesus were women is, perhaps surprisingly, evidence that the account is true.

Christ (In Person) - Extra Resources

People Saw Him Alive...Continued

At that time in Jewish culture, the testimony of a woman was not highly esteemed. *If the disciples had made it all up and wanted to present a believable and convincing argument*, they probably would have claimed that a man, and likely a prominent man, was the first to see Jesus. The fact that the Gospels say that a group of women were the first to see Jesus alive again strongly suggests that the story is true. Why else would those claiming Jesus rose from the dead appeal to *witnesses unlikely to be believed except that they really were the first witnesses?*

After appearing to the group of women, Jesus appeared to many other of His followers. The Bible says that at one time there were more than 500 witnesses at once. A question many have asked is, "What if they all only thought they saw Jesus?" The question implies that some sort of hallucination convinced people to believe they saw Jesus alive when they really did not. *But hallucinations happen on an individual basis.* There is no recorded incident of a group hallucination in history. So if that many people at the time could agree about what they saw, it can reasonably be assumed that they were telling the truth.

Liar, Lunatic or Lord?

- First, if he claims to be God and yet in fact is not, he has to be a madman or a lunatic.
- Second, if he is neither God nor a lunatic, he has to be a liar, deceiving others by his lie.
- Third, if he is neither of these, he must be God.
- You can only choose one of the three possibilities.
- If you do not believe that he is God, you have to consider him a madman.
- If you cannot take him for either of the two, you have to take him for a liar.
- There is no need for us to prove if Jesus of Nazareth is God or not. All we have to do is find out if He is a lunatic or a liar. If He is neither, He must be the Son of God.

The Gospel (Online)

May 21st, 2023

Schedule

16:00 Greetings

We all meet as online participants in a Zoom meeting.

16:05 Game: Draw Something

Time: 15 minutes

Whiteboard on zoom. Selected player draws something, others have to guess. Pictionary.

16:20 Leader Introduces Topic: The Gospel

The leader will introduce the topic by talking about “good news”, explaining that we have some really good news to share with each of them today. :-)

16:25 Break-out Discussions

This is an encouragement for you for this discussion:

The Lord is drawing people to Himself and has given us the privilege of sharing with Him about others. May He bless this discussion that the gospel may be expressed with love and truth, and that Jesus may be exalted and seen as beautiful and worthy!

1. What’s the best news you have ever heard?
2. (The American’s good news is the gospel. :-))
3. How would you rate your goodness on a scale from 1-10?
4. When you die where do you think you are going? Why?
5. A small test so they can compare themselves to God’s standards:
 - a. How many lies have you told in your life?
 - b. What do you call someone who lies?
 - c. So what are you?
 - d. Have you ever stolen something, even of small value?
 - e. What do you call someone who steals?
 - f. So what are you? (A lying thief)

The Gospel (Online)

May 21st, 2023

Schedule Continued

Discussion Continued

- g. Have you ever used God's name in vain? (Not honoring God with your heart or your words)
- h. What do you call someone who does that? (A blasphemer, which was punishable by death in the Old Testament!)
- i. So what are you? (Lying thief and blasphemer)
- j. Have you ever disobeyed your parents? What do you call someone who disobeys?
- k. So according to these standards, what are you? (Lying thief, blasphemer and disobeyer)
- l. If God judges you by the 10 commandments on Judgment Day, are you innocent or guilty? Explain that we are separated from God by our sins, and on our own, we will end up separated from him forever in hell. BUT GOD!!!...

6. There is a way on that God can forgive you! Jesus died in the cross for the sin of the world. We broke God's law (the 10 commandments) and Jesus paid the fine! That's what happened on that cross.

If you are in court and someone pays your fine, the judge can let you go. They can say that someone has paid the cost for your crimes, your sins, so you can live. God can let you live forever and he can take the death sentence off you because Jesus paid the fine on the cross and then he rose from the dead on the third day and defeated death. All you have to do to receive everlasting life according to the Bible is to repent of your sins (turn away from them) and trust in Jesus. Don't trust in your own goodness, but trust in Jesus.

7. Explain to them what Christ did on the cross, why he died and why his death was necessary. Explain that Jesus came to pay our sin debt and forgive our sins, and to bring us back to God so we can know Him and be in relationship with Him! That Jesus offers forgiveness from everything we've ever done or will do, that he gives us new spiritual life now and transforms us from the inside out! He is the purpose we were created for and welcomes us into his presence, where we are filled with his joy and peace.

The Gospel (Online)

May 21st, 2023

Schedule Continued

Discussion Continued

8. If you want you can close by telling them the righteous king story as an example of the gospel:

9. There was a king and he had a son. He was a righteous king but also a loving father. One day his son was caught stealing. The people who had witnessed this went to the king and told him that his son was caught stealing and they asked him what should be done with him. He told them that he needed to be punished by being whipped 40 times. At the moment he was going to get whipped the king ordered them to stop. He took off his royal robe and covered his son with his body. He then ordered them to hit him instead of his son.

Once they have finished, the pairs will end their meetings on their own.

May the Lord open hearts and eyes to receive Him!!!

Celebration Day!

May 28th, 2023

Coordination:

We will need to coordinate a bus to bring all the students together to TEG for a bowling day.

- Reserves spots for whole group.
- We need to find out how to organize the transportation.
- Should we have a form they have to fill out to verify if they will be coming? So we can keep track of all of them.

Point System

How we Keep Track of Points

Each team will have a jar with their team name and logo on it.

We will have **chips** or something to represent points that they will earn throughout the meeting. As soon as they earn the point, we give them the chips and they put the chips in their jar.

At the end of the meeting we will count the points each team earned and write it in on our Tracking Sheet.

The **Tracking Sheet** will be a big poster board hung in a conspicuous place (where it cannot be tampered with) with each team name and a chart showing how many points they have earned so far, and a total.

Keeping Track of Online Points: We will keep track of their attendance and then we will add these points to their existing points.

How the Students Earn Points

- By participation **1 point per student who attends the meetings**
- By winning games **See games for details on how many points are awarded**