

Sermon Questions for Life Groups
The Jesus Myth

1. Have you ever heard someone claim that Jesus Christ never actually existed as a historical person? What do you think makes that claim unlikely?
2. Have you ever seen or heard of the movie “Zeitgeist” that Mark mentions in the sermon? If so, what did you think of it? What do you think about the claim that the gospel writers borrowed from pagan mythology in order to write fictitious stories about Jesus?
3. The view that Jesus was a myth or that Jesus was just an ordinary person with myths attached to his name is becoming more popular today. Why do you think such a view is attractive to modern people?
4. Did you know that December 25 was not the actual birthday of Jesus and that the Bible does not give the exact date of Jesus’ birth? Does that diminish your appreciation of Christmas in any way?
5. Those who believe that Jesus was a myth often argue that the Apostle Paul did not believe in a historical Jesus or a real resurrection, and that becomes obvious in his writings found in the Bible. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-6, 12-20. Does that sound like the writings of a man who thought Jesus was a myth?
6. Pastor Mark describes how ancient myths surrounding pagan deities such as Horus, Mithras, Krishna, Attis, (and many more) contain stories that involve characters who never lived, places that do not exist, events that are so outrageous that no one would or could believe them. Ancient Myth literature is much different from the gospel accounts of Jesus, which involve real people in real places in real time. Offer 2-3 reasons why you think the stories of Jesus found in the gospels could be real history rather than borrowed mythology.

7. Pastor Mark points out that it is easy to draw vague comparisons to very different things (example: a lawnmower compared to a Mustang GT convertible. A butcher compared to a brain surgeon.) We can often find similarities between very different things, but the differences make all the difference. Have the group think up two very different objects, and then begin to list the similarities.
8. Why do you think it would have been impossible for Christianity to make it out of the first century if Jesus had been a myth?
9. Why do you think it is important for Christians to study the evidence surrounding our belief that Jesus was a real person and what the gospels describe about his life, death and resurrection are accurate?
10. Read 2 Peter 3:1-3. In what ways does this warning about false teachers who promote false stories apply to those who claim that Jesus never existed and that his stories are a re-telling of ancient pagan myths?