



THE
JESUS
WAY

A
STUDY GUIDE
ON THE
WORDS
AND
WORKS
OF
JESUS CHRIST

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How to use this guide.

This study guide is intended to assist you in engaging with God's Word and connecting the weekly sermon with your everyday life. We believe that discipleship happens in many ways throughout out life and this guide is designed to assist you in connecting with others around God's Word in each of those ways. Of course, you may feel free to use as much or as little as you like of this guide. Our intention was to include as much as possible to help connect with the discipling environments that we experience throughout our week. You may want to print this guide and punch holes to put it in a binder or use a journal alongside of it.



The Big Picture

This section is a snapshot of the passage in a few sentences. It is intended to give you a quick overview to get you mind set on what you are about to read.



Theology Matters

This section is intended to consider our present circumstances and think about what challenges we face today. We live in a culture that not only ignores the Word of God but is increasingly aggressive toward those that hold onto to the truths contained within it.



Guided by the Gospel

This section helps us see how the passage connects us to the Gospel. It is a brief statement to give us a point in the Gospel Story to connect to.



Sermon Thoughts

The section for sermon thoughts is provided so that you can record your notes from the sermon or write down your thoughts and questions about what you heard.



Read, Reflect and Respond

The read and reflect section is where we begin to study the Bible for ourselves. It is intended to guide you through observations about the text and an interpretation of its meaning then apply them to your life.



Reading Plan

In the Appendix there is a weekly reading plan that includes our current passage and other passages to follow up on to assist us in getting more out of our study. Use the Discipleship Pathway tool to plan your reading.



Gather and Discuss

The gather and discuss section is intended to guide Life Groups through a discussion of the passage. This is intended to bring together around 10-12 other people in considering the implications of the passage.

Before You Begin

What you will need...

- 1) A Bible: This guide uses the ESV as its source Bible. The words that we point out will all be focused on the ESV version. You can use another version of the Bible but you may need to reference an ESV to see what words we are pointing to. You can get an ESV app for free or go to www.esv.org. A study Bible like the ESV Study Bible can be a big help.
- 2) A notebook/binder: This study is designed and formatted to be printed. However, you can easily keep this guide in its electronic form and use a notebook to record your thoughts and answer questions.
- 3) A concordance: Many Bibles have a concordance in the back. This study will ask you to make use of this resource many times. A concordance is a reference tool that shows the other places in the Bible that the particular word is mentioned. It is very helpful for getting insight into meaning. www.blueletterbible.org is a great resource for this.
- 4) A dictionary: Some words used in the Bible we may not use every day. It is always a good idea to check the meaning of any word that we do not know. In this study we will ask you to look up a word to check its meaning. Most of us have access to dictionaries online.
- 5) A growth journal: This is optional but we feel that having a journal to write down the ways that God is speaking to you and guiding you is helpful. This prayer journal can span many studies and give you a great chance to look back and see how God is moving in your life.

How to study the Bible...

This study guide is built to introduce and encourage inductive Bible study. We want you to gain some skills that will help you in doing inductive Bible study on your own. Inductive Bible study is different from other ways of studying the Bible in a few ways.

- 1) Ask questions: Inductive Bible study asks the questions, who, what, when, where, why, and how? Digging into the Bible by asking these questions will help you see the purpose and meaning of the passage. We encourage you to ask your own questions of the text.
- 2) Observe/Interpret/Apply: Inductive Bible study has 3 steps. First, we observe the passage as we ask questions. Second, we think about and search for the meaning of the passage. Third, we apply the meaning of the passage to our lives.
- 3) Develop a background and outline: From these insights that we have gained we can build an outline and describe the background of the passage. Who wrote it? Where was it written? When was it written? Who was it written to? What was its purpose?
- 4) Cross References: This journey will open up other passages where the Bible speaks to the same issues. Inductive Bible study takes these other places of scripture into account as we understand the meaning. We want to first understand what this means in the passage that we are presently studying and then what the rest of the Bible might say.

The life of Jesus Christ is compelling and instructive. The way that Jesus lives displays his heart for humanity and his way of making disciples that can make disciples. As we look at the life of Christ, we see him engaging with a variety of people. He interacts with the religious, the destitute, the blind, the most powerful and the most despised. Regardless of who he encounters, they are never the same for having met him.

The purpose of our journey through the life of Christ in The Jesus Way is to learn from him. The fact that Jesus Christ walked this earth should naturally beg the question, how did he live? And, how can I live like him? Does Jesus have a desire for my life that is different from my desire? This survey of the life of Christ will seek to discover the methods and practices of Jesus in the everyday stuff of life. The intention will be to model our behavior, in the church and our daily lives, after the life of obedience displayed by Jesus.

The account of Jesus Christ is written in the New Testament of the Bible in four "Gospels." These Gospel accounts all bear witness to the life, ministry, suffering and death of Jesus. The Gospels are named after their traditional authors; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Jesus Christ was born by Mary when she was still a virgin. His miraculous beginning sparked question and intrigue but it was his teaching that drew a line between believer and unbeliever. Jesus walked the earth for about 33 years and was only doing public ministry for about 3 years of that time. In the ministry of Jesus, we see a focus on the kingdom of God that has come to earth and demands a response from all that are living. The promise of a Messiah has come to fulfillment and no one can remain neutral.

Many of us will notice that the cross is missing from this journey with Jesus. We will track the words and works of Jesus but will end our series right before Jesus goes through the trials, suffering and crucifixion. We will place our focus on the ministry of Jesus that happened before he goes to the cross.

The overarching themes of each section are specific to the events of the life of Christ. The common themes that emerge are discipleship, obedience, engaging God as Father, interaction with the outcast and a pattern of sign/sermon. These are major themes of the Gospels and will lead us in being better Bible readers if understood.

Themes:

Discipleship - The main ministry of Jesus is pouring into the lives of a handful of people around him. He invests his time and teaching in some unexpected people that he trains to carry on his ministry after he leaves. The disciples struggle with understanding the point and purpose of the Kingdom often but, in the end, birth the church by the power of the Holy Spirit modeled on their time with Jesus.

The Kingdom of God - Jesus comes proclaiming the Kingdom of God (Heaven) and calling people to repentance from their way of life and into an embrace of the way of life displayed in Jesus. Jesus often uses parables to display the way that the Kingdom of God differs from our way of life and calls for response. The people listening often do not understand these parables and Jesus will explain them to those closest to him.

Women - We are taking a look at the way Jesus treats and interacts with women because, in the time of Jesus, women were often on the margins of society. Jesus interacts with the marginalized by touching their lives in powerful ways. He does not ignore or display contempt but approaches them with kindness and affirmation.

Miracles - Jesus displays the Kingdom of God come to earth in a tangible way as he works miracles. Jesus is not bound by the limits of this world and will often use this power to physically display his authority. This establishing of authority is to point to the authenticity of his message. Many times this sign and sermon pattern will appear throughout the Gospel accounts.

Prayer - The ministry of Jesus Christ is marked by prayer. Jesus is in constant communication with the Father and teaches his disciples to do the same. Many times we will see Jesus getting away to himself to be alone with the Father. Often, these times of prayer are between the signs and sermons that are the other marks of his ministry.



THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus Christ came to earth for a reason. As we are reading the Gospels and seeking that reason, we might be somewhat surprised to see him call a handful of fishermen on the sea of Galilee to be his followers. These few blue collar workers were not theologically trained or what their contemporaries might have considered “fit” for ministry. But it was this small band of men that Jesus promised would become “fishers of men.” Jesus not only changed the lives of these men, but through these men, changed the entire world.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

We all have certain desires for our own lives. Maybe dreams and aspirations that we hope to accomplish while on this earth. Sometimes God has other plans. There are moments in the Bible where it becomes clear that God’s intentions are greater than our own. God having purpose and intentions for this world and our lives is a part of his sovereignty. God being sovereign means that he is the ultimate authority and that he sometimes makes choices that we would not. A good God that is sovereign over all is worthy of our trust.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

Jesus calling the small band of fishermen to become “fishers of men” is a statement that these men will be a direct connection between him and the growth of the gospel across the known world. Jesus is foreshadowing the later events of their lives and calling them to begin to lean into that destiny by following and learning from him. Before they can apply the gospel to the lives of others, they will have the gospel applied into their lives by Jesus Christ as they walk and talk the reality of salvation in the everyday stuff of life.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Matthew 4:18

What details do you see about the lives of these two men?

How does Jesus apply his calling to their current experiences?

Read Matthew 4:19

What must these men do to become what Jesus Christ has for them to become?

Read Matthew 4:20

How is their response described?

Read Matthew 4:21-22

How is the response of James and John like the response of Peter and Andrew?

How are they different?

Read Mark 1:16-20 and Luke 5:1-11

Compare Mark, Luke and Matthew. What stands out as the same? Different?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1826-1827 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus steps into the everyday lives of Andrew and Peter and transforms what they are doing into something that will contribute mightily for the Kingdom of God. What are some ways that God has used your everyday work, school or home life for his glory?

What have you had to let go of to follow Christ? Is there still something that you need to let go of?

Has Jesus ever called you to obey him in something that required a big life change? How did you change in the process?

The calling of James and John highlights that they were leaving work and family to follow Jesus. How has following Jesus impacted your relationships with others?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

Why did Jesus come to dwell with us? Where in scripture can we find the answer?

Have you seen God use people today that are not considered “fit” for ministry? Explain.

What does it mean to be a “fisher of men?” How can we do that too?

Read Theology Matters

How do we invite God into the desires for our lives? How do we invite God into that conversation?

How do we bring together our plans and God’s plans for our life, if those are different? Can we bring them together? How do we align our plans with his?

How can we trust God with our plans and desires when we cannot see his exact intentions yet? How can we trust Him as our ultimate authority?

Read Guided by the Gospel

What are we doing to grow the gospel across our own community? How can we improve this spiritual habit?

Has something in your life foreshadowed to the ministry you would be involved in later? Has God taught you something you would use later to spread the gospel?

What are some ways that you are applying the gospel to your own life and in the lives around you?



THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus has a following of people that is growing in response to his teachings and his miracles. From this larger group of people that are following him, he chooses twelve men to pour his life into in a unique way. The choosing of this group of twelve displays that Jesus is not looking at the same things that we might look at. He does not find the most popular, the best educated or the most talented.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

The choosing of the twelve displays God's ordering of Israel into twelve tribes in Genesis 50. God organized the twelve tribes around the tabernacle and decided which tribe would serve as priests (Deuteronomy 27:12-13). Jesus calling twelve to himself displays the ordering of a new people (Ephesians 2:13-22) around a new covenant and his reasons for choosing them have to do with the heart and not about outward appearances (1 Samuel 16:7).



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The choosing of the twelve is a clear indication that at this time and place, through Jesus Christ, God is doing something new. A new covenant is in process of becoming and the twelve being called out is a part of this new thing. Jesus will not only entrust his life and teachings to these men but into their hands, he will place the message of the gospel to be proclaimed among all nations.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read John 1:35-39

What caused the two disciples to turn and follow Jesus?

Why is the question of Jesus toward the disciples significant?

Read John 1:40-42

What does Andrew's statement about Jesus answer Jesus' question about what they were seeking?

What does Cephas (Peter) mean? Why is his name change from Jesus significant?

Read John 1:43-46

What does Philip do right after being called by Jesus?

Why is Nathaniel's question about Jesus' hometown significant? What was expected of the Messiah (Christ)?

Read John 1:47-51

What does Jesus say about Nathaniel?

How does Jesus respond to Nathaniel identifying him as the Son of God and King of Israel?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 2021-2022 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Andrew and Peter were disciples of John the Baptist but were looking for the Messiah. Sometimes we learn about Jesus for a while before finding Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior. How did you come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior? What do you find compelling about him?

Jesus changed Peter's name and foreshadowed his role as "rock" in the church. How has Jesus changed you? How has he used those things about you that were already present?

Philip goes to Nathaniel and tells him to "come and see." How can we practice this with our friends, neighbors and family?

Jesus and Nathaniel's conversation displays the way Messiah was foreshadowed throughout the Old Testament. What is it about Jesus that makes you feel compelled to worship him?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

How are we growing in response to what we are studying and witnessing?

How are we pouring into the people around us? Who are we allowing to pour into our lives?

What kind of people is Jesus looking for? Are there specific character traits Jesus looks for in followers?

Read Theology Matters

Does how we are organized as a church matter today? What are some ways God organizes us?

How does God choose according to the heart? Is he looking for perfection? What is he looking for?

How do we look at the heart when forming relationships?

Read Guided by the Gospel

What is God's goal or plan in choosing us?

What is his purpose in making a new covenant?

Why did Jesus trust his life and teachings to imperfect men? Why does he continue to trust us to proclaim the gospel?



THE BIG PICTURE

As the twelve chosen disciples of Jesus followed him they learned his message and methods from him. Then he sends them out to the villages in front of them to practice and proclaim what they have learned. This method of teaching, showing and then sending out to practice will become a repeated method of Jesus and the Apostles that followed him in the book of Acts.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

Jesus did not compel people with massive displays of power and splendor. He was not impressive to others because of his wealth or blessings. People were not drawn to him because of any reason other than the words that he spoke were true and the works that he did were wonderful. This display of Jesus sending other men to go and do what he has been doing is evidence that Jesus' words and works are simply a prelude to something far greater.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

When Jesus sends out his twelve disciples, he demands that they rely on nothing more than the power of the gospel to transform lives. They had no amenities to fall back on or comforts to distract from the simple, life-changing message of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ through repentance and faith. Even the miracles themselves are ancillary to the primary purpose of proclamation of the gospel.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ AND REFLECT

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Mark 6:7

How did Jesus send out the twelve? Why would this be significant?

What did Jesus give them? Why would this be significant?

Read Mark 6:8-9

What were the disciples supposed to take with them?

What would the disciples having only the message of Jesus and authority show them?

Read Mark 6:10-11

What houses were they supposed to enter? How long were they supposed to stay?

What were they supposed to do if they were not received? Why?

Read Mark 6:12-13

What were the disciples proclaiming (what were their words)?

What were the disciples doing (what were their works)?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1904 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus sends out the disciples two by two. Have you ever tried to proclaim the gospel to a stranger? How does having someone with you change the boldness or confidence that you speak with?

The disciples were not able to take comforts with them. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to rely solely on God? How did that impact your trust in him?

The disciples were charged to only go to a house that received them and to stay as long as they were in that town. How does a pastor or preacher accepting extravagant gifts taint the message that they are proclaiming? Would you find this charge difficult?

The words and works of the disciples were to mimic the words and works of Jesus. How do our (the church) words and works reflect the ministry of Jesus? How can we (the church) improve in this area?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What methods of Jesus are we learning right now?

How do we practice and/or proclaim what we are learning?

How closely are we following God? How can we open our eyes to his teaching?

Read Theology Matters

What are some habits that draw us to God?

What works has he done in our lives?

What are some spiritual habits that display evidence of God in our lives?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How do we rely on the power of the gospel? How can we improve this spiritual habit?

How can we clear out or avoid distractions?

What are some ways that we tend to put too much reliance on our comforts?



THE BIG PICTURE

Many people come to Jesus in response to his words and works throughout his ministry. The rich young ruler is an example of one person that seems to display all of the signs of someone that is responding to the gospel. As he talks with Jesus, it is revealed that what is in his heart is not all that it seems to be. He is clinging on to the things of this world and they unfortunately prevent him from clinging to Christ.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

The desire for eternal life is not, in and of itself, a sufficient response to the will of God for his people. God desires something more than our presence with him in heaven. He desires a relationship with us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Coming into relationship with him through his Son means that we may have to relinquish the things that we so desperately love about this world.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The good news is not just a message about being saved *from* something. It is also a message about us being saved *for* something. Being saved from our sin means that we have been saved for life in the kingdom of God. Our repentance is not a one-time decision to gain heaven but a constant reality of life ordered around the world that is desired by Jesus Christ, a world that is to come. We live in this *not yet* world as we behave according to our beliefs, here and *now*.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Luke 18:18

What does the rich young ruler's questions make us assume is in his heart?

How do you expect Jesus to respond based on this one verse?

Read Luke 18:19-21

Who does Jesus say alone is good?

What does this reveal about Jesus if he is good?

What does this reveal about the rich young ruler's efforts to be good?

Read Luke 18:22-25

What does the rich young ruler's response reveal about what is truly in his heart?

Read Luke 18:26-30

How does the response of Peter and the disciples compare to the rich young ruler?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1995-1996 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

The rich young ruler had a conflict with the desire for eternal life but not a desire for the Kingdom?
How is the desire for the Kingdom and the desire for eternal life different?

The rich young ruler is attempting to enter into eternal life by being “good.” Do we still do this today?
How?

The rich young ruler turns away sad because he cannot leave his riches behind. What are some ways
possessions can limit our walk with Jesus?

What does Peter’s statement and Jesus’ response reveal about the cost of following him?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What was more compelling to you when you came to Christ, his words or works?

Has that changed? How?

What are our signs or responses to the gospel?

Read Theology Matters

What should be our response to the will of God?

What should our relationship with God look like?

What things of this world should we be putting aside?

Read Guided by the Gospel

Is there something in particular you have been saved from?

What exactly are we, as Christians, being saved for?

What does it mean to live a constant life with Jesus, instead of just a one-and-done decision?



THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus shares a parable about a man sowing seed that is indiscriminately thrown onto all kinds of soil. The seed produces differently based on the soil that it roots into. Jesus explains that God throws out the word and it falls into the hearts of mankind. Like these soils, some reject, some accept. Some choke out and some are snatched away. The problem is never the seed. The problem is always the soil.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

Today, many claim that God can be known by any means that the individual desires to know him. But the reality that Jesus taught was much different. Jesus taught that God reveals freely through his word but because of the sinfulness of the heart of mankind, some cannot know him. Jesus likens our hearts to these soils and it explains why so many can hear the word of God proclaimed but never respond.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

We are called to proclaim the gospel to all. Even though all will not respond by receiving the gospel. Our role in the kingdom is not to judge but to scatter seed like God does in this parable. We trust that God is working beneath the surface preparing soil that can receive the seed of the kingdom gladly and bear much fruit for the gospel.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Mark 4:1-2

What does large crowds being drawn to Jesus say about his words and works?

How do you expect Jesus to respond based on these verses?

Read Mark 4:3-9

Imagine that you were in the crowd, listening to this parable. What would you think he meant?

Do you think that many in the crowd understood?

Read Mark 4:10-12

Jesus states that he is teaching in parables on purpose. What is his purpose?

Read Mark 4:13-20

Jesus goes on to explain the parable to those around him. Who was the parable about?

Where do Jesus' disciples fall in the description of the soils?

Who would be considered "good soil?"

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1899-1900 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

We sometimes see large crowds drawn to Jesus today. What are the kinds of things that these large crowds are drawn to? How can we tell if our purpose in seeking Jesus is deeper than entertainment?

Jesus spoke in a way that confused most people on purpose. Only some of the people asked him what he meant. How do you respond to things in the Bible or in the faith that you do not understand?

Jesus declares to those around him that they have been given the “secrets of the kingdom of God.” How does Jesus expect you to handle this “secret?”

Jesus reveals that the parable was about the soils receiving the word of God. How have you seen these descriptions of the human heart in your life?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What are some other passages in the Bible that are about seeds?

How have you seen these soils reflected in your own life?

How can you tell if a church is bearing fruit?

Read Theology Matters

What are some ways that we can better know God?

How do we respond to those things about God that are confusing or that we don't know?

Why do we sometimes hear God's Word without response?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How should we respond when those we are sharing the gospel with do not receive the gospel?

What keeps us sharing the gospel knowing that some people never will respond?

What is the difference in planting seeds and preparing soil? Which of these can we do? Why?



THE BIG PICTURE

This parable that Jesus tells to the religious of the day is in response to his receiving sinners to himself. Jesus shares three parables in succession to reveal the heart of the Father and the hardened hearts of the religious leaders. Jesus shares about a lost sheep, a lost coin and finally, a lost son. These parables of the lost show the reason Jesus is willing to risk reputation with the religious to embrace the treasure of the kingdom.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

One of the lost parables is the parable of the prodigal son. This tale of the son is told to reveal the heart of the Father. God is a God that loves his children and accepts and embraces those that repent and return to him. This tale also reveals the heart of the religious. They are behaving like an older brother that believes he can earn the love of the Father. Jesus reveals in this parable that the religious really do not understand God at all.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

This parable is one of the cornerstones of grace in the word of God. This tale reveals that even though we all have wandered away from the love of the Father, we have hope if we respond in repentance and faith. These two twin aspects of response to the gospel are often misrepresented and misunderstood. The parable of the lost son displays them perfectly as a return to the love of the Father waiting for us on that road back home.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Luke 15:1-7

What causes Jesus to tell the lost parables?

What does Jesus' response to one repentant person say about him?

Read Luke 15:8-10

What does the response of the angels in heaven to one repentant person say?

Read Luke 15:11-16

How does the younger son treat the father disrespectfully?

Read Luke 15:17-24

What happens to make the younger son plan to return to his father?

What does he plan to say to his father? What does he actually say? What is the difference?

Read Luke 15:25-32

How does the response of the older brother reveal his heart for the father?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1988-1990 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

In the first two lost parables there is searching and celebration when the lost is found. Do you seek after those that are lost around you? What could you do to increase in this?

The younger son asks for his inheritance and leaves the father. How have you turned your back on God? How has he responded to you?

When the younger son returns, the father runs out to meet him, and then celebrates his return. How often do you count the leaving more significant than the returning?

The older son does not share in the joy of the father. He does not care about the father's relief from the grief of losing a son. He is self-focused and jealous. How have you seen your own heart reflected in the response of the older son?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What are some ways that God reveals his heart to you?

How is it possible for religious leaders to develop hardened hearts? Is that possible for us as well?

What does the concern of Jesus for sinners reveal about him?

Read Theology Matters

What does the prodigal son reveal about God's heart?

What does it mean to repent?

How can we return to the Father? Does he always receive us?

Read Guided by the Gospel

Can we ever fully understand the depth of God's love for us? How can we increase in understanding?

How is our relationship with God impacted when we wander away?

How can we repair and restore our relationship with God?



THE BIG PICTURE

In the parable of the talents, Jesus talks about the kingdom bearing fruit while waiting on the return of the master. Jesus points to the possession of the gospel as being a fruit bearing deposit and the expectation of the master is a return on his investment. To bury the deposit given to us is to misunderstand and misuse the trust placed in us by God.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

God has a purpose and a plan. That purpose and plan includes the church. In fact, the church is plan A and there is no plan B. No church that is faithful to God would want to ignore the purposes of God and the plans of God for the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth. To be faithful is to make good use of the deposit placed within us and see a return in the growth of gospel fruit.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The gospel is intended to go and to grow. If we are faithful with what God has given us then we will seek to reach others and to help them grow in Christ. We do this through evangelism and disciple-making. The power of life-change is not in our hands but it is in our midst and we can confidently point people to the kingdom potential that is present within the gospel. We do this by calling people to surrender to Jesus by confessing their sins and stay with them as they grow to know, love and follow him in all of life.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Matthew 25:14-18

Why is the property of the Master being divided?

What do the different people do with what the Master gives them? What stands out to you?

Matthew 25:19-23

What do the servants with the five and two talents have in common?

What is the response of the Master? Does the response come because of the amount? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 25:24-30

How does the servant with one talent treat the property of the Master? Why does he treat it this way?

How does the Master respond?

How was the servant unfaithful to the Master?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1876-1877 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

This parable is about the Master leaving and entrusting his property to his servants. How is Jesus like the Master and how is the church like the servants?

The two servants that bear fruit with the gifts and time that they have been given are called “good and faithful servants.” What does Jesus expect from his church? What are ways that you are faithful with the gifts and time given you?

The servant that hides the talent he is given gives an excuse about why he did what he did. What are excuses that you tend to use when facing challenges or opportunities to share the gospel.

The servant is displayed as unfaithful to the Master. He is also displayed to not really know the Master. How can you ensure that you are faithful with what God has given? How can you ensure that you rightly know God?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

When Jesus asks, what have you done with what I've given you is he talking about people, places, things, money, jobs, etc.?

If Jesus asks, "What have you done with what I've given you?" How will you respond?

If Jesus asks the church, "What have you done with what I've given you?" How will the church respond?

Read Theology Matters

God entrusts us with certain people, with specific gifts, with various blessings. How do we take care of those things?

How do we know God's plan for the things entrusted to us?

How does it add pressure or change the way you walk as the body of Christ, as the church, knowing there is no plan B?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How do we maintain faithfulness with what we've been given?

What are some of the long-term and short-term effects of remaining faithful or not?

What does it mean to stay with someone as they grow?



THE BIG PICTURE

The parable of the Samaritan was told by Jesus in response to a question. A lawyer seeking to test Jesus asks about eternal life. When Jesus affirms his desire to love God and love your neighbor, the man asks the question, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus’ answer is the parable of a man that was seen as a social outcast and religiously disqualified acting in line with what God commands while so many around him ignore God’s law. Jesus calls the lawyer to display mercy to anyone in need because anyone can be a neighbor.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

God’s law is not intended to be worshiped, memorized and ritualized. It is intended to be understood and obeyed. There is of course nothing wrong with worship, memorization of God’s Word or ritual, but when these things take priority in our lives it can blind us to the plight of those around us. God’s command to love him with all of our heart demands that we obey the second command to love our neighbor.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The gospel is a reality that can be seen, felt and heard. Those that truly obey the gospel will truly display the gospel. We all have opportunities in our life to lovingly show the gospel in living color to world around us. The opportunity to speak the gospel often walks through the door of helping a neighbor in need. We have all been shown such mercy by Jesus in forgiving us from our sin. How could we, of all people, refuse mercy to others?



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Luke 10:25-29

What is the lawyer wanting to know?

How does Jesus respond?

What was the lawyer left wondering?

Read Luke 10:30-35

What happens to the man walking on the road?

Who passes by him? Why would they pass by?

How does the Samaritan respond? Compare the Samaritan with the other men. What stands out to you?

Read Luke 10:36-37

What was Jesus question back to the lawyer?

How does this compare to the question he asked Jesus in verse 29?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1976-1977 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

The lawyer is looking for eternal life but perhaps thinks that eternal life is just about going to heaven when he dies. How can you remind yourself that eternal life is the life we live right now?

The men that pass by the man beaten by the robbers were religious leaders. How do you view religious leaders today? Do you see them as more of the problem or as a part of an answer? How does culture view them?

Jesus reveals that the lawyer is looking for what to do, rather than who to be. How does your identity in Christ impact your behavior toward others?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What are some ways that we test Jesus? What does that say about our trust for the Father?

Do we act in line with God's commands or ignore his laws?

How can we love our neighbors better?

Read Theology Matters

How can we find the right balance between worshiping the law and obeying God?

How can we get our hearts back in line after we've gone too far one way or the other?

How can we better understand God's commands so we can fully obey more?

Read Guided by the Gospel

Why don't we obey the call to help as often as we should?

What do we need to do when we don't answer the call to obey?

What happens in our relationship when we come back around after we missed the call the first time?



THE BIG PICTURE

The encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at a well is as controversial as it is compelling. Jesus meeting with a woman in the middle of a day in public would not have been a culturally appropriate act. For him to meet with a Samaritan woman would have deeply offended the religious. What Jesus is doing is out of bounds and the disciples let him know it. But Jesus reveals to this woman, in this place, the truth about who he is and she becomes the first witness of the gospel, the first “fisher of men.”



THEOLOGY MATTERS

The identity of Jesus has been clearly declared by John in the first chapter of his gospel. Jesus is God. He is God manifest in the flesh and dwelling among his people. He is light. He displays truth and destroys the darkness by his presence, his words and his works. Here, in this moment, Jesus is not simply offending culture and religion of the day, he is exposing it. He shows that God does not conform to the patterns of this world, but rather, bends them to his will.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The story of the Samaritan woman is such a beautiful foreshadowing of the way that Jesus Christ invades all of our lives, disarms our shame and pain, then uses us to accomplish great things for his Kingdom and his glory. To see a woman with the broken past and tragic future that she had be transformed into the first verbal witness of the salvation to come through Jesus Christ is nothing short of miraculous. It is a miracle that is played out every day, if we will open our hearts, minds and mouths to the gospel.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read John 4:1-6

Why was Jesus travelling in Samaria?

Why is the fact that the well is “Jacob’s well” significant? (see note in *ESV Study Bible p. 2027*)

Read John 4:7-26

What is significant about Jesus asking a woman for water?

What are the past relationships of this woman like?

What does Jesus reveal about himself to this woman? Why is this significant?

Read John 4:27-38

How do the disciples treat the woman upon their return?

How does Jesus’ response to them reveal their lack of understanding?

Read John 4:39-42

What does the woman do when she leaves? Compare her to the disciples.

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 2027-2029 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus travels to Samaria intentionally. Think about your every day travel habits. Where do you get gas, shop, get your hair cut, see people at day care, work, school, etc.?

How can you be intentional with your interactions as you meet people or talk with them in these places? How can you change some of the place that you go to be more intentional?

Jesus begins interacting with a stranger about something simple and normal, then she shares about her struggles. What are some ways that you have seen Jesus use the everyday stuff of life to reach people?

The disciples respond to the woman differently than Jesus does. How does culture and religion impact the way that you respond to people with broken stories? Can you grow in this area? How?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What does the interaction with the woman reveal about Jesus?

Is it not a sin that Jesus openly defied the religious leaders and their laws? Why or why not?

How often do we run into opportunities to share the gospel?

Read Theology Matters

How can we learn more about the identity of Jesus?

How does standing for our convictions expose sin?

We are called to be set apart, what are some ways that we can do that?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How have you seen God use your hurts that he has healed for his glory?

How have you seen God transform your life?

Open hands, trust God. Open ears, hear God. Open eyes, see God. What keeps us from opening up and being available enough for God to use us?



THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus comes into contact with a sinful woman at a meal with a religious man. Jesus is invited to a meal and a woman “of the city” comes and washes his feet with her tears, anoints them with oil and wipes his feet with her hair. The religious man is repulsed by Jesus letting her touch him in this way, considering her sins and her reputation. Jesus responds to this man by showing him that the one that seems to have it all together is not always the one that is chasing after the heart of God.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

The holiness of God is displayed to us in Jesus Christ. We might think that this perfect man would promote a moral perfection for all people. We might think that he would reject the sinful and prefer the religious elite. But Jesus Christ displays a very different view of holiness than expected. He touches the unclean and makes them clean, he eats with sinners because they need healing, he seems to prefer the desperate heart of a prostitute to the self-righteous heart of a Pharisee.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

Those that are saved by grace through faith display a dependence and desperation for Jesus. The gospel sets us free from our sin, free from our failures, free from ourselves. The most sinful become the most desperate and, in turn, the most grateful. We are all equal when we come to the cross empty-handed, having laid down all those things in our life that might serve to justify us. We cling to nothing but the saving work of Jesus Christ alone. Often, with tears.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Luke 7:36-37

What do we know about the Pharisee? How would we expect a religious leader to treat Jesus?

What do we know about the sinful woman from this passage? How would we expect a religious leader to respond to her?

Read Luke 7:38-39

What was the woman's focus?

What was the Pharisee's focus?

Read Luke 7:40-50

What does Jesus' story reveal about the woman and the Pharisee?

How do the Pharisee and the woman compare in Jesus' eyes?

What does Jesus' declaration of forgiveness reveal about the woman? About the Pharisee? About Jesus?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1966-1967 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

The Pharisee can only see the sin and reputation of the woman. Do you sometimes doubt the faith of people because of their current sin? Why?

The woman is entirely focused on Jesus and displaying worship to him. What are some ways that you express gratitude and worship to Jesus in your quiet time? How can you improve this?

Jesus shares a short example of two forgiven people. How does gratitude for forgiveness show up in your life?

Jesus not only has the power and authority to forgive sins but he displays that religious zealotry is not the standard for forgiveness. How can you avoid becoming callous to your own sin and repentance?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

How do we express humility in worship?

Have you ever doubted the sincerity of someone's faith because of their past or present sin?

How does our response to Jesus display a desire to follow and obey him?

Read Theology Matters

How do you identify with the sinful woman? How do identify with the religious man?

Why is Jesus more concerned with our desperate heart than following the rules?

How can we work on our heart for Jesus if we find ourselves focused on religious concerns?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How does our faith display dependance and desperation for Jesus?

How does the church display dependance and desperation for Jesus?

What does it look like to be free from sin, failures of the past and reliance on ourselves?



THE BIG PICTURE

The woman with the “issue of blood” is one of the more unique interactions that we see Jesus have in all of the Gospel accounts. This encounter is also framed by the urgency of a little girl that is sick and then dies. Both of these encounters display the power, patience, grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. It also makes clear the challenges that people, especially women, faced in the time of Jesus and how Jesus addressed women in the face of these challenges.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

That the God of all Creation would be concerned with the individual problems of one person in a sea of humanity is compelling, to say the least. God is not only aware and concerned with the problems that we face, he is involved. He intervenes by sending his one and only Son that he would become like us. Face our problems. Engage with the same concerns. Ultimately, he gives us hope that are in need of healing. He gives us a place to turn that not only cares but has the power to change our circumstances.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

That Jesus would leave Heaven to walk among mankind, in order to bring all things to right relationship with the one that created them and gave them meaning and intention, is the consistent message throughout the Bible. When Jesus encounters a woman with a bleeding body and child that has died, the result is restoration and resurrection. These events display the trajectory of all of creation, every person, forever changed by the impact of the gospel.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Mark 21-24

What do you observe about the man that comes to Jesus?

Read Mark 25-34

What do you observe about the woman that comes to Jesus?

Compare the response of Jesus with the response of his disciples?

How does Jesus affirm the faith of the woman? What does she believe about him?

Read Mark 35-43

What do you observe about Jesus' response to the little girl's death?

How does the faith of the woman compare to the faith of those around the girl?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1902-1903 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

The man that comes to Jesus is in a desperate situation with his daughter. Have you ever come to Jesus in a desperate concern for a loved one? How did the encounter affect your faith?

The woman comes to Jesus with a desperate health issue seeking healing but is too timid to face him. Have you ever been unwilling to ask Jesus for help or healing? Is this simply a matter of faith or something deeper?

Jesus seems less impacted by the death of the girl than those around him. How does your view of death differ from God's view of death?

How does the result of this girl's encounter with Jesus mirror your encounter with Jesus?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

When have you had a personal encounter with God's power, patience, grace or mercy?

What does the way Jesus addressed the woman say about Jesus' character?

What does the way Jesus addressed the woman say about the woman?

Read Theology Matters

What is a way that the God of all Creation's concern for you impacts your daily life?

What does the way God cares for the individual reveal about his nature and character?

When God gets involved in your problems, do we allow Him to work or fight against Him?

Read Guided by the Gospel

What does Jesus leaving the Father and coming to dwell with us tell us about our need for him?

What does the physical need for healing display about our spiritual need?

What is one way that you been tangibly changed by the gospel?



THE BIG PICTURE

The encounter between Mary and Martha with Jesus is telling and instructive for us all. As Jesus enters the house of Martha, she becomes focused on serving him and attending to the needs of her guests. This is contrasted to the behavior of Mary, who is sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to him as a disciple would. Martha becomes frustrated with Mary's lack of help. In an exchange with Jesus that is surprising, it is Mary who is affirmed.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

God has a deep desire and longing to be with us. This is by his will and for his glory. He desires that we have our fulfillment in him and him alone. That God desires for us to know him deeply and meaningfully is displayed in the sending of his Son and the giving of his Word. It is no waste of time to spend hours and hours pouring our affection over Jesus Christ through the Word of God. It is no small thing to be filled by the Spirit as we sit at the feet of Jesus, learning to long for him more and more.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The primary challenge of our faith is dividing the tendency to want to work because of our love for Jesus from the assumption that we might earn the love of Jesus by the efforts of our work. Jesus desires that we would have no other needs than him. No other fulfillment. Not even the fulfillment that comes from trying to work to please him. Because of our need for him, we can turn to our own efforts to make up for our need. The gospel reveals our need for Jesus and the gospel fills that need.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Luke 10:38-39

Compare Mary and Martha from these verses.

What do each of them desire? How do both welcome Jesus?

Read Luke 10:40

What is the source of frustration for Martha?

How does Martha seek to remedy the frustration?

Read Luke 10:41-42

How does Jesus respond to Martha?

What is his response to Mary?

What is the reason for Jesus affirming Mary but not Martha?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also page 1977 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Martha welcomes Jesus to her house. What kind of pressure do you think Martha was feeling? Have you ever had a moment of that kind of pressure?

Mary sits at the feet of Jesus when there is work to be done. How does Mary's posture impact Martha's posture? Have you ever been frustrated with a friend or family member like this?

Jesus affirms Mary instead of Martha. Why is Mary's posture the better choice? Have you ever sacrificed the affirmation of others for the affirmation of Jesus?

In your spiritual life, are you more likely to take on the posture of Mary or Martha? How can you set aside time and space to have both in your spiritual rhythms?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What does Jesus' correction of Martha display about his desire for us?

Who do you identify more with, Mary or Martha? Why are both women important to the story?

How do we know when to sit at the feet of Jesus and when to dive into serving?

Read Theology Matters

What one thing are we willing to put aside to take more time with God this week?

What does God's desire to spend time with us say about his nature and character?

How can we tell if our serving has gotten in the way of our intimacy with God?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How can we humble ourselves regularly enough to avoid making our working into our faith?

How can we avoid making faith an excuse to escape work?

What does true fulfillment look like? How can we pursue finding fulfillment in Christ?



THE BIG PICTURE

The miracles within the Gospel accounts are Jesus breaking barriers that others cannot. Jesus encounters a problem while teaching about the Kingdom in a remote area. Five-thousand men are with him listening to his teaching when it becomes late in the day and they will all need to eat. The disciples of Jesus inform him of the problem and he responds by turning five loaves of bread and two fish into enough to feed the crowd with some left overs. The provision of Jesus in the midst of the unsurmountable problem is on display.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

God is a God of provision. He can make a way where there seems to be no way. Our reliance on God to provide is not laziness or weakness, but wisdom and faith. God will not always provide what we want when we want but he always possesses the power to provide. So, we are not fools for turning to him first and turning to him often. It is the heart of God for us to take great joy in his glory.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

Many times, we see the limits of our own abilities or possessions when Jesus sees the potential. The same is true for our witness to others. We see rejection when, often, Jesus sees seeds being planted. We can trust that Jesus, who can multiply fish, can multiply our words and works if we are surrendered to him. The proclamation of the gospel won't be stopped unless Jesus desires for that to be the case.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Luke 9:10-11

Where were the apostles returning from? What had they done?

What does Jesus do as the crowd comes to him?

Read Luke 9:12-13

What was the problem that they encountered?

What was the disciples' solution?

Read Luke 9:14-17

How is the solution of Jesus to the problem different from the disciples?

How does Jesus involve the disciples in the solution?

What does the outcome tell us about Jesus?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also page 1971 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus and the disciples were both proclaiming the kingdom of God and healing. What are some ways that you are engaged in this continuing ministry today?

The solution of Jesus and the solution of the disciples to the problem were very different. What do you tend to rely on to answer problems that you encounter in life?

Do you too often trust in things other than the power of God to provide? If yes, what spiritual rhythm could you pursue to help change this?

Jesus involves the disciples in his miraculous provision for others. How have you see Jesus involve you in the provision or healing of someone else?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

Share a time you experienced a time when you could clearly see God's provision.

Why do the disciples' respond to Jesus by telling him the problem? How would you have responded?

Do we have an attitude of expectation for miracles today? Why or why not?

Read Theology Matters

How is our wisdom and faith displayed by our reliance on God?

How does God's provision impact our relationship with him?

What are some characteristics that we learn about God when we rely on his provision?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How can we reset our eyes to see the potential in ourselves and in others?

By what means can we keep planting seeds when we see/feel rejection?

What can we do when it feels like our words, works, and possessions are coming up short?



THE BIG PICTURE

Right after Jesus has fed 5,000 men with a few fish and some bread, Jesus sends his disciples and the crowds away so that he can be alone with the Father. This displays a pattern of being alone with the Father. When he goes to meet back up with the disciples, it is shockingly by walking on water. The disciples, who are braving through a storm, are terrified to see a man walking across water until he reveals himself as Jesus. The response of Peter is to jump out of the boat to join him and the disciples worship Jesus Christ as the Son of God.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

God reveals himself throughout all of Scripture in different ways. Sometimes he displays his power, sometimes through provision, and he sometimes reveals himself through his people. What we don't see is God revealing all of these things in one moment. As we engage with the Word of God and continue to walk in relationship with God, we discover his identity in different ways.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The power and authority of Jesus throughout the Gospel accounts remind us of the command that Jesus has even on death itself. No enemy is powerful enough to thwart the intentions of God. Storms and seas are at his command just as easily as sin and death. Our faith in the works of Jesus are not torn into pieces but are a united whole. The sovereign God of grace that sends sin to a grave of fire is also made known in his immediate command of the wind and waves.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Matthew 14:22-24

Why did Jesus instruct the disciples to go in the boat without him?

What are the physical circumstances of the disciples in the boat?

Read Matthew 14:25-27

Look up the meaning of “fourth watch.” Why would the time of night be an important detail?

What does the identity of Jesus do to the emotions of the disciples?

Read Matthew 14:28-33

How does Peter respond to Jesus’ identity?

What causes Peter to sink into the water?

What is the response of the disciples to Jesus?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1851-1852 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus leaves the crowd and his disciples to be to himself to pray. How often do you pull away from the demands of others (spouse, children, work, social media) to pray? How could you increase this habit?

The disciples are afraid and affected by their physical and mental circumstances. Think about a time you were scared or anxious. Has the presence of Christ ever made impact in those moments?

The first reaction of Peter is to join Jesus on the water. How has your faith in Christ ever encouraged you to take a risk?

The disciples respond to Jesus with worship. When has the provision or power of Jesus moved you to worship him?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

Why is it important to spend time alone with the Father? What does alone time add to your personal relationship with the Father? What can you do this week to improve this spiritual habit?

Why is Jesus walking on water a shock for the disciples? What does this mean for us?

When have you taken a leap of faith or stepped out of the boat in your relationship with Jesus?

Read Theology Matters

Why doesn't God reveal himself in one moment? What does this indicate about our relationship with him?

What does God's constant pursuit of us tell us about our relationship with him?

What are you currently discovering about God's identity? How can you pursue discovery of him?

Read Guided by the Gospel

What do God's commands and intentions contribute to the relationship we have with him?

What does Jesus' command over the wind and waves reveal about his command over sin and death?

How does our trust in Jesus' works contribute to our relationship with him?



THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus comes in contact with a man who is possessed by a demon. The impact of isolation and the demons has led to his experiencing the brutal effects both in his body and mind. The man, in his deranged state, recognizes Jesus and runs to him. The demon recognizes him, as well. Jesus is immediately recognized by spiritual powers and principalities as being in control. The man is set free from the demon by Jesus and he returns to his right mind. The man then is sent into the cities that are around him to share his story and to tell about the work of Jesus in his life.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

Many picture the relationship between God and Satan as a cosmic battle of good and evil. They imagine two powerful beings fighting it out in the heavens vying for control of the hearts and minds of people. Nothing could be further from the biblical witness. This passage shows the powers of evil and destruction immediately bowing in the presence of God. Jesus commands complete control over the demons and only “allows” them to enter pigs in order to avoid a far worse demise.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

No one knows the origins of this man being possessed by demons but it is true that sometimes our sin creates massive consequences in our lives. Many times, we have to live with the physical and mental manifestations of our choices for decades. Jesus Christ has the power to set us free from, not just the internal impacts of sin, but also brings healing in the external consequences.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Mark 5:1-5

How is the man with a demon described?

Read Mark 5:6-13

How does the man respond to Jesus?

Compare the man's response to Jesus with the demons' response to Jesus.

What does Jesus do with the demon?

Read Mark 5:14-20

Compare the man before the encounter with Jesus and after.

How does the man respond to Jesus' leaving?

What does Jesus tell him to do?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1901-1902 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

The man with a demon was deeply troubled and impacted by the demons. How does the plight of this man compare with our everyday struggles?

Upon seeing Jesus the man and the demon recognize who he is. How does belief in the identity of Jesus and trusting Jesus differ?

After encountering Jesus, the man's life is completely different. What are some ways that you are different after encountering Jesus?

Jesus tells the man to go into the "ten cities" (Decapolis) and tell the people there what happened. How often do you share the story of what Jesus has done in your life? How can you increase this habit?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

Why is isolation so bad for us? What are some of the effects?

What are some of the effects of a healthy relationship with others?

How often do we tell others about what Jesus is doing in our lives? How can we improve this spiritual habit?

Read Theology Matters

How does the power of Satan compare to the power of God? What makes Satan dangerous?

Why do we struggle to fully comprehend and surrender to God?

What is something that you have been set free from?

Read Guided by the Gospel

Why do we often choose the very things that hurt us or hurt others?

What can we do to move forward through the consequences and into accepting responsibility?

What would honor the forgiveness, grace and healing we have been given by Jesus?



THE BIG PICTURE

The first miracle of the Gospel of John happens at a party. Jesus enters a wedding as a guest but he leaves having been revealed as the Son of God come in power. The problem at the wedding of running out of wine becomes a proclamation of Jesus as provider. The family that feels the pressure of running out of wine early in the wedding becomes complimented for their abundant hospitality. The events at the wedding in Cana display the identity of Jesus and set in motion his self-revelation.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

God is a provider. This is not simply an activity of God but his identity. God provides for all of creation in multiple means and sustains creatures great and small. Many times, we forget that the provision of God is going on around us. We can take for granted all of the small ways that God cares and provides every day. Sometimes though, we are brought into awareness of our need and it is in these moments where we may find the identity and activity of God being one in the same.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The good news proclamation through the Old Testament was a coming kingdom. This kingdom was to be marked by the hands-on provision of God so that it becomes identified with abundance. One of the marks of the kingdom is the free-flow of wine (representing food and other means of provision). Jesus is revealed to be the long-awaited Messiah in this act at the wedding in Cana. As Messiah, he not only ushers in a kingdom of provision, but of grace, mercy and forgiveness, as well.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read John 2:1-5

What was the problem at the wedding?

What was Jesus' response to Mary? How did she respond back?

Read John 2:6-8

What is the purpose of the water jars? Why is this significant?

What do the servants do with the water?

Read John 2:9-11

How do the people at the wedding respond to the wine?

What does this miracle reveal about Jesus?

What is significant about this being Jesus' first miracle?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 2022-2023 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

This account displays the power and the desire for Jesus to provide. How have you seen or experienced the provision of God in your life?

Jesus uses common jars to do an uncommon thing like making wine from water. How have you experienced or seen God do something that you thought was impossible?

Have you ever felt the pressure of running out or not having enough? What is that pressure like?

The family must have experienced great relief at the provision of wine for the wedding. Have you ever felt that kind of relief? What is that relief like?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

How do these events reveal the identity of Jesus as God?

How can we show others that Jesus is our provider?

What are some ways that we can increase in our reliance of God as provider?

Read Theology Matters

Describe a time that you have experienced the Father as provider?

Why do we sometimes fail to recognize God as provider?

What can we do to increase the spiritual habit of recognition of God's provision in our lives?

Read Guided by the Gospel

What are some ways that this miracle reveals the identity of Jesus as Messiah?

What are some ways that we can increase our recognition and understanding of Jesus as Messiah?

What are some ways that we experience the kingdom of God in our everyday lives?



THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus doesn't just tell us to pray. He teaches us to pray. Far from being a prayer that is intended to be repeated ritualistically, the Lord's Prayer is an example of *how* to pray, not just *what* to pray. In these verses, Jesus also addresses the way that others tend to pray. He discusses those that pray to be seen by others and those that pray to be heard by others. The instruction of Jesus is to talk to God as Father and to talk with him in a "secret place" of intimacy and sincerity.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

Jesus introduces us to the explicit claim of God as our Father. It was hinted at on many occasions in the Old Testament but the Jewish people preferred to think of themselves as having Abraham as their father, rather than God. Jesus challenges this notion with his explicit teachings and prayer. As Father, God desires intimate connection with his people. He is not impressed with religious show and tell but desires intimacy and connection.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

The focus of Jesus' prayer is on the kingdom of God that will transform this broken world into a place of wholeness and on forgiveness of our sin as we also forgive others. Jesus prays a prayer that presses our imagination to a place where we forgive one another of the offenses that they have done against us because we have a forgiving Father that pays the price for that forgiveness by the sending of his Son.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Matthew 6:5-6

How does Jesus say “hypocrites” practice prayer?

How does he call his disciples to practice prayer?

Read Matthew 6:7-8

How does Jesus say “Gentiles” practice prayer?

How does he call his disciples to practice prayer?

Read Matthew 6:9-15

What does this prayer say about the Father?

What does this prayer say that we should do?

Read over the prayer. Make a list of all the things that we are asking the Father for?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 1831-1832 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus talks about praying to be seen. How have you experienced prayer in this way? How do you avoid the temptation to impress people with how you show prayer?

Jesus also talks about praying long prayers to be heard. How have you experienced prayer in this way? What step can you take to develop a prayer habit that is genuine?

Jesus points out that prayer reminds us of the identity of God. How often do you reflect on God's character and nature in prayer? How can you improve this prayer habit?

Jesus also points out that we express needs and desires in prayer. What kind of needs and desires are you typically praying for? Are there any needs that you don't pray about because they seem insignificant or perhaps too big?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What is prayer? Is there a right or wrong way to pray?

How do we self-correct when we realize we are praying for the wrong reasons?

How often do we visit our “secret place” to pray? On a scale of 1-5, how healthy is our prayer life?

Read Theology Matters

What does it mean to know God as our Father?

Why is it significant that Jesus came in person to reveal God as our Father?

What does true intimacy and connection with God consist of or include? What can we do to improve intimacy and connection with God?

Read Guided by the Gospel

What authority have we been given? How do we exercise this authority in prayer?

What do you do when it is hard to forgive? What can you do to press forward in forgiveness?

Why do we need reminders of how much God paid for our forgiveness? What are some ways that we practice remembering?



THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus is pictured as Priest, Prophet, King, Teacher, and Shepherd throughout the Gospels. Here he is our Great High Priest. Jesus is headed toward betrayal and execution. Along that journey, he pauses to offer prayers to the Father on behalf of those that are walking that journey with him. His prayer displays both an example for us to follow and an encouragement. When Jesus is on the brink of being beaten and crucified, he stands in the presence of the Father and prays on behalf of those that will carry on after he has been killed.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

Jesus Christ is a mediator between God and man. The meaning of those words is displayed in the example of prayer that Jesus prays for his disciples. He mediates between them and those that will come after them by asking that the Father keep them. He well understands the immediate difficulty that they will face after his death and he well understands the source of power and might that will give purpose and meaning to the suffering they will face.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

Many times, we hear the gospel presented as the justification that we have before the Father because of our faith in Jesus Christ. But the gospel is not just justification. The “Good News” of Jesus Christ is that he remains with us and for us. He remains a mediator. He continues to speak his words into our hearts and apply them in our lives. The “Good News” is not just that we are saved but also that we are changed because we are saved.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read John 17:1-5

What does Jesus pray about eternal life?

Jesus uses “glorify” a few times. List the different ways that he uses this word. What do you observe?

Read John 17:6-19

What does Jesus pray is the result of the words that he gave his disciples?

What does Jesus pray that he desires for those that he has been with?

What does Jesus pray will be the relationship between his disciples and the world?

Read John 17:20-26

Jesus prays about those that will come to know Christ through the ministry of the disciples. What does he pray will be the result in their lives?

Jesus closes his prayer in much the same way he opened it, by talking about the identity of the Father. What does he say about the Father in these closing verses (vv. 24-26)?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also pages 2058-2060 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus prays about what it means to have eternal life. How do we see this being questioned in our current culture? How does Jesus provide guidance?

What does it mean to glorify God? How can you increase this prayer habit?

Jesus prays for his relationship with his disciples and his disciples relationship with the world. How is your relationship with Jesus impacting your relationship with the world around you?

Jesus prays for those that will believe as a result of the disciples ministry. This includes us. What impact does Jesus having you in his heart and mind at this moment have on you? What does it change?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

How do we respond when we know we are headed for trouble and trials? How do we pray?

How do we pray intentionally for those walking with us? Our Life Groups, those we serve with?

How can we follow Jesus' example of prayer more thoroughly and specifically?

Read Theology Matters

How do we depend on and trust Jesus as our mediator? How do we grow in understanding of his role?

How does Jesus being our mediator change our everyday lives? How do we see God keeping us?

If you could talk to the disciples, what would you tell them to pay most attention to in this prayer?

Read Guided by the Gospel

What words have been laid on your heart from Jesus recently?

What is one way you can move those words into action?

What is one specific way that you have been changed by the gospel?



THE BIG PICTURE

Many of the most significant moments in the Bible take place on or near a mountain. Jesus takes three of his closest disciples up this mountain to pray. While there praying, the disciples see Jesus standing before them shining as bright as light. He is also standing with Moses and Elijah, two major prophets and leaders from the Old Testament. A cloud covers them all and the voice of God the Father declares Jesus as his Son. He commands the disciples to listen to him.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

One of the key doctrines in the Bible is the preexistence and deity of Jesus. He was not born and then grow into the Messiah throughout his life. He is and has always been the Son from eternity past into eternity future. He becomes incarnate, takes on flesh to dwell with mankind, but is always fully God. The transfiguration of Jesus Christ on the mountain is God revealing more of who he is to these disciples.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

Who can pay the penalty for the sin of all mankind? One man, if he were good, may lay his life down for another. But one man would not have the same value as ten men, or a hundred, or a thousand, even if he were good. If he happened to be sinless, he would still not possess the value of a million men. What makes Jesus Christ so infinitely valuable that he could lay down his life for all of humanity, past, present and future is not that he was a sinless man, but that he is God in the flesh that lived a sinless life in order to take on the curse of sin and kill it forever at the cross.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Mark 9:2-4

Who is with Jesus on the mountain? What is significant about this?

Who appears with Jesus? What is significant about this?

Read Mark 9:5-8

What is Peter's suggestion?

Why does Peter suggest this?

What does the Father say about Jesus?

Read Mark 9:9-13

How do the disciples respond to Jesus telling about his resurrection?

What does the disciples discussion about Elijah display about how they thought the Messiah would come?

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also page 1911 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus takes three of his closest disciples with him up the mountain. How do you feel when someone else has greater insights or a more popular platform? Do you ever feel left out?

Peter suggests tents for all three prophets of God because he does not know what to say. Do you ever become overwhelmed in prayer? How do you respond?

God surrounds the disciples with a cloud and declares Jesus as his Son. What are some practical ways that you can apply the command to listen to Jesus in your life?

Jesus speaks about his resurrection and the disciples are confused. How do your feelings sometimes cloud the obvious truths in your life?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

What can you imagine the disciples were thinking or feeling upon seeing Jesus in this way?

What kind of feelings come from being on a mountain?

Why does Jesus take only a few of his disciples? How would you feel if you were one of the others?

Read Theology Matters

Why do you think God reveal things over time, rather than all at once? What does this mean for how we learn about God?

What impact has Jesus, being God, coming to dwell with mankind made on the world?

How can we grow in comprehension and understanding of Jesus being fully man and fully God?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How do we see the value of a man's life measured in society and culture?

How can we share with others the depth of the sacrifice that Christ made for us?

How does Jesus being God impact the way we see him being crucified for the sin of mankind?



THE BIG PICTURE

Jesus goes away to pray for the final time while he is on the earth. He goes to his customary place of prayer and asks the Father to take away the suffering and death that is imminent. Even in his asking for the Father to take away the suffering, he is accepting of the Father's will. Jesus being ministered to by angels and his sweating of blood display the humanity of Jesus Christ. His going to the cross was no simple matter and the life of prayer that Jesus practiced while on earth is instructive to all who follow him.



THEOLOGY MATTERS

Jesus is fully God. He also is fully man. Jesus has stress and temptation. He has struggles that are common to every man. He is tempted like us and he needed to rely on his relationship with the Father just like we do. Jesus displays his full humanity most clearly in his sweating blood in the garden of Gethsemane. In this moment, we see the impact of what is to come on the heart and soul of Jesus.



GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL

What causes Jesus Christ to sweat blood and depend on the comforting of angels becomes clear in the next few chapters of the Gospel account. Jesus will be beaten nearly to death, he will be impaled with large spikes through his limbs, he will hang for hours on a wooden cross designed to inflict maximum suffering. At the same time, he will execute sin and death by this act of selfless love. He will make a way to be in relationship with God where there was no way. He will offer and invite anyone to lay down their sin and turn to him in faith. Jesus is the gospel.



SERMON NOTES & THOUGHTS

Write down some of your thoughts about this week's sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? How is God calling you to respond?

Main Point:

Supporting Points:

Conclusions and Responses:



READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take some time this week to read over this passage. Use these questions and the space below to write down your observations.

Read Luke 22:39-41

What is significant about the phrase that it was Jesus' custom to come to the mount of olives?

What does he instruct the disciples to pray about? Why is this significant?

Read Luke 22:42-44

What is Jesus' prayer? What does this suggest about Jesus?

Why is he being ministered to by angels? What does this suggest about Jesus?

What happens to Jesus while he is praying? What does this suggest about Jesus?

Read Luke 22:45-46

What does Jesus find when he returns to the disciples?

What is his instruction to them? What connections do you see in these verses.

Observations, Answers and Thoughts:

See also page 2007 of the ESV Study Bible, also available online at esv.org

Jesus had a custom of getting away to pray and he practiced this at key moments in his life and ministry. What customs of prayer do you have? How can you improve this habit?

Jesus instructs the disciples to pray that they do not enter into temptation. How have you seen prayer and temptation connect in your life? What does Jesus connection of these two mean for your prayer?

Jesus prays earnestly that he would avoid the suffering that is coming but also accepts God's will. How does Jesus example of prayer instruct the way you pray?

The disciples struggle with praying for such a long period of time. How is this reflective of your prayer and how does it encourage you?

What is God saying to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?



GATHER AND DISCUSS

This week gather together in Life Group to discuss with one another the things that you have discovered, the questions that you have or the ways that God is calling you to apply his Word to your life. Use the following questions to guide your conversation.

Read The Big Picture

How can we follow Jesus in his request for God's will to be done? Does this change the way we pray?

What would it take to increase our willingness to follow God's will?

How can we better minister to fellow followers of Jesus that "fall asleep" in prayer?

Read Theology Matters

What are some ways you fight temptation when you are in stressful circumstances?

What does Jesus praying in the Garden display about his character and nature?

How does it impact your relationship with God, knowing Jesus struggled with suffering?

Read Guided by the Gospel

How does the selfless love of Jesus impact our everyday lives?

What are some daily rhythms that we can practice our appreciation for Jesus' love for us?

What are some ways that we can better love others?

Appendix

Week 1: June 13-19

Matthew 1-5

Week 2: June 20-26

Matthew 6-10

Week 3: June 27-July 3

Matthew 11-15

Week 4: July 4-10

Matthew 16-20

Week 5: July 11-17

Matthew 21-25

Week 6: July 18-24

Matthew 26-28

Week 7: July 25-31

Mark 1-5

Week 8: August 1-7

Mark 6-10

Week 9: August 8-14

Mark 11-16

Week 10: August 15-21

Luke 1-4

Week 11: August 22-28

Luke 5-8

Week 12: August 29-September 4

Luke 9-12

Week 13: September 5-11

Luke 13-16

Week 14: September 12-18

Luke 17-20

Week 15: September 19-25

Luke 21-24

Week 16: September 26-October 2

John 1-5

Week 17: October 3-9

John 6-10

Week 18: October 10-16

John 11-15

Week 19: October 17-23

John 16-18

Week 20: October 24-30

John 19-21

S.O.W.I.N.G. SEEDS

Get a notebook or a journal and journey through a chapter of the Gospels each day, answer the following questions in your journal.

Scripture- What passage or verse stands out to me?
Write it in your own words.

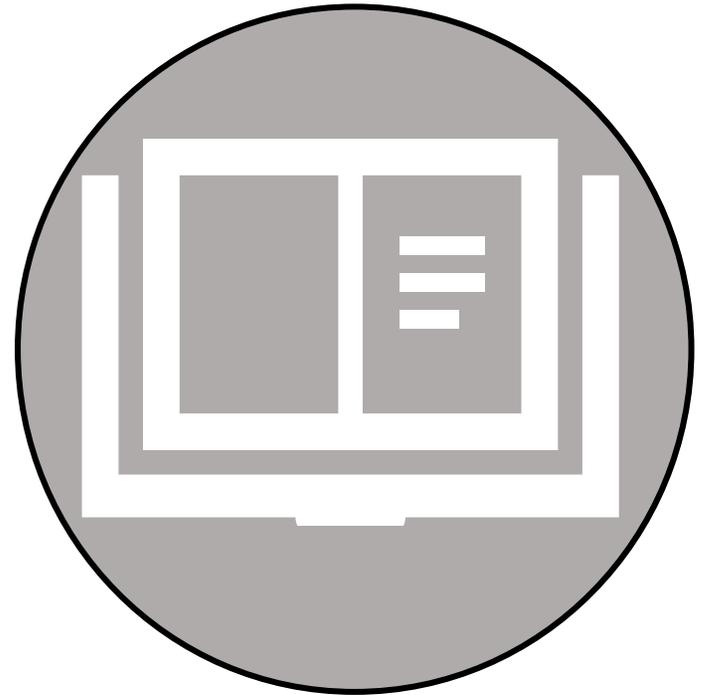
Observation- What do I notice about this chapter?
Summarize the chapter in your own words.

Walk- What is Jesus saying to me and what am I going to do about it?
Write one concrete step you can take today.

Invite- Who can I invite to worship, LifeGroup, Huddle, dinner?
Write the one person that comes to your mind and heart.

Need- Who has a need that I can meet or a relationship that I can nurture?
Write the one person that comes to your mind/heart.

Gospel- Who can I share my story and the story of Jesus with?
Write the one person that comes to your mind/heart.



The Jesus Way Gospels Reading Plan

Creating your Spiritual Growth Journal

Use this guide to create a Bible reading and prayer journal that will help keep you organized and focused on your growth.

You will first need a notebook or journal. It needs to be long enough to last about a year with weekly use.

Using your Growth Journal

Write your prayers in your journal, make it personal, don't worry about how you sound or the way it looks.

Write your thoughts and your feelings. Try not to correct yourself too much and just let your mind flow naturally.

Keep track of requests, goals, key moments and things that God is calling you to change. Write an area of sin that you want to change, a spiritual gift that you want to grow or a concrete spiritual goal.

Write down scripture, quotes that are compelling and helpful, or ways that God is speaking to you right now.

Organizing your Growth Journal

You may want to use your journal to track your reading and growth. Here are some additions that you can make to your journal.

Set aside five to ten pages in the front of your journal to write down passages that you are reading or want to read this year.

Set aside five to ten pages to record prayer requests or a list of people that you are praying for.

Set aside five to ten pages in the front for passages that you memorize. Writing them down completely is a great start to committing them to memory.

Set aside five to ten pages in the front to track the scriptures that you study, books that you read on scripture or topics that your Life Group journeys through. You can also track your insights or studies, books, etc. that you want to engage with next year.

Set aside around 50 pages in the back for sermon/Life Group notes and insights.



TLCC PRAYER JOURNAL

WEEK OF:

TALK TO GOD AND TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR WEEK:

- How is He moving in your life? How are you moving towards Him? How are you serving? What do you need to confess? What has God revealed this week?

LET GOD KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR:

- How are you being intentional this week? What long term and short term prayers are you working on right now?

CHAT WITH GOD ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE:

- Who has God laid on your heart this week? Who are you going to reach out to this week? Who is ministering to you right now?

COPY SCRIPTURE AND PRAY IT OVER YOUR LIFE:

- What is your call to action this week? How are you going to take this to someone else this week?

Discipleship Path

Write out your days, times and plan for your week.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Personal Bible Study and Reading

Prayer and Quiet Time

Life Group and Discipling Relationship

How to start a Discipleship Huddle

A Discipleship Huddle is a group of three people (of the same gender) that are committed to listening to what God is saying to them in his Word, being obedient in doing what he says to do and praying for each other as you follow through.

We call this a simple rhythm of obedience. Simply asking:

1. What is Jesus teaching me right now?
2. What am I going to do about it?
3. How can you pray for me?

Of course, there are many other conversations and discussions around scripture that will come up in a Huddle, but the group needs to remain focused to address these three questions before engaging in those other conversations.

So, what do you need to do to start a Discipleship Huddle?

1. Pray. Ask Jesus to reveal someone that would be interested and committed.
2. Ask. Go to that person and approach the idea. Give them this sheet if needed.
3. Decide. Set a time and place for the group meeting. Public spaces are okay but we have learned that they do not work well for more intimate discussions.
4. Commit. Move the meeting, don't miss it. If someone in the group has something come up, set up another time and place in the same week.
5. Share. Everyone needs to be involved. Everyone can take turns leading the discussion. Each person can have a responsibility for setting up the group.

How to start a Life Group

A Life Group is about 10-12 people that are gathered together to build relationships with one another around the application of God's Word in everyday life. In short, we say that this is how we do life with one another. A Life Group can be a blend of church members and non-members. It can be a blend of followers of Christ and not yet followers of Christ. But everyone needs to be aware and agree that the Bible will be discussed as the core function of the group.

Where do Life Groups meet?

Life Groups can meet anywhere but we find that the living room of one or more of your group members is ideal. Hosting the meeting is a great way for Life Group members that are not comfortable with leading discussions can serve and be involved. We also share meals often as a part of our Life Group rhythms. Every member can contribute for the meal and this makes a great time of fellowship, as well as helping with the busy evening schedules.

What do Life Groups do?

1. Discuss. We talk about God's Word using a Bible study or sermon notes.
2. Pray. We spend time sharing our needs and pray for one another.
3. Share. We open up about how God is moving in our lives. We offer support not advice.
4. Serve. We join in serving others together. We might even partner with another Life Group.
5. Celebrate. We pause to bring the better party when birthdays or other events arise.

How to start a Life Group.

Starting a Life Group can be intimidating at first. We don't all have 10-12 people hanging around wanting to study the Bible with us. Know this, everyone that has started a Life Group has felt that feeling and following through with obedience to Jesus if he is calling you to do this will be one of the greatest blessings in your life.

1. Pray. Ask Jesus to lead you to people that may be longing for this kind of relationship.
2. Share. Get the word out through flyers handed personally to people that you feel led to.
3. Relax. This does not need to be overwhelming. Make it fun.
4. Partner. Get one or two other people to help you. The more that say they want to come, ask them to help.
5. Start Small. Don't expect 10-12 people to join up in order to start your group. We have had wonderful groups with 5 people.

You are not alone.

We are here to help you along the way. Simply reach out through email and we can assist you.