## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON FAITH

- O2 What Is NUA?
- O2 Why Did We Make NUA?
- O5 Why Did We Call It "NUA"?
- O5 How To Use This Journal
- 06 Session One // How Did We Get Here?
- 2 Session Two // Jesus: Fact or Fiction?
- 8 Session Three // What About The Resurrection?
- 24 Session Four // What Was Jesus Really Like?
- 30 Session Five // Why Do I Like Jesus, But Struggle With Christians?
- 36 Session Six // How Can You Say That God Is Good?
- 42 Session Seven // Has The Church Caused More Harm Than Good?
- 48 Session Eight // What's Jesus Got To Do With Me?



#### What Is NUA?

NUA is all about exploration: it's a film series that encourages questions, acknowledges doubt, and offers an engaging perspective on the Christian faith. Discuss your worldview and wrestle with the things that don't seem to make sense—this film series is about the life-changing experience of working out your faith.

#### Why Did We Make NUA?

NUA comes from years spent with young people, listening to their questions. Doubt is the result of an active, engaged mind interested in seeking truth — something we love to see! So we set out to help young adults dig deeper as they explore faith and spirituality. We hope you will engage with these films and wrestle with the content. More than anything, NUA is a fresh learning experience.





#### Why Did We Call It NUA?

NUA / nu: ^ / noo-ah / Language of origin: Irish adjective, meaning "new".

We're taking an honest look at questions many of us have about Jesus, the Bible, and what it means to be a Christian. It's a fresh perspective, a different conversation — created in Ireland, hosted by an Irishman. It's new and it's Irish, so we're calling it NUA. It's as simple as that, really.

#### How To Use This Journal

This journal is for you: a place to process your questions and beliefs, a guide to help sort out your thoughts and experiences, and—most importantly—a safe space where you can be honest with yourself. Use it to take notes, draw, doodle, fulfill tasks and record your reactions as you digest each episode.

Be prepared to engage with the questions, reflections, and NUA challenges that may be asked of you by your NUA facilitator from their NUA Guide!

## session ONC

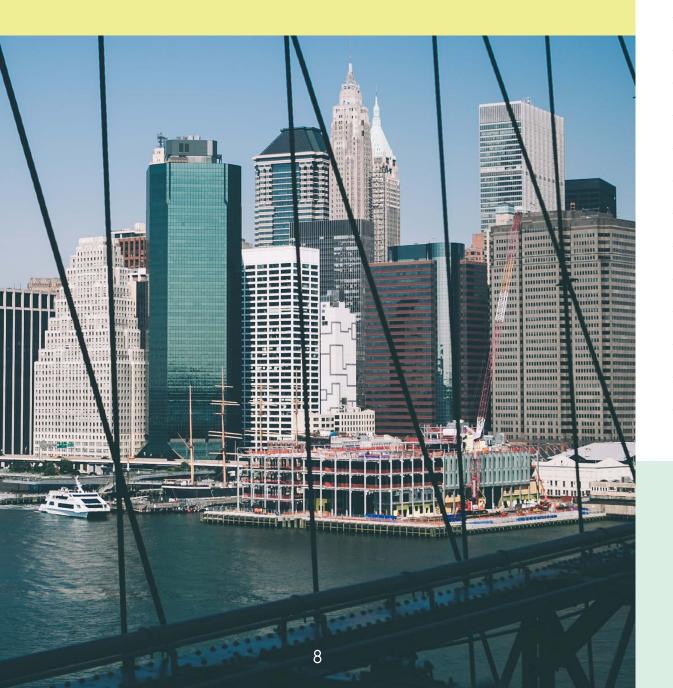
#### How Did We Get Here?

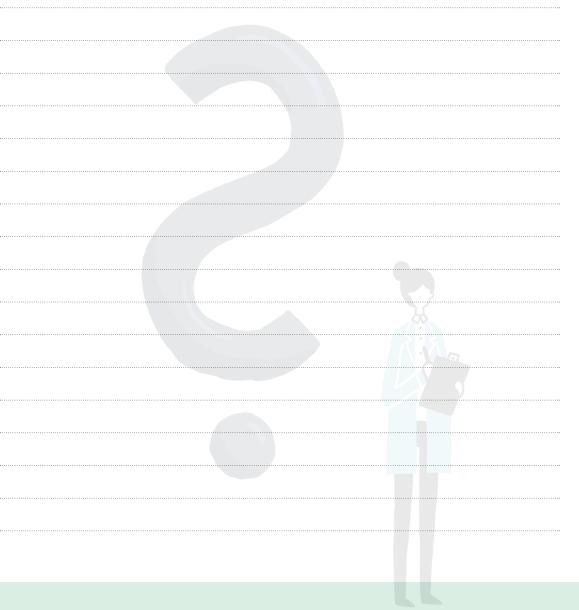
"In the beginning..." Genesis I:I

<u> </u>

Science helps us understand how and when the universe came to be. Faith is about exploring who created it and why. "The laws of physics seem to be the result of an exceedingly ingenious design."

- English Physicist Paul Davies





"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature..."

- Romans I:20

66

Either we exist as a result of mind-boggling chance or breath-taking design. ,,



## session two

#### Jesus: Fact or Fiction?

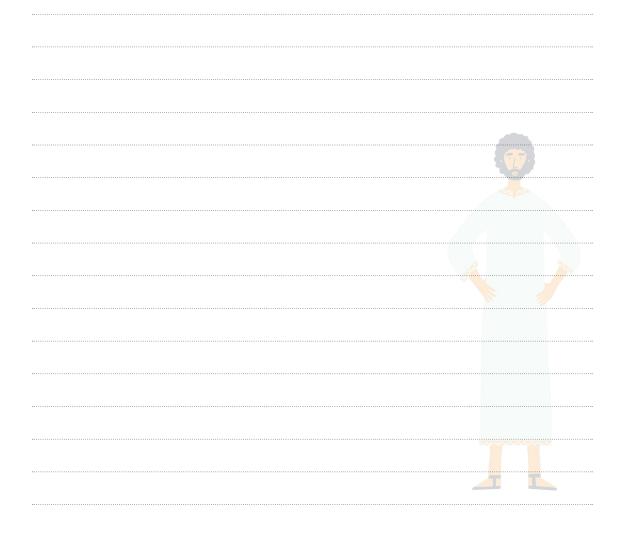
Who was Jesus?



"Based on historical accuracy, there's more reason to believe the accounts of Jesus than that of Alexander the Great or Caesar."

We have 5,000 New Testament manuscripts in Greek, 8,000 in Latin, and 9,000 in other languages, all written within 300 years of Jesus' life!





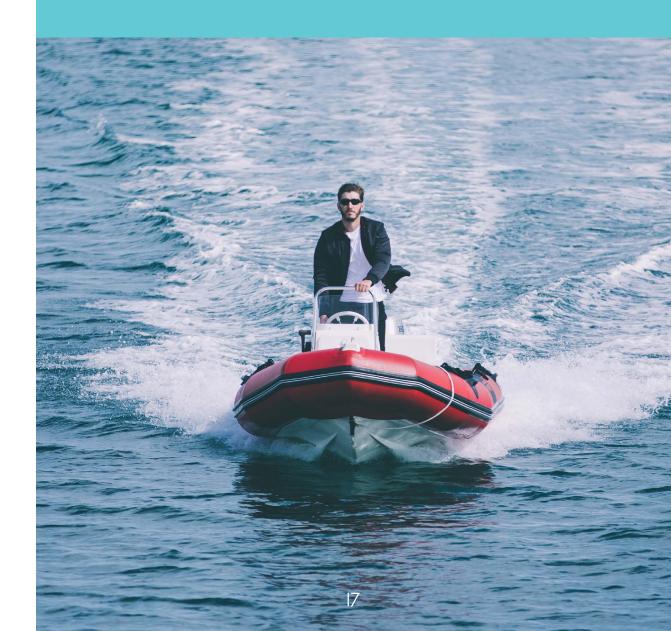
"Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honourable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught."

- Luke I:I-4

15

Why is there more written about Jesus than any king or emperor that lived before or after him? He must have done something extraordinary!

66



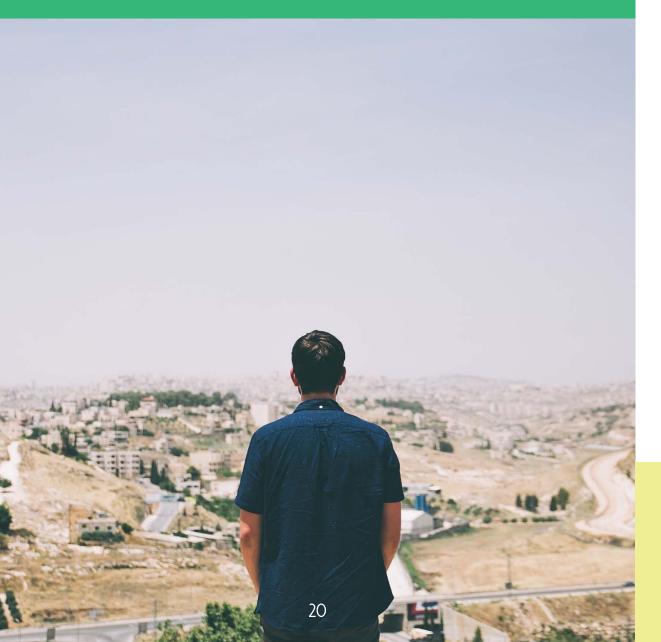
## session three

#### What About The Resurrection?

Do you think Jesus actually died and came back to life?

"The symbol of the cross speaks of a story that's still being told." The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

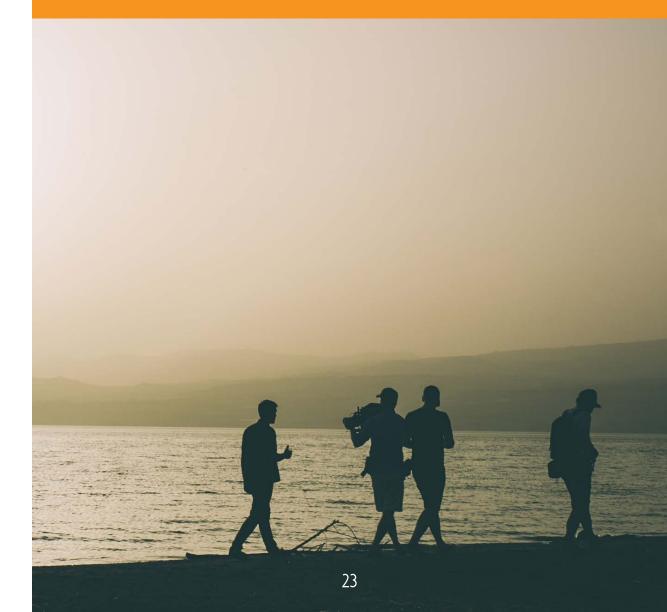
- Matthew 28:2-6



(25)	

"To give your life for something is a powerful thing would the disciples really have been willing to die for a lie?"

Either Jesus is the greatest con man of all time, or he's the real deal.



## session four

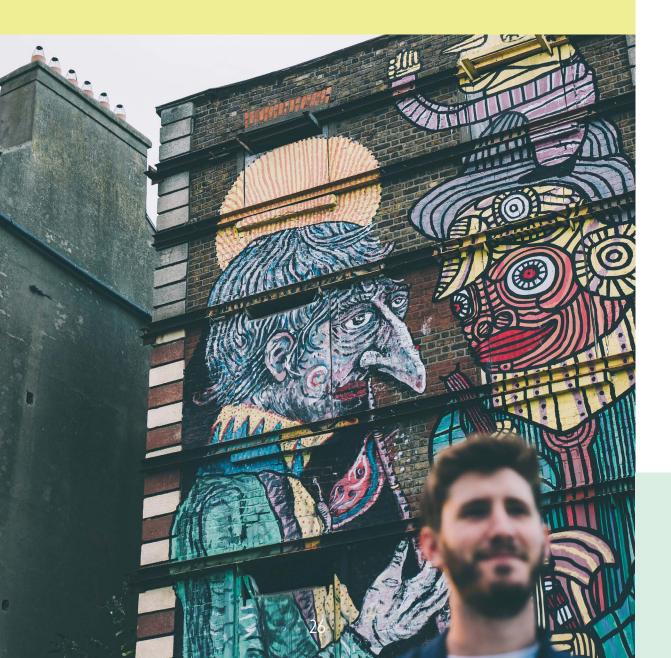
### What Was Jesus Really Like?

What do you think Jesus was like as a person? Do you think you would have liked Him?



"It's not just a question of, 'Can I believe **in** him?'; but more importantly, 'Can I **trust** him?.'" "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

- John 8:10-11



<u> </u>

"With Jesus, I'm not just another nameless face in the crowd. I'm an individual. I'm someone he wants to get to know and be transformed by the encounter."

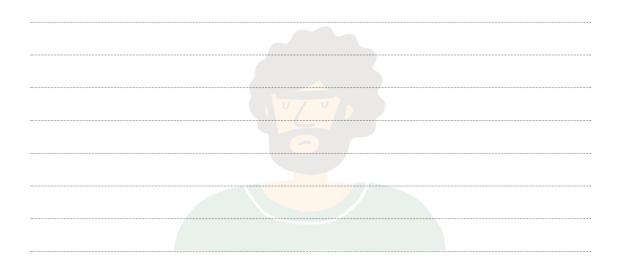
Doubt has always been part of faith — and it always will be.



## session five

#### Why Do I Like Jesus, But Struggle With Christians?

How would you describe a stereotypical Christian?



"Christians get angry, too. Some things should make us angry — like poverty, injustice, and inequality."

"'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

- Matthew 22:37-40




"A life of faith is meant to be authentic."

\*\* There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear...,

- I John 4:18



## session SIX

### How Can You Say That God Is Good?

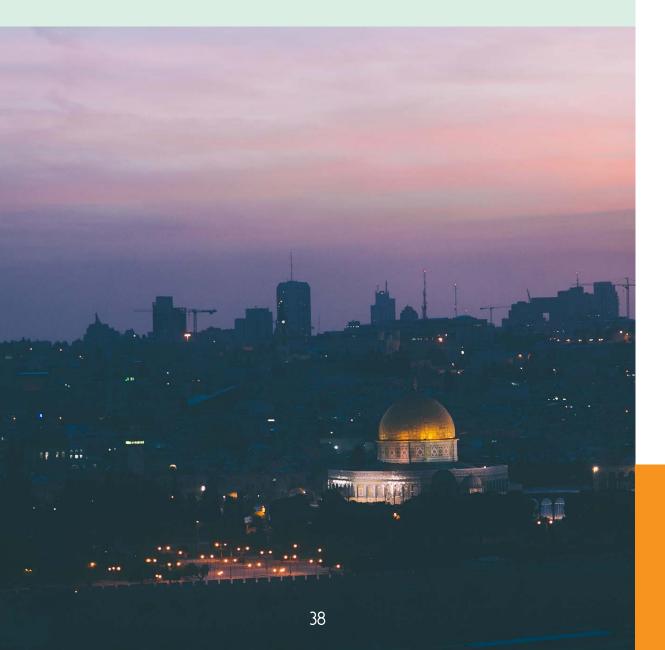
If God is good, why is life so hard?

"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another What! You too? I thought I was the only one."

- C.S. Lewis

"Jesus is present in my suffering, and God is bigger than my suffering."

- David, Former Policeman




"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

- Revelation 21:4

Jesus is God who not only suffered for us, but who also suffers with us.



### session SeVen

#### Has The Church Caused More Harm Than Good?

At best, Christians are a work in progress.

"I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners..."

- Luke 5:32

"I love your Christ, but not your Christians because your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

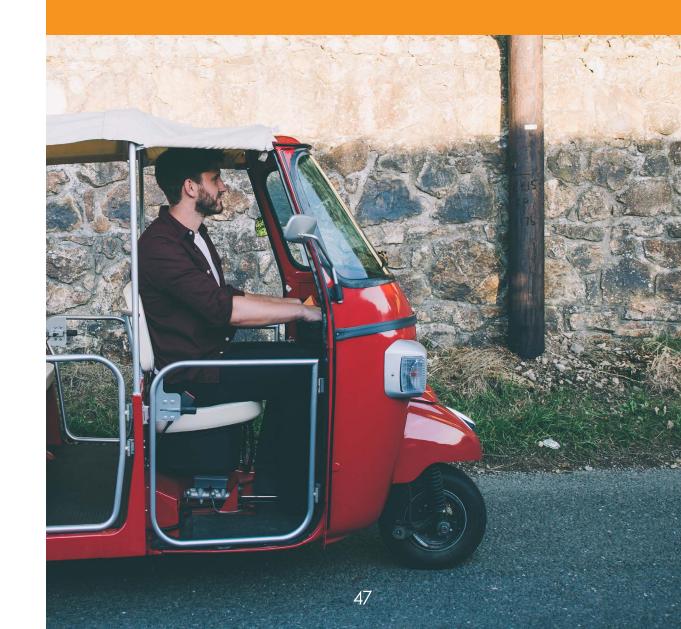
- Gandhi




"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- John 13:35

It's Jesus who defines Christianity, not people.



# eight

#### What's Jesus Got To Do With Me?

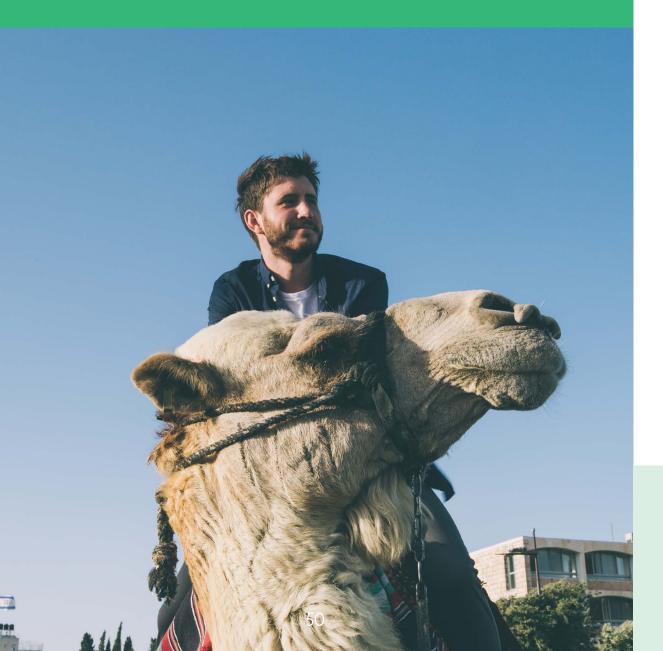
Does Jesus' death impact my life today?

"The Bible was written to tell us about the nature of God, why he created us, and the relationship we have with him—it's about the

lengths that God will go to in order to get to us."

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- John 8:32



 ·····

"Jesus shows us what God is truly like. You are loved, *just* as you are."









#### ™ Scripture Union 2017, All Rights Reserved

There are multiple versions of the Bible used for the Scripture quotes within this journal.

Printed by: Ross Print Services - Greystones.

