

**First Christian Church Small Groups Fall Calendar:
Reintroducing Jesus**

Date	Series	Topic
September 7th (At Noon & 6pm)	The Four Canonical Portraits of Jesus	Mark. Mark is the first Gospel to be written, introducing us to Jesus as the Messiah. Interestingly, Mark's understanding of the Messiah is that of a suffering servant defeating death, not a warrior king defeating oppressors.
September 14th (At Noon & 6pm)		Matthew. Matthew presents Jesus as the culmination of Jewish wisdom literature and prophecy. Especially in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus is shown to be the supreme wise spiritual teacher.
September 21st (At Noon & 6pm)		Luke. Luke presents Jesus as the historical inbreaking of the Son of God who came to deliver salvation to people of all nations. We will consider how Jesus first was portrayed to the Gentiles/Romans.
September 28th (At Noon & 6pm)		John. John is the final gospel to be written, presenting the inner reality of Jesus as the Divine Word of God. Here, we get sayings not recorded in other gospels such as the 7 "I AMs."
October 5th (At Noon & 6pm)	The Basic Christological Issues	The Incarnation and Hypostatic Union. In the Gospels, we receive news that Jesus was born of a virgin, and was both fully God and fully man. Clarifying the specifics of these claims were some of the largest crises of the ancient church and directly impact how it is that Jesus brings salvation.
October 12th (At Noon & 6pm)		The Death and Resurrection. Jesus was crucified and yet was raised. We will spend this session understanding the death, atonement, and physical resurrection.
October 19th (At Noon & 6pm)		The Ascension and Second Coming. Jesus has promised to return at the end of the age. What this means and how exactly it will occur has been a perennial discussion ever since.
October 26th (At Noon & 6pm)	Other Portraits of Jesus?	Ancient Church Heresies and Non-Canonical Gospels. Various other works and claims about Jesus (Gnosticism, Docetism, Adoptionism, the Gospel of Thomas, etc.) will be overviewed with attention to their theological faults and their sparseness in the ancient church.
November 2nd (At Noon & 6pm)		The Historical Jesus. Modern scholarship has sought to uncover the historical Jesus apart from the Christ of faith. We will examine their methodology and findings to see what can be said of Jesus as a historical figure.
November 9th (At Noon & 6pm)		Jesus Reconstructed. Following the work of those seeking to uncover the historical Jesus, theologians and historians have since reconstructed a portrait of Jesus that stands up to even the most scrutinous of historical eye.
November 16th (At Noon & 6pm)		Christophanies. From Abraham to Isaiah, the Apostle Paul to John of Patmos, Constantine to Julian of Norwich; Christ has been intervening in lives both in the Bible and in history via special revelations.
<i>Thanksgiving Break - Eat & Serve With Us (More Info to Come)</i>		