



# WHO IS THIS JESUS?

A DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE for FAMILIES



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## **SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The book you now have in your hands has been a labor of love. It began with a realization that no matter how excellent and effective our teaching may be, it cannot compete with the influence of you as parents. God has called you specifically and gifted you uniquely to lead your kids “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Plainly said, you are the greatest spiritual influence in the lives of your kids. To some of you that is a very intimidating and overwhelming thought (I know I feel that way).

Therefore, we as the church want to help encourage and equip you in your role as the primary discipler of your children, and that is why this book exists. Our goal is to set you up in the best way that we can to have spiritual conversations as a family. Our hope is that you will have opportunities on Sundays, perhaps at lunch after Sunday school, as well as a couple of times a week with the Family Devotionals provided, to talk about God and His importance in our everyday lives.

To help accomplish this, we have standardized the Sunday school curriculum so that everyone from JK-12th grade will be learning the same things each week (age appropriately, of course). This allows you as parents to know exactly what all of your kids are learning without having to keep track of multiple e-mails or schedules. Below you will find exactly what is included and how best to use it.

## OUTLINE

We provide you with the main points that your students will be learning each week. We do this so you can be best prepared to discuss what they learned and answer any questions that might come up. We also have included a lengthy section of context for each lesson. We believe it is important for all of us to see how each story in the Bible does not stand alone, but instead fits into the larger drama that God has unfolded.

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS**

The point of these questions is to be conversation starters for you as a family. They are not exhaustive as to the content of what your children have learned that Sunday, but should just get things started for your family. Our hope is that your children will come to expect a conversation about what they learned in Sunday school for two main reasons. First, we want them to see spiritual conversations as a normal and important part of life and second, we hope this expectation will make them more attentive to what they are learning.

## **FAMILY DEVOS**

We have provided two days worth of Family Devotionals for you to do as a family at home. We chose this number so as to not overwhelm families or discourage them for not being able to live up to expectations. Our hope is that the two provided will be a springboard for even more times of family worship during the

## SUNDAY TEACHING

week. The two we have included will help build a foundation for the Bible character that they will study on Sunday. You will also see a page on "How to Do Family Devotions" which is there only as a resource for you and not a concrete model that must be followed. In the end, the most important thing is for families to spend time together focused on God's Word and prayer; how that is accomplished is secondary.

*Andrew Keasling*

# HOW TO DO FAMILY DEVOTIONS

When discussing family devotions, the first thing you must know is that there is not just one correct way to do them. Each family is made up of distinct individuals, each with a different personality. Therefore, trying to create a “one-size-fits-all” approach to family devotions is foolish. Below are some helpful hints and guidelines as you lead your devotions. Some of them will be very helpful, while some you will realize do not work for your family. In the end, the point is for you as a family to take time together, reading God’s Word and praying together. However you accomplish this is truly a secondary concern.

## **PLACE MATTERS**

- It will be important to find a consistent place where you always do family devotions. Changing the location can drastically change the dynamics.
- Everyone should be at the same eye level. You don’t want some on the floor and some in chairs or on the couch. This will encourage participation by all members because they will feel as if they are a part of the group.
- Minimize the distractions. Honestly, doing family devotions is hard enough! Only you know what might distract your kids so be sure you eliminate as many interruptions as possible.

## **PRAYER MATTERS**

- It is important for your children to see the importance of prayer. Therefore, be sure that you pray to begin and end your time together. Often it works best to choose one family member to open the time in prayer (which also helps settle busy hearts). At the end is an opportunity to let everyone pray.
- Give your children a role in prayer. One of the things that my family does that has been successful is that we have four prayer categories: 1- Zachary’s class, 2- Bryson’s Class, 3- Our extended family and friends, and 4- Missions. Each time we give someone in the house one of these prayer categories. To minimize the “I want...” of our children, we rotate who assigns who to prayer. That way, everyone gets a chance to decide who prays for what. It has saved a lot of disagreements. For our missions category, we alternate between a Mission Memphis partner and a World Missions partner and it has been such a blessing to watch and hear our kids pick up on and pray for those ministries. We also switch it up some nights and just have a time of confession or adoration or thanksgiving so they don’t think of God as just someone from whom you ask things.

## THE WORD MATTERS

- God's Word is the only thing He promises will bear fruit. It is so important to not only expose them to God's Word but also to teach them how to think about it. One of the best ways to start doing this is to continually remind them that these stories are REAL - Isaiah 55:11.
- Get them to interact with the Bible for themselves. It is a huge temptation to just provide the answers for them (since we know everything) but they will get so much more out of it if they think about it for themselves. The hardest part for me in this is that I lose the control. I have to constantly remind myself that I want them to get something out of God's Word and not get frustrated when they don't get out what I want them to.
- Encourage every little step. It will be very important to encourage every interaction they have with God's Word. They will be more willing to share when they know it is a safe place for them to come with their thoughts. At times, that will mean you are going to go down some rabbit trails, but it will be worth the journey. As a part of that, you need to make sure that they get the truth; this means gently correcting when their theology gets out of whack.

## TIME MATTERS

- One of the most important things you are teaching your children is that being together is very important. Just the simple act of carving out time every week that does not involve the TV or a meal out will bear fruit. The intentional act of studying the Word and prayer together will bear fruit even if it is down the line.
- Have fun! I know it sounds silly but if your kids have fun doing family devotions, they will want to keep doing them. For us, that is a short game or a role playing moment at the beginning but for you, it can be whatever. Sometimes I think we are afraid that we will be irreverent when we attempt to have fun, but we must remember that God created fun and laughter, so participating in those activities pleases Him.

*Andrew Keasling*

# D6 DRIVING VALUES

At Second, we believe in three guiding principles, known as the D6 Driving Values. We hope that as you and your family go through these devotions together, you will be further encouraged in your relationship with the Lord, your church community, and in your Kingdom mission.

## The Lord is my primary devotion.

- Confronted by the holiness of Christ, I seek Him in daily worship, prayer, and repentance. *Isaiah 6:1-8*
- Compelled by the love of Christ, I strive to be obedient to Him in my thoughts, words, and deeds. *II Corinthians 5:14*
- Created new in Christ, my identity is no longer in the things of this world. *II Corinthians 5:17*
- Confident of the eternity secured for me in Christ, I have peace in the midst of the troubles of this life. *Phillipians 4:6-7*

## The Church is my primary community.

- Knowing that the Gospel liberates me from idols, I cannot imagine not joyfully worshipping God every week with my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Thessalonians 1:9b*
- Knowing that the Church is called to be a holy nation, set apart from the things of the world, I will embrace this calling by seeking to be Christ-like in all aspects of my life. *I Peter 2:9-12*
- Knowing that I am a steward of my resources and not an owner, I cheerfully release my resources to build His Kingdom and not my own. *Matthew 25:14-30*
- Knowing that the Body of Christ is essential to my sanctification, I actively seek relationship and accountability within the church in order to grow in Christ. *Ephesians 4:11-16*
- Knowing that God has given me spiritual gifts to use in the church, I willingly serve. *I Corinthians 12:4-7*
- Knowing that Jesus is present where two or more are gathered in His name, I happily pray with and for my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Matthew 18:20*

## Building Christ's Kingdom is my primary mission.

- Belonging to Christ's Kingdom causes us to live as a distinct people who are called to be about applying Christ's work of redemption as far as the curse is found as we eagerly await His imminent return and the renewal of all things. *Romans 8:19-21*
- Building Christ's Kingdom in all of life is an act of worship, and the reason I am alive is to multiply worshippers and redeem culture. *II Corinthians 5:16-21*
- Building Christ's Kingdom begins in multiplying worshippers of Christ in my own household. *Joshua 24:15*
- Building Christ's Kingdom is the lens through which I filter every decision as I further the work of redemption. *Romans 12:1-2*
- Building Christ's Kingdom prioritizes Christ's work of redemption to the extent of intentionally sacrificing our time, money, and talents in furthering the application of the redemption of Christ. *I Corinthians 10:31-33*



## TEACHING SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TITLE	FOCUS
1	Aug. 16	Intro	Colossians 1:15-20
2	Aug. 23	Son of God	Matthew 3:13-17
3	Aug. 30	Our Great High Priest	Matthew 4:1-11
4	Sept. 6	Lamb of God	John 1:19-34
5	Sept. 13	Inclusive	John 4:1-30
6	Sept. 20	Teacher about the Kingdom	Matthew 13:44-45
7	Sept. 27	In Control of Nature	Luke 8:22-25
8	Oct. 4	One who Frees	Mark 5:1-20
9	Oct. 11	Helper of Those in Need	Mark 6:30-44
10	Oct. 18	Honest about Hard Things	Matthew 10:16-25
11	Oct. 25	Bread of Life	John 6:25-40
12	Nov. 1	Messiah	Matthew 16:13-20
13	Nov. 8	Glorious	Matthew 17:1-8
14	Nov. 15	Light of the World	John 8:12-20
15	Nov. 22	Good Shepherd	John 10:1-18
16	Nov. 29	Revealer of God's Heart	Luke 15:11-32
17	Dec. 6	Fulfillment of God's Promises	Matthew 1:1-17
18	Dec. 13	Word Made Flesh	John 1:1-3; 14
19	Dec. 20	Humble	Matthew 1:18-25
---	Dec. 27	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHRISTMAS
20	Jan. 3	Miracle Worker	John 11:1-45
21	Jan. 10	Loving	Mark 17:13-22
22	Jan. 17	Compassionate	Matthew 20:29-34
23	Jan. 24	Friend of Sinners	Luke 19:1-10
24	Jan. 31	Fulfillment of Prophecy	Matthew 21:1-11
25	Feb. 7	Protector of Worship	Mark 11:15-19
26	Feb. 14	Servant	John 13:1-16
27	Feb. 21	The Way, The Truth, and The Life	John 14:1-7
---	Feb. 28	WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE	
28	Mar. 6	Vine	John 15:1-11
29	Mar. 13	Man of Prayer	John 17:1-26
30	Mar. 20	Great I AM	John 18:1-11
---	Mar. 27	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	EASTER
31	Apr. 3	Trusting	Mark 14:53-65
32	Apr. 10	Forgiving	Luke 23:32-43
33	Apr. 17	Sacrifice	Matthew 27:45-56
34	Apr. 24	One Who Conquered Death	Matthew 28:1-10
35	May 1	Gracious with Our Doubts	John 20:24-29
36	May 8	Missional	Matthew 28:16-20
37	May 15	Not Done	Acts 1:6-11

# WHO IS THIS JESUS?

*And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" Mark 4:41*

It is pretty early in Jesus' earthly ministry and He constantly finds Himself surrounded by the crowds on a daily basis. The people are drawn to this new traveling rabbi who not only teaches but does so with great power. Rumors swirl about the miracles He performs so people come to see this man for themselves. They are so fascinated by Jesus because He is different from the religious leaders they find at the temple. Therefore, the news about Him is moving quickly throughout the whole region and the crowds grow daily. The people crowd around and hang on every word, but they are still unsure as to who this man is. Is he Elijah returned? Is he another prophet? Is he a deceiver? Is he a revolutionary who has come to free us from Rome? Could he be the long awaited Messiah?

Along with the growing throngs of people, Jesus has a small band of consistent followers. Each of them has had a unique and powerful experience with Jesus and they respond by giving up their whole lives to travel around with Him as His disciples. They have had a front row view to many things that they can't explain and have been constantly hearing Jesus speak about the Kingdom of God. Still, we find that even with all the evidence they have seen and heard, they too have questions about who this Jesus really is.

We see this very clearly when they witness Jesus calming the storm. It had been a hard day of ministry and Jesus and the disciples leave in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. On the way, Jesus falls asleep and a great storm comes up and the disciples fear for their lives. They wake Jesus not in expectation of a miracle but simply as another hand to row and bail out the boat. Instead, we are told that Jesus "rebuked the winds and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!'" and the waves and the winds obeyed Jesus and became calm.

The disciples found themselves dumbfounded by what occurred and perplexed at what it all meant. All that they thought they knew about who Jesus was was called into question. They knew He was a great teacher and they knew He could do some miracles, but it was something else entirely for Him to have mastery over that which man could not control, nature itself. This encounter was a turning point in the lives of the disciples as they went from following a rabbi to an acknowledgement that they were with the Son of God. Unfortunately, their faith wavered at times and they needed constant reminders of who Jesus was, but then, don't we need those too?

"Who is Jesus?" There is no more important question that any of us will answer in our lives, for our answer to it determines our eternity. As Christians today, we find ourselves confronted with the same doubts and concerns of the crowd around us. Many are curious about Jesus but prefer to put Him in a box where He can be managed and controlled. We live in a cynical world that distrusts anything that can't be seen or easily quantified. Therefore, we need to be SURE of who Jesus is in order not only to live for Him in this world but also to share the words of eternal life we have been given through Him.

Therefore, this year we will attempt to become experts on Jesus. Like good detectives, we will follow the clues that God has left for us so we can be prepared for the doubts of the world, as well as of our own hearts, about Jesus.

Ultimately, what I want us to do is see Jesus for who He truly is (the embodiment of God the Father) and once we do to find Him ultimately fulfilling and beautiful. Based on those assumptions, my hope and goal is to answer these fundamental questions with each account of Jesus we study:

- What does this account tell me about Jesus?
- Why is it important that Jesus is this or does this for me?
- How should I live differently because of who Jesus is?

*Andrew Keasling*

WEEK

1

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# INTRODUCTION

## **PURPOSE**

“So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

It is very important to know what we believe about Jesus.

# INTRODUCTION

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## COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

### Context

- Paul is writing to church of Colosse
- The church there was being influenced to believe lies about who Jesus was
- Paul wanted to clearly address who Jesus was for them

### Outline

- I. **Jesus is image of invisible God**
  - A. We see God by looking at Jesus
    - i. See His character and nature
    - ii. See His heart
    - iii. See His power
    - iv. Hebrews 1:3, John 14:9
- II. **Jesus is firstborn over all creation**
  - A. He created everything
    - i. Was present and active when universe was formed
    - ii. Everything is under His command because He made it all
  - B. He created everything for Him
    - i. Was intended to bring Him Glory
    - ii. Jesus planned and produced everything for His pleasure
  - C. Firstborn
    - i. Doesn't mean He was born
    - ii. Means that He gets and deserves all the rights of the oldest child
    - iii. Is the heir of all things

**III. He holds all things together**

- A. Jesus didn't just create and let it fall into chaos
- B. Jesus is constantly at work now keeping the world spinning
- C. He is in control even when it doesn't feel like it

**IV. He is the Head of the Body which is the Church**

- A. Jesus works through His people
- B. Jesus has given us His mission and purpose
  - i. Calls us to reflect God
  - ii. Calls us to spread the Gospel
- C. He is over all things

**V. The fullness of God dwells in Jesus**

- A. He has all of God's power and strength
- B. He is lacking nothing; He was 100% God

**VI. He came to reconcile all people to Himself**

- A. Came with purpose to die - to pay the penalty for our sins
- B. Made us right with God by taking away our sins

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How does Jesus show us God?
- What was Jesus' involvement with creation? Why does that matter?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How does Jesus show God to you?
- What difference does it make that Jesus created everything?
- How do you feel about Jesus holding all things together?
- How are you continuing His mission? How should you?



WEEK

2

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# SON OF GOD

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Son of God  
and to see why that matters for us.



# SON OF GOD

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## MATTHEW 3:13-17

### Context

- Jesus has come to the Earth and is about to begin His ministry
- God had sent John the Baptist to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of the Messiah
- John and his followers had been baptizing and telling people to repent
- Jesus Himself goes out to John in wilderness to also be baptized

### Outline

- I. **Jesus came out to be baptized**
  - A. John the Baptist was baptizing those who were repenting of their sins
    - i. They were sorry and wanting to turn away from their sin
  - B. Jesus didn't need to be baptized
    - i. He hadn't sinned
    - ii. His baptism was for our sakes
      - a. Wanted to make connection between John the Baptist's ministry and His
        1. To show that John was the one spoken about in Isaiah
      - b. Wanted to identify with us
      - c. Was the perfect situation to start His ministry
        1. God would speak to Him for the crowd to hear
- II. **Holy Spirit shows up at Jesus' baptism**
  - A. Falls on Him like a dove
    - i. Dove was symbol of purity and peace
    - ii. So that all could see

- B. Rested on Him
  - i. Stayed with Him more than just a moment

### III. God shows up at Jesus' baptism

- A. When babies get baptized it is so fun to watch the parents' faces
  - i. They are so happy and proud of their little one
- B. God the Father shows up to speak to His Son
  - i. A voice from heaven
    - a. The people around heard what God said
    - b. They hadn't heard from God in 700 years
    - c. Since the last prophets
      - 1. Was a very big deal
  - ii. Quotes from Isaiah 42:1
    - a. Shows that Jesus is the Messiah who had been promised
  - iii. This is my Son
    - a. Makes it very plain and clear who Jesus was
  - iv. Beloved Son
    - a. Makes it very clear how God feels about Jesus
  - v. With whom I am well pleased
    - a. God recognizes Jesus' obedience
      - 1. Gave up heaven to put on flesh and come to Earth
      - 2. Willing to come and suffer and die for us

### IV. So What??!!

- A. Jesus is equal to God
  - i. Made of the same substance
  - ii. Has all the power and abilities that God has
- B. Jesus gives us access to God
  - i. As God's Son Jesus allows us to know God better

- C. Jesus identifies with you
  - i. Understands the hardships of humanity
  - ii. Lives the perfect life that you could not live for yourself

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What did God say to Jesus at His baptism?
- Why is it important that Jesus is the Son of God?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- Why did Jesus allow Himself to be baptized?
- Why is it important that Jesus is the Son of God?
- What difference does it make for you that Jesus is the Son of God?

# SON OF GOD

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who has the loudest voice of anyone that you know? How do people react when they speak loudly?

## READ JOHN 12:27-36

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus say about “this hour”?
- What does Jesus call God in verse 28?
- Who speaks in verse 28? What does He say?
- How did the crowd respond to the voice?
- Why did Jesus say that the voice came?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What is Jesus talking about when He refers to “this hour”?
- What does it mean to glorify God? What are some practical ways that you can glorify God in your life?
- What does it mean that God is Jesus’ Father?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How do you handle situations when your “soul is troubled”?
- What are some practical ways in which you can glorify God in your life?
- What does verse 32 tell us about why Jesus died?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# SON OF GOD

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could choose only one person on Earth to protect you, who would it be and why?

## READ JOHN 10:22-39

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where do we find Jesus here and who is around Him?
- What question do the Jews ask Him? Why do you think they asked Him that?
- What does Jesus call His people in verse 27?
- What does Jesus say about His sheep in verse 29? How does that make you feel?
- What does Jesus say in verse 30? Why is that important?
- What did they try to do to Jesus in verse 39? What happened?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What questions are your friends asking about Jesus? Why?
- What does Jesus say about His sheep in verses 27-29?
- Why was what Jesus was saying so controversial? How is Jesus controversial today?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What questions do you have about Jesus?
- What difference does it make that Jesus and the Father are one?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

3

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# OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is our Great High Priest  
and to see why that matters for us.



# OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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## MATTHEW 4:1-11

### Context

- Jesus has come to the Earth and is about to begin His ministry
- He had been baptized by John the Baptist as an outward sign of the beginning of His ministry
- Although he didn't need to be baptized He did so to relate to us
- At the baptism, God speaks to Jesus and the crowd proclaiming that Jesus is His Beloved Son with whom He is well pleased
- With this, Jesus' public ministry begins

### Outline

- I. Jesus' temptation was part of God's plan
  - A. He was led by the Spirit He was given at His baptism into wilderness to be tempted
  - B. God would use this moment for Jesus and for us
- II. Jesus' temptation
  - A. Came from the devil
    - i. Was actively trying to get Jesus to sin
    - ii. Temptation is not same as sin
      - a. Temptation is the invitation to sin
  - B. Started with fasting
    - i. Jesus didn't eat for 40 days and nights
    - ii. Would be very weak in that condition because He was human

**III. Temptation #1- Command these stones to become bread**

- A. Devil was questioning whether he was Son of God
  - i. Trying to appeal to His pride
  - ii. "If you are then prove it..."
- B. He was very hungry so bread would be a good thing
  - i. Needed food to survive
  - ii. Had power to turn stones to bread
- C. What was the problem?
  - i. Did Jesus trust God to provide for Him?
  - ii. If He did this He was taking things into His own hands instead of trusting God
    - a. Does God really love you?
    - b. Has God forgotten you?
- D. Jesus' Response
  - i. Quotes Scripture to Devil from Deuteronomy 8:3
  - ii. Knows that we need more than just physical things to live
    - a. Bread and things of this world will never truly satisfy us
  - iii. Obeying God was more important than eating

**IV. Temptation #2- Throw yourself down so God can save you and others will see who you are**

- A. Devil took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem
  - i. Was the center of life in the city
  - ii. Always crowds there and around it
- B. Devil uses Scripture to tempt Jesus
  - i. Quotes from Psalm 91:11-12
  - ii. Was trying to use God's Word against Him
  - iii. If you really believe in God's Word then put it to the test
- C. What was the temptation?
  - i. Devil was trying to get Jesus to make it about Him
    - a. He could get people to believe in Him without having to suffer

- b. Could get a quick following without the hard work
    - 1. Would they truly believe or constantly ask for more signs
  - ii. If Jesus jumped off the temple and the crowds saw the angels keep Him from falling they would surely believe. Much easier way than living among them for three years
- D. Jesus' Response
- i. Quotes Scripture back to the devil - Deuteronomy 6:16
  - ii. You shall not put the Lord your God to the test
    - a. Jesus was trusting God's plan
    - b. Knows that God loves Him and has best for Him so doesn't need God to constantly prove it to Him
- V. **Temptation #3- I will give you the world if you bow down to me**
- A. Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and promised them to Him
- i. All Jesus had to do was bow down and worship the devil
- B. Was a shortcut to accomplish His purpose
- i. Get the world without the suffering of the cross
  - ii. God had already promised the nations to Jesus - Psalm 2:8
  - iii. Was not why He came
    - a. He didn't come to gain the world for Himself but to gain heaven for us
    - b. If He didn't suffer and die there would still be no hope in eternity for His followers
- C. Jesus responds by telling Satan to leave Him and quotes Scripture again
- VI. **Jesus as our High Priest**
- A. The High Priest would go before God for the people
- i. Was the one who spoke to God on the people's behalf
  - ii. Offered sacrifices for the forgiveness of the people's sins
  - iii. Was a representative for them because He was like them
- B. Jesus is the One that goes before God for us
- i. He speaks to God on our behalf - Romans 8:34
  - ii. He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins - Romans 3:25
  - iii. He can represent us because He is like us - Hebrews 4:15

## VII. So What??!!

- A. Jesus undid what Adam and Eve did
  - i. Turned away from temptation instead of giving into it
  - ii. Gave us a way to stand up under temptation—Holy Spirit
- B. Jesus can relate to us when we are tempted
  - i. He was tempted in EVERY WAY just as we are yet was without sin
  - ii. He understands the ways that we are tempted and won us the victory over them
- C. How should we handle temptation then?
  - i. Know God's Word for ourselves
    - a. Know when someone is twisting it
    - b. Use it as a weapon against our enemy
  - ii. Tell Satan to be gone
    - a. If we are in Christ, we have the same Spirit that Jesus did
    - b. Need to stand up for what is right
    - c. Need to look for and take God's way out that He provides - 1 Corinthians 10:13

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How does Jesus' temptation help us?
- What difference does it make that Jesus is our High Priest?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- How was Jesus tempted?
- How did Jesus handle temptation?
- How does Jesus relate to us?



# OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time someone protected you or you protected someone else? What happened?

## READ HEBREWS 4:14-16

- Read also Leviticus 16 to understand the role of high priests in the Old Testament.

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 14 call Jesus?
- What did a priest do at this time?
- What are we told about Jesus in verse 15? What does that mean?
- What does verse 16 tell us to do? How do we do that?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What was the role of the High Priest at this time? Why was he so important?
- How has Jesus been tempted in every way as you have been? Why is that such good news?
- How are you confidently approaching God in your everyday life?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How does Jesus act as our High Priest still?
- What should we do because Jesus is our High Priest?—verse 14
- What are we promised if we go to Jesus confidently?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is something that you replaced with something newer? What makes the newer thing better?

## READ HEBREWS 8:1-13

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where does it say that Jesus is seated right now?
- Why is that important for us?
- Why is Jesus' ministry better than that from the Old Testament?—verse 6
- What does God say He will do in verse 8?
- What is a covenant?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does verse 3 say? What does Jesus have to offer?
- Why was Jesus being our priest necessary?
- What does He do for us as our priest?
- What does verse 10 say will happen?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why can't Jesus be our priest and still be on Earth?
- What does verse 5 say? What does that mean?
- What is the promise found in verse 11? How does that make you feel?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

4

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# LAMB OF GOD

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Lamb of God  
and to see why that matters for us.

# LAMB OF GOD

---

## JOHN 1:19-34

### Context

- Jesus has come to the Earth and is about to begin His ministry
- God had sent John the Baptist to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of the Messiah
- John and his followers had been baptizing and telling people to repent

### Outline

- I. **The people were asking who John the Baptist was**
  - A. Many people were going to him
    - i. He would teach them and baptize them
    - ii. "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near"
  - B. He told them who he was and who he wasn't
    - i. Was "voice crying out in wilderness"
      - a. Fulfillment of prophecy from Isaiah 40:3
      - b. Was the one who would come before the Messiah
    - ii. Was NOT the Messiah
      - a. Was the one who would point others to Him
- II. **John the Baptist points people to Jesus**
  - A. Knew his place and purpose
    - i. Verse 31- "...for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel."
  - B. When he saw Jesus he told others to follow Him
    - i. Knew who Jesus was
      - a. Lamb of God

- b. One who comes after will be greater
    - 1. I am not worthy to untie His sandal
  - c. This is the Son of God
- ii. Even sent his own followers after Jesus

### III. Jesus as the Lamb of God

- A. Purpose- Will take away the sin of the world
  - i. Would die for the sins of the people
  - ii. Would pay for their sins so they can be forgiven
  - iii. Would allow people to be in heaven with God for eternity
- B. Picture- Passover- Exodus 12:1-13
  - i. The Israelites would select a perfect lamb
  - ii. They would kill the lamb and put its blood on the doorposts
  - iii. The angel of the Lord would see the blood and pass over them
  - iv. The blood saved them from punishment
- C. For us
  - i. Have you ever wondered why we don't sacrifice animals in church anymore?
  - ii. Jesus was our once-for-all sacrifice
  - iii. He lived perfect life and then died to pay the penalty of our sin and keep the wrath of God from getting to us
    - a. What we deserved was put on Jesus at the cross
    - b. Separation from God

### IV. So What??!!

- A. We don't have to perform to please God
  - i. Jesus did all the work for us
  - ii. We love and obey God out of thankfulness for what He has done
- B. We do have to have faith that Jesus takes away our sins and confess our sins to Him
- C. We should, like John the Baptist's disciples, follow Jesus

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
- How can you point people to Jesus?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What difference does it make that Jesus is Lamb of God?
- What does Jesus do for us as the Lamb of God?
- How are you to be like John the Baptist?
- Who are people you can point to Jesus?

# LAMB OF GOD

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you knew the rules but didn't completely follow them? What happened?

## READ EXODUS 12:1-13

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God tell His people to do?
- What is said about the lamb in verse 5?
- What did they do with its blood? Why?
- What did God do when He saw the blood?
- Who is our lamb now?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What were they supposed to do with the lamb once they picked it and for how long?—verse 6
- What were they to ultimately do with the lamb?
- How is Jesus like the lamb?
- How did God use their obedience?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why were the instructions about the lamb so important?
- What are some things you know God is calling you to do that you have a hard time completely obeying?
- How did God use the lamb with their obedience?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# LAMB OF GOD

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is someone in your life that you feel knows you the best? How do they show it?

## READ ISAIAH 53:4-7

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is this passage talking about?
- What does it mean that He carried our sorrows?
- What does verse 6 say?
- When is a time that you have gone your own way instead of doing what you were supposed to?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does verse 5 say? What does that mean?
- How do you feel about the fact that your sins are what caused Jesus to have to suffer?
- What did God put on Jesus? Why is that so important?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why are Jesus' sufferings and wounds so important to us?
- What do they show us?
- How did Jesus respond to all this punishment? Why is that so surprising?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

5

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# INCLUSIVE

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is inclusive  
and to see why that matters for us.

# INCLUSIVE

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## JOHN 4:1-30

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry
- Jesus had just calmed the storm which has caused the disciples to wonder who Jesus really is

### Outline

- I. **Jesus and the disciples left Judea**
  - A. The Pharisees had heard about the growth of Jesus' ministry
  - B. He had now become a threat to them
- II. **Jesus had to pass through Samaria**
  - A. Jews did not like Samaritans
    - i. They came from time during exile
      - a. Jews married people from the land
      - b. Jews considered them half-breeds
    - ii. Thought they were wrong about worship
      - a. Worshipped in "wrong place"
  - B. Jews would go around Samaria
    - i. Thought even being in their land made them unclean
    - ii. Would walk around Samaria even though it took longer
  - C. Jesus had a divine appointment
    - i. Jesus HAD TO go and talk with her
    - ii. Found her at the well

**III. Jesus does the unthinkable**

- A. Speaks to a woman alone
  - i. Men didn't talk with women in public
  - ii. Could be misinterpreted
- B. Speaks to a Samaritan woman
  - i. Already covered above
  - ii. Jews didn't associate with Samaritans
- C. Speaks to a sinful woman
  - i. Had a reputation
    - a. Had had 5 husbands
    - b. Living with a man not her husband
  - ii. Was why she drew water in middle of the day
    - a. Didn't want to interact with the people of the village
- D. Jesus went to an unlikely woman and talked with her

**IV. Jesus gives her truth**

- A. Calls her out on her sin
- B. Answers her questions about worship
- C. Tells her that He is the Messiah

**V. Her response**

- A. Because of Jesus going to her and sharing truth
- B. She goes to the town and tells them about her
  - i. Come and see
  - ii. One who tells me all that I ever did
  - iii. Can this be the Christ?

**VI. Result of all of this**

- A. Many in the town believed—verse 39
- B. Stayed for 2 days and taught them

VII. So What??!!

- A. Jesus gave us an example to follow
  - i. Went to one the world had forgotten
  - ii. Went out of His way to speak to her and give her truth
  - iii. God used her to bring others to know Jesus

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- Who are people not like you that you need to share the Gospel with?
- How did Jesus include people that others didn't?
- Who are people in your school that you need to include? How will you do that?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- How did Jesus go after those the world thought were unworthy?
- Who are people like that in your own life?
- Who are the people in your life that you need to include that don't feel included?
- How can you do that?
- Who are some people not like you that you need to share the Gospel with?

# INCLUSIVE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you saw someone who needed help? What did you do? Why?

## READ LUKE 10:25-37

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does the lawyer ask Jesus? What was he trying to do?
- What answer does the lawyer give Jesus?
- What question does the man ask Jesus in verse 29?
- What happens in the story?
- Who was the “good guy”?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How does Jesus answer the lawyer?
- What was the man trying to do in verse 29?
- Why was this story so controversial at this time?
- What did the Jews think about Samaritans?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways that those you know are trying to trap Jesus with His own words?
- When is a time you have tried to justify yourself or your actions before God?
- Who are people that you think would be unlikely for God to use?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

NOTES

Lined paper with 20 horizontal lines for writing.

# INCLUSIVE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some things you are very thankful for that God has given you? Have everyone make a list of at least 10 things they are thankful for and spend time thanking God for them.

## READ LUKE 17:11-19

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who did Jesus find as He was going along?
- What do you know about lepers?
- What did the lepers say to Jesus?
- What did Jesus do for them?
- How did the lepers respond?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Who would be looked at the same today as lepers were back then?
- What did Jesus have them do? Why did He tell them to do that?
- What are we told about the only leper who went back to Jesus? Why was that important?
- How does this apply to you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What would it look like if you really took Jesus at His word?
- How did Jesus respond to the one who returned?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

6

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# TEACHER ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the teacher of God's Kingdom  
and to see why that matters for us.

# TEACHER ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

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## MATTHEW 13:44-45

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry and helping them grow in their own faith
- Jesus has met opposition from the religious leaders who are jealous of His popularity
- People from all walks of life were constantly coming up to Jesus and asking Him questions and just wanted to be around Him
- Jesus spent a lot of His teaching revealing to the people they didn't know about God's Kingdom and about God's heart

### Outline

- I. One of Jesus' main purposes in His teaching was to explain the Kingdom of God
  - A. Jesus was bringing in God's Kingdom with Him
  - B. Jesus would call the disciples to spread His glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
- II. What is God's Kingdom?
  - A. The gradual return of Earth to its form from before the Fall
    - i. Will not be finalized until New Heaven and New Earth
    - ii. Is when God's people spread His truth and live in His will
      - a. Will never do it perfectly but growing in it daily
      - b. Every day God's people should spread more of Him by our words and actions
    - iii. Will be us with Him for eternity

B. Two Pictures

i. Hidden Treasure

- a. A man finds a treasure hidden in the field
- b. He sells all he has to buy that field

ii. Pearl of Great Value

- a. A merchant is looking for pearls to sell
- b. Found a very valuable pearl
- c. Sold all he had to buy it

iii. What do these NOT mean?

- a. The Gospel is somehow hidden and we have to find it
- b. That once we realize the truth we have to work really hard and buy our salvation

iv. What does this mean?

- a. The Kingdom of Heaven is very valuable
  - 1. Easy to put value on things of this world but this is greater than all else
- b. The Kingdom of Heaven is worth it
  - 1. They willingly gave all they had for it
  - 2. It was worth any sacrifice and any price

III. So What??!!

A. God offers us something of great value—His Kingdom

- i. In eternity—eternity in His perfect presence
  - a. No crying, pain, suffering, death, sickness, stress, etc.
- ii. Now—I have come that they may have life and life to the full- John 10:10
  - a. God wants us to experience the fullness of life now
  - b. A life lived in service to God is full of joy

B. We should be willing to trade everything for it

- i. Many things will distract us from God
- ii. Is He your greatest treasure?

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What things are the most valuable to you? Why?
- What does the Kingdom of God mean to you?
- What would it look like if Jesus was your greatest treasure?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What do we learn about the Kingdom from Jesus?
- What things are most valuable to you? Why?
- How do we get to be part of the Kingdom?

# TEACHER ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could get someone to pay you to do anything for a job, what would you do?

## READ MATTHEW 20:1-16

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus say the kingdom of heaven is like?
- How much does the man pay the first people he hires?
- How much does the man pay the people he hires after 3 hours? 6 hours? 11 hours?
- Does that seem fair? Why or why not?
- Did he pay them what he promised them?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How would you feel if you were one of the first workers hired? Hired after 3 hours? 6 hours? 11 hours?
- How did the workers respond? Why?
- What does Jesus say about this in verses 13-16?
- What does this say about God's Kingdom?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What things are you grumbling to the Lord about in your life?
- What are ways that you also think God is unfair?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# TEACHER ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If someone gave you \$1 million, what would you do with it?

## READ LUKE 19:11-27

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is Jesus doing here?
- What does the nobleman give to each of his servants? What does he tell them to do?
- What does each servant do with the money he has been given?
- What are some of the gifts and talents that God has given you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does the master say to the first servant?
- What does he say to the second servant?
- What does he say to the last servant?
- Why do you think he did that?
- How are you "investing" the gifts God has given you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways you can be using the gifts God has given you to advance His Kingdom?
- What is keeping you from doing it?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

7

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# IN CONTROL OF NATURE

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is in control of nature  
and to see why that matters for us.

# IN CONTROL OF NATURE

---

**LUKE 8:22-25**

## Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry and helping them grow in their own faith

## Outline

- I. **Jesus and the disciples were leaving after long day of ministry**
  - A. Mark tells us in his account that it was at end of day filled with teaching
  - B. As they often did they were going to the other side
- II. **A storm comes up as they sail**
  - A. Many of the disciples were fishermen so they were used to sailing through storms
    - i. The Sea of Galilee is 600 feet below sea level and surrounded by mountains so storms can develop quickly and funnel down
    - ii. The storms have strong winds and create massive waves
  - B. This storm must have been especially bad
    - i. These seasoned fishermen were scared for their lives
      - a. Told Jesus that they were perishing
- III. **Jesus' response**
  - A. Jesus slept through the storm
    - i. Shows us that He is completely human
    - ii. He was so tired that the wind and waves didn't affect Him

- B. Jesus spoke to the winds and waves
  - i. He spoke to them like a misbehaving child
    - a. Mark tells us His words
    - b. Peace! Be still!
  - ii. Only 3 words and the sea was calm
    - a. Typically a storm such as this lessens gradually before it stops but this one stopped immediately
  - iii. He could have calmed it with His thoughts but wanted the disciples to hear and experience His power
    - a. He wanted them to have faith that He was in control
    - b. Reminded them that they had nothing to fear
- C. Jesus questions their faith
  - i. Seems not very nice to them after such a scary moment
  - ii. They had forgotten all they had seen and heard
    - a. It's easy to forget what is true when things get hard
    - b. Have to remember in the dark what we knew to be true in the light
  - iii. Jesus had given them a promise
    - a. Let us go across to the other side of the lake
    - b. They were called to trust Him at His word
- D. The disciples were amazed and scared
  - i. If Jesus can control nature and the weather then there is nothing that He can't do
  - ii. For fishermen, storms at sea would be one of their biggest fears and Jesus showed them they had nothing to fear

#### IV. So What??!!

- A. Jesus is WAY more powerful than you think He is
  - i. Jesus could control nature which no one else can predict much less control
  - ii. Jesus created the world so He can control it all
  - iii. Jesus created us so He knows us best
  - iv. Ephesians 3:20- Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us

- B. You can trust Jesus at His Word
  - i. He has given us many promises
    - a. Never leave or forsake us, We are His children, etc.
    - b. 2 Corinthians 1:20
- C. You can trust Jesus with your fears
  - i. Jesus knows your fears and has overcome them
  - ii. He has conquered sin and death so He has conquered your fears

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean for you that Jesus can control nature?
- What are some fears you can trust Jesus with?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How do you limit God's power?
- How did Jesus show His power?
- How can you trust Jesus with your fears?

# IN CONTROL OF NATURE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could control one thing about nature what would it be? Why?

## READ MATTHEW 14:22-33

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus have the disciples do?
- What does Jesus do after He dismisses the crowd?
- Where was the boat when Jesus was finished?
- What does Jesus do? How did the disciples react? Why?
- How does Jesus make them feel better?
- What does He tell Peter to do?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How does Peter show his faith in Jesus?
- What is amazing about what he did?
- What happens to Peter while on the water? Why?
- How did Jesus respond to Peter?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What things in your life make you take your eyes off Jesus?
- What things cause you to doubt?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# IN CONTROL OF NATURE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the coolest and the scariest thing you have ever seen in nature? Why?

## READ MATTHEW 27:45-54

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened for 3 hours on the day mentioned?
- Why do you think it went dark? Who made it that way?
- What was it that Jesus said on the cross? Why is that so important?
- What happened after Jesus died? Why is that amazing?
- What did the centurion say after all this happened?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does the whole land being dark represent?
- What does it say that Jesus did with His Spirit? Why is that important?
- What is the significance of the temple curtain being torn in two? Why does that help us today?
- What would it take for you to truly believe who Jesus says He is?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why are Jesus' words and actions so important here?
- Why do you think all this happened during Jesus' crucifixion and death?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

8

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# ONE WHO FREES

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is One who frees  
and to see why that matters for us.

# ONE WHO FREES

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## MARK 5:1-20

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry
- Jesus had just calmed the storm which caused the disciples to wonder who Jesus really was

### Outline

- I. **Jesus and the disciples were in land of the Gerasenes**
  - A. Small village by the Sea of Galilee
  - B. Had crossed the Sea by boat to get there
- II. **The problem**
  - A. There was a man in that village who had an unclean spirit
    - i. Lived among the tombs—not near other people
    - ii. Would constantly scream and cut himself
    - iii. The people were very scared of him and tried to stop him
      - a. He was so strong he couldn't be tied up or chained
      - b. No one was strong enough to control him
  - B. The man approaches Jesus when He got off the boat
    - i. Speaks to Jesus—unclean spirit did the talking
      - a. What are you going to do with me?
      - b. Please don't torture me
    - ii. Shows that he knew who Jesus was

- a. Jesus, Son of Most High God
- iii. Shows that he knew Jesus' power
  - a. Knew He could hurt the spirit and cast it out of the man

### III. Jesus' response

- A. Not afraid of the man like the crowd was
- B. Saw the man's real problem—was a prisoner
  - i. Not with chains or a jail but by the spirit
  - ii. Was hurting him and isolating him and there was nothing he could do
- C. Jesus frees the man
  - i. Tells the unclean spirit to come out
    - a. The spirit actually says that there were many spirits in him
  - ii. The Legion ask to go into the pigs
    - a. If they can't destroy the man they can the pigs
    - b. Jesus allows them to do that
    - c. Shows His concern for people over creation
    - d. Pigs ran into the sea and drowned

### IV. Response of the people

- A. People from the village
  - i. Heard what Jesus did and about the man and pigs
  - ii. They were afraid of Jesus' power
  - iii. Begged Jesus to leave them
- B. The man freed from the spirits
  - i. Man was completely healed
    - a. Sitting in his right mind
    - b. Could have a normal life again
  - ii. Asked to go with Jesus
    - a. Out of thankfulness for what Jesus had done for him
    - b. Wanted to be a part of His ministry

- iii. Jesus gave him a different mission
    - a. Sent him instead to his home and his friends
      - 1. People he knew well and knew him
      - 2. God wanted to use him to reach those who hadn't yet been able to hear
      - 3. He would have a ministry to them that no one else could have
    - b. Told him just to tell them what He had done for him
      - 1. Didn't have to have all the answers
- V. So What??!!
- A. Jesus has freed us as well
    - i. We don't feel trapped, but sin has power over us
    - ii. Jesus freed us from power of sin by dying on the cross
    - iii. Jesus has set us free to love and follow Him
  - B. How will you respond to Jesus?
    - i. Afraid
      - a. Are you scared what Jesus might ask you to do?
    - ii. Thankful
      - a. Do you realize all that He has done for you?
      - b. Are you willing to be used by God to spread the Gospel?
      - c. Is God's gift greater than your fear?
  - C. Who has God placed in your life to tell about Jesus?
    - i. God has put people in your life so that He can get to them through you
    - ii. You may be the only Jesus that some people see every day
    - iii. Who are those people in your life?
      - a. In your family?
      - b. At your school?
      - c. In your neighborhood?

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How did God show His power?
- Who in your life can you share with about Jesus?
- What difference does it make that Jesus frees us?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What has Jesus freed you from?
- Who has God placed in your life so you can share with them?



# ONE WHO FREES

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could change one thing about Memphis what would it be? Why?

## READ MARK 1:21-28

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was Jesus doing here? Where was He doing it?
- What did the people think about His teaching?
- What happened next and what did Jesus do about it?
- What did the evil spirit say about Jesus?
- How did people respond to what Jesus did?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why was it important that Jesus would teach in the synagogues?
- What was so different about how Jesus taught?
- Why is it interesting that the evil spirit was in the synagogue?
- What does it mean that the evil spirit knew who Jesus was?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How does Jesus' teaching have authority in your life right now?
- What would it look like for you to acknowledge Jesus like this in public? What keeps you from doing it?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





# ONE WHO FREES

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you were free to do whatever you wanted at school/work, what would you do differently? Why?

## READ LUKE 11:14-23

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus do here?
- How did the people respond?
- What does Jesus say in verse 23?
- What are ways in which you can be with Jesus?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How does Jesus show His power here?
- What were the people thinking about Jesus? How did He know?
- How did He respond to them?
- What story does He tell to make His point?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are some of the false things that people say about Jesus today? How do you respond?
- Does verse 23 encourage you or discourage you? Why?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

9

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# HELPER OF THOSE IN NEED

## **PURPOSE**

“So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is a helper of those in need  
and to see why that matters for us.

# HELPER OF THOSE IN NEED

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## MARK 6:30-44

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry
- Jesus had just sent the disciples out in groups of two proclaiming and teaching

### Outline

- I. **The disciples return to Jesus and ready for a break**
  - A. Had been going to many towns and villages and calling people to repent
  - B. Going from home to home
  - C. Jesus was preparing them for some rest- verse 31
    - i. Come away to desolate place and rest
    - ii. Disciples got in boat to get away
- II. **The people interrupt**
  - A. Jesus and the disciples were recognized by the people
  - B. Word spread and a crowd literally ran around the lake from all the surrounding towns
    - i. They even beat the boat across
  - C. Jesus and disciples come ashore to find a large crowd waiting on them

### III. The compassion of Jesus

- A. Would have been easy to be a little frustrated
  - i. The plan was to rest and instead more ministry
  - ii. Wouldn't blame Jesus and disciples for just moving on
- B. Jesus truly saw the crowd
  - i. Not as an inconvenience but as people
  - ii. They were like sheep without a shepherd
    - a. Vulnerable, Scared, Alone, Helpless
  - iii. Jesus' heart goes out to them

### IV. The provision of Jesus

- A. Spiritual
  - i. Jesus knew their true need was to know God more
  - ii. Taught them many things about the Kingdom of God
- B. Physical
  - i. It was getting late and the people were getting hungry
  - ii. The disciples' solution
    - a. Send them away—too much for us
    - b. Needed to leave soon before it got dark so they could find food or have time to get home
  - iii. Jesus' solution
    - a. You give them something to eat
    - b. Would take 200 days of wages to feed them all
    - c. What disciples saw as problem Jesus saw as opportunity
    - d. Jesus simply asks the disciples what they have
- C. The connection
  - i. Jesus knew that His teaching was made more powerful and memorable when it was accompanied by His power
  - ii. Gave them not only great teaching but full bellies

**V. The power of Jesus**

- A. Jesus wants to be sure and give God the credit
  - i. Took loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks
  - ii. Wanted the people to know that this came from God
    - a. He is the ultimate provider of our needs
- B. Jesus broke the bread and had the disciples hand it out
  - i. They organized the crowd into groups and the disciples served them the food
  - ii. They ALL ate and were satisfied
    - a. Jesus multiplied it so it was more than enough for everyone
    - b. More than they could have asked or expected
    - c. Crowd of 5,000 men—not included were the women and children so the crowd was likely much larger

**VI. The disciples were needy too**

- A. They also enjoyed the gift
- B. They needed to be reminded about God's power to increase their faith
- C. Jesus gave them a reminder that would last
  - i. 12 baskets full of bread were left - 1 for each unbelieving disciple
  - ii. As they ate the bread later, they would remember how God provided

**VII. So What??!!**

- A. Jesus has heart for needy, so should we
  - i. Need to look at them as Jesus did
    - a. Compassion and not disgust
- B. Jesus only asks us for what we have
  - i. Our job is to trust God with what we have and let Him do something amazing with it
- C. When we help those in need it needs to be in word AND in deed
  - i. James 2:14-17
  - ii. Our faith is shown by what we do
  - iii. Not just enough to offer kind words to those in need but to help

- D. We are also needy people
  - i. Jesus is compassionate to us so we should be to others
  - ii. Need more of Jesus daily
  - iii. Need to see His power and provision for us
  - iv. Need to be able to trust Him more

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How does Jesus take care of those in need?
- How can we also take care of those in need?
- What does God ask of us?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What does Jesus ask from us towards those in need?
- Who are people in your life that you can help?
- How are you also needy?





# HELPER OF THOSE IN NEED

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who are some people in your life that you know need help and who you can help? What are some ways you can help them this week?

### READ MATTHEW 9:35-38

#### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 35 say that Jesus was doing?
- How did Jesus respond when He saw the crowds?
- What does compassion mean?
- What does he call them at the end of verse 36? What would that be like?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How does it make you feel that Jesus healed EVERY disease and affliction?
- Who are people that you could have compassion on in your life? What keeps you from doing it?
- What does Jesus tell them to do in verse 38?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Who are people in your life who are like “sheep without a shepherd”?
- Where are places that you are praying for more laborers to go?
- What would it look like for you to truly labor at your school?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# HELPER OF THOSE IN NEED

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the nicest thing you have ever done for someone else? What is the nicest thing someone has done for you?

## READ MATTHEW 6:1-4

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus say we need to be careful of in verse 1?
- What does Jesus tell us to do in verses 2-3?
- What are we promised in verse 4?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What are some acts of "righteousness" that you do so others will notice?
- Why is it important that Jesus says "when" instead of "if" in verse 2?
- How can you do good things in secret?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why is it important for us not to do good things just to be seen by others?
- When is the last time you did something because it was right and not to get something in return?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

10

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# HONEST ABOUT HARD THINGS

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is honest about hard things  
and to see why that matters for us.

# HONEST ABOUT HARD THINGS

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## MATTHEW 10:16-25

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus has been teaching the disciples about ministry and has just sent them out 2 x 2 to proclaim the Kingdom
- Jesus wants to prepare them for what is to come—not only right now but when they do ministry after He leaves

### Outline

- I. Jesus had given them specific instructions
  - A. Where to go
    - i. Go to lost sheep of Israel
    - ii. Those who had been awaiting the Messiah
  - B. What to say
    - i. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand
    - ii. Telling them that the Messiah had indeed come
  - C. What to do
    - i. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and cast out demons
    - ii. Don't receive anything from anyone

- D. What to take
  - i. Only what you need
  - ii. No bags or extra clothes or extra sandals or staffs
- II. **Jesus warned them about what it would be like in ministry**
  - A. Jesus was very honest with them
    - i. Didn't want them to be surprised when hard things happen
    - ii. Didn't want them to think that they had done something wrong because things were difficult
  - B. Like sheep among wolves
    - i. People will try and hurt you
    - ii. Will take you to court and accuse you and even flog you
    - iii. They will hurt and punish you because of me
  - C. It is for His purpose
    - i. To bear witness about Him wherever you go
    - ii. Will get the opportunity to speak with important people (governors and kings) about Jesus
  - D. God will be with you
    - i. He will give you the words to say
    - ii. He will speak through us
  - E. Doesn't promise us an easy life as His followers - John 16:33
    - i. It will be difficult at times
    - ii. We will be hated for His Name's sake
    - iii. But we can have hope in the midst of it
    - iv. Jesus has overcome the world on our behalf
      - a. Conquered evil, death and sin



### III. So What??!!

- A. We need to be prepared for this life to be hard
  - i. Being follower of Jesus invites hard times - John 15:18
  - ii. Need to not think that being a Christian makes life easy
- B. Jesus will be with us through it all
  - i. Don't have to face it alone
  - ii. Jesus sent the disciples out 2 x 2
    - a. Need to have Christian friends in our life to walk through things with
  - iii. Need to stay connected to Him and His Word
    - a. Give us truth and hope during hard times

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How is Jesus honest about hard things?
- How is God with us during hard times?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk today?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus is honest about the hardships of being a follower of His?
- What are some hard things that have happened because you follow Jesus?
- How can we take comfort in the midst of hard things?
- What will happen to Satan in the end? How does that make you feel?

# HONEST ABOUT HARD THINGS

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When was the last time you were really scared? What happened?

## READ JOHN 16:32-33

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus tell the disciples will happen in verse 32?
- Why would that be scary for them?
- What does Jesus say about being alone?
- How does it make you feel that you are never alone?
- What does Jesus say in verse 33?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why is Jesus telling them this?
- Why is it important for them (and us) to know that following Him will be hard?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus has overcome the world?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways in which you feel persecuted and scattered for following Jesus?
- How does Jesus' command to take heart apply to you right now?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# HONEST ABOUT HARD THINGS

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are 2-3 things that you think the rest of the family doesn't know about you?

## READ MATTHEW 10:26-33

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus tell us to do in verse 26?
- What does it say that God knows about sparrows? About us?
- How does it make you feel that God knows you that well?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Who are people you are scared of?
- What are we to do with the things Jesus tells us?
- Why are we often scared most by things of this world?
- How do verses 29-31 encourage you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why is it hard to proclaim Jesus from the housetops?
- What are ways you can acknowledge God before others?
- What are ways you have denied Him before others?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

11

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# BREAD OF LIFE

## **PURPOSE**

“So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

John 20:31

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Bread of Life  
and to see why that matters for us.

# BREAD OF LIFE

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## JOHN 6:25-40

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- Jesus had just fed the 5,000 who had come out to hear His teaching
- Afterwards, Jesus sent the disciples ahead in the boat and Jesus walked on the water to get to them
- The next day the crowd was again looking for Jesus
- Jesus tells them that they were looking for food and not Him
- Jesus teaches them about Bread of Life

### Outline

- I. **The people find Jesus**
  - A. Had been looking for Him
  - B. Noticed that there was only 1 boat and Jesus didn't get in it
  - C. Curious as to how He crossed the sea
- II. **Jesus exposes their need**
  - A. You are seeking me because I fed you
  - B. Not because of the miracle but because your needs were met
  - C. They were hungry and wanted to be filled again
- III. **Jesus tells them how to be satisfied**
  - A. Don't labor for food that perishes
    - i. Would spend a lot of time and energy working for things of this world

- ii. Getting money and possessions
  - iii. God isn't saying don't work
    - a. He understands that we need to work to survive
    - b. Wants us to labor more for that which will last
- B. Labor for food that endures to eternal life**
- i. Food that endures
    - a. Salvation
  - ii. Given to them by Son of Man
    - a. Not earned by hard work
    - b. Not bought with money
  - iii. The people ask what they must do
    - a. How do we do God's work?
  - iv. Jesus' response
    - a. The work of God is to believe in the One He sent
    - b. Our greatest work is to have faith
    - c. When we have faith it will change the way we live
      - 1. We will tell others of our hope
  - v. The people ask Jesus for a sign
    - a. Compare Him to Moses who gave them manna to eat daily
    - b. The people were satisfied daily with bread from heaven
    - c. Jesus reminds them the true source of the manna
      - 1. Not Moses but God
- IV. Jesus is the Bread of Life**
- A. Bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world
    - i. The purpose of Jesus—come and bring us eternal life with His death
    - ii. Like the bread fed to the crowd
      - a. Was chosen to come to Earth
      - b. Was blessed by God



- c. Was broken—the cross
    - d. Was shared- spread around the world so that those who believe can be filled
- B. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger
  - i. Jesus is the One who truly satisfies
  - ii. We will have physical hunger again but we can find rest for our souls
    - a. Jesus fulfills our deepest needs and longings
  - iii. Jesus came not to do His will but God's will
    - a. To lose none that God has given Him
    - b. To take care of and protect God's people
    - c. To raise them up on the last day and bring them to heaven
      - 1. For all who look on Jesus and truly believe
      - 2. Believe He is the Son of God who came and lived a perfect life for our sakes and then died to take away our sin and rose again to conquer death and take us home to heaven

V. So What??!!

- A. Jesus reminds us that the things of this world can't truly satisfy
  - i. No amount of money or possessions or power will truly make us feel whole
- B. Jesus offers Himself as the only thing that can truly satisfy us
  - i. Jesus can satisfy us because He gives us true hope and purpose
    - a. Hope—that this life isn't all there is
    - b. Purpose—we were made to share Him with others
- C. Jesus invites us to come and believe
  - i. We believe by taking Him
  - ii. Bread was to be eaten
    - a. We must allow Jesus truly into our lives
    - b. When we eat bread it becomes a part of us at the deepest level
    - c. Jesus must touch every area of our life

- D. Jesus promises to bring us home
  - i. If we truly believe
  - ii. Will raise us up on the last day

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the bread of life?
- What are the things that will last forever?
- What promises that Jesus gives are most important to you?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does Jesus satisfy our needs?
- What are things that you are striving after that won't last?
- What promises that Jesus gives are most important to you?



# BREAD OF LIFE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the best thing you have ever eaten?

## READ JOHN 6:22-34

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the crowd do when they realized Jesus wasn't there?
- Why did they want to find Jesus?
- What happens to food after awhile if you leave it out?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What had just happened the day before with the crowds?
- Why did Jesus say they were seeking Him?
- What does Jesus tell them to do in verse 27?
- How does Jesus describe the bread of heaven here?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- When is a time you have gone to Jesus for what He could do for you instead of just wanting Him?
- How do you see God's provision for you like the Israelites saw manna?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# BREAD OF LIFE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the last time you were in a really bad mood? How did you get out of it?

## READ JOHN 6:41-51

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- How did the Jews react to what Jesus said? What does “grumble” mean?
- What did Jesus call Himself in verse 48?
- How did Jesus make Himself like manna from the Old Testament?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What are things that you typically grumble about?
- How do we eat the bread of life?
- What happens to food that we eat?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are some of Jesus’ teachings that cause others to grumble? How do you respond to them?
- How are you making Jesus be more in you daily?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

12

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# MESSIAH

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Messiah  
and to see why that matters for us.



# MESSIAH

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## MATTHEW 16:13-20

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry and helping them grow in their own faith
- Jesus has met opposition from religious leaders who are jealous of His popularity
- Jesus wants to find out what the crowds are saying about Him

### Outline

- I. **Jesus takes the disciples to Caesarea Philippi**
  - A. Was 25 miles north of Sea of Galilee
  - B. Had been a center for false worship of gods—Baal, Pan and now worship of Caesar as a god
  - C. Was a place that had a lot of opinions about who god is
- II. **Jesus asks the disciples a question**
  - A. Who do the people say that I am?
  - B. Wanted to know what the crowds thought about Him
    - i. This was before TV and the internet and instant news and communication
    - ii. Were they confused like the people of this city?
    - iii. Do they think I am just a good teacher or a nice guy?
    - iv. Have they made the connections between what I have done and who I am?
  - C. They answered His question
    - i. Some say John the Baptist
      - a. Thought they were the same person just doing different things

- ii. Some say Elijah
  - a. If you remember, Elijah didn't die but was taken up into heaven
  - b. They believed that Elijah had come back
- iii. Some say Jeremiah or one of the prophets
  - a. They recognized that He was a great teacher whose words had power
- D. Basically, the people still didn't get it
  - i. They tried to put Jesus in a box that they could understand
  - ii. Make Him less unique and just like something they have seen before
- III. **Jesus asks them a more personal question**
  - A. Who do YOU say that I am?
  - B. This would have been a very important moment
    - i. Had they been listening and paying attention
    - ii. Did they really believe that Jesus was who He said He was
  - C. Peter responds
    - i. You are the Christ
      - a. Means "Messiah" or "Anointed One"
      - b. Was the person the Jews had long awaited for
      - c. Fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies
      - d. The One who would come and free them
      - e. The Son of the Living God
      - f. Jesus is the Son
        - 1. Came directly from God
        - 2. Perfectly God
        - 3. Is to be worshipped
      - g. Of the Living God
        - 1. Not a dead god that they worshipped in that city
        - 2. The God is living and active in everyday life
        - 3. The One who is in control of all of human history

**IV. Jesus' response**

- A. He was excited that Peter got it
  - i. Blessed are you Peter
  - ii. This came from God and not from you
    - a. We can't truly know who Jesus is without God's help
  - iii. Told Peter He would build His church on him and his faith of who Jesus was
- B. Told them not to tell anyone
  - i. WHY????
  - ii. At this time the people didn't understand about the Messiah
    - a. Were hoping for a military or political leader who would free them from Rome
  - iii. Jesus' time had not yet come
    - a. His purpose was not only for the crowds to know who He was
    - b. He came to DIE for the crowds and for you and me
    - c. After His death, He commanded the disciples to tell everyone

**V. So What??!!**

- A. We live in a time where people don't think very much about God
  - i. Worship money and success more than God
- B. It is important to know what people think about Jesus
  - i. We need to know what our friends think
  - ii. We need to know what people from other religions think
- C. It is very important for us to know what we believe about Jesus
  - i. We need to know what we believe
  - ii. It will help us to stand firm when we are challenged
- D. We are called to tell others who Jesus is
  - i. He is the One who saves
  - ii. He is the only way to heaven

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Messiah?
- What do those around you think about Jesus?
- Who is Jesus to you?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Who do you say Jesus is with your words? Your actions?
- What would other people say you believe about Jesus?
- What do those around you think about Jesus?
- How can you share the truth about Jesus with others?



# MESSIAH

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you really messed up? How did things get made right?

## READ GENESIS 3:14-15

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What had just happened before these verses?
- What is different now between God and Adam and Eve?
- What does God say to the serpent in verse 14?
- What will happen to the serpent according to verse 15? Who will do that?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How did things change once sin entered the world?
- How was the serpent punished? Why?
- How does God offer Adam and Eve hope in verse 15?
- Who is the offspring that God is referring to? What will He do?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How do you see the Fall still affecting you on a daily basis?
- What does God say will happen in verse 15?
- What encouragement do you take from these verses?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# MESSIAH

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the last time you were really excited? Why?

## READ ISAIAH 9:6-7

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happens in verse 6?
- What is said about this baby? What is He called?
- Who is this baby they are talking about?
- What does it say about His reign in verse 7? What does that mean?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What names mentioned here mean the most to you?
- What names for God or Jesus are your favorites? Why?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus has already won the victory for you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Prince of Peace?
- How do these verses give you hope in your day to day?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

13

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# GLORIOUS

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is glorious  
and to see why that matters for us.

# GLORIOUS

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## MATTHEW 17:1-8

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- The religious leaders are constantly opposing Jesus
- Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ and then Jesus foretells about His death and resurrection
- The religious leaders and crowds have been asking for signs but instead Jesus has a sign for a few of His disciples

### Outline

- I. **Jesus brings Peter, James and John along for a special event**
  - A. Wanted them to see something very special
  - B. Go up to top of high mountain by themselves
- II. **Jesus is transfigured**
  - A. Fancy word that means change
    - i. Similar to a metamorphosis—from caterpillar to butterfly
  - B. The Glory that was inside of Him shone through
    - i. Jesus didn't reflect Glory but it came from within Him
    - ii. He is now showing the Glory He laid aside when He became flesh
      - a. John 17:5
  - C. His face shone like the sun

- i. Similar to Moses when He went on mountain to be with the Lord
  - a. Exodus 34:29-35
- ii. Think about what it's like to look up at the sun
- D. His clothes became white as light
  - i. Shows that His perfection also came from within
- E. Reminds us of who He truly is
  - i. He is from heaven and is perfect and full of Glory

### III. Moses and Elijah show up

- A. Moses represents the Law
  - i. Was the one through whom God gave the Law to His people
  - ii. Jesus fulfills the Law and its requirements
- B. Elijah represents the Prophets
  - i. Those who spoke on behalf of God to His people
  - ii. Jesus fulfills the promises given through the Prophets
    - a. Never leave or forsake us
    - b. By His wounds we are healed
- C. Jesus shows the disciples that He is greater than Moses and Elijah
  - i. Greater than Law and the Prophets
  - ii. Greater than all who had come before Him to Earth

### IV. God the Father shows up

- A. Appears in the form of a bright cloud
- B. Speaks to those on the mountain
  - i. This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased
    - a. Same thing He said at Jesus' baptism
  - ii. Adds something important- "Listen to Him"
    - a. Gives them a command
    - b. Need to listen to Jesus' words
      - 1. Not just be in awe with the sign He performed

V. Disciples' response

- A. They fell on their faces and were terrified
  - i. Knew the only proper response was worship
  - ii. Were afraid of what they were experiencing
  - iii. If we saw Jesus for who He really was, we too would fall down in fear
- B. Jesus tells them to rise and have no fear
  - i. Knows their feelings and answers them with gentleness
  - ii. Wanted them to remember this moment during difficult days
    - a. When Jesus died and they might doubt they can remember what they saw and heard

VI. So What??!!

- A. Jesus is from God
  - i. He is more than good teacher or miracle worker
  - ii. He is the SON OF GOD
  - iii. He not only has Glory but is Glory
- B. We are called to listen to Jesus
  - i. Need to remember who He is
  - ii. If He truly is the Son of God then we should listen and obey His words
  - iii. Need to know the Bible for ourselves
- C. Jesus will return in Glory one day
  - i. Revelation 19:11-16
  - ii. He will also make us glorious
  - iii. Make us new and perfect

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- Why is it important that Jesus is glorious?
- Why was it important that Moses and Elijah showed up?
- How are you listening to Jesus?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What did the disciples get to see?
- What message was God trying to give to the disciples through this?
- What are ways that you are listening to Jesus in your day-to-day life? How should you?
- What hope do we get from all this?



# GLORIOUS

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite make-believe story? Why?

### READ 2 PETER 1:16-21

#### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Peter call the disciples in verse 16?
- What are eyewitnesses? What do they do?
- What does he say that the voice said?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How was the voice borne to Him in verse 17?
- What is Peter referring to?
- What does he say is more sure in verse 19?
- Where does this prophecy come from?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are some "myths" that people think you believe because you are a Christian? How do you answer them?
- How are the words of the prophet even more sure than their memories?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





# GLORIOUS

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Choose 1 family member and put a sheet over their head. Hold up pictures and fingers and see if they can figure out what you are showing them.

### READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

#### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who does Paul refer to in verse 13? Do you know what he is talking about? - Exodus 34:29-35
- What does a veil do?—think about a bride
- What has to happen to see better?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What are we called to be in verse 12?
- What did the veil do for people in Moses' day?
- How is the veil taken away?
- Because of Jesus what can we now do according to verse 18?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways you can be bold for Jesus?
- How are people still veiled today?
- How do you still see Jesus wrongly as though through a veil instead of face-to-face?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

14

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# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Light of the World  
and to see why that matters for us.

# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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## JOHN 8:12-20

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- The religious leaders continuously try to discredit Jesus by testing Him
- They have brought before Him a woman caught in adultery and Jesus even confounds the religious leaders with His grace and truth

### Outline

- I. **Jesus tells the crowds who He is**
  - A. Did this a lot with His "I am" statements
  - B. Trying to help them understand who He was and why He came
- II. **I am the Light of the world**
  - A. I am
  - B. He doesn't just reflect the light or point to the light
  - C. He IS the light
    - a. Part of who He is
  - D. The light
    - i. Light was very valuable at this time
      - a. No electricity
      - b. Dark was very dangerous
      - c. Brought vision and safety

- ii. Jesus as the light was fulfillment of prophecy
    - a. Psalm 27:1
    - b. Isaiah 9:2
    - c. Isaiah 42:6-7
  - iii. Purpose of the light
    - a. To shine through the darkness
      - 1. Shows purity
      - 2. Shows true knowledge
    - b. Show people the way to God
      - 1. Guide them through a dark and difficult world
    - c. Scatter darkness
      - 1. Overcome fear
      - 2. Bring truth
- E. Of the world
- i. Not just for Himself
  - ii. Not just for the Jews
  - iii. For the whole world
    - a. Came to bring truth for all
    - b. John 3:16- "For God so loved the world..."
- III. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have light of life**
- A. Following Jesus will lead us into truth
  - B. Safest place we can be on Earth is walking in God's will
  - C. Light of Jesus brings us more than temporary help
    - i. Brings us life here—John 10:10—life to the full
    - ii. Brings us eternal life

IV. So What??!!

- A. Jesus should be our light in all circumstances
  - i. He has overcome darkness once and for all
    - a. Died so that we can be in the light
  - ii. His truth should lead us through dark places
    - a. Let His Word be what guides us daily in how to live
- B. He calls us to also be the light of the world – Matthew 5:14-16
  - i. He gives us the responsibility to be the light of the world also
  - ii. Called to reflect Him in all that we do
    - a. Shine our light before others
    - b. Live our lives for Jesus so people can know Him
    - c. Brings Glory to God
- C. He will be our ultimate light
  - i. Revelation 22:5
    - a. No light or lamp or sun needed anymore
    - b. The Lord God will be their light
  - ii. Have a confidence that the darkness will not win in the end

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?
- What does Jesus do as the light of the world?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What is our role in showing Jesus as light of the world?
- How can we do that?
- How can we depend on Jesus as the light of the world?
- Who are people in your life who need the light of the world to shine in their lives?





# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Have everyone close their eyes. While they are closed, turn out the lights and then talk about what would be the hardest parts of living like that.

### READ 1 JOHN 1:5-10

#### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 5 say about God?
- What does it mean that there is no darkness in Him?
- What are we supposed to do in verse 7? How do we do that?
- What is sin? What are we supposed to do with it?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does verse 6 say to us?
- What are we supposed to practice? How do we do that?
- How often do you confess your sins to the Lord? Why?
- What does Jesus do if we confess? How does that make you feel?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways in which you walk in darkness and don't practice truth?
- Do you ever think that you don't really sin?
- What keeps you from confessing your sins?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is one thing about yourself that you wish you could change? What are some ways that God might use that for His glory?

## READ JOHN 9:1-7

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Jesus and the disciples see when they passed by?
- What question did the disciples ask? How did Jesus respond?
- What does Jesus call Himself in verse 5?
- What does light do?
- What did He do for the man? What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why did the disciples think that someone must have sinned because he was blind?
- How did Jesus heal the man? What did He use?
- How does it make you feel that God can use ordinary things like mud for His glory?
- What happened to the man?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are ways in which you wrongly judge people?
- What are some ways that you need Jesus to clear up your eyes as well?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

15

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# GOOD SHEPHERD

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Good Shepherd  
and to see why that matters for us.

# GOOD SHEPHERD

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## JOHN 10:1-18

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- The religious leaders continuously try to discredit Jesus by testing Him
- Jesus confronts the misconceptions in His day about sin and judgment
- Jesus heals a man born blind and does so on the Sabbath
- The religious leaders try to discredit Jesus by saying the man wasn't really blind and saying that Jesus didn't keep the Sabbath
- Jesus wants to paint for them a picture of God that is different than their expectations

### Outline

- I. **Jesus uses language and pictures that the people can understand**
  - A. Sheep, shepherds, gate, robbers, sheepfold
  - B. At this time many people had sheep for meat and wool as well as for sacrifices to the Lord
  - C. They would often keep their sheep in a small area next to the house marked off by a rock wall—sheep pen
  - D. There would be an entrance to go in and for the sheep to go out to graze
  - E. Many times there were robbers who would come and steal sheep so they would hire someone to stand guard

## II. Jesus as the Good Shepherd

- A. Shepherds were also very common at this time
  - i. Would often be the one responsible for the sheep of a whole town
  - ii. Would take care of them and protect them
  - iii. Was around the sheep daily and spent a lot of time with them
- B. Jesus as Shepherd
  - i. Were often misunderstood and not highly respected
    - a. Treated sheep almost like people
      - 1. Very tender and loving to them
      - 2. Took care of all of their needs
  - ii. Picture of God's care for us
    - a. Sheep were helpless without shepherd
    - b. Jesus came to be tender and loving to us
    - c. Jesus came to save us and protect us
  - iii. He calls to His sheep
    - a. Jesus calls out to us
    - b. As His sheep we can hear and recognize His voice
    - c. His sheep not only hear but follow His voice
  - iv. He knows His sheep and they know Him
    - a. Knows us intimately—every hair on our head- Matthew 10:30
    - b. Knows us fully and yet still loves us
    - c. He who knows us best still loves us most
  - v. He lays down His life for His sheep
    - a. Takes it to a new level
    - b. Willing to sacrifice and die for the good of the sheep
      - 1. Hired hand won't do that
      - 2. More concerned for their lives than the sheep



- c. Jesus died so that we may have life
  - 1. Willingly gave up His life for our sakes
- vi. Fulfillment of Ezekiel 34:11-16
  - a. Jesus searches for us
  - b. Jesus rescues us
  - c. Jesus gathers us
  - d. Jesus takes care of us
    - 1. Leads us to good pasture
    - 2. Binds up the injured
    - 3. Strengthens the weak

### III. Contrasting the bad shepherds

- A. The religious leaders at this time cared only for themselves
- B. Wanted to be followed by the people
- C. Wanted to protect their popularity so didn't like Jesus
- D. Fulfillment of Ezekiel 34:1-10

### IV. So What??!!

- A. We need to realize all that Jesus has done for us
  - i. He came after us when we were far from Him
  - ii. He rescued us from our sin
  - iii. He laid down His life so that we can be saved
  - iv. Shows His great love for us
- B. We are called to follow Him
  - i. We need to be able to hear His voice
    - a. Know His Word
  - ii. He has in mind the best for us in this world
    - a. Came that we can have life abundantly

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Good Shepherd?
- What does that mean for us?
- How have you seen God take care of you lately?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How have you seen God take care of you lately?
- What difference does it make that He knows you as His sheep?
- What does He promise us as the Good Shepherd?
- What are ways that you are following His voice? What are ways you should be?



# GOOD SHEPHERD

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Choose 1 person in your family to be the shepherd and the rest will be sheep. Have the shepherd lead the sheep to another room. At first, all sheep should obey but then have them all do their own thing. Talk about how hard it was for the shepherd.

### READ PSALM 23:1-6

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say the Lord is in verse 1?
- What does it say that a shepherd does in verses 2-3?
- Where is the shepherd during hard times?
- Where will we dwell forever? How does that make you feel?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What would it look like if God was truly your shepherd?
- What are things that you want more than God?
- Why does it say that God does all this in verse 3?
- What is the purpose of a rod or staff? Would that be pleasant?
- How does the psalmist see the rod and staff?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are things that you want more than God?
- When do you see God's direction as comforting (even though it's painful)?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# GOOD SHEPHERD

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Play a game of hide-and-go-seek. Talk about what it was like to go after someone in order to find them.

## READ EZEKIEL 34:11-16

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does God say He will do in verse 11?
- What else does God say He will do in verses 12-14?
- How does it make you feel that He wants to treat you that way?
- Who will God send to do this? How cool is that?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why does God want to find us and rescue us?
- As you read through all that God does for the sheep, which do you like the most? Why?
- How does it make you feel that God will do this Himself?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Do you typically see God in this tender way? Why or why not?
- What do you need God to do for you right now—seek you out, bind you up, or strengthen you? Why?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

16

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# REVEALER OF GOD'S HEART

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the revealer of God's heart  
and to see why that matters for us.



# REVEALER OF GOD'S HEART

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**LUKE 15:11-32**

## Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry and helping them grow in their own faith
- Jesus has met opposition from the religious leaders who are jealous of His popularity among the people
- People from all walks of life were constantly coming up to Jesus and asking Him questions and just wanted to be around Him
- Jesus spent a lot of His teaching revealing to the people they didn't know about God's kingdom and about God's heart

## Outline

- I. Jesus had a very diverse crowd around Him
  - A. Tax collectors and "sinners"
    - i. People who the religious leaders looked down upon
    - ii. People who weren't welcome at the synagogue or temple
    - iii. They were very drawn to Jesus because He spent time with them and didn't look down on them
  - B. The Pharisees and scribes
    - i. These were the religious leaders at this time
      - a. They were teachers of the Law

- b. They ran the temple and all religious practices
- c. Were very important people and had a lot of influence
- ii. Tried to discount Jesus because He allowed “sinners” to hang around Him
  - a. People they would never associate with
  - b. Said that He was a sinner because He hung around them

## II. Jesus taught to both crowds to show God’s heart

### A. The first 2 parables

- i. Parable #1- Lost sheep
  - a. If a shepherd loses a sheep they would leave the flock to find the one that was lost
    - 1. A lost sheep is helpless by itself and would probably die
    - 2. Shepherd cares for his sheep—close bond
    - 3. Are the lost people in your midst not more valuable than a sheep?
  - b. Shepherd celebrates over the finding of the sheep
- ii. Parable #2- Lost coin
  - a. If someone loses a coin will they not search for it?
    - 1. Sweep up, light a lamp, look under furniture, etc.
    - 2. Are not the lost people in your midst more valuable than a coin?

### B. What do these parables tell us about God?

- i. He is the one who pursues us
- ii. Looks for that which is lost
- iii. Cares deeply about the things that are lost
  - a. Speaking to the “sinners”
    - 1. You are valuable to God
    - 2. You must repent
  - b. Speaking to the religious leaders
    - 1. Your focus should not just be on those just like you
    - 2. You need to be seeking after those who don’t know me
    - 3. They only cared about those in church and not those outside of it

- iv. He rejoices when those who were lost are found
  - a. Heaven celebrates with those who repent
  - b. The angels and God throw a party in thankfulness when someone is saved
- C. The last parable- The Lost Son
  - i. Man had two sons and younger son asked for his inheritance
    - a. Basically telling the dad that he wished he was dead
    - b. Wanted what dad could provide more than dad
  - ii. Father gave the son the inheritance and son left
    - a. Lived a wild life and spent all that he had
    - b. Had to get a job feeding pigs just to survive
  - iii. Son decides to return home
    - a. Prepares a speech to earn back his father's favor
    - b. Willing to give up being a son to be a servant
  - iv. Dad responds to his son's return
    - a. His father saw him while he was still a long way off
      - 1. Means he was waiting for him and looking for him
      - 2. Expected him to return someday
    - b. Father ran to his son
      - 1. Men did not run at this time
      - 2. Was not dignified
      - 3. Could make you indecent
      - 4. Have to pull up your robe
    - c. Embraced him and kissed him
    - d. Restored him
      - 1. Gave him robe—covered his dirtiness
      - 2. Gave him a ring
      - 3. Was signet ring
      - 4. Meant he could do business as part of family
      - 5. How they signed things back then

- e. Gave him sandals
  - 1. Many servants didn't have sandals
- f. Throws a party for his son
  - 1. His son was dead and is now alive
- v. The older brother
  - a. Heard about the party but wouldn't go in
  - b. Was mad at dad for accepting the brother back after all he did
    - 1. Called him "this son of yours"
    - 2. Devoured your property with prostitutes
  - c. Tells dad about all he has done
    - 1. Slaved for you all these years
    - 2. Never disobeyed you
    - 3. You never gave me anything
  - d. Father responds
    - 1. Son you are always with me
    - 2. Reminds him who he is, a son
    - 3. Shows he loves him
    - 4. All I have is yours
    - 5. He has not withheld from him
    - 6. Will continue to provide for him
    - 7. It is right to celebrate what has happened
    - 8. Your brother was dead and now is alive
- D. What does this tell us about God?
  - i. God will give us the desire of our hearts even if it's not Him
  - ii. God stands ready to receive us when we repent and turn away from our sin
  - iii. God loves us extravagantly
    - a. Runs after us, throws His arms around us, Gives us all we need to cover our sin and shame, restores us to right relationship with Him, reminds us that we are His children
  - iv. God celebrates when the lost are saved

- v. God also loves those who think they are self-righteous
  - a. Speaking directly to religious leaders at that time
  - b. Believe they have earned God's favor by their works
  - c. Reminds them that they can never be good enough

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How did Jesus' story show us God's heart?
- What did you like best about what the father in the story did?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How does it make you feel that God pursues you?
- Do you identify more with the older brother or younger brother? Why?
- How were you encouraged by the father in the story as a picture of God?
- How do you typically picture God's love for you? Is it like this or not this much? Why?
- How should we respond to a love like this?

# REVEALER OF GOD'S HEART

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you lost something very important to you? What did you do to try and find it?

## READ LUKE 15:1-7

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who were the people drawing near to hear Jesus?
- What did Pharisees say about them? Who were the Pharisees?
- What story does He tell the crowd?
- What does a shepherd do for lost sheep? What does he do once he finds it?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What was so interesting about what the Pharisees were saying?
- What should Pharisees have been doing for tax collectors and sinners?
- Who are lost sheep and who is the shepherd?
- How has God come after you like this?
- What is the response of heaven in verse 7?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Who are the people you grumble most about?
- Who are people you really wouldn't want to come to Jesus?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# REVEALER OF GOD'S HEART

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the best party or celebration you have ever been to? What made it so great?

## READ LUKE 15:8-10

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is Jesus talking to?—same group as last devo
- What does the woman do to find the lost coin?
- What does she do once she finds it?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Who is who in this story?
- What did he want to make sure that the “sinners” heard from this story? What did he want the Pharisees to hear?
- How does this show us God's heart?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What keeps you from rejoicing with those who become Christians?
- Who in your life do you think is just “faking it”? Why?
- How can you still love those people?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

17

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# FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises  
and to see why that matters for us.

# FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES

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## MATTHEW 1:1-17

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- At the beginning of his gospel, Matthew, who is writing to the Jews, wants to make an unmistakable connection between Jesus and those through whom the Messiah was supposed to come

### Outline

- I. **God's promise of the Messiah**
  - A. Came right after the Fall
  - B. In the midst of hearing about the curses that go along with their sin, God gives Adam and Eve hope
    - i. Genesis 3:15—He will crush the head of the enemy
- II. **God's promise through Abraham**
  - A. Jesus came from Abraham's line
  - B. Abraham was given a promise about his offspring
    - i. Genesis 22:17-18
      - a. Your offspring shall possess the gates of his enemies
        1. Will conquer the gates of death and hell
      - b. All the nations of the Earth will be blessed through your offspring
        1. Jesus saves the nations with His death
        2. In heaven there will be some from every tribe, tongue and nation
    - c. Jesus is that offspring

**III. God's promise through Jacob**

- A. Numbers 24:17-19
  - i. Out of Jacob one will have dominion
  - ii. The offspring of Jacob will rule
- B. Jesus is that offspring

**IV. God's promise through David**

- A. Psalm 132:11
  - i. He will set upon the throne the fruit of David
  - ii. One of David's descendants will reign
  - iii. Jesus is King of Kings
- B. Jeremiah 23:5-6
  - i. Branch of David will rule

**V. Jesus is rightful heir to throne of David and the Covenant Promises of Abraham**

- A. Jesus is the fulfillment of all of God's Old Testament promises about the Messiah
  - i. 354 prophecies about Messiah from the Old Testament that Jesus fulfills

**VI. So What??!!**

- A. Jesus is the One that God had spoken about for generations
  - i. The One who would free us from our sins
  - ii. The One who would conquer sin and death
  - iii. The One who would be a blessing to the Nations
- B. We have access to that Jesus
  - i. We get to talk to the King of the Universe when we pray
  - ii. We get the opportunity to know Him better through His Word
- C. We get the chance to share His truth with others
  - i. Tell others about how great He is
  - ii. Point others to all the promises He fulfilled in Scripture

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How was Jesus a fulfillment of God's promises?
- How does God's plan encourage you?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What promises from the Bible mean the most to you? Why?
- How do you see God's plan throughout the whole Old Testament?
- What are some places in your life where you are having a hard time trusting God's plan? Why?

# FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you HAD to move somewhere else where would it be and why?

## READ GENESIS 12:1-3

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did God tell Abram to do? Why would that be hard?
- What does he tell Abram that he will be?
- What does it mean to be a blessing to others?
- How does this point to Jesus?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What is something that would be hard for you to do if God asked you to? Why?
- What are ways in which you are a blessing to those around you?
- Why was it so important for Abram to bless those around him?
- Who all will be blessed because of him?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How are you being a blessing to those around you?
- What is a place where you struggle to live obediently to the Lord?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What would you want your grandkids to call you when you are older? Why?

## READ 2 SAMUEL 7:12-17

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is God talking to here?
- What do you know about David?
- What does He say He will do for David?
- What will He do for David's offspring?
- Who is He talking about?
- What does God say in verse 16?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why was God so concerned with David's offspring?
- What is the promise He is giving to David concerning his offspring?
- What does God say about David's throne?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Where are places in which you have seen God's plan working itself out in your life?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

18

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# WORD MADE FLESH

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Word made flesh  
and to see why that matters for us.

# WORD MADE FLESH

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## JOHN 1:1-3, 14

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- At the beginning of his gospel, John is writing to a varied audience that includes Greeks
- John specifically refers to an important Greek concept—Logos

### Outline

- I. Logos
  - A. Greek for Word
  - B. In Greek culture was meant to identify the highest truth
    - i. The reason for existence
  - C. In Jewish culture, Word had a very powerful place
    - i. They held high value on the spoken word
    - ii. Blessings and curses from God and others
  - D. John uses Logos to refer to Jesus
- II. In the beginning was the Word
  - A. Connects directly to Genesis—"In the beginning..."
  - B. Before Creation, the Word existed
- III. The Word was with God and the Word was God
  - A. The Word is a distinct entity from God
  - B. A close connection exists between the Word and God
  - C. The Word is made of the same substance as God
    - i. Allows us to clearly see who God is

- D. Where our thoughts on Trinity come from
  - i. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

**IV. All things were made through Him**

- A. Jesus had a very important purpose in Creation
  - i. God worked through the Word to create
  - ii. Nothing was made without Him
- B. This is His world because He made it

**V. The Word became flesh**

- A. One of the most important concepts in all of Scripture
  - i. Incarnation
  - ii. The Word put on flesh
- B. Purposefully limited Himself with humanity
  - i. Became part of time and space
  - ii. Became just like us
    - a. Can understand the struggles and frustrations of human life
  - iii. Took on all the weakness and helplessness of a human and even more a baby
  - iv. Gave up His rights and throne for our sake
    - a. Philippians 2:5-7

**VI. And made His dwelling among us**

- A. Came to take up residence with us
- B. Point back to the days when God's Presence lived with Israel in the Tabernacle and the Temple
  - i. The Word now has an address
- C. We can now know God clearly and personally through the example of the Word

**I. So What??!!**

- A. Jesus gave up heaven in order to die for us
  - i. Gave up all He deserved in order to suffer and struggle like we do
  - ii. Willingly did it for our sake to glorify the Father

- B. Jesus is the Truth
  - i. The Word of Truth
  - ii. The only absolute in this world
- C. Jesus knows this world because He made it
  - i. Understands how it works best
  - ii. Came to show us the Father and help us see how we are to love and worship Him

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Word?
- What did Jesus do as the Word?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How does Jesus being the Word make a difference in your day-to-day life? How should it?
- Why was it important that Jesus put on flesh?
- How does it make you feel that He gave up heaven for you and me?
- Knowing this about Jesus, how should this change how we trust Him?

# WORD MADE FLESH

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some of your favorite words to use? Why?

## READ JOHN 1:1-5

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was around in the beginning?
- When was the beginning?
- What was the Word doing at this time?
- Who is the Word?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why is it important that the Word was God?
- Why is it important that the Word made all things?
- Why is it important that the Word was there from the beginning?
- Why do you think John is using the word "Word" to refer to Jesus? Why does that matter?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How important is the idea of the Trinity to you? Where do you find it confusing?
- How do people try to discount Jesus because He was human?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# WORD MADE FLESH

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Have everyone take two funny selfies and decide which ones were the funniest. You can also choose other categories or scenarios—ex. scariest, saddest, smelling something bad, etc. Talk about how it's an image of you but not you completely.

### READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

#### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say Jesus is here?
- What is an image?
- What does it say about Jesus and the Church? Why is that important?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does it say about Jesus and creation?
- What does verse 17 say about Jesus? What does that mean?
- What does verse 19 say? What does that mean?
- What was Jesus' purpose according to verse 20? What does that mean?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

#### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What difference would it make if you actually believed that Jesus held your life together?
- Why is it important that all God's fullness resides in Jesus?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

19

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# HUMBLE

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is humble  
and to see why that matters for us.

# HUMBLE

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## MATTHEW 1:18-25

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- At the beginning of his gospel, Matthew, who is writing to the Jews, wants to make an unmistakable connection between Jesus and those through whom the Messiah was supposed to come
- Matthew then describes how Jesus was born

### Outline

- I. It starts with a young couple- Mary and Joseph
  - A. Mary is betrothed to Joseph
    - i. They are promised to be married to each other
    - ii. She was just a common and ordinary Jewish girl
    - iii. She is told by an angel that she will have a baby that will come directly from God
    - iv. Would be a very hard situation for her to be in
  - B. Joseph is a just and humble man
    - i. Told he is a carpenter
    - ii. Was not rich by any means
      - a. Brought the sacrifice that the poor were allowed to bring when they brought baby Jesus to temple to be dedicated
    - iii. Joseph could have had Mary killed
      - a. Decides to not bring her shame
      - b. Wants to divorce her quietly
    - iv. An angel comes to him and tells him the truth
      - a. The baby is God's

- b. He will be the fulfillment of Scripture
  - 1. Will save the people from their sins
  - 2. Isaiah 7:14
- C. These were two nobodies from nowhere
  - i. No money or power or position
  - ii. Not who you would expect to become parents of the Son of God

## II. Jesus' birth

- A. God was orchestrating the events for His purposes
  - i. Had Caesar declare a census
  - ii. Forced Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem
- B. Jesus was born in a stable
  - i. No room for Him anywhere to be born
  - ii. Born among the animals in a very dirty place
  - iii. Not how you would expect a king to be born
- C. Jesus' birth went mostly unnoticed
  - i. No fanfare or processions for Him
  - ii. Some shepherds and foreign wise men came to see what they had been told
- D. Jesus' birth shows His humility
  - i. Lived a common life with common people
  - ii. Philippians 2
    - a. Did not hold on to His rights as God's Son
    - b. Made Himself nothing
    - c. Took form of a servant

## III. So What??!!

- A. Jesus humbly obeyed God
  - i. Went where He was told and how He was told
  - ii. Wanted to be about the Father's will
  - iii. Set an example for us to follow

- B. Jesus was like us
  - i. Didn't live the life of a king but a normal person at that time
  - ii. Gave up all He deserved in order to live the lives we couldn't live for ourselves
  - iii. Understands the lives we live

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How did Jesus show He was humble?
- How can we be humble like Jesus?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Why does Jesus' humility matter?
- What are ways you can also show humility like Jesus?
- What are ways that you know God wants you to obey?
- In what situations in your life do you want your will more than God's will?

# HUMBLE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is someone famous that you wish you could be just like? Why?

## READ PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 4 tell us to do?
- How do you look out for interests of others? Why is that hard?
- What kind of mind should we have?
- How did Jesus treat others? How should we?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does verse 3 tell us to do? How do you do that?
- What does verse 6 mean? What did Jesus give up?
- What did Jesus do for us in verses 7-8?
- What is Jesus' reward for His humility and obedience?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Where do you see yourself having selfish ambition? Vain conceit?
- Why is it so hard to be a servant?
- How often do you think about the fact that EVERY KNEE shall bow to Jesus one day? What difference should that make?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# HUMBLE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What song do you wish would play every time you walked into a room? Why?

## READ LUKE 2:1-7

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is happening in verse 1?
- Where did Joseph and Mary go? Why?
- Where was Jesus born? Why there?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How does it make you feel that God orchestrated the census in order to make sure Jesus was born in Bethlehem to fulfill Scripture?
- How does Jesus' birth show His humility?
- Why is it a surprise that He was born like this?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are things that frustrated you at first but now you see God's hand all over?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

20

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# MIRACLE WORKER

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is a miracle worker  
and to see why that matters for us.

# MIRACLE WORKER

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## JOHN 11:1-45

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry and helping them grow in their own faith
- Jesus has met opposition from the religious leaders who are jealous of His popularity among the people
- People from all walks of life were constantly coming up to Jesus and asking Him questions and just wanted to be around Him
- Jesus had many followers and many others who supported His ministry
- One family that He was particularly close to was Mary, Martha and Lazarus

### Outline

- I. **Jesus learns of Lazarus' illness**
  - A. Heard from Mary and Martha that he was very sick
  - B. They were asking Him to come and help
  - C. Jesus didn't leave immediately but waited two more days
    - i. Told the disciples that it would not end in death
    - ii. Knew it was another opportunity to glorify God
- II. **Jesus decides to go to Judea**
  - A. Disciples were afraid
    - i. The Jews and religious leaders had it out for Jesus
    - ii. Had tried to stone Him and wanted to kill Him

- B. Jesus tells them that Lazarus has died and that's why they are going
- C. Disciples decide to follow Jesus even though they think they will die also

### III. Jesus arrives at Bethany

- A. Lazarus had been buried for four days
  - i. Many had come to comfort Mary and Martha
- B. Mary and Martha go to meet Jesus
  - i. First Martha goes
    - a. Says to Jesus "Lord if you had been here my brother would not have died"
      - 1. Trying to understand what took Jesus so long
      - 2. Why did he have to die?
    - b. Also believed that Jesus could do something now
      - 1. Whatever you ask of God He will give you
    - c. Jesus' response- He will rise again
      - 1. I am the Resurrection and the Life
      - 2. Answered her questions
    - d. Martha affirms that Jesus is Messiah and Son of God
  - ii. Mary comes next
    - a. Had waited at the house at first
    - b. Martha had told her that Jesus was asking for her
    - c. Says to Jesus "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died"
      - 1. Exactly what Martha said
      - 2. She fell at His feet crying
      - 3. Jesus responds very differently to Mary than Martha
- C. Jesus responds to the sadness around Him
  - i. Saw Mary weeping and those with her weeping
  - ii. Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and greatly troubled
  - iii. Jesus wept
    - a. Shortest verse in English Bible but one of most powerful

- D. Why did Jesus weep?
  - i. He knew that He was going to raise Lazarus in a few minutes
  - ii. Shows that He cares deeply about our pain
    - a. He feels our hurts and disappointments
    - b. He shares in our sufferings
  - iii. Shows how unnatural death is
    - a. Was not how life was supposed to work
    - b. Death came with the Fall
    - c. Reminder of why Jesus came
      - 1. To free us from death

#### IV. Jesus shows His power

- A. Went to the tomb where Lazarus was
- B. Told them to take away the stone that sealed it
  - i. Was not typically done because dead bodies smelled bad
  - ii. Says "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"
- C. Jesus spoke to God
  - i. Lifted His eyes to heaven
  - ii. Wanted the people to know that power came from God
- D. Jesus spoke to Lazarus
  - i. Come out
  - ii. Showed His power over even death
    - a. The one thing that always wins
    - b. Was most people's biggest fear
  - iii. Lazarus comes out still bound in the grave clothes
    - a. To show that it wasn't someone else pretending to be Lazarus coming out
- E. Many believed in Him because of this miracle

#### V. So What??!!

- A. Jesus is way more powerful than you think

- i. If He can bring someone back from the dead, He can handle the little concerns in your life
- ii. Jesus has power over death
- B. Jesus cares more than you think
  - i. Weeps with you when you weep
  - ii. Is broken over the effects of sin on your life and in this world
  - iii. Shows great love and compassion to us
- C. Jesus answers in His timing in order to glorify God
  - i. Waited for Lazarus to die
    - a. The sisters did not understand or like it
    - b. Had to trust that God's plan was better
  - ii. Jesus works in our lives in His timing
    - a. Ultimate goal is for us to trust God more
    - b. Brings Glory to Himself even in way He acts and not just what He does

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How did Jesus show His power?
- Why does it matter that Jesus was a miracle worker?
- How did Jesus show His heart?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Why would Jesus weep over Lazarus?
- How are you encouraged by seeing Jesus' power?
- Where is a place that you are frustrated by God because He hasn't answered yet?
- What is one area of your life in which you need to start trusting Him more? Why?



# MIRACLE WORKER

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have one power to help other people, what would it be and why?

## READ MARK 5:21-43

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened when Jesus crossed the sea?
- Who came to Jesus and what did he ask of Jesus? What did Jesus do?
- What happened to Jesus while He was in the crowd?
- What did Jesus say? How did He know?
- What happened while Jesus was talking to the woman?
- What did Jesus do with the girl?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What was the problem with the woman? Why did the woman touch Jesus?
- Why did Jesus want to talk to the woman?
- What did Jesus tell Jairus to do in verse 36?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How does Jesus showing His power help us?
- What do you think that Jesus can't do for you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





# MIRACLE WORKER

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the saddest movie you have ever seen? Why?

## READ LUKE 7:11-17

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where did Jesus go and what was around Him?
- What did Jesus see when He got close to the town?
- What did Jesus think, say and do to the woman?
- What did he say to the dead man? What happened?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What are we told about the woman? Why is that important?
- What happened to widows with no sons?
- What was the response of the crowd? Why do you think that was?
- How would you have responded had you been there?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Who are people in your life that need more compassion from you? What stops you from doing so?
- What are a couple of amazing things that Jesus has done for you that deserve to be proclaimed?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

21

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# LOVING

## **PURPOSE**

“So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is loving  
and to see why that matters for us.

# LOVING

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## MARK 10:13-22

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry and helping them grow in their own faith
- Jesus has met opposition from the religious leaders who are jealous of His popularity among the people
- People from all walks of life were constantly coming up to Jesus and asking Him questions

### Outline

- I. **The crowds were bringing children to Jesus**
  - A. People wanted Jesus simply to touch their children
  - B. Believed that even Jesus' touch was full of blessing
  - C. Disciples rebuked the people
    - i. Saw children as a distraction
    - ii. Children were not very important in those days
      - a. They didn't really bring anything to society
      - b. Were needy and not very helpful yet
      - c. Became valuable once they were able to contribute
    - iii. Felt this was a waste of Jesus' time
      - a. His time was too precious to be "wasted" on children
  - D. Jesus rebukes the disciples
    - i. Let them come and don't hinder them

- ii. Saw the children as very valuable
  - iii. They were also part of God's kingdom
  - iv. They have the ability to demonstrate faith in a way that adults don't- verse 15
  - v. Made them as valuable as He was
  - vi. Mark 9:36-37
- E. Jesus showed love to the children and the parents
- i. Was not too busy for them
  - ii. Spent time with them and laid hands on them
  - iii. Let them know that He loved them
- II. A man comes to Jesus on his own**
- A. Calls Jesus Good Teacher
- i. Was sign of respect
  - ii. Jesus questions him to see if it means what he says
    - a. Only God is good, so do you believe that I am God
- B. Man asks what he MUST DO to get eternal life
- i. Instead of trusting like a child he asks what he can do to earn heaven
  - ii. Wants the bare minimum
    - a. What MUST I do
- C. We are told that he is an important man
- i. Luke 18:18 tells us he is a ruler and we will see that he is also rich
  - ii. Very different than the children that Jesus had just encountered
  - iii. Would be someone you would want to be on your team
  - iv. Had money, power and influence but still was missing something
- D. Jesus responds to him
- i. You know what to do, obey all the commandments
    - a. Gives him an impossible standard—be perfect
    - b. The only way we can earn our way into heaven is to be perfect and never sin, there is no other way to do it alone

- ii. The man claims perfection
  - a. All these I have kept since I was young
  - b. Was either lying or very confused
- iii. Jesus would have every right to be angry
  - a. He is claiming to be perfect
  - b. Jesus knew his sin and could tell it to him to prove him wrong
  - c. Jesus looks at him and LOVES him
  - d. Has compassion on him
  - e. Knows who he really is and still loves him
    - 1. Knows all his sin and struggles but Jesus doesn't respond with frustration or anger but care
  - f. Wants him to truly believe
- iv. Jesus challenges his beliefs
  - a. There is only one thing you must do
  - b. Sell everything you have
  - c. Give it away to the poor
  - d. Follow me
  - e. Jesus knew what he loved the most was not Him or God but His stuff
    - 1. Cared more for riches than worshipping God
    - 2. Knew what his idol really was
  - f. Knew that if he followed Jesus he would understand the truth
- E. The man walks away
  - i. After getting his answer, he leaves because it was too much for him
  - ii. Was disheartened by what Jesus said
    - a. Like being punched in the gut
    - b. Was very sad
    - c. Realized how much he loved his stuff
  - iii. The price to follow Jesus was too high for him

### III. So What??!!

- A. You are important to God
  - i. He sees you differently than the world does
  - ii. You are His child created in His image so you matter to Him
- B. Jesus loves you
  - i. Not just puts up with you because He has to but is crazy in love with you
  - ii. Jesus was willing to die for you to take your place so you could have eternal life
- C. In order to follow Jesus we may have to give some things up
  - i. Jesus desires to be the most important thing in our lives

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How did Jesus show He was loving?
- Why is it important that Jesus is loving?
- How did Jesus feel about children? How is that encouraging?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Do you sometimes feel like you are unimportant to God? Why?
- How did Jesus show love to the rich young ruler?
- How could Jesus have reacted to him?
- When is a time that you have walked away from Jesus? Why?





# LOVING

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you had to live completely alone for a week, what would be the hardest part?

## READ MATTHEW 8:1-3

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Jesus find when He came down the mountain?
- Who approached Him and what was his problem?
- What did the leper say to Jesus?
- What did Jesus do? Why was this important?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why was it so difficult to be a leper in these days?
- How do the leper's words and actions show his faith?
- Why was it so important that Jesus touched the leper? How does that show love for him?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How are your words and actions showing your faith?
- Who is someone in your life who needs your love and compassion right now?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# LOVING

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What would be the best and most creative way to tell someone that you love them?

## READ JOHN 15:12-17

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What command does Jesus give here?
- How did Jesus show His love for us?
- What are ways you can better love those in your family?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What is the greatest way to show love for another?
- What is the difference between servants and friends according to Jesus?
- What does verse 19 say about choosing? Why is that important?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How important is obedience to God's commands to you?
- What are we called to do in verse 16?
- What are ways in which you are bearing fruit?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

22

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# COMPASSIONATE

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is compassionate  
and to see why that matters for us.

# COMPASSIONATE

---

## MATTHEW 20:29-34

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry and helping them grow in their own faith
- Jesus has met opposition from the religious leaders who are jealous of His popularity among the people
- People from all walks of life were constantly coming up to Jesus and asking Him questions and just wanted to be around Him
- Jesus had predicted His death three times and was on His way to Jerusalem to die

### Outline

- I. **Jesus was leaving Jericho on His way to Jerusalem**
  - A. His time had come to fulfill His purpose
  - B. Would be His last week on Earth
- II. **There were two blind men on the side of the road**
  - A. Being blind often meant you were poor and alone
    - i. This was before Braille and seeing eye dogs
      - a. People didn't know how to take care of someone who was blind
    - ii. Blind people didn't contribute to society—couldn't have a job
      - a. Their only hope of survival was to sit on the road and beg for food and money from those who passed by
      - b. They would often sit at city or gate or temple because that is where people walked the most

- iii. Being blind was seen as a curse from God
  - a. People thought blindness was a result of sin of either the person or their parents
  - b. Made them outcasts from the temple
- B. These men had clearly heard about Jesus
  - i. Called Him Lord and Son of David
    - a. These were titles of the Messiah
    - b. Had heard of His teaching and miracles
  - ii. Believed that Jesus could heal them
    - a. "Have mercy on us"
    - b. Cried out in a loud voice trying to get Jesus' attention
    - c. Wouldn't give up calling to Him
- C. Crowd's response
  - i. Rebuked the blind men
    - a. Jesus had "important" things to do
    - b. He didn't need to be bothered by insignificant people like these two
    - c. Just found the blind men frustrating and annoying
  - ii. Told them to be quiet
    - a. Had no compassion on them and their need
- D. Jesus' response
  - i. Jesus stopped
    - a. Was on His way to fulfill His mission so no one would blame Him if He continued on
    - b. Knew there was nothing more important to do at this time than help these men
    - c. Jesus showed that they had value regardless of what the world thought
  - ii. Jesus asked them a question—"What do you want me to do for you?"
    - a. Jesus spoke to them
      - 1. Could have just healed on His way by without stopping
      - 2. He truly cared about them
    - b. Seems like an odd question



- c. Would seem obvious that they want to see
  - d. Why ask it?
    - 1. If they got their sight back everything would change
    - 2. Would have responsibilities and need a job
    - 3. Couldn't just rely on others to take care of them
  - iii. Jesus healed them
    - a. He had pity on them
      - 1. Was deeply moved by their struggle and their faith
      - 2. Saw to their deepest need
    - b. He touched their eyes
      - 1. How long had it been since someone touched them
      - 2. How long had it been since someone stopped and paid attention to them at all
    - c. They IMMEDIATELY regained their sight
      - 1. Nothing they had to do or say
      - 2. Jesus shows His power
  - E. The blind men's response
    - i. They followed Jesus
    - ii. Many people get what they want from Jesus and then go on their way
      - a. Pray for things and forget to thank Him when He answers
      - b. Only want what Jesus provides instead of wanting Him
      - c. They find Jesus useful but not beautiful
- III. So What??!!**
- A. There are needy people around us all the time
    - i. People the world says aren't important
    - ii. People who need Jesus in their lives
    - iii. It is easier for us to ignore them than to care

- B. We are also needy
  - i. We have places where we are hurting as well
  - ii. We aren't perfect and don't have it all together
- C. Jesus shows us how to have compassion on those in need
  - i. We need to look and listen for them
    - a. Easy to be too busy or just turn a blind eye
  - ii. We need to talk to them
    - a. Most people desire a relationship more than stuff
  - iii. We need to help them
    - a. If we are able

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- Who is someone you know who is in need?
- If Jesus came and asked you "What do you want me to do for you?" what would you say? Why?
- What difference does it make for us that Jesus is compassionate?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Who are the people who just aren't worthy of your time? Why?
- Who are people you know who are needy?
- What is a way that you have showed compassion to another person in the last week?
- Who is someone you know God is calling you to show compassion to? How will you do that this week?



# COMPASSIONATE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you had to either be blind, deaf or mute, which would you choose? Why? What would be hard for you to do?

### READ MATTHEW 9:27-31

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who called out to Jesus as He was passing by?
- What was wrong with them and what did they want from Jesus?
- What question does Jesus ask them?
- How did Jesus heal them?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What is significant about what the blind men said to Jesus?
- What is mercy?
- How did they show their faith? What did Jesus say about their faith?
- How do you show your faith in Jesus?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How do you still need God's mercy every day?
- What are you afraid to ask Jesus for because you aren't really sure He is able to do it?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# COMPASSIONATE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the last time you really cried? Why?

## READ JOHN 11:32-37

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What has just happened?
- Who comes to Jesus and what does she say?
- What does verse 33 tell us about Jesus?
- What else does Jesus do?—verse 35
- What did the crowds say about this?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why was Jesus so moved by what He saw?
- What was Jesus' response to it all in verse 35?
- Why did Jesus weep if He knew He was going to bring Lazarus back in just a few minutes?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Does the hurt in this world still deeply trouble you? Why or why not?
- How does Jesus' crying help us deal with our own pain?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

23

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# FRIEND OF SINNERS

## **PURPOSE**

“So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is a friend of sinners  
and to see why that matters for us.



# FRIEND OF SINNERS

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## LUKE 19:1-10

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Crowds gathered around Jesus because of His teaching and the miracles He performed
- At the same time, Jesus was training His disciples in how to do ministry and helping them grow in their own faith
- Jesus has met opposition from the religious leaders who are jealous of His popularity
- People from all walks of life were constantly coming up to Jesus and asking Him questions and just wanted to be around Him
- Jesus had predicted His death three times and was on His way to Jerusalem to die

### Outline

- I. **Jesus was passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem**
  - A. Jericho was a major city at this time
    - i. Housed the winter palace for Herod the Great
    - ii. Was an important stopping place for many travelers
      - a. Tolls and taxes would have been collected on goods going East and West
  - B. Jesus purposefully went to Jericho
    - i. Were many different paths that led from Capernaum to Jerusalem
    - ii. We see God directing His steps along the way
      - a. Luke 9:51-56
      - b. Village didn't allow Jesus to pass through
- II. **Zacchaeus**
  - A. Chief tax collector of Jericho

- i. Only time we see this title in the New Testament
  - ii. Tax collectors were usually untrustworthy and greedy
    - a. Only they knew the amount of taxes someone owed
    - b. They would tell the people that they actually owed more tax than they did and keep the rest for themselves
- B. Was rich
- i. Had made a very good living off of the people of Jericho
  - ii. Was not well liked by the people in town because they knew he cheated them
- C. Wanted to see Jesus
- i. Word about Jesus and His power and teaching had reached Jericho
  - ii. Because he was small and crowd was big, Zacchaeus climbed a tree just to see Jesus
  - iii. He did things that gentlemen of this time typically didn't do
    - a. Ran and climbed a tree
- III. Instead Jesus sees Zacchaeus**
- A. Jesus stopped at the tree where Zacchaeus was
- i. Of all the people in the crowd, Jesus wanted to talk with him
- B. Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus
- i. Hurry and come down
    - a. Didn't want him to wait
  - ii. I MUST stay at your house today
    - a. To fulfill God's plan, Jesus had to go with Zacchaeus
- IV. Zacchaeus has Jesus over**
- A. He received Jesus joyfully
- i. Probably didn't have many guests wanting to come to his house
- B. The crowds are not happy about this
- i. They didn't like Jesus' choice
    - a. Saw Zacchaeus as a sinner because of his job
    - b. Didn't recognize that they were sinners also

- ii. They grumbled
  - a. It's easy to complain when God doesn't do what we want Him to do
- C. Jesus had a major impact on Zacchaeus
  - i. Zacchaeus repented of his sins
    - a. More than just being sorry but being different
    - b. Would pay back four times any money he had cheated people out of
    - c. Would become someone the people could trust again
  - ii. Zacchaeus wanted to follow Jesus
    - a. Believed who Jesus was—Savior
    - b. Would give half his money to the poor
    - c. Showed that Jesus was more important than money
  - iii. "Salvation has come to this house"
    - a. Jesus acknowledges that Zacchaeus is now saved
- V. Jesus tells His mission
  - A. The Son of Man came
    - i. Jesus left heaven to be with us
    - ii. Jesus made all the effort for our sakes
  - B. To seek
    - i. Jesus pursues
    - ii. Wants us to know Him
  - C. And save the lost
    - i. Jesus seeks after those who don't know Him
    - ii. Came to those who needed Him
      - a. Came not to call righteous but sinners
    - iii. Wants us to continue His pursuit of the lost
      - a. To find those who don't know Jesus and tell them about Him
- VI. So What??!!
  - A. We often look at other people's sins instead of dealing with our own

- i. "At least I am better than that person"
- ii. Need to look at our own lives and see our sin
- B. Jesus wants us to be with Him now
  - i. We like to make excuses or put Jesus off for later
    - a. "When I am older I will follow Jesus"
  - ii. Jesus wants us today and every day
- C. Jesus wants to use us for His mission
  - i. See people as Jesus sees them
    - a. Not avoid people who are different or who are sinners
    - b. Be willing to be with people who need Jesus
    - c. Care more what Jesus thinks than what the crowd thinks
  - ii. Share Jesus with others
    - a. We have a unique story of God's grace to tell
    - b. Need to share God's love with those who don't know

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What did Jesus do for Zacchaeus?
- Why is it surprising how Jesus treated sinners and tax collectors?
- Why is it encouraging for us that He is a friend of sinners?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Do you sometimes feel like God doesn't notice you? Why?
- Who is someone in your life that you judge for how they look or what they do?
- If God has a unique mission for you, where do you think He has been preparing for you to go? Why?

NOTES

A series of horizontal lines for writing notes.

# FRIEND OF SINNERS

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have any job, what would it be? Why?

## READ MATTHEW 9:9-13

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who did Jesus see?
- What are we told about Matthew?
- What does Jesus tell him to do?
- What did Matthew do?
- Who came around while Jesus was in the house?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What do you know about tax collectors at this time?
- Why would most people be surprised that Jesus would ask him to follow?
- What did the Pharisees say? How did Jesus respond?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Who is someone you would be very surprised to see Jesus go to? Why?
- What are the things that keep you from truly following Jesus? Why?
- Who are the "tax collectors" in your life? Why?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# FRIEND OF SINNERS

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could go to dinner at anyone's house, whose would it be? Why?

## READ LUKE 7:36-50

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where was Jesus?
- Who showed up? What are we told about her? What did she do?
- How did the Pharisees respond?
- What story does Jesus tell to help them understand?
- What did Jesus say to the woman?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why would it be a surprise that a Pharisee invited Jesus over?
- Why would this woman do this?
- What debts has Jesus canceled for you? How should you respond?
- How are you at forgiving others?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How would you have responded if you saw this happen? Why?
- What is something valuable that you can offer to Jesus?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

24

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# FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

## **PURPOSE**

“So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy  
and to see why that matters for us.

# FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

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## MATTHEW 21:1-11

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross

### Outline

- I. **Jesus is preparing for His last week on Earth**
  - A. Makes plans to celebrate the Passover
    - i. Sent two disciples on ahead to make arrangements
    - ii. God had already had the whole thing planned out
      - a. You will find a donkey with her colt; bring them to me
      - b. Say "The Lord needs them"
- II. **Jesus enters the city**
  - A. He rides in on the donkey
  - B. Shows He is a king
    - i. A king riding in for battle rode a horse
    - ii. A King riding in peace rode a donkey
    - iii. He is coming to bring peace to Jerusalem and the whole world

### III. The people respond

- A. Put their cloaks on the road for Him to ride over
  - i. Would have been a costly offering for them
    - a. Many didn't have extra clothes
    - b. Would have gotten very dirty
    - c. Was an act of worship
- B. Put branches down before Him
  - i. The Jews would put down palms at the feet of victorious Kings
  - ii. Demonstrating His ultimate victory
- C. Shouted as an act of worship of Jesus
  - i. Hosanna to the Son of David
    - a. Meant "O Save" or "Save Now"
    - b. Calling out to Jesus to save them
    - c. Acknowledges Him as the Davidic King
  - ii. Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord
    - a. Acknowledging that Jesus did not come by Himself but was sent by God
    - b. Knew that He had come to be a blessing
- D. The whole city was stirred up wondering who Jesus was
  - i. Knew that what had happened was a fulfillment of prophecy
  - ii. Knew that it symbolized the coming of the Messiah

### IV. The fulfillment of prophecy about the Messiah

- A. Riding in on the donkey
  - i. Zechariah 9:9
  - ii. Isaiah 62:11
- B. Shows that He is King
  - i. 2 Kings 9:13
- C. Shouts of Hosanna
  - i. Psalm 118:25-26

- D. Jesus demonstrates who He really is
  - i. The Jews would understand what He was doing
  - ii. Had been looking for the Messiah to come
- E. Jesus fulfilled over 350 prophecies from the Old Testament
  - i. Words written hundreds and thousands of years before He came to Earth
  - ii. The chances of 1 person even fulfilling 8 prophecies is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000
- V. **So What??!!**
  - A. Jesus is the Messiah that was promised
    - i. He fulfills all the predictions about the One who was to come
    - ii. Because He is the Messiah, we are called to believe in Him and obey Him
  - B. Shows that God had a plan all along
    - i. Means we can trust Him and the plan He has for our life

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How did Jesus fulfill prophecy? Why does that matter?
- How did the people worship Jesus?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How important is it that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy?
- What things do you need to lay down in order to worship Jesus?
- Do you acknowledge that Jesus is not just your Savior but your king? Are you obeying Him?

# FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could ride on any animal, which would it be? Why?

## READ ZECHARIAH 9:9

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What are the people called to do?
- What does it mean to rejoice?
- Why are they supposed to be doing this?
- How does it say the king will come?
- Who is the king?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What does it mean that Jesus is our king? How do you treat Him like He is your king?
- What does it say about the king?
- How does what he rides show humility?
- When does this actually happen?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- When was this written? – 520 years before Jesus
- Why is that important?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite song to sing right now? Why that song?

## READ PSALM 118:22-29

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 22 say? What does that mean?
- What are we supposed to do with the days the Lord has made?
- How do we rejoice?
- Who is blessed in verse 26?
- What are we to do because He is our God?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How often do you think about every day as a day the Lord has made for you?
- How can you also go to people in the name of the Lord?
- Where do we see this psalm fulfilled?
- When is the last time you really thanked God for all your blessings?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How have you also rejected Jesus?
- When is the last time you really thanked God for all your blessings?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

25

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# PROTECTOR OF WORSHIP

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the protector of worship  
and to see why that matters for us.

# PROTECTOR OF WORSHIP

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## MARK 11:15-19

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- Jesus' time has come and he goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus enters the city to a crowd shouting Hosanna
- Jesus' first order of business is to go to the temple

### Outline

- I. The problem with the temple
  - A. Jesus shows up at the temple and was frustrated by what He saw
  - B. The temple was the center of worship in Jerusalem
    - i. Especially during this time as people travelled to celebrate the Passover
    - ii. For many it was the one time of year they came to God's temple
  - C. The temple had become corrupt
    - i. Pigeon sellers
      - a. When someone came to the temple they had to bring a sacrifice
      - b. The sacrifice had to be completely perfect
      - c. Many people travelled a long way which meant that something could happen to their sacrifice on the journey
      - d. Therefore people would sell sacrifices to those who came

- e. Pigeons were the sacrifice for the poorest people who didn't have enough to offer a lamb
  - f. They would charge high prices because people had to have a sacrifice and there was nowhere else to get one
  - ii. Money changers
    - a. Everyone was required to pay a temple tax every year
      - 1. Was used to provide for priests
      - 2. Was used for upkeep of temple
    - b. The temple required that the taxes were paid using the temple currency
    - c. It was also used to buy the sacrifices
    - d. It was not used at any other time
    - e. The moneychangers would charge extra money to change the money over
  - iii. Location of all of this
    - a. The sellers and moneychangers set up in the outer courts
    - b. This area was the part of the temple where non-Jews could come and worship and pray
    - c. Imagine how distracting it would be to try and worship in the midst of all of this
  - iv. The temple had become a place where people were cheated instead of being able to worship God
- II. Jesus' response**
- A. Drove out those who were making money
    - i. Turned over their tables
    - ii. Told them that they had made the temple a den of robbers
      - a. Was fulfillment of prophecy - Jeremiah 7:11
  - B. Wanted to restore the temple to its purpose
    - i. The worship of God
    - ii. Wanted Gentiles to have a place of worship
    - iii. Wanted the poor to be able to worship and sacrifice without being cheated

**III. The response of the people**

- A. Chief priests and scribes
  - i. Wanted to kill Jesus
  - ii. Were afraid of Him
  - iii. Scared that the crowd would go after Him
- B. The crowds were amazed
  - i. No one taught like this
  - ii. No one seemed to care about people like Jesus did
    - a. Even those that the world saw as unimportant
  - iii. He really cared about worship more than Himself

**IV. So What??!!**

- A. Jesus cares deeply about worship
  - i. We are called to glorify God
  - ii. Worship is the natural response to all God has done for us
  - iii. Jesus wants to get rid of all the things that prevent us from worshipping God
- B. Jesus was willing to stand up for what He believed in
  - i. Would have brought a lot of attention
  - ii. Many might not like Jesus anymore because of what He did
  - iii. The religious leaders wanted to kill Him in response to this
- C. Jesus looked out for those who couldn't look out for themselves
  - i. Cared for the poor and the outcasts
  - ii. Wanted them to know that God loved them too

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What did Jesus do in the temple? Why?
- How was what He did a good and right thing?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What things do you allow to distract you from worship? Why?
- What places in your life do you need to “clean house” and make places of worship again?
- How will you do that?
- What is something you need to start standing up for that you haven’t been?



# PROTECTOR OF WORSHIP

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When was the last time you can remember being really angry? What caused it?

## READ JOHN 2:13-22

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where was Jesus going?
- What did He see in the temple?
- How did He respond? Why?
- What was the purpose of the temple?
- How did the Jews respond to what Jesus did?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why do you think Jesus did what He did in the temple?
- What was it that He said? What does that mean?
- Did Jesus have the authority to do this? Why or why not?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What things distract you from worshipping God?
- How is the Church missing the mark now?
- What is the Church's main purpose supposed to be?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





# PROTECTOR OF WORSHIP

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could change 2 things about our church, what would you change? Why?

## READ MATTHEW 21:12-17

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where is Jesus going?
- What does He do?
- What does He say?
- What else did He do and how did the people respond?
- How did the Pharisees respond?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How had the temple become a den of robbers?
- What is important about how the people and the Pharisees responded to Jesus?
- Why was this a threat to the Pharisees?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- If Jesus showed up at 2PC, what would He overturn? Why?
- If Jesus showed up in your life, what would He overturn? Why?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

26

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# SERVANT

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is a servant  
and to see why that matters for us.

# SERVANT

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## JOHN 13:1-16

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross

### Outline

- I. Jesus does something radical
  - A. Feet were very dirty
    - i. People would walk around wherever they went
      - a. No cars or bikes
      - b. Had animals that were used mostly to farm
    - ii. They wore sandals
    - iii. Whole foot wasn't covered
    - iv. Streets were made of dirt
    - v. Animals would often relieve themselves on the road
    - vi. Feet would be nasty and smelly at end of the day
  - B. People washed their feet before they entered somewhere

- i. As a sign of respect they would clean their feet
    - a. Especially if you were a guest in someone's home
  - ii. People would often have servants clean their guests' feet
    - a. Because they were disgusting
    - b. Was the lowest servant of the house
      - 1. No dignity or respect; looked down on by other servants
- C. Jesus washes the disciples' feet
- i. Took off His outer garment
  - ii. Got down on His knees
  - iii. Cleaned off all the dirt from their feet and wiped them with a towel
  - iv. The disciples didn't know what to think
    - a. Peter protests at first
    - b. Peter then wants Jesus to give him a bath
  - v. Jesus puts Himself as the lowest servant
    - a. Typically the teacher was the highest person
    - b. Everyone served them and not the other way around
  - vi. Does this for ALL the disciples
    - a. Even Judas who He knew would betray Him
    - b. Lives out "Love your enemies"
- II. Why does Jesus do this?
- A. Show them the full extent of His love
- i. Jesus wants to give them a picture of how much He loves them
  - ii. Would humble Himself to do such a selfless act for them
  - iii. Wanted them to not doubt His love when He died and they were confused
- B. Because He was secure in who He was—verse 3
- i. Knew who He was—the Son
    - a. "The Father had..."
    - b. Knew that He belonged to God

- ii. Knew His purpose
    - a. "Given all things into His hand"
    - b. God had given these guys and this ministry to Jesus
    - c. Knew that He had come to die and this was His last chance
  - iii. Knew His hope
    - a. "Was going back to God"
    - b. Even though He was going to suffer He knew in the end He would be back with God the Father
  - iv. Allowed Him to serve others
    - a. Often we don't serve because of our insecurity
      - 1. Worry what others will think
    - b. Jesus' confidence in who He was gave Him the freedom to serve them in an elaborate way
- C. To give them an example for later
- i. They were to be people who served others
    - a. Other religious leaders demanded to be served
    - b. The disciples would be the leaders of the church
    - c. Were to never lose sight of who Jesus called them to be—servants
  - ii. Not trying to have positions of power but willing to serve
    - a. If their master served then so should they
      - 1. No excuses
    - b. Be an example to the rest of the Church

### III. So What??!!

- A. Because Jesus served so should we
  - a. Shouldn't think of ourselves as better than anyone
  - b. There should be nothing that is too good for us to do
  - c. Need to look for ways to serve those we are around
  - d. We need to be humble leaders and not prideful

- B. We need to remember who we are
  - i. Child of God
  - ii. Called to love, serve and share the Gospel
  - iii. Have secure hope: heaven

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What did Jesus do for His disciples?
- How was that an example to them and us?
- What do you need to remember about who you are?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Where are the places in your life where you are looking to serve?
- Why is it so hard to want to serve others?
- What insecurities do you still have about God's love for you? Why?
- Why is remembering who we are in Jesus so important?
- How will you serve this week?





# SERVANT

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the dirtiest you can ever remember being? How did you get that way?

## READ JOHN 13:12-20

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What had Jesus just done?
- What does Jesus ask the disciples?
- What does it mean to be an example?
- What does it mean to be a servant?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why was what Jesus did such a big deal?
- How was it an example to the disciples? How is it an example to you?
- What are ways in which can serve others this week?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What keeps you from truly serving others as Jesus did?
- What are ways in which you can serve your family this week? Your friends?
- What example are you setting for those younger than you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# SERVANT

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is the last time you were really embarrassed? What happened?

## READ MATTHEW 20:20-28

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who comes up to Jesus and what does she ask of Him?
- How does Jesus respond?
- How did the rest of the disciples respond?
- What did Jesus tell them to do in verses 26-27?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why was what she was asking of Jesus not appropriate?
- How were the disciples supposed to be different than the Gentiles?
- Where is a place that you need to serve instead of trying to be in charge?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why do we so badly want to be in charge and have places of honor?
- Who are servant leaders that you know? What do they do?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

27

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# THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life  
and to see why that matters for us.

# THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

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## JOHN 14:1-7

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- The religious leaders continuously try to discredit Jesus by testing Him
- Jesus confronts the misconceptions in His day about sin and judgment
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus enters the city to a crowd shouting Hosanna and then cleanses the Temple to the dismay of the religious leaders who are trying to kill Him
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal before He is to die
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross

### Outline

- I. Jesus has predicted He would die and the disciples are worried and confused
  - A. Jesus wants to give them some hope
  - B. Tells them not to let their hearts be troubled
  - C. Gives them an eternal hope
    - i. I am going to prepare a place for you
    - ii. Going to His Father's house—heaven
    - iii. Wants them to know how they can get there

**II. I am THE WAY**

- A. Jesus is not one of many ways to heaven
  - i. All religions don't lead to God
  - ii. All other religions tell us to earn God's favor
  - iii. Jesus earns God's favor for us with His perfect life
- B. No one comes to the Father except through me
  - i. There is NO OTHER WAY
  - ii. You can't go to church enough or read your Bible enough or pray enough or be nice enough or do anything else
  - iii. We are sinful and our sin needs to be taken away
    - a. Jesus took all of our sin on the cross
    - b. Opens the way for us to be with God forever

**III. I am the TRUTH**

- A. There are not many truths but only one
  - i. Truth is not relative or subjective
  - ii. God has ABSOLUTE TRUTH
- B. To truly understand God or the world we must know what Jesus said
  - i. He is One with God
  - ii. He created the heavens and the Earth
- C. Jesus leads us into all truth
  - i. Makes truth available for us to know
  - ii. We have His Word—the Bible

**IV. I am THE LIFE**

- A. Not just one option of how to live
- B. He created life and this world so He knows how it works best
- C. Jesus doesn't want you to just exist and live but thrive
  - i. Lived a bold and exciting life



- D. Living for Jesus is the only life that truly satisfies
  - i. Sin and pleasure are fleeting
  - ii. This world and all its stuff will pass away
  - iii. Jesus gives us a way to be content no matter the circumstances

**V. Jesus embodies these things to show us God**

- A. Wants to make the Father known to us
- B. Shows us His heart for us
- C. Leads us to Him

**VI. So What??!!**

- A. Jesus is the ONLY way to heaven
  - i. Can't get there by ourselves
  - ii. Need to tell others
- B. Jesus is the ONLY absolute truth
  - i. Need to know and study His Word
  - ii. Need to use His Word when faced with temptations or difficult decisions
  - iii. Need to "listen to Him"
- C. Living for Jesus is the ONLY way to have real life
  - i. Need to follow Him and His example
  - ii. He is only thing that will truly satisfy our deepest longings

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- Why is it important that Jesus is THE way, truth, and life?
- How is Jesus the only way to heaven?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What does it mean that Jesus is THE WAY?
- What does it mean that Jesus is THE TRUTH?
- What does it mean that Jesus is THE LIFE?
- How does the world fight against Jesus' claims?



# THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you got in trouble for something you didn't do?

## READ ACTS 4:1-12

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is this talking about and what were they doing?
- How did the religious leaders respond?
- How were the crowds responding to the teaching?
- What did the religious leaders ask Peter and John?
- What does Peter say about Jesus?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What change have you seen in Peter and John from right after when Jesus died?
- How does Peter show confidence in the Lord before the religious leaders?
- Where is a place you need to be bold for Jesus?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What scares you most about witnessing for Jesus?
- How does what Peter said in verse 12 differ from what the world says today? How do you respond?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Make a family fire plan and list all the possible places you could get out of your house. Now decide the best way for everyone to go.

### READ JOHN 11:17-27

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is Jesus talking to? What had just happened?
- What does Jesus say to Martha?
- What does Jesus say about Himself? What does that mean?
- What promise does He give her about those who believe?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How did Martha have such faith in Jesus?
- What difference does it make that Jesus is the Resurrection and Life?
- How do you feel about the promise Jesus gives here?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Do you truly believe that God will give Jesus whatever He asks for concerning you?
- How should you live differently because of who Jesus is?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

28

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# THE VINE

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the Vine  
and to see why that matters for us.



# THE VINE

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## JOHN 15:1-11

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- The religious leaders continuously try to discredit Jesus by testing Him
- Jesus confronts the misconceptions in His day about sin and judgment
- Jesus' time has come and he goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus enters the city to a crowd shouting Hosanna and then cleanses the Temple to the dismay of the religious leaders who are trying to kill Him
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross

### Outline

- I. **Jesus gives them another picture they can relate to**
  - A. Vines and vinedressers
    - i. Grapes were a big part of the culture at this time
      - a. Used to eat and make wine
    - ii. Grape vines had to be taken care of
      - a. Needed to be pruned and trimmed often
      - b. If they were left to grow wild, they could choke off and not bear fruit

- B. He uses this to show the relationship between Himself, God the Father, and us
  - i. Vinedresser- God the Father
  - ii. Vine- Jesus
  - iii. Branches- Us

**II. What does the vinedresser do?**

- A. Cuts off the branches that don't bear fruit
  - i. Our call as Christians is to grow to be more like Jesus daily
  - ii. Bear fruit in increasing measure
    - a. The longer you are a Christian the more growth you should see over the long haul
    - b. Showing the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- B. Prunes the branches that are bearing fruit to make them more fruitful
  - i. Sometimes God needs to cut some things out of our lives so we can truly glorify Him more
    - a. Friends and relationships that don't honor Him
    - b. Activities and stuff that distract us from Him
    - c. Awards and accolades that would make us prideful
    - d. It can be really painful but it's worth it in the end
  - ii. His goal is for us to bring glory to Him and not be successful in the eyes of the world

**III. What does the Vine do?**

- A. It brings life to the branches
  - i. Cannot live if they're not connected
  - ii. Can't do anything on their own
- B. It brings nutrients to the branches
  - i. What they need to grow
  - ii. What they need to bear fruit
- C. Keeps the branches connected together
  - i. Holds them together
  - ii. Makes them a part of the whole

**IV. Jesus as the True Vine**

- A. In OT, the vine and vineyard referred to Israel- Isaiah 5:1-7
  - i. Where the blessings of God came from
  - ii. People needed to be grafted into Israel
  - iii. Had become symbol of Israel
- B. Jesus is the fulfillment of that
  - i. We are blessed not because we belong to Israel but belong to Jesus
  - ii. Aren't saved by being a Jew but by believing in Jesus

**V. What do the Branches do?**

- A. Bear fruit ONLY if they are connected to the vine
- B. Apart from the vine
  - i. They wither and die with nothing to feed them
  - ii. They are gathered and thrown into the fire
    - a. Have no real purpose

**VI. How do we stay in the vine?**

- A. Abide
  - i. Stay in constant contact with Jesus
  - ii. Keep in fellowship with Jesus so His life can work in and through you
- B. Obey
  - i. We abide in Jesus by obeying His commandments
  - ii. Jesus sets the example in His obedience to the Father
    - a. Became obedient to death, even death on a cross- Philippians 2:8
- C. Promises associated with this
  - i. Bear much fruit
  - ii. Have full joy

## VII. So What??!!

- A. We need to abide in Jesus
  - i. Get our strength and sustenance from Him
  - ii. Can't do the Christian life on our own
- B. We need to obey Jesus
  - i. Know His Words and His commands
  - ii. Not just know the Word but do it- James 1:22

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the vine?
- What is our job as branches?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What is the connection between vine and branches?
- How do you stay connected to the vine?
- Do you feel like you are getting life from Jesus right now?
- Do you feel connected to Jesus at all?
- What are ways in which you can abide in Him?



# THE VINE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite kind of tree, plant or flower? Why?

## READ JOHN 15:5-11

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus say He is? What does He say we are?
- What do branches do?
- What do branches need to live?
- What are we called to do in verse 8?
- Why did Jesus tell them this?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What are we called to do in verse 5?
- What does it mean to abide?
- How do we abide in Jesus?
- What does verse 10 tell us to do? Why is that hard?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Do you truly believe that apart from Jesus you can do nothing?
- How do we abide in Jesus' love?
- What commandments do you find hardest to keep? Why?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# THE VINE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite fruit? Why?

## READ GALATIANS 5:22-23

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is the fruit of the Spirit?
- Which of these is easiest for you to do?
- Which is the hardest for you to do?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why does Paul use a fruit metaphor here?
- Why is it important that these are fruit of the Spirit?
- Which of these is easiest for you to live out? Which is hardest for you to live out? Why?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How would you grade yourself on these fruits in your life?
- Which of these would you like to grow in the most this year?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

29

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# MAN OF PRAYER

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is a Man of Prayer  
and to see why that matters for us.

# MAN OF PRAYER

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## JOHN 17:1-26

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus enters the city to a crowd shouting Hosanna and then cleanses the Temple to the dismay of the religious leaders who are trying to kill Him
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus takes the time to spend time praying for the disciples before He dies

### Outline

- I. **Jesus often spent time in prayer**
  - A. Luke 5:16, Mark 1:35
  - B. Saw the importance of prayer for Him
    - i. Keeping Him connected to the Father
    - ii. Gave Him strength to serve and minister
- II. **Jesus wants the disciples to see the importance of prayer**
  - A. This is His last night on Earth and spends it praying with them
  - B. Demonstrates what to ask for—verses 1-5
    - i. Bring Glory to God

- a. Wanted His life to bring glory to God
  - ii. By spreading the truth about eternal life
    - a. Knowing the only True God
    - b. Knowing Jesus who God sent
- C. Praying for the disciples—those with Him now
  - i. That they would truly know the Word—verses 6-9
    - a. Give them what God has given us in the Bible
  - ii. Keep them in your Name – verse 12
    - a. Constantly make God the focus
    - b. That Scripture would be fulfilled
  - iii. Keep them from the evil one
    - a. Not take them out of the world but help them stand up in it
  - iv. Sanctify them with Truth
    - a. That God’s Word would make them more like Him
    - b. As they obey God’s Word they will be more like Him
- D. Praying for us as well
  - i. Those who will believe in me through the Word
    - a. Jesus on His last night on Earth – prayer for you and me
  - ii. Prayed that we would be unified
    - a. All believers will be One as He and God the Father are One
    - b. So that the world will believe in Him
      - 1. John 13:35
  - iii. Prayed for us to go to heaven
    - a. To see Him in His glory and know Him deeply

### III. So What??!!

- A. If Jesus needed prayer then so do we
  - i. An important part of having a relationship with Him
  - ii. Prayer is what we need to be connected to follow and obey

- B. Prayer should be a priority in our lives
  - i. If Jesus prayed on His last night then we should also make prayer an important part of our lives
  - ii. Jesus would pray even when He was busy doing ministry
    - a. Made time to go and speak to God in prayer
- C. We should pray not only for ourselves but others
  - i. With all that Jesus was about to endure, no one would have blamed Him if He only prayed for Himself
  - ii. Jesus understood His call to pray for other people

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How important was prayer to Jesus?
- How did Jesus pray for us?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How important is prayer to you?
- What are the things that keep you from prayer?
- How does Jesus' need for prayer encourage you about prayer?
- What did you find interesting about Jesus' prayer here?

# MAN OF PRAYER

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Where is your favorite place to go and visit? Why?

### READ LUKE 5:12-16

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who comes to Jesus?
- What does he say to Jesus? What does Jesus do?
- What does Jesus tell the leper to do?
- What was happening in verse 15?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How were the people responding to Jesus?
- What did this mean for Him?
- What did Jesus do at the height of His popularity?—verse 16
- What does that tell us about the importance of prayer?
- How important is prayer in your day-to-day life?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why is it important that Jesus would go off by Himself and pray?
- If Jesus needed to pray, what does that mean for us?
- What gets in the way of your prayer life?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# MAN OF PRAYER

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What has been the hardest thing you have had to deal with this year? Why? Spend time as a family praying about these things for each other.

### READ MARK 14:32-42

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where do we find Jesus and His disciples?
- How was Jesus feeling? Why?
- What did Jesus do about how He was feeling?
- What was Jesus' prayer in verse 36?
- How does Jesus seem after praying in verse 42?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What do you typically do when you are feeling stressed and sad? Why?
- How often do you pour your heart out to the Lord in prayer?
- How should verse 36 change the way you pray?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How often are you seeking your will over God's will?
- Do you trust God with your problems? Why or why not?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

30

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# THE GREAT I AM

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is I AM  
and to see why that matters for us.

# THE GREAT I AM

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## JOHN 18:1-11

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Judas has agreed to betray Jesus and leaves dinner to do so
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus goes with His disciples to pray after dinner

### Outline

- I. **Jesus leads His disciples to a garden**
  - A. Gethsemane
  - B. Place where the disciples had been before
  - C. Place where Jesus prayed earnestly before the Lord
    - i. Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46
- II. **Judas brings soldiers to arrest Jesus**
  - A. Had made deal with religious leaders to give them Jesus
    - i. They wanted to get rid of Him
    - ii. Judas agreed to give Jesus over for money
      - a. Matthew 26:14-16, Luke 22:3-6

- B. Soldiers were prepared for a battle
  - i. Had lanterns and torches and weapons
  - ii. A band of soldiers with a great crowd
    - a. Matthew 26:47
- C. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss—Luke 22:47-48
  - i. Tells the soldiers to arrest who he kisses
  - ii. A very common greeting among close friends
  - iii. Was a very personal and intimate way to betray Him

### III. Jesus' response to the arrest

- A. Doesn't try to hide or run away
  - i. Comes forward towards the soldiers
  - ii. Accepts Judas' kiss
  - iii. Knows all that was going to happen
- B. Asks them who they are seeking
  - i. Makes them ask for Him
  - ii. A way to protect His disciples
    - a. They were only looking for Jesus

### IV. Jesus as I AM

- A. The soldiers ask for Jesus of Nazareth
- B. Jesus responds with "I am he"
- C. The whole crowd draws back and falls to the ground at Jesus' words
  - i. A show of immense power
  - ii. The power of even Jesus' words
- D. What does this mean?
  - i. I AM—Exodus 3
  - ii. God appears to Moses in burning bush
  - iii. Calls Him to go to His people and tell them that God has heard their cries and is freeing them

- iv. Moses asks, What if the people ask your Name? Who shall I say sent me?
  - v. God responds with a name—Yahweh
    - 1. I AM
    - 2. Tell them that I AM has sent me to you
    - 3. God’s personal name to His people
    - 4. God’s powerful name to His people
  - vi. Jesus uses the same name
    - a. Makes the connection between He and the Father
    - b. Shows the power in His Name
      - 1. At the mention of it all the people fall
- V. What does Jesus being I AM do for us?**
- A. Reminds us who Jesus is
    - i. More than just a man
    - ii. He is GOD—I AM
      - a. He deserves our worship
  - B. Reminds us that He is working now
    - i. Often think that God WAS working in past
      - a. Did miracles
      - b. Spoke to His people
    - ii. Often think God WILL BE working in the future
      - a. Take us to heaven
      - b. Making new heaven and new Earth
    - iii. God is working in our lives today- I AM
      - a. God is what we need now
        - 1. Healer, Teacher, Savior, Friend, etc.

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- Why is it important that Jesus is I AM?
- What happens to Jesus and how does He show His power?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How did Jesus show His power?
- What do you need Jesus to be in your life right now?
- How do you see Jesus at work in your life this week?

NOTES

Lined paper for notes, consisting of 16 horizontal lines.

# THE GREAT I AM

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some of the nicknames that you are known by? What are your favorites?

## READ EXODUS 3:13-15

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is here and what has just happened?
- What does Moses say to God?
- What name does God give Moses to use for Him?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why would Moses be nervous about going and speaking to the people?
- What makes you nervous about talking about God with others?
- What is the significance of God using I AM as His name?
- What difference should that make for you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How is God a present help to you right now?
- What is keeping you from going and speaking in His Name?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





# THE GREAT I AM

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some things that people have said about you that weren't true? How did that make you feel?

## READ JOHN 8:48-59

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What were the Jews saying about Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond?
- What does Jesus say in verse 28?
- How did the Jews react to that?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What was Jesus saying when He said that He was before Abraham?
- What was Jesus saying when He said I AM?
- How did Jesus get out of the situation?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What is something about Jesus that would get that kind of reaction at your school?
- How often do you think about the supremacy of Jesus over all things?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

31

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# TRUSTING

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is trusting  
and to see why that matters for us.

# TRUSTING

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## MARK 14:53-65

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Judas has agreed to betray Jesus and leaves dinner to do so
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus is betrayed and arrested and goes to be tried for blasphemy

### Outline

- I. **Jesus is on trial**
  - A. Before the High Priest
  - B. With all chief priests, elders and scribes in attendance
    - i. Whole Sanhedrin (Council) was there
  - C. Were seeking to put Jesus to death
    - i. Wanted to get rid of Him
    - ii. Nervous how the crowds went after Him
- II. **Testimony against Jesus**
  - A. The religious leaders had many witnesses come to speak against Jesus

- i. They bore false witness about Jesus
  - a. Said He would destroy God's temple
  - b. Said He would build a new temple
- ii. The witnesses could not agree
  - a. Not enough evidence to convict Him
  - b. Knew they had no basis for death

### III. Jesus' response

#### A. At first, silence

- i. Doesn't react to their accusations
- ii. Doesn't try to defend Himself
  - a. Even though what they said was false
- iii. Doesn't put them in their place
  - a. Was smarter than them
  - b. Had the Truth
- iv. Fulfills Scripture about Him
  - a. Isaiah 53:7

#### B. Next, He gives them what they needed

- i. If Jesus says nothing, they will have to free Him
  - a. No evidence
  - b. Would leave there free
- ii. They ask Him, "Are you the Christ?"
  - a. Jesus says "I am"
  - b. Was the admission of guilt they needed
  - c. Meant they could charge Him with blasphemy
  - d. They all condemned Him because of His words
    - 1. Even began to spit on Him and hit Him

**IV. How could Jesus respond like this???**

- A. He trusted God's plan
  - i. Knew that God could be trusted
  - ii. Knew that God was in control
  - iii. Knew this was part of God's ultimate plan
    - a. Isaiah 53:10
- B. Knew what His purpose was—to die
  - i. John 18:36-37
  - ii. Knew what would happen to Him
  - iii. This was the reason He came
    - a. To suffer and die for our sakes
    - b. Be the offering for sin we needed
      - 1. Isaiah 53:4-6

**V. SO WHAT?!!!**

- A. We can also trust God
  - i. He is in control of our lives as well
  - ii. Knows what is best for us
    - a. He is Good
  - iii. Has a plan for us—Jeremiah 29:11
    - a. For our good
    - b. Give us a hope and a future
  - iv. Has a plan for all areas of life
  - v. Even when things aren't going the way we think they should
  - vi. God knows everything that is happening with us and around us
- B. We don't have to defend ourselves when we are obeying God
  - i. Exodus 14:14, Psalm 121:7
  - ii. Jesus is our defender
    - a. Protects and cares for us

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How did Jesus show His trust in God's plan?
- How did Jesus respond to those who spoke against Him?
- How can you trust God more this week?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What are areas of your life in which you are having a hard time trusting God? Why?
- How do you respond to those who are against you?
- How does Jesus' trust encourage you to trust God as well?
- What is one area in which you want to trust God more this week?





# TRUSTING

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is something that you do that makes you nervous? Why do you feel that way?

## READ JEREMIAH 29:11

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is here and what has just happened?
- What does Moses say to God?
- What name does God give Moses to use for Him?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why would Moses be nervous about going and speaking to the people?
- What makes you nervous about talking about God with others?
- What is the significance of God using I AM as His name?
- What difference should that make for you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How is God a present help to you right now?
- What is keeping you from going and speaking in His Name? What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# TRUSTING

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some things that people have said about you that weren't true? How did that make you feel?

## READ ROMANS 8:28

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What were the Jews saying about Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond?
- What does Jesus say in verse 28?
- How did the Jews react to that?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What was Jesus saying when He said that He was before Abraham?
- What was Jesus saying when He said I AM?
- How did Jesus get out of the situation?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What is something about Jesus that would get that kind of reaction at your school?
- How often do you think about the supremacy of Jesus over all things?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

32

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# FORGIVING

## **PURPOSE**

“So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is forgiving  
and to see why that matters for us.

# FORGIVING

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## LUKE 23:32-43

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Judas has agreed to betray Jesus and leaves dinner to do so
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus is betrayed and arrested and is tried falsely and condemned to die
- After beating him and mocking Him, Jesus is put on the cross to die in order to inflict maximum pain and shame

### Outline

- I. **Jesus is on the cross**
  - A. Was Rome's most public and painful way to die
  - B. Was a fulfillment of Scripture
    - i. Galatians 3:13
    - ii. Psalm 22:18
  - C. He was not alone
    - i. Two criminals with Him
    - ii. One on either side

- D. Crowd was watching
    - i. Religious leaders
      - a. If He is the Christ let Him save Himself
    - ii. Soldiers
      - a. If you are the King of the Jews save yourself
  - E. Was in agony
    - i. Spikes driven into his hands and through His feet
    - ii. Being ridiculed and made fun of by those He came to love and save
- II. Jesus shows His heart for forgiveness**
- A. Towards the crowd and religious leaders
    - i. They had called to crucify Him
    - ii. They had made up testimony about Him
    - iii. They had made fun of Him
    - iv. They had spit on Him and beaten Him
  - B. Jesus prays for them
    - i. Fulfillment of His instruction to the disciples
      - a. Matthew 5:44
    - ii. Prays for God to forgive them
      - a. Imagine how radical that is
      - b. While they are being mean to Him and killing Him, He can only think about their need
      - c. Knew they didn't really understand what they were doing
      - d. Shows His love for all people
  - C. Towards the criminal
    - i. One of the criminals was also hurling insults at Jesus
      - a. Are you not the Christ? Then save yourself and us
    - ii. The other criminal rebuked him
      - a. Knew their punishment was deserved



- iii. Asks for Jesus' mercy
  - a. Believed Jesus was the Messiah
    - 1. Asked to be part of His Kingdom
  - b. Wanted Jesus just to remember him
- D. Jesus' promise to the robber
  - i. Truly
    - a. So he could know that Jesus would fulfill it
  - ii. I say to you
    - a. Speaking directly to him and not everyone
  - iii. Today
    - a. He would not have to wait it out
    - b. Wouldn't have to do some extra work because he was a criminal
  - iv. You will be with ME
    - a. Lets him know that Jesus will take him there personally
    - b. His Kingdom is being in His Presence
  - v. In paradise
    - a. Heaven
    - b. Perfection
  - vi. Despite the criminal's sin that was worthy enough to be killed for, Jesus is offering him grace, mercy and forgiveness for his past sins

### III. SO WHAT??!!

- A. We are called to love our enemies
  - i. Is completely different than the world
    - a. Shows a powerful witness for Jesus
  - ii. Do not seek revenge
  - iii. We are to desire that they come to know God
    - a. Understand that they don't understand what they are doing
  - iv. Show them Jesus' love for you

- B. We are called to forgive our enemies
  - i. Not hold their sins against them
  - ii. Not continually bring it up
  - iii. See it as a joy to suffer as Jesus did
    - a. Acts 5:40:41
    - b. James 1:2-4
  - iv. Need to show them Jesus who forgives
- C. We are called to pray for our enemies
  - i. Not praying for them to suffer as well
  - ii. Pray for them even in the midst of your suffering at their hands
  - iii. Pray for them to know Jesus
- D. We too were God's enemies
  - i. Colossians 1:21-23
  - ii. Romans 5:10

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How has Jesus forgiven you?
- Who is someone in your life that you need to forgive?
- How does Jesus' interaction with the robber encourage you?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- Who is someone in your life that you need to forgive?
- How are you encouraged by what Jesus did here?
- Who are a couple of people that are hard to love that you need to try and love this week?
- How should we respond to such awesome forgiveness?



# FORGIVING

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the biggest trouble you can remember getting into? How did you make it through?

## READ JOHN 7:53-8:11

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where was Jesus? Who came to Him?
- What did scribes and Pharisees bring? What question do they ask Jesus?
- What does Jesus say to the Pharisees? How did they respond?
- What does Jesus say to the woman?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why was this a test to Jesus?
- What would happen if Jesus said not to obey the Law?
- What would happen if Jesus said to not forgive her?
- Why do you think Jesus wrote in the sand? Was the Pharisees' attention on the woman or Him?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How is it clear that the Pharisees only cared about trapping Jesus?
- Who are people you know that are so against Jesus that they don't care who they hurt in the process?
- What sins do you need to leave in your life right now?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# FORGIVING

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that someone really hurt your feelings? How did you finally forgive them? Was it hard?

## READ JOHN 21:15-19

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What had just happened? Who was involved?
- What question does Jesus ask Peter? How many times does He ask him that?
- How does Peter answer the question?
- What command does Jesus give Peter each time? What does that mean?
- What is the last thing Jesus asks Peter to do?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Who does Jesus talk to? Why him?
- How did Peter feel about being asked the same questions multiple times? Why?
- Why did Jesus ask him three times? You may have to think about what Peter did before the cross.
- What are ways that you are feeding Jesus' sheep? What does that look like?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- If Jesus showed up and asked you "Do you love me more than these?" what would you say? Why?
- Who are the lambs and sheep in your life that you need to be taking care of?
- How has Jesus completely restored you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

NOTES

Lined area for notes with 22 horizontal lines.

WEEK

33

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# SACRIFICE

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is our sacrifice  
and to see why that matters for us.



# SACRIFICE

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## MATTHEW 27:45-56

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Judas has agreed to betray Jesus and leaves dinner to do so
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus is betrayed and arrested and is tried falsely and condemned to die
- After beating him and mocking Him, Jesus is put on the cross to die in order to inflict maximum pain and shame
- Jesus' crucifixion was all a part of God's plan

### Outline

- I. **Jesus is on the cross**
  - A. After forgiving the crowds and the robber there was darkness over all the land
    - i. From noon (6th hour) to 3pm (9th hour)
    - ii. Was a supernatural darkness
  - B. Jesus hangs there in agony waiting to die

## II. Jesus speaks

- A. Cried out in a loud voice–wanted all to hear
- B. “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”
  - i. Forsaken–means left alone or cut off from
  - ii. God turned His back on Jesus at this moment
    - a. Why?
      - 1. Because all of our sin past, present and future was on put on Jesus
      - 2. Because God is holy He can't be around sin
  - iii. Jesus was cut off from the Father for the first time
    - a. Would have been even more painful than the physical pain
    - b. Was completely alone
- C. Jesus cried out again
  - i. John tells us what he says in 19:30
  - ii. It is finished
    - a. Jesus is telling us that His job is now done
      - 1. Had accomplished the purpose for which He came
    - b. Jesus is telling us that sin is done
      - 1. We no longer have to fear sin and death
      - 2. He has conquered our enemies
    - c. Jesus is telling us that our striving is done
      - 1. We no longer have to try and earn God's favor with sacrifices
      - 2. He is the once-for-all sacrifice for our sins
      - 3. He has done for us what we could not do for ourselves
    - d. He has won our battle for us
- D. Jesus died
  - i. Gave up His Spirit to God
  - ii. Was trusting God to the very end

### III. The effects of Jesus' death

- A. The curtain of the temple was torn in two
  - i. Curtain separated the Holy Place from Most Holy Place
    - a. Where God's Presence was
    - b. No one could enter Most Holy Place except High Priest and then only once a year
    - c. Shows that the barrier between God and man is now gone
      - 1. Man can freely approach God Himself through blood of Jesus
      - 2. Doesn't need a priest or sacrifices anymore
  - ii. Jesus' sacrifice made a way for people to approach God
- B. Earthquake
  - i. Creation itself reacts to Jesus' death
  - ii. Rocks were split and it was felt in the whole land
- C. The tombs were opened
  - i. Those who had died rose up and were seen by the people
  - ii. Proof of Jesus' power over death
- D. Response of those around Jesus
  - i. "Truly this was the Son of God"
  - ii. All that happened pointed to Jesus
  - iii. They were in awe
    - a. Another word for worship

### IV. SO WHAT??!!!

- A. Our sin is a big deal
  - i. We sometimes think it doesn't matter
  - ii. Keeps us from being able to be in God's Presence
    - a. Our sin made God turn His back on Jesus His Son
- B. Jesus loves you enough to be cut off from His Father
  - i. Was a price He willingly paid for us

- C. Jesus has made a way for us to go straight to God
  - i. His blood shed
  - ii. His sacrifice that takes away our sin
- D. How will you respond?
  - i. Is He truly the Son of God to you?

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How was Jesus a sacrifice for us?
- What do we get because of His sacrifice?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How often do you think about all Jesus endured for you on the cross?
- What effect did Jesus' death have then?
- What effect does it have now? In your life?
- How do you see the sin in your life?



# SACRIFICE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you saw someone being made fun of? What did you do about it?

## READ MARK 15:16-41

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where did the soldiers lead Jesus? What did they do to Him there? Why?
- Who helped Jesus carry His cross? Why?
- What does it mean that they crucified Him?
- What happened at 6th hour? What did Jesus say at 9th hour?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What would it have been like to be there and see all that?
- Why did Jesus have to die like this?
- What was interesting about how crowds responded to the cross?
- Why was it very important what Jesus said? How does that help us?
- What happened after Jesus died? Why is that important?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How are ways that people mock Jesus today?
- What are ways that you put Jesus to the test like the crowd at the cross? Why?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# SACRIFICE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

## READ JOHN 19:16-37

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where did they take Jesus? What was written above His head?
- How did religious leaders feel about what was written?
- What did Pilate say about it?
- What did Jesus do with his mom? Why was that important?
- What were Jesus' last words according to John?
- What did they do to make sure Jesus was dead?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Why was it significant what the sign said and the languages which were used?
- How was Scripture fulfilled by what happened to Jesus? Why is that important?
- How do we see Jesus' heart while He is on the cross?
- What did Jesus mean when He said "It is finished"?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the King of the Jews?
- What did Jesus do when He said "It is finished"? How does that help us?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





WEEK

34

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# ONE WHO CONQUERED DEATH

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is the One  
who conquered death and to see why that matters for us.

# ONE WHO CONQUERED DEATH

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## MATTHEW 28:1-10

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Judas has agreed to betray Jesus and leaves dinner to do so
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus is betrayed and arrested and is tried falsely and condemned to die
- After being beaten and mocked, Jesus is put on the cross to die in order to inflict maximum pain and shame
- Jesus died as a part of God's plan
- Jesus was buried in a tomb

### Outline

- I. **Jesus is in the tomb**
  - A. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (as Gospel of John tells us) asked for Jesus' body and took it to a new tomb to be buried
    - i. Was cut out of the rock
    - ii. Like a cave

- B. They rolled a great stone in front of the entrance
    - i. Was to protect His body from wild animals
  - C. The chief priests and Pharisees react
    - i. Remembered Jesus' words that He would rise again
    - ii. Wanted to make sure that didn't happen
    - iii. Thought the disciples might come and steal the body to say He rose again
    - iv. Asked for a guard to protect the tomb and Pilate granted their request
    - v. Made the tomb as secure as they could
- II. Jesus leaves the tomb**
- A. On the third day (day after the Sabbath) Mary and Mary Magdalene go to the tomb
    - i. Wanted to honor Jesus by putting spices on the body
    - ii. Preserved it for a time and cut down on the smell
  - B. The stone was rolled away
    - i. An angel came and did it
      - a. Created an earthquake
      - b. His appearance was like lightning
    - ii. Guards were afraid and became like dead men
    - iii. Angel spoke to the women
      - a. Do not be afraid
      - b. Jesus whom you seek is not here
      - c. He has risen as He said
      - d. Come and see where His body was
      - e. Go and tell His disciples what you have seen and that you will see Him again
    - iv. Jesus was not there
      - a. Had brought Himself back to life
      - b. Had taken away the power and fear of death

**III. Jesus appears to them**

- A. As they went to obey the angel Jesus met them
- B. "Greetings"
- C. They took hold of Jesus' feet
  - i. He was not a spirit but flesh and blood
  - ii. Had really resurrected
  - iii. Had a body
- D. Told them to not be afraid
  - i. Of Him
  - ii. Of death
- E. Told them to tell the disciples what had happened

**IV. SO WHAT?!!!**

- A. Jesus is way more powerful than we think He is
  - i. Can do beyond what we could ask or imagine
  - ii. The women expected a dead Jesus but instead saw Him alive
- B. Jesus defeated death
  - i. It has no more power over us
  - ii. We should not be afraid to die
  - iii. As Jesus rose again, if we are His, so will we
  - iv. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
- C. We are called to tell others what Jesus has done
  - i. They weren't just supposed to sit and enjoy it
  - ii. Called to tell those we know

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What did Jesus do?
- How is that encouraging to us?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What difference does Jesus' resurrection make in your day-to-day life?
- What difference should it make?
- What should we do with His resurrection?
- Why should we no longer be afraid of death? Why are we still?



# ONE WHO CONQUERED DEATH

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were told something true that you didn't believe? How did you finally believe?

## READ LUKE 24:1-12

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the woman find when they went to the tomb?
- How did they respond?
- What did they find and how did they respond?
- What did the angels say to them?
- What did the women do once they left the tomb?
- How did Peter respond?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What did the angels remind them of? Why was that important?
- How did the disciples respond to what they heard? Why?
- How would you have responded?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are some of God's promises that you need to be reminded of?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER





# ONE WHO CONQUERED DEATH

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could witness in person any one historical event what would it be and why?

## READ LUKE 24:13-35

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who was on the road and what were they doing?
- Who came to them and talked to them?
- How did they not know who it was?
- What did Jesus remind them of?
- How did Jesus finally reveal Himself?
- What did they tell the disciples?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What did the men say about Jesus? Why was that important?
- How had Jesus not lived up to their hopes?
- When is a time that Jesus hasn't lived up to your hopes?
- Why is it important to know the whole Bible?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- When is a time that you didn't recognize Jesus' work until later? What kept you from realizing it sooner?
- When is a time that Jesus hasn't lived up to your hopes? How did you respond?
- What has God worked in you like this that you could share with others?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

35

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# GRACIOUS WITH OUR DOUBTS

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is gracious with  
our doubts and to see why that matters for us.

# GRACIOUS WITH OUR DOUBTS

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**JOHN 20:24-29**

## Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Judas has agreed to betray Jesus and leaves dinner to do so
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus is betrayed and arrested and is tried falsely and condemned to die
- After being beaten and mocked, Jesus is put on the cross to die in order to inflict maximum pain and shame
- Jesus died as a part of God's plan and was buried in a tomb
- Jesus was resurrected and appeared to Mary and Mary Magdalene and they told the disciples what had happened
- Jesus then appeared to some of the disciples

## Outline

- I. **Jesus has been showing Himself to the disciples**
  - A. Knew they would need to see Him to believe

- B. They were skeptical when they were told what had happened by the women at the tomb
- C. He showed them His scars to prove who He was and what had happened

**II. Thomas doubted**

- A. Was not there when Jesus appeared to other disciples
- B. Would not just take their word for it
  - i. Would not believe unless he saw it for himself
- C. Thomas' need to experience it for himself
  - i. Not just see but touch
    - a. See the marks and touch them
    - b. Place my hand into His side
- D. Was wanting an extreme show of evidence
  - i. Not just a glimpse from far away

**III. Jesus shows us to Thomas**

- A. Eight days had gone by
  - i. We expect Jesus to handle our doubts right then but that's not always the case
- B. The disciples are together in a locked room
  - i. Were afraid of religious leaders
  - ii. Remembered Jesus' words about what will happen to them
    - a. World will hate you
    - b. When you go before the authorities
  - iii. Were expecting to be arrested and killed as followers of Jesus
- C. Jesus came to see Thomas
  - i. Was a very personal visit
  - ii. Speaks to Thomas
    - a. "Put your finger here, and see my hands... and place it [your hand] in my side"
    - b. Not speaking in a frustrated or angry way
      - 1. What we expect
      - 2. Think God is completely disappointed by our doubts

- 3. Is angry with us for doubting
    - c. Speaks gently and tenderly and directly to his doubts
    - d. Offers the proof that he wanted
  - iii. Thomas believes
    - a. Calls Jesus "My Lord and My God"
    - b. Knew who Jesus truly was
- D. Jesus speaks to us
- i. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed
  - ii. There is a unique blessing for us who believe and haven't seen Jesus
    - a. We may never have all our questions answered how we want
    - b. God has provided all we need to believe
      - 1. Creation
      - 2. His Word
      - 3. Other believers

#### IV. SO WHAT?!!!

- A. Jesus is not afraid of our doubts
  - i. He is not surprised by them
  - ii. It does not make Him less powerful if we doubt
- B. Jesus handles our doubts with love
  - i. Jesus comes to us individually
  - ii. In His timing and not ours
    - a. We want answers now but often we need to wrestle with the question longer
    - b. His timing is perfect
    - c. Reveals Himself when we are ready to listen and believe
  - iii. Is not frustrated or angered by our doubts
  - iv. He knows that we will doubt from time to time
    - a. It is a very normal part of being a Christian
    - b. Don't need to feel guilty about it

- c. Need to take our doubts to Jesus and His Word in prayer
  1. Jesus wants us to believe
  2. We need to be honest and admit our doubts
  3. We need to look for the truth
  4. We need to trust what we know to be true
  5. His ultimate goal is our faith that leads to worship of Him

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How did Jesus show love for Thomas?
- Is it okay for us to doubt? What should we do with our doubts?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How do you think God feels about your doubts?
- How does this account with Thomas encourage you?
- What are some doubts that you have that you don't want to share with Jesus? Why?





# GRACIOUS WITH OUR DOUBTS

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were told something true that you didn't believe? How did you finally believe?

## READ LUKE 7:18-23

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who do we find here? What John is this?
- What questions does John want his disciples to ask Jesus? Why?
- Where was John at this time and what awaited him?- Matt 14:1-5
- Why was this a big change from what John had thought about Jesus before?
- What did they do?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How do you think Jesus thinks about your doubts? Why?
- How did Jesus respond to John the Baptist's doubts?
- How did what Jesus was doing answer John's question?
- What are some questions you have for Jesus right now?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What are doubts that you have about Jesus right now? What are you doing with them?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# GRACIOUS WITH OUR DOUBTS

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could do any amazing stunt, what would it be and why?

## READ MATTHEW 14:22-33

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Jesus have the disciples do? What did He do?
- How did Jesus get to the boat? How did the disciples respond?
- What does Peter ask of Jesus? Why?
- What made Peter sink?
- What did Jesus do for Peter?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What made the trip so hard for the disciples?
- Why were they so surprised to see Jesus?
- What would you have done in Peter's shoes?
- What things in your life distract you from Jesus?
- How did Jesus handle Peter's doubts? Why is that encouraging?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- What things in your life cause you to doubt?
- How are you like Peter at times?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

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# MISSIONAL

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is missional  
and to see why that matters for us.

# MISSIONAL

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## **MATTHEW 28:16-20, ACTS 1:8**

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal together the night before He is to die
- Judas has agreed to betray Jesus and leaves dinner to do so
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus is betrayed and arrested and is tried falsely and condemned to die
- After being beaten and mocked, Jesus is put on the cross to die in order to inflict maximum pain and shame
- Jesus died as a part of God's plan and was buried in a tomb
- Jesus was resurrected and appeared to Mary and Mary Magdalene and they told the disciples what had happened
- Jesus then appeared to His disciples so that they would believe
- Jesus, before He returns to God, gives them one last set of instructions

### Outline

- I. **Jesus has been showing Himself to the disciples**
  - A. To give them faith
  - B. To prepare them for ministry after He left

## II. Jesus gives them last instructions

- A. Reminds them of who He is
  - i. All authority on heaven and Earth is His
    - a. He has power over everything
    - b. They can trust that He is in charge even when they can't see Him
- B. Tells them what to do
  - i. Go
    - a. Doesn't want them to just stay there
    - b. Would be easy to just sit around and talk together about all they had seen
    - c. Wants them to leave where they are and fulfill the purpose He had given them
      - 1. Spread His glorious Kingdom
  - ii. And make disciples
    - a. More than just sharing the Gospel
    - b. Followers instead of believers
    - c. Not just sharing the Gospel but leading them to maturity
  - iii. Of all nations
    - a. At this point it was only for Jews
    - b. Wanted them to go out of their comfort zone
    - c. This Good News is for the whole world
  - iv. Baptizing them
    - a. Having them make public professions of their new life
    - b. The importance of the Trinity
      - 1. Father, Son and Holy Spirit
  - v. Teaching them to observe all His commands
    - a. Giving them the full Gospel
      - 1. Called not just to believe but obey
      - 2. Do what Jesus commands
    - b. Giving them God's Word



- C. How will they do this- Acts 1:8
  - i. Power of the Holy Spirit
    - a. Not out of their own gifts and strength
    - b. God will supply what they need
  - ii. Be His witnesses
    - a. Live out those things you believe
    - b. Speak about what you have seen and heard
      - 1. Tell others about your experience with Jesus
      - 2. We each have a unique story of God's redemption
  - iii. In Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the Earth
    - a. We are called to start where we are
      - 1. Jerusalem
    - b. We need to constantly be pushing our boundaries out
      - 1. Judea, Samaria, the whole Earth

### III. Jesus' final promise

- A. I am with you
  - i. He promises His Presence with His people
  - ii. You will NEVER be alone. He is watching over you and helping you every day
- B. Always
  - i. There is never a second, minute, hour, day, week, month or year when God isn't with you
  - ii. He will continue to be with you FOREVER
- C. Would give them the courage they needed during difficult days

### IV. SO WHAT?!!!

- A. Jesus calls us as well
  - i. Go and make disciples of all nations
    - a. We need to be looking for opportunities to share Him
    - b. We need to help people grow in Him

- B. We are to trust in God's power and not our own
  - i. He promises us the Holy Spirit
  - ii. He even says that we will do greater things than He did
- C. We all have a unique story of God's love to share
  - i. You are a unique creation of God's
    - a. There never has been nor ever will be someone like you
    - b. You have a unique story of God's grace and love that no one else has
  - ii. You are called to share that story
    - a. You can speak about God in a way that no one else can
- D. He will be with you
  - i. He is there to be your helper and lover all the days of your life
  - ii. Therefore you have nothing to fear
    - a. If God is for us who can be against us- Romans 8:31

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- What is a mission?
- What was Jesus' mission?
- What is our mission as followers of Jesus?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- What instructions did Jesus give the disciples?
- How does that apply to you?
- Where is a place to which you need to go and share Jesus?
- What fears do you have about doing that?
- How does it make you feel that He promises to be with you?



# MISSIONAL

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Why has God put you on Earth? What unique gifts has He given you to use for His Glory?

## READ MATTHEW 10:5-15

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is Jesus doing with the disciples?
- What instructions did He give them?
- What does He tell them to do?
- Why does He tell them to do this?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How do these instructions apply to you?
- How did these instructions make them trust Jesus more?
- Why is it so important that Jesus sends them out?
- Where is a place in your life that Jesus can send you?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Who are the people you need to go to with the Gospel?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# MISSIONAL

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you were able to solve one big problem in the world, what would it be and why?

## READ LUKE 10:1-12

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who does Jesus send out? For what purpose?
- How did He send them out?
- What did Jesus say in verse 2?
- What does He tell them to do?
- What instructions did He give them?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- Who is someone God has put in your life so you can talk about Him as a pair and not just by yourself?
- Why is it important that God gives us other Christians to help us do His mission?
- How are you praying for workers to spread God's kingdom?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How are you seeking out other Christians to help you share Jesus in your school?
- Who are the laborers that you are supporting right now? How?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



WEEK

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# NOT DONE

## **PURPOSE**

"So that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name."

*John 20:31*

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To understand what it means that Jesus is returning  
and to see why that matters for us.



# NOT DONE

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## ACTS 1:6-11, REVELATION 19:11-16

### Context

- Jesus has come to spread the Kingdom of God
- Jesus has had a ministry of teaching and healing that has impacted many people
- Crowds routinely gathered around Jesus and followed Him wherever He went
- The people are wondering whether Jesus is the Christ because of His teaching and miracles
- Jesus' time has come and He goes to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose by dying on the cross
- Jesus is now with His disciples in the Upper Room sharing their last meal before He is to die
- Judas has agreed to betray Jesus and leaves dinner to do so
- Jesus wants to make sure that they understand who He really is and why He really came before He goes to the cross
- Jesus is betrayed and arrested and is tried falsely and condemned to die
- After being beaten and mocked, Jesus is put on the cross to die in order to inflict maximum pain and shame
- Jesus died as a part of God's plan and was buried in a tomb
- Jesus was resurrected and appeared to Mary and Mary Magdalene and they told the disciples what had happened
- Jesus then appeared to His disciples so that they would believe
- Jesus, before He returns to God, gives them one last set of instructions

### Outline

- I. **Jesus is still at work today**
  - A. Through His Spirit
    - i. Gives us power
    - ii. Allows us to be His witnesses
    - iii. Gives us what to say- Luke 12:11-12

B. Through His people

- i. We are now the hands and feet of Jesus
  - a. Do what He did
  - b. Part of the Body of Christ
- ii. We now take Jesus' message to the world
  - a. Christ's ambassadors- 2 Corinthians 5:20
  - b. To the ends of the Earth
    - 1. Start where we are right now--Jerusalem

II. Jesus will return

- A. Jesus is coming back just as He left
- B. Jesus will come in great power
  - i. Will defeat Satan, sin and death once and for all
  - ii. Will judge the wicked for their sin
  - iii. He will rule over all things and all people
    - a. At the name of Jesus every name will bow- Philippians 2:10
- C. Jesus will restore all things
  - i. Will bring with Him the New Heaven and the New Earth
  - ii. Will bring us to perfect relationship with God
  - iii. Will be with us FOREVER

III. SO WHAT?!!!!

- A. We are God's Plan A to spread the Gospel
  - i. Puts people in our lives so that we can share Him
    - a. Gives us unique gifts
    - b. Gives us a unique story
      - 1. There has never been nor never will there ever be anyone like you, so your story of salvation is the only one that will ever exist

- ii. God gives us His Spirit to help us
  - a. Gives us the words
  - b. Gives us courage
  - c. Is the One that actually does the work
- B. Jesus is coming back
  - i. He will come again victorious
  - ii. He will bring us to be with Him and the Father forever
  - iii. We know the end of the story
    - a. Our enemy will be defeated and we will win
    - b. Jesus has the last say

## Follow-Up Questions for Parents

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What did the passage tell you about who Jesus is?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus is coming back?
- What are we to do until He returns?

## Small Group Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you from the talk?
- How important is it that Jesus is coming back?
- How should it change the way we live to know that we win in the end?
- What should we be doing as we wait for Him to return? Are you doing that? Why or why not?

# NOT DONE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What do think will happen when Jesus comes back?

## READ REVELATION 19:11-21

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does John see?
- What was the name of the one on the horse? Who is that?
- What does it say about Him?
- What happens to beast and false prophet? Why is that a good thing?
- What is He called in verse 13?
- What is He called in verse 16?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- What things do you find most interesting about how Jesus is described here? Why?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus will return victorious?
- What does it mean that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- Why is it so important how Jesus comes and what comes with Him?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER



# NOT DONE

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some things about heaven that you are most looking forward to?

## READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say about what Jesus will do with those who have fallen asleep?
- How do we know this will happen?
- What does it say about how the Lord will come?
- Who will rise first?
- What are we supposed to do with these words?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH

- How are we supposed to be encouraged by what will happen when Jesus returns?
- Why is it so important what will happen in the last days?
- How does that truth help us in our days now?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH

- What sticks out to you from this passage? Why?
- How often do you think about what will happen in the future when Jesus returns?
- Why is that truth so important to us now?
- How does it affect how you live daily?
- What does this show you about Jesus?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER











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