

SO MANY QUESTIONS

Question 6: Wasn't Jesus just another great religious teacher?

Think about it

1. What kind of question is this?
 - a. Knowing
 - b. Meaning
 - c. Living

2. What are some of the reasons someone might have for asking this question?

3. How would you go about answering this question? Jot down the kinds of things you think could be included in an answer.

Summarize your answer

In your own words, using three or four simple points, write down how you would answer the question "Wasn't Jesus just another great religious teacher?"

Do not turn page over until after you complete this side! 😊

For further thought:

Wasn't Jesus just another great religious teacher?

- We love to think of Jesus as just a religious teacher because that way we can domesticate him. But the real Jesus won't be put in a box that easily.
- Why was Jesus crucified? Jesus healed people, he said 'love your neighbour' and he fed crowds of people. The religious authorities didn't crucify him for any of these; they crucified him because he claimed to be God's king. Furthermore, he claimed to be God come in the flesh. He claimed that every human being must serve or worship him, that his death is a great sacrifice in our place, and that trusting him is the only way to find forgiveness and avoid hell. He also claimed that he will be the final judge on judgement day.
- These aren't just the claims of a great religious teacher. Jesus is either a very bad man who lied and deceived people, or he is mad and ought to be locked up. Or he is who he claimed to be.
- Jesus demonstrated that he was, in fact, God's great king when he died and rose again. He defeated death and was raised to new life as the ruler of the world.

Other approaches

- Ask who they are comparing to Jesus, and then compare the claims of those teachers. Jesus claimed that he came to reveal God and rescue people from sin. Others may claim to reveal God (although many don't) but only Jesus claims to rescue from sin. The claims of various religious teachers are so different, they can't just be lumped together, and the evidence to show that Jesus is who he said he is far exceeds that of other religious teachers.

Further reading:

- Kel Richards, *Defending the Gospel*, Matthias Media, Sydney, 2006, chapter 5.
- Fritz Ridenour, *So What's the Difference?*, rev. edn, Regal Books, Ventura, 2001.