

LESSON 5A LESSON 5A LESSON 5A



Aid to the  
Church in Need

**ACN UNITED KINGDOM**

BUILDING A WALL



Sixth Form

GENERAL  
OR CORE RE



STARTER STARTER STARTER

Bob is in the living room. It is Monday. There are three other family members in the living room with him. None of them can see him, though they are looking towards him and none of them is blind.

Bob is in the living room. It is wednesday. There are three other family members in the living room with him. They are looking towards him can all can see him even though he is in the same part of the room he was in on Monday. why is this?



A classical painting depicting two newborn babies curled together in a womb. The babies are rendered with soft, realistic skin tones and are positioned in a way that suggests they are still in the uterus. The background is a deep, dark blue, creating a sense of mystery and depth. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the babies' bodies.

Is there life after birth ?

In a mother's womb were two  
babies.

# Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson I will have:

- Identified and critically evaluated the reasons why resistance of God can be so easy
- Chosen one example to investigate
- Discussed and explained my 'obstacle'
- Summarised why the Church is God's love story

# Key words

Materialism, secularism,  
relativism, narcissism,  
resistance, hedonism,  
individualism, minimalism,  
heroism, facade.

# RESIST, RESISTANCE, BARRIERS

2:00

we often don't want to pray or be "religious" or more open to God: why is this?





e's no  
nce for  
urrection

JESUS TAUGHT  
US HOW TO LIVE  
BUT N

S LOVE  
NS SIN

JF MS A

JESUS' MIRACLES  
ARE NOT MEANT  
TO BE TAKEN  
LITERALLY

Being a Christian  
is not all  
that demanding

RELIGION  
SHOULD  
BE A PRIVATE  
THING

Jesus' love and  
compassion meant  
that he let people  
do what they wanted

The disciples must  
have made up the  
resurrection

You  
don't have  
to make time for  
prayer - it's in your  
heart

Jesus' love and  
compassion meant  
that he let people  
do what they wanted

The disciples must  
have made up the  
resurrection

RELIGION SHOULD  
BE A PRIVATE  
THING

FREEDOM IS  
DOING WHAT  
YOU WANT

FAITH IS ABOUT  
BEING A GOOD  
PERSON  
AND A BIT  
SPIRITUAL

Jesus is no  
different to lots of  
other inspirational  
leaders in history

Only observation  
and experimentation  
can decide what  
is real

Only observation  
and experimentation  
can decide what  
is real

There isn't really a  
set right/wrong -  
it's what feels  
right at the time

YOU HAVE TO MAKE  
YOUR OWN DECISIONS.  
THERE AREN'T ANY  
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES  
REALLY.

SCIENCE AND  
RELIGION ARE  
INCOMPATIBLE

Jesus was just  
a good moral  
teacher

JESUS DIDN'T  
CLAIM TO  
BE GOD

There's no  
evidence for  
the resurrection

JESUS TAUGHT  
US HOW TO LIVE  
BUT WASN'T GOD

Jesus was just  
a good moral  
teacher

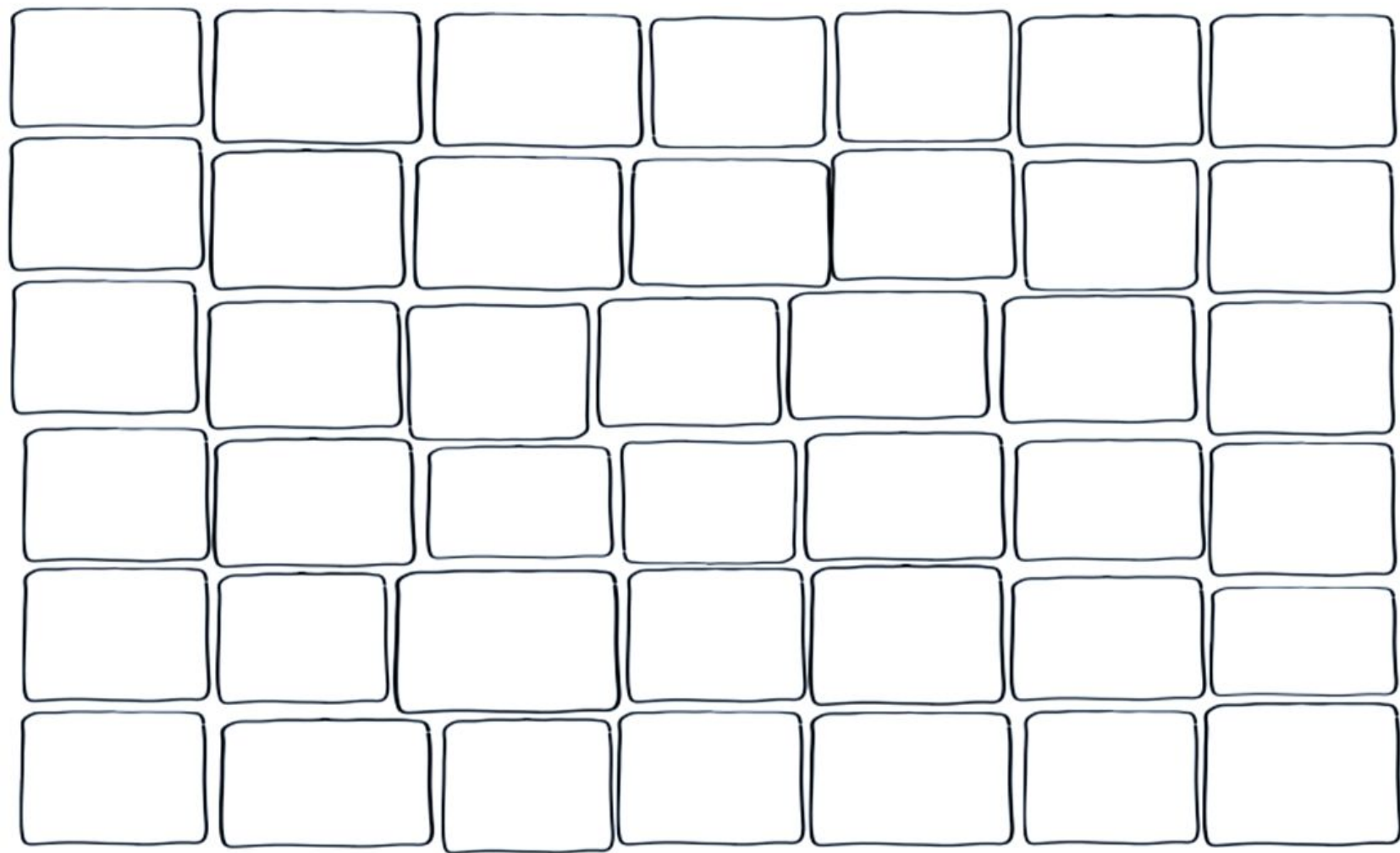
JESUS DIDN'T  
CLAIM TO  
BE GOD

BY FOLLOWING MY  
CONSCIENCE

SURELY I CAN BE A  
CHRISTIAN  
BY FOLLOWING MY  
CONSCIENCE ALONE?

GOD'S LOVE  
MEANS SIN  
DOESN'T REALLY  
MATTER

JESUS SEEMS A  
BIT BORING



Rate each of the following statements



1-5

1 - Don't agree

5 - Strongly agree



# The most important philosophy life is:

1. Do what feels good and don't ask any questions
2. Always exert the minimum effort to get the desired results
3. Doing, thinking and being whatever you want regardless of whether it corresponds to what is real
4. Looking out for yourself

t You will now watch some video clips which explain some other ways we resist God. You can add to your wall as you watch.

FAULTY THINKING



ALJAZEERA

**BRENDEN THOMPSON**  
RELIGIOUS COMMENTATOR

ERS ACCEPTS INVITATION FROM POPE TO DISCUSS INEQUALITY NEXT W





# Unanswered Prayers



How can I pray to God when I am so disappointed in him? I am often angry at God because it feels like nothing I do ever works out. It feels hypocritical to then just go and tell God that everything is OK. Things aren't OK in my life!



"First, amazing question. I am certain that your question arises from a heart that has been broken in some way. Please know of my prayers for you and for anyone reading this column who is suffering defeat at this moment. You are not alone. You have brothers and sisters in Christ, and you have a God who is on your side."

Your ha brothers and sisters  
 Can we really trust God? The Danish  
 philosopher Søren Kierkegaard believed this question was so vital that he put it forth in words like this: "It is  
 not so important to know whether God exists or not; what is important is to know whether He is love or not." As  
 a Catholic, you know that God is love. Because you do, what do we do when things crash around us? Do you know that  
 He made his decision. He is on your side. And yet, what do we do when things crash around us? Do you know that  
 you can take your tears to God? Do you know that he actually wants us to bring our broken hearts and broken  
 dreams to him? We can get it out of our heads that God only wants us to tell him our good news. This is the raw and honest  
 prayers, the Jewish people, have given us an entire spiritual genre called Lamentation. This is the raw and honest  
 cry of a people who cried out to God: "We thought you were on our side! Why have you forgotten your  
 promises? Why have you abandoned us?" This book is in the Bible. That means that the Holy Spirit inspired these  
 words of complaint. This means that as those found in the book of Psalms did not sugarcoat their pain or  
 well. These same prayers (as well as those clear in the book of Psalms) show us how we can bring these  
 complaints to God. First, they are honest. The authors of Sacred Scripture did not sugarcoat their pain or  
 frustration. ("How long, O Lord? Will you forget your people forever?") Rather, they trusted God enough to tell  
 him the truth. You can begin by bringing God into your situation as it is. Second, while the Jews were strikingly  
 aware of their present condition, they never forgot that God had blessed them in the past. In their prayer, they  
 specifically praised God and thanked him for the good things they had received from him. In my experience, it is  
 very easy to think that all that God has done in my life is instantly canceled\* out when I am in distress. The Bible  
 reminds us that we must not forget that the God who has guided and cared for us in the past will continue  
 guiding and caring for us today. In your prayer, be just as specific with your praise as you are with your pain. It  
 this way, the "God, I'm so lonely" is eventually followed by "Thank you for giving me the friendship of my brother  
 when I felt all alone last year." Third, make an act of trust in God. It is important to remember that the act of  
 trust is not in yourself or in fate or in the healing effect of time. Sometimes my prayer for the future centers\*  
 around those three things. I say to myself: "I know if I just try harder, I'll be better," or "Things will start looking  
 up. They've just got to. I'm a good person," or "Someday this pain won't sting as much." It'll just wait until that  
 day." Remember, God is on your side. He is faithful even when we are not faithful. Because of David, David was the  
 trust in him, not in ourselves or anything else. A great example of this is Psalm 3, a psalm of David. David was the  
 king of Israel. He was the one chosen by God. And yet, he endured tremendous pain and betrayal. Psalm 3 is  
 entitled (in my Bible) "Threatened but Trusting." And the subscript that describes the occasion when David wrote  
 this psalm is: "When David fled for his life from his son Absalom." Here is a man who was trying to do God's will  
 (imperfectly), and his own son was chasing him down with thousands of troops. The Bible was not authored by  
 individuals sitting in ivory towers, untouched by anguish, but by people who experienced the worst that life has  
 to offer and still turned to God. You are chosen by God as well. You can do the same.\*

Father Schmitz is director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Duluth and chaplain of the Newman Center\*  
 at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Reach him at [fathermichelschmitz@gmail.com](mailto:fathermichelschmitz@gmail.com)  
 AS THE AUTHOR, FR MICHAEL SCHMITZ IS AMERICAN!

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[AMERICAN SPELLING AS THE AUTHOR, FR MICHEAL SCHMITZ IS AMERICAN]

"Pray, hope, and don't worry."

Worry is useless.

God is merciful and will hear your prayer."

(St Pio)

Can't  
'see' God

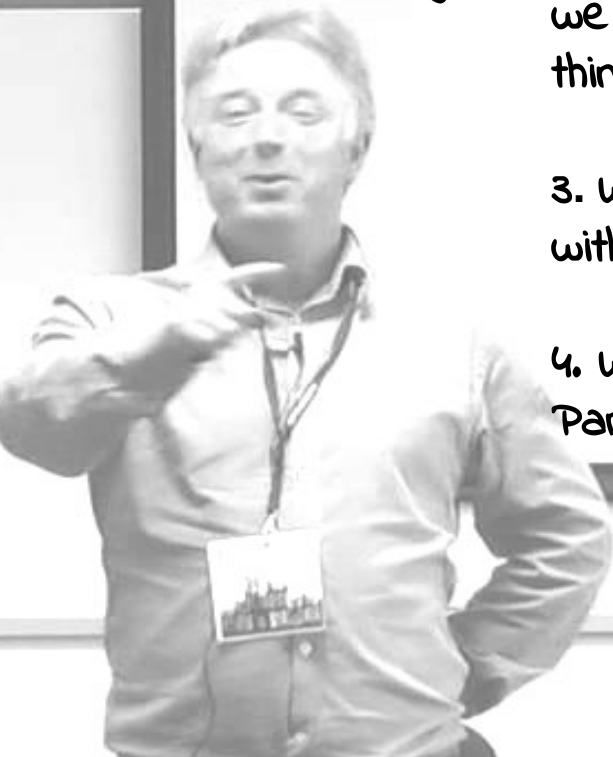






## Discussion starters

1. what does Dr Towey's radio demonstration show?
2. He says we don't apply the same criteria to things of faith as we do to other non-material realities. why do you think this is?
3. what does Dr Towey mean by empty space within the rock and why is that significant?
4. why is the Higgs Boson Particle called the 'God Particle'?





# No Evidence

(video here [Anne Webb](#))



# QUESTIONS

1. what did Fr Frankie's heart feel like after Confession?
2. why did he go in the first place?
3. why do you think Philip Mulryne was able to leave his old lifestyle?
4. what do you think Fr Philip and Fr Frankie have in common?
5. what do you think Fr Frankie means about having your live 'animated'?
6. what does the St Mother Teresa example show is?



# "The Idea of Religion"







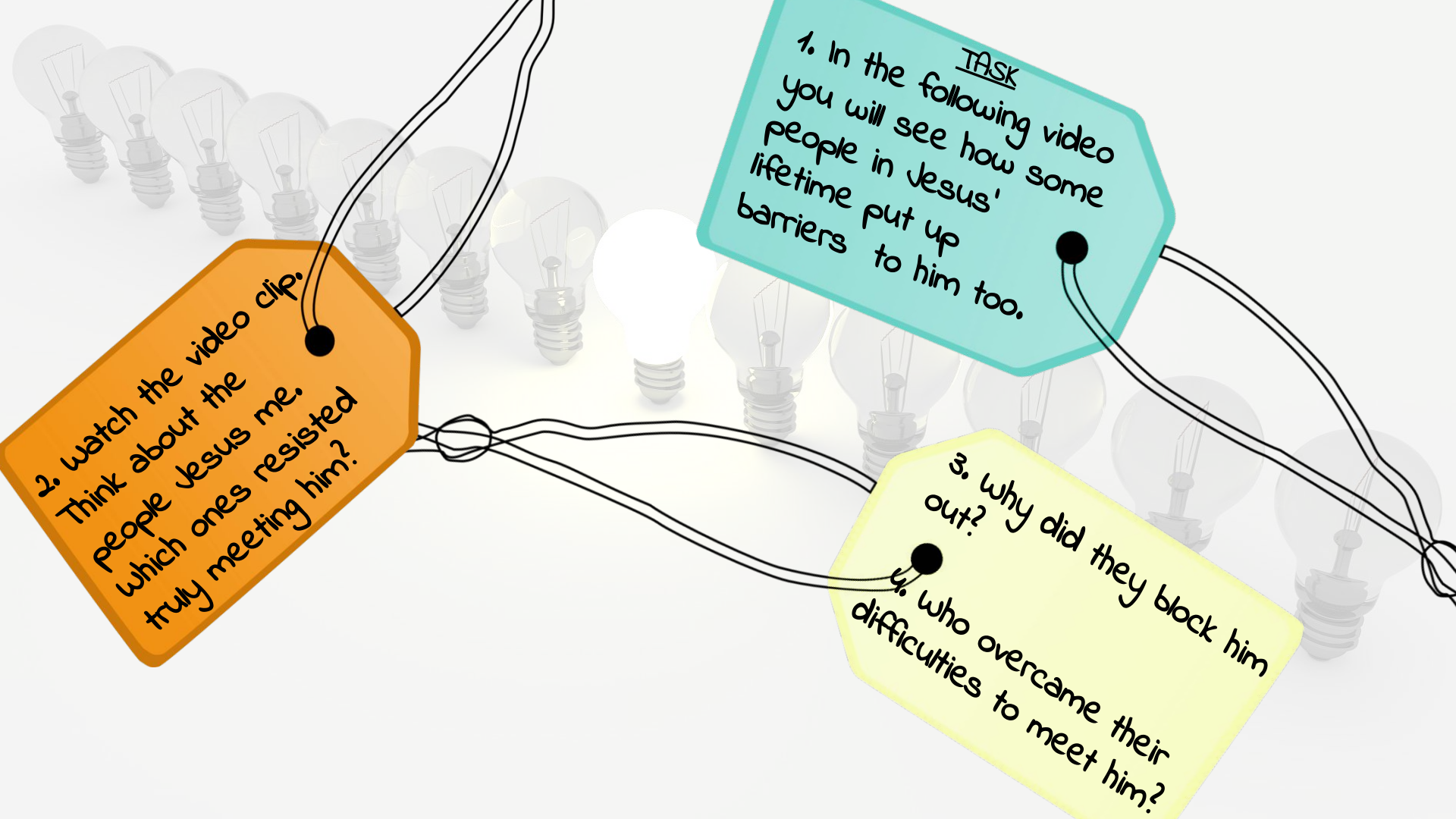
1. Jordan Kelly talks about how what he thought 'religion' was put him off. Do you think this is true for many people?
- 2.
3. He says we can be slaves to the things around us. How does this block our relationship with God?
4. Some people think that God's rules are restricting. What is Jordan's response?
5. What does he say the Church offer us?
6. What does Jordan say about love? Why is it convincing?



## REFLECTIVE TASK:

1. Take some time to think of any other things that we haven't covered which may block your openness to a relationship with God.
2. Add them to your wall.
3. This is a reflective task, so use the time to think of the issues which have been discussed so far in these lessons.
4. If you do not believe in God or are agnostic, you can think of the blocks others may have, or use the exercise to consider what stops you living life to the full instead.

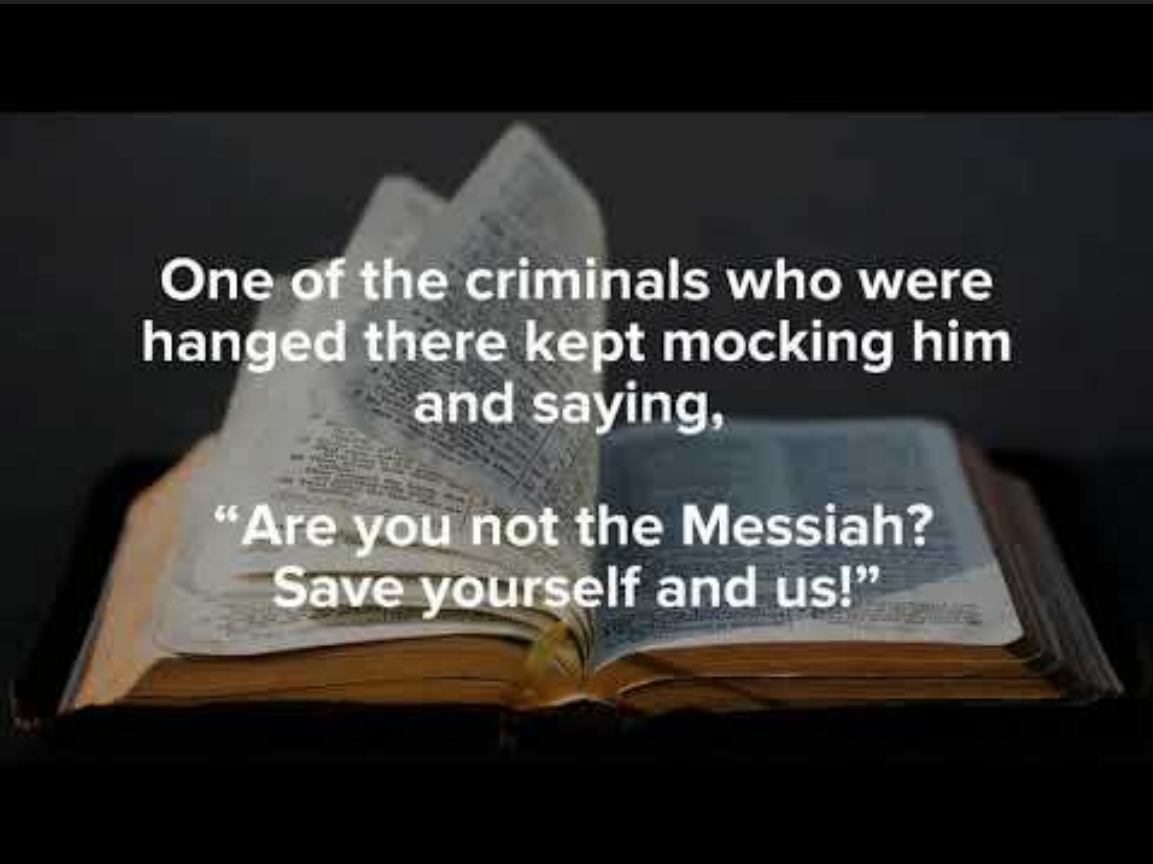




TASK  
1. In the following video  
you will see how some  
people in Jesus'  
lifetime put up  
barriers to him too.

2. watch the video clip.  
Think about the  
people Jesus met.  
Which ones resisted  
truly meeting him?

3. Why did they block him  
out?  
4. Who overcame their  
difficulties to meet him?

An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are aged and yellowed. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font. The background is dark, making the Bible and the text stand out.

**One of the criminals who were  
hanged there kept mocking him  
and saying,**

**“Are you not the Messiah?  
Save yourself and us!”**



- 1. Why do you think Pilate acted the way he did? Why didn't he want to sentence Jesus? What was his intuition telling him? Why do you think he gave into the pressure of the crowd? Why did he say that he 'washed his hands of it'?**
- 2. What was the difference between the two criminals? What does this situation show about Jesus? What was stopping the other criminal from asking Jesus for mercy? Why didn't Jesus push him to do so?**
- 3. What difference had Jesus already made to Mary Magdalene's life? Why do you think she didn't recognise him when she went to the tomb? What changed? How do you think she felt?**
- 4. What mood were the disciples in on the Road to Emmaus when Jesus walked beside them? Why did they not recognise them? What was Jesus trying to teach them? Where and when did they finally see him as he was? Why is this significant?**

feedback



# PLENARY

WHAT WORD, IDEA, LINE, VIDEO CLIP OR FEELING FROM THIS LESSON WILL STAY WITH YOU?

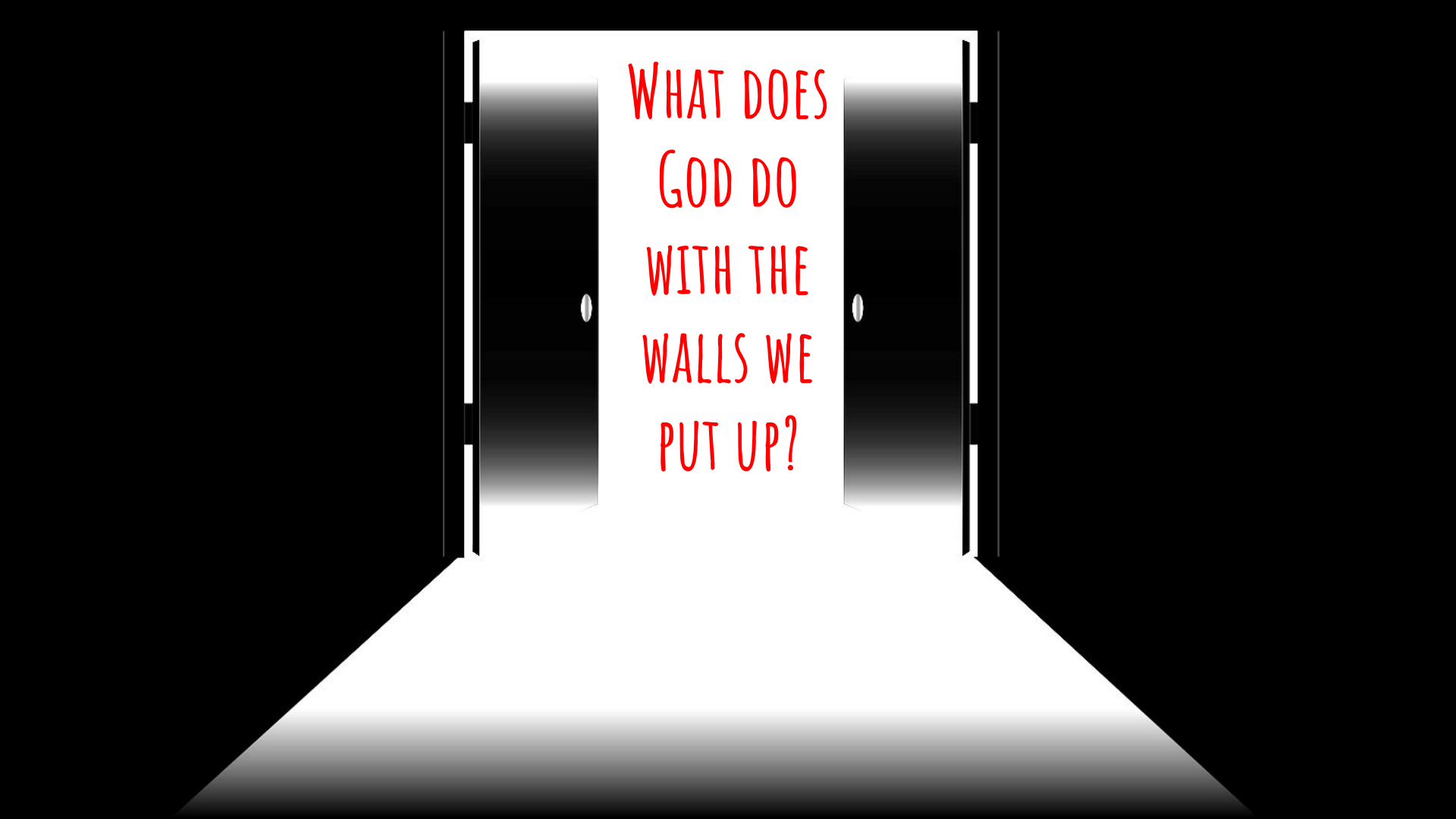
WHY IS IT GOOD TO CHALLENGE THE WAY WE THINK AND  
GO DEEPER INTO IDEAS THAT MATTER?



HOW DOES THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE FROM  
ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS RELATE TO THIS LESSON?

## Colossians 1:13-20

Because that is what he has done. It is he who has rescued us from the ruling force of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him we enjoy our freedom, the forgiveness of sin. He is the image of the unseen God, the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, thrones, ruling forces, sovereignties, powers -all things were created through him and for him. He exists before all things and in him all things hold together, and he is the Head of the Body, that is, the Church. He is the Beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that he should be supreme in every way; because God wanted all fullness to be found in him and through him to reconcile all things to him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, by making peace through his death on the cross.




WHAT DOES  
GOD DO  
WITH THE  
WALLS WE  
PUT UP?



PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER PR



A photograph of two monks in brown robes standing in a field, looking towards a mountain range in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

"In the first place it  
should be known that  
if a person is seeking  
God, His Beloved is  
seeking him much more."

*~St. John of the Cross*