

Jesus Among Secular Gods

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Facilitators

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In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do so with gentleness and respect. 1 PETER 3:15

Description

This twelve week study challenges the popular and trending philosophies of today, skillfully pointing out the fallacies in their claims and presenting the compelling evidence for absolute truth as found in Jesus and reveal in Scriptures. Learn how to share your faith in a culture of opposing world views and articulate why you believe Jesus stand tall above all other gods.

Expectations and Goals

The JASG Study Guide employs an instructional strategy composed of three segments:

- 25 minutes for introducing the week's topic, 25 minutes for video teaching, and
- forty-five minutes for group discussion.

This strategy, however, *will not work* within the time allotted on a given Sunday at Messiah Lutheran Church. Therefore, the facilitators have restructured the program strategy in order to adequately cover the depth and breadth of each of the six topics.

The new schema for each lesson will be as follows:

Week #1 Topic -Week 1 - Be Prepared (a)

20 minutes or less for introducing the week's topic

25 minutes for video teaching

Begin group discussion

Week #2 Topic: Week 1- Be Prepared (b)

Repeat video from week #1

Continue group discussion from week #1

Thus, each topic will be covered over a two-week period. See the Course Schedule, on the reverse side of the page). This should provide flexibility for participants and ensure continuity of information and discussion. Please note that all class sessions will begin promptly at 9:50 a.m.

Course Materials

The study is based on the book "Jesus Among the Secular Gods" by Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale

This book is widely available in print, hardcover and download. **It is not required, though participants are welcome to purchase it optionally.** A limited number of Study Guides for Jesus Among the Secular Gods" will be available for purchase beginning September 23. (\$15.50 please bring checks payable to MLC) The Study Guide include notes from the video segments, summaries of the topics, optional weekly challenges, and additional self-studies. If you wish to request a copy contact Meredith at communications@mlutheran.org

Another excellent option available to purchase and download the [Extended Study Guide e-book through Life-Way.com](#). It is \$15 and actually includes each week's video segments.

The Study Guide is highly recommended, but not required. Due to copyright, we will not provide copies of the Study Guide, though may hand out notes covering that week's topic.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Leader
1 - Be Prepared (a)	Sep 23	Heideman/Kilby/Machamer
1 - Be Prepared (b)	Sep 30	Heideman/Kilby/Machamer
2 - Atheism & Scientism (a)	Oct 07	TBD
2 - Atheism & Scientism (b)	Oct 14	TBD
3 - Pluralism (a)	Oct 21	TBD
3 - Pluralism (b)	Oct 28	TBD
4 - Humanism & Relativism (a)	Nov 04	TBD
4 - Humanism & Relativism (b)	Nov 11	TBD
5 - Hedonism (a)	Nov 18	TBD
5 - Hedonism (b)	Dec 02	TBD
6 - Conversations that Count (a)	Dec 09	TBD
6 - Conversations that Count (b)	Dec 16	TBD

Participant Expectations:

We will begin each class at 9:50 a.m. with an Opening Prayer. Class will conclude promptly at 10:45.

Newcomers and guests are always invited to the class.

To reduce distractions, please no side conversations with neighbors during the video segments or when someone is speaking to the entire group.

During our discussions let us all be mindful to:

1. Encourage not demand participation
2. Avoid dominating any discussion
3. Be patient and not rush going through the questions
4. Affirm one another when truth is revealed through experiences "Art of Listening!"
5. Stay focused on God's Work and Scripture, and the topic of each lesson.

(from the Study Guide page)

God and his Word are central. Opinions and experiences can be helpful, but God has given us the truth. Trust Scripture to be the authority and God's Spirit to work in people's lives. **You can't change anyone, but God can.** (Facilitators) will continually point to the Word and to active steps of faith.