

What would Jesus say to...

SERMON SERIES



Boris
Johnson

What would Jesus say to... Reminders

1. Each of these messages can be tailored towards a Gospel presentation and our hope is that they will be used to engage with those on the fringe of the Church.
2. Each 'character' we are exploring is a real person. Let's remember that as we speak. It's important that these sermons are not used to slam people but to affirm God-given attributes and speak into their lives. Think about three positive things we can say for every one thing we might like to see changed.
3. This sermon series should also help equip Christians in two distinct ways. Firstly, they should help us think about how we engage in faith conversation with friends. Secondly, they help us see that our faith is not only about a Sunday morning meeting but about how we engage with all of life.

Background Information

Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson (born 19 June 1964) is a British politician who has served as Mayor of London since 2008.

Born in New York to English parents from prominent families, Johnson was educated at the European School of Brussels, Ashdown House School, and Eton College. He read Classics at Balliol College, Oxford, where he was a member of the Bullingdon Club and was elected President of the Oxford Union in 1986. Beginning his career in journalism at The Times, he soon moved to The Daily Telegraph; as the newspaper's Brussels correspondent, his articles were a strong influence on growing Eurosceptic sentiment among the British right-wing. He became Assistant Editor from 1994 to 1999 before taking editorship of The Spectator, a position he held until 2005. Initially coming to public attention as a journalist, he became editor of The Spectator in 1999, then later served as the Member of Parliament for Henley from 2001 until 2008. A member of the Conservative Party, Johnson describes himself as a One Nation Conservative and has been associated with both economically liberal and socially liberal policies.

Joining the Conservatives, he was elected MP for Henley in 2001. During his period in the House of Commons, Johnson became one of the most conspicuous politicians in the country, authoring books and making regular television appearances. Under Conservative leaders Michael Howard and David Cameron, Johnson served on the opposition front bench, first as Shadow Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries and then for Higher Education.

Selected as Conservative candidate for the 2008 London mayoral election, Johnson defeated Labour incumbent Ken Livingstone to become Mayor, resigning his seat in parliament. During his first term, he banned alcohol on public transport and oversaw the 2012 London Olympic Games. In 2012, he was re-elected as Mayor, again defeating Livingstone. On 12 September 2014, Johnson was adopted as the Conservative Party candidate as MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip in the 2015 general election.

Johnson is a controversial figure in British politics and journalism. Supporters praised him as an entertaining and popular figure, while critics accused him of racism and homophobia, laziness, and dishonest reporting. He is the subject of several biographies and a number of fictionalised portrayals.

Preaching Points

1. Boris' vision for a better London is biblical

- Jeremiah 29v5-7 – For the welfare of the city!
- Story of Nehemiah – Neh 2v2-5 - Rebuild the walls of London with the same heart & passion that Nehemiah had

Possible Illustrations:

- 'For the good of the City' – the work of many Christian charities including - XLP, London City Mission, Street pastors, Foodbanks, other groups...
- Stories of Christians working for the good of the city in the past – William Booth & work of Salvation Army

2. Boris is himself – He never hides from his personality & quirks

- 1 Sam 16v7 - Be who you are! God looks on the inside
- 2 Sam 6v14-23 - 'Fool for Christ' – undignified!
- 1 Cor 1v18-25 – Fools for the gospel

Possible Illustrations:

- 'Fool for Christ' e.g. Arthur Wallis carrying the cross around the world
- 'Be Yourself' - Susan Boyle on Britain's Got Talent audition
- Some of the most famous Christians who impacted the world were very odd people! E.g. Spurgeon, Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, etc...

3. Boris loves to laugh & brings joy to many situations

- Neh 8v10 – The joy of the Lord is my strength
- God loves joy and laughter in life – He is the ultimate joy giver. Boris you are closer than you think to the heart of God.

Possible Illustrations

- Personal stories from your own life which make people laugh – don't take yourself too seriously!
- Christian comedians e.g. Milton Jones, Tim Vine, etc...
- Examples in the gospels of Jesus' sense of humour e.g. stories about planks in eyes, etc...

4. Boris is always looking to experience the best in life

- John 10v10 – Jesus alone gives life in all it's fullness
- Looking for the next best thing, affairs, high society, experience the highs that life has to offer, etc..
- Gospel – only in Jesus will Boris find true fulfilment and life

Possible Illustrations:

- F.Mercury Quote 'I had success, money, fame and world idolisation and yet I was the loneliest man in the world' – nothing in life delivers ultimate fulfilment
- Famous personalities who commit suicide e.g. Kurt Cobain, etc...
- Testimonies of people who have found fulfilment and true life in Jesus

Creative Input

- Symbolic – Boris hair e.g. Boris wigs!
- Symbolic - Boris Bikes!
- Stories – Zip wire incident during Olympics when he got stuck, rescuing a woman who was being mugged and chasing after muggers with iron bar, etc...
- Outrageous quotes, for example:
 - '£250,000 paid to write a Telegraph column is chicken feed'
 - "My policy on cake is pro having it and pro eating it."
 - "I am like Gandalf the wizard"
 - "I'd like thousands of schools as good as the one I went to, Eton."
- Pictures of Boris in many hilarious situations at photo opportunities – there are many You-Tube clips & videos under 'Boris Johnson Funny'
- 'Have I Got News For You' – days of hosting

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SJI, The Church, Tolverne Road, Raynes Park, London, SW20 8RA

020 8944 5678

info@sharejesusinternational.com

www.sharejesusinternational.com

Registered charity number: 1089784