



The Life You're Chasing | Jesus First



BIG IDEA

Jesus isn't just part of your life—He is your life.

We are all chasing something, better relationships, stronger families, financial stability, purpose, peace. But how do we actually find the life we're looking for?

Jesus gives us the starting point in Luke 9:23. To follow Jesus is to become His disciple—His apprentice. In the first century, an apprentice stayed so close to their rabbi that they would be “covered in the dust of their rabbi.” That picture helps us understand our values at Central: Jesus First. People Always. Made for More.

And it all begins with Jesus First.



ICE BREAKER

1. What is something in your life that you depend on more than you probably realize?
2. When life gets stressful, what is usually your first reaction?
3. What is one area of life where it is hardest for you to surrender control?



MAIN POINTS

Jesus First is the load-bearing wall. Jesus isn't meant to occupy one compartment of our lives. We don't have a “Jesus part” and then separate parts for marriage, parenting, finances, work, relationships, beliefs, and culture. Jesus is meant to hold all of it together. When we minimize Him or remove Him from an area, cracks eventually begin to show.

That's what was happening in the church at Colosse. They weren't completely rejecting Jesus, they were adding things to Him: Jesus and philosophy. Jesus and other beliefs. Jesus and their own ideas. Paul responds by pointing them back to JESUS ONLY.

Colossians reminds us just how big Jesus really is. All things were created in Him, through Him, and for Him—and in Him all things hold together. He is the architect and builder of creation, and everything ultimately belongs to Him. If Jesus can hold creation together, He can carry the weight of our lives too.

But too often, we minimize Jesus. We turn the One who holds the universe together into a “tiny Jesus”—something convenient we carry around and pull out when we need Him. But Jesus isn't meant to be a decoration in our lives. He is the foundation. He is load-bearing.

When Jesus is First in our marriage, it changes how we see our spouse, how we fight, forgive, and love. Shan shared how his marriage changed when he began seeing his wife as a daughter of the Most High King.

When Jesus is First in our parenting and families, our greatest goal becomes more than raising successful kids. One of the greatest things we can give our children and grandchildren is a life that shows them what following Jesus actually looks like.

And when Jesus is First in the way we see people, it leads naturally to People Always. Jesus showed compassion, mercy, and love to people who were different from Him. If

	we're truly covered in the dust of our Rabbi, people around us should begin experiencing that same grace and love through us. The danger is rarely that we wake up and decide to completely walk away from Jesus. It usually starts by making Him smaller. A compromise here. Another priority there. Eventually, small cracks become bigger ones. Even David—a man after God's own heart—experienced what could happen when other desires began taking the place that belonged to God. So Shan challenged us to walk through the rooms of our lives and ask: Where have I minimized Jesus? Where have I made Him “Jesus and...” instead of “Jesus Only”? The good news is that Jesus doesn't only hold together what's still standing. Through the cross, He reconciles and restores what has already been broken.
 DISCUSS	1. Where in your life are you most tempted to make Jesus smaller or compartmentalize Him? 2. What is one area where you sense the Holy Spirit showing you a “crack”? 3. If Jesus truly became the load-bearing foundation in that area, what would you do differently this week?
 NEXT STEP	JESUS FIRST Find the “and.” Take an honest walk through your life this week—your marriage, parenting, finances, relationships, work, beliefs, and priorities. Ask: Where have I minimized Jesus? Where has it become “Jesus and...” instead of “Jesus Only”? Choose one area and surrender it back to Him. PEOPLE ALWAYS Let the dust of your Rabbi show. When Jesus is First, it should change the way people experience us. Look for an opportunity this week to extend the love, compassion, grace, mercy, or forgiveness of Jesus to someone—even someone who thinks or lives differently than you. MADE FOR MORE Build something that lasts. In your home, workplace, school, or relationships, ask what might change if Jesus truly became the load-bearing foundation. For parents and grandparents, consider one intentional way you can model a Jesus First life for the next generation.
 SCRIPTURE	Colossians 1:15-20
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next weekend as we continue The Life You’re Chasing and unpack what it means to live out our value People Always—loving others the way Jesus loves us.