

WELCOME TO FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER!

Please watch this brief welcome video from Denis and Marianne
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/LiVZoXjTIFY>

PART 1 - WHO IS JESUS AND WHAT IS HIS MESSAGE?

Please watch a brief video as Denis and Marianne introduce this section here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmYuwEMsVyA>

Hi - you are here because you are seeking the truth. Maybe it's the pandemic. Or maybe you just got married and for the first time, you are considering the implications of your life's choices more fully. Maybe you just had your first child and now realize that spiritual life really matters. Maybe you have a really hard medical diagnosis or financial problem to face. You are looking for answers and maybe wondering who Jesus is and if he is the one you can trust.

Whatever your prompting, you are welcome here. This is a safe place. You can ask questions and get help from people when you are ready. Study alone or with a friend. Go at your own speed. No matter who you are, what you have done, or what you believe right now, God is here. You matter to him. He is for you. And he wants to shine his light on your life. You are loved!

These resources are designed to help you seek and find Jesus. Jesus did not come to start a new religion, he came to launch his Kingdom - a new world order where people would finally be restored to a relationship with his Father. That's why his first message was "The Kingdom of God is at hand - repent and believe the good news!" When we change our thinking and turn to Jesus in faith, he forgives our sin and welcomes us into his family.

This is the good news, or the Gospel. Jesus the creator became a human being by the miraculous virgin birth. Jesus lived a perfectly obedient life in communion with his Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. He taught about the Kingdom of God in powerful ways, like the sermon on the mount. He invited people into his spiritual family and taught them how to be on mission with the most important news on earth.

Jesus was murdered in the horrible crucifixion, but it was God's plan all along! Jesus provides everyone with the opportunity to substitute his death as payment for all our sin, rebellion and the sin and rebellion and pain that is inflicted on us by others. In this divine exchange, our sin is forgiven and we are healed - and we are given the righteousness of Jesus. This is the only way to enter eternal life and escape the pain and separation of death and eternal judgment.

If you have already decided to follow Jesus, please go to our next step study here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dZbK5YGLCZjnPAPhL7Xt639151QAomMW/edit>

If you want to learn more, we developed a 10-week series to explore the big questions of life, which will give you all the details you need to better understand the Good News of Jesus. These are the 10 questions that are often most common.

What is the purpose of life?
Why did Jesus die?
How do I follow Jesus?
What is the Church?
What is eternal life?

Who is Jesus?
Is the Bible trustworthy?
What is the Gospel of the Kingdom?
Who is the Holy Spirit?
What's next, Jesus?

The series is called Re-Think - you can find it on our podcast channel here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/mariemont-community-church/id1514994878?i=1000489026834>

The Covid pandemic has disrupted much of life and brought us to realize that we are not in control. What will this global plague mean for humanity? How should I respond to the challenges of stress, depression, anxiety, and strained relationships? What are the true priorities in my life? What role, if any, did God have in this mess and what is he doing in the midst of it? What am I supposed to learn from this as I ponder my life and my spiritual journey?

The pandemic prompts lots of questions, so we made a brief video (17 minutes) to address some of these questions, and we entitled it "Where is God in this Plague?". In the video, we outline 5 purposes of God revealed by the many examples of plagues of the Bible. There is a treasure chest of lessons for each of us in the video. We also give 4 application questions to ask ourselves as we wrestle with these troubling times. Watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrSOrTedHJM&t=19s>

If you have other questions not on this list, just send an email here:

denisfpbeausejour@gmail.com

After digesting the resources above, you have heard some amazing things and hopefully been able to process your questions and heard some solid answers. By now, you have discovered that Jesus is absolutely awesome. He does not fit into categories - he is utterly beyond that. Even religion is too small a box for Jesus, because he is the origin and author of life itself. He is the smartest man who ever lived. He is the bravest. The most humble. A true friend. The King of the coming Kingdom. And he is God, right along with his Father and the Spirit. There is no one like him! And you may want more. You hear him say "follow me" and you are ready to go!

Please watch this concluding video message from Denis and Marianne:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDiWlx7v1do>

To dive in and learn more about the adventure of following Jesus, we recommend you move next to part 2 of our series. That study will show you how to lay a solid foundation by mastering the Six Elementary Teachings about Jesus found in the Bible. You can find that study here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aRjZaeheluRVVeD9kTbyqQJ79fPqX2JQ/edit>