

Life Group Leader's Guide

In His Steps

Learning to Live, Love, and Lead like Jesus

First Baptist Church of Eugene

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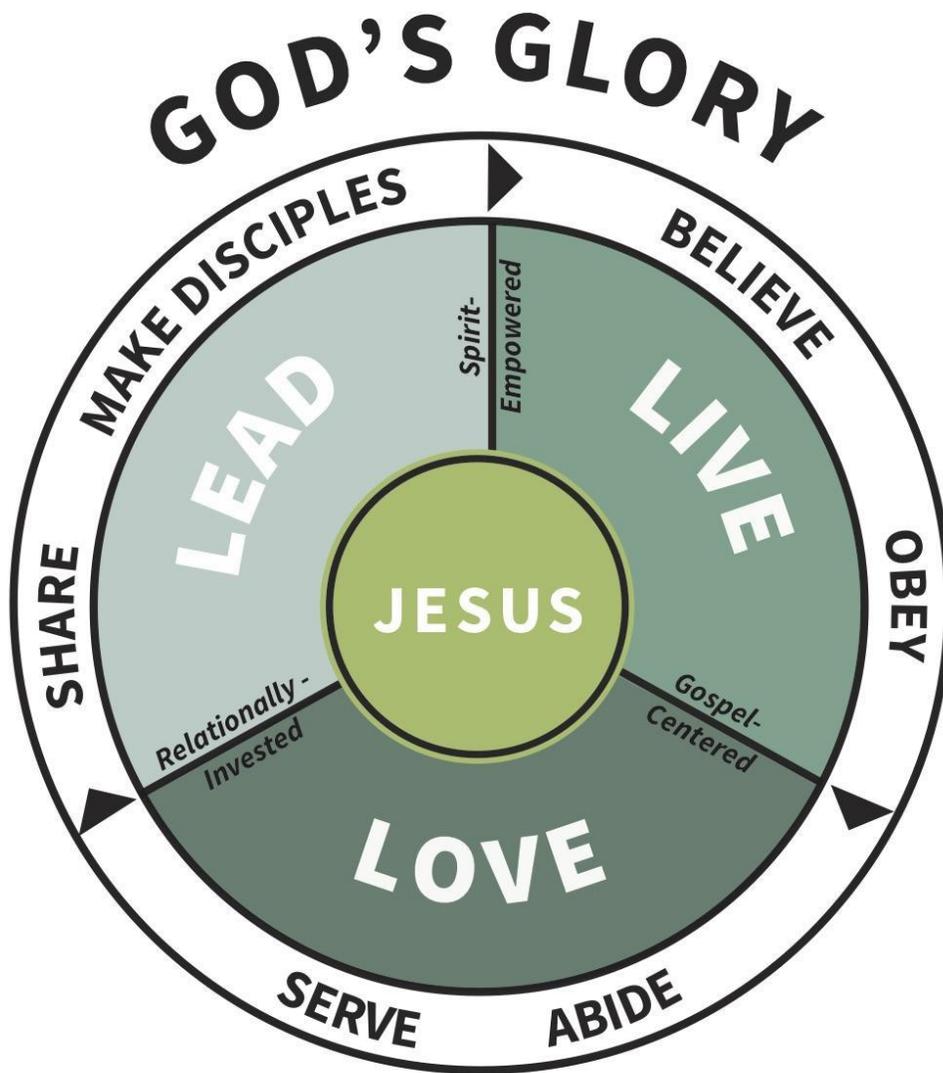
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PROFILE OF A DISCIPLE



LIFEGROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

Introduction

Thank you so much for choosing to serve as a Life Group leader. **A life group is a small community that seeks to LIVE, LOVE, and LEAD like Jesus through authentic relationships.** You're leading people to put their faith into action each week. God can and will use you in powerful ways as you lead your friends and neighbors into Christ-centered community.

Below are some reminders for leading your Life Group through this curriculum. A curriculum is a guide, not a strict template that must be followed to a tee. It is good to have structure and consistency, however make sure you prayerfully allow room for the Holy Spirit to lead each of your times together as a group. **Life Groups are purposed to put faith in action and see lives transformed.** The most important part of each meeting is not what people know, but how they grow - applying God's truths to real life.

Don't forget to take regular breaks from this curriculum to go out and serve our community, have a neighborhood BBQ and invite friends, attend a concert or community event, etc.



WARM-UP

As you begin your life group, you have a couple of options for how to get started.

- 1. ASK.** Ask your group about last week's application (maybe review last week's conversation), then listen for how God has been at work in people's lives. This is also a great opportunity to review last week's story.
- 2. ICEBREAKERS.** This is a fun or sometimes serious question that opens up conversation, helps you all learn something new about one another, and/or relates to the theme in the passage. Feel free to come up with your own! Give everyone a chance to engage, but don't let it take too long. It's just a warm up.

3. PRAY. Don't forget this as you begin your time together. Prayer is powerful.



STORYTELLING

In this section, you'll find a summary of the text you're about to go over. Feel free to read this (try not to stare down at the page the whole time) or read the text for yourself and tell the story in your own words! **Remember, your job is to just tell the story, not to teach on any particular points.**

Next, have everyone bring out their Bibles and read the passage together. Then rebuild the story, asking questions like, "Then what happened?" and "Who were the characters in this story?" This ensures that everyone is involved and starting on the same page — something especially important to any new or non-believers in your group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

In this section, you'll find questions to help your group discuss the passage. The questions are in no particular order, so feel free to jump around or ask different questions that better follow where your group is going. Remember, try to lead your group from head-questions (facts) to heart-questions (emotions and faith), then to feet-questions (application).

This section also includes general questions that can be applied to any passage: What stuck out to you from this passage? What does this teach you about people? What does this teach you about God?



APPLICATION

These are extremely important questions for your group. They not only can stimulate great discussion and prompt your group members into action, they can also allow you to see into a person's heart in significant ways.

There are two ways to ask life application questions: (a) Use story specific questions provided in the guide, or (b) Form your own questions based on comments made during the discussion time.

These life application questions are the most important, because this is where people put their faith into action.



WRAP-UP

As you close your time together, lead the members of your group to come to an action-based conclusion. What is a take-away that God could be putting on your hearts? How can they put their faith into action? How can we live differently and become more like Christ? Then follow-up each week by asking how things went.

Lastly, conclude your group time with prayer. Ask for people's prayer requests and pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

SOME HELPFUL TIPS :

- Do not skip the story rebuild or questions sections. They are intended to get everyone on the same page and help the discussion gradually become more serious. That being said, feel free to come up with your own questions within these sections.
- Don't be afraid of the "awkward silences." Let the seconds pass by in these times — some great comments can come out of these moments.
- Manage your discussion time well to ALWAYS arrive at the application question(s) with at least 15 minutes of discussion time left. It is intended to be the most meaningful time of the group meeting.
- Make sure your group knows that these discussions take place in a safe environment where no one will attack them for having different perspectives or experiences. Keep an eye on the dynamics of the group so that everyone feels safe sharing personal thoughts and experiences with others.

FOLLOW JESUS | CALLING PETER, JAMES AND JOHN

LUKE 5:1-11



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** What is one hope or expectation you have for our group this year?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Tell us a time when you got more than you asked for (in a good way)?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

Jesus looked around at the crowd as it pushed closer and closer towards Him. About ten more feet and He'd be standing in the cool waters of the Sea of Galilee. He spotted a couple boats that had been pulled up on the shore by their owners, three local fishermen. He walked over and stepped inside one of them and said to the owner, "Push out a little bit from the land." The owner, a fisherman named Simon, did as he was instructed and put out several yards giving Jesus a natural platform from which to sit and teach. Jesus taught the people for hours as they hung on His every word. When He was finished He turned to Simon and said, "Launch out into the deep water for a huge catch."

"Master, we've worked all night and haven't caught so much as one fish," Peter answered, "but if you insist..." So he rowed the boat out into the deeper water. When he threw the nets over the side, no sooner had they hit the water than thousands of fish appeared! So many, in fact, that the nets began to break! After Simon and his partners, John and James, dragged the nets up to the shore, they realized something bigger than fishing and nets was going on. So they left their boats, their families and their livelihoods and followed Jesus.

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

FOLLOW JESUS | CALLING PETER, JAMES AND JOHN

Luke 5:1-11



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
- What was Peter, James and John's situation before they encountered Jesus? How did their situation change after He came to them?
- How did Peter react when he sees the results of his obedience? Why did he react this way?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- Tell us about a time when you “worked hard all night and caught nothing.”
 - Are there any ways that you are experiencing this right now?
 - Do you expect Jesus to tell you to cast out your nets again? Why or why not?
- What have you left behind to follow Jesus?
 - Is there anything you should leave behind?
 - Is there anything you feel you can't leave behind?



WRAP-UP

- What is one way you could take action to apply what you learned from Peter's encounter with Jesus to your daily life?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

JESUS ON BELIEF | NICODEMUS

John 3:1-21



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you apply the passage about Peter and Jesus to your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Have you ever gotten in a deep conversation with a stranger?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

In the cover of darkness, an unexpected person came to talk to Jesus — a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He came because he had a question. “Jesus,” Nicodemus said, “I see the miracles you’ve been performing, and know that God must be with you.” Jesus answered, “You can only see the Kingdom of God if you are born again.”

Nicodemus didn’t get it. “How can someone go back into their mother’s womb to be born again?” Jesus explained to Nicodemus what he meant: “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but spirit gives birth to spirit.” But Nicodemus still didn’t understand. “As a religious leader, how can you not understand this?” Jesus asked. “I’m talking to you about earthly things, so how could you understand if I started speaking about spiritual things?”

Then Jesus began to speak about the Son of Man, whom God sent to be lifted up and save the world, in the same way that Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness to save the Israelites. He said that those who love evil remain in darkness, but those who live in truth, live in the light.

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

JESUS ON BELIEF | NICODEMUS

John 3:1-21



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- The way Jesus responds to Nicodemus' opening remark seems completely unrelated. Why does Jesus answer him this way?
- What is the meaning of Jesus' statements in his second response to Nicodemus (vv. 5 - 8)?
- How is Jesus' third response (vv. 10 - 21) related to Nicodemus' first statement?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- When you seek answers from God, do you always get a straight answer?
- How could you respond when He does not immediately address your request in the way you expect?
- What do you do when God tells you something you don't understand or think you cannot do? What do you think about your response?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to take action to apply what you learned from Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus to your daily life?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

WHO CAN BE SAVED? | THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Matthew 19:16-30



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you apply the passage about Nicodemus and Jesus to your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Tell us about a time when you made a sacrifice to gain something really great. Or, If you could have one outrageously expensive thing, what would it be, and why?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

As Jesus was blessing the small children whose parents had brought them to Him, a young man stood back from the crowd. He was obviously wealthy, for he wore the robes of a ruler. Finally, he stepped forward. “Good Teacher, what good thing must I do to have eternal life?” he asked. “If you want to enter into life,” Jesus answered, “keep the commandments.” “Which ones?” the young man asked. “Don’t murder, don’t commit adultery, don’t steal and don’t lie,” Jesus said looking straight into the young man’s eyes. “I’ve kept all these commandments since I was young. What am I still missing?” “Go and sell what you have and give to the poor. Then, follow Me.” But the young man turned and walked away, for he had a great many possessions and the thought of giving them away was too much for him.

Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “It is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Yes, it’s easier for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom.”

“Who then can be saved?” The disciples asked, for they’d always believed that wealth was a sign of God’s good pleasure.

“With men it’s impossible,” Jesus said, “but with God all things are possible.”

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

WHO CAN BE SAVED? | THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Matthew 19:16-30



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Is Jesus saying we all have to sell all our possessions and give the proceeds to the poor?
 - What other passages in the Bible can you cite to support this conclusion?
 - If you say poverty is not required, then why does Jesus tell the rich man to sell everything?
- What must happen for a rich person to enter Heaven?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- Have you sold all your possessions and given the proceeds to the poor?
 - If not, does this mean you won't get into Heaven?
 - How are you seeking to fulfill the intent of Jesus' teaching in your life?
- Are you rich? Compared to whom are you rich or poor? Think globally!
 - What does that say about your ability to get into Heaven?
- In light of Jesus' response to the disciples (vv. 27 - 30), do you place the appropriate amount of value on your earthly comforts?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to take action to apply Jesus' teachings on wealth and possessions to your daily life?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

DO YOU KNOW HIM? | PREPARING A PLACE

John 14:1-14



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you apply Jesus' teachings on wealth and possessions to your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** If you could go anywhere for a vacation, where would you go?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

"I am going to prepare a place for you," Jesus tells His disciples. But they don't know where He is talking about.

"How can we go there, if you won't tell us where it is?" Thomas asks.

Jesus replies, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

"Jesus," Philip says, "all you have to do is show us the Father, and that will be enough!"

Jesus replies, surprised that they have been with Him such a long time and still don't understand, "I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. And anyone who has faith in me will do even greater things than I."

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

DO YOU KNOW HIM? | PREPARING A PLACE

John 14:1-14



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Why should we not let our hearts be troubled? Is Jesus' reason comforting?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be the way, the truth and the life?
- What does this passage teach us about the nature of Jesus' relationship with the Father?
- What is the purpose of Jesus' miracles (verse 11)?
- Are there any conditions attached to Jesus' promise to do anything asked in His name (vv. 13 - 14)?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- In verse 21, Jesus says that those who believe in Him will perform the same — and even greater — works that He.
- How can this be possible?
- Have you attempted “great works” in Jesus' name?
- Do you always get what you ask for in Jesus' name?
- Why or why not?
- What does this reveal about your requests?
- Does this make you question Jesus' promises?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to take action to apply Jesus' teaching on His preparations, His relationship to the Father, and making requests of Him to your daily life?

- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

FINDING FREEDOM IN JESUS |

WHO IS YOUR FATHER?

John 8:31-58



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you apply the passage about Jesus' teaching on His preparations, His relationship to the Father, and making requests of Him to your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Who has been the most formative influence in your life?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

Jesus turns His attention from the Pharisees, and begins to speak to a group of Jews in the temple who were beginning to believe in Him. "If you abide in my word, you are my disciples," He said. "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." The Jews didn't know what to think of this. "But we are Abraham's descendants, and have never been enslaved by anyone!" they said. "Why do you say that we will become free?" Jesus explained to them, "If you sin, you are a slave to sin. And the only way to be free is for the Son to set you free." Jesus continued, acknowledging the sin that was still in their hearts — that there was a part of them that was against Him, and wanted to kill Him. How could God's word truly be in them? "Abraham is our father," the Jews replied. "But if you were truly Abraham's descendants, you wouldn't be trying to kill me," Jesus said. "Because of this, you cannot truly be of God."

The Jews became angry at Jesus' accusation, and accused Him in response. "You must have a demon!" they said. Jesus replied again, that He was from the Father, and sought only to glorify Him — their Father Abraham would have rejoiced to see Him someday! The Jews became even more angry, and questioned how Jesus could know Abraham, who lived so long

ago. They didn't even consider Jesus' response, and instead took up stones to throw at him. But Jesus snuck out of the temple before they could harm Him.

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

FINDING FREEDOM IN JESUS | WHO IS YOUR FATHER?

John 8:31-58



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Throughout the Bible, people are referred to as the “son/daughter of” someone or something that isn't actually their biological parent. What are the various meanings of this phrase?
- What are the characteristics of a “son/daughter of Abraham”? What are the characteristics of a “son/daughter of the devil”?
- Throughout this passage, what do you imagine is Jesus' tone? And what about the Jews?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- Do you think of God as your father?
 - How closely does your behavior align with His?
- Are you free? Do you know the truth? Are you continuing in God's Word?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to take action to apply this passage about fatherhood and freedom to your daily life?

- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

GREAT FAITH | THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

Luke 7:1-10



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you apply the passage about fatherhood and freedom to your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Have you ever been “in charge”? How much authority did/does this give you?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

“Master,” the men shouted breathlessly as they drew near Jesus. “Please come and heal our friend’s servant! Our friend is a Roman Centurion, but he’s a good man and a friend of the Jewish people. His servant is near death. Please, the Centurion is deserving of your favor!” Jesus agreed and went with them. On the way they were met by more messengers from the Centurion’s house.

“We have word from the Centurion,” they said. “He says, ‘I am not deserving of You to come into my house. Please just say the word and my servant will be healed. For I’m a soldier who also is under authority, I say to one servant “go” and he goes and to another “come” and he comes.’” Jesus stopped and addressed the crowd. “I say to you, I haven’t found this kind of faith in all of Israel!” When the messengers returned to the Centurion’s house they found his servant completely healed.

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

GREAT FAITH | THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

Luke 7:1-10



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
- Why does Jesus go to help an officer of the hated Roman empire, which is currently occupying Israel?
- What does this tell us about Jesus' willingness to come to our aid?
- What does the Centurion's statement about authority tell us about Jesus?
- What makes the Centurion's faith greater than any seen in Israel?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- How does your faith compare to that of the Centurion?
 - How can you acquire greater faith?
- In what ways can you demonstrate Centurion-level faith this week?
 - Give specific examples.



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to demonstrate greater faith in your daily life?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

LITTLE FAITH | JESUS AND PETER WALKING ON THE WATER

Matthew 14:22-34



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you demonstrate great faith like the Centurion in your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Tell us about a time you failed at something relatively simple and easy.
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

The last time the disciples had been in this predicament, Jesus was with them asleep in the back of the boat. But this time, He'd sent them on ahead — in fact He'd insisted they go without Him while He went up the mountain to pray. And now here they were, stuck in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, buffeted by the winds and pounded by the waves. Suddenly out in the darkness, a figure appeared in the moonlight! What was it? A ghost? The men cried out in fear! Then a familiar voice called across the waves, "Take courage, it is I. Don't be afraid." Could it really be Jesus? *Walking* on the water? "Lord," Peter called out, "if it's really You, command me to join You out on the water!"

"Come," Jesus said. Peter climbed over the side of the boat and stepped out on the water. It held him as if it were the solid earth of Capernaum! He slowly gained confidence with every step as he walked towards his Lord. But then he looked around. The waves were high and the wind was boisterous. As he took stock of his precarious situation, Peter began to sink. "Lord save me!" he shouted as he started to disappear beneath the waves. Jesus stretched out His hand and grabbed His friend. "Why is your faith so small?" He asked as the two made their way back to the boat. As the wind ceased, the disciples worshipped Jesus saying, "You are the Son of God!"

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

LITTLE FAITH | JESUS AND PETER WALKING ON THE WATER

Matthew 14:22-34



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Why did Peter begin to doubt? Why should he have not doubted?
- What does this passage tell us about doubt?
- What does the rest of the Bible tell us about doubt?
- Is anyone free from doubt?
- Is doubt ever a good thing?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- What causes you to doubt Jesus?
- How have you seen God work in your life to diminish your doubt?
- In what ways can you address the doubt in your life?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to take action this week to address the doubt in your life?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

DEALING WITH DOUBT | “HOLEY” BELIEVING

John 20:19-31



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you apply the passage about Peter’s doubt to your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Are you an optimist or a pessimist? How does this affect the way you receive news of unexpected good fortune?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

It was the third day after Jesus was crucified, and the disciples were still in shock. And to make everything worse, it appeared that someone had stolen His body from the tomb! Although Mary Magdalene swore to them that He had appeared to her that morning — alive! They were afraid of all that was happening and that the Jews would come after them, too, just like they came after Jesus. So they gathered together and locked themselves into a room. But from out of nowhere, Jesus appeared in the room with them! “Peace be with you,” Jesus said. *Wait, was this really him?* Jesus knew what they were thinking. He showed them the scars on His hands and His side — who else could it be? “As the Father sent me, so I am sending you,” He said. Jesus breathed on them to give them the Holy Spirit, saying, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” Later, the disciples told Thomas — who had not been with them at the time — about Jesus being alive, and how we gave them the Holy Spirit. “No way this can be true!” Thomas said. “Unless I can see Him for myself and actually touch the scars on His hands and in His side, I won’t believe you!” Eight days later, all of the disciples — including Thomas — were again locked in the room together. And again, Jesus appeared to them. “Peace be with you,” He said. Then He lovingly shifted His gaze to Thomas. “Come put your finger on my hands and in my side. Believe.” Jesus said. “Even more blessed are those who have not seen me, yet still believe.”

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

DEALING WITH DOUBT | “HOLEY” BELIEVING

John 20:19-31



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Why are the disciples so excited to see Jesus, and why does Thomas think He couldn't have actually been there?
- Jesus repeats the phrase “Peace be with you” three times in this passage. What does He mean? Why is this so important?
- What does Jesus mean in verse 23? Does He imply that God's forgiveness of others is contingent upon our forgiveness of them?
- What else does Jesus tell the disciples?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- How often do you find yourself identifying with Thomas?
- Do you struggle with doubt?
- What ways have you found to overcome your doubt?
- Do you ever think you would exchange a greater blessing for certainty?
- Is doubt a blessing? What can be said about saints who have doubts?
- Does Jesus ask us to have “blind faith”?
- Why did Jesus perform miracles (vv 30 - 31)? What does this mean to us today?
- Is this passage calling you to any specific course of action?



WRAP-UP

- Reflect on the doubt in your life, and consider how it can spur you on to greater faith in the coming week.

- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

COUNTING THE COST | FOLLOWING JESUS

Luke 9:51-62



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you apply the passage about doubt and faith to your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Do you always finish what you start, or do you tend to leave things partway done?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

Jesus knew His days were coming to an end, so He began to move with His disciples toward Jerusalem. But as they went, visiting small towns on the way, He sent messengers ahead of them to spread the word that He was coming. As they were about to enter a Samaritan village, Jesus' messengers came back to Him. "Jesus, they won't let us in!" they said. When James and John heard this, they got angry. How could they not accept Jesus? "Lord," they said, "do you want us to call fire down and destroy this village?" Jesus rebuked them for considering this, and the group continued on their way. As they were walking down the road to the next town, someone in the group told Jesus that they would follow Him wherever He goes. "Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head," Jesus said.

Not long after this, Jesus said to someone they passed by, "follow Me." "Okay," the man said. "But first, I have to go bury my father." Jesus replied saying, "Let the dead bury their own dead. I am calling you to come with Me and proclaim the kingdom of God!" Jesus said the same thing to another man, and his response was similar — "Yes! But let me say goodbye to my family."

And Jesus responded in a similar way: "Anyone who begins to follow Me and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God."

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

COUNTING THE COST | FOLLOWING JESUS

Luke 9:51-62



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Why did Jesus rebuke His disciples in verses 55 - 56? What did the disciples do to provoke this response?
- What does it mean for “the dead to bury their own dead” (verse 60)?
- What does it mean to look back after putting your hand to the plow?
- What does it mean to not be fit for the kingdom? Is this a permanent condition?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- Would you follow Jesus if you couldn't bury your father, or say goodbye to your family?
- Have you looked back after putting your hand to the plow?
- How does your desire to follow Jesus change when it conflicts with your worldly attachments?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to take action to apply this passage about following Jesus to your daily life?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

SO WORTH IT | JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES

Luke 24:36-53



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you apply the passage about following Jesus to your life this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Have you ever suddenly understood something you didn't understand before, despite it being really obvious after your realization?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

It was three days after He was crucified, and Jesus had just appeared to two of the disciples as they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus. It was true! Jesus really *was* alive! They were still amazed, and excitedly rehashing their conversation with Him when He appeared again! But for some reason this time, they were afraid. *Was this a ghost?* “Why are you troubled and doubting?” Jesus asked. “Here, touch my hands and feet. A ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like I have.”

The disciples were overjoyed and absolutely amazed. *This can't be true, we must be dreaming!* they thought. Then Jesus asked for some food, and they gave it to Him. He ate it right up. “When I was with you before, I told you this would happen,” Jesus said. “Everything in the Scriptures had to be fulfilled. Now, this message must be shared with all of the nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are my witnesses, and soon I will send you what my Father has promised. When you receive this gift, then you should leave Jerusalem.”

Jesus led the disciples out near Bethany and blessed them. Then He was taken up into Heaven. The disciples were overflowing with praise and worship for Him, and they stayed continually at the temple.

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

SO WORTH IT | JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES

Luke 24:36-53



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Why do you think the disciples were surprised, even though Jesus told them exactly what would happen?
- How did Jesus fulfill what was said about Him in the Scriptures?
- What is the gospel?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?
What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- What does Jesus say should be done with the gospel?
- What would (or does) this look like for you?
- What prevents you from doing this?
- How can you overcome these obstacles?
- Is Jesus calling you to share the gospel in new (maybe even crazy!) ways?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to take action to spread the gospel this week?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

SERVING LIKE JESUS | WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

John 13:1-17



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you spread the Gospel this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What's the grossest mess you've ever had to clean up?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

As soon as Judas left the gathering, Jesus, knowing that God had placed all things into His hands, rose from supper and took off His outer garments. He wrapped a towel around His waist in the same manner as a servant might do, and poured water into a basin. Then He knelt down and went from disciple to disciple, washing their feet and drying them with the towel.

“Lord,” Peter protested, “Why are you washing my feet?”

“You don’t understand what I’m doing,” Jesus said softly, “but you will know after this.”

“You’ll never wash my feet!” Peter said.

“If I don’t wash your feet,” Jesus answered, “you have no part of me.”

“Then wash my hands and my feet and my head!”

“He who’s been bathed need only wash his feet,” Jesus answered. He looked around at all the disciples. “Do you know what I’ve done to you? If I, your Lord and Teacher, washed your feet, then you also ought to wash one another’s. I’ve given you an example to follow. If you know these things and do them, you’ll be blessed.”

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

SERVING LIKE JESUS | WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

John 13:1-17



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What does Jesus intend to demonstrate by washing His disciples' feet?
- What does Jesus mean by the master/slave and sender/send one analogy in verse 16?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- Do you ever react the way Peter does in verse 6, where he tries to refuse service from Jesus?
- How do you serve people in the name of Christ?
- Do they know in whose name you are serving them?
- In verse 17, Jesus implies there is a difference between a knower and a doer. Which of those are you?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to serve people in the name of Christ this week?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

IF YOU LOVE HIM | JESUS' PARTING WORDS

John 14:15-31



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you serve people in the name of Christ this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** When you meet someone for the first time, what are some clues that that person is a Christian?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

Jesus is having the Passover meal with His disciples in Jerusalem, and He knows He doesn't have much time left. Judas Iscariot had just gotten up from the table, and was on his way to betray Jesus. The mood is solemn, but Jesus is steadfast, knowing what He has to do. He is talking to the eleven disciples who are left: "If you love Me, you will obey what I command," Jesus tells them. "The Father will soon send you a Counselor and He will be with you forever. I will not leave you as orphans. I, the Father and the Counselor will be with you forever."

Judas — not the one who was betraying Jesus — asked, "Why are you telling this to just us, and not to the entire world?" Jesus answers him by talking about obedience. "If someone loves me and obeys my teaching, then We will come to live within him. These are the Father's own words, not just my own." Jesus knows that they're afraid of Him leaving, so He continues. "I've told you all of this while I've been with you, but don't worry. Even when I'm gone, the Counselor will be here with you to teach and guide you. I know you're scared, but don't be afraid! You should be happy that I am going to the Father. I'm telling you all of this now so that you will believe even more once it happens. The prince of this world is coming. He has no power over Me, but I must show the world My obedience to the father."

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

IF YOU LOVE HIM | JESUS' PARTING WORDS

John 14:15-31



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- How do you recognize that someone loves Jesus?
- What are Jesus' commandments in this passage?
- What is the purpose of the Helper?
- Like Judas asked, why did Jesus tell this good news just the disciples, and not proclaim it to the entire world?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?
What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- What actions can you take in your everyday life to show that you love Jesus?
- What are ways that you, or someone you know, may be doing this well already?
- What can sometimes keep you from keeping His commandments?
- What can you do to keep His commandments better than you currently do?
- Should you keep what Jesus says to yourself, or share it with the world?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to take action this week to keep His commandments better than you currently do?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

ABIDE

John 15:1-17



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How well did you do in improving your adherence to Jesus' commandments this past week? What worked? What didn't work?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is your favorite fruit?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

Jesus had just finished telling the disciples about how He would be with them forever, and knew that they were probably a bit confused. So he explains with this metaphor:

“I am the vine, and my Father is the gardener. If a branch isn't producing fruit, He cuts it off so that it will be more fruitful.” He said that that in the same way, His followers need to abide in Him — stay connected to the vine — in order to have a fruitful life. “Apart from me you can do nothing,” He said. “If a branch doesn't bear fruit, it is useless.”

“You have my word, and this is one of the best ways you can stay connected to me. As the Father has loved me, I love you. You must choose to remain in my love. This isn't a servant-master kind of love, but I love you like my very closer friend. And I command you to love each other as well.”

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

ABIDE

John 15:1-17



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to “bear fruit”?
- What does it mean in verse 2 when it says He “prunes” us?
- How do you abide in Jesus?
- What does it mean to be a friend of Jesus? What kind of friendship is it?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- Are you bearing fruit?
- If you are bearing good fruit, how can you bear more fruit?
- If you are bearing less fruit than you think you should, what should you do to change that?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to bear more fruit?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

BE THANKFUL | THE TEN LEPERS

Luke 17:11-19



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** How did you bear (or start to bear) more fruit this past week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Have you ever done something nice for a group of people, but no one (or only a few) thanked you?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

The ten men stood off in the distance according to the law. When you were suffering from leprosy you knew you had to avoid human contact of any kind. But they had heard about Jesus. They hoped He could heal them.

“Jesus!” They called, “Master, have mercy on us!” When Jesus saw them He said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” What? Only those who had been healed would do that, but they obeyed Jesus’ command. They turned and headed off to the priests. And as they went, their bodies began to feel different. Arms and legs that had been in excruciating pain suddenly felt strong, and as they looked at their bodies, the scabs and wounds that had covered them for so long were disappearing. They were healed! They began running to show the priests the miracle that had just taken place. Except one. The Samaritan. The outcast. He stopped, turned around and faced Jesus. He went back and kneeled at his Master’s feet, shouting praises to God for saving his life!

“Weren’t there ten men who were healed?” Jesus asked. “Where are the other nine? Were not any found to give glory to God except this foreigner? A Samaritan?” He looked down at the man. “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.” This man had started “afar off” but his thankfulness had brought him up close. All the way to the feet of Jesus.

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

BE THANKFUL | THE TEN LEPERS

Luke 17:11-19



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- If the faith of the Samaritan leper made him well, what made the other nine lepers well?
- Did Jesus mean the Samaritan's faith made him physically well, or spiritually well?
- What does this passage tell us about how God bestows blessings on the world?
- What does this passage teach us about who can be made well?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- How have you received God's blessing in your life?
- Are you giving proper praise to God for that blessing?
- How are you bestowing blessings on the people you encounter?
- Are you biased towards those who you think will praise you in return?
- How (and whom) should you be blessing?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to bless the people you meet in the course of your daily life?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

FACING TEMPTATION

Matthew 4:1-11



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Whom did you bless this past week? How did they respond? Whom did you not bless?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What do you want most in this world? A cool possession? Health? Employment? Family? Friends? Respect? Freedom? Love? (No cheating by saying Jesus!) What would you do to get it?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

The Spirit led Jesus into the middle of the desert. It was terribly hot and the sand whipped Jesus' feet as he walked. Jesus was there, fasting, for forty days and forty night. He was hungry. And while He was there, the devil tempted Him. "If you are really the Son of God, make yourself something to eat!" The devil said. "Turn these rocks into delicious loaves of bread." "No!" Jesus responded. "The scripture says that man does not live on bread alone, but from every word from the mouth of God."

The devil tried again, this time taking Him out of the desert and up to Jerusalem, at the highest point of the Temple. "If you are really the Son of God," he said, "jump off of this wall! For doesn't the Scripture say that the angels will protect you?" "But the Scriptures also say," said Jesus, "that you must not test the Lord your God."

The devil persisted, taking Jesus to the peak of the highest mountain around. "See all of this," he said. "I can give it all to you. All you have to do is worship me." "Get out of here, Satan!" Jesus shouted. Although weak from fasting, He commanded the devil with an enormous strength. "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" At this, Satan left. And the angels came down to take care of Jesus.

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

FACING TEMPTATION

Matthew 4:1-11



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Why would the Spirit lead Jesus there to be tempted?
- What archetypes of temptation does Satan present to Jesus? That is, with what general temptations is the Adversary trying to mislead Jesus?
- How does Jesus respond to the devil?
- Why does he quote those particular passages?
- How do those passages actually answer Satan's temptations?
- How can we face temptation, and defeat it, the way Jesus does?
- Is this the last time Satan tempts Jesus?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- What tempts you?
- How do you deal with those temptations?
- What makes it more difficult to resist your particular temptations?
- Are you successful in defeating temptation?



WRAP-UP

- How are you going to fight back against your particular temptations this week?
- Who will you share this with this week? Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

EXAMPLE HEADER GOES HERE

A SECOND LINE WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS

MATTHEW 1:11



WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** How did you get to know the person who is now your best friend?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



STORYTELLING

Jesus went to a mountainside to pray. He stayed there all night, and when morning came, he designated the 12 men who would be his disciples: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Judas son of James and Judas Iscariot.

Then, Jesus came down from the mountainside and was met by a crowd of his followers. People came from all around to hear Jesus. He started speaking to them, saying things like, “Blessed are you who are poor” and “Blessed are you when people hate you because of the Son of Man.” He said that when these things happened, their reward in Heaven would be great.

He also said, “But woe to you who are rich,” and “Woe to you who laugh now,” warning them not to get too caught up in the world.

So they left Capernaum and Jesus continued preaching the Good News and casting out demons throughout all of Galilee.

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.

EXAMPLE OF CONTINUED HEADER

MATTHEW 1:11



STORYTELLING CONTINUED

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APPLICATION

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