

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

What is a Christian, and how does a person become one?

BIG IDEA

A Christian is someone who has put their trust in Jesus alone to forgive his/her sins, and has entered into a restored and eternal relationship with God that starts at the point of decision and lasts forever.

SCRIPTURE USED

Colossians 2:13-14

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Ephesians 2:8-9

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Romans 10:9-10

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:20

So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

OPENER

“What is a Christian?” Collage

For the opening activity you will need:

- A selection of appropriate magazines (which will be cut up). Include nature, sports, historical, popular entertainment magazines, etc. You may be surprised how creative students can be in using a picture to serve their purpose!
- Several scissors
- Rubber cement or glue sticks for sharing
- Pieces of sturdy paper (such as cardstock or construction paper) – one for each student
- Several printed copies of the “Collage Word Options” sheet found near the end of this lesson. You will need to cut the words from these printed copies into strips. Each student will only be allowed to pick three words, so you do not need a copy for each individual.

Leaders Note: It is highly recommended that you do your own collage ahead of time so that you can engage in the discussion on a personal level.

Optional video: There are several interview style videos available online that ask the question, “What is a Christian?” Generally, these videos represent a few good “church answers” and perhaps a few biased or unflattering opinions as well. If you would like to use one of these, you can introduce the clip by saying something like: “Today we are talking about what it means to be a Christian. You may be surprised how different people answer the question, ‘What is a Christian?’ Let’s take a look.”

EXPLAIN

How would you answer the question: “What is a Christian?” Would it be a long definition, or a simple one? Would you use an illustration or Bible verses? What if you had just three words and several random pictures? That is your challenge for our opening activity! I would like you to use pictures from these magazines, and up to three words to make a collage that answers the question, “What is a Christian?” (Leaders: be cautious with your time here, and keep students moving. It’s more important to have time to discuss the projects, than to create masterpieces.)