**Images of Jesus — September 3, 2010**

**Objectives:**

1. **Help students realize that Jesus is a dominant figure in culture, even 2000 years after his death.**
2. **Help students understand how we tend to project onto Jesus our own self-understandings.**
3. **Get students to ask, “What is the understanding of Jesus that informs the references to him in culture (art, movies, literature, music, etc.)?”**

**Welcome**

**Prayer Requests and Prayer**

**Discussion:**

1. **Go through expressions of Jesus they’ve found in popular culture and discuss what those portrayals express about Jesus and/or our attitudes towards him.**
   1. **Students will have emailed these expressions to the entire class in a “reply all” format, as a response to my email detailing the assignment.**
2. **Go through the “Images of Jesus” Keynote presentation I’ve got and discuss the same things.**
   1. **Other possibilities:**
      1. [**“Jesus Take the Wheel” by Carrie Underwood**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lydBPm2KRaU)
      2. [**Comedy Central cartoon series about Jesus**](http://www.boston.com/ae/specials/culturedesk/2010/05/comedy_central_developing_cart.html)
      3. [**Infant Jesus of Prague**](http://www.pragjesu.info/en/)
3. **Talk about what Jesus would “look like” today.**
   1. **Mike’s questions:** What does Jesus wear? How does he talk? Where does he live and travel? What does he do? What geographical place would he be living in (urban, rural, uptown, downtown)? Whom does he visit? Who are his friends, family, and enemies? What kinds of things does he preach? What contemporary issues might he address? With whom does Jesus debate? What institutions does he critique? To whom do his words most appeal? What conflicts arise in social, religious, and political circles?

**Hand out surveys for students to take home.**

**Parable of the Sower — October 1, 2010**

See “Parable of the Sower” Keynote presentation

**Body – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 – February 18, 2011**

Total Time: 48 minutes

1. **Opening – 5 minutes**
   1. Welcome – 3 minute
      1. Mention coaching possibility – 2 minutes
   2. Prayer requests – 1 minute
   3. Prayer – 1 minute
2. **Quiz – 10 minutes**
3. **Body introduction – 2 minutes**
   1. Take comments on and discuss:
      1. Good things our bodies can do
         1. 5 senses
         2. Connection to other people
         3. Physical feats, sports, etc.
      2. Bad things our bodies can do
         1. Illness
         2. Physical temptations
         3. Hurting one another
4. **Tensions in reference to a low regard for the body – 5 minutes**
   1. Gnosticism – 1 minute
   2. Antinomianism – 1 minute
   3. How can you see those two things at work today? – 3 minutes
      1. In the world at large?
      2. In the church?
      3. [Dove Evolution video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYhCn0jf46U) – as example of both

[The Photoshop Effect](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YP31r70_QNM&NR=1&feature=fvwp) – starting at 5:08

1. **These tensions were present in biblical times as well, and you can see biblical authors trying to manage them.  
   1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 – 4 minutes**
   1. Read – 2 minutes
   2. What does Paul ask them to do? – 1 minute
   3. What does Paul ask them to NOT do? – 1 minute
2. **“Body” video and discussion – 22 minutes**
   1. [Show video](http://www.reallymatters.net/body/) – 5 minutes
   2. Discuss video in general and in context of 1 Thessalonians – 2 minutes
   3. Discussion questions from website – 14 minutes
      1. All together – first 3 – 4 minutes
      2. In groups – last 4 – 11 minutes
         1. As groups – 3 minutes
         2. Sharing with the class – 8 minutes