

08

**THE SON  
HAS  
AUTHORITY**

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT.

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources



---

# GOD'S WORD FOR YOU

## A SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But on the third day, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

# CONTENTS

The Gospel Project Scope and Sequence .....	6
How to Use the Personal Study Guide .....	8
The Son Has Authority .....	12
The Chosen Disciples .....	66
The Omnipotence of God .....	102
6 Ways to Make the Most of Sunday School This Summer .....	128
References .....	130

## UNIT 22: RESPONSES TO JESUS

SUGGESTED FOR  
THE WEEK OF

June 7	Memory Verses .....	15
June 14	Session 1 <b>The Official Believed</b> (John 4) .....	16
June 21	Session 2 <b>The Hometown Rejected</b> (Luke 4) .....	24
June 28	Session 3 <b>The Crowd Amazed</b> (Mark 1) .....	32
	Session 4 <b>The Leper Proclaimed</b> (Mark 1) .....	40

## UNIT 23: THE WAY OF JESUS

July 5	Memory Verses .....	49
July 12	Session 1 <b>Faith and Forgiveness</b> (Mark 2) .....	50
July 19	Session 2 <b>Healing and Calling</b> (Mark 3) .....	58
July 26	Session 3 <b>Lord of the Sabbath</b> (Matthew 12) .....	68
	Session 4 <b>Lord of Love</b> (Luke 6) .....	76

## UNIT 24: THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Aug. 2	Memory Verses .....	85
Aug. 9	Session 1 <b>He Is the Messiah</b> (Matthew 11) .....	86
Aug. 16	Session 2 <b>He Resurrects Life</b> (Luke 7) .....	94
Aug. 23	Session 3 <b>He Forgives Sin</b> (Luke 7) .....	104
Aug. 30	Session 4 <b>He Teaches on Prayer</b> (Luke 11) .....	112
	Session 5 <b>He Teaches on Worry</b> (Luke 12) .....	120

## THE EDITOR

Jesus, there is no one like Him. He graced the paths of Israel two thousand years ago, and He graces the pages of our Bibles today. But even better, He graces us with His presence in our hearts.

If you have been a Christian for many years, it might be easy to read the stories of Jesus in this volume with pride, thinking you already know these passages. But I pray that the Spirit would enlighten your mind and revive your heart to see something new or learn something different about who Jesus is—His heart, His character, His purpose. There is much that we already know about Him, but being God, there is still much for us to learn.

Like the crowds, let us be in awe as if seeing Him heal or cast out demons for the first time. But even more, let us be like Peter's mother-in-law, who served Jesus after being healed. Or like the man with leprosy who proclaimed about Him because of his joy. Or the friends of the man with paralysis who brought him to Jesus knowing He could do anything. Or like the disciples who obeyed when He called. Or the woman who was a sinner who gave Jesus her all.

There is something to learn from all these people who were changed because they encountered Jesus. This should make us reflect on our story of our encounter with Jesus. Whether we have chosen to trust in Him or not, our encounter with Jesus will forever change us. If you have not placed your faith in Him, know that He beckons to you now. Choosing to follow Jesus will change your trajectory. He did that for the people in these passages, and He continues to do that in people's lives today.

**Y Bonesteele**

Team Leader

The Gospel Project for Adults

**The Gospel Project®**  
Adult Personal Study Guide  
Summer 2026  
Volume 2, Number 4

Y Bonesteele  
Team Leader

Daniel Davis  
Content Editor

Rachel Myrick  
Content and Production Editor

Darin Clark  
Design Team Leader

Chad Hunter  
Graphic Designer

T. J. Norris  
Contributing Illustrator

Dwayne McCrary  
Manager, Adult Ongoing Bible Studies

John Paul Basham  
Director, Adult Ministry

**Send questions/comments** to by email to [TGP.adults@Lifeway.com](mailto:TGP.adults@Lifeway.com) or mail to Team Leader, The Gospel Project: Adult Personal Study Guide, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707.

Printed in the United States of America

The Gospel Project®: Adult Personal Study Guide (ISSN 3065-3363; Item 005849182) is published quarterly by Lifeway Christian Resources, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707. © 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted in writing by the publisher.

No part of this work may be used or reproduced in any manner for the purpose of training artificial intelligence technologies or systems.

**For ordering or inquiries** including Autoship, visit [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com), call 1.800.458.2772, write Lifeway Resources Customer Service, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707, or fax 615.251.5933. For address changes, email [subscribe@Lifeway.com](mailto:subscribe@Lifeway.com). For bulk shipments mailed quarterly to one address, visit [Lifeway.com/Autoship](http://Lifeway.com/Autoship), email [orderentry@Lifeway.com](mailto:orderentry@Lifeway.com), or write to the above address.

**We believe** that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guideline, please visit [www.Lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](http://www.Lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

# THE WRITERS

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

### **Caleb Boss**

(Unit 22, Sessions 1-4)

Caleb is the student pastor at New Oak Grove Baptist Church in Alachua, Florida. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children: David, Emily, and Henry. Caleb is an MDiv graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

### **Allyson M. Howell**

(Unit 24, Sessions 1-5)

Allyson is the Communications Director for a non-profit organization and is currently pursuing a PhD in Historical Theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has served in local churches through women's ministry, worship ministry, writing, and editorial work. Allyson lives in Nashville with her husband, Randy.

### **Daniel Youngblood**

(Unit 23, Sessions 1-4)

Daniel is a middle school Bible teacher at Christ Covenant School in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and a member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi. He and his wife, Isabella, married in August 2025. Daniel is pursuing a PhD at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and looks forward to a lifetime of teaching God's Word to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

## GROUP EXPERIENCE

### **Jim Gantenbein**

(Unit 23, Sessions 1-4)

Jim is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He retired from full-time ministry in 2022 after more than thirty-one years and over sixteen years as a Senior Pastor. Jim and Cathy have been married over fifty-one years and live in Port Orchard, Washington.

### **Lexie Hood**

(Unit 22, Sessions 1-4)

Lexie received her teaching certification from Stephen F. Austin State University. She received her MA in Christian Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She resides in East Texas with her husband and young son. A former Preschool and Children's Minister, she stays at home while serving with the kids team of the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention.

### **Jaclyn Mains**

(Unit 24, Sessions 1-5)

Jaclyn is a Bible teacher who serves with the International Mission Board, creating training resources. She holds an MA in Religion from Liberty University and has served in women's ministry. With her husband, she's raising their son, Judah, to love and follow Jesus.

## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

The Gospel Project for Adults aspires to point people to the gospel of Jesus Christ through weekly group Bible studies and additional resources that show how God’s plan of redemption unfolds throughout all of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. This curriculum provides theological yet practical studies that immerse your group in the **STORY** of the gospel, helping to develop a gospel **CULTURE** that leads to gospel **MISSION**.

### GOSPEL STORY

Our aim is to help people understand the storyline of Scripture and to see the thread from the beginning to the end that weaves through it all—God’s plan to rescue and redeem His creation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

### GOSPEL CULTURE

Our hope is that the message of the gospel saturates our understanding of Christ, increasing our joy in Him and helping doubters become believers who become declarers of the gospel.

### GOSPEL MISSION

Our desire is to encourage believers to live on mission, declaring the good news of the gospel in word and deed for God’s glory and the growth of His kingdom.

## 3 YEAR PLAN

---

**VOL 01:  
CREATION AND COVENANT**

(Genesis; Job)  
Fall 2024

**VOL 02:  
LAW AND LIFE**

(Exodus–Deuteronomy)  
Winter 2024–25

**VOL 03:  
LAND AND LOSS**

(Joshua–1 Samuel)  
Spring 2025

**VOL 04:  
FOOLISHNESS AND WISDOM**

(1 Samuel–1 Kings; Wisdom Literature)  
Summer 2025

**VOL 05:  
DIVISION AND DEFIANCE**

(1 Kings–2 Chronicles; The Prophets)  
Fall 2025

**VOL 06:  
PROPHETS AND PROVISION**

(The Prophets; Ezra–Esther)  
Winter 2025–26

**VOL 07:  
THE SON HAS COME**

(The Gospels)  
Spring 2026

**VOL 08:  
THE SON HAS AUTHORITY**

(The Gospels)  
Summer 2026

**VOL 09:  
THE SON HAS TRUTH**

(The Gospels)  
Fall 2026

**VOL 10:  
THE SON HAS RISEN**

(The Gospels; Acts)  
Winter 2026–27

**VOL 11:  
THE CHURCH HAS A MISSION**

(Acts; The Epistles)  
Spring 2027

**VOL 12:  
THE CHURCH HAS A FUTURE**

(The Epistles; Revelation)  
Summer 2027

# HOW TO USE THE PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

The Personal Study Guide is a vital tool in your personal and group experience with The Gospel Project for Adults. Here's how to make the most of your time with it:

## 1) READ THE WORD DAILY

Begin each week by reading the Scriptures according to the Daily Readings. These Bible readings will help you mentally and spiritually prepare for the group experience each week while also building healthy Bible study habits for personal growth. The daily readings will help you understand the context of the Bible story for each week's session and fill in the gaps between sessions. The weekly psalm reading will help you think worshipfully and prayerfully about the story's place in the greater redemptive narrative of the Bible. And the timeline will give you a visual perspective so you can place the Bible story in the larger context of the Bible's storyline.



- **Daily Readings**
- **Chronological Timeline**

**TIMELINE**

Jesus Is Tempted in the Wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30)**


Jesus Heals a Leprous Man (Mark 1:35-45)

Jesus Ministers in Galilee (Luke 4:14-15)

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority in Capernaum (Mark 1:27-34)

**Daily Readings**

<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: Luke 4:14-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: Luke 5:17-26
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: Luke 4:31-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: Luke 5:27-39
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Luke 5:12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Psalm 31



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

25

## 2) STUDY THE PERSONAL PREPARATION

The Personal Preparation section contains the Scripture passages you will examine and discuss with your Bible study group. As you read each Scripture passage, a Bible study prompt will help you highlight, underline, or jot notes to help you engage with the Scripture and to provoke discussion with your group on the following Sunday. A brief commentary with thought-provoking questions will help you dig deeper into the text and reflect on what the text teaches you about God and yourself. You have the full week to work on your personal preparation, so whether you prefer to break it up into parts or do it all in one day, the flexibility is there for your schedule.

- Scripture
- Commentary
- Questions

**PERSONAL PREPARATION**

LUKE 4:16-21

**JESUS FULFILLED SCRIPTURE AS THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE.**

*Underline the things the Spirit anointed Jesus to do.*

16 He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written: 18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. 20 He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

**THEOLOGY CONNECTION**

**CHRIST AS PROPHET:** As one of His offices, Jesus fulfills the role of prophet: He alone is the ultimate teacher and has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Jesus is also God's ultimate revelation of Himself, the very Word of God (John 1).

**Key Concept:** Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.

Jesus frequently went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. On this particular day, He was given the opportunity to read the Scripture passage. He stood up and read Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus's reputation and miraculous works had already caused people to question His identity. Could Jesus, in fact, be the Messiah? Through Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus confirmed His identity as the anointed Savior who came to preach good news to the hopeless. The captives would be set free from sin. The blind would see, not just when He healed them physically but when they saw the spiritual truth that Jesus is Lord. It was the year of the Lord's favor because His Son had come.

What does Jesus's habit of attending the synagogue teach us?

Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Jesus's humble beginnings show us an unexpected Savior full of grace and truth. The people were looking for a Savior who would come with high accolades and would establish an earthly kingdom independent from Roman rule. But Jesus came to rescue captive souls from sin. Knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of Scripture is a joyous hope and confirmation of His identity as the Messiah.

How does Jesus's claim from Isaiah and His miraculous works affect how you see your mission?

**VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY**

"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

—C. S. Lewis (1898–1963)

Jesus sat down immediately after reading Scripture and said that day Isaiah's prophecy had been fulfilled. We are privileged to know the entire narrative of Scripture, but imagine the perspective of the people in Nazareth. They just heard Jesus claim that He fulfilled this prophecy. Jesus, the son of a carpenter, claimed to be the Christ. His hometown of Nazareth was not a place of high prestige. Even Nathanael, one of Jesus's disciples, asked, "Can anything good come from

### 3) PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP EXPERIENCE

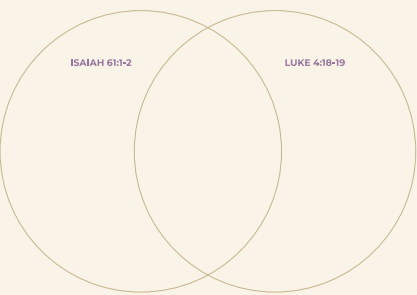
The Group Experience for each session includes an activity and interactive questions designed to make the most of your group experience. Depending on your leader, he or she may have you do the activity on your own before doing it together as a group, or your leader may want you to wait until group time. Either way, the personal prep you've put into the days leading up to your group time will provide a richer discussion and more thoughtful theological applications to mutually encourage each other during group time.

**GROUP EXPERIENCE**

**THE LORD'S ANOINTED**

*Read the Bible passages below. Compare the similarities and differences between Isaiah's prophecy and Jesus's message in Nazareth.*

ISAIAH 61:1-2



LUKE 4:18-19

How does Jesus's proclaiming good news and freedom give you comfort?  
What part can you play in bringing the good news to the oppressed?

30 Unit 22 | Session 2 | The Hometown Rejected



- **Group Activity**
- **Interactive Questions**
- **Theological Applications**

## 4) TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

At the conclusion of your group time, consider how to apply the day's Scripture lesson by walking through the Head, Heart, and Hands application questions. Share and discuss answers to the questions for the mutual benefit of everyone in the group. Then take time in your group, and during the week after, to read and pray through the designated psalm, focusing your thoughts and words once more upon God's Word. And finally, record prayer requests and praises as you wrap up your group time. Space is provided to jot those down in your guide for prayer during the following week.

**Key Concept:** Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.


**HEAD**  
Why do people have a hard time accepting the facts of Jesus's identity even though He has shown Himself to be true?

**HEART**  
What can you do when doubts arise about God, Scripture, or your faith?

**HANDS**  
How can you be faithful in sharing Jesus Christ with a world that may be apprehensive to Him?

**PRAYING SCRIPTURE**  
Read Psalm 31. Thank God for His protection and deliverance because of His faithful love. Jesus came to heal and restore. Praise Him as He is our rock and fortress. Rejoice and plead daily for God's grace to cover you.

**PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES**



31



- Application Questions
- Scripture-Based Prayer
- Prayer Requests

# THE SON HAS AUTHORITY

By Caleb Boss

Authority is a concept with which most humans have a love-hate relationship. On one hand, authority intrigues us, especially when it comes to our desire for power. On the other hand, as fallen creations, we do not like the idea of submitting to someone else's authority. It's in our nature. You see, our sin obscures the true essence of authority. True authority is not something we can obtain for selfish gain, but it is wielded by God, who is our loving Creator. Our sin separates us from God, and God, who is holy and righteous, is fully just in demanding repayment for our sin. That repayment is not anything you or I could offer, so God is within His rights to demand the only payment that fits the debt we owe—eternal death for we who are bound in our sin. Yet God didn't leave us hopeless in our sin. Instead of wielding His authority to condemn, He used His authority to offer redemption for our sin. What a beautiful display of grace with His boundless authority!

In this volume, we will see many accounts of Scripture in which Jesus proved Himself to be the long-awaited Messiah and Son of God. We also will see that Jesus's identity as the Son of God grants Him authority over all things. Let's take a quick bird's-eye view together to see how we should understand

that Jesus is the Son of God and that He has been granted authority over all things from the Father.

## THE SON

Jesus showed a multitude of signs that pointed to His identity as the Son of God. Throughout this volume, we'll see that Jesus performed many miraculous signs, such as healings and casting out demons (Mark 1:21-45; John 4:46-54). He also fulfilled Old Testament prophecy by proclaiming good news to the poor and declaring the coming of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:16-30). He even publicly forgave sins (Mark 2:1-12). Jesus's own people rejected His claims and called Him a blasphemer because they believed God is the only One who can forgive sins. In this they were correct, but what Jesus's own people rejected out of spiritual blindness, we recognize explicitly: Jesus is in fact the Son of God! He Himself is the fulfillment of the law, and He demonstrated His divine nature by performing miracles only God could do.

As a New Testament Christian, I am reminded of what John, an eyewitness and Jesus's beloved disciple, said in his Gospel account:

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31).

What an incredible claim and promise! The things Jesus did and said all point to His identity as the Son of God. I hope you are encouraged to see His identity revealed as you dive into each account of Jesus's ministry recorded in this volume.

The things Jesus did  
and said all point  
to His identity as  
the Son of God.

## THE SON HAS AUTHORITY

Jesus's identity as the Son of God points us to His authority. While it is true that the Son of God is our Messiah, it is also equally true that He is our Lord. Jesus was, and is, a man of flesh and blood, and He is also fully divine. His divinity means lordship.

He has authority over all things, for Jesus Himself said, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). In each Bible story in this volume, we will see Jesus's authority carried out. He demonstrated His authority over creation, which is fitting because we are told in Scripture that all things were made by Him (Colossians 1:16). When desperate people came to Him, He healed every sickness and disease. He cast out demons, and the demons had no choice but to obey His commands. Unlike our fallen desires to use authority for our own selfish gain, Jesus used His authority to display His glory and to extend His gracious hand out of love for others. Jesus's authority is not heavy-handed; it is a blessing to His people. He demonstrated authority over His creation ultimately to show us that He has authority even over sin and death itself. Jesus alone is the Lord of life, and by faith in His grace alone are we saved.

As we read through this volume, understand that Jesus's authority over creation is but a small glimpse of the authority He has to grant salvation to the lost. His identity and authority put on display as the Son of God ultimately led Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the grave on the third day. He has defeated death, and He is still saving people from sin that would lead them to eternal death. What a blessing to see with eyes wide open the authority and victory that the Son of God has over our sin.

Caleb Boss is the student pastor at New Oak Grove Baptist Church in Alachua, Florida. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children: David, Emily, and Henry. Caleb is an MDiv graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

# UNIT 22

# RESPONSES TO JESUS



MARK; LUKE; JOHN



MEMORY VERSES

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

—Luke 4:18-19



# THE OFFICIAL BELIEVED

CORE PASSAGE: JOHN 4:46-54

## CONTEXT

After Jesus met with the woman at the well in Samaria, she believed Jesus was the Messiah and told the people in her town. Many people in Samaria believed in Jesus as the Messiah. Two days later, Jesus resumed His travels in Galilee. While in Cana, He was stopped by an official who was in great distress because his son was at death's door. Yet his son was in Capernaum, roughly twenty-five miles away. Jesus revealed His authority over sickness in a way that showed His messiahship.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Faith includes believing in Jesus's authority and power.**

As you examine John 4:46-54:

- Reflect that Jesus is compassionate even when people look for signs to believe.
- Emphasize that faith is believing without seeing, but seeing leads to deeper faith.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Performs His First  
Miracle at the Wedding  
in Cana (John 2:1-12)

Nicodemus Visits Jesus at Night  
(John 3:1-21)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
Jesus Performs His Second  
Miracle in Cana (John 4:46-54)

Jesus Cleanses the Temple  
(John 2:13-22)

Jesus Speaks with a Samaritan  
Woman (John 4:1-42)

Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth  
(Luke 4:16-30)

### Daily Readings

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 1:</b> John 4:43-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 4:</b> John 6:1-21  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 2:</b> John 5:1-23  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 5:</b> John 6:22-71 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 3:</b> John 5:24-47 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 6:</b> Psalm 142    |



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

JOHN 4:46-50

### JESUS'S WORD IS POWERFUL AND ABLE TO HEAL.

*Highlight words that depict the official's state of mind when he approached Jesus.*

**46** He went again to Cana of Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a certain royal official whose son was ill at Capernaum. **47** When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to him and pleaded with him to come down and heal his son, since he was about to die. **48** Jesus told him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." **49** "Sir," the official said to him, "come down before my boy dies." **50** "Go," Jesus told him, "your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and departed.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**FAITH:** Biblical faith is the resting, or trusting, in Christ alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Christ as Lord and Savior of one's life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

**Key Concept:** Faith includes believing in Jesus's authority and power.

Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee and was quickly approached by an official who was distraught over his son's condition. His son was dying and needed more than what a physician could offer. He approached Jesus with the expectation that Jesus would come with him to heal his son. In the same way that this official expected Jesus to come with him, we too have the tendency to come to God with preconceived expectations. Our downfall as broken people is to plead with God for what we think we need when we think we need it rather than trusting that God is faithful to our needs. Instead of anxiously expecting signs from God to work out our circumstances the way we want them to be handled, we must trust in His promises found in His Word.

**In what ways have you had anxious expectations in your requests from the Lord?**

Though the official may have thought his request would be received with urgency, Jesus unexpectedly responded, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe" (v. 48). It is so easy to become entranced with the miracles rather than who the miracles point to. In this moment, Jesus taught us that He is the source of authority and power. The official believed that Jesus was able to heal his son as long

as Jesus came to his house. Maybe he felt Jesus had to touch his son for the healing to happen. But Jesus, to demonstrate His authority and compassion for the official, said that his son would be healed roughly twenty-five miles away. Then the official, in faith, departed.

Often times God does not work in the way we think He ought to. He alone is sovereign, and our requests are not. Faith in His authority, power, and grace is what He desires from us.

**How does the reality of Jesus's authority and power affect how you approach Him in prayer?**

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"It often happens that while our Heavenly Father may not grant our desires in every particular, he nevertheless helps us in unexpected ways, so that we may learn not to dictate to him in anything."<sup>1</sup>

—John Calvin (1509–1564)

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

JOHN 4:51-54

### JESUS'S POWER AND AUTHORITY REALIZED LEADS TO FAITH.

*Underline the father's reaction to his son's healing and the effects that Jesus's grace had on his entire family.*

**51** While he was still going down, his servants met him saying that his boy was alive. **52** He asked them at what time he got better. "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him," they answered. **53** The father realized this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." So he himself believed, along with his whole household. **54** Now this was also the second sign Jesus performed after he came from Judea to Galilee.



#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"The way to increase faith is to exercise faith. And the true parent of perfect faith is the experience of the blessings that come from the crudest, rudest, narrowest, blindest, feeblest faith that a man can exercise."<sup>2</sup>

—MacLaren of Manchester (1826–1910)

**Key Concept:** Faith includes believing in Jesus's authority and power.



Before the official even reached his house, his servants met him with wonderful news—his son was now well! Jesus's compassion for the official was proven faithful. Although this father had not seen his son's healing, his servants' report led his mind back to what Jesus had said, even noting the time Jesus said it. Though we may not initially see God at work in our circumstances, when He does prove Himself faithful, His faithfulness should lead us to deeper faith. The official remembered what Christ had said, and Christ was proven to have healed the boy as He said He would. At times we may display weak faith or a lack of trust in God due to our expectations, yet His grace is sufficient at the right time to solidify our trust in Him alone.

**Why do you think we feel we need to see to believe? How has God shown you grace to deepen your faith in Him?**

Jesus face to face or witnessed His miracles, we do not have a blind faith. We have God's inerrant Word. We have the historical accuracy of His Word. We see the effects of salvation by the Holy Spirit upon the lives of believers. If you are a believer in Christ, you are evidence of Christ's continued work and are called to be a witness to those who do not yet believe.

**In what ways does your life bear witness to the authority and power of Jesus?**

The official and his entire household believed because of Jesus's compassion. You see, Christ's selfless love and His authority affect people. His faithfulness unto death on a cross gives us hope to believe that there is salvation from sin and restoration with God. We share the same faith as the official and his household. Although we have not seen

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus's power to heal from afar points to His authority over all. That authority reveals itself in His victory over sin and death through His crucifixion and resurrection. We merely need to have faith in Him.

## HEALING AND RESPONSE

*Read the Bible passages below. Compare them by writing down the nature of the healing that Jesus performed and the people's responses.*

	HEALING	RESPONSE TO THE HEALING
<b>MARK</b> <b>1:29-31</b>		
<b>MATTHEW</b> <b>8:5-13</b>		
<b>MATTHEW</b> <b>9:27-30</b>		
<b>JOHN</b> <b>4:46-54</b>		

How does Jesus's authority to heal shape the way we view illnesses and sin?

How does Jesus's familiarity with pain and suffering lead us to a greater faith in Him?

**Key Concept:** Faith includes believing in Jesus's authority and power.



## HEAD

How do the accounts of Jesus's ministry draw you closer to Him?

## PRAYING SCRIPTURE



Pray through Psalm 142. Pray for God's grace and mercy to pour over you, for where you are weak, He is faithful. Readily lay down your requests before God, for He desires to hear from you. Thank God for His faithful work in you and around you, for He is your refuge.



## HEART

In what ways can you cast your burdens upon the Lord?

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

How can you be a faithful witness who proclaims Christ's authority, identity, and grace to others this week?



# THE HOMETOWN REJECTED

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 4:16-30

## CONTEXT

Luke 4 contains a couple of well-known milestones in Jesus's ministry, such as Jesus's temptation in the wilderness. Then Jesus began His ministry in Galilee. Based upon the parallels from the other Gospel accounts, Jesus had already called His disciples and performed miracles at this time. His reputation and authority were spreading amongst the Jewish people. The people in Jesus's hometown of Nazareth, however, would have their own opinion on this matter.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.**

As you examine Luke 4:16-30:

- Note that Jesus identified Himself as the Anointed One whom Isaiah said would preach good news and set the captives free.
- Reflect that Jesus's hometown questioned His identity and authority after He preached grace for Gentiles.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Is Tempted in the Wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30)**

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man (Mark 1:35-45)

Jesus Ministers in Galilee (Luke 4:14-15)

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Luke 4:14-30
- Day 2:** Luke 4:31-44
- Day 3:** Luke 5:12-16
- Day 4:** Luke 5:17-26
- Day 5:** Luke 5:27-39
- Day 6:** Psalm 31



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 4:16-21

### JESUS FULFILLED SCRIPTURE AS THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE.

*Underline the things the Spirit anointed Jesus to do.*

**16** He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. **17** The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written: **18** The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. **20** He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**CHRIST AS PROPHET:** As one of His offices, Jesus fulfills the role of prophet: He alone is the ultimate teacher and has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Jesus is also God's ultimate revelation of Himself, the very Word of God (John 1:1).

**Key Concept:** Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.

Jesus frequently went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. On this particular day, He was given the opportunity to read the Scripture passage. He stood up and read Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus's reputation and miraculous works had already caused people to question His identity. Could Jesus, in fact, be the Messiah? Through Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus confirmed His identity as the anointed Savior who came to preach good news to the hopeless. The captives would be set free from sin. The blind would see, not just when He healed them physically but when they saw the spiritual truth that Jesus is Lord. It was the year of the Lord's favor because His Son had come.

**What does Jesus's habit of attending the synagogue teach us?**

Jesus sat down immediately after reading Scripture and said that day Isaiah's prophecy had been fulfilled. We are privileged to know the entire narrative of Scripture, but imagine the perspective of the people in Nazareth. They just heard Jesus claim that He fulfilled this prophecy. Jesus, the son of a carpenter, claimed to be the Christ. His hometown of Nazareth was not a place of high prestige. Even Nathanael, one of Jesus's disciples, asked, "Can anything good come from

Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Jesus's humble beginnings show us an unexpected Savior full of grace and truth. The people were looking for a Savior who would come with high accolades and would establish an earthly kingdom independent from Roman rule. But Jesus came to rescue captive souls from sin. Knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of Scripture is a joyous hope and confirmation of His identity as the Messiah.

**How does Jesus's claim from Isaiah and His miraculous works affect how you see your mission?**

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."<sup>1</sup>

—C. S. Lewis (1898–1963)

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 4:22-30

### JESUS WAS REJECTED WHEN HE PREACHED A MESSAGE OF GRACE TO ALL.

*Highlight the examples that Jesus gave of God's work in the lives of Gentiles in the Old Testament.*

**22** They were all speaking well of him and were amazed by the gracious words that came from his mouth; yet they said, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" **23** Then he said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. What we've heard that took place in Capernaum, do here in your hometown also.'" **24** He also said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. **25** But I say to you, there were certainly many widows in Israel in Elijah's days, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months while a great famine came over all the land. **26** Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them except a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. **27** And in the prophet Elisha's time, there were many in Israel who had leprosy, and yet not one of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." **28** When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was enraged. **29** They got up, drove him out of town, and brought him to the edge of the hill that their town was built on, intending to hurl him over the cliff. **30** But he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

#### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophetic words as One who would come to preach good news and release the captives, not just for the Jews but also for the Gentiles. The gospel is for all people, and salvation is for anyone who chooses to believe.

**Key Concept:** Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.

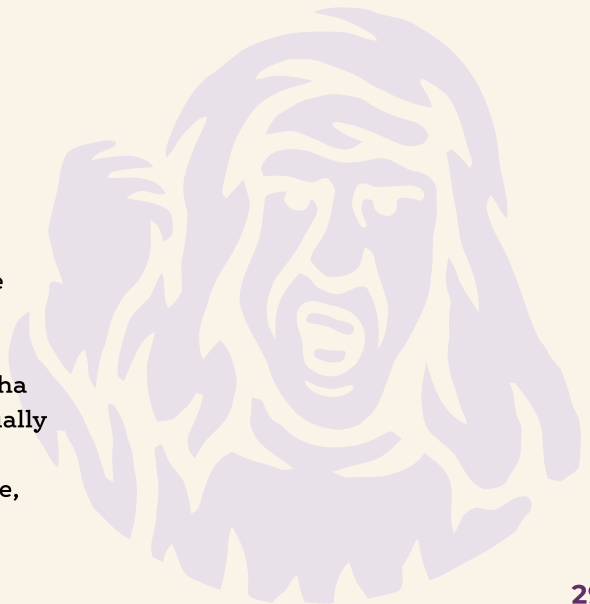
Jesus's declaration caused amazement among the people. Again, Jesus just said He fulfilled Scripture. But the people then began to question His origin. They wondered, "This was Joseph the carpenter's son, right?" Their question of Jesus's kinship implied their doubt of His claim to be the fulfillment of prophecy as the Messiah. Jesus, knowing their doubt, called them out on their contempt. Their hearts would not believe unless they saw the same signs and wonders He performed in Capernaum. If He could do miracles there, surely He could do so in His hometown. Doubting God can lead us down a road of contempt toward God. Doubting Christ's sufficiency leads us to look at things we think are better. Trusting in the identity and sufficiency of Jesus is essential to the Christian faith.

**How can you find assurance of Christ's identity, sufficiency, and grace?**

The Jews of Jesus's day believed they alone were special because they were God's people. Yet Jesus shared with the listeners in the synagogue a couple of Old Testament examples in which God extended grace through Elijah and Elisha toward Gentiles when the Jews continually rejected God (see 1 Kings 17:8-24; 2 Kings 5:1-14). Jesus's point was simple,

profound, and authoritative—the grace of God is given to the Gentiles also. This revelation enraged the people so much that they drove Jesus out of the town with the intent to hurl Him off a cliff. Yet Jesus's identity and authority over the angry mob were displayed as He simply passed through them unharmed. The same truth that Jesus told them is still applicable today. Salvation from sin and an eternal relationship with God is freely offered to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ alone. What a blessing! What wonderful grace!

**Why was Jesus rejected by His own people? How is He still rejected today?**



## **THE LORD'S ANOINTED**

*Read the Bible passages below. Compare the similarities and differences between Isaiah's prophecy and Jesus's message in Nazareth.*

**ISAIAH 61:1-2**

**LUKE 4:18-19**

How does Jesus's proclaiming good news and freedom give you comfort?

What part can you play in bringing the good news to the oppressed?

**Key Concept:** Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.



## HEAD

Why do people have a hard time accepting the facts of Jesus's identity even though He has shown Himself to be true?

## PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 31. Thank God for His protection and deliverance because of His faithful love. Jesus came to heal and restore. Praise Him as He is our rock and fortress. Rejoice and plead daily for God's grace to cover you.



## HEART

What can you do when doubts arise about God, Scripture, or your faith?

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

How can you be faithful in sharing Jesus Christ with a world that may be apprehensive to Him?



# THE CROWD AMAZED

CORE PASSAGE: MARK 1:21-34

## CONTEXT

Mark the Gospel writer was not one of the twelve apostles, but he based his account on the testimony of the apostle Peter, a close companion of his. Mark succinctly and rapidly reported the story of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. Mark 1 begins with John the Baptist's ministry, Jesus's baptism and temptation, and Jesus's calling the disciples. Jesus was in Capernaum teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath when He encountered a man with an unclean spirit.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus, as God the Son, has authority over all in the spiritual and physical realms.**

As you examine Mark 1:21-34:

- Recognize that Jesus had authority to drive out unclean spirits.
- Emphasize that Jesus's authority over all things included His ability to heal the sick.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Is Tempted in the Wilderness (Mark 1:12-13)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
Jesus Demonstrates His Authority in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus Ministers in Galilee (Mark 1:14-15)

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man (Mark 1:35-45)

### Daily Readings

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 1:</b> Mark 1:21-28    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 4:</b> Matthew 8:18-22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 2:</b> Mark 1:29-34    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 5:</b> Matthew 8:23-34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 3:</b> Matthew 8:14-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 6:</b> Psalm 56        |



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 1:21-26

### JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS SPIRITUAL.

*Underline the unclean spirit's reaction to Jesus. Circle Jesus's response.*

**21** They went into Capernaum, and right away he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. **22** They were astonished at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not like the scribes. **23** Just then a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue. He cried out, **24** “What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” **25** Jesus rebuked him saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” **26** And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**JESUS'S DEITY:** Within the person of Jesus Christ, there are two natures—the divine nature and the human nature. Scripture teaches He is fully divine and fully human. His divinity is on display in passages that describe Him as being equal with God (John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3). The New Testament also points to the deity of Christ by showing how He possesses attributes that God alone possesses (Micah 5:2; John 1:4), how He performs works that only God performs (Mark 2:5-12; John 10:28; 17:2), and how He Himself claims to be the Son of God (Matthew 26:63-64; John 8:58; 10:30; 17:5).

**Key Concept:** Jesus, as God the Son, has authority over all in the spiritual and physical realms.

Entering Capernaum on the Sabbath, Jesus “right away” went to the synagogue to teach. Teaching was a primary focus of Jesus’s ministry. The people were “astonished” by Jesus’s display of authority through His teaching—it was “not like the scribes” (v. 22). There was something different about Jesus. Imagine listening to someone who not only knows the Scriptures but who understands them fully and speaks of them with Spirit-inspired authority!

So as Jesus was teaching, a man possessed by an unclean spirit interrupted Him. The spirit’s tone was one of chaotic disruption but also fear, for Jesus’s authority was a threat to him. It had been prophesied from the beginning that though Satan would inflict pain, Christ would have the victory (Genesis 3:15). The unclean spirit cried out in fear, wanting to know if Jesus had come to destroy it since it knew that the Holy One of God had authority over all spiritual beings.

**How do people view demons today, and why is it more difficult in modern Western cultures to believe in them?**

With a quick rebuke, Jesus won the battle against the demon; it was no contest. He commanded it to be silent and to come out of the man, and it did, but not without a small tantrum. It threw the man into convulsions, shouted with a loud cry, and finally came out. Jesus was revealing Himself as one with authority over Scripture as well as one with authority over the spiritual realm, which included demons and angels.

Our souls are battling daily with temptations and the fiery arrows of the enemy. On our own, we cannot combat the evil forces that plague our world and mind. Jesus displayed authority over this unclean spirit, and He also has power over every temptation, sin, and unclean spirit that tries to take hold of our affections. Knowing Christ has authority over all things spiritual gives us hope to walk in this broken world with victory. Take great joy in knowing that the One who silenced and cast out the unclean spirit is also able to reign authoritatively and victoriously in you.

**What parts of your spiritual life do you need to yield more fully to Jesus?**



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 1:27-34

### JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS PHYSICAL.

*Highlight the reactions of the people to Jesus's authority and power.*

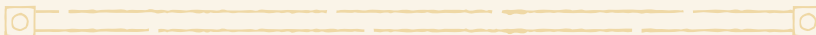
**27** They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” **28** At once the news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity of Galilee. **29** As soon as they left the synagogue, they went into Simon and Andrew’s house with James and John. **30** Simon’s mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. **31** So he went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them. **32** When evening came, after the sun had set, they brought to him all those who were sick and demon-possessed. **33** The whole town was assembled at the door, **34** and he healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“Rather than engaging in exorcisms, believers today are called to engage in evangelism. Whenever we bring the gospel to nonbelievers and they put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit washes them clean, takes up residence, and the demons are evicted.”<sup>1</sup>

—John MacArthur (1939–2025)

**Key Concept:** Jesus, as God the Son, has authority over all in the spiritual and physical realms.



After Jesus cast out the demon, the people were amazed and said, “A new teaching with authority!” (v. 27). They saw that teaching with authority went hand in hand with action. But Jesus didn’t stop there. He went into Simon Peter’s house and healed Simon’s mother-in-law, showing He had authority over the physical as well as the spiritual.

After Jesus took Simon’s mother-in-law’s hand and raised her up, she began to serve them, being healed. That is the same response we should have to the authoritative Son of God—immediate and unconditional service to Christ.

**As you reflect on God’s provision in your life, how can you respond in service?**

As news spread about Jesus’s works, the community brought Him all the sick and demon-possessed, and they crowded at the door of Simon Peter’s house. Jesus displayed His authority over the physical and spiritual by healing the sick and casting out demons. And like before, it was not yet His time to be revealed, so He did not permit the demons to speak. Jesus’s actions revealed His identity as the Son of God, although the crowds couldn’t see that. Ironically, only the demons knew who He truly was.

Jesus’s authority over all things helps us see that His claims as the Son of God are indeed true. The foundational revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, required Jesus to graciously work miracles over the physical. The apostle Paul reiterated this truth by claiming that Jews required signs for belief (1 Corinthians 1:22), yet now, as believers in the new covenant, we see Christ’s authority fulfilled and graciously displayed to us in His Word.

**What convinced you or would convince you that Jesus is Lord and Savior?**

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus’s authority over the physical world and over the spiritual world includes His authority over Satan and demons as well as over sin, guilt, shame, and death. This authority and power reveals His identity as the Son of God.

## GROUP EXPERIENCE

### JESUS'S AUTHORITY

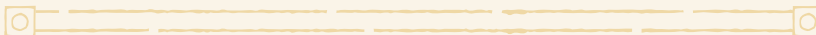
Read Mark 1:21-34. Record the ways Jesus revealed His authority and power and the corresponding responses of the witnesses.

	JESUS'S AUTHORITY	RESPONSE
THE CROWDS		
THE DEMON		
THE MOTHER-IN-LAW		
ME		

When is it difficult to submit to Jesus's authority?

In what areas of your life do you need to recognize Jesus's authority and submit to it?

**Key Concept:** Jesus, as God the Son, has authority over all in the spiritual and physical realms.



## HEAD

In what ways should you approach the spiritual realm with a belief that Jesus is Lord?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 56. In the midst of fear and stress, pray for complete trust in the Lord, who has the authority to be victorious over all. In times of fear, praise the Lord for His goodness and protection. Pray for complete devotion to God alone, who has authority over all things.



## HEART

How does Jesus's authority over the physical and the spiritual help you in your relationship with Him?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

With whom can you share about Jesus's authority and work in the world this week?



# THE LEPER PROCLAIMED

CORE PASSAGE: MARK 1:35-45

## CONTEXT

Mark 1 quickly tells us a lot about Jesus's early ministry. Although some of the accounts are not as detailed, Mark's Gospel accurately aligns with the other Gospel accounts. Up to this point in Mark 1, Jesus had been teaching with authority, casting out demons, and miraculously healing the sick, which showed His authority over all things physical and spiritual. After this, Jesus continued His ministry by traveling throughout Galilee, preaching and healing as He went.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus's commitment to His mission originated in His compassion for others.**

As you examine Mark 1:35-45:

- Note that Jesus's purpose was to preach the good news.
- Recognize that Jesus's compassion on the leper led the man to spread the good news of Jesus.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority  
in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a  
Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus Appoints His Twelve  
Disciples (Mark 3:7-19)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
Jesus Heals a Leprous Man  
(Mark 1:35-45)

Jesus Teaches About and Heals  
on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Matthew 4:23-25
- Day 2:** Mark 1:35-38
- Day 3:** Mark 1:39-45
- Day 4:** Matthew 8:1-4
- Day 5:** Matthew 8:5-13
- Day 6:** Psalm 113



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 1:35-39

### JESUS'S COMMITMENT TO HIS MISSION IS SEEN IN HIS PRAYER LIFE AND HIS PURPOSE.

*Underline the phrase that points out Jesus's purpose in Galilee.*

**35** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. **36** Simon and his companions searched for him, **37** and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you." **38** And he said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come." **39** He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**THE GOSPEL:** The Bible teaches that the gospel is both an event and a story. First, it is an event that took place at a specific point in history, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the redemption of sinners (1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Second, the gospel is also the story of redemption that God has planned since "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4), which runs through Scripture, and which culminates in a restored and redeemed creation—a new heaven and new earth where sin, death, and suffering will never again plague humanity, and God's people will live with Him forever (Isaiah 25:8; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21). The event and story do not exist apart from or in conflict with one another, but together inspire us to a life of devotion and mission.

**Key Concept:** Jesus's commitment to His mission originated in His compassion for others.



In this section of verses, Jesus displayed a wonderful example of where to place our focus. Early in the morning, Jesus got up and went to a deserted place to pray. When your relationship with God is the center of your life, communion with Him is prioritized because He is the source of your joy. Jesus displayed an action of joyful devotion to His Father and a priority to communicate with Him. As believers, we too should commit ourselves to prayer, not just to “check a box” but because we have a God whom we love enough to prioritize communication with Him. Jesus taught us by example that ministry begins with our own hearts in an act of prioritizing prayer and a closeness to the Lord.

**Why do you think Scripture mentions Jesus praying so often?**

Jesus's purpose through His ministry was to preach the good news. He even told His disciples that the reason He came to earth was to proclaim the good news that salvation is available for sinners. Jesus, although He is currently not walking on earth today, still carries out this purpose through His people. We, as believers in Jesus Christ, have been indwelt and empowered with His Spirit to continue to preach the gospel to those who do not yet believe. That is why we still live on earth after we are justified by faith in Jesus. As we place our sole focus on God through prayer, He will equip us to be effective witnesses for Him.

**How can you follow the Holy Spirit's guidance as you tell others the good news of Jesus?**



#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

x ————— x

“Prayer plumes the wings of God's young eaglets, that they may learn to mount above the clouds. Prayer girds the loins of God's warriors, and sends them forth to combat with their sinews braced and their muscles firm.”<sup>1</sup>

—Charles Spurgeon (1834–1892)

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 1:40-45

### JESUS HEALS OUT OF COMPASSION, LEADING TO A DESIRE TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL.

*Circle the action words in the passage below. Underline Jesus's motivation for His actions.*

**40** Then a man with leprosy came to him and, on his knees, begged him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." **41** Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched him. "I am willing," he told him. "Be made clean." **42** Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. **43** Then he sternly warned him and sent him away at once, **44** telling him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." **45** Yet he went out and began to proclaim it widely and to spread the news, with the result that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. But he was out in deserted places, and they came to him from everywhere.

#### WORD STUDY

**LEPROSY:** A general term used to describe different skin diseases. Old Testament law gave the priests the responsibility of diagnosing leprosy. Lepers were required to stay outside the city to avoid spreading the disease. Once healed, the man needed to show himself to the priest as the law commanded to be returned to the community (Mark 1:44; cf. Leviticus 13-14).

**Key Concept:** Jesus's commitment to His mission originated in His compassion for others.



Jesus was approached by a man with leprosy who hoped Jesus would heal his disease. Leprosy was both physically contagious and ceremonially tainting, so the Jews would make the lepers announce their presence as they walked by so that no one would touch, bump, or brush against them. Yet this leper knelt before Jesus and begged Him for healing, for in faith he knew Jesus could make him clean if He were “willing.”

Jesus was moved with compassion, even reaching out and touching the leper, which was unheard of in those times because of fear of contagion. But Jesus did so and healed the man. With Jesus's command, the results were immediate—the man was made clean and whole. Jesus does the exact same thing with us. Out of compassion, He saves those who were once spiritually “unclean” and washes them with His blood, making them eternally clean and whole.

**What does Jesus's display of compassion tell us about His character?**

Jesus instructed the man to tell no one. Instead, he was to go present himself to the priest and do as the law required to show that God had healed him. But the man, in his excitement, went and

told anyone who would hear that Jesus had made his body whole. The joy that the gospel brings should cause us to do the same—and this with Jesus's explicit permission and command.

The news of Jesus spread so much that He could not go into the towns openly. Even as He went to deserted places, the crowds followed. Why? Because what Jesus offered was miraculous. Some came merely for the physical miracles. But others were searching for the peace and salvation that the good news of Jesus Christ brings. Through all of it, His compassionate grace remained steadfast.

**How does Jesus's compassion drive you to share His goodness with others?**

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus's mission was to preach the good news of salvation that would bring healing to a world in need. He accomplished this ultimately through His death and resurrection.

## GROUP EXPERIENCE

### UNEXPECTED COMPASSION

Read the passages below. Write down what the people who encountered Jesus may have expected, and then write down what He did instead.

	EXPECTATION	WHAT JESUS DID
<b>THE LEPER</b> (Mark 1:40-45)		
<b>THE CROWDS</b> (Matthew 9:35-38)		
<b>THE WOMAN</b> (Mark 5:25-34)		
<b>MARY</b> (John 11:28-44)		

How do Jesus's compassion as well as His power give us hope as we face difficulties in our lives?

What are some ways we can display compassion to those who are in need?

**Key Concept:** Jesus's commitment to His mission originated in His compassion for others.



## HEAD

How can you prioritize prayer this week to deepen your relationship with God?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 113 and acknowledge that the Lord is to be praised because He alone is God. Ask for strength to be a courageous and faithful witness of His goodness through lifting up others out of compassion like Jesus's.



## HEART

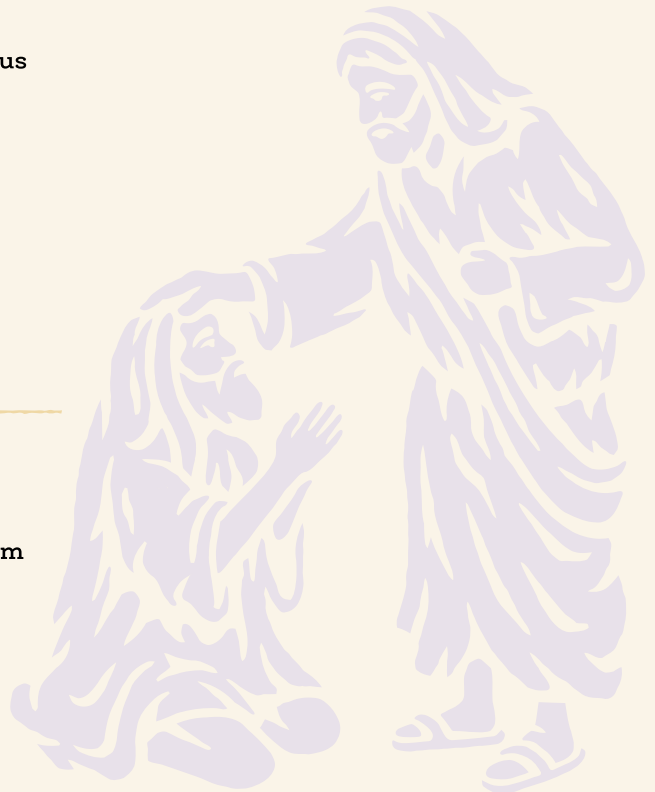
What are some ways you can reflect often on the grace Jesus has extended to you?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

Who do you know who needs to hear the gospel? How can you be a joyful witness to them this week?



THE GOSPEL PROJECT

# UNIT 23

# THE WAY OF JESUS



MATTHEW; MARK; LUKE



MEMORY VERSES

“But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies,  
do what is good to those who hate you, bless those  
who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

—Luke 6:27-28



# FAITH AND FORGIVENESS

CORE PASSAGE: MARK 2:1-12

## CONTEXT

In his account of the life of Jesus, Mark wasted no time getting to the action. Jesus came on the scene proclaiming that the kingdom of God had come near to God's people through Him, and it was time for people to respond. Jesus immediately began backing up His claim with power, performing miracles. In today's passage, Jesus revealed something deeper about who He is and what He came to do. Even greater than miraculous healings, Jesus came to do something about humanity's greatest problem—sin.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus has the power to forgive, especially when He sees committed faith.**

As you examine Mark 2:1-12:

- Note that because of the faith demonstrated, Jesus forgave the man who was paralyzed.
- Contemplate the significance of Jesus's declaration of forgiveness followed by His miraculous healing of the paralyzed man.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority  
in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man  
(Mark 1:35-45)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
Jesus Forgives and Heals a  
Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus Teaches About and Heals on  
the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6)

Jesus Appoints His Twelve  
Disciples (Mark 3:7-19)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Mark 2:1-12
- Day 2:** Mark 2:13-17
- Day 3:** Mark 2:18-22
- Day 4:** Matthew 9:1-8
- Day 5:** Matthew 9:9-17
- Day 6:** Psalm 121



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 2:1-5

### COMMITTED FAITH LEADS TO FORGIVENESS.

*As you read, underline details that demonstrated people's faith.*

**1** When he entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that he was at home. **2** So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them. **3** They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them. **4** Since they were not able to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying. **5** Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**GOD IS GRACIOUS:** God's nature is to delight in giving unmerited favor to those who are undeserving (Ephesians 2:8-9). His grace toward sinners is found most clearly in the salvation He has provided through Christ. Because of sin, humanity is undeserving of salvation—all of us have turned our backs on God, and as a result, we deserve death (Romans 6:23). Instead of leaving people in their sins, God demonstrated His graciousness by providing atonement and forgiveness for our sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21).

**Key Concept:** Jesus has the power to forgive, especially when He sees committed faith.



Today's passage gives an example of faith. A man who was paralyzed was trying to get to Jesus. He and his friends had perhaps heard about this Man who works miracles, and they hoped for one of their own. When the man who was paralyzed came face to face with the One who could heal him, Jesus was moved by "their faith," the faith of the friends and the man. This man and his friends believed in the reality of what they hoped for, and they pressed on to see proof of what they had not yet seen, as seen in the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1-2. Because of this faith, they were approved.

**If someone who knew nothing about Christianity asked you to define "faith," what would you say?**

So what is faith? Faith is confidence and trust, but it's a vehicle. It's the thing that connects us to the One who can save us. In faith, we acknowledge that we need saving and that Jesus is the One who does the saving. This is why faith and salvation go together in the Bible. Faith is not some magic trick. If the paralyzed man had come to someone other than Jesus, his faith wouldn't have mattered. What made the difference was to whom he directed his faith. Faith by itself cannot save us. Only Jesus can save us. Therefore,

when we put our faith in Christ, we find ourselves in the presence of the One who can heal our hurts and forgive our sins.

Jesus came to heal souls and forgive sins. Though He healed physical ailments, His main purpose was to bring salvation to the world, and salvation comes through forgiveness. Jesus always knows our deeper and greater need, even when we don't. That's why we need to trust and have faith in the One who is able to do it all. He has the power and authority to do so because He is God.

**What deeper need do you want Christ to satisfy in your life right now?**

#### WORD STUDY

**FAITH:** The Greek word for "faith" used in this passage comes from the same root as the verb translated "to believe." The word does not just mean head knowledge or intellectual ascent as we sometimes describe faith. Faith carries the nuance of absolute confidence that leads to obedience.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 2:6-12

### JESUS HAS THE POWER TO HEAL AND TO FORGIVE BECAUSE HE IS GOD.

*Underline the events in this passage that show Jesus's authority.*

**6** But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: **7** “Why does he speak like this? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” **8** Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? **9** Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat, and walk’? **10** But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he told the paralytic— **11** “I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home.” **12** Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus, as God, has the power to heal a person spiritually and physically. This is ultimately seen through His resurrection that gives us salvation and forgiveness of sin through our faith and trust in Him. One day our bodies also will be gloriously resurrected.

**Key Concept:** Jesus has the power to forgive, especially when He sees committed faith.

The Jews had heard of prophets and men of God who could work miracles before, but they had not seen a man who claimed the authority to forgive sin. They questioned in their hearts Jesus's authority and called Him blasphemous, knowing rightly that only God "can forgive sins" (v. 7). If they could only believe that Jesus is God, they wouldn't have called it blasphemy.

But to prove to the skeptics that He could both forgive sin and heal a paralytic, Jesus told the man to get up and go home. We also see Jesus's divinity in the fact that Jesus could perceive in His spirit what the scribes were thinking. All these things point to Jesus as God; His power and authority revealed it all. And the response? "They were all astounded and gave glory to God" (v. 12).

**What has Christ done recently that causes you to be astounded and give Him glory?**

The main point of this passage is not that a man who was paralyzed went away walking and forgiven. The point is that God healed and forgave this man, or more precisely, Jesus as God healed and forgave this man. This passage is a key moment in the story of the Bible because, ever since Genesis 3, we've been waiting for someone to arrive in the story who could actually do something about humanity's sin. Mark 2:1-12 declares Jesus to be that someone!

**What is better—to be healed of a physical ailment or a spiritual one—and why?**

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"When Jesus called Himself the Son of Man, He was not practicing humility. . . . That title was pregnant with theological significance concerning Jesus' deity and office. That was why Jesus used it here; He wanted to show His divine authority to forgive sin."<sup>1</sup>

—R. C. Sproul (1939–2017)



## JESUS'S POWER OVER ALL

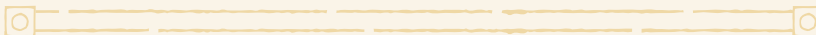
*Read the passages below. Write down what Jesus did to show His authority and how people responded.*

AUTHORITY OVER	JESUS'S ACTIONS	PEOPLE'S RESPONSE
<b>EVIL SPIRITS</b> (Mark 1:23-28)		
<b>SIN</b> (Mark 2:1-7)		
<b>PHYSICAL AILMENTS</b> (Mark 2:8-12)		
<b>RELIGION/TRADITION</b> (Mark 3:1-6)		
<b>NATURE</b> (Mark 4:35-41)		
<b>DEATH</b> (Mark 5:35-43)		

When is it difficult for you to receive the forgiveness Jesus has the authority to give you?

Even with having faith in God's forgiveness, when is it difficult for you to forgive others?

**Key Concept:** Jesus has the power to forgive, especially when He sees committed faith.



## HEAD

How does God's Word challenge your preferences and preconceptions?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 121. Identify situations in your life in which you are looking to the Lord for help right now. Thank God for the ways you have seen His protection in your life before, both physically and spiritually. Praise God for all the ways He is a helper and protector in all things.



## HEART

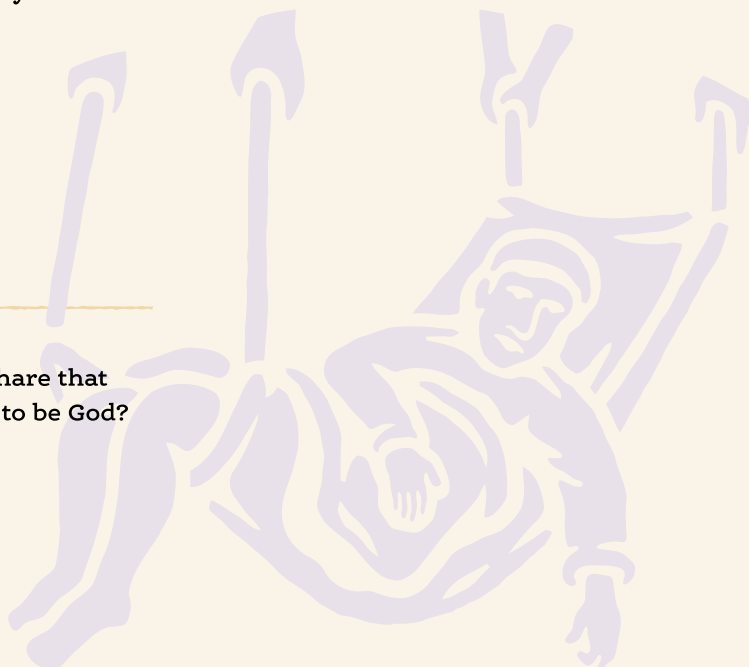
Where in your life do you need to believe that Jesus is able to deal with sin, whether yours or someone else's?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

With whom can you share that Jesus clearly claimed to be God?



# HEALING AND CALLING

CORE PASSAGE: MARK 3:7-19

## CONTEXT

Have you ever been in a huge crowd, feeling pressed in by people on every side? That's what Jesus experienced at many points in His public ministry. Everyone wanted in on the miracles, the healing, the blessing. Jesus felt compassion for the broken people seeking help. Yet Jesus had also come for something much bigger. In Mark 3, Jesus had begun His mission of salvation for all nations. To address the present problem of huge crowds and to look to the future after His resurrection, Jesus appointed twelve disciples and began preparing them for a lifetime of ministry.

## KEY CONCEPT

**When Jesus calls, His disciples obey to continue His mission.**

As you examine Mark 3:7-19:

- Reflect upon the fact that crowds came to see Jesus for healing, and Jesus showed compassion to them.
- Recognize that Jesus chose and equipped disciples to be with Him, to preach, and to reveal His power.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority  
in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a  
Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Appoints His  
Twelve Disciples (Mark 3:7-19)**

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man  
(Mark 1:35-45)

Jesus Teaches About and Heals on  
the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Mark 3:7-19
- Day 2:** Mark 3:20-30
- Day 3:** Mark 3:31-35
- Day 4:** Matthew 9:18-31
- Day 5:** Matthew 9:32-38
- Day 6:** Psalm 98



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 3:7-12

### JESUS'S MISSION OF HEALING DREW CROWDS.

*Circle each mention of the crowds and their size.*

**7** Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a large crowd followed from Galilee, and a large crowd followed from Judea, **8** Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon. The large crowd came to him because they heard about everything he was doing. **9** Then he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, so that the crowd wouldn't crush him. **10** Since he had healed many, all who had diseases were pressing toward him to touch him. **11** Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God!" **12** And he would strongly warn them not to make him known.

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus calls us to follow Him. We are His disciples when we follow, obey, and trust in Him as Lord and Savior, preaching the good news to others.

**Key Concept:** When Jesus calls, His disciples obey to continue His mission.



Large crowds followed Jesus, those from Galilee, Judea, and places beyond as well, represented in the mention of the other towns: “Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon” (v. 8). Jesus was attracting all people, not just the Jews. And why were they following Him? “Because they heard about everything he was doing.” They heard about the teaching, the healings, the casting out of demons, and the eating with sinners. Many followed Him because they wanted something from Him, with some believing His message and others maybe not so much. The crowds were so large that Jesus had to get on a boat so as not to be crushed. Everyone wanted to be near Jesus because everyone had a problem they wanted Him to fix. Every human lives in brokenness, and we’re all trying to find something that will satisfy our souls.

**What could people hear about what the Lord is doing in and through your life?**

People who needed healing from physical ailments came to Jesus, so too did those who needed healing from spiritual ailments or needed demons cast out of them. But demons, knowing who Jesus was, “fell down before him,” proclaiming His identity as the Son of God (v. 11). The unclean spirits feared Jesus because He is the One whom God promised since the beginning. When Adam and Eve were deceived by the serpent and humanity fell, God promised that One would come to crush the serpent (Genesis 3:15). He would save humanity by defeating the forces of evil and the power of sin. The demons recognized what the crowds did not—Jesus is the serpent-crusher—and they were terrified.

As Jesus gathered followers and worked miracles, His face was already set toward the cross. He already knew the suffering and the ultimate victory that lay ahead. The crowds, however, couldn’t have imagined the wonders God had in store to bring about His people’s salvation.

**How has Jesus shown Himself to be more than you thought He was at first in your own life?**



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 3:13-19

### JESUS APPOINTED HIS DISCIPLES TO FURTHER HIS MISSION.

*Underline each thing Jesus did that set the twelve disciples apart from His other followers.*

**13** Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they came to him.

**14** He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out

to preach, **15** and to have authority to drive out demons. **16** He appointed the Twelve: To

Simon, he gave the name Peter; **17** and to James the son of Zebedee, and to his brother

John, he gave the name “Boanerges” (that is, “Sons of Thunder”); **18** Andrew; Philip and

Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon

the Zealot, **19** and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**CALLING:** The calling of God to salvation happens in two ways: externally through the proclamation of the gospel and internally through the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the person who hears. Both of these callings are essential, and both work together to bring someone to faith in Christ (2 Timothy 1:8-10).

**Key Concept:** When Jesus calls, His disciples obey to continue His mission.



This passage is an important moment in the Bible. When Jesus called and set apart the twelve disciples, He laid the foundation for His church. These men, with the exception of one, would carry the good news of Jesus's death and resurrection and His offer of salvation to the ends of the earth.

What Jesus was doing is called discipleship. He invited these men into His life, taught them, and then equipped them to do the same works that He was doing. As Jesus invested in these men, He knew they would change the very course of human history. His followers would become known as "men who have turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).

**What can you do to start or continue to follow the call God has on your life?**

What began with the disciples continues in us today. We who have given ourselves to Christ have been commissioned and sent out to proclaim who Jesus is and what He has done. We have been given authority, and He has promised that nothing can hinder the church from doing the work of God!

**How does it make you feel to be called to participate in the same mission the twelve disciples were given?**

Jesus's calling and commission of the disciples revealed the heart of God: God wanted to involve His people in His mission. Jesus called disciples because He desired to give those whom He loved a role in the plan of salvation. That desire extended from those first twelve disciples to the church as a whole.

#### WORD STUDY

**APOSTLES:** The word used to describe the Twelve in the original Greek is *apostolos*, or "sent ones." This is an apt description of the role given to those twelve, as Jesus appointed them and immediately sent them out on short-term ministry missions. Later, after His resurrection, they would be sent to the ends of the earth.

## GROUP EXPERIENCE

### DESIRES AND CALLING

Read the passages below. Write down the motives of each group of people who came to Jesus, and write down Jesus's intentions for them.

	MOTIVES	JESUS'S INTENTIONS
<b>THE CROWDS</b> (Mark 3:7-12)		
<b>THE DISCIPLES</b> (Mark 3:13-19)		

How can we know when God is calling us to do something for His glory?

**Key Concept:** When Jesus calls, His disciples obey to continue His mission.



## HEAD

How does the calling and commissioning of the apostles challenge your idea of what it means to be a Christian?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 98 and thank God for the ways you have seen Him perform wonders and win the victory in your life. Praise God for specific ways He has revealed His righteousness to you. Proclaim to God reasons He has given you to shout for joy!



## HEART

How do you see God's love for you in His calling on your life?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

How can you participate in God's mission for an unbelieving friend, seeking an opportunity to share Christ with them?



# THE CHOSEN DISCIPLES

By Daniel Youngblood

Many historians, Christian and non-Christian, agree that the most influential event in all human history was the life of Jesus of Nazareth and the worldwide movement that He and His followers launched. Following the teachings of their Rabbi, the Twelve launched a global mission that would rewrite the course of history.

Who were these men who turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6)? They weren't that different from many of us. Many were workers from rural regions around Judea with limited education, power, or esteem. They weren't the most knowledgeable, the most spiritual, or the most religiously convicted of the Jews. They were just normal men. We know their names not because of who they were originally but because of who they became after they encountered Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

## SPECIALLY CHOSEN . . .

The disciples weren't chosen because they were special. They were special because they were chosen. This was unique to Jesus's disciples. When a young man wanted to train to be a rabbi, he would seek out the teacher he wanted to follow and hope to earn a place among that rabbi's students. Jesus, however, didn't follow the

culture's norms. He sought His students out, and He chose them. Out of the many disciples who followed Jesus, the Twelve were given the designation of "apostle," or "sent one" (Mark 3:13-14). They were specially set apart. It is important to see that the call to follow Jesus comes from Jesus Himself. He does not wait for potential disciples to come to Him. He seeks them out, and He makes the lost, the lowly, the average, and the unlikely into saints through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## BY SOMEONE SPECIAL . . .

Do you ever wonder who the Twelve believed Jesus was when they first accepted His call? They could see He was special, but who could have predicted where that call would lead? As Jesus revealed who He is and what He came to do, the Twelve slowly understood that they had been chosen by Someone even greater than they realized.

They heard Jesus claim authority to forgive sins, call Himself Lord of the Sabbath, teach that the kingdom of God had come, and call people to repent. They witnessed Jesus cleanse lepers, make lame men walk, and show His authority over death itself. They ran in fear at His arrest and crucifixion, yet they also saw Him resurrected and touched

the holes in His hands and side. They felt His breath on their faces as He told them to receive the Holy Spirit and go to all the nations to proclaim His name.

After all they saw and heard, the disciples came to believe this Rabbi was no simple teacher. They were chosen by the incarnate God of the universe. The eternal Word, God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, had set them apart to be the first ambassadors of His kingdom coming to earth.

No, there was nothing essentially special about those who were chosen, but there was something incredibly special about the One who did the choosing. The reality of Jesus's identity transformed their lives, and that transformation fueled them to go forth and transform the world itself. The same is true of all disciples of Jesus today. The God who loves us has chosen us, and through following Him, we are transformed into something greater than who we were.

## FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE

What does it mean to be chosen? It means God calls people for a purpose and tasks them with a mission. It has always been God's way to choose people made in His image as the means by which He accomplishes His will. God chooses a few out of the many so that through the few His blessings can be multiplied and spread to the many as well. He created Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, filling the earth with His image and ruling His world for His glory, but they sinned, and humanity fell from our first mission. He chose the family of Abraham, the twelve tribes of Israel, to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

No, there was nothing essentially special about those who were chosen, but there was something incredibly special about the One who did the choosing.

His promise was that through this chosen nation, He would bless all the nations of the earth. But Israel broke the covenant and failed in their mission as well.

Jesus Christ came as the fulfillment of Adam's mission and Israel's mission. He is the ultimate Chosen One of God, and as He came to save people from all nations, tribes, and tongues, He calls His followers to come join His mission. Jesus chose the Twelve and sent them out to share the good news of His salvation with all nations. He has chosen us and sent us out to preach the good news in the very same way.

Daniel Youngblood is a middle school Bible teacher at Christ Covenant School in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and a member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi. He and his wife, Isabella, married in August 2025. Daniel is pursuing a PhD at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and looks forward to a lifetime of teaching God's Word to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

# LORD OF THE SABBATH

CORE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 12:1-14

## CONTEXT

People didn't know what to do with Jesus. In Matthew 11, even John the Baptist struggled with doubts about Jesus. Jesus lamented an unresponsive generation, yet to those who did accept Him, Jesus gave one of the greatest promises in Scripture: "Come to me . . . and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). In Matthew 12, however, we see the religious leaders' misunderstanding of the heart of God. They mistook God's provision of the Sabbath to display God's goodness for the good itself.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Mercy and goodness outweigh ritual and law.**

As you examine Matthew 12:1-14:

- Note that the law is a means to an end, not the end itself.
- Recognize that Jesus heals and restores because He is merciful and good.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man  
(Matthew 8:1-4)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Teaches About and Heals  
on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-14)**

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man  
(Matthew 9:1-8)

Jesus Delivers His Sermon on the Plain  
(Luke 6:17-49)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Mark 2:23-3:6
- Day 2:** Matthew 12:1-21
- Day 3:** Matthew 12:22-50
- Day 4:** Matthew 13:1-23
- Day 5:** Matthew 13:24-58
- Day 6:** Psalm 59



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MATTHEW 12:1-8

### JESUS POINTS TO MERCY AS GREATER THAN SACRIFICE.

*Highlight each reference to the law or to another Old Testament passage.*

**1** At that time Jesus passed through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick and eat some heads of grain. **2** When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “See, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” **3** He said to them, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry: **4** how he entered the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence—which is not lawful for him or for those with him to eat, but only for the priests? **5** Or haven’t you read in the law that on Sabbath days the priests in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent? **6** I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. **7** If you had known what this means, I desire mercy and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent. **8** For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

God’s mercy allowed His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for humanity’s sin. We have always missed the mark of God’s holy standards of the law. But through Christ, we are rescued from the penalty of death because of His love and goodness.

In the busyness and non-stop action of traveling with and ministering with the Messiah, there came a time when Jesus's disciples were hungry on the Sabbath. So Jesus let them eat. Some Pharisees watching nearby, who already didn't like Jesus, seized the opportunity to "expose" His lawlessness for letting His disciples break the Sabbath. The Pharisees did exactly what many religious people today often do—they overlooked real people and their needs in favor of rigid human rules and regulations.

**What is a modern-day example of someone who cares more about the letter of the law than the genuine needs of people?**

The Pharisees were caught up on a technicality. Harvesting and threshing were prohibited on the Sabbath, but the disciples were only plucking enough to eat at the moment (cf. Deuteronomy 23:25). Rabbis had prohibited plucking and eating grain as one of the thirty-nine actions that they defined as work on the Sabbath.<sup>1</sup> Jesus, as the Messiah, could have responded to their strict interpretation by declaring His authority and let that be that. Instead, Jesus used their complaint to expose a problem in their hearts—they did not understand the goodness of God that lay underneath His law. They saw

regulations meant to restrict people where God gave loving guidelines intended to bless and give rest.

The laws, the rituals, and the sacrifices were never an end in themselves. God's people were never meant to look for salvation in religious rites. God's laws were meant to reveal God's character and draw the hearts of the people into loving communion with their Lord. Jesus clarified that God had never intended His people to strut around wielding Sabbath restrictions like a club to beat people when they stepped out of line. The rule was graciously given to motivate and encourage people toward the kind of life God created them to live: pleasant and joyful, with time for rest and worship.

**When have you or someone you know misunderstood or misapplied the heart behind one of God's commands?**

#### BIBLICAL CONCEPT

**LORD OF THE SABBATH:** To claim to be Lord of the Sabbath was to claim to be Lord of the law. The only Lord of the law is the One who gave it—God Himself. In this passage, Jesus did not just tweak cultural norms; He claimed divine authority.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MATTHEW 12:9-14

### LOVING CARE TOWARD OTHERS FULFILLS THE LAW OF GOD.

*Underline words in the passage connected to law. Circle words in the passage connected to love.*

**9** Moving on from there, he entered their synagogue. **10** There he saw a man who had a shriveled hand, and in order to accuse him they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” **11** He replied to them, “Who among you, if he had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath, wouldn’t take hold of it and lift it out? **12** A person is worth far more than a sheep; so it is lawful to do what is good on the Sabbath.” **13** Then he told the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out, and it was restored, as good as the other. **14** But the Pharisees went out and plotted against him, how they might kill him.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**GOD IS MERCIFUL:** Mercy refers to God’s compassion and is often expressed in God’s withholding something, such as punishment for sin (Ephesians 2:4-5; Titus 3:5). Both mercy and grace are undeserved, meaning humanity can do nothing to earn God’s mercy and grace. If one could, then it would no longer be the free gift of mercy or grace.

**Key Concept:** Mercy and goodness outweigh ritual and law.

Jesus already exposed the fault in the Pharisees' hearts and asserted His authority as Lord of the Sabbath. He already declared that the heart of God prefers mercy over sacrifice and real love over rigid religiosity. But Jesus did not just talk the talk. With lurking Pharisees, who were already fuming with anger, Jesus marched into the synagogue on the Sabbath and acted out the principle He had just taught for the benefit of a man who suffered and needed healing.

The Pharisees questioned Jesus and were hoping for another reason to condemn Him. Previously, they accused Jesus's disciples breaking Sabbath laws. This time they watched to see if Jesus would dare to heal someone on the Sabbath. In one action, Jesus brought together His miraculous healing ministry and His prophetic condemnation of the religious leaders' hard hearts. The man's shriveled hand was made whole, and the Pharisees were madder than ever.

**What norms of ours might Jesus upset if He walked into one of our church services?**

In this passage, you can almost feel the anger and disappointment of Jesus as He marveled at the spiritual numbness of the religious leaders. Jesus declared that they valued sheep more than they valued men made in the image of God. Jesus understood that the Sabbath was made for the good of man and the glory of God. He declared that doing good to a man in need is the thing that most glorifies God. And this was not just "kind of good"; Jesus said that His actions were lawful. He kept the law, the true heart of the law, by healing the man, and the Pharisees broke the law by caring more about their traditions than image-bearers. Jesus's actions echoed His teaching that all the Law and the Prophets hang on the greatest commandments: love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40).

**How is God glorified when His people do good to those around them?**



**GROUP EXPERIENCE**



**THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT**

*Read the passages below. Write down the law's instructions in "The Letter" column.  
Write down the heart behind God's law in "The Spirit" column.*

THE LETTER	THE SPIRIT
<b>EXODUS 20:8-11</b>	
<b>EXODUS 20:12</b>	
<b>EXODUS 23:1-2</b>	

Why do you suppose Jesus debated with the religious leaders before He healed the man on the Sabbath?

Why are motives and the heart so important to Jesus?



**Key Concept:** Mercy and goodness outweigh ritual and law.



## HEAD

Where might your thinking on God's commands need to move away from rigid religiosity toward life-giving love?

## PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 59. Sometimes people attack or question us when we respond in love to those whom others may think are unlovable. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain faithful to the spirit of God's law of love while staying true to Scripture.



## HEART

What is one situation in your life right now in which you need to ask God for greater love toward others?

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

What is one way you can actively display the loving heart of God through your actions this week?



# LORD OF LOVE

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 6:20-23,27-36

## CONTEXT

Jesus did amazing things. He healed the sick, made lame men walk, cleansed lepers, and cast out demons. He called ordinary, untrained, unlikely men to be His closest followers and told them He would use them to change the world. He confronted the religious leaders of the day, exposing their hypocrisy. When Jesus taught, He revealed things about the meaning of life, the hearts of men, and the nature of God that have echoed through history. Luke 6 contains the Beatitudes, some of Jesus's most wonderful, influential, and challenging teachings.

## KEY CONCEPT

**The way of Jesus is humble, sacrificial love that is countercultural.**

As you examine Luke 6:20-23,27-36:

- Meditate on Jesus's message that those who are persecuted are blessed.
- Recognize that Jesus calls us to love sacrificially, even to love our enemies.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man  
(Luke 5:12-16)

Jesus Teaches About and Heals  
on the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-11)

John the Baptist Seeks  
Confirmation That Jesus Is the  
Messiah (Luke 7:18-35)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a  
Paralyzed Man (Luke 5:17-26)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Delivers His  
Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)**

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Luke 6:1-16
- Day 2:** Luke 6:17-49
- Day 3:** Matthew 5:1-48
- Day 4:** Matthew 6:1-34
- Day 5:** Matthew 7:1-29
- Day 6:** Psalm 147



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 6:20-23

### THE HUMBLE AND MEEK REJOICE IN THEIR HEAVENLY INHERITANCE.

*Underline the attributes of blessed people, and circle the rewards of blessed people.*

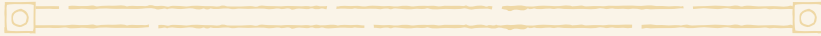
**20** Then looking up at his disciples, he said: Blessed are you who are poor, because the kingdom of God is yours. **21** Blessed are you who are hungry now, because you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh. **22** Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man. **23** Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. Take note—your reward is great in heaven, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the prophets.

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“While the world imagines progress, strength, and a grand future, the disciples know about the end, judgment, and the arrival of the kingdom of heaven, for which the world is not at all ready . . . That is why the disciples are rejected as strangers in the world, bothersome guests, disturbers of the peace.”<sup>1</sup>

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945)

**Key Concept:** The way of Jesus is humble, sacrificial love that is countercultural.



Jesus's words in this passage likely are familiar to many. They are called "the Beatitudes," and they appear here in Luke and in Jesus's famous Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7. Many who study the Bible think these teachings were not something Jesus said once or twice but a compilation of challenging teachings that Jesus proclaimed many times. These words are at the center of the paradoxical message that Jesus shared with His disciples: In the kingdom of God, the things the world values do not matter and the things that seem like foolishness to the world bring about the blessed life.

**How are Jesus's teachings about what it means to be blessed different from what the world says?**

Jesus encouraged His disciples by saying that in the midst of hardship and persecution, they are still blessed: 1) because the kingdom of God is theirs, and 2) because their reward is great in heaven (Luke 6:20,23). Those who follow Jesus live in the hope of eternal life in His kingdom and endless blessing in the presence of God. That is the promise that Jesus came to make a reality. Once you understand and put your faith in that promise, navigating the difficulties of this life becomes possible.

Christians can walk through life without stress about possessions, sustenance, or survival because our eternity is already secure. We can weather trials of persecution in Jesus's name, knowing that unending joy is on the horizon. We can endure living as outcasts and being the world's laughingstock because we know our Father is pleased with us and will vindicate us in the end. We are called and commanded to "rejoice" because we know how the story ends (v. 23).

**Which blessing in this passage brings you the most comfort or joy?**

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus ushered in a countercultural, upside-down kingdom that put love as the highest value. This love is shown ultimately in how He died for us that those who trust in Him might have life and not perish.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 6:27-36

### LOVING OTHERS, INCLUDING ENEMIES, IS THE WAY OF JESUS.

*Highlight each imperative (command) in the passage.*

**27** “But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **29** If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also. And if anyone takes away your coat, don’t hold back your shirt either. **30** Give to everyone who asks you, and from someone who takes your things, don’t ask for them back. **31** Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them. **32** If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. **33** If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full. **35** But love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For he is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**GOD IS LOVE:** To say that God is love is to say that God is the essence of love, or that perfect love both resides and resonates within God Himself—one God in three Persons. The imperfect love that human beings share between one another is a dim reflection, a sign that points to the perfect love that resides within God. The greatest act of love by God toward humans isn’t the giving of earthly goods but the giving of Himself in Christ so that we might become reconciled to Him.

**Key Concept:** The way of Jesus is humble, sacrificial love that is countercultural.

If you thought the passage before this was challenging, there's much more where that came from. Everyone loves the idea of love, but few people are ready to commit to the radical definition of love that Jesus taught. Jesus escalated His countercultural call when He taught His people how they are to show love. Everyone loves the people who love them, but the way of Jesus calls people to go further—Jesus called His disciples to love their enemies. They were to respond to hate with goodness. When struck, they were not to retaliate. When robbed, they were to give even more. They were to treat even the lowest of the low with the same dignity they wanted to experience. They were to give radically with no regard for gain or return. In short, they were to stand out for their radical love in a world that loves sparingly and conditionally.

**When have you seen a Christian stand out because of his or her radical love?**

How are Christians to live with such radical love, even for their enemies? The answer is rooted in our previous passage: because we know our reward in heaven is already secure (v. 23). Christians need not avenge themselves nor live with a survival mentality because Christ has already conquered every enemy, all evil,

and even death itself! There is nothing that an enemy can do to Christians that can threaten them in any meaningful way. Therefore, we are free to love even our enemies, praying that one day even they become our brothers and sisters in Christ by faith. Why are Christians to love this way? It proves that we are children of the Most High. This is the way our Father loves, and when we love like Him, it brings Him glory.

**Whom in your life do you find hard to love? How might Christ be calling you to radical love in that situation?**

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“We who hated and destroyed one another, . . . now, since the coming of Christ, live familiarly with them, and pray for our enemies and endeavour to persuade those who hate us unjustly . . . that they may become partakers with us of the same joyful hope of a reward from God the ruler of all.”<sup>2</sup>

—Justin Martyr (c. 100–165)

## HUMBLE LIVING AND LOVING OTHERS

Read Luke 6:20-23,27-36. Write down how the first set of verses can be connected to the second set.  
Then write down the blessings mentioned.

	HOW IT'S RELATED TO LOVING OTHERS	BLESSINGS
<b>POOR</b>		
<b>HUNGRY</b>		
<b>WEEPING</b>		
<b>INSULTED</b>		

How can the church be a place of sacrificial love for those in its community?

Where in your life do you need to show more love to your “enemies” or those who have offended you?

**Key Concept:** The way of Jesus is humble, sacrificial love that is countercultural.



## HEAD

What is a worldly standard or definition of love that you are tempted to believe?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 147 and thank God for the things about Him you find “pleasant and lovely” (v. 1). Praise God knowing He restores His people, providing for them as we put our “hope in his faithful love” (v. 11).

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HEART

What spiritual disciplines could you focus on to grow your awareness of Christ’s love for you?



## HANDS

What is one specific step toward radical love that you can take this week?



THE GOSPEL PROJECT

# UNIT 24

# THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS



MATTHEW; LUKE



MEMORY VERSES

“What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

—Luke 11:11-13



# HE IS THE MESSIAH

CORE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 11:2-10,16-19

## CONTEXT

John the Baptist was raised up by God as the prophet promised to precede the coming of the Messiah. He was to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord by calling them to repentance and baptizing them as they confessed their sins. He fulfilled this mission as he pointed to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. But as John's ministry decreased, he was arrested and imprisoned for speaking out against Herod's unlawful marriage. This led to some questions about Jesus's increasing ministry: Was Jesus indeed the Messiah? So John reached out from prison for an answer.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus's actions and the fruit of His actions prove that He is the Messiah.**

As you examine Matthew 11:2-10,16-19:

- Identify the evidence that proves Jesus is the promised Messiah.
- Analyze the foolish standards by which people reject Jesus as the Messiah.



## TIMELINE

John the Baptist Calls People to Repentance in Preparation for Jesus and Baptizes Jesus (Matthew 3:1-17)

John Is Arrested for Confronting King Herod (Matthew 4:12)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
John the Baptist Seeks Confirmation That Jesus Is the Messiah (Matthew 11:1-19)

John Scales Back His Ministry (John 3:22-36)

Jesus Delivers His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:29)

John Is Beheaded by King Herod (Matthew 14:1-12)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Matthew 10:1-15
- Day 2:** Matthew 10:16-42
- Day 3:** Matthew 11:1-15
- Day 4:** Matthew 11:16-24
- Day 5:** Matthew 11:25-30
- Day 6:** Psalm 149



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MATTHEW 11:2-10

### JESUS POINTED TO HIS ACTIONS AS EVIDENCE OF HIS MESSIAHSHIP.

*Circle the actions of Jesus that validated His messiahship.*

**2** Now when John heard in prison what the Christ was doing, he sent a message through his disciples **3** and asked him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” **4** Jesus replied to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: **5** The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, **6** and blessed is the one who isn’t offended by me.” **7** As these men were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind? **8** What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? See, those who wear soft clothes are in royal palaces. **9** What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **10** This is the one about whom it is written: See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.”

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**SPECIAL REVELATION:** Special revelation refers to God’s revealing Himself to humanity through historical events, His Word, and through Jesus Christ. Through special revelation, human beings learn about God’s character, His will, His purpose for creation, and His plan of redemption. Special revelation shows us the nature and character of God, and because God has revealed Himself in this way, we can know Him—through a saving relationship with Him in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

**Key Concept:** Jesus's actions and the fruit of His actions prove that He is the Messiah.



When John the Baptist was first introduced, he was described as a bold, eccentric, humble man who boldly proclaimed that Jesus is the Messiah. Now John was in prison, and he questioned whether Jesus really was the One who was promised. It is possible that John was discouraged—he was in prison for confronting King Herod about his illicit marriage to his brother's wife (Luke 3:19-20). Perhaps John's unjust persecution was the cause of this doubt, but regardless of the motivation, John was not as sure about Jesus as he was at first.

Jesus's response was not a simple affirmation but a description of the evidence that would affirm to John that Jesus is the Christ. All the miracles that Jesus performed up to that point should have made it abundantly clear to John and to anyone else that Jesus is God the Son. The voice of God, who spoke after Jesus's baptism, spoke the undeniable truth—Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah, and God is well-pleased with Him (Matthew 3:17).

**What evidence from your life proves that Jesus is who He says He is?**

Jesus not only pointed to the miracles that gave evidence that He is the Messiah, but He also pointed back to John as evidence of fulfilled prophecy. Jesus did not defend Himself but instead defended John the Baptist and affirmed his role in the coming of the Christ. Jesus referenced Malachi 3:1, a clear prophecy of the forerunner for the Christ, and He identified John as this forerunner.

Jesus declared that John the Baptist was not just a prophet of something that would happen later, but he was the one who announced that the promises of God were being fulfilled at that time in Jesus. John's doubt did not discredit his ministry. John was human, and as such, he needed Jesus's help clarifying the truth. Jesus affirmed John's ministry and affirmed His own messiahship.

**Why are the Old Testament prophecies important for understanding the New Testament?**

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MATTHEW 11:16-19

### REJECTING JESUS IS FOOLISH AS THE FRUIT OF HIS WORK IS EVIDENT.

*Contrast the ways the people viewed John the Baptist and Jesus: underline what they said about John, and circle what they said about Jesus.*

**16** "To what should I compare this generation? It's like children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to other children: **17** We played the flute for you, but you didn't dance; we sang a lament, but you didn't mourn! **18** For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' **19** The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Though the evidence of Jesus and His works is historically accurate, many will reject Him as Lord and Savior (Matthew 7:13). Still, we have a mission to share the gospel with others to give people the opportunity to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**Key Concept:** Jesus's actions and the fruit of His actions prove that He is the Messiah.



In this section, Jesus condemned the people for being stubborn and refusing to listen to God's message. He compared them to children complaining that games were not going their way in verses 16-17.

Jesus then drew a comparison between Himself and John. He remarked that John was not an indulgent man, that he did not eat or drink. John often fasted and practiced strict dietary habits (9:14). The people criticized John for being too strict and harsh, saying he was possessed by a demon. Jesus, on the other hand, came eating and drinking—He did not fast like John did, and He ate meals with sinners (9:10-15). Because of this, Jesus was accused of being a drunkard and a glutton! For both John and Jesus, the people complained about their lifestyles, more concerned with critiquing their eating habits than with listening to their message, witnessing their miracles, or following their lead.

**How might your complaints be keeping you from obeying Jesus?**

Because the people were so caught up in this attitude of criticism, they rejected both John and Jesus. So Jesus exposed how fickle their hearts were. Regardless of how the Messiah was revealed to them, whether through John's proclamations or Jesus's teachings and miracles, the people rejected the truth.

**How can we confront our own fickle, unbelieving generation with the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ?**

In conclusion, Jesus declared what the people needed to hear, making a statement about wisdom. The people in the crowd would have remembered the numerous references in the book of Proverbs to wisdom calling in the streets. Proverbs often personified wisdom as a woman speaking to her children and pleading with them to listen to her. Here Jesus called the people to listen to what He was saying and to understand who He is. Since Jesus is "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24), when He stated that "wisdom is vindicated by her deeds" (Matthew 11:19), He meant that His and John's ministry would be vindicated by their actions.

## ARE YOU THE ONE?

*Read the passages below and prepare a response for John's disciples to bring back to him.*

**CASE STUDY:** Imagine you are one of John the Baptist's disciples. You've been sent to Jesus with John's question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" You've just heard Jesus point to His works as proof of His identity. Now you must process what you have heard.

**MATTHEW 11:5-6**

**ISAIAH 35:5-6**

**ISAIAH 61:1-2**

**WHAT WOULD YOU TELL JOHN THE BAPTIST IN PRISON?**

Why do you think Jesus chose to let His works speak for Him instead of giving a direct yes?

How does Jesus's evidence comfort us when we face doubts about who Jesus is?

**Key Concept:** Jesus's actions and the fruit of His actions prove that He is the Messiah.



## HEAD

How does the truth of Jesus in Scripture address your doubts and questions in life?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 149. Praise God for the salvation and justice He provides for His people. Reflect on the many ways God has provided for you and given you joy (vv. 1-5). Ask God to strengthen you to exalt Jesus and to proclaim His gospel in the world without doubts or fears (vv. 6-9).



## HEART

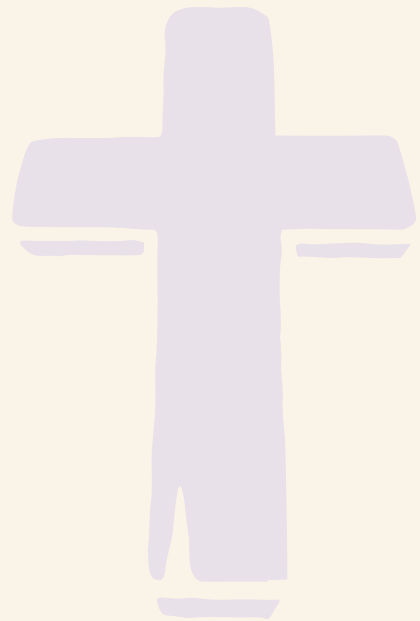
What struggles are you facing that call for you to turn to Jesus as He is revealed in Scripture?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

What actions will you do this week to help others see the wisdom of God in Jesus and His gospel?



# HE RESURRECTS LIFE

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 7:11-17

## CONTEXT

Luke recorded his account of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount in Luke 6. After Jesus concluded His teaching, He entered Capernaum and encountered a Gentile centurion who came to Jesus to plead for the healing and life of his servant. This healing Jesus performed from a distance, praising the centurion's faith. He then traveled to a village called Nain, where He encountered a funeral procession. Jesus's compassion for the widowed mother of the deceased young man led Him to perform a miracle on her behalf.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus gives new life because He is compassionate and good.**

As you examine Luke 7:11-17:

- Take comfort in the fact that Jesus has power even over death.
- Contemplate how Jesus's power to renew life, both spiritually and physically, fits into the good news that we are to share with the world.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man  
(Luke 5:12-16)

Jesus Teaches About and Heals  
on the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-11)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
Jesus Raises a Widow's Son  
from the Dead (Luke 7:11-17)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed  
Man (Luke 5:17-26)

Jesus Delivers His Sermon  
on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)

John the Baptist Seeks  
Confirmation That Jesus Is  
the Messiah (Luke 7:18-35)

### Daily Readings

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 1:</b> Luke 7:1-10  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 4:</b> Luke 7:24-28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 2:</b> Luke 7:11-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 5:</b> Luke 7:29-30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 3:</b> Luke 7:18-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 6:</b> Psalm 88     |



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 7:11-13

### JESUS HAS COMPASSION ON US AND WANTS TO GIVE US NEW LIFE.

*Underline the circumstances surrounding the mother and son in this passage.*

**11** Afterward he was on his way to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd were traveling with him. **12** Just as he neared the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the town was also with her. **13** When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said, "Don't weep."



#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"Our Lord Jesus Christ never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His heart is still as compassionate as when he was on earth. His sympathy with sufferers is still as strong. Let us bear this in mind, and take comfort from it."<sup>1</sup>

–J. C. Ryle (1816–1900)

**Key Concept:** Jesus gives new life because He is compassionate and good.



When Jesus entered Nain, he entered a serious and sorrowful scene—a funeral procession for a widow’s only son. Since this woman was a widow, aside from her grief at losing her child, her only son’s death meant that all provision and protection died with him.

Jesus’s compassion for the bereaved mother was not simply pity for her circumstances. His emotions were not performative. His compassion was not just a feeling to be experienced but one that led to action. Jesus’s example here is clear. He did not just feel sad for the woman, but His empathy produced an action that showed care and provision for the woman.

**How should knowing that Jesus is compassionate toward our pain change the way we approach our struggles?**

Interrupting the funeral procession, Jesus gave the widow a strange command: “Don’t weep” (v. 13). He was not chastising this mother for her mourning or for feeling sorrow about her loss. This command wasn’t a condemnation of her tears but a comment on the reality the woman was about to experience. “Don’t weep” was a promise of the work Jesus was about to do.

Soon the mother’s tears would no longer be necessary because Jesus would perform a miracle. Jesus has power over life and death, so He had the authority to do something about this grieving mother’s circumstance. The widow couldn’t see all that Jesus was about to do, but that couldn’t stop Jesus. His gentle command was a request for faith from the widow, to trust that when He told her not to weep, it was not a request without a promise.

**How might you need to reevaluate the circumstances in your life that lead you to mourning and weeping?**

Jesus’s request with His promise to this mother foreshadows the promise Jesus made about His own resurrection. Death would not have the final word over this woman’s son, nor would it have the final word over Jesus’s sacrifice on our behalf.

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION



Jesus can bring new life in our own lives. As we trust in Him and submit to Him, we are given new life in Jesus, and He will give us resurrected bodies at His return as well.

## JESUS HAS THE POWER TO RESURRECT LIFE, AND MANY NEED TO KNOW IT.

*Underline all the action words related to Jesus's miracle in this passage.*

**14** Then he came up and touched the open coffin, and the pallbearers stopped. And he said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!" **15** The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. **16** Then fear came over everyone, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited his people." **17** This report about him went throughout Judea and all the vicinity.

### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**RESURRECTION:** Both the Old and New Testaments teach that one day believers will experience a resurrection of the body from the dead (Isaiah 26:19; Ezekiel 37:12-14; John 11). The promise of the resurrection is found in the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and it will take place at the future return of Christ. Because Christ was the firstfruits of the resurrection, Christians can be assured that their resurrection will be similar in nature, meaning it will be both bodily and glorious (Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8:22-23). The hope of the future resurrection gives Christians confidence that death has been defeated in the death and resurrection of Christ.

**Key Concept:** Jesus gives new life because He is compassionate and good.



After Jesus told the widow not to weep, He demonstrated exactly why He said this to her. The first thing Jesus did was something entirely unexpected. He touched the open coffin where the dead man was, which according to Old Testament law would make Him unclean. But as God the Son, Jesus's compassion and holiness were greater than His concern for ritual uncleanness, as we see when He touched a leper (Mark 1:40-42), was touched by a woman with a bleeding problem (Mark 5:27-34), and touched the widow's son's coffin (Luke 7:14). Further, Jesus could not be made unclean by death or sickness because, as God the Son, He has power over both.

**Why do you think Jesus was willing to touch the open coffin?**

While touching the coffin and standing in close proximity to the corpse, Jesus commanded the dead man to get up, and the man did so and began to speak. With words, Jesus told a grieving mother not to weep, and again with words, He raised her dead son to life, giving her the family and security she needed.

While touching the coffin and standing in close proximity to the corpse, Jesus commanded the dead man to get up, and the man did so and began to speak. With words, Jesus told a grieving mother not to weep, and again with words, He raised her dead son to life, giving her the family and security she needed.

The crowd likened this miracle to the work of a prophet. No doubt the people saw the parallels with the story in 1 Kings 17:17-24 where the prophet Elijah raised the widow's child from the dead. Yet the reality of this situation was greater. God had raised the dead and God had "visited his people" (Luke 7:16) because God was present among them in the flesh!

Regardless of the people's understanding about Jesus's identity, their response to His miracle was correct. This was the work of God, so they worshiped, and they saw in Jesus the power of God, so they told others about Him. This miracle did not just remain as a conversation within the crowd, a local legend; rather, this news about Him was shared and spread across the entire region.

**When have you experienced Jesus's compassion and power, and how did you share the experience with others?**

## GROUP EXPERIENCE

### BEFORE AND AFTER

*Read Luke 7:11-17. Write down what the widow experienced before and after her encounter with Jesus. Then record your own before and after.*

BEFORE	AFTER
WIDOW	
YOURSELF	

How does remembering your own “before” and “after” story encourage you to trust in Jesus’s compassion and to share His life with others?

**Key Concept:** Jesus gives new life because He is compassionate and good.



## HEAD

How might you have a limited or incomplete understanding of who Jesus is in your life?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE



As you pray through Psalm 88, bring your own pain to God along with the psalmist. Acknowledge where you may feel hopeless, be honest with God about your questions, and allow yourself to lament your circumstances in faith.



## HEART

What thoughts and emotions arise when you contemplate the truth that Jesus has compassion toward you in your suffering?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

How can you show someone in need that compassion spurs action instead of just empathetic feelings?



# THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

By Daniel Stevens

“Can God make a rock so heavy that He cannot lift it?” Often discussions of God’s omnipotence quickly devolve into philosophical speculations like these, but the truth that God is all-powerful as laid out in Scripture ought to be received as spectacularly good news. (Incidentally, no, God cannot do that because the question involves a contradiction. It is like asking, “Can God know so much that He does not know something?” or “Can God be so much in a place that He is not there?”)

God’s omnipotence means that He is all-powerful, that He can accomplish anything He wills to do, and that nothing can stop Him from doing His will. This has historically been part of the definition of what it means for God to be God and is usually grouped with other “omnis” when talking about the divine nature: (1) omniscient—God is all-knowing, (2) omnipresent—God is present in all places and not physically limited, and (3) omnibenevolent—God is perfectly and limitlessly good.

## GOD’S POWER FOR HIS GLORY

The Bible begins with a grand display of God’s omnipotence. He speaks, and all the universe bursts into being (Genesis 1). This act of creation and the ongoing sustaining of the created world speaks of God’s limitless and eternal power (Romans 1:20; Hebrews 1:3). God is so powerful that we do not have words to sufficiently describe His strength. All the forces of the physical world are both made and upheld by Him, and what we can describe are only the fringes of His power (Job 26:13-14).

God’s power is not mere mechanical action but the full execution of His will: “The LORD does whatever he pleases in heaven and on earth” (Psalm 135:6; cf. 115:3). The movement of weather (135:7), the judgment of the wicked (vv. 8-11), and the reward of His people (v. 12) are all accomplished by His power. As the newly repentant King Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed: “There is no one who can block his hand or say to him, ‘What have you done?’” (Daniel 4:35). No force can stand in the way of God doing His will. He is all-powerful and will accomplish what He sets out to do for His glory and the worship of His name.

## GOD'S POWER FOR OUR GOOD

In Scripture, however, God's great power is not shown chiefly in creating and sustaining the world but rather in the salvation of His people. Isaiah stated, "The LORD's arm is not too weak to save" (Isaiah 59:1). The language of the "arm" or "hand" of the Lord is frequently used in the Old Testament to point both to the limitless strength of God and the way He reveals His power to save His people and judge their enemies. After God led the children of Israel through the Red Sea and destroyed the Egyptian host, Moses sang:

LORD, who is like you among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders? You stretched out your right hand, and the earth swallowed them. (Exodus 15:11-12)

When looking forward to the great deliverance that Jesus would bring, the prophet Isaiah asked, "To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" (Isaiah 53:1).

In the New Testament, God's power to save remains a dominant theme where we find the power of God revealed in the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus to save His people. The power that raised Christ and exalted Him over "every ruler and authority, power and dominion" (Ephesians 1:21) is the same power that works in and for us who believe (1:20). Since nothing can stay God's hand:

neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Because God's love and power are inseparable, all the unlimited power of God works for the good of His people.

## JESUS AND THE POWER OF GOD

While the primary display of God's power in Jesus is the salvation worked through His death, resurrection, and ascension, we see the power of God on display in Jesus's earthly ministry as well. As perfect man, we find Jesus perfectly relying on the Spirit and performing wonders through the Spirit's anointing (Luke 4:18-19). But we also see Jesus directly exercising power that only God has because He is God the Son. Jesus has the authority to forgive sins, which belongs to God alone (Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21). He speaks, and the created world obeys (Matthew 8:27; Mark 4:41). He speaks, and death gives way to life (Mark 5:41-42). We should see in Jesus an echo of the power that spoke light out of darkness to create the world and the power that speaks life into the spiritually dead when we are saved (2 Corinthians 4:6).

---

Daniel Stevens is Associate Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Boyce College, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a member of Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. He and his wife, Hannah, have three children.

# HE FORGIVES SIN

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 7:37-39,41-50

## CONTEXT

Before Jesus entered the Pharisee's home for a meal, He had several interactions with people who showed faith, such as the centurion, and those who did not. He then raised a widow's son from death, and many recognized Jesus as a prophet, but they did not have the spiritual insight to see Him as God. After calling out the faithless generation (Luke 7:31-15), Jesus taught about forgiveness and love at a Pharisee's home.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus forgives sinners who come to Him in adoring faith.**

As you examine Luke 7:37-39,41-50:

- Point out that the woman abandoned all propriety to show Jesus love and reverence.
- Reflect upon the fact that when we are graciously forgiven, we love more.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Teaches About and Heals on the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-11)

Jesus Teaches About Worry (Luke 12:12-34)

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son  
from the Dead (Luke 7:11-17)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Forgives  
a Sinful Woman (Luke 7:36-50)**

Jesus Delivers His Sermon  
on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)

John the Baptist Seeks Confirmation  
That Jesus Is the Messiah (Luke 7:18-35)

Jesus Teaches About Prayer  
(Luke 11:1-13)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Luke 7:31-35
- Day 2:** Luke 7:36-39
- Day 3:** Luke 7:40-43
- Day 4:** Luke 7:44-48
- Day 5:** Luke 7:47-50
- Day 6:** Psalm 3



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 7:37-39

### WE SHOW FAITH BY ABANDONING ALL FOR CHRIST.

*Circle the action words detailing what the woman did for Jesus, and underline the response of the Pharisee.*

**37** And a woman in the town who was a sinner found out that Jesus was reclining at the table in the Pharisee’s house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume **38** and stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to wash his feet with her tears. She wiped his feet with her hair, kissing them and anointing them with the perfume. **39** When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “This man, if he were a prophet, would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—she’s a sinner!”

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**STEWARDSHIP:** God’s intention for mankind is that we serve Him as faithful stewards of His creation (Genesis 1:28; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2). We are to invest the time, talents, and material possessions God has given us for His kingdom work (Matthew 25:14-29), knowing that God is the true owner of all we have and that our true treasure is found not on earth but in heaven (Matthew 6:19,21; Luke 12:16-21). Motivated by God’s generosity to us made most clear in the gospel, we are to give God the best of what we have (Proverbs 3:9), regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2), sacrificially (Matthew 12:41-44), humbly (Matthew 6:1-4), and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6-7), praying that God may be glorified in our stewardship of His provisions.

**Key Concept:** Jesus forgives sinners who come to Him in adoring faith.

The Pharisee and the woman are contrasting figures in this story, and their actions and heart posture should be compared throughout this passage. First, the two are contrasted by the reason for their presence at this meal. The Pharisee was the host who extended the invitation to Jesus as his guest. The woman arrived as an uninvited and unwelcome intruder to the Pharisee.

One similarity between the Pharisee and the woman was that they both wanted to spend time with Jesus, though for different reasons. Recall that not long before this event, crowds who witnessed Jesus raise the widow's dead son to life declared across the land that He was a prophet. The woman most likely heard this declaration, so she arrived with a humble heart to anoint Jesus with her tears and expensive perfume. A prophet might be able to offer her the forgiveness she desired.

**What might the woman's actions have revealed about her understanding of who Jesus is?**

The woman humbled herself without even speaking a word to Jesus. In contrast, the Pharisee's inner dialogue in verse 39 revealed the state of his heart. He was not interested in forgiveness because he did not see himself as a sinner like the woman.

Seeing the interaction between Jesus and the sinful woman, The Pharisee developed an argument in his head that discredited Jesus, and his argument was based on the word "if." He thought, "If Jesus were a prophet, then He would stop this woman immediately because no real prophet would let a sinner touch Him." The Pharisee concluded that since Jesus allowed the sinful woman to anoint Him, Jesus was immediately disqualified from the title of "prophet."

**How does this woman's boldness challenge our understanding of what is required to come before Jesus?**



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 7:41-50

### JESUS'S MISSION IS TO FORGIVE SINNERS, AND IN RESPONSE, WE LOVE HIM MORE.

*Circle each time Jesus uses the words "sins" and "forgiven/forgave."*

**41** "A creditor had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** Since they could not pay it back, he graciously forgave them both. So, which of them will love him more?" **43** Simon answered, "I suppose the one he forgave more." "You have judged correctly," he told him. **44** Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she, with her tears, has washed my feet and wiped them with her hair. **45** You gave me no kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. **46** You didn't anoint my head with olive oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. **47** Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." **48** Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." **49** Those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" **50** And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"If our Physician is almighty, our disease cannot be desperate; and if He casts none out that come to Him, why should you fear? Our sins are many, but His mercies are more: our sins are great, but His righteousness is greater: we are weak, but He is power."<sup>1</sup>

—John Newton (1725–1807)

**Key Concept:** Jesus forgives sinners who come to Him in adoring faith.

Jesus knew Simon, the Pharisee, was appalled by this woman; Simon's silent comment within his heart was not a secret to the Son of God. Instead of shaming or rebuking Simon directly, Jesus wanted to tell him something. While Simon respected Jesus enough to call Him "teacher" and allowed Jesus to speak (v. 40), the next words out of Jesus's mouth showed Simon that he did not respect Jesus to the degree that He deserved.

Jesus told a parable about two debtors, with one debtor being forgiven of a larger debt, to illustrate the point He wanted to make with Simon. Jesus then asked Simon which debtor would love the forgiver more. Not realizing he was about to see himself in the parable, Simon said the one with the greater debt would love the forgiver more. Simon's answer was correct, but his understanding and application of this truth was not as clear.

**What are some ways you struggle to apply Scripture personally?**

Jesus then revealed the true lesson of the parable: The actions of the woman were honorable, kind, and most of all loving, while Simon did not treat Jesus with the honor and love He deserved. Simon was

self-righteous and ignorant regarding his own sinful shortcomings. The woman, on the other hand, knew how sinful she was, so she humbly put herself at Jesus's feet so that He would be lifted up and honored.

Because of her bold outpouring of love, Jesus acknowledged the woman's faith and humility and told her she was forgiven. As the parable illustrated, because her debt was so great, she loved Jesus more. But in reality, the difference between her and the Pharisee was she acknowledged her sin, whereas Simon ignored his. The woman understood that only Jesus was worthy of her worship, and because of her loving faith, Jesus forgave her of her sins.

**Why do you think an awareness of our own sin makes us more grateful and more loving toward Jesus?**

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus came to forgive sinners, and He did so through His death and resurrection, saving those who love and trust Him.



## **DEBT AND DEVOTION**

*Read Luke 7:37-39,41-50. Record ways we minimize our sin ("Little Debt"), and record insights about the seriousness of sin ("Great Debt").*

**LITTLE DEBT**

**GREAT DEBT**

What happens to our love for Jesus when we forget the depth of our sin and our forgiveness?

What practices can help us remember the "great debt" Jesus paid to reconcile us to God?



**Key Concept:** Jesus forgives sinners who come to Him in adoring faith.



## HEAD

How do you need to reevaluate your perspective on and interaction with sinners in light of Jesus's example?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE



Pray through Psalm 3 and confess your fears, struggles, and sins honestly before the Lord. Thank Him that He is your shield and deliverer. Ask Him to bless you as He sees fit, trusting that He is mighty to save.

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HEART

What sins do you need to confess so you can be forgiven and love the Lord with your whole heart?



## HANDS

How should your forgiveness in Christ shape your interactions at home, church, and work?



# HE TEACHES ON PRAYER

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 11:1-13

## CONTEXT

Having called twelve disciples to follow Him, Jesus trained these men in His ways. He performed miracles in their presence, taught crowds in their hearing, and explained His parables to them while leaving others pondering their meaning. Jesus even empowered His disciples and some others to cast out demons and to heal the sick as He sent them out to prepare His way. The disciples enjoyed their success in the field, but after returning to Jesus, they asked Him for one thing—to teach them how to pray.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus teaches us how to pray because He wants to give us good gifts.**

As you examine Luke 11:1-13:

- Recognize that we should pray for God's kingdom, true needs, forgiveness, and protection against temptation.
- Rejoice that when we ask God for good gifts of the kingdom according to His will, He will gladly give them to us.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Teaches About and Heals on the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-11)

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son from the Dead (Luke 7:11-17)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Teaches About Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)**

Jesus Delivers His Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)

Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman (Luke 7:36-50)

Jesus Teaches About Worry (Luke 12:12-34)

### Daily Readings

**Day 1:** Luke 9:1-27

**Day 4:** Luke 10:25-42

**Day 2:** Luke 9:28-62

**Day 5:** Luke 11:1-13

**Day 3:** Luke 10:1-24

**Day 6:** Psalm 138



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 11:1-4

### JESUS TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY FOR KINGDOM PURPOSES.

*Number the parts of Jesus's prayer in order.*

**1** He was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples." **2** He said to them, "Whenever you pray, say, Father, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. **3** Give us each day our daily bread. **4** And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us. And do not bring us into temptation."



#### WORD STUDY

**HOLY:** Holiness means to be set apart, pure, and perfect. God is completely holy. He cannot sin, and His righteous response to sin is wrath. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus emphasized that before asking for anything, our hearts should recognize God's holiness and our dependence on His mercy.

**Key Concept:** Jesus teaches us how to pray because He wants to give us good gifts.



Jesus's disciples approached Him with a request: "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1). This revealed that they believed Jesus had an intimate relationship with the Father, and they desired to learn how to come to God like Jesus did. Jesus responded by providing them an example to follow.

Jesus began the prayer with "Father, your name be honored as holy" (v. 2). He taught the disciples to call God by the name "Father" to demonstrate that they too were able to approach God in a relational way as a child approaches his dad. While Jesus emphasized the personal nature of prayer, He also emphasized God's holiness. This prayer showed the disciples how their hearts ought to be oriented toward God—with both familial love and humble reverence.

**How should addressing God as Father and holy affect the way we approach God in prayer?**

Next, Jesus taught them to pray, "Your kingdom come," which is both a request and a declaration. As a declaration, this phrase states that God's kingdom will certainly come. It is also a request that God would bring justice, peace, and righteousness to this broken world while we await His kingdom's arrival.

Jesus's example prayer then turned to daily needs: "Give us each day our daily bread" (v. 3). The disciples were to depend upon God for their physical sustenance and provision, just as Israel had to during their forty-year journey in the wilderness.

**How does asking for "daily bread" challenge the way you think about dependence, provision, and contentment?**

Jesus then directed the prayer toward reconciliation (v. 4). Forgiveness is a gift from God and should also be extended to others in light of God's mercy toward us. And finally, the request to protect us from temptation shows that we need God's protection and guidance as we live in this fallen, sinful world. Jesus's prayer continues to serve as a framework for how we should approach God in prayer.

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION



Jesus's life was full of prayer and gives us an example to follow in praying for the right things because He desires to bestow on us the good gifts of God. Jesus's best gift is salvation that He gives us freely when we trust in Him.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 11:5-13

### JESUS TELLS US TO PRAY BECAUSE GOD WANTS TO GIVE US GOOD GIFTS.

*Underline the response of the friend, and circle the response of our heavenly Father.*

**5** He also said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, **6** because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I don't have anything to offer him.' **7** Then he will answer from inside and say, 'Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I have gone to bed. I can't get up to give you anything.' **8** I tell you, even though he won't get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his friend's shameless boldness, he will get up and give him as much as he needs. **9** So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. **11** What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**PRAYER AND PROVIDENCE:** If God is in control and already knows the future, why pray? The Bible teaches that although God has a plan for this world that He promises to fulfill, prayer is often the means God uses to accomplish His divine purpose. Even though God knows the end result, the means that lead to that end result will be accomplished through prayer. In this sense, it is true that "prayer changes things," and it is also true that God uses prayer to change our hearts so that our will comes into conformity with His.

**Key Concept:** Jesus teaches us how to pray because He wants to give us good gifts.



Jesus continued His teaching on prayer with two illustrations that painted a vivid image of God’s generosity through prayer. Jesus began by asking His audience to imagine a man going to a friend’s house in the middle of the night to ask for provisions for an unexpected guest. Understandably, the friend wouldn’t want to get out of bed. But because of the man’s “shameless boldness” (v. 8), the friend would provide all that was requested.

This story contrasts human reluctance with God’s willingness. Jesus was not implying the disciples needed to wear down God or annoy Him until He responded. Rather, Jesus was showing that if we know we can go ask for help from a friend in the middle of the night, then we certainly can have boldness to go before our loving Father and ask for His help. For those who approach the throne of God with boldness and faith, God will happily supply all that is needed.

**What can we learn about God’s character by contrast with the reluctant friend in Jesus’s parable?**

Jesus then shared a second illustration. He asked the disciples what human fathers are like. The rhetorical questions Jesus asked paint an exaggerated but helpful picture. No decent human father would give his children something that would harm them if they asked for food. Human fathers know how to give good and even basic gifts to their children. But God the Father cares for His children abundantly more because He is holy and good.

Not only is God able and willing to provide for physical needs, He gives the free and ultimate gift of the Holy Spirit to those who trust in His Son. The Spirit provides all that is needed for a godly life. The children of God can boldly approach God with their prayers because they know God is loving, good, and He delights in giving to His children.

**Why should we view the Holy Spirit as chief among God’s good gifts to us?**

**PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER**

*Read Luke 11:1-13. Based on Jesus's model prayer and His subsequent teaching, identify some principles of prayer we should follow.*

**JESUS'S MODEL PRAYER**

**JESUS'S TEACHING ON PRAYER**

How does your current practice of prayer compare to the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray?

How can you grow in your prayer life?

**Key Concept:** Jesus teaches us how to pray because He wants to give us good gifts.



## HEAD

What are some truths about God's character that can give you more confidence to come to Him in prayer?

## PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Pray through Psalm 138. Praise God for His steadfast love and for how He answers your prayers (vv. 1-3). Thank Him for His promises to us and His forgiveness (vv. 4-6). Pray that God would continue to fulfill His will in your life and in the world (vv. 7-8).



## HEART

What desires in your heart do you need to align with God's will?

## PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

What are some ways you will practice forgiveness and generosity toward others for God's honor?



# HE TEACHES ON WORRY

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 12:22-34

## CONTEXT

After teaching His disciples about prayer, which included a request to God for daily bread, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their pride, hypocrisy, persecution, and greed. He then was drawn into a conversation on money by a man who had an issue with his brother over their family inheritance. In response, Jesus taught a parable that warned against storing up treasure for yourself here on earth and not being “rich toward God” (12:21). He then added to this conclusion for His disciples, cautioning them not to worry about their needs in life but to entrust them to God while seeking His kingdom.

## KEY CONCEPT

**We need not worry because God takes care of us and provides for our needs.**

As you examine Luke 12:22-34:

- Identify the reasons Jesus commanded us not to worry about our daily needs.
- Reflect on the fact that as kingdom people, we invest in eternal treasures.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Teaches About and Heals on the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-11)

Jesus Teaches and Explains the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Teaches About Worry (Luke 12:12-34)**

Jesus Delivers His Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)

Jesus Teaches About Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)

### Daily Readings

**Day 1:** Luke 11:14-28

**Day 4:** Luke 12:13-34

**Day 2:** Luke 11:29-54

**Day 5:** Luke 12:35-59

**Day 3:** Luke 12:1-12

**Day 6:** Psalm 23



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 12:22-28

### GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL AND PROVIDES FOR HIS CREATION.

*Circle what God can do, and underline what worry cannot do.*

**22** Then he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear. **23** For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. **24** Consider the ravens: They don’t sow or reap; they don’t have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than the birds? **25** Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? **26** If then you’re not able to do even a little thing, why worry about the rest? **27** Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. **28** If that’s how God clothes the grass, which is in the field today and is thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will he do for you—you of little faith?”

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**GOD’S PROVIDENCE:** Providence refers to God’s continuing work and involvement in His creation. This includes, in various degrees, God’s preservation of the created order, His governance, and His care for His people (Genesis 8:21-22; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). Christians believe the world, and even the cosmos itself, is contingent upon God, incapable of existing apart from Him. Christians also believe in God’s personal and direct intervention in the world—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the natural order but also the individuals and events within human history.

**Key Concept:** We need not worry because God takes care of us and provides for our needs.

After speaking to the thousands who gathered to hear Him, warning them against the practice of storing up earthly wealth (vv. 13-21), Jesus turned to speak directly to the disciples, the ones He had chosen and invested in the most. He took His warning to the crowd one step further and warned the disciples about their heart posture as well—followers of Jesus must be “rich toward God” (v. 21) and also guard their hearts against worry.

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“Nothing is more common than an anxious and troubled spirit, and nothing mars a believer’s usefulness and attacks his inner peace so much. The person who can say boldly, ‘The Lord is my shepherd’ is the person who will be able to add, ‘I shall not want’ (Psalm 23:1).”<sup>1</sup>

—J. C. Ryle (1816–1900)

Jesus rooted His command for His disciples not to worry in God’s care for His creation. Birds do not put seeds into the ground or harvest crops, yet God feeds them. Lilies do not weave fabric and adorn themselves, yet God clothes them. Jesus did not say food and clothing are not needed; rather, He stated that worrying about how to get these needs does not accomplish anything. To emphasize His point, Jesus declared that His disciples were worth far more to God than grass that perishes, so they could trust Him to provide for them.

Worry does nothing to benefit life. In fact, it makes life less enjoyable. The Christian life is full of difficulty and hardship, but worry cannot change that or make it better. What makes life possible to endure is faith and trust in God, who knows more about our needs than we do. This does not imply we ought to sit around and do nothing. Jesus did not advocate for a passive and lazy life but a life grounded in faith. It is a certainty that God will supply our needs, so we can live faithfully while resting assured that God will do what He says.

**How are greed and worry connected?**

**Where in creation do you see reminders of God’s daily provision?**



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 12:29-34

### WE MUST SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM FIRST AND STORE TREASURES IN HEAVEN.

*Underline every instance of "don't," and circle what Jesus tells us to do.*

**29** "Don't strive for what you should eat and what you should drink, and don't be anxious.

**30** For the Gentile world eagerly seeks all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you. **32** Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won't grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus is the great provider. He takes care of all our needs, especially our need to be rescued from sin, guilt, and death. Through His sacrifice on the cross, we are forgiven and have new life through Him.

**Key Concept:** We need not worry because God takes care of us and provides for our needs.



Jesus continued His teaching on worry by stating that the daily needs of life were not something the disciples should strive to gain. In this, they were to be different from the world. The Gentiles, worldly people who did not know and love God, sought such things, thinking their provision was all on their shoulders. But God knows exactly what we need. Worry, at its core, is misplaced trust. Material possessions, status, and security are what the world desires, but those who know God seek God's kingdom first. The spiritual needs of disciples surpass their physical needs.

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“Two conflicting forces cannot exist in one human heart. . . . When worry is present, trust cannot crowd its way in.”<sup>2</sup>

—Billy Graham (1918–2018)

Jesus emphasized the connection between treasure and the heart. Whatever a person values most will shape their attention and effort. Jesus instructed His followers to lay up treasure in heaven rather than on earth. To be “rich toward God” (v. 21) means to invest in God's kingdom instead of worldly gain.

**What are some areas of your life where worry is taking the place of faith?**

Jesus shared that investing in eternal goods requires sacrifice and generosity. In the same way that God is generous to His children and provides what they need, they also should prioritize caring for and providing for others for the treasure promised by God. True treasure is not like food, drink, or earthly trinkets, which spoil, decay, and are at risk of theft. Kingdom treasure is imperishable and impossible to be taken away.

**How does generosity combat worry and cultivate trust in God's provision?**

As the heart desires various treasures, disciples of Jesus are challenged to cultivate a heart set on God instead of a heart set on possessions. Anxiety arises when we prioritize perishable things above the imperishable. By focusing on the eternal, God's children can experience freedom from worry. God will always care for His children, so they can step out in faith and serve God with their whole hearts.

## GROUP EXPERIENCE

### WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

*Read Luke 12:22-34. Consider what it means to have treasure on earth or in heaven.  
Then identify barriers and means to storing treasure in heaven.*

**IN HEAVEN**

**BARRIERS TO STORING  
YOUR TREASURE IN HEAVEN**

**WAYS YOU CAN STORE  
YOUR TREASURE IN HEAVEN**

**ON EARTH**

How do the promises and character of God help us battle against worry and focus our hearts on what matters in eternity?

**Key Concept:** We need not worry because God takes care of us and provides for our needs.



## HEAD

How can you reorient your thoughts to be more kingdom-focused?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read and pray through Psalm 23. Thank God for all of the good gifts and guidance He gives and all the ways He provides for your needs. Pray that God would give you a kingdom mind-set all the days of your life.



## HEART

What does your pursuit of treasures, whether on earth or in heaven, reveal about the focus of your heart?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

What are some habits or practices you can develop to serve others and so store treasure in heaven?



# 6 WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS SUMMER

By Ken Braddy



Summer—it comes around every year! How will you and your Bible study group spend your summer? Chances are your group's attendance will become more erratic as summer vacations take place and people get away to the mountains or the beach. Perhaps your group doesn't meet during summer months. Don't maintain the status quo. Instead, do one or more of the following things to squeeze the most out of summer and avoid those summer slumps.

## 1. REACH OUT TO ABSENTEES.

Set a goal of contacting all your absentee group members during June and July. Some may have joined other churches. Others may have gotten out of the habit of attending your group. Still more may have experienced a crisis and didn't want people to know. As you discover the ministry needs of your absentees, mobilize your group and meet those needs.

## 2. ENCOURAGE GROUP MEMBERS TO LEAVE YOUR GROUP.

What? Leave your group? Summer is when church staff are searching for new group leaders in all age groups. Remember that the goal of your Bible teaching ministry isn't to have the largest group. The real goal is to help your church in its mission of making disciples. The preschool, children, and student ministries of your church will need new group leaders to serve the youngest members of your congregation. Encourage people in your group to leave and serve others as group leaders themselves.

## 3. TURN THE TEACHING OVER TO YOUR APPRENTICE.

Each adult Sunday School group needs one apprentice leader whose goal is to start a new group. Summer is a great time to give your apprentice the primary responsibility of teaching the group. Let them practice, and then coach and guide them to become more confident leading a group. With many people away on vacation, summer is a perfect time for people to spread their wings and teach during a time when it may feel safer—attendance is lower in summer months—and for the average person, a smaller group is a less intimidating group to teach.

## 4. RAMP UP YOUR GROUP'S FELLOWSHIPS.

Summer movies, barbecues, baseball games, golf outings, a day at the lake, and local day trips can be fun occasions to gather your members and prospects.

Summer has a fun, relaxed feel and it is the perfect time to get creative—and busy. Don't wait for a single occasion when everyone can get together. Instead, schedule multiple events. Having multiple opportunities for fellowship will ensure that at least one of the events fits the schedules of your group members.

## 5. SCHEDULE AN EXTRA BIBLE STUDY.

Why not use the summer months to explore a topic your group is interested in? There are plenty of Bible study options that come in 4, 6, 8, or 10-week sessions. Rotate the study by allowing a different member of the group to host it each week.

## 6. SERVE TOGETHER.

Summer presents plenty of opportunities for entire Bible study groups to serve together. Sharing an experience like Vacation Bible School or another community-centered ministry activity (soccer camp, day camp, etc.) is a great way to build the bond between your group members. Consider asking your group members to invest a week of vacation in serving kids from your community, knowing that they will grow in their relationships with one another too!

---

Ken Braddy is Lifeway's director of Sunday School and is a 30-year veteran of Sunday School ministry and author of *Breathing Life into Sunday School*. He serves as a Sunday School leader at his church in Tennessee.

# REFERENCES

## UNIT 22

### Session 1

1. John Calvin, John, Crossway Classic Commentaries (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994), Jn 4:50.
2. MacLaren of Manchester, quoted in R. Kent Hughes, John: That You May Believe, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999), 143.

### Session 2

1. C. S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity," *The Complete C. S. Lewis Signature Classics* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2002), 50–51.

### Session 3

1. John MacArthur, Mark 1–8, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2015), 65–66.

### Session 4

1. C. H. Spurgeon, "The Power of Prayer and the Pleasure of Praise," in *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons*, vol. 9 (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1863), 243.

## UNIT 23

### Session 1

1. R. C. Sproul, Mark, First Edition, St. Andrew's Expository Commentary (Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust, 2011), 41.

### Session 3

1. Craig L. Blomberg, Matthew, The New American Commentary, vol. 22 (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992), 196.

### Session 4

1. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship*, ed. Martin Kuske et al., trans. Barbara Green and Reinhard Krauss, vol. 4, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003), 104.
2. Justin Martyr, "The First Apology of Justin," in *The Apostolic Fathers with Justin Martyr and Irenaeus*, eds. Alexander Roberts, James Donaldson, and A. Cleveland Coxe, vol. 1, *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Company, 1885), 167.

## UNIT 24

### Session 2

1. J. C. Ryle, Luke, Crossway Classic Commentaries (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1997), Lk 7:11–17.

### Session 3

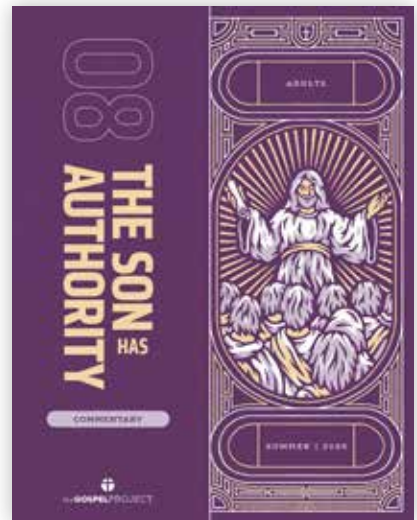
1. John Newton, *The Works of the Reverend John Newton . . . With a Life of the Author by the Rev. Richard Cecil* (London: George Virtue, 1839), 236.

### Session 5

1. J. C. Ryle, Luke, Crossway Classic Commentaries (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1997), Lk 12:22–31.
2. Billy Graham, *Hope for Each Day: Morning and Evening Devotions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2012), 110.

# Get a new perspective on The Gospel Project.

Want to get more out of your Bible study each week? The *Commentary* expands on the content of the core passage with an analysis of the text, bringing added insights to your group. It includes the questions and Scripture breakdown available in the *Personal Study Guide*, and it's in large print for easier reading.



**UNIT 23 • SESSION 1**

## FAITH AND FORGIVENESS

CORE PASSAGE: MARK 2:1-12

**Context:** In his account of the life of Jesus, Mark wasted no time getting to the action. Jesus came on the scene proclaiming that the kingdom of God had come near to God's people through Him, and it was time for people to respond. Jesus immediately began backing up His claim with power, performing miracles. In today's passage, Jesus revealed something deeper about who He is and what He came to do. Even greater than miraculous healings, Jesus came to do something about humanity's greatest problem—sin.

**Key Concept:** Jesus has the power to forgive, especially when He sees committed faith.

**DAILY READINGS**

- Day 1: Mark 2:1-12     Day 4: Matthew 9:1-8
- Day 2: Mark 2:13-17     Day 5: Matthew 9:9-17
- Day 3: Mark 2:18-22     Day 6: Psalm 121

60

**Committed faith leads to forgiveness**  
(Mark 2:1-5)

**1** When he entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that he was at home. **2** So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them. **3** They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them. **4** Since they were not able to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying. **5** Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

**On the Move in Galilee**

After Jesus's forerunner, John the Baptist, was arrested, Jesus headed north to Galilee (Mark 1:14). At the lakeshore, He called His first four disciples to leave their fishing and to follow Him (vv. 16-20). In Capernaum, He entered the synagogue and healed a man possessed by an unclean spirit (vv. 21-27). Jesus also privately healed Peter's mother-in-law in their home. Jesus's miracle in the synagogue brought such fame in Galilee that people came from all over and "brought to him all those who were sick and demon possessed" (v. 32). After that, Jesus departed from Capernaum and traveled throughout Galilee, preaching, healing, and casting out demons (vv. 38-44). He did this for "some days" (2:1), an indeterminate period of time, Jesus's actions brought even more popularity to Him, "with the result that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly" because people "came to him from everywhere" (1:45). Because of that, Jesus quietly snuck back into Capernaum.

Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

61

the **GOSPEL** PROJECT.

SHOP NOW

Shop now at [lifeway.com/gospelproject](https://lifeway.com/gospelproject) or call 800.458.2772.

## THE SON HAS AUTHORITY

Jesus entered our world with a mission to serve, yet He did so with power, resulting in a myriad of responses. Some were in awe of Him, and others worshiped Him. Some proclaimed His name to whoever would hear; others criticized Him for what seemed like blasphemy. Yet His teachings and works had authority. No one could deny that Jesus was unique, unlike any other man or prophet. He fulfilled prophecies from Scripture and could heal diseases and cast out demons. When encountering Jesus, people were left with only two choices: believe and trust in Him or reject Him. The Gospels give us proof that Jesus is the Messiah. He is the Savior of the world, and we must worship and obey Him in faith.

**Lifeway** adults

[gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com)

RELIGION/Biblical Studies/Bible Study Guides



© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources