

## Assurance

### Getting started

1. How can you be sure you are really a Christian?

### Bible

2. After reading the following sections answer the question "What do you have to do to become a Christian?"

Read John 12:31-32.

Context: John begins his gospel with Jesus at creation. He follows Jesus life through various miracles, confrontations, discussions and teaching. In chapter 12 Jesus comes to Jerusalem for the final time. The people greet him as a king but he says that he will be glorifying God by his death.

Read John 3:1-8.

Context: Jesus has caused an uproar in the Temple and a Pharisee called Nicodemus comes to see him.

Read John 6:32-37.

Context: Jesus has been healing the sick and so has attracted a large crowd of followers. Jesus feeds them by performing another miracle and then explains the significance of the bread.

Read John 11:23-27.

Context: Lazarus dies 4 days before Jesus gets there. Martha is Lazarus' sister and she confronts Jesus when he arrives.

What do you have to do to become a Christian?

3. Read John 10:22-30.

Context: In chapter 10 Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who will die for his sheep. Many are put off by this statement but those who remain ask if Jesus is the long awaited Messiah.

How secure are you once you become a Christian?

### Video

The Nooma video, #10, Lump, by Rob Bell is one of 24 made between 2002 and 2009. In each video Rob Bell takes an aspect of Christian life and expresses it in an interesting and challenging way.

4. What are your first impressions of this video?



5. Why did the boy hide under the bed covers?
  
6. How does the father handle the situation?
  
7. In the video Rob Bell says “there’s a moment when our junk catches up with us, when our sins catch up with us and sometimes it’s easier to run upstairs than face the truth.”
  - (a) What does he mean by that?
  
  - (b) How does God’s love for us help in that situation?
  
  - (c) What still needs to be resolved?
  
8. How does this video relate to the question of our security once we become a Christian?
  
9. Rob Bell repeats this phrase a number of times: “Nothing we can ever do could make God love us less.”  
Read Rom 8:31-39.  
Context: Paul explains the gospel in the first 7 chapters. In chs 5-8 he writes about freedom from the wrath of God, freedom from the power of sin, freedom from the law and freedom from death. Paul begins to write about the Holy Spirit in chapter 8 and how he helps us live in between being saved and finally being glorified.
  
- To finish**
  
10. What if you don’t feel you are bearing fruit as a Christian and what if you don’t feel God’s presence, are you really a Christian?