



# Following the Messiah

## Session One

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

What do you hope to learn/gain from this study?

### Discover

What comes to mind when you think of the birth of Jesus? What kind of picture do you see in your head?

**Read Luke 2:1-7.** How would you summarize this verse after watching the video? How is it different from your original understanding of the nativity?

What factors cause us to have such historically inaccurate views of certain biblical stories?

What might be a solution to this problem?

**Read Luke 2:21-24.** How is this verse different after seeing what the actual Temple Mount looks like in the video?

### Fully Own

What parts of Jesus's life confuse you? What parts do you feel like you understand the most?

Why is it important for Christians to understand the historically accurate version of Jesus's story?

**Read Hebrews 2:10-18.** According to these verses, why was Jesus born? What does this mean for Christians today?

Compare/contrast your first impressions of Jesus's birth with the video you just watched. What was different and what was the same?

### Challenge

**Read Luke 1-2** and then research the historical context of these chapters. You can use biblical commentaries, study Bibles, or the internet. [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com) and [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) are great resources.



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## Session Two

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

What did you learn from your study of Luke 1 and 2?

### Discover

After watching the video, how did your view of Jesus's childhood change?

**Read Matthew 2:19-23.** What can we learn about Jesus's early childhood from this passage? What stands out to you the most?

**Read Luke 2:41-52.** How would you feel if you were Joseph or Mary in this passage? What would happen if you had a child that went missing for 4 days?

What unique things did you notice about Jesus's response at 12 years old?

### Fully Own

How would you summarize all the verses dealing with Jesus's childhood? What lessons can we learn by studying the boy Jesus?

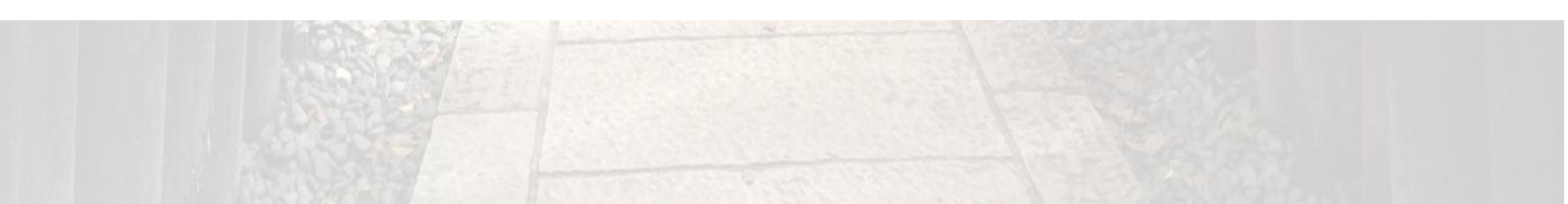
**Read Philippians 2:5-8.** Why did Jesus choose to go through adolescence? Can you develop a theory as to why some biblical authors wrote about Jesus's childhood?


Why is it important for Christians today (and you) to understand the humanity of Jesus?

**Read Hebrews 2:9.** What stands out to you after reading this verse? Make a list of reasons why Jesus's humanity is crucial to our salvation.

### Challenge

Meditate on the humanity of Jesus this week. Commit to praying every day that God would help you understand the magnitude of His choice to become like us in every way. Seek to be human like He was human.





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## Session Three

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

What “takeaways” came from meditating on the humanity of Jesus? In what ways were you like Jesus this week?

### Discover

**Read Matthew 3:13-14.** What stands out to you about this passage? Why do you think John wanted Jesus to baptize him instead? How was the situation affected by their relationship (remember they were cousins)?

What would happen if you were the one in the water and Jesus asked you to baptize Him?

**Read Matthew 4:1-11.** What drove Jesus into the desert? What is unique about each one of Satan’s temptations?

Develop a theory for why Satan tempted Jesus the way he did. What is similar to/different from the way he tempts Christians today?

### Fully Own

How can you be like John and obey Jesus even when it does not make sense?

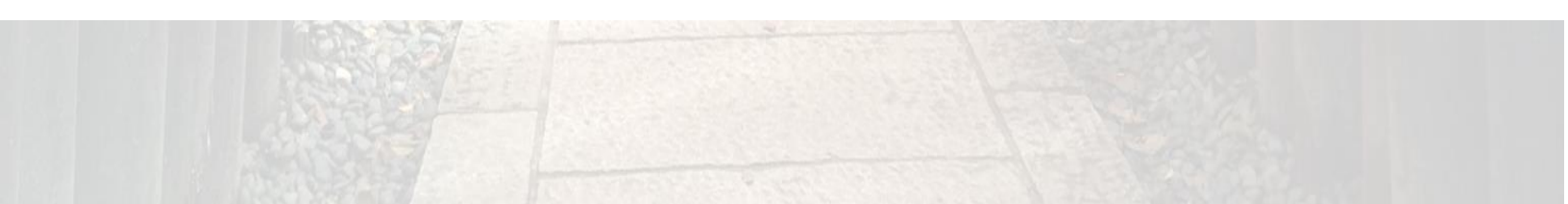
What is your typical reaction when the Spirit leads you into a “wilderness?” In what ways do you relying on Scripture to combat temptation?

**Read Hebrews 4:15.** How does this passage speak to you after studying the baptism and temptation of Jesus?

What kind of “shortcuts” is Satan tempting you to take? What specific Scriptures do you have in your arsenal to defend yourself?

### Challenge

Make a list of the temptations/shortcuts in your life that continually get in your way. Find verses that will combat each temptation. Finally, commit these verses to memory so you can fight back when temptation comes into your life.





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## Session Four

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

How did your week go after memorizing your verses? In what ways did memorizing Scripture help with overcoming your temptations this week?

### Discover

What surprised you the most about the landscape of Galilee? How did you originally envision it in your head?

**Read Mark 1:16-20.** How would you describe this interaction in your own words? What would happen if Jesus walked into your place of work and said the same thing to you?

**Read Mark 1:21-22.** After seeing the actual site of this verse in the video, how has your faith changed knowing we still have pieces left of the synagogue where Jesus taught?

Develop a theory for why Jesus did ministry this way in Capernaum. What kind of ministry was Jesus modeling for Simon, Andrew, James and John?

### Fully Own

How can we speak with authority like Jesus? How could we improve our knowledge of the Gospel and our ability to teach the Gospel?

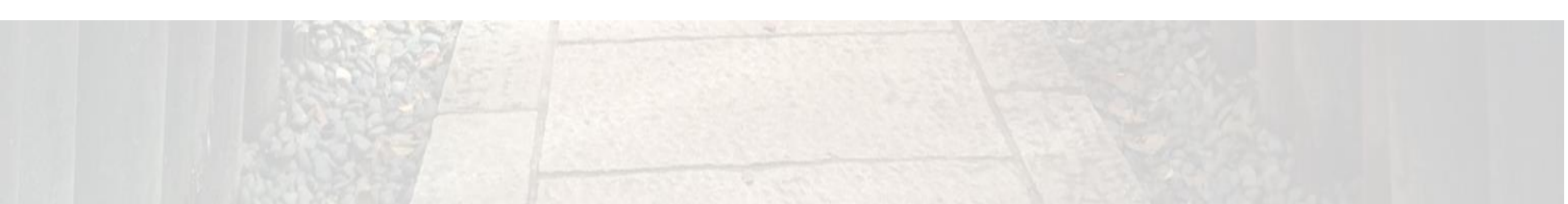
**Read Luke 7:1-10.** What stands out about this passage of Scripture? Using your imagination describe what the Centurion must have been like.

How would you explain Jesus's amazement with the Centurion's faith? Do you think there is any connection between Jesus's earlier teachings and the faith of the Centurion?

How does Jesus's teachings affect your faith? In what ways can you have faith like this Centurion?

### Challenge

Have ONE meaningful conversation this week about the Gospel with someone in your life who either does not believe or is exploring the possibility of faith in Jesus.







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## Session Five

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

How did your one spiritual conversation go this week? With whom did you talk? What came up in the conversation? Will you have another chance to talk soon?

### Discover

Based on your current knowledge of Jesus's life, how would you describe His identity?

**Read Luke 4:16-30.** Compare and contrast Jesus's view of Himself with the town's view of Jesus. What is different and what is similar? Based on this passage, what conclusions can you draw about Jesus's character?

**Read Mark 4:35-41.** What questions did the disciples have concerning Jesus? How did Jesus answer those questions?

What was the most interesting thing you learned from today's video and Scripture readings?

### Fully Own

How does Jesus's identity on earth affect us today? What might happen if Christians today began to see themselves in the same way Jesus saw Himself 2,000 years ago?

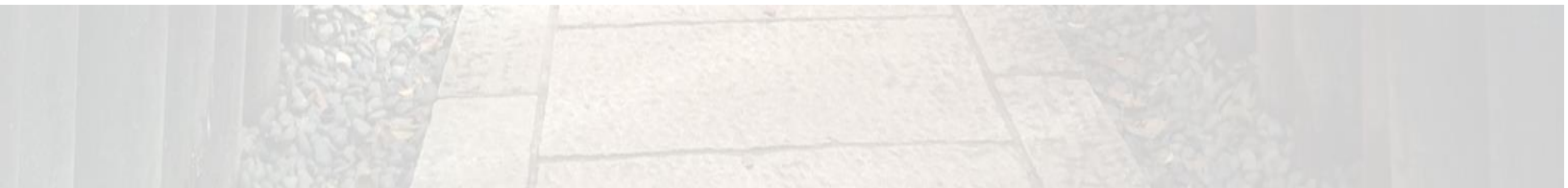
**Read Matthew 16:13-20.** How can you apply this verse to your life?

What is the difference between false idols of this world and the Living God? Based on those differences, why do we tend to worship false idols more often than we should?

Compare and contrast our efforts to sacrifice in order to earn righteousness with God's sacrifice to declare us righteous.

### Challenge

Google search all the verses where Jesus talks about Himself. Identify two or three that really speak to you and then commit these verses to memory. Whenever you struggle with an identity crisis, use these verses to remind you of the identity of the One who saved you.





# Following the Messiah

## Session Six

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

Share with the group the verses you found after doing your Google search. What verses challenged you the most?

### Discover

What preconceived ideas do you have about Jesus miracles? What do you often assume when you imagine Jesus performing signs in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century?

**Read Mark 5:1-20.** How many times are people begging in this passage? For what are they begging? Are you begging Jesus to stay or leave? Why?

Using your imagination, how would you respond in this situation if you were one of the town's people? What would you have done to improve the response of the town while Jesus was there?

**Read Matthew 14:13-21.** What can we learn about Jesus from this passage? What stands out the most to you?

### Fully Own

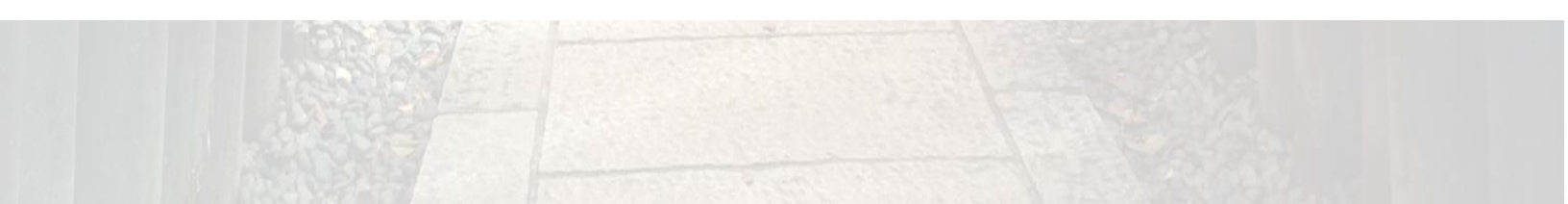
How can we live like Jesus after reading about the above miracles? What would happen in your community if you applied the principles and practices of Jesus?


**Read Luke 8:40-56.** Imagine you were in Jesus's position, how would you react to the woman who touched your clothing in the crowd? Would you stop what you were doing to tend to her needs?

Develop a theory for why Jesus was so intentional with the people that interrupted His life.

### Challenge

Pray that God would send some "divine interruptions" into your life this week. Be willing and humble enough to live like Jesus in these moments. We might not perform miracles, but we can touch the lives of those around us as Jesus did.





# Following the Messiah

## Session Seven

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

Did God “divinely interrupt” your life this week? Describe how you responded to the experience.

### Discover

What do you currently know about Jesus’s teachings? Share with the group your understanding of what Jesus taught, where Jesus taught, and how Jesus taught.

**Read Matthew 5:1-12.** What stands out to you the most in this sermon? What can we learn about Jesus after reading this passage?

**Read Matthew 7:24-29.** What is the response of the people when Jesus finishes the sermon? What is your response after reading the Sermon on the Mount?

How does your understanding of Jesus’s teachings change after seeing the landscape and ancient towns in the video? Where you at all surprised by anything?

### Fully Own

**Read Luke 8:4-8 and 10:25-37.** Compare these parables to the Sermon on the Mount. What similar themes appear in all of Jesus’s teachings?

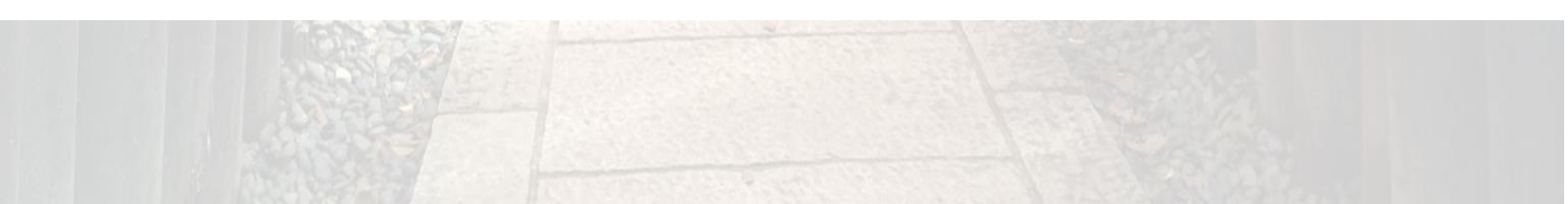
Develop some theories on why Jesus taught the way He did. If you were in His position, how would you go about teaching and preaching?

What truths should we apply to our lives after reading one of Jesus’s sermons and two of His parables?

Why is it important to understand the historical and geographical context of Jesus teachings? Did anything surprise you in the video this week? Explain.

### Challenge

Focus on the teachings of Jesus this week in your daily devotions and quiet time. Journal about the timeless truth found in His words and begin applying them to your daily life. Let us all be like the wise man who built his house on the rock.





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## Session Eight

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

What timeless truths did you discover in your devotions on the teachings of Jesus? Where were you able to apply any to your daily life? How?

### Discover

What was your favorite part of the video this week? Why was it your favorite?

**Read John 12:12-19.** What surprised you the most about this story after seeing the spot where Jesus approached the city of Jerusalem?

Why is His triumphal entry so important? How is Jesus's entry different from other triumphal entries in the past by other kings?

**Read Luke 22:7-13.** What new things did you learn about the Passover meal after watching the video? What stood out to you the most about this passage?

### Fully Own

Why is it important for Jesus to connect Old Testament/Passover tradition to His New Covenant that He is creating? Why would He redefine the elements of the Passover?

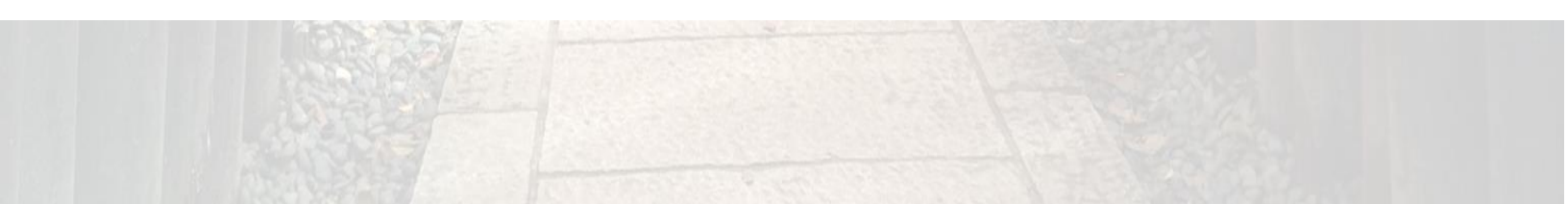
What does the New Covenant mean for us today? Can you make a proposal for why Jesus did what He did at the last supper?

**Read John 12:44-50.** What specific truths can you apply to your daily life after reading this passage? What is your opinion of Jesus's summary statements?


After watching the video and seeing the historical sites, how would you summarize Jesus's final days before His crucifixion?

### Challenge

Commit **John 13:34-35** to memory. Encourage others in your group with this verse throughout the week. Pray that God would make this verse a reality in your daily life.







# Following the Messiah

## Session Nine

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

Can you say John 13:34-35 from memory? What did you learn from this verse? How did God speak to you through your meditation on this verse?

### Discover

**Read John 17.** What can we learn from studying Jesus's prayer habits?

How is Jesus's prayer in this chapter similar to/different from your own prayers? What is the underlying theme of His prayer?

**Read John 18:1-3.** What do you think is going through Jesus's mind as He sees the group coming to arrest Him? What do you think went through His mind when He sees that Judas is leading the group?

How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus stayed in the Garden and waited for the Jews to arrest Him for you?

### Fully Own

How does seeing the house of Annas and Caiaphas change your understanding of Jesus's first trial?

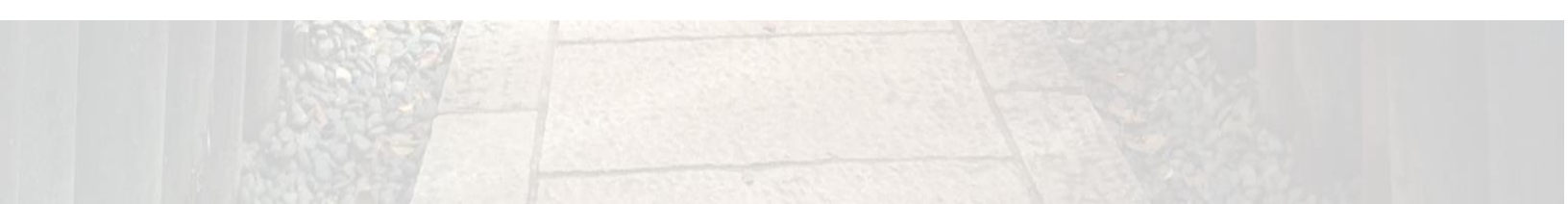
**Read Psalms 88:13-18.** How would you respond if you were on trial like Jesus? How many reasons can you think of that would cause the Father to forsake the Son?

**Read Matthew 27:3-5.** What can we learn about free will and salvation from the story of Judas?

How has your view of Jesus's trials changed after watching the video? What was most interesting to you? After reading Jesus's crucifixion story, where do you see the most injustice?

### Challenge

What major truths can you begin to apply to your life this week? Do a study of **John 17** and underline all the times Jesus talks about what He did for His disciples. Commit to working on modeling your life after the same principles and practices.





# Following the Messiah

## Session Ten

**LIFE**   
**GROUPS**

### Leader Check-in

Talk to the group about your study of John 17. What did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about yourself? What disciplines from Jesus can you begin to implement in your own life?

### Discover

In your opinion, how did Constantine's decision to make Christianity the official religion of Rome affect the world?

**Read Luke 23:50-56.** How are these verses different after seeing a 1<sup>st</sup> Century tomb in the video? Develop a theory as to why Joseph of Arimathea did what he did for Jesus.

Why do you think Jesus's disciples struggled so much with His death even after Jesus had clearly said that He was coming back? What does this doubt say about their faith? What does it mean for you and your doubt?

**Read John 20:1-10.** Compare and contrast the three reactions to Jesus's resurrection. What is different and what is similar?

### Fully Own

**Read John 21:1-14.** How would you respond to seeing the risen Lord while you were working?

Even after the resurrection Jesus is still ministering to His disciples, what does that mean for us today as disciples of Jesus? In what ways is He ministering to us?

**Read Matthew 28:16-20.** What commands did Jesus leave with His disciples? What do these commands mean for us?

What would happen if God's people today took these commands seriously and began to implement them into their lives every day?

### Challenge

Memorize **Matthew 28:16-20**. Live out Jesus's final commands to His disciples.

