

SESSION 1: INTRO WEEK

SESSION 2: THE BIRDS AND THE LILIES - LUKE 12:22-34

SESSION 3: THE PRODIGALS - LUKE 15:11-32

SESSION 4: THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE - JOHN 11:17-44

SESSION 5: THE CHILDREN - MARK 10:13-31

SESSION 6: THE AUTHORITY - MARK 12:1-42

SESSION 7: THE TRUTH - JOHN 18:28-38

SESSION 8: THE WOMEN - MARK 16:1-8

SESSION 9: THE ROAD - LUKE 24:13-35

SESSION 10: THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - MATTHEW 28:16-20

SESSION 11: THE FISH AND THE FIRE - JOHN 21:1-19

SESSION 12 RECAP WEEK

What is an Inductive Bible study?

Read the following instructions and definitions as a group. Pause to discuss or ask clarifying questions as needed.

This method helps readers investigate a passage of scripture and draw appropriate and applicable conclusions based on observation. This packet is designed to help you learn this method by cultivating three fundamental skills: observation, interpretation, and application. In addition to developing Bible study skills, this packet will help develop the skill to share the good news about Jesus. Our hope is that as you practice these skills your time studying the Bible will become more worshipful and meaningful.

PRAY AND REFLECT

Before each study, our process should always start in prayer. We are dependent upon God to reveal His will to us. Without God working in our hearts and minds as we study, the Bible becomes mere knowledge. The Holy Spirit is needed in order to turn knowledge into understanding and action.

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Before we can interpret the meaning of a passage, it's important we first make observations in the verses we're reading. Take note of the grammatical, literary, and cultural elements of the passage. This involves considering key words, verbs, and connecting words, as well as the who, what, when, why, and hows of the passage.

Ask yourself, "What are the main literary elements of the passage? What are some of the key themes of the passage?" Pay attention to key words, repeated words, and connecting words.

Be sure to pay attenion to the context. Sometimes, this involves grasping the big picture of the passage before diving into interpretation of individual verses. This may include reading the whole section, chapter, or book of whatever you're studying in order to understand the author's flow of thought, as well as overall idea. What happened right before, or right after the verses you are studying?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

After careful observation we can start trying to interpret what a certain verse or passage means. Our goal should be to determine what the author was saying to the original audience. We do this by using the context, defining key words, studying cross-references, comparing multiple translations, and wrestling with the text individually as well as communally. Commentaries such as The New Illustrated Bible Commentary or many others can be helpful, as well as websites like biblestudytools.com in order to study the original languages for deeper understanding.

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

After we've established what the author was trying to communicate to the original audience, we can apply these truths to our own lives. Through prayer and reflection, think through key principles learned in the passage you've studied. Ask yourself questions such as:

"Is there something to worship or thank God for? Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe? Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing? Is there something I need to pray for specifically this week? Is there any relationship I need to work on? What exactly will I do differently this week to apply this principle to my life? Whom, other than the Lord, will I ask to help me follow through with this application?"

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

God calls us to experience personal transformation through the thoughtful and careful study of his Word. But, our responsibility doesn't end there. Part of our calling as believers is to share the good news about Jesus with others so they can also experience his transformative power. Each study will give you helpful tools to individually and corporately prepare and practice sharing your faith with those in your context.

- What are some strengths of this kind of Bible study? Can you identify any weaknesses?
- How can we leverage this method of Bible study to encourage one another and have a greater Christ-glorifying impact in our spheres of influence?

Guidelines

- Read the following guidelines as a group. Pause to discuss and ask clarifying questions as needed.
 - 1 DURING DISCUSSION, EVERYONE SHARES THOUGHTS IN SENTENCES, NOT PARAGRAPHS.

This allows everyone an opportunity to share and contribute to the study.

2 READ AND STUDY THE PASSAGE ON YOUR OWN BEFORE TURNING TO OTHER PASSAGES, COMMENTARIES, AND AUTHORS.

In doing so, we discipline ourselves to a deeper study of the passage at hand and make the study more accessible to those new to the Bible. The goal of inductive Bible study is not to recite the opinions of others, but to train ourselves to discern God's will through his Word.

3 BE PATIENT AND GIVE OTHERS TIME TO THINK AND RESPOND. SILENCE IS OKAY!

Some individuals take longer to process and synthesize information. Allow everyone an opportunity to invest and participate in discussion.

RESPECT THE THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS OF OTHERS.

Help us create a safe, supportive space where we can grow in knowledge and understanding together.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS STUDY, WE WILL ASSUME THE BIBLE IS TRUE.

If you're skeptical or have questions about the trustworthiness of the Bible, that's okay! Consider asking your leader after the study. However, during the study our focus will be answering the question, "If this is true, what does it mean?"

THE GOAL OF THE STUDY IS NOT SOLELY THE ACCUMULATION OF BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE, BUT LIFE CHANGE: OUR OWN LIVES, AND THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND US.

Often inductive Bible studies can get bogged down in the observation and interpretation stages leaving little time for application. Manage your time well and be sure to work through the whole study including considering how you'll apply and share what you've learned.

What will our group look like if we stick to these guidelines? Are there other guidelines we should add? Discuss as a group.





22 And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! 25 And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? 26 If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith! 29 And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

33 "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

Pay attention to the metaphors and illustrations in this passage. What image do they create in your mind?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

How is Jesus using metaphors and illustrations to support the points he's making? How do these help us understand the view Jesus wants us to have of God the Father?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

As you reflect on this passage, consider how you view God. How can you trust him to the extent that Jesus is encouraging?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

Are there people in your life who are anxious about their life because they don't know God? Make a list of people you know who are far from him and pray for them. How can you share the comfort and hope we have because we know Jesus?



Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Who are people in your life that God has called you to love and influence? Make a list and share it with your group. Spend time praying for them.





11 And He said, "A man had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. 13 And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. 14 Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. 17 But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight: 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men." 20 So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; 23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

25 "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28 But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. 29 But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; 30 but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"



What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

How are the older and younger brother different? How are they similar? Where do each end up at the end of the parable? How does the father act? Is this how he would normally be expected to act?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

What do you think Jesus is using this story to illustrate? Who is he using these characters to illustrate?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

What does this passage teach us about ourselves? Do you tend to be a 'younger brother' or an 'older brother?' What does this show us about how God pursues both younger and older brothers?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

This passage reminds us of people we know who are far from God. Using the list of names from last week, create your "Oikos Map" using the resource page at the back of the booklet.



Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Share your Oikos Map with your group. Spend time praying for each other as you become aware of the unique context God has placed you in. Pray for opportunities to show Christ's love. Pray that God would begin to soften the hearts to the good news about Jesus.





17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. 20 Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. 21 Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

28 When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him. 31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, 34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?"

38 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus *said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." 44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."



What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

Pay attention to Jesus' words and actions. In what ways is he unexpected and frustrating? How are his actions encouraging?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

What does this passage show us about how Jesus enters into our pain? What does this reveal about his purpose and power?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

How should we be encouraged when we face our own moments of despair and tragedy? How can we learn from Jesus' example about how to encourage others in their pain?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

As you reflect on this passage, pray that God would cultivate boldness and love in your heart. Allow the power of Jesus to inspire you and motivate you to action. Look over your Oikos Map as you pray for courage to influence people in Jesus' name.



Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

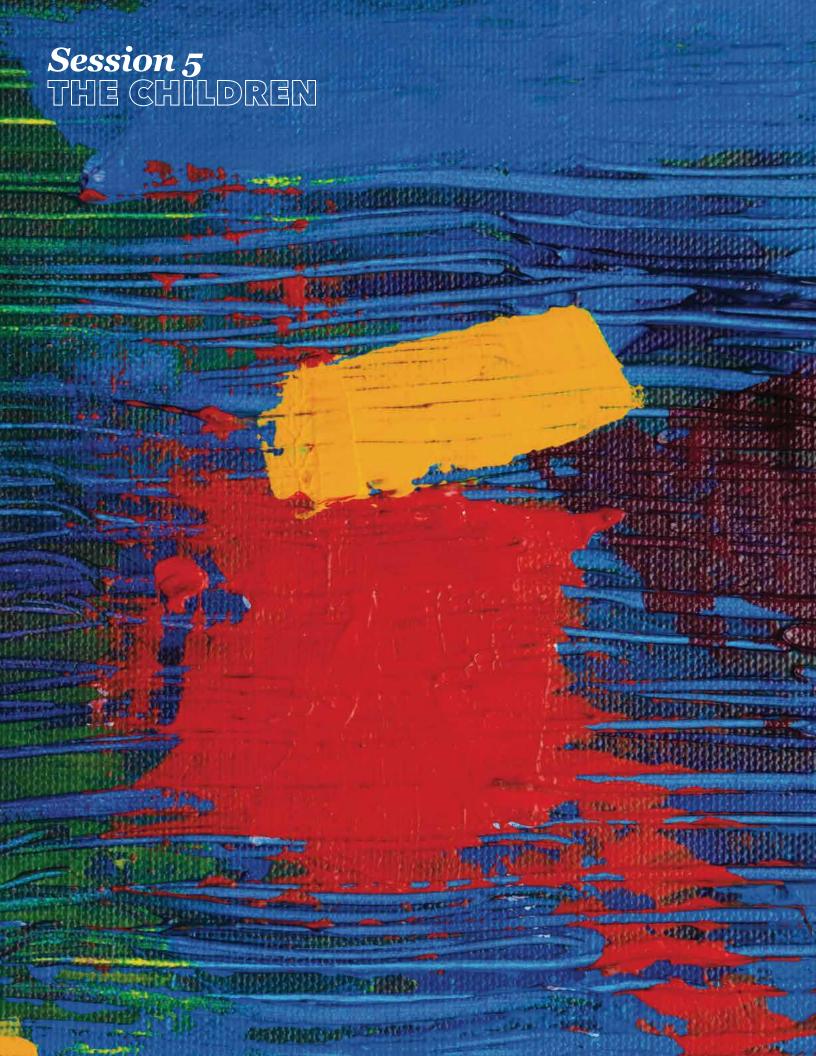
Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Discuss how you can encourage and hold one another accountable to reach others for the sake of the gospel. Spend time praying for each other. Try to pray for specific relationships and people.





13 And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." 16 And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

17 As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER." 20 And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." 21 Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. 23 And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and *said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 26 They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

28 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." 29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last, first."



What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

Pay attention to how these passages relate to each other. How does the man's attitude toward Jesus differ from the childlike faith Jesus encourages? What do we receive in return for childlike faith?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

Why does this man come to Jesus? Why is that a surprise given everything he has? What does Jesus provide to those who sacrifice everything to follow him?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

What are you holding on to that might keep you from Jesus? How can you learn to be grateful for God's blessings in the midst of sacrifices?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

As we're thinking about people who are far from God because they're relying on worldly things, think about the people on your Oikos map and in your sphere of influence. Continue to pray that God would begin to soften their hearts to the gospel. But also, begin to pray that God would prepare opportunities for you to have spiritual conversations.



Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

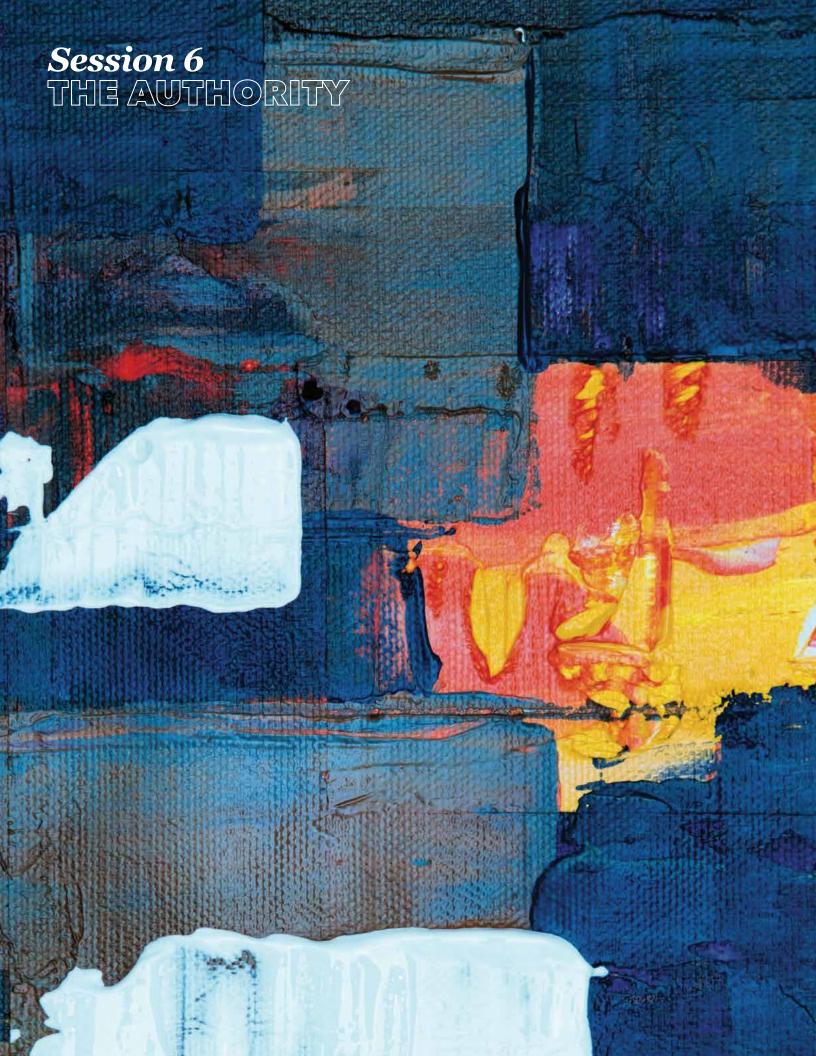
Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Continue sharing about the people God has placed in your path to share the gospel with. Pray over one another asking God to prepare opportunities for you to have spiritual conversations.





12 And they were seeking to seize Him, and yet they feared the people, for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And so they left Him and went away.

13 Then they *sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement. 14 They *came and *said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not? 15 Shall we pay or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at." 16 They brought one. And He *said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" And they said to Him, "Caesar's." 17 And Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were amazed at Him.

18 Some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) *came to Jesus, and began questioning Him, saying, 19 "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves behind a wife and leaves no child, his brother should marry the wife and raise up children to his brother. 20 There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died leaving no children. 21 The second one married her, and died leaving behind no children; and the third likewise; 22 and so all seven left no children. Last of all the woman died also. 23 In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had married her." 24 Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God? 25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 26 But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? 27 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken."

28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' 31 The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 The scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that He is One, and there is no one else besides Him; 33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

35 And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? 36 David himself said in the Holy Spirit,

'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,

"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET." 37 David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what sense is He his son?" And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

38 In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places, 39 and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, 40 who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."



What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

As you study, break this passage into sections. Consider one conversation at a time. Though there is a lot of text, each conversation is simple. Pay attention to each challenge brought to Jesus and to how he responds.

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

What does each conversation have in common? What do they show us about Jesus? How does this help us understand the passage?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

In this passage, Jesus is demonstrating his unquestionable authority. Yet, as humans, we're prone to challenge or dismiss his authority. Where do you need to submit to Jesus as God and King?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

As we've seen in our passage, Jesus doesn't hide from spiritual conversations. Read the section on Spiritual Conversations in the resource section at the back of the book. Consider how you might use everyday circumstances to share the gospel with the people in your life.



Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: What experiences have you had talking about your faith? Discuss helpful ways to have a spiritual conversation. Is there a family member, friend, or neighbor you can have a conversation with? Continue praying for opportunities.





28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. 29 Therefore Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" 30 They answered and said to him, "If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you." 31 So Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death," 32 to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

33 Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" 35 Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." 37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"



What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

What are the motives for each person or group of people in this story? How does the dialogue move the story forward?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

What do Jesus' answers to these questions reveal about the nature of truth? What does this story teach us about those who pursue truth and those who ignore it?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

In this passage, we see truth clearly presented. We also see how self-preservation and selfish motives cause us to ignore truth. How can we make sure we're on the side of truth?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

In this passage, Jesus shows us how to present the truth with boldness and grace. Continue praying and looking for opportunities to influence people in your context with the good news of the gospel. Look for opportunities to share the truth with those around you.



Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Following up on your discussion last week, brainstorm with your group about ways to take your everyday experiences and conversations and turn them into spiritual conversations. Plan and pray specifically for opportunities to share the gospel.





When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. 5 Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. 6 And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. 7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." 8 They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

NOTE: Though most Bibles include vv. 9-20, they are not found in the earliest and most reliable ancient manuscripts of Mark. Most scholars agree they are not original and are a compilation of details from Matthew and Luke to provide ancient churches who only had copies of mark with details about the Jesus, the disciples, and the church after the resurrection.



What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

Verse 8 is an unsatisfying ending to this gospel. Some scholars believe the original ending of Mark was lost. Others suggest the abrupt ending was intentional. Assuming Mark intended this abrupt and uncomfortable ending, how does it make you feel?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

How does this passage bring closure to the story of Jesus from Mark's perspective? What questions about Jesus does it answer?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

How does this abrupt ending in Mark motivate us? How does it call us out and challenge us to share the story of Jesus?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

Although the story itself doesn't explain how the good news of Jesus spread, the fact that we're talking about Jesus today is evidence that Jesus' followers overcame their fear and shared the good news. One of the most effective ways of sharing the good news about Jesus is to share our own story about what he's done for us. Read the section on "Sharing Your Story" in the resource section and consider how you might use your story to share the gospel.



Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

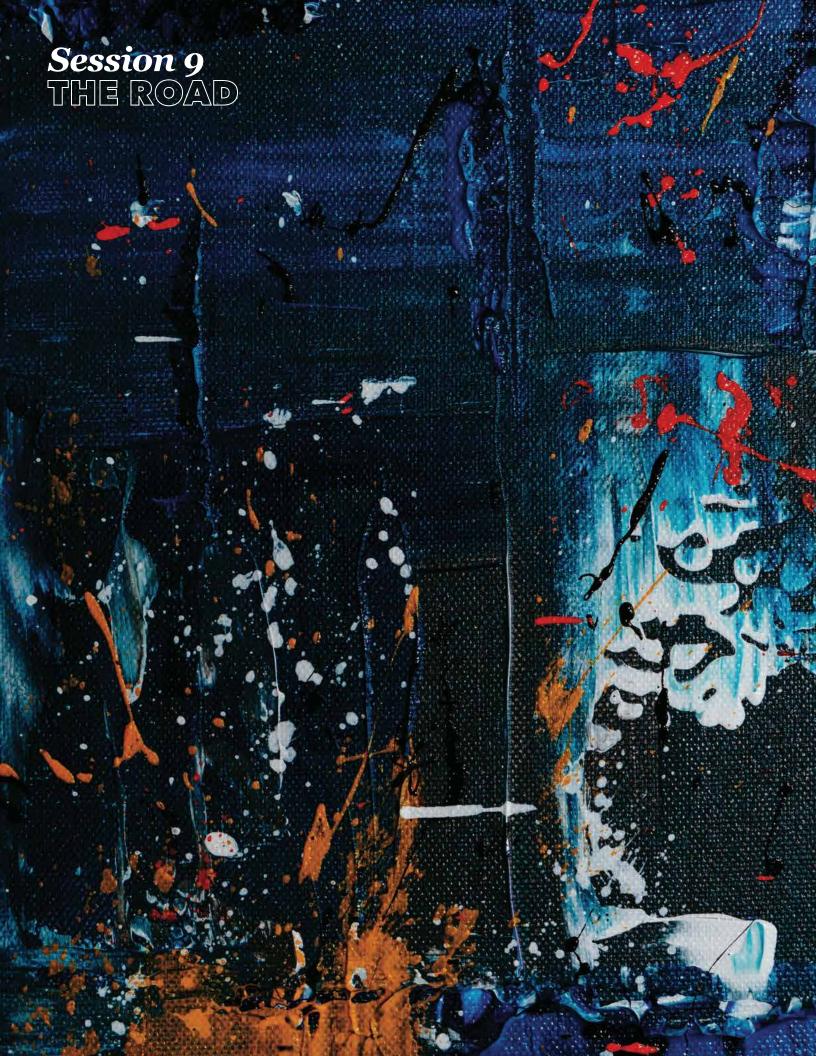
Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Practice sharing your story with another person in your group. Encourage one another and give each other feedback. Pray for opportunities to share what God has done in your life with people around you this week.



READ: LUKE 24:13-35

13 And behold, two of [the disciples] were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. 17 And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. 22 But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." 25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

28 And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. 29 But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. 30 When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" 33 And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, 34 saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.



OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

Pay attention to what the disciples believed and expected about Jesus. Notice how Jesus corrected their understanding of who he was and what he came to do.

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

What does this passage teach us about unmet expectations? What does it show us about how Jesus surpasses what we hope for in a savior? Why do you think the meal and bread was important for the disciples to recognize the risen Jesus?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

How can we learn to be excited about what God is doing rather than frustrated when his plans don't meet our expectations?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

Throughout Christian history, followers of Jesus have developed simple tools and techniques to help share the gospel. Turn to the resource section and learn about the "Three Circles" illustration. Learn it, practice it, and pray for opportunities to use it this week.



BEGIN: WHAT AM I BRINGING WITH ME?

Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Practice sharing your story with another person in your group. Encourage one another and give each other feedback. Pray for opportunities to share what God has done in your life with people around you this week.

DISCUSSION NOTES:



READ: MATTHEW 28:16-20

16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

STUDY: MATTHEW 28:16-20

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

Pay attention to the flow of Jesus' argument. On what is he basing his command? What are the details of this command? What state were the disciples in when he gave them this command?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

What did Jesus intend for his disciples to do based on this command? What does it look like to "make disciples?"

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

How are we called to obey this command in our day? How are you personally called to make disciples? What encouragement does this passage give us?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

Continue praying and looking for opportunities to obey the command to make disciples. Who are people in your life who need encouragement? Who can you walk with in obedience to Jesus? Who needs to hear the good news?

DISCUSS: MATTHEW 28:16-20

BEGIN: WHAT AM I BRINGING WITH ME?

Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Share with your group how you've been led to pray for and interact with people this week. Continue praying together for those in your sphere of influence.

DISCUSSION NOTES:





1 After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. 2 Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They *said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." 6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. 7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved *said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

9 So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." 11 Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. 14 This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead. 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." 17 He *said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep.

18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." 19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!"



OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What questions do you have? What's difficult? Serious? Interesting? Look for the who, what, when, and where of the passage. Write down anything you want to remember.

This moment with Peter and the disciples has been carefully planned by Jesus. Pay attention to the details, actions, and questions. Keep in mind how this story relates to Peter's failure in John 18:15-27.

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Try to answer the questions you just asked. What does this passage mean? What is the author trying to communicate?

Why do you think Jesus prepared this encounter with Peter? What is he trying to show him?

APPLY: WHAT DID I LEARN? WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

What did you learn from this passage? What do you want to remember? How can you apply what you've learned in your life right now?

How does Jesus' restoration of Peter give us hope when we fail? What does God want you to know when you fail?

SHARE: WHO CAN I TELL?

How will what you've learned impact the lives of those around you?

As we close this study, spend time prayerfully reflecting on what you've learned and the conversations you've had. Give thanks for the ways God has used you to be a light to those around you. How can you make sharing the good news about Jesus a lifestyle?



BEGIN: WHAT AM I BRINGING WITH ME?

Catch up: What are you thankful for today? What's causing you stress?

Pray: Briefly pray over needs and ask God to teach us from his Word.

STUDY: WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

Read and Retell: Have one person read the passage out loud. Everyone follows along. Then, have someone retell the story from memory. The group can help fill in any missing details.

Observe: What important observations did you make? Does anything new stand out? Briefly share with your group.

Interpret: Based on your observations, discuss the meaning of the passage. What is God trying to teach you? Discuss as a group.

WRAP UP: WHAT WILL I TAKE WITH ME?

Apply: As a group, discuss how you'll apply the truth of this passage to your life. How will you hold each other accountable? How will you pray for one another?

Share: Share with one another what you've learned and the conversations you've had during this study. Consider how you can encourage and hold each other accountable to continue being a light in your context.

DISCUSSION NOTES:



LET'S RECAP WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

After the past months of considering the person and character of Jesus, the goal of our last meeting is to make it stick and have lasting impact on our lives. We're going to do this in three ways: reflect, celebrate, and apply.

Reflect

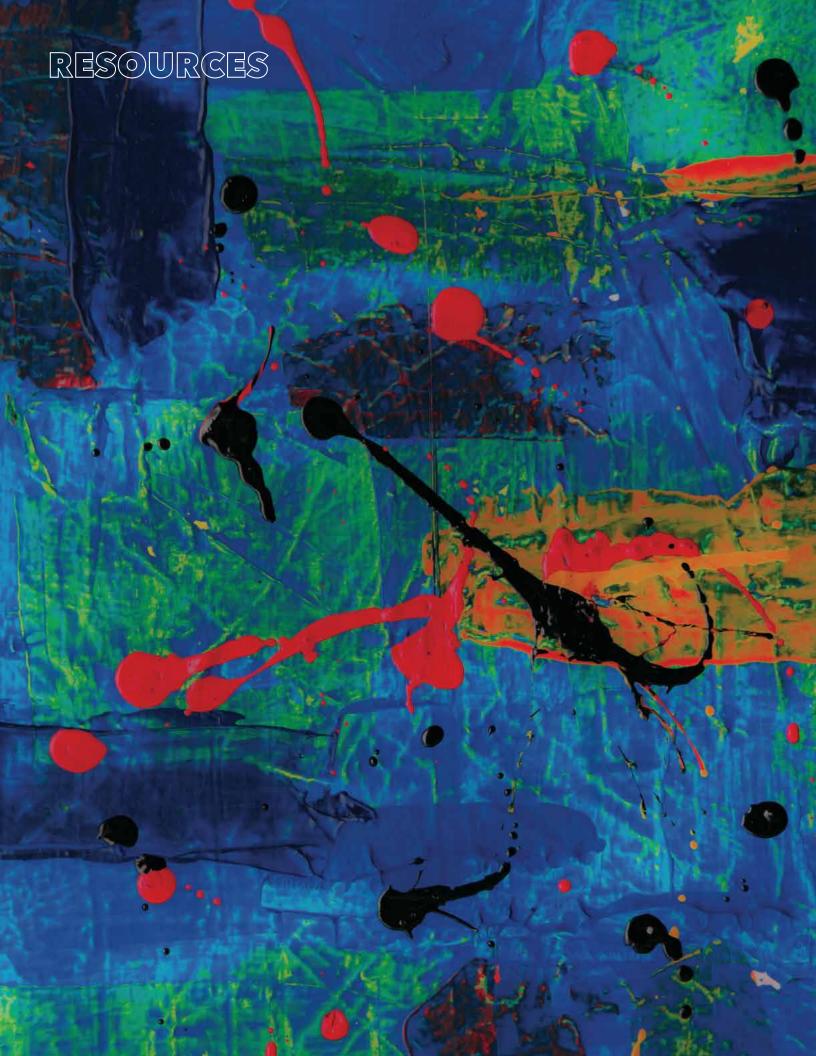
Spend a few minutes quietly reflecting on this past semester. What have you learned about yourself, about others, and about God? You may wish to review passages or notes you've taken. Reflection is not necessarily limited to the context of the study, so feel free to include lessons learned elsewhere. Write some things down and share them with your group.

Celebrate

Consider the reflection points you've shared. How have these lessons changed you and made you more like Jesus? How have they positively affected friends, family, or co-workers? Record your thoughts below. Celebrate these developments by sharing them with your group – be sure to encourage and rejoice as others are sharing! Pray as a group thanking God for his work in your life.

Apply

What do you want to take away from this study? How can you continue to grow and develop from what you've learned? How can this group hold you accountable? Discuss as a group. Conclude by praying for one another.



OTKOS MAP

At the "fullness of time" Jesus entered into the world to perform his ministery just as the Father intended. In the same way, God has appointed each of us to a unique context where he intends for us to love and influence others for Him. Our context is anyone we encounter on a regular basis and may include family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, etc. We believe God has specifically placed and called you to be a light for him to these people.

Who might God be calling you to minister to in your sphere of influence? But, don't stop with the obvious. Think beyond your normal sphere. Perhaps a family member has a friend you might minister to or a coworker has a neighbor you might share the gospel with. You're connected to more people than you think! Be creative and open to anything God might be calling you toward as you create your Oikos map.

Oikos [oικος] is the Greek word for "household." One of the ways we see the gospel spread so rapidly in scripture is through relational networks. The "Oikos Map" is a tool to help followers of Jesus pray for and intentionally seek to share the gospel with people in their lives.

Pray

Ask God...

Who do I know that may be open to learning about Jesus?

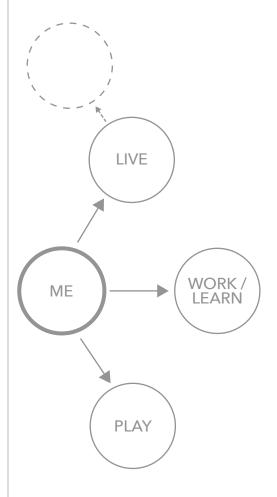
Who can I care for and serve in Jesus name?

How can I share the love of Christ in my everyday encounters?

Help me to see and take opportunities to share the story of Jesus.

Map

As you think about your spheres of influence, try to add three circles with names in each category. You may wish to add additional circles for more connections.



SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

In his life and ministry, Jesus strategically used everyday events and conversations to share the good news about his kingdom. Using illustrations and stories, Jesus made his message accessible for all to hear. Unfortunately, many modern Christians look at non-believers around them with a different mindset allowing fear of the world or frustration with the culture to keep them from talking about Jesus. Our desire is that you would take off this filter and grow in boldness and love as you look for everyday opportunities to share with others who Jesus is and what he's like.

The first step is willingness to be identified in your context as a spiritual person. As you're open about your faith in Jesus, you'll begin to see how others around you react. Yes, some might take a step back from you when they find out you're a Christian. And yet, others will be open to learn more. Some will feel the freedom to ask questions or share about their own beliefs. Often, these conversations and relationships become the context for sharing the gospel. In all of this, it's important to remember it's not our responsibility to argue or convince anyone into God's kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the one who works on a person's heart, making it soft to the gospel. Our responsibility is to trust his prompting to initiate these conversations. He will do the rest.

Here are a few ways you might initiate a spiritual conversation...

As I've been studying the Bible, I feel God is teaching me about
I'm grateful to God because he's blessed me by
There was once a time in my life when I struggled with But now, God is teaching me
When Jesus came into my life, I'm more and less
I feel God has put it on my heart to pray for you. Would you let me know if there's anything in your life I can be praying for?

Remember to give people an opportunity to respond to what you've said. Try asking questions like...

What do you believe about God?

Do you have a relationship with God? What do you think he's like?

Have you ever heard anything like this before? What do you think?

Do you feel that God wants to know you? Why or why not?

As you begin seeking opportunities for spiritual conversations, don't put too much pressure on yourself. Remember, God is the one who stirs in peoples hearts. We're simply trying to allow him to use us and our story to open people's eyes.

Be prayerful and keep your eyes open for anyone God is bringing across your path!

SHARING YOUR STORY

There is no such thing as an "ordinary" or "boring" salvation. If you're a believer in Jesus we literally believe you've been brought from death to life. Your story of coming to know and follow Jesus is a unique gift from God and it's one of the most powerful tools you have to invite people to follow Jesus. As you begin to have spiritual conversations with people in your context, a natural next step would be to ask, "Hey, can I share the story of my spiritual journey?"

Getting started...

Write or type out your answers to the following questions and prompts. These will serve as the "raw materials" as you build the story of your testimony of what Jesus has done in your life.

How I realized I need Jesus...

Before coming to know Jesus, my identity and sense of security and belonging came from_____. What's a personal example from your life that illustrates this point? How did the things you formerly put your hope and trust in disappoint you? How did they fall short? How did you come to realize those things were empty?

Some who trusted Jesus early in life won't have a clear memory of empty, broken things they formerly trusted in before coming to know him. However, even those who believed at a young age will have a later experience where they strayed from finding their identity in him and had to be reminded of what they believed. The point is not necessarily to share a "before and after" picture of your life. It's to show that we're aware of our need for him.

How I first believed in Jesus

When and how did you first hear about Jesus?

When did the good news of the Gospel first start to make sense? What about Jesus was attractive to you? What did you learn about him that caused you to believe that he is who he claimed to be? Why did you decide to follow him?

Some will be able to point to a specific moment in life when God radically grabbed a hold of their heart and they believed. Others will point to a period of gradual understanding and belief. Both are fine! Everyone's story is unique. The most important part is that once you didn't believe and now you do.

How Jesus changed my life...

How is your life different as a result of knowing and following Jesus? How are your perspective, attitude, character, and relationships different now that you trust in Jesus? What motivates you to live for and follow Jesus? How does his story and commands shape your life? How do you experience God in your daily life?

Bringing it all together...

Spend time formulating a coherent story. You don't need to include every detail. But, share enough of your story so people can see and understand what Jesus has done for you. Be sure to think of how you transition from one event to another.

Try to practice sharing your story in 3-4 minutes.

Be sure that you're clear about who Jesus is and why he is the way and not just a way.

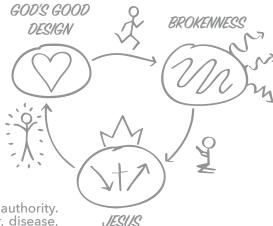
THE THREE CORCLES

The word gospel simply means "good news." Christians believe the story of what God has done in the world through Jesus is good news (the *best* good news). Sometimes, as believers we can overcomplicate the good news about Jesus. So, throughout church history, believers have come up with simple tools to help share the story of Jesus in helpful, concise ways. The three circles is a visual tool to share the gospel.

The three circles help us explain the good news about Jesus according to the overall story of the Bible. Read each section and the verses that follow.

GOD'S GOOD DESIGN

Out of his great love, God created the world and everything that fills it. Everything that he created had a purpose and it was good. As humans made in his image, we were designed to experience a deep and vibrant relationship with each other and with him. We were called to live for him as his royal representatives. (Genesis 1-2)



BROKENNESS

Yet, God's good world broke when human beings rebelled against his authority. Now, everywhere we look we see evidence of the brokenness: war, disease, corruption, broken relationships, death, etc. Unfortunately, the brokenness is also inside of us: lying, hatred, lust, greed, etc. This is because we've all rejected God's design and chosen to follow our own desires. The Bible calls our rebellion sin and the result of our sin is death. Unless our sin is dealt with, we will experience brokenness and seperation from God, forever (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)

JESUS

Because of his great love and grace, God did not want to abandon us to an eternity of sin and brokenness. God provided a way to forgive our sin and to receive eternal life. Because Jesus, the Son of God, took the pentaly for our sin through his death on the cross, we can be forgiven. If we trust in his death for our salvation and resurrection as the promise of victory over death, we can know that our sin is forgiven and we can live forever with him. (John 17:3, Romans 5:8, and 1 Cor. 15:3-5).

We respond to Jesus through faith. We no longer need to strive for God's approval. We also no longer deny our need for salvation and forgiveness. Everyone who believes in Jesus for forgiveness will be forgiven and receive eternal life (Eph. 2:8-9, John 3:16-17).

But, our relationship with Jesus doesn't stop there. By trusting in him, we're not only trusting in his death for our salvation, but we're also trusting that he's going to work in our heart by the power of his Holy Spirit. When we trust him, he begins a process of making us more like him. And, as we're "renewed" he sends us back into the world to tell others about his love and offer of new life (Matthew 28:18-20)

Spend time practicing drawing out the illustration and telling the story. Continue to be ready and open to sharing the good news about Jesus whenever and wherever you have the chance!