

LESSON 1:

CHRIST



AIM:

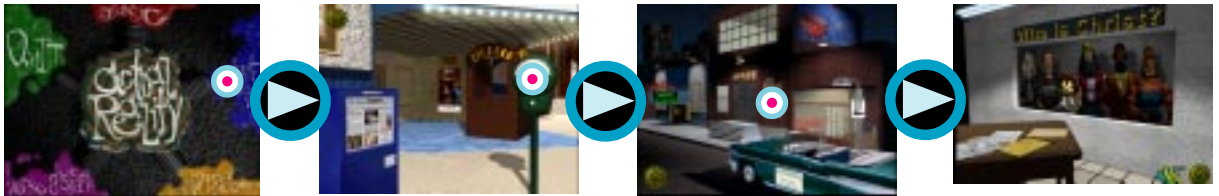
To show that at the very least Jesus was and is an influential world figure, but to his followers he proves himself to be the Messiah, God's Son.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Bibles
- Actual Reality CD
- Computer
- Video clip of political speech

CD:

Follow these screen clicks to get to the 'City':



Click on the 'CHRIST – WHO IS THIS MAN' poster outside the police station to start a short video of people saying who they think Jesus is. At the end you will automatically be taken to the 'Identity Parade' screen. Click on the papers on the table to go to the 'Evidence Room' screen. Click on the clock for a short movie about getting to know more about Jesus.

DISCUSS:

Ask the group who they feel has influenced them most in their lives and how they were able to be influenced.

DISCUSS:

Discuss what qualities or characteristics are often found in people who generate a 'following'. (Here are some suggested answers: charismatic personality; ideas that challenge accepted authority; promises of 'rewards' for followers; understanding of how 'alienated' people feel.)

DISCUSS:

Ask what a manifesto is. (A dictionary definition includes 'declaration of intentions' or 'set of promises'.)

ACTIVITY:

Show a video clip of a politician giving a speech outlining policy, or download manifestos from web-sites of the main political parties and either show them on a PC, print onto handouts or onto acetates and show with an overhead projector. Discuss why different parties disagree about the solutions to society's problems or needs – bring out the different moral standpoints and convictions.

INFORMATION:

Jesus had only a small group of followers when he was here on Earth but has made a huge impact on millions of people worldwide ever since. He wasn't like many world leaders of the past who used wealth, political or military power, corruption or violence to further their beliefs. He claimed to come from God, bringing God's solution to our 'sin' problem. He talked about bringing us a 'full' life here on Earth and a new, better life beyond it. He was either a liar, a madman or who he said he was.

BIBLE:

Jesus' 'manifesto' can be read in Luke 4:14 – 21. The people listening would know that Jesus was quoting from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament. The words were describing the coming Messiah – God's appointed One who would bring God's Kingdom to Earth – and Jesus was effectively saying, 'The Messiah is ME'. The people's reaction can be read in verses 15 – 30.

CD:

In the 'Evidence Room' click on the book on the table to show the movie clip that explains a little more about the title 'Messiah'.

DISCUSS:

Discuss whether Jesus completely fulfilled the Messiah's 'manifesto' above and why he said what he did to the people in the synagogue, seeming to provoke them into taking such drastic action.

CD:

Click on the red EXIT sign in the 'Evidence Room' to go back to the 'Identity Parade'. Click on each of the characters behind the glass in turn to reveal some more information about Jesus' character. (Click on the small VG button at the bottom left of each sheet to reveal Bible verses in support of the text. To return to the Identity Parade click anywhere on a sheet – don't use the 'Back' button in the bottom right of the screen.)

BIBLE:

The apostle Paul, an enemy of Jesus who completely changed when he met him face to face, wrote many of the letters in the New Testament to explain more about Jesus and how best to 'follow' him. In those days – as now – some people believed mysterious cosmic forces controlled or influenced their lives. Paul wrote to them not only to explain that Jesus is the greatest and most powerful being in the Universe, but that faith in him is what ultimately controls our destiny. Read Colossians 1:15 – 27. (You may like to note down on a flipchart or overhead projector the different qualities, descriptions or characteristics of Jesus that Paul mentions.)

INFORMATION:

Jesus never forced people to be his followers. He presented the truth about us and himself, and those who accepted his analysis followed him. The same is true today.

ACTIVITY:

Show a video clip of someone explaining how they became a follower of Jesus and dealt with some of the issues such a change in lifestyle brought. (A good resource is the video *No Mercy?* produced by CTA and available for purchase on the web at www.cpodirect.org). Alternatively invite someone to the group to share their conversion experience, or give your own testimony.

ACTIVITY:

Ask the group to share honestly the reservations, doubts, fears and barriers they have to becoming an all-out follower of Jesus. Be sensitive to the group – open discussion may not be appropriate and it may be better to ask them to write down their thoughts anonymously or even to think about the issues and email you later.