

Celebrating the Life of Jesus As He Lived It

Presented By:
In The Word Bible Studies

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Preface

Another study on Jesus; haven't we studied him enough? Don't we know about his birth, death, resurrection, even his teachings? How is this one different?

Even though we know about Jesus, we don't often take time to understand how he lived on a daily basis. Celebrating the Life of Jesus as he Lived it will take a different look, how Jesus lived when he became one of us.

This study follows Jesus' life beginning with his family and what it was like to grow up in first century Palestine. We will look at the Jewish celebrations he enjoyed and how he handled the pressures of life including relationships, making decisions, dealing with stress and death.

Jesus will be presented as Son of Man with the goal of learning from his life how to lived in power and victory so that we, as his disciples, can become more like him.

Introduction

To be a follower of Jesus Christ means that we are to become His disciples, and He becomes our role model for a life pleasing to God. But what does that look like? And, how can I live a Christ-like life?

This study will focus on Jesus' LIFE as the Son of Man. That title, "Son of Man," was the one most often used by Jesus to refer to Himself. In the Gospels, there are 81 references to Jesus calling Himself the Son of Man. Interestingly, only Jesus used that title. Most often Jesus was referred to as the Son of God, or the Messiah, both of which are accurate titles and reflect His identity and His mission, but for this study, we will focus on Jesus' humanity, when He became like us.

Somewhere around age 30 Jesus began His public ministry. He was called "teacher" or "rabbi" and He called people to "follow me," an invitation to become His disciple, a "talmid." To be a disciple in that culture was not just to learn from the rabbi and to know what he knew, but to become like him. Today we might think of an apprentice. The goal is not to remain an apprentice forever, but to become like the teacher.

To be a disciple of Jesus required spending time with Him, learning how to do life in a new way, a way that reflected the Kingdom of God; life as God intended. The twelve disciples had only a short time to learn from Jesus before He was crucified. When He spoke to the remaining eleven after His resurrection, Jesus commissioned them to be His apostles, "sent ones." They were to go make other disciples - - to pass on what Jesus had taught them.

Today Jesus' teachings are recorded for us through the Gospels. We too are called to be disciples of Jesus. As a student of culture, what always strikes me is that with this invitation to become a disciple, the rabbi's reputation is at risk. Each disciple's life will reflect on his or her rabbi bringing either honor or shame to his name. We will focus on how Jesus lived out God's kingdom values as a human, and then how we can live in a way that is pleasing to God. It is my desire that as we look at the life of Jesus, we will learn from Him how to live in power and victory in order to bring honor to His name.

How To Use This Study Guide

1. Home study question: The study questions are designed to lead you through various events in Jesus' life as recorded in the gospels.
2. Then you will be asked to reflect on what it says.
3. Try to imagine yourself in that setting or event.
4. Group discussion: Discussion is a time of sharing insights from the text and your reflections with others.
5. Teaching: This will bring in the cultural background to help understand in a way that reflects the original audience to whom Jesus was teaching and how that might apply in our lives today.
6. Putting feet to the lessons: These are activities that help these lessons become part of your everyday life.

Lesson Descriptions

- Lesson 1: Jesus, His Early Life
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 - The influence of Godly People
- Lesson 2: Jesus, His Childhood
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- Lesson 10: Jesus' Really Difficult Day
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- Lesson 11: The Cost of Following Jesus
- Belief and Trust
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- Lesson 12: Jesus Fulfills His Mission
- Passing on the Torch
 - Taking the Gospel to the world

Jesus, His Early Life

The Influence of Godly People

Lesson 1

Introduction

1. Jesus asked His disciples, “*Who do people say the Son of Man is?*” (Matthew 16:13) What does the title “Son of Man” convey to you?

Jesus' Early Life

Everyone is influenced by the people in our lives. As we look at the life of Jesus, we will see how important these people were in His early life.

Jesus' Mother Mary

The gospel of Luke was based upon interviews with those who were eyewitnesses to Jesus' life. (Luke 1:1-4) Mary explained to Dr. Luke how she learned she was to become a mother.

2. According to Luke 1:28 - 38, what do you learn about the character of Mary?

Jesus' Earthly Father, Joseph

The gospel of Matthew gives insight into how Mary's fiancé Joseph responded to the news that Mary was pregnant and it was not his child.

3. According to Matthew 1:18 - 25, what do you learn about the character of Joseph?

Jesus' Aunt and Uncle

Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17) reveals that Joseph was from the tribe of Judah, King David's tribe. Luke 1:1-26 reveals that Mary was from the priestly line of Aaron of the tribe of Levi. When Mary first learned that she was pregnant, she went to visit her aunt Elizabeth who was also pregnant.

4. What does Luke tell us about the character of Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah? (Luke 1:5-25)

5. Write down the words of Deuteronomy 6:4-7.
 - What importance does God place on teaching our children His ways? (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7)

Reflect

6. As you look over that list of people who were important in the life of Jesus, who stood out to you and why?

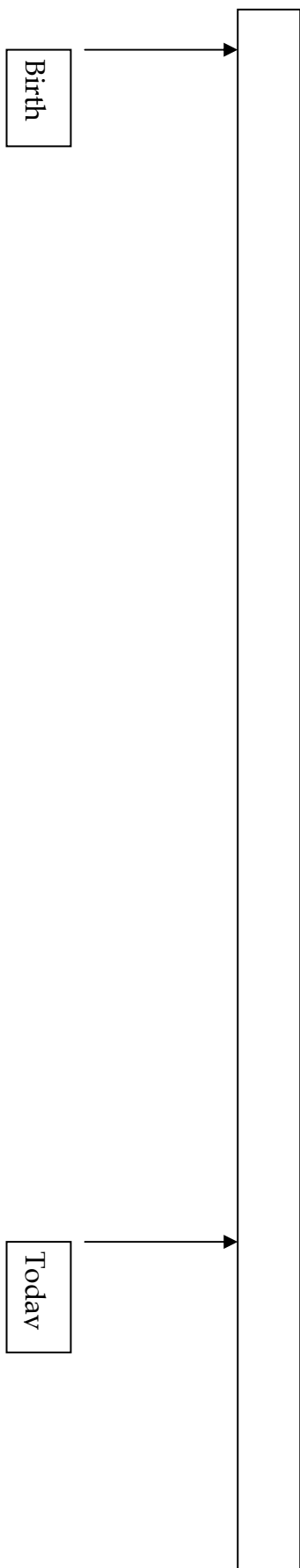
7. How important do you think their influence was in Jesus' life?

8. Think about your own life. Make a list of people who influenced your spiritual growth and add them to your personal timeline on page 4.

Putting Feet to Remembering the Godly People in Your Life

- From your list, take the time to write a thank you letter to someone who has influenced your life. Explain the importance of their influence to your spiritual life.
- Do you have someone in your life today, a godly mentor, prayer partner or someone who holds you accountable, who helps shape and influence your spiritual life? If not, pray that the Lord would reveal that person to you.
- Perhaps you also think of those who have influenced our lives spiritually who may no longer be alive. Write a note or just their names and tuck it into your Bible.
- Are you a godly influence in the lives of your children, grandchildren or friends? Will they be able to add your name to their personal spiritual timeline one day? It is never too late to start influencing someone, don't wait until it is too late!

TIMELINE OF SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES IN MY LIFE



Jesus, His Childhood

The Importance of Knowing Scripture

Lesson 2

Introduction

Jesus grew up in a home where his parents and relatives were a godly influence upon Him. They lived out the *Shema*; "*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*"

Deuteronomy 6:4 - 6

Jesus' Childhood Teaching

Jewish culture began teaching children at age three. The earliest teaching was done by the mother, through songs, prayers and stories. The formal teaching of the Torah (Genesis - Deuteronomy) began at age six by the father and at synagogue school. The sons were to learn and memorize the Torah while the daughters learned God's ways of Torah but focused on the Psalms and Proverbs. God was clear in both instruction and why it was important to know His Word through study, memorization and obedience.

1. How often were parents to teach their children God's Laws? (Deuteronomy 11:19)
2. What was God's reason for teaching children when they are young? (Proverbs 22:6)
3. How was God's Word to be applied when making decisions? (Deuteronomy 17:11)
4. What was one of the warnings for not following God's Word? (Deuteronomy 20:18)
5. Knowing God's Word is the first step; also required is obedience to God's truth. How was and is that possible? (Psalms 143:10)
6. Mary and Joseph followed God's Laws when it came to their son Jesus. What is recorded about Jesus' childhood and wisdom that came from knowing God's Word? (Luke 2:39,40)

7. The story of Jesus' early childhood as recorded in Luke 2, reminds the reader that Mary and Joseph did know and obey God's Law. They were faithful to teach Jesus the truth of His Word. In the New Testament, a young man named Timothy was raised in a household where his father, a Greek, was unable to teach him God's Word. How did Timothy come to know God's Word? (2 Timothy 1:5)

8. Why is the study of God's Word as important to adults as to children? (Joshua 1:8, 9)

Reflect

9. When you study and obey God's Word it will become a delight to your soul. According to the following verses, what will be the effect on your life?
 - Psalm 1:1-3

 - Psalm 119:9-11

 - Psalm 119:105

Putting Feet to Knowing Scripture

- To be a follower of Jesus requires knowing and obeying God's Word. Because this is a personal relationship with God, daily reading, studying, praying and applying of God's truths will keep you growing in faith.
- If you are not already in a study learning on a daily basis, then ask the Lord to direct you to one that teaches His Word, preferably in culture and in context.
- Daily ask His Spirit to give you strength, for that day, to live a life of obedience.
- Included with this lesson are instructions on how to study God's Word on your own.

How do I Study God's Word (The Bible)?

There are many methods and you will find materials at your church, online or at your local Bible bookstore. In the Word, Bible Study Fellowship, Community Bible Study or Kay Arthur's Precepts are all comprehensive studies. Some excellent home study materials are published by Campus Crusade for Christ, Inter Varsity Press, Navigators and many more. Since my passion is teaching "In the Word", (which you can find on-line at www.InTheWordStudies.com) I will give some suggestions to get you started.

Going In-depth

Begin each session with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to clarify and give understanding of what you are about to read and how to apply it in your life today.

Context

1. First reading: Begin by reading the entire book (or passage) in one sitting, looking for overall context. It is easy to pull out one or two verses and "make them fit" a certain situation, but it is important to understand the original, intended context. That is what you are searching for first.
2. Second reading: This time, read paragraph by paragraph and write in a notebook what you think each paragraph is saying, always keeping in mind the context. Ask yourself the five W's and H: who, what, when, where, why and how.

If you conclude your study here, go to #6 for application.

Deeper Study

3. Setting: Once you have a clear idea of what the book is about, take a closer look at the historical setting. If you have a Study Bible, there will be an introduction at the beginning of each book that gives background on the author, recipient, location, purpose, place and date of writing and characteristics. Read this to get a feel for the time, place and people.
4. Research: For those who wish to go deeper, begin with a word by word look at the book, cross reference and look up in a Bible dictionary anything you do not understand or want more information about; (i.e., setting of the book – read about the ancient culture to understand what that city or place was like, looking for customs, importance, terrain and climate; main character – using a concordance, find all Biblical reference to that individual to learn all you can; word search – do a study on any words that are key such as "peace," "grace," "sanctification," etc. by using the Bible dictionary and concordance.)
5. Final reading: Re-read the passage and ask, "what does it say to me now?" You'll be amazed at how much more you will understand.

6. Application: Wherever you decide to end your study, conclude with “so, what” does it say to me? Every book in the Bible is a love letter from God to you. Through His Word, God reveals Himself and with the help of the Holy Spirit, helps to guide you in your daily life.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you determine:

- What it is saying to me?
- What action does God require from me?

Basic Requirements for Bible Study

The most basic requirement is a good readable *translation* of the Bible. A translation is important because it has been transcribed from the most original documents available versus a paraphrase which typically is not.

I do not recommend Application Bibles *for this type of study* but I do recommend a Study Bible which includes reference material such as notes and background for each book, maps, a concordance and cross references.

Some good translations include:

- ESV English Standard Version
- NASB New American Standard Bible
- NIV New International Version
- NKJV New King James Version
- NLT New Living Translation
- RSV Revised Standard Version

Bible Commentary and Dictionary

- *The Essential Bible Companion* by John H. Walton, Mark L. Strauss and Ted Cooper Jr. published by Zondervan gives an overview of each book of the Bible with maps, themes, timelines, key people and terms explained in a way to help in correct understanding.
- *Unger's Bible Dictionary* by Moody Press
- *Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary* edited by Merrill C. Tenney, by Zondervan

Personal Notebook

Any type will do as long as you can keep it together.

Other Resources

- *How to Read the Bible in Changing Times* by Dr. Mark L. Strauss
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

Jesus, the Adult

The Importance of Celebrations

Lesson 3

Introduction

Jesus grew up in the small village of Nazareth in Galilee where His family's faith in God was reflected in every area of life. In addition to teaching Jesus God's Word (Torah) from an early age, they also followed God's appointed feasts and God's instructions to celebrate what He had done in their lives.

Celebrations

1. The very first celebration after the birth of a child was to take place on the eighth day. According to Leviticus 12:1, 2, what was to be done for a male child?
2. What was significant about a first-born son? (Exodus 13:1)
3. The Law also required purification sacrifices be made after giving birth. The sacrifices are given in Leviticus 12:6-8. Based upon those requirements and what Mary brought to the Temple, what do you learn about the financial condition of Jesus' family? (Luke 2:22-24)
4. In addition to first-born son Jesus, how many other children did Mary and Joseph have? (Matthew 13:55, 56; Mark 6:3)

Feasts of the Lord

5. In addition to celebrations, God gave His people Israel seven feasts or festivals they were to observe annually. These feasts were a time of family celebration and remembrance of what God had and would do for His people. Of the seven feasts, three stood out from the rest.
 - What were the three festivals? (Exodus 23:14-16)

- What was unique about these three? (Exodus 23:17)
-
6. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is the beginning of Passover. The Bible tells us that Jesus' family traveled to Jerusalem each year to celebrate Passover. What was noteworthy about the celebration when Jesus was 12 years of age? (Luke 2:41-45)
 7. Three days later, where was Jesus located? (Luke 2:46)
 8. What was said about Jesus at age 12? (Luke 2:47, 48)

Reflect

9. Jesus appeared surprised that His parents didn't know where He would be after the festival. As you reflect on this story of Jesus, what do you learn about Jesus as a young adult?
10. In addition to the feasts and the celebrations, what else did God's people do to help remind them of God's faithfulness?
 - Genesis 28:10-19
 - Joshua 3:9-13; 4:3, 6, 7

11. What were God's instructions regarding these feasts and memorials? (Exodus 13:8, 9)

Putting Feet to the Life of Celebration

How can we celebrate God's faithfulness today? The obvious answer is to remember the New Testament celebrations of Christmas, The Lord's Supper (Communion) and Easter, which we should do. But what about in your life?

- Begin journaling your life story. Just as we have reflected on Jesus' earthly life, what was your family like, who were the people that shaped you spiritually, mentally and physically? These events may be positive or negative, either way; they have shaped us into who we are today.
- From that journal, create a time line; use symbols like a cross when you came to faith in Jesus, a church or school, a job, wedding ring or cradle, for example. Things that can help you visualize your life.

The goal of this exercise:

- To see how God has worked in your life in ways you might not have seen before and to have a story to share of God's faithfulness.
- To see areas where God can bring others alongside to help you as you continue on your journey as a disciple of Jesus.

Standing stones (Memorial markers)

- Place articles throughout your home that will remind you of God's faithfulness through people and events in your life. Each time you look at them, reflect and then pray.

I have rose bushes in my yard that I have given names of family members. Each time I tend them, I thank the Lord for that individual and pray for them.

Whatever you choose, and you may have many things, place them in strategic locations so that others may ask, "What is this about?" And, each time they catch your eye, train yourself to thank the Lord for His faithfulness to you.

Jesus, His Ministry

Temptation and Personal Struggles

Lesson 4

Introduction

Jesus became aware of His identity and purpose early in life. At age 12, He amazed the religious teachers by His knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. At age 12 He also revealed His personal relationship with God referring to the Temple in Jerusalem as "My Father's house." (Luke 2:49)

1. Jesus worked alongside Joseph, his earthly father, in the family business as a "*tekton*" or a builder. At what age did Jesus leave the family business to follow God's purpose? (Luke 3:23)

2. The first event recorded in His ministry was submitting to John in baptism. Even though John was reluctant, what did Jesus say to assure John that this was part of God's plan? (Matthew 3:9)

3. Using Luke 3:21, 22:
 - What did Jesus do when He came out of the water?

 - What was the response from heaven?

4. Who was directing Jesus' life? (Luke 4:1a)

5. Where did He lead Jesus immediately after His baptism? (Luke 4:1b)

6. What was the purpose? (Luke 4:2)

The Temptations of Jesus

Temptation is defined as "the act of being enticed or allured to do evil with the promise of pleasure or gain."

When it was time for Jesus to fulfill God's purpose as the Messiah, before He even began, God allowed Jesus to be tempted. Although the tempter had evil in mind, God was in control and used this to test the Son of Man to see if He would remain obedient to the Father. The temptations of Jesus are recorded in Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13 and Luke 4:1-13.

Temptation #1

7. What was Jesus' condition at the time of this temptation? (Luke 4:2b)
8. What temptation did Satan, or the Devil, present? (Luke 4:3)
9. How did Jesus resist this temptation? (Luke 4:4)

Temptation #2

10. Satan led Jesus to a high place where He was shown all the kingdoms of the world. What was the temptation presented this time? (Luke 4:6,7)
11. What was Jesus' answer? (Luke 4:8)

Temptation #3

12. This temptation took place at the Temple in Jerusalem. As they stood on the highest point of the Temple, what was Satan's temptation? (Luke 4:9)
13. What additional enticement did Satan use? (Luke 4:10,11)
14. How did Jesus respond to this temptation? (Luke 4:12)

15. What did Satan do after this third temptation? (Luke 4:13)

Reflect

16. Review these three temptations of Jesus thinking about the purpose, which was to test the obedience of Jesus to the Father. Then create a title to reflect the real nature of each temptation.

- Temptation #1

- Temptation #2

- Temptation #3

17. Although these temptations were personal to Jesus as the Messiah, why was it important to us that Jesus, Son of Man, would be tempted? (Hebrews 3:18; 4:15)

What the Bible says about Temptation

18. Using James 1:13-15:

- Who can expect to be tempted?

- By whom will that temptation most often come?

- Who does not tempt us?

- What is the progression that begins with temptation?

Reflect on how Jesus was able to resist these three temptations. (Luke 4:4a, 8a, 12a)

19. What can believers do to help resist acting on temptation in their lives?

- Psalms 119:11
- Galatians 5:22-25
- Ephesians 5:10-12

Putting Feet to the Life of Victory Over Temptations

Understanding the difference between a trial and a temptation is helpful. Trials are things we go through that we have no control over in life. James said, "*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials...*" (James 1:2). Trials are an opportunity to grow and mature in our faith as we trust in the Lord. On the other hand, temptations are designed to lead us away from God and into sin. As we have seen throughout these temptations of Jesus, we cannot control the fact that we will be tempted, but we can control whether we will act on them and sin, or resist them as Jesus did. One of the key factors is knowing what God's Word says.

- This week, memorize this verse from God's Word to use as a strong reminder when temptation comes your way.

1 Corinthians 10:13 in the New Living Translation: *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

- Write this verse on a note card or two and place in a prominent place. This is another opportunity to be used as a teaching tool for your children, as well as a reminder for you, when facing temptations.
- Be accountable to one another and share your struggles and victories during family times. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

Jesus' Strength Through Solitude and Prayer Lesson 5

Introduction

Jesus' public ministry began with obedience to God in baptism. (Matthew 3:15) At that time, the source of Jesus' strength was revealed. It was when JESUS WAS IN PRAYER that God's voice spoke from heaven and affirmed Him saying, "*You are My Son, whom I love, with You I am well pleased.*" (Luke 3:21, 22) Following His baptism, Jesus was lead by the Spirit (God's Spirit) into the wilderness. The wilderness was an intimidating place where one was completely dependent upon God. Throughout the Bible we find people went into the wilderness for the purpose of meeting with God. For Jesus, it was also a time of testing as Satan tempted Jesus with short cuts to fulfilling God's purpose. Although Jesus was tempted, He did not act on those temptations and sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus' Prayer Life

1. What do the following verses reveal about the importance of prayer in Jesus' life?
 - Matthew 14:23:

 - Mark 1:35:

 - Luke 5:16:
2. From those verses, what words would you use to summarize Jesus' prayer life?
3. Early in His ministry Jesus was very popular, drawing huge crowds. He had many followers and many disciples, but God's plan was for Jesus to pour His life into only a few who would carry on His ministry as His apostles (sent ones). How did Jesus make that important decision? (Luke 6:12-16)
4. Throughout Jesus' ministry, He performed many miracles that authenticated He was sent from God. One of those miracles was feeding 5,000 men. (That number does not include all the women and children present!) This story is recorded in all the gospels but we will look at the story as recorded in Luke 9:10-17. Using Luke 9:16:
 - When did Jesus pray?

- Why do you think it was important for Jesus to pray publicly?
5. After this miraculous feeding, the people began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." (John 6:14)
 - What did Jesus understand the crowd intended to do? (John 6:15a)
 - How did Jesus deal with this new temptation? (John 6:15b)
 6. Eight days later, another event in Jesus' prayer life was highlighted.
 - Who was with Jesus at the time? (Luke 9:28a)
 - Where did Jesus take them? (Luke 9:28b)
 - What was the physical condition of Jesus' companions? (Luke 9:32a)
 - What changed that condition? (Luke 9:32b)
 - What was Jesus doing when this event took place? (Luke 9:29)
 7. What had been the answer to Jesus' prayer just prior to this event? (Luke 9:18-20)
 8. After spending time with Jesus, The Twelve recognized the importance of prayer in His life and ministry. What prompted the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray like He did? (Luke 11:1)

Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

9. What was Jesus' expectation regarding His disciples and prayer? (Luke 11:2a)
10. What radical new way did Jesus say they were to address God? (Luke 11:2b)
11. What was Jesus' first and primary request of God? (Luke 11:2c, Matt. 6:10)

12. Jesus also included personal requests. How would you summarize those requests? (Luke 11:3, 4 and Matthew 6:11-13)

Reflect

13. From this lesson, what have you learned about the role and importance of prayer in Jesus' life and ministry?
14. In John 5:16-30, Jesus gave insight into why seeking the Father through prayer was crucial to His life. What stands out to you from John 5:19, 20 and 30?
15. Matthew 6:5, 6 records Jesus' strong warning about attitude when coming before the Father in prayer. Why do you think Jesus' emphasized this?

Putting Feet to the Life of Prayer

This week I would encourage you to begin to exercise and build up your prayer muscles by adding solitude during your time of prayer. Start with five minutes a day and work up to 30 or more, as the Spirit leads you.

Helpful tips:

- Set a regular time each day, when you are at your best, and put it on your calendar.
- Find a comfortable, quiet location as your "prayer closet." Make sure it is free from distractions.
- Bring your Bible, journal (notebook) and pen.
- Sit quietly, this make take a while for your mind to settle down.
- Read Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 40:31 or other Scripture to help you focus.
- Reflect on the fact that you have been invited to come directly into the presence of the Almighty God and He wants you to call Him, Father!
- As you focus on who God is, and listen for His voice, you will have thoughts pop into your mind. That is what to write in your journal.

Concerns that need to be brought before the Lord.

New insights from the Lord as to who He is and how He works in your life.

A sin that requires you to repent (turn from), confess and act in obedience.

The need for wisdom from the Lord.

The list could go on. But as these thoughts come, don't deny them, rather bring them before the Lord, then wait quietly to hear what He says.

- End by thanking and praising God.

I love that the Bible tells us God's desire is to be in relationship with us. That is a two- way relationship. Life with God is referred to as "walking in faith." To walk with God requires us to slow down, to take time to be alone and talk, listen and grow in our relationship. This can happen only as we spend time "walking" and listening to Him.

It is my prayer that as you add a time of quiet solitude to your prayer life, that your spirit will be refreshed and your strength renewed in the Lord. Marci

Jesus and His Disciples

What is a Disciple?

Lesson 6

Introduction

Jesus' strength came from His relationship with God the Father. He often went to a lonely place where He would seek guidance from God through prayer. After spending a night in prayer, Jesus chose twelve of His disciples who would become apostles. These twelve would carry on His ministry when He was gone.

What is a Disciple?

In Jesus' day, a disciple(s) was called a *talmid* or *talmidim* (pl.) in Hebrew. A disciple was a student or apprentice considered to be the best when it came to knowing and understanding God's Law. To be a disciple required dedication of their whole life to their teacher (rabbi). The goal was to learn from and to become like the rabbi. The process began when a student felt confident in his knowledge of Scripture. He would ask the rabbi of choice for permission to become his disciple. The rabbi would test the student on their knowledge of Scripture as well as its interpretation. If everything was answered 100% correctly, and the rabbi felt the student was worthy to become his student then, and only then, was the student accepted to become his disciple. Many who asked, did not qualify.

1. How was Jesus' method of accepting disciples radically different? (John 15:16)
2. What was the "test" or requirement to become a disciple of Jesus? (Matthew 16:24)

Jesus Teaches Through His Actions

A disciple spent every moment of the day with the rabbi to learn through teaching as well as by the way the rabbi lived. Jesus' life, as the Son of Man, was not stress free. He experienced the same feelings and emotions all people do. But how Jesus handled the stresses of life and His attitude towards people shaped His disciples differently than anyone else.

3. To be Jesus' disciple meant always traveling. According to Matthew 9:35-38:
 - What did Jesus do when He walked from village to village?
 - What attitude did He have toward the people He encountered?
 - What did Jesus teach His disciples to do when they saw so many people in need?

4. In another story Jesus was traveling through Samaria, a place where no "good Jew" would go because they were outsiders. What was the physical condition of Jesus in John 4:6?
 - What surprised the disciples when they saw Jesus? (John 4:27)
 - What was Jesus teaching His disciples in Samaria? (John 4:34)
5. When it came to the religious leaders, what was Jesus' warning to His disciples about some of the Pharisees? (Luke 12:1)
6. What did Jesus teach His disciples when He was challenged by the religious leaders for healing someone on the Sabbath (God's day of rest)? (Luke 13:10-17)
7. What was Jesus' attitude toward those who would abuse the Temple courts? (Luke 19:45, 46)
8. Knowing the people wanted Him to be their king and bring peace, what emotion did Jesus express when arriving at Jerusalem for His last Passover? (Luke 19:41, 42)

Jesus' Teaching on Being His Disciples

As Jesus traveled through the cities and villages, He taught in the synagogues announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. (Matt. 9:35) *Emmanuel*, God with us, was being fulfilled in the life of Jesus.

9. Jesus' life was centered on God's commandments. When the religious leaders questioned Jesus as to which of God's commandments were most important, what was His answer? (Matt. 22:37-39)

10. From the following verses, what were some other lessons Jesus taught His disciples?
 - Matt. 20:25 - 27:

 - John 13:1, 4, 5, 12 - 17:

11. What new command did Jesus give His disciples that would differentiate them from everyone else? (John 13:34, 35)

12. Jesus warned His disciples that life as a disciple of Jesus would not be easy. What encouragement did He give them? (John 16:33)

13. As the end of Jesus' life drew near, He told His disciples that He was going to be crucified. What encouragement did He give them about His returning to the Father? (John 14:1-3)

14. What message were His disciples to carry into the world about Jesus?
 - John 3:16, 17:

 - John 14:6:

15. How would it be possible for these young disciples to carry on without Jesus? (Acts 1:8a)

16. Where were they to take this good news? (Acts 1:8b)

Reflect

17. As you reflect on the life of the twelve disciples of Jesus, did anything surprise you?

18. What did you find most encouraging?

Putting Feet to the Life of a Disciple

This week we learned that to be a disciple meant dedicating one's entire life to the rabbi. Disciples learned through watching, listening and doing what the rabbi did. As believers in Jesus as the Son, we too are called to be His disciples. We are to live as our Rabbi taught, through His Word, every moment of every day. Because we are unable to do this on our own, He has given us His Spirit to live with us and to guide us.

- Now it is time to put what we have learned into practice. For one day, practice the presence of Jesus in everything you do; talking, reading, watching TV, driving, etc. Force yourself to be aware that Jesus is right with you. Pray silently (carry on a conversation) throughout your day. You might want to set your cell phone to alarm every hour, tie a string around your finger, draw a cross on your hand, wear a rubber bracelet or some other way to remind yourself of Jesus throughout your day.

Learning to acknowledge the presence of God in our lives takes practice and is hard work, but, well worth it. As a disciple, it prepares us to be like Christ.

Jesus' disciples were not the outstanding students of their day, and yet Jesus saw in them the ability to become like Him. Young men that would bring honor to His name and that would carry on His ministry of bringing the Good News of God's salvation to all the world. As you read through the Gospels, The Twelve were sometimes an asset and sometimes a liability to Jesus. During their time with Him they never really understood what Jesus had come to do. But what is so encouraging to all disciples of Jesus is to watch the transformation that happened in their lives and happens in our own as well, when we spend time with Jesus. One of my greatest encouragements comes from watching these young men. After Jesus' death and resurrection, Peter and John were arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin (high court) in Jerusalem and questioned. This is what these religious leaders discovered: *"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had **been with Jesus**."* (Acts 4:13)

- If you were arrested and questioned about your faith today, would people recognize that you too had been with Jesus?

Jesus on Relationships

Right Attitude Toward the Others

Lesson 7

Introduction

To be a disciple of Jesus required spending time with Him, watching, listening and following His example. In the first century, everyone had a status, their place in society. In each layer of society there were the "us" and "the others." As a rabbi, Jesus' status would have been that of Pharisee especially because of the huge influence He had on the crowds. However, He had not come through the same formal training so was not well accepted into their social groups. Jesus was about to teach His disciples, and some of the Pharisees, how God views "the others."

Enter Into the Story

As we go through several stories in the life of Jesus, try to imagine yourself in the setting and as one of the people in the story.

Tax Collectors and Sinners - Matthew 9:9-13

Read through this story of Jesus' call of Matthew (also known as Levi,) inviting him to become one of His twelve disciples. Then, based upon this story:

1. What was the attitude of the Pharisees toward Jesus?
2. What was Matthew's reaction to Jesus' surprising invitation?
3. What was Jesus' answer when the Pharisees questioned why He would lower Himself to associate with such scum as a tax collector?
4. What did Jesus tell the Pharisees, these first century teachers of God's Law?

Reflect

In this story, imagine you were one of those "sinners" whom the Pharisees considered to be "scum." How did:

5. Jesus make you feel?
6. The Pharisees make you feel?
7. What message do you think Jesus was teaching His disciples about "the others," the tax collectors and sinners?

The Immoral Woman - Luke 8:36 - 50

In this story, an "immoral woman" was expressing her gratitude toward Jesus while He was dining in the home of a Pharisee named Simon.

8. What was the Pharisee thinking about Jesus in this story?

9. Jesus answered Simon's thoughts through a story (parable). What was the implication of that story for:
 - Simon?

 - The immoral woman?

Reflect In a society where woman had very little status, what was Jesus teaching His disciples about the worth of women? (See also Luke 8:1-3)

Children - Luke 17:15 - 17

Of all the levels of status in first century society, the lowest was filled by children and slaves.

10. What attitude did Jesus' disciples display toward the children?

11. What did Jesus say that day, to the disciples, about children?

Reflect From this story, in addition to the right attitude, what was Jesus teaching His disciples through the children?

In lesson #6, Jesus and His Disciples, Jesus' attitude toward the Samaritans showed His disciples that He had also come for even these "outsiders." (Luke 4:1-38) But what about the ultimate "outsiders," the Gentiles?

The Gentiles - Mark 5:1-10

As you read through this story, try to imagine yourself being in the boat as one of The Twelve. In verse 1, the land of the Gerasenes was described as the "other side." When Jesus got out of the boat on that "other side," His first contact with the "others" was a man possessed by multiple demons.

12. Rather than rejecting the man, what did Jesus do for him?

13. What was the result when crowds gathered and saw this man clothed and in his right mind?

14. What was the attitude of the now freed Gentile man toward Jesus?

15. What were Jesus' instructions to him?

16. The man did as Jesus asked. When Jesus returned, what was the result? (Mark 4:21)

Reflect

17. As you look over these stories of people who were considered to be "the others," "the outsiders" of their day, what do you think Jesus was teaching His disciples then and now?

Putting Feet to Christ-like Attitudes Toward "The Others"

Jesus lived in a way that was contrary to His society. He placed value on all people and did not separate them into categories of "us" and "them." He wasn't like the Pharisees who wanted people to obey all the rules and follow right behavior before they would become acceptable. Jesus accepted people where they were, broken and in need of a Savior.

18. Are we so very different from the Pharisees of Jesus' day when it comes to associating with those who are not like us? Who do you think might be considered "the others" in today's society in:

- The church?

- Society?

Is there someone you are in contact with that you consider to be "the other?" If so, write their name down and begin to pray for that person. Ask to see him or her with the eyes of Jesus. Recognize that they too are created in God's image and loved by Him. As you seek guidance through continued prayer, when an opportunity arises, extend the love of Jesus through your hands and feet.

Begin today to include in your prayer life asking for your eyes to be opened and your heart softened to see your world as Jesus does. Then, according to the popular theme of the 90's, ask "What Would Jesus Do?" and reflect His attitude to each person you come in contact with.

Jesus' Teaching on the Kingdom of God

Lessons through Parables

Lesson 8

Introduction

In the first century, everyone had his or her place in society. But Jesus refused to think of people in terms of "us" and "them" and reached out to everyone, showing each individual God's unconditional love. As a result, wherever He went Jesus drew huge crowds. To reach the people with God's truths, Jesus used the style of the rabbis called "*aggadah*," better known as "*parables*." These were stories taken from everyday events in the lives of the audience to illustrate a lesson. Like the other rabbis, Jesus' parables revealed the character of God but unlike theirs, Jesus' parables were always specifically about the Kingdom of God.

Parable 1: The Persistent Friend - Luke 11:5-8

1. To understand parables correctly, always begin with the context. From Luke 11:1-4:
 - To whom was Jesus speaking?
 - What was the topic of discussion?
2. Read through the parable in Luke 11:5-8.
 - Who were the two main characters in this parable?
 - What was the problem that needed assistance from the "friend"?
 - How did the "friend" inside answer the request?
 - How was the problem finally resolved?
 - What was the lesson Jesus was teaching through this parable? (Luke 11:9, 10)

3. Jesus explained further in Luke 11:11 - 13. What was Jesus teaching about the Kingdom of God?

Parable 2: The Corrupt Judge - Luke 18:1-8

When an important point was to be made, Jesus often repeated it twice. This was the "twin" parable of The Persistent Friend.

4. To whom was Jesus speaking?
5. What was the topic of discussion?
6. In this parable, a widow in desperate need went to the only one who could help, the judge. How was the character of this judge described?
7. What was the widow's problem that needed the judge's help?
8. How was the problem finally resolved?
9. What was Jesus teaching about the nature of God and the Kingdom?

Parable 3: The Two Lost Sons - Luke 15:11-32

One of the most loved parables of Jesus is called "The Prodigal Son." Before studying that parable, we must first look at the context. The Prodigal Son is part of three parables; "The Lost Sheep," "The Lost Coin" and the third would be more correctly named "The Lost Sons."

10. To whom was Jesus speaking? (Luke 15:1)
11. What was Jesus teaching about God and His Kingdom through the first two parables? (Luke 15:7 & 10)

Because this was so important, Jesus told a third parable. Take the time to read it through focusing on how Jesus' audience would have heard it.

12. How would you describe each of the three main characters?

- The father:

- The younger son:

- The older son:

13. After leaving home, what was the situation in which the younger son found himself?

14. What did he think would be the solution?

15. How did the father respond to the younger son's return?

16. What was the surprising response of the older son to his brother's return and his father's joy?

17. In light of all three parables, what was Jesus teaching about God and His kingdom?

Reflect

18. As you look back over these parables of Jesus, what do you learn about the character and nature of God?
19. What did you learn about the Kingdom of God in contrast to the earthly kingdoms?
20. By looking at the audience and context, did anything surprise or help clarify your understanding?

Putting Feet to Parables

Now it is your turn to look at a parable and discover what Jesus was teaching. Choose from the following list, or your favorite parable.

Parable	Verses
The speck and the log	Luke 6:37 - 42
The farmer scattering seeds	Luke 8:1 - 14
The pearl of great price	Luke 8:1 - 14
Patched cloth and new wineskin	Luke 5:36 - 39
The good Samaritan	Luke 10:30 - 37
The good shepherd	John 10:1 - 16
Laborers in the vineyard	Matthew 20:1 - 16
The ten virgins	Luke 12:42 - 46

21. Answer the following questions regarding the parable you chose:
- What was the context in which Jesus taught this parable?

- Who was His audience?
- Who were the main characters?
- What was the problem?
- What was the solution?
- What was Jesus teaching about the character of God and the Kingdom of God?

Jesus' Teaching on the Mountain

The "Blessed Life" from God's Perspective

Lesson 9

Introduction

Wherever Jesus went, He drew huge crowds wanting to be healed and to hear His words of wisdom. They had never heard anyone like Him. Using parables, He taught about the Kingdom of God and revealed God's true nature. One of Jesus' most important teachings took place on a mountainside overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Often referred to as "The Sermon on the Mount," Jesus taught the truth of what a blessed life is from God's perspective. And, in doing so, He flipped the cultural norm, right side up.

The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-12

The "Sermon on the Mount" is recorded in Matthew chapters 5 - 7 and throughout the gospels of Mark, Luke and John. We will focus only on Matthew chapter 5. Keep in mind that the purpose of Jesus' teaching was to reveal the correct view of who God is and what the Kingdom of God is like.

1. To whom was Jesus directing these parables and teachings?
2. How would you define "blessing?"
3. Whom did Jesus say was blessed and why should they consider this a blessing?

Blessed are:	For theirs:

Blessed are:	For theirs:

4. How are the blessings in verses 3a and 10a different from the rest of the blessings?
5. What two reasons did Jesus give for saying they were to rejoice and be glad in this blessed life?
6. How did Jesus describe His disciples? (Matt. 5:13a and 14a)
7. How were the disciples to live out their blessed life? (Matt. 5:16)

Reflect

8. Imagine yourself sitting on that mountainside hearing these words of Jesus. How do you think that was opposite from what their (and our) culture taught was a blessed life?

Flipping Culture Right Side Up - "You have heard it said - But I say..."

9. Jesus compared His teaching to the Law as given through Moses. What did Jesus state was His relationship to the Law? (Matt. 5:17)
10. What did He say about the Law? (Matt. 5:18)

11. Read Matthew 5:19 - 20. To whom do you think Jesus was referring with His remarks?

12. What new understanding did Jesus give into God's view of the following laws:

Behavior	Matthew 5	Law of Moses	Jesus' Teaching
Murder	21 - 22		
Adultery	27 - 28		
Divorce	31 - 32		
Vows	33 - 37		
Revenge	38 - 42		
Enemies	43 - 44		

13. Jesus continually taught that His disciples were to be known by their love. Why was that so important to Jesus? (Matt. 5:45-47)

Reflect:

14. This section of Matthew ends with Jesus commanding His disciples to, "*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*" (Matthew 5:48) What was Moses' similar command to the people of Israel? (Leviticus 19:1, 2)

- What do you think both Jesus and Moses were revealing about God's expectation of His people?

Jesus' Really Difficult Day

Dealing with Grief and Loss

Lesson 10

Introduction

In many ways, Jesus lived an ordinary life. He was not immune from the stress of life or its pain and sorrow. Although the Gospels give no details, we know His earthly father, Joseph, died sometime during Jesus' early life. What the Gospels do record is the day Jesus learned of John the Baptist's death and how that affected Him.

Background

1. The miracle births of John and Jesus forever tied them together in God's history. John's parents Zachariah and Elizabeth and Jesus' mother Mary learned of their pregnancies from an angel of the Lord. Using Luke 1:26-28, 39-40 & 56:
 - How much older was John than Jesus?
 - How long did a pregnant Mary stay with pregnant Elizabeth?

John's Ministry

2. What was John's ministry as given by the Lord? (Matthew 3:1-3)
3. When it was time for Jesus to begin His public ministry, He went to John at the Jordan and asked to be baptized. Using Matthew 3:13-15:
 - What did John say to Jesus' request?
 - What was Jesus' understanding of why this must take place?
4. Using Luke 3:1-3, 18 and Matthew 3:1-3:
 - Where did John's ministry primarily take place?
 - What was his message?
5. What did people wonder about John? (Luke 3:15)

6. How did John answer that question? (Luke 3:16)
7. From Matthew 14:3-5 & Luke 3:19, 20:
 - Why did Herod the Tetrarch have John arrested?
 - Why didn't Herod kill John immediately?
8. While John was in prison, his disciples brought him news of Jesus' ministry. After some time had passed, what did John do? (Luke 7:18, 19)
 - Why do you think John did this?
9. How did Jesus reply? (Luke 7:20-23)
10. How did John's life end? (Matthew 14:6-11)
11. How did Jesus hear the news of John's death? (Matthew 14:12)

Reflect

12. As you read over this story of John, what do you think his relationship was with Jesus?

Jesus' Difficult Day

13. What did Jesus do when He heard the news of John's death? (Matthew 14:13a)
14. Jesus needed time and space to process what He had just learned. What did the crowds do? (Matthew 14:13b)

15. Jesus was in shock, grieving over John's death. But, huge crowds kept pressing in. Using Matthew 14:14 -15a:
- What did Jesus feel toward this crowd?
 - What did He do?
 - For how long?
16. According to Matthew's Gospel, it was after this very long and difficult day that Jesus fed 5,000 men plus women and children. (Matthew 14:15-21) When the day was finally over, what did Jesus do? (Matthew 14:22-23a)
17. Using Matthew 14:24-27:
- Just before dawn, what predicament were the disciples in?
 - Realizing the situation, how did Jesus get to them?
 - What was the reaction of the disciples?
18. Jesus assured them that, "It is I. Don't be afraid." What was Peter's reaction? (Matthew 14:28)

Reflect

19. Try to imagine being in the boat at this time. Read Peter's statement closely and comment on your observations.
20. How did that turn out for Peter? (Matthew 14:29-31)

21. What happened when Jesus got into the boat?

- Matthew 14:32

- Matthew 14:33

22. The boat eventually landed at Gennesaret. It had been a very long and difficult day followed by a sleepless night. Jesus just needed some time to rest. What happened when the boat landed? (Matthew 14:35, 36)

Putting Feet to Grief and Loss

Dealing with grief and loss is something we all must face at some time in our lives. Although we often think of grief in relationship to loss of a loved one, it also comes from many different situations including loss of a job, friendship, divorce, empty nest, retirement or a dream. It is important to recognize and to understand recovery from grief and loss takes time. The best medical minds have identified five stages to grief.

- **Denial, numbness and shock:** This stage protects the individual from the intense pain of the loss. This is not a lack of caring, but a way of coping until the individual is slowly able to acknowledge the impact of the loss.
- **Bargaining:** This is when the individual goes to all the "what ifs" and if not dealt with can lead to remorse or guilt that can interfere with the healing process.
- **Depression:** This stage can occur in some people after the realization of the true and full extent of the loss. This includes coping through sleeping, excessive crying, inability to eat (or over eating), lack of energy or the ability to concentrate. This can lead to isolation and self-pity.
- **Anger:** This stage occurs when there is a sense of helpless and powerlessness. Anger can come from the feeling of being abandoned through death, or through the loss of something because of someone else's decisions, like a job.
- **Acceptance:** In time, acceptance will come. And once acceptance is reached, the individual can move on with a healthy life.

Not everyone will experience all five stages, but these are the most common emotional stages for grief and loss. Time is required for healing; there is no shortcut. But, to stay in any stage without moving to acceptance usually requires outside help to move forward to resume a normal life.

As we look at the life of Jesus, we recognize that He was deeply affected by John's death, but was able to move from shock to acceptance quickly because of His relationship with the Father. But, Jesus still needed time to be alone and pray in order to work through His grief. For us, that relationship with God is key to healing. For in Him, there is hope!

It is important to take the time needed to grieve and to spend time alone in prayer, but it is also important to be with people. For Jesus, His ministry didn't stop. He had to continue meeting the needs of others. He was not isolated but surrounded by those who loved, cared for and encouraged Him. We too need to be surrounded by caring people and to be there for others going through a time of grief and loss.

The Cost of Following Jesus

Belief and Trust

Lesson 11

Introduction

The death of John the Baptist affected Jesus deeply. Their lives were intertwined from birth in fulfilling God's plan of salvation. But there was still work for the Father that Jesus must do. For His time had not yet come.

Jesus Warns His disciples of What is to Come

1. What was the reaction of Herod Antipas, ruler of Judea, to the news that Jesus was performing many miracles? (Luke 9:7-10)
2. After some time in prayer, Jesus asked His disciples, "*Who do people say that I am?*" What was their answer? (Luke 9:18, 19)
3. Then Jesus asked The Twelve, "*Who do you say I am?*" What was Peter's answer? (Luke 9:20)
4. Although Peter had answered correctly, Jesus gave them a reality check. What did He tell His disciples? (Luke (9:21-22)
5. In light of John's death, what did Jesus tell the crowd following Him it would cost to be His disciples? (Luke 9:23)

Reflect

6. What do you think Jesus was saying that it would cost to follow Him?
7. In your own words, summarize the additional warning Jesus gave to this crowd? (Luke 9:24-26)

8. What encouragement did He leave them with? (Luke 9:27)

9. Eight days later, Peter, James and John saw that fulfilled as they witnessed Jesus in His former glory. What was the topic of discussion between Moses, Elijah and Jesus? (Luke 9:30, 31)

10. However, it was not time yet for Jesus to die. From John 4:1-3:
 - Where did Jesus go?

 - Why did He leave Judea?

11. Somewhere around the summer of 29 A.D., according to Luke 9:51:
 - What did Jesus do?

 - Why?

Jesus Final Teachings

Jesus and His disciples continued to travel around the countryside sharing the good news of the Kingdom of God. But in the Spring of 30 A.D., it was time of Jesus to fulfilled God's purpose. (John 13:1) Jesus' final teachings to His disciples took place during the "Last Supper" (Passover Seder) and are recorded in John chapters 13 - 16. With His disciples reclining at the table with Him, Jesus warned them of the dangers that lay ahead.

12. How did Jesus show the full extent of His love to His disciples? (John 13:3-5)

Reflect

13. Although this scene is familiar, please reflect and then comment on this event in light of John 13:1, 2.

14. During the Seder, Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray Him and that even Peter would deny knowing Him before the next morning. Try to imagine the heaviness in that room. What did Jesus say to lift their spirits? (John 14:1-2)

15. How did Jesus answer Thomas when he asked to show them the way? (John 14:5, 6)

16. Then Philip asked Jesus to reveal the Father to them, to which Jesus replied, "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. I am in the Father and the Father is in Me." (John 14:9, 10) What did Jesus ask them to do? (John 14:11, 12)

17. Jesus also asked for them to show their love for Him by keeping His commandments. What did He promise them?
 - John 14:16, 17

 - John 14:19

 - John 14:26

 - John 14:27

18. The time had finally come. As Jesus and the disciples walked toward the place of betrayal, Jesus had another important lesson for them to learn. In this final parable recorded in John 15:1-7, what urgent lesson did He want them to take to heart?

19. What is the sign of a true disciple of Jesus? (John 15:8)

20. What command did Jesus give at this time and why? (John 15:12)

21. How did Jesus say that could be measured? (John 15:13)
22. Knowing that was exactly what He was about to do in just a few hours, Jesus reminded the disciples that they were not His slaves but His friends. What else did Jesus remind them? (John 15:16, 17)

Reflect

23. Jesus instructed His disciples to believe in Him and to abide in Him. What does it mean to you to "abide in Christ?"

Putting Feet to the Cost of Being a Follower of Jesus

Jesus said that anyone who puts self interest and the things of this world ahead of Him, is not His disciple. Think about those words and then take a good look at your life.

- What is the priority of your life?
- Are you pursuing your relationship with Jesus daily?

Pray and ask the Lord to show you where you need to release any areas or part of your life that you are still holding back. Take the time now to confess and to realign your life as a true follower of Jesus. Remember, you have the gift of the Holy Spirit within you to help teach and guide you.

Lord Jesus,

As your disciples, we pray:

That we would remain close to you;

That we would seek guidance from Your Holy Spirit;

That we would reflect your love to our world and to one another.

And may we, like Your first disciples, bring glory to the Father.

Amen

Jesus Fulfills His Mission

Passing on the Torch

Lesson 12

Introduction

Jesus' final night with His disciples was one focused on teaching and preparing them for what lay ahead. Even though He had told them He was about to die, they couldn't comprehend how He could bring about the Kingdom of God and not be with them.

Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples

1. What was Jesus' concern at this time? (John 16:12)

Jesus' last prayer for His disciples is recorded in John 17. Take time to reflect on each section of this prayer and write down your reflections about Jesus, the disciples and how these words affect you.

2. Read John 17:1 - 5
 - Your Reflections:
3. Read John 17:6 - 8
 - Your Reflections:
4. Read John 17:9 - 12
 - Your Reflections:

5. Read John 17:13 - 19

- Your Reflections:

6. Read John 17:20 - 21

- Your Reflections:

7. Read John 17:22 - 24

- Your Reflections:

8. Read John 17:25 - 26

- Your Reflections:

The Last Supper (Passover Seder)

9. What did Jesus tell His disciples about this particular Passover? (Luke 22:15-16)

10. Using Luke 22:19-20, what did Jesus ask them to remember through:

- The bread?

- The wine?

During group time, we will share in this beautiful memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus' Final Teachings

11. Just as Jesus had foretold His disciples, He was betrayed by Judas, one of The Twelve. Jesus was crucified and buried leaving His followers devastated, alone and afraid. What was Judas' reaction when he realized his betrayal would cost Jesus His life? (Matthew 27:3-5)

12. But their joy returned when on the third day, Jesus rose from the grave, just as He had foretold. For the following 40 days, Jesus appeared to over 500 of His disciples. What was the reaction of the remaining eleven disciples when they saw Jesus? (Matthew 28:17a)

13. The time had finally come for Jesus to pass the torch to His disciples. Their training was complete, they would now continue on with His ministry. What was Jesus' commission to His disciples? (Matthew 28:18-20)

14. As Jesus was preparing to ascend to heaven, what were His parting words of encouragement and instructions? (Acts 1:8)

15. According to Jesus' teaching, what is the role of Holy Spirit (also called the Counselor and Spirit of Truth)? (John 16:5-8)

16. What is the world's sin? (John 16:9)

Putting Feet to Being a Disciple of Jesus

Review your Reflect questions from these twelve lessons on the Life of Jesus.

- What is your understanding of Jesus, as Son of Man?

- What is your understanding of your role as a disciple of Jesus?