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# The Christ Files, episode 1

- Where have you learned about Jesus? Which of these sources do you trust the most?
- Does Christianity "place its head on the chopping block of public scrutiny"? How important is the historical aspect of Christianity?
- What are the Gnostic gospels? Why didn't they make it into the Bible?
- How good is the evidence for the idea that Mary Magdalene was Jesus' girlfriend or wife?
- What is significant about the mentions of Jesus in secular historians?

# The Christ Files, episode 2

- What is significant about the references to Jesus in Jewish sources?
- Are “religious writings” legitimate to use in historical investigations? Why or why not?
- What were some of the expected features of Graeco-Roman biography? Do the Gospels have these features?
- What is significant about the references to Jesus in Paul’s letters?
- How soon were the Gospels known considered authoritative by Christians?

# The Christ Files, episode 3

- What are the earliest written sources of historical information about Jesus?
- How do we know that Luke used other sources?
- What do the date comparisons between the different historical figures and their biographies tell you about the biographies of Jesus? [remember: Rugby illustration]
- Why didn't people write about Jesus sooner?
- Should we assume that information which was transmitted orally is unreliable? [rem: Chinese whispers]
- Why is background and context important for understanding Jesus?

# The Christ Files, episode 4

- How do these background facts help us understand the life and teachings of Jesus?
  - Roman government
  - Different Jewish religious sects such as the Essenes
  - Jewish views of “sinners”, tax collectors, women, and lepers
  - the Old Testament, synagogues, the temple

# The Christ Files

This series has been about “*how we know what we know about Jesus*”. Given what we've heard and discussed in the past 4 weeks...

- How confidently can we say that the Bible gives a picture of Jesus that is accurate and believable?
- If someone asked you, “How do you know the Bible is true?”, what would you say?
- If someone claims that Jesus is a myth, what response would you give? What sort of questions would you ask them?

# The Christ Files

## Where to from here?

- Our goals for showing this series:
  - to give you a greater appreciation for Jesus
  - to give you the tools to share your faith confidently
- How can we do better in serving Jesus...
  - as individuals?
  - as a young adults group?
  - as a church?