

(Isn't it intolerant and unfair to claim that Jesus is the only way to Heaven? What about other religions? What about good people who have never heard of Jesus?)

Expect to Experience God Together in Community *(Approximately 30 minutes)*

Invite brief introductions if needed. Share check-ins and pray together, asking God to replace defensiveness with humility, give the group confidence in Jesus, and awaken concern for people who have not heard the gospel.

Icebreaker: "Can Both Be True?"

Setup: Read each pair of statements. Ask the group whether both statements can be true at the same time, then explain why.

- Water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit; water freezes at 0 degrees Celsius.
- Houston is north of Dallas; Houston is south of Dallas.
- This door is locked; this same door is unlocked at the same moment.
- Salvation is earned through moral effort; salvation is received as God's gift through faith in Jesus.
- Jesus is one way among many; no one comes to the Father except through Jesus.

Discuss:

- What made some statements compatible and others contradictory?
- Why does sincerity alone fail to determine whether a belief is true?
- Where do you accept narrow truth claims without considering them intolerant?
- What is the difference between disagreeing with someone and mistreating them?
- How can Christians hold firm convictions without becoming arrogant or dismissive?

Say: Calling a claim exclusive does not determine whether it is true or false. We must examine the claim itself, especially when the claim came from Jesus.

If you don't want to do the icebreaker, choose one Conversation Starter:

1. When does a strong religious conviction become intolerance?
2. Which part of today's question is hardest for you: Jesus' exclusive claim, God's fairness, or the fate of those who have not heard? Why?

Transition

"Isn't it intolerant and unfair to claim that Jesus is the only way to Heaven?"

That question contains three concerns. Can one religious claim be uniquely true? Can a just God hold sinful people accountable? What happens to those who have never heard the gospel?

Jesus did not present himself as one spiritual option among many. He claimed to be the way to the Father. Scripture also teaches that every person has sinned, God judges with perfect justice, and salvation is offered through Christ alone.

Those truths should not produce pride. Christians did not discover a superior path or earn a better standing. We received mercy. The existence of people who have not heard is therefore a summons to mission, not an excuse for speculation.

Expect to Encounter God in His Word *(Approximately 45–50 minutes)*

Background *Read in advance and share briefly as helpful.*

Religions make genuinely different claims about God, humanity's central problem, Jesus, and salvation. Contradictory claims cannot all be true in the same sense. Christianity's exclusive claim rests on Jesus himself: who he is, what he accomplished through his death and resurrection, and what he taught about coming to the Father.

Romans explains why salvation is necessary. Humanity has not responded rightly to the truth God has revealed, and all people stand guilty before him. Salvation is therefore mercy offered to the guilty, not a reward withheld from the innocent.

Scripture does not authorize us to announce the eternal destination of particular people. It reveals that the Judge of all the earth acts rightly, identifies Jesus as the only Savior, and commands his followers to carry the gospel to every nation.

Read and Discuss God's Word Together

Examine Jesus' Claim *(Approximately 12–15 minutes)*

Read John 14:1–7 and Acts 4:8–12 aloud. *Choose two or three questions:*

- What situation prompted Jesus' words in John 14?
- What did Jesus promise his disciples, and what did he claim about himself?
- According to Peter, where is salvation found?
- Why is the identity of Jesus more important than whether his claim feels narrow?
- How would the existence of another way to God affect the necessity of Jesus' death?
- How can you speak about Jesus' exclusive claim with both conviction and humility?

Christians do not have authority to make Jesus one option among many. The claim came from Jesus. Our responsibility is to understand it, receive it, and communicate it without contempt for those who disagree.

Recognize Our Shared Sin Problem *(Approximately 12–15 minutes)*

Read Romans 1:18–25 and Romans 3:21–24 aloud. *Choose two or three questions:*

- What has God made evident through creation?
- How did humanity respond to the truth it received?
- What do these verses reveal about the difference between lacking information and suppressing truth?
- Who has sinned and fallen short of God's glory?
- How is righteousness received rather than achieved?
- How does recognizing your own guilt change the way you speak about people of other religions?

The central human problem is not that sincere people chose the wrong religious path. All humanity has rebelled against God and needs mercy. The gospel humbles every person because no one earns salvation.

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Trust the Judge of All the Earth *(Approximately 8–10 minutes)*

Read Genesis 18:25 and Psalm 9:7–8 aloud. *Choose two or three questions:*

- What do these passages affirm about God's character and judgment?
- Why is God better qualified than we are to judge each person perfectly?
- What can we affirm confidently about God when we cannot answer every question?
- What is the difference between trusting God and claiming knowledge he has not given us?
- Where do you need to let God be God while remaining obedient to what he has revealed?

We do not need to solve the eternal destiny of every hypothetical person before trusting God. He possesses complete knowledge, perfect holiness, and flawless justice. He will do what is right.

Let the Unheard Move Us Toward Mission *(Approximately 12–15 minutes)*

Read Romans 10:9–17 and Matthew 28:18–20 aloud. *Choose two or three questions:*

- What response to Jesus did Paul describe?
- What sequence connects sending, preaching, hearing, believing, and calling on Jesus?
- What responsibility did Jesus give his disciples toward all nations?
- How should concern for those who have not heard change our priorities?
- Who has God already placed within your reach?
- What practical part could this group play in reaching an unreached people group?

God's answer to a world that needs the gospel includes sending his people. We do not decide who is saved. We tell people who can save.

Leader note: Do not invite speculation about the eternal fate of named individuals or turn the conversation into a contest among religions. Keep the group centered on God's justice, humanity's need, Jesus' saving work, and our responsibility to witness.

Bring It All Together

Choose one or two questions as time permits:

- How can Jesus' exclusive claim produce gratitude rather than superiority?
 - Which truth from these passages most directly addresses the charge that Christianity is unfair?
 - What unanswered question do you need to entrust to God?
 - What would change if concern for the unreached became a regular part of your prayer and witness?
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Expect to Experience God Through Faithful Response *(Approximately 10 minutes)*

The gospel is exclusive because Jesus alone dealt with humanity's sin through his death and resurrection. It is also radically inclusive in its invitation: everyone who calls upon the Lord will be saved.

This leaves no room for arrogance. Christians are guilty people who received mercy. We speak about Jesus because we love people, trust God's justice, and obey the commission Jesus gave us.

Invite each person to choose one faithful response:

- **Trust God's justice:** Entrust unanswered questions to the Judge who always acts rightly.
- **Receive the gospel:** Admit your sin and place your faith in Jesus rather than your own goodness.
- **Speak with grace and truth:** Explain who Jesus is without belittling another person or religion.
- **Pray for the unreached:** Choose one of Grace Fellowship's adopted people groups and pray regularly for gospel access.
- **Share intentionally:** Pray for someone who does not know Jesus and take one concrete step toward a gospel conversation.
- **Prepare to go:** Pursue faith-sharing training or explore a cross-cultural mission opportunity.

As a group, choose one of Grace Fellowship's adopted unreached people groups to pray for this week: Rajput, Afar, Azerbaijani, Banjar, Bugis, or Makasar.

Helpful links: [Faith-sharing training](#) | [Global missions](#) | [Global Week of Prayer](#)

Close by thanking God for the mercy offered through Jesus. Pray for courage to share the gospel, workers to be sent, and people among every nation to hear and receive Christ.

Before leaving, confirm the time, location, and preparation for the next gathering.