

The logo features the letters 'UC' in a bold, blocky font, followed by a vertical bar, and then the letters 'RIO' in a tall, thin, sans-serif font. All elements are white and centered on a solid black rectangular background.

UC|RIO

UC University
Core Seminars

Student Handout



Explaining Christianity Schedule

Goal: To communicate the true meaning of Christianity by looking into the original sources to see what they have to say about the life, teachings, and claims of Christ.

- Class 1:** **Jesus, Son of God** (selections from Mark 1-5)
Authority as teacher over death, nature, evil spirits, sin, and man
- Class 2:** **The Crucifixion** (Mark 15:33-39)
Why did Jesus die? Jesus, our substitute and ransom
- Class 3:** **The Resurrection** (Mark 16:1-8; Acts 10:39-43; Mark 8)
Christ victorious over sin. Our personal resurrection and eternal judgment
- Class 4:** **Salvation by Grace, Not Works** (Mark 7:20-23; Ephesians 2:8-9)
Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone
- Class 5:** **What is a Christian? Repentance** (Mark 1:15, 8:34-38, 9:43-48)
A radical turning from sin and to Christ
- Class 6:** **What is a Christian? Faith** (Mark 5:25-34, 10:13-16; John 5:24)
Believing God and trusting in him for our very lives

Explaining Christianity
Class 1: Jesus' Authority & Divinity

Introduction

What do you think of when you hear the word "Christianity"?

The Goal: To learn the real meaning of Christianity by looking into the life, teachings and claims of Christ.

How do we learn about Jesus?

Course Outline

The Gospel

1. **Jesus' Authority...** _____
(Mark 1: 21–28)

2. **Jesus' Authority...** _____
(Mark 1: 21–28)

3. **Jesus' Authority...** _____
(Mark 2: 1–12)

4. **Jesus' Authority...** _____
(Mark 2: 1–12)

5. **Jesus' Authority...** _____
(Mark 4: 35–41)

6. **Jesus' Authority...** _____
(Mark 5: 21–24, 35–43)

7. **Jesus' Authority...** _____
(Mark 1: 16–20)

Summary

1. *Jesus has great authority.*
2. *He claims to be divine.*
3. *We have a response to make.*

“You must make the choice: Either this man was and is the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

--C.S. Lewis

Three pillars – the first, Jesus, the Son of God.

Resources

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 2, “The Claims of Christ”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 3, “The Character of Christ”

Josh McDowell, *More Than A Carpenter*, Chapter 1, “What Makes Jesus so Different?”

Explaining Christianity
Class 2: Jesus' Death on the Cross

Introduction/Review

Definition: Sin

Definition: Crucifixion

The Significance of the Cross – Why did Jesus Die?

1. Hours before Christ's Death (Mark 15:16-33)

2. Christ's Cry and Death (Mark 15:34-37)

Book illustration...

3. Immediately after Christ's Death (Mark 15:38-39)

4. Impact of Christ's Sacrifice (Mark 10:42-45)

5. Purposefulness of Christ's Sacrifice (Mark 8, 9, 10)

Summary

Three Pillars: the first, Jesus, the Son of God. The second pillar is the crucifixion.

Next week? Read Mark Chapters 6-10

Resources

Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*, Chapter 4, “Jesus Christ the Savior”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 7, “The Death of Christ”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 8, “The Salvation of Christ”

Additional Resources:

Packer, Dever, *In My Place Condemned He Stood*

Jeffrey et al, *Pierced for Our Transgressions*

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*

Michael Lawrence, *It is Well: Expositions on Substitutionary Atonement*

Explaining Christianity

Class 3: Jesus' Resurrection from the Dead

Introduction

“Either the resurrection is infinitely more than a beautiful story, or else it is infinitely less. If it is true, then it is the supreme fact of history, and to fail to adjust one’s life to its implications means irreparable loss. If it is not true, if Christ has not risen, then Christianity is all a fraud foisted on the world by consummate liars – or at best, deluded simpletons.” -Sir Norman Anderson

Review

Prediction – God's Plan

Resurrection Event

(Mark 16:1-8)

Evidence

(John 20-21)

Significance

4. Romans 1:1-4

5. Romans 4:25

6. Romans 6:4-14, 23

7. Acts 10:39-43

Implication For Our Lives

2. All people will be *raised*

(Acts 10:42, 14:14-15; John 5:28-29)

2. All people will be *judged* by Jesus

(Mark 8:38, 16:19; Acts 10:42; Rom 2:6)

8. **All people will be *divided* into two groups**
(Mark 8:38, 16:16; Acts 10:43; Matt 13:47-50)

9. **The division is *forever***
(Mark 10; Heb 9:27; Matt 25:31-42)

Conclusion

Rom 6:6-9 - “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.”

Next week: Read Mark 11–16

Resources:

Greg Gilbert, *What Is The Gospel?*, Chapter 4, “Jesus Christ the Savior”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 4, “The Resurrection”

Josh McDowell, *More Than A Carpenter*, Chapter 8, “You Can’t Keep A Good Man Down”

Paul Williams & Barry Cooper, *If You Could Ask God One Question*, Chapter 7, “How Can Anyone Be Sure There’s Life After Death?”

Further Resource:

J.N.D. Anderson, *The Evidence for the Resurrection*

Explaining Christianity

Class 4: Salvation by Grace, not Works

Introduction

Do you know for certain that you would go to heaven if you were to die this very instant?

Review

Jesus' Authority and Divinity

Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross

Jesus' Resurrection from the Dead

Means of Salvation: How Am I Saved?

If you were to die tonight and give account of your life before God, what would you say in your defense?

Religions of “do” vs. “done”

Am I Saved by What I Have Done?

Matthew 5:43-48 -

Romans 3:23 -

Galatians 3:10 -

James 2:10 -

What is God's standard?

Mark 7:20-23 -

Am I saved by What Jesus Did?

What is grace?

Romans 1:17 -

Romans 3:21-31 -

Galatians 3:10-14 -

Ephesians 2:8-9 -

So, do works or good deeds even matter? Ephesians 2:10

Conclusion

“Every day of our Christian experience should be a day of relating to God on the basis of His grace alone...Your worst days are never so bad that you are *beyond the reach* of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are *beyond the need* of God's grace.” – Jerry Bridges

Resources:

Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*, Chapter 4, “Jesus Christ the Savior”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 7, “The Death of Christ”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 8, “The Salvation of Christ”

Josh McDowell, *More Than A Carpenter*, Chapter 10, “Isn't There Some other Way”

Explaining Christianity

Class 5: What Is a Christian? (Part 1):

Repentance

Explaining Christianity Purpose: To learn the real meaning of Christianity by looking into the original sources to see what they have to say about the life, teachings and claims of Christ.

Introduction

Review

Jesus' Authority and Divinity

Jesus' Death on the Cross

Jesus' Resurrection from the Dead

Salvation by Grace, Not Works

Two Ways To Live

What is a Christian?

(Mark 1:15)

Repentance

Acts 3:19 -

Acts 20:21 -

Acts 26:20 -

Luke 13:3 -

2 Corinthians 7:10 -

Romans 6:6-8 -

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 -

“Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it to God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.” (Westminster Shorter Catechism)

Repentance – Christ First... Before My _____

(Mark 8:34-35)

Repentance – Christ First... Before My _____

6:10)

(Mark 8:36-37; 1 Tim.

Repentance – Christ First... Before My _____

(Mark 8:38)

“Either we are unfaithful in order to be popular, or we will look unpopular in order to be faithful. We can’t be both.” (John Stott)

Repentance – Christ First... Before My _____
(Mark 9:43-48, Prov. 16:18)

Repentance – Christ First... Even When it Seems Too Hard
(Mark 10:29-31)

Conclusion

What is repentance? By putting Christ first as you...

1. Turn from sin
2. Trust in Jesus

The Result:

3. Obey his commands (**The fruit of true repentance will be true, grace-motivated, gratitude-driven obedience before God.**)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...” (Matt 11:28-29)

Will you put Christ first?

Resources:

Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*, Chapter 5, “Response-Faith and Repentance”
John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 9, “Counting the Cost”

Additional Resources:

Kris Lundgaard, *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk about the Power and Defeat of Sin*

Explaining Christianity

**Class 6: What Is a Christian? (Part 2):
Belief**

Explaining Christianity Purpose: To learn the real meaning of Christianity by looking into the original sources to see what they have to say about the life, teachings and claims of Christ.

Review

Jesus' Authority and Divinity

Jesus' Death on the Cross

Jesus' Resurrection from the Dead

Salvation by Grace, Not Works

Repentance

What is a Christian?

(Mark 1:15)

Faith

1. Trust in Jesus and His Word

(Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)

2. Trust Jesus as your Lord, not just your Savior

(Mark 5:24b-34, Mark 8:38, Mark 10:17-31)

3. Trust Jesus with Unwavering Childlike Trust and Personal Commitment (Mark 10:13-16)

4. Trust in God's Promise to Save Those Who Believe (John 5:24-27)

Summary

1. *Knowledge* – of Jesus' accomplishment on the cross and resurrection - **know**
2. *Acknowledge* – what God has done in Christ and that we are sinners in need of a savior - **repent**
3. *Personal Trust* – trust without shame, trust like that of a child to a loving parent, and trust that God accepts me - **believe**

God's Gifts for Those Who Repent and Believe

Mark 1:8 - we will have the _____
Mark 2:10 - our sins will be _____. And,
Mark 10:30 - we will have _____

Personal Decision

Repenting and believing is a personal decision. No one can make it for you.

“A Christian, then, is someone who recognizes that Jesus Christ has the right to control his or her life. They recognize that they are rebels against Jesus Christ and deserve to be punished. A Christian believes that Jesus Christ died for him or her on the Cross taking the punishment which their sins deserved. A Christian is a person who has responded to God’s call to repent. They have turned from rebelling against Jesus and submitted to Him. This person knows that he or she has been forgiven. They know that God has made them a new person and that Jesus lives in their life. They know this because they see their changed desires, attitudes and behavior. This person trusts God with his or her life.” (*Me? A Christian*, pg. 7)

Will you become a Christian, today?

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:35)

Next week?

Resources:

Greg Gilbert, *What Is The Gospel?*, Chapter 5, “Response-Faith and Repentance”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 9, “Counting the Cost”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 10, “Reaching a Decision”

John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, Chapter 11, “Being a Christian”

Josh McDowell, *More Than A Carpenter*, Chapter 11, “He Changed My Life”



*Course material adapted from <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/>