

Who do you say that I am?

a small group study pack (sample)



Based on the book:

**BLACK, BRITISH &
DE-CHURCHED:**
MESSAGE TO THE MAINSTREAM

E. P. LOUIS



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How to Use the Resource

This study pack is designed to encourage readers to research, reflect, and meditate. So rather than pages and pages of teaching, its streamlined format offers a variety of prompts about the given topic for you to digest, discuss, and challenge.

In this section, the writer introduces a Christian idea (full disclosure - she's evangelical!) and offers some initial insights and questions about the topic.

Group Activity

Ideally designed for group engagement but also suitable for completion alone, these tasks aim to bring the topic to life and explore how it is relevant today.

Reading

This section suggests some reading, watching or listening to help readers understand more about the topic.

It's a good idea to purchase the book the study is based on (see front cover!)

One source will be very accessible and short, the other will be longer and more comprehensive. They are recommended not compulsory. [LINKS ARE CLICKABLE!](#)

Scripture Bank

This section simply offers some helpful scriptures related to the topic.

They will help to inform, build a picture, put things into context and deepen your discussion.

This section will contain a quote from a non-mainstream perspective to add to the mix.

Engage, discuss, challenge and reason.

Getting started

We all have biases when approaching the Bible. This is shaped by our families, our life experiences, preachers and teachers we like, things we learn in church, the books we read, the videos we watch... there can be an enormous amount of input!

Reading scripture objectively is a bit of a myth. It is always good to be aware of what you might bring to your study and how it influences your interpretation of the text. Biases are also shaped by your hopes and dreams for a better world.

Have a think about what might influence your reading of the Bible. Do you believe in aliens? Evolution? Are you feminist? Nationalist? Traditional? Progressive? Spiritual but not religious? Really into politics? Think the Bible is mythical or magical? Literal or allegorical?

Doodle some notes around this box and keep it in mind for the study.

Christ the Man

Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ was both man and God, a point we explore throughout this study pack.

This session focuses on his humanity - Yeshua the man. Discuss what makes him human and how this relates to the rest of humanity. Black Bible Religions often have a focus on Yeshua's appearance, family, ethnicity and lineage. The central claim made among these diasporic religious movements is that Christ has been deliberately whitewashed and separated from his Hebrew/Jewish roots in order to support Eurocentric ideals and superiority.

Why is it helpful to think about Christ's humanity? Could correcting our ideas, teachings and images of Yeshua's humanity help challenge racism within Christianity? Will it promote reconciliation between ethnic groups in tension? Does it speak to the message of the gospel?

Group Activity

- (1) Using the Genealogies of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 and a map ([download here](#)), plot the various locations Christ's ancestors were situated.
- (2) Discuss- how have your family moved around through the generations and how it has shaped you?
- (3) Discuss- how do you think the humanity of Jesus is relevant today?

Reading

[Louis, E.P. \(2025\) Black, British and De-churched](#) - seeing black and being black pg - 124-129

[Was Jesus White or Black - Cross Examined \(video\)](#)
2min40

[Esau McCaulley - Towards a Black Anthropology: Why the Humanity and Jewishness of Jesus Matters \(Video\)](#) 56mins

Scripture Bank

John 1:1-18

Hebrews 2:10-18

Luke 2:7, 40, 52

Matthew 4:2

John 4:7, 19:28

Matthew 26:37

John 2:15, 11:35

Matthew 4:1-11

Hebrews 2:18

Romans 8: 3-4

1 Peter 2:24

"Many historians and artists have falsely depicted the ethnic appearance of Christ. This seems like a simple subject to disprove with the scriptures; however our people's minds are clouded with lies, and the false image of Christ is etched / engraved in their minds that they are completely blinded to the truth written in the Holy Bible. They will read in the Bible the description of Christ and will reject what is written. They continue to worship and accept the false image of Christ and be taught LIES, read [John 4:23-24](#)".
(Israelunite.org)

What did I
learn in this
session?

What did I
find
challenging
in this
session?

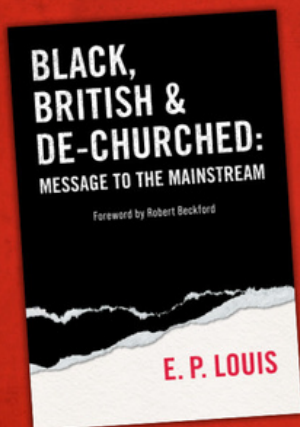
Reflect and Meditate.

Summarise
the main ideas
of this session

What new questions
have surfaced from
doing this research,
discussion and
reflection?

key scripture



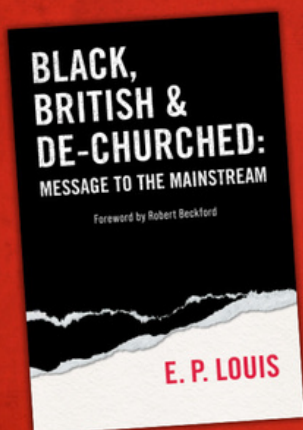


Black, British and De-churched is a timely and essential exploration into alternative expressions of Black religion and spirituality. Louis is vulnerable about her own religious experience and listens carefully to Black religious adherents whose voices are often dismissed. The robust ethnographic methodology, intellectual rigour and ethic of care in her approach makes this a compelling read. It is a wake up call for Black British Majority churches and the Black theological academy to, not only acknowledge dissenting views, but to truly seek to understand them.

CLARE WILLIAMS-SARPONG

FOUNDER OF REAL QUESTIONS AND ASSOCIATE SPEAKER AT THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS (OCCA)

Thank you for trying out this sample! All feedback is welcome before we complete the resource.
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Dr Louis' critical assessment of the mission and ministry of the church is a devastating critique of the failure to connect with the justice-informed aspirations of a community that has always been on the margins. This is a must read.

PROFESSOR ANTHONY G. REDDIE

PROFESSOR OF BLACK THEOLOGY, THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



L.I.T.O. is a study support platform for those studying the Bible, Black religion, and Christian theology - whether it be self-study, for ministry or formal education. Here you can find resources for Bible study, home/family education, youth and small groups, study skills, and discussions about methods and methodologies for students writing essays and dissertations.



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