

before I go

Session 4:
Because of Jesus,
we can be close to
God

Do this in
remembrance
of me.

It is finished.

Take this
Cup of suffering



Complete unity

WHEN JESUS
INVITES US TO DO
THE IMPOSSIBLE.



Take care
of my
sheep.



Do you know the answer to the following questions — yes (thumbs up), no (thumbs down)?

When did English become the official language of the United States?  or 

The US does not have an official language

What job did Walt Disney have before he drew Mickey Mouse?  or 

Walt Disney did not draw Mickey. Animator Ub Iwerks did

On which spaceflight did humans first lay eyes on the Great Wall of China?  or 

You can't see the Great Wall of China from space

Why does eating candy affect how children behave?  or 

The average effect of sugar on children's behavior is zero

**An incredible writer and thinker named A.W. Tozer
once said the following:**

***"WHAT COMES INTO OUR MINDS WHEN WE THINK
ABOUT GOD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT
US."***

A.W. TOZER

**If God is real
then..**

- Who God is**
- What God thinks**
- What God does
should matter to
us**

John, a Jesus follower, wrote these words:

***“NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD. BUT THE
UNIQUE ONE (JESUS), WHO IS HIMSELF,
GOD, IS NEAR TO THE FATHER’S HEART.
HE (JESUS) HAS REVEALED GOD TO US.”
JOHN 1:18 NLT***

John was convinced when he looked at Jesus, he was seeing the invisible God

There is one thing that distinguishes Jesus

**IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN RAISED FROM
THE DEAD, YOU AND I WOULD’VE NEVER
HEARD OF HIM**

Why did Jesus die

- Romans brutally executed people on crosses

Between AD66 & 702

Until the Jewish Revolt

- They crucified as many as 500 Jews a day

- Executed upwards of 300 who claimed to be the "Messiah"

Who the Jews were waiting for

So, what makes Jesus different? Simple... He is alive!

Because of the resurrection, what Jesus said and did should matter to us

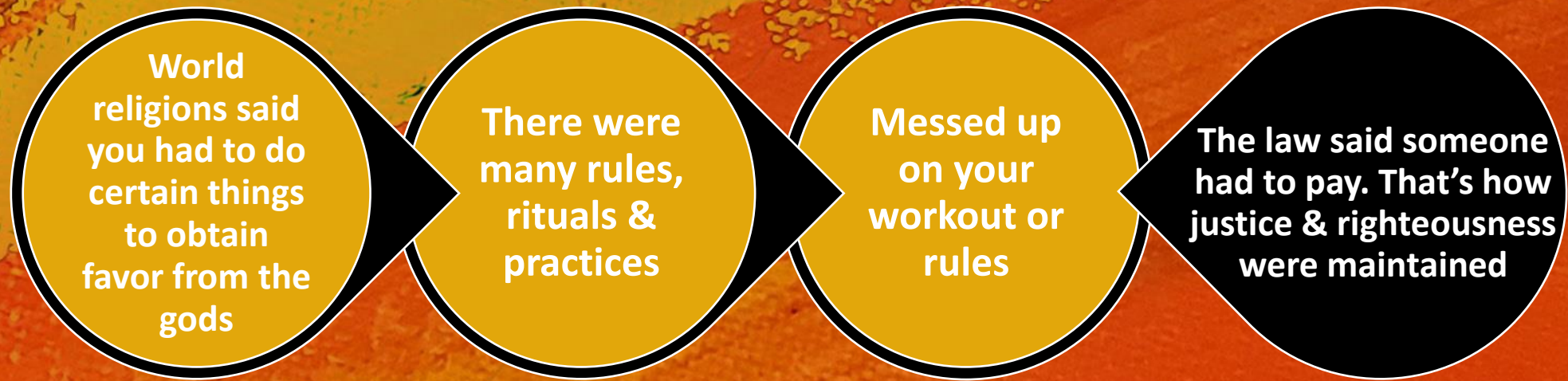
John, who was an eyewitness to the scene, said:

“JESUS KNEW THAT HIS MISSION WAS NOW FINISHED, AND TO FULFILL SCRIPTURE HE SAID, “I AM THIRSTY.” A JAR OF SOUR WINE WAS SITTING THERE, SO THEY SOAKED A SPONGE IN IT, PUT IT ON A HYSSOP BRANCH, AND HELD IT UP TO HIS LIPS. WHEN JESUS HAD TASTED IT, HE SAID, “IT IS FINISHED!” THEN HE BOWED HIS HEAD AND GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT.”

JOHN 17:20-23 NLT

Jesus knew why He had come & that why was now finished

But what was finished?



Then Jesus came and flipped this idea on its head

Paul Explains it:

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.” Romans 3:21-22

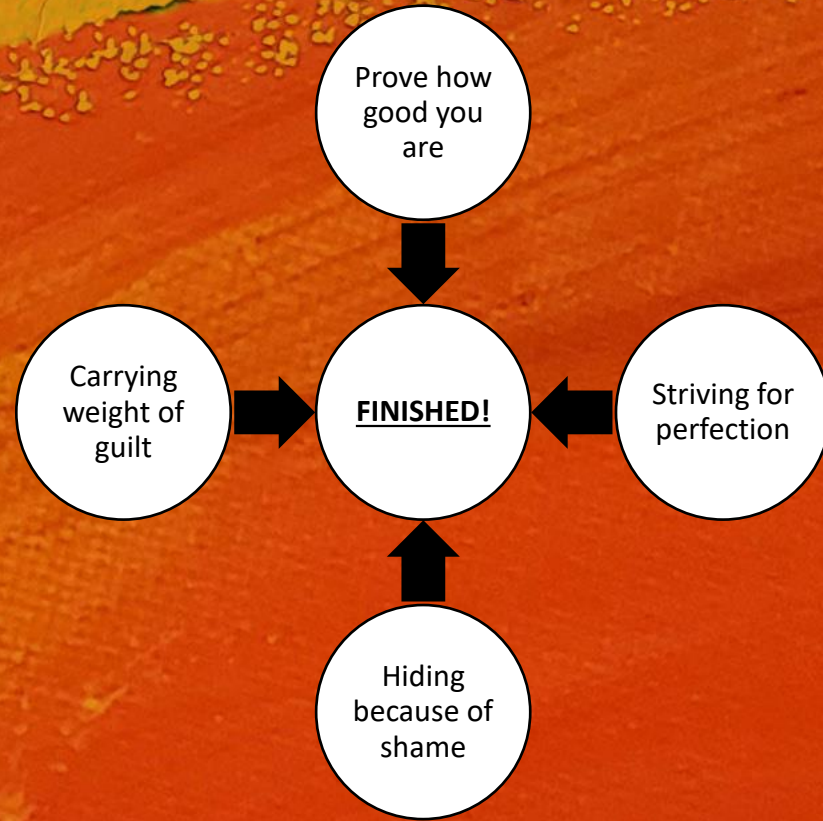
Because of Jesus, we can be close to God

Paul continues

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. Romans 3:23-26

It is free to us, but it cost something significant

What Jesus meant when he said "it is Finished"



"It is finished" for Jesus means "it is finished" for you and me

Jesus did all the work!

Our responsibility is to live as though Easter changed everything:

- 1) In our relationships**
- 2) In the way we treat people who are different than us**
- 3) In how we think about ourselves**
- 4) In the way we serve the world around us**

Remember, this isn't just a nice thing to do. Jesus used His very last words to give us incredible hope and change to the world