

TALK TWO

The logo for Alpha Youth, featuring a stylized blue number '2' with a small blue circle containing the word 'Alpha' in white, and the word 'YOUTH' in white capital letters below it.

YOUTH

JESUS:
WHO IS HE?



key

PERSONAL STORY

Any heading highlighted in yellow is a personal story that Ben and Jason share in the Alpha Youth Film Series. These may be replaced with a live speaker's personal story or the speaker may tell the story about Ben and Jason in the same way Ben and Jason share stories about others.

STORY

Any section heading highlighted in blue is a story that Ben and Jason share in the Alpha Youth film Series. These may be replaced with a live speaker's own story they've heard that illustrates the same point.

QUOTES

Any section heading highlighted in pink are quotes that are key to the talk in order to emphasize a point and to enable guests to engage and relate the material.

BIBLE TEACHING

Any section heading highlighted in green is meant to identify key bible passages for the talk that you may or may not wish to display visually on screens for your guests. Bolded text in these sections are passages that may be put on the screen as a visual aid.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Any section heading highlighted in red is meant to identify a place where an illustration can be used. An example illustration used in the Alpha Youth Film Series is there as an example but speakers are free to use their own illustrations if they wish.

VIDEO ELEMENTS

Any section heading highlighted in orange meant to function as a cue to play the specified Video Element or Street Talk Element provided as an additional resource to make the live talk more engaging. This is an optional part of the talks but are highly recommended to be used by speakers.

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OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS

Red type identifies a part of the key teaching text that could be removed or altered for contextualisation.

Italicized type is a specific instruction we're giving to speaker's on how to use the provided script.

Text left untouched is the standard key message content of the Alpha talk. Speakers should leave this portion of the talk untouched.

TALK SUMMARY

Jesus is the most famous person in human history.

We can trust the reliability of the New Testament due to a field of study called textual criticism.

Jesus was not just a good, moral teacher. He claimed to be God.

Jesus' miracles, fulfilled prophecies, and resurrection are evidence that he really is who he claimed to be.

Four pieces of evidence that Jesus really did rise from the dead are the empty tomb, Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to his disciples, the radical change lives of the disciples, and the continued changed lives of people today.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ALL VIDEOS FOR THIS WEEK'S TALK](#)

TALK TWO: JESUS: WHO IS HE?

VIDEO ELEMENT 1

JESUS SPLIT HISTORY IN TWO

Play Video Element 1 as a "Video Opener" marking the start of Talk 2. This should be played before the speaker comes on stage.

WELCOME + OPENING REMARKS

Speaker begins Talk 2 with welcome and opening remarks. Speakers should do this in a way that is natural and relatable to their local context.

Example: Hey everyone! Welcome to (insert youth ministry name here)! My name is (insert speaker name here) and I'm so excited you've joined us! Here's a sneak peak of what you can expect. Tonight we're going to continue our Alpha Series by exploring the question, "Who is Jesus?" People have a lot of opinions about Jesus, but whatever you think, he is arguably the most famous person in all of human history. Because of that, we think this is an important question to think about. But before we go there, let's check out our first question for tonight

PLAY STREET TALK 1 AND/OR COUCH CONVO 2A

Question: What do you want to be famous for?

INTRODUCTION: WHAT MAKES PEOPLE FAMOUS?

There are a lot of different factors that make someone famous.

For example, how many people know their name, or the people they hang out with, or the things that they've done. Or you could look at things like how many Instagram followers someone has.

INTRODUCTION CONT.

Speaker may consider listing off a few well-known celebrities along with the reasons that they're famous.

Example: Just take a moment to think about a few of your favourite celebrities and what makes them famous. Justin Bieber is famous for singing. LeBron James is famous for playing basketball. Logan Paul is famous because of his viral videos online...

But when you consider everyone who's ever lived, Jesus Christ is arguably the most famous. Jesus is so famous that his name is used as a swear word. We don't use anyone else's name as a swear word.

Now you may be wondering, why are we talking so much about Jesus? Well first, it's because the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is the centerpiece of the Christian faith. And Jesus resurrection not only suggests that God exists, but that God should be seen and understood through the lens of Jesus.

WHO IS JESUS? DID HE REALLY EXIST?

So who is Jesus? And what historical evidence is there for his life, death and resurrection? When it comes to the question of Jesus' existence, there are no serious historians who would suggest the man Jesus didn't live.

There are more mentions of Jesus in ancient literature than Tiberius Caesar, who ruled the Roman Empire at the time.

And one first-century historian named Josephus, who wasn't a Christian himself, described Jesus as "a wise man, a teacher and a doer of wonderful works". Jesus is also mentioned by other ancient historians like Tacitus and Suetonius.

So there is evidence from outside the New Testament that he lived here in Israel, but most of the evidence for the things Jesus said and did comes from eye witness reports recorded in the New Testament.

The New Testament is a collection of books and letters that make up a large part of the Bible. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament, which was written before Jesus' birth, and the New Testament, which was written after his birth.

Four of these books, called the Gospels, were written specifically about Jesus' life from eye witness accounts.

HOW CAN WE TRUST THE RELIABILITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?

But maybe you're wondering...how do we know that what we have now hasn't been changed over the years? Isn't the Bible a really old book?

The good news is that we can find an answer to that question through a science called textual criticism. Check out this video to find out how it works.

Speaker cues Video Element 2.

PLAY VIDEO ELEMENT 2

TEXTUAL CRITICISM EXPLAINED

Transition:

What we know from inside and outside the New Testament is that Jesus was a Jewish man, born here in Israel in the first century.

He lived in many ways like most of us. He ate, slept, laughed and cried, and he would have walked along roads not far from here.

JESUS: MORE THAN A GREAT MORAL AND RELIGIOUS TEACHER

WHAT HE SAID ABOUT HIMSELF

Speaker may choose to speak on the next section using their own points and passages of Scripture. The big idea the speaker should be guiding the audience toward is that Jesus said things that make it obvious he wasn't just some great moral and religious teacher.

Example continued on next page.

Many people today would say, “Okay, he lived and maybe he was a great moral and religious teacher, but no more than that.”

But there’s evidence that suggests that Jesus was more than just some great religious teacher. The first piece of evidence we’ll look at is what he said about himself.

So what did Jesus say about himself? Because when other religious leaders might say, “Here’s what’s true,” Jesus says, “I am the truth.”

And when others might say, “Here’s how you find a full life,” Jesus says, “I am the life.” Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” As if to say, “I’m the one who can fulfill that spiritual hunger in your heart.”

All of us carry around things like guilt or worry, fear and anxiety. Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Jesus said, “If you receive me, you receive God. If you welcome me, you welcome God. And if you’ve seen me, you’ve seen God.”

At the heart of Christianity is a message of forgiveness. On many occasions, Jesus said to people, “Your sins are forgiven.”

And this statement would have made religious leaders of his day furious, because they knew that only God can forgive sins.

So for Jesus to say something like that, was to put himself in the same place as God.

BIBLE - JOHN 10 AND JESUS’ CLAIMS

One of the most direct claims Jesus made is recorded in John’s Gospel.

He said, **“I and the Father are one.” John 10:30 (NIV)** When the religious leaders heard him say this, they were so angry they wanted to stone him.

But before they could, Jesus said, **“I have shown you many good works from the Father, for which of these do you stone me?” John 10:32 (NIV)**

“We are not stoning you for any good works,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.” John 10:33 (NIV)

Those who were around him, who heard him and opposed him, said, “You’re claiming to be God.”

QUOTE

BONO

It makes me think of what Bono said when he was asked about Jesus.

One time Bono was asked in an interview about his faith in Jesus.

The reporter said, “Christ has his rank among the world’s great thinkers, or good religious teachers, but Son of God? Isn’t that a little farfetched?”

Check out this video to see his response...

Speaker cues Video Element 3.

PLAY VIDEO ELEMENT 3

BONO QUOTE

Transition:

Maybe you agree with what Bono said... or maybe not. But either way, we want to give you a chance to talk about this more with those around you.

So check out our next question on the screen and then take a moment to talk about it amongst your friends

Speaker cues Street Talk 2

PLAY STREET TALK 2 AND/OR COUCH CONVO 2B

Question: Why do you think Jesus is so famous?

EVIDENCE FOR JESUS:

HIS MIRACLES

I think when you look at everything Jesus said about himself, it's clear that he did make that claim, that he was a person whose identity was God.

Yeah, and that's a massive claim and it needs to be tested. So, let's look at what evidence there is to back it up.

One of the first things you'll notice when reading about Jesus, is that he lived a miraculous life. He turned water into wine at a wedding. He multiplied food to feed thousands, and he healed those who were sick.

Thousands of people gathered on this mountain to hear Jesus give one of his most famous teachings, the Sermon on the Mount. In this message, he said, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." "Love your neighbor as yourself." "Love your enemies."

Jesus' teaching has been the foundation for entire cultures and civilizations in the West. Many of the laws we have today were originally based on things he taught. After 2,000 years, it still hasn't been improved on.

STORY

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

Speaker shares a story about someone they know in their life who has had a similar experience as described by David in the video of his story.

One of my favorite moments in Jesus' life is recorded in the New Testament by Jesus' friend Matthew. A man who suffered from leprosy ran up to Jesus, asking to be healed.

Now, leprosy is a brutal disease. It destroys nerve endings and often leads to disfigurement and the loss of limbs. People with leprosy were often treated as outcasts because others were afraid to go near them.

This man was so desperate that he knelt on the ground begging Jesus to heal him. And Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man, which is something no one else would do. And instantly, the leprosy was gone.

STORY CONT.

This is such a great picture of the character of Jesus. Not only was Jesus able to miraculously heal the man, he was willing to touch someone that no one else would.

And really.. this is one of the things many people love about Jesus... our next video explains this a bit more.

Speaker cues Video Element 4.

PLAY VIDEO ELEMENT 4

WHO IS JESUS?

EVIDENCE FOR JESUS:

PROPHECIES

But what other evidence is there for Jesus really being who he claimed to be?

While our primary source of information about Jesus is in the New Testament, we also see references to Jesus in the Old Testament, and that's the next piece of evidence we're going to take a look at: Jesus' fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies – specific things about Jesus' life predicted in advance.

There's been no one else in history that has ever had a whole collection of books written about them before they were born.

Did you know that Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies? Things like where he would grow up, or the family he would be born into. And at one point, he fulfilled 29 of them in a single day.

Now after hearing something like that you might be thinking to yourself, "Well, maybe Jesus was just a conman who set out to deliberately deceive people. He could have just read about all of these prophecies and then set out to do what they said he should do."

HIS FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

But there are actually two problems with this theory.

The first problem is the sheer number of prophecies he fulfilled, and the second problem is the fact that, humanly speaking, he actually had no control over many of these things. In fact, there were prophecies about the exact way he would die, the place of his burial, and even about the place of his birth.

As news spread about Jesus, his message of forgiveness, his love for the outcast, and the powerful miracles he performed, people came from all over to see him.

But the religious and political leaders of his day were threatened by his growing popularity, so they plotted to have him arrested and killed. They handed him over to the Roman officials and put him on trial as a rebel against Rome.

The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, interrogated him and said he couldn't find any fault with him, but there was so much pressure from the crowd that he gave in and he handed Jesus over to be executed by crucifixion.

They put nails in his hands and in his feet and they hung him on a cross to die with criminals on his right and his left.

He was pronounced dead by Roman executioners. His body was taken down from the cross and put in a tomb in a well-known location just outside of Jerusalem.

From the start of the Gospels to the moment Jesus dies on the cross... people were split about their opinion of him. Some accepted him. Some rejected him. And still some were unsure about him. And really, not much has changed today!

Just check out some of the responses to our next question...

Speaker cues Street Talk 3

PLAY VIDEO STREET TALK 3 AND/OR COUCH CONVO 2C

Question: Who do people think Jesus is?

JESUS' RESURRECTION

The final piece of evidence we're going to look at is Jesus' conquest of death.

The physical resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of Christianity.

And this matters to every single one of us, because we're all going to die one day. When you go to a funeral and you see the coffin being lowered into the ground, it looks absolutely final, and it is.

Unless Jesus died, was buried in a tomb and then was raised to life. In which case, the grave has lost its power and death has been conquered.

For one Pastor who grew up as an Atheist, the evidence for Jesus resurrection and many other things played a huge part in his journey to becoming a Christian. Let's check out his story together.

Speaker cues Video Element 5

PLAY VIDEO ELEMENT 5

MARK CLARK'S STORY

EVIDENCE FOR JESUS:

HIS MIRACLES

There are four pieces of evidence for Jesus' resurrection.

1. **First**, his tomb was empty. When Jesus' close friends went to visit his tomb on the third day, his body wasn't there. People have come up with all kinds of explanations for this, but none of them stand up against thoughtful evaluation.

For example, maybe the authorities stole the body. But if they did, then they would have shown that they had it when people started saying that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Or others might say, "Okay, then robbers stole the body." When the disciples heard that Jesus had been seen, they ran to the tomb. Jesus' body wasn't there, but the grave clothes that he'd been wrapped in were still there.

These would have been the only valuable things that the robbers might have taken. Even the piece that had been around Jesus' head had been folded up and put off to the side.

EVIDENCE FOR JESUS CONT.

2. **The second piece of evidence** for Jesus' resurrection is his presence with the disciples. Jesus was seen more than 11 times after his resurrection, and on one occasion, by a group of around 500 people.

Now, some might say, "Well that could have been a hallucination." But think about it, 500 people can't hallucinate the same thing.

3. **The third piece of evidence** is the transformation we see in the disciples. Here's a group of people who are devastated that their leader had been killed, and they were afraid themselves that they would be arrested and killed and then suddenly, they were transformed.

Instead of being discouraged and fearful, they were full of hope and courage, and they were so confident in the message, they went around telling everyone, "Jesus is alive!"

Many of the disciples were later killed or tortured because they wouldn't stop spreading this message. Why would someone be prepared to die for something they knew wasn't true? But the disciples believed it was true. It had transformed their life and this extraordinary movement has spread all over the world.

4. **And that's the fourth piece of evidence.** Jesus is still impacting lives today. There are now more than 2.4 billion Christians around the world, representing every ethnic, economic and social background. The disciples spoke about a risen Jesus and there are billions of Christians around the world today who also speak of an encounter with the risen Jesus Christ.

CLOSING REMARKS

So how do we respond to all this? It seems clear that Jesus really did claim to be a man whose identity was God.

And when we look at the evidence, his teaching, his life, his character, his fulfilment of prophecy and his resurrection from the dead, it all provides strong support that what Jesus said about himself was true.

This truth isn't just head knowledge. It's truth we can experience in our hearts. I've experienced a relationship with Jesus and it's changed my life. That's what Jesus wants for each one of us: life and life in all its fullness.

Continued on next page.

God has revealed himself in Jesus. Jesus really is who he claimed to be. He really did rise from the dead, and that means there's hope beyond this life and there's hope for this life. That's what I've found, and you can too.

CONCLUSION

Speaker closes the session with a brief prayer over their group.

Speaker plugs next week's topic "Why did Jesus die?"