



WHAT ABOUT...? • COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY • WEEK 4

Don't All Religions Lead to God?

A guided conversation from the May 3, 2026 sermon by missionary Edwin Martinez • John 14:6

SUMMARY

The world has over 4,200 religions, and they all claim to offer a path to God. So how do we answer the question that's on everyone's mind? Why Christianity? Why not the others?

In this week's message, our guest preacher missionary Edwin Martinez brought 50 years of hands-on experience from Latin America, the Muslim world, and beyond. Edwin and his wife Evie have served with the Billy Graham Association, trained thousands of evangelists, and sent missionaries into places where the gospel is still forbidden. Their two kids grew up at Christchurch. He opened with a profound insight: every religion in the world works on a DO system — you do pilgrimages, you do prayers, you do good deeds, maybe you'll earn your way to heaven. But Christianity alone is spelled DONE. Jesus paid it. It's finished. And that changes everything.

Edwin walked us through encounters with real religious syncretism in Guatemala, where Mayan families practice animal sacrifices to sun and moon gods while calling themselves Christians. He showed us how the Apostle Paul approached religious people with respect at the Areopagus, acknowledging their sincere seeking while proclaiming the one true God they didn't yet know. And he painted a vivid picture of underground pastors in the Muslim world who've been jailed eighteen times for preaching the gospel.

Edwin's message centered on three life-changing truths: Jesus demands to be number one in our lives (not rival affections, but the supreme priority). Following Him will cost us something — there are challenges we must face. But here's the good news: He's already paid the price for the church. His church is built on an unshakeable foundation.

PRAYER **OPENING PRAYER**

Father, You see our searching hearts. You see how confused our world has become about You. Today, open our eyes to see Jesus clearly. Help us understand what it means to make Him number one. Give us courage to count the cost of following Him, and give us joy as we build His church together. In Jesus' name, Amen.

START **ICE BREAKER**

When you first heard that Jesus claimed to be the only way to God, what was your reaction? Did it feel exclusive? Loving? Confusing? Why?

JOHN 14:6 • ESV

Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

ACTS 4:12 • ESV

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

LUKE 14:25-26 • ESV

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. And turning to them, he said, If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

ACTS 17:22-23 • ESV

Paul at the Areopagus: acknowledging genuine religious seeking while proclaiming the unknown God they worship.

01 DO VS. DONE

Edwin opened by contrasting every world religion (spelled D-O) with Christianity (spelled D-O-N-E: Jesus finished the work). Why do you think that distinction matters so much? Where have you felt the weight of trying to earn your way with God?

02 THE REAL QUESTION

Edwin said if Jesus rose from the dead, it changes everything. Where in your own journey did the Resurrection start to change how you see Jesus' exclusive claim? Or is that still a wrestling match?

03 RELIGIOUS MIXING

Edwin described real churches in Guatemala where families practice animal sacrifices to sun/moon/rocks while calling themselves Christians. Where in your own culture or family do you see religion being mixed together in ways that dilute Jesus' uniqueness?

04 PAUL AT THE AREOPAGUS

When Paul encountered the Athenians with their altar to an unknown god, he acknowledged their sincere seeking, then proclaimed the real God. How does that example change the way you talk to friends exploring other faiths?

05 NUMBER ONE

Edwin was direct: He wants to be number one in our lives. Nobody else is going to take his place. We are going to be dreaming about Jesus, breathing Jesus, and our words are going to proclaim Jesus all the time. What's competing with Jesus for number-one status in your life right now?

06 THE COST IS REAL

Edwin told of a pastor friend jailed eighteen times for preaching the gospel in the Middle East. He said, We don't have that problem here. We have other challenges — the things that take our attention away from Jesus. What's your thorn — the distraction pulling your eyes off Jesus most consistently?

07 THE CHURCH IS ALREADY PAID FOR

Edwin closed with the refrain: It's paid for. It's paid for. We don't have to pay for it. How does that reality reshape the way you think about your own small role in building His church? Are you adding or subtracting?

08 A FAITH FAMILY ON MISSION

We're a faith family on mission. How can this group be a place where someone wrestling with the exclusivity of Jesus feels welcomed — not lectured, not rushed to conviction, but genuinely heard?

APPLY LIFE APPLICATION

This week, Edwin gave us three priorities that reshape everything. Work through them honestly:

- 1 Make Jesus number one.** Not just in words, but in where your mind goes first, what you sacrifice for, what you talk about. List the top three competitors for that slot in your life right now.
- 2 Count the cost.** Discipleship is not free, though the forgiveness is. What's one cost you're facing right now that following Jesus asks of you?
- 3 Build up the church.** Jesus is building His church and has already paid for it. Identify one way this week you can add to that building.

Bring back one answer from each step when the group meets next. Be specific. Be honest. The beauty of this faith family is that we get to count costs together and build together.

REMEMBER KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Christianity is not one option among 4,200. It is fundamentally different — the message is DONE, not DO.
- ▶ Jesus made an exclusive claim: I am the way, the truth, and the life. That's not mean. That's love telling the truth.
- ▶ Religious syncretism — mixing Jesus with other gods or practices — sounds tolerant but actually dishonors the real Jesus.
- ▶ Making Jesus number one means your dreams, your breath, your words are all about proclaiming Him.
- ▶ The cost of discipleship is real. But it's nothing compared to what Jesus already paid.
- ▶ The church is not our project to save. It's His project, already paid for. Our job is to build it up, not tear it down.

If the resurrection is true, there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

PRAYER CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for being clear. Thank You for not letting us hide behind all paths lead to the same place. You are the way. You are the truth. You are the life. Help us stop competing with You for the top spot in our hearts. Help us count the cost of following You with our eyes wide open. And help us build — not with our own effort, but with the joy of knowing You've already paid for everything. In Your name, Amen. Help us take our next step with you this week — and to invite someone else to take theirs. Amen.

CHRISTCHURCH MIAMI

A Faith Family on Mission

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Sundays at 11 AM • Wednesdays 6:30 PM Family Night

