



WALKING WITH JESUS THROUGH LENT: A Bigger Story

Pastor Derek Sanford

March 3, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Read **Galatians 1:13-17**. Paul briefly tells his story in this passage. What did he say was the purpose of his story? What has God done in your life that is showing His specific purpose for you? What can we do to better see our life through the filter of what God is doing?
3. Read **Philippians 1:21**. What does "Living Your Story" look like in your life right now? What do you need to start doing or stop doing to live out God's story for your life?
4. Read **Acts 26:1-20**. Paul was not afraid to tell his story even when he was arrested and standing before kings. Paul didn't just tell the story of his conversion, but he regularly told what God was doing throughout his life. What recent events in your life has God been working in that you could tell others about?
5. Read **2 Timothy 4:9-17**. Paul's stories were not always happy stories. What difficulties does Paul talk about in this passage? What hope does Paul have? Share difficulties that you have recently experienced and how God helped and strengthened you.
6. Have some members of your group tell their "life story" in Christ in less than a minute. Include what your life was like before Christ, how you came to Christ and what difference Jesus is making in your life now.

Next Steps: 1-Make a commitment to the group to share with a specific person your story this week. 2-As a group, will you attend the Ash Wednesday service at your site? How can you encourage one another and hold one another accountable to Finding Your Chair and using the LENT Devotional Book that begins on Ash Wednesday?

Prayer Thought:

- **ADORATION:** Praise God for your salvation and His continued presence in your life.
- **CONFESSION:** Confess your neglect of remembering and sharing the story of His work in your life.
- **THANKSGIVING:** Thank God for His constant presence in your life.
- **SUPPLICATION:** Ask God to embolden you to share your story to one person in your life this week.

Memory Verse: *Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16:24-25*



WALKING WITH JESUS THROUGH LENT: The Baptism

Sarah Burt

March 10, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Review the daily readings from the devotional book. What did you learn about Jesus this week? What did He reveal to you about you- your calling, your faith, your sin, etc?
2. The spiritual discipline from the end of week 1 was Sacrifice - were you able to set aside time to practice that? What did you learn from that experience? How can we make that a regular discipline in our lives?
3. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
4. **Read Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34.** Compare and contrast these four gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism. How do the different authors' accounts differ? How are they the same?
5. **Read Genesis 7:1; 7:11-12; 8:1; Exodus 14:21-22; Joshua 3:14-17; Jonah 1:11-2:1.** Sarah said, "Baptism represents the cleansing away of sin and passing safely through the waters of judgment and death." How do these Old Testament passages point the way to baptism?
6. **Read Genesis 3:15 and Matthew 3:15** Genesis 3:15 is the first prophecy of Jesus coming. How is that prophecy fulfilled in Matthew 3:15? What might be some other reasons Jesus insisted on being baptized by John? (*Identifying with us sinners; Obedience to his Father; God's voice confirming him Son of God*)
7. **Read Colossians 2:12 and Romans 6:4.** During baptisms at Grace Church they say, "Buried in the likeness of his death. Raised in the likeness of his resurrection." We are not saved by baptism but how is it a symbol of what happens when we decide to follow Jesus? (**See Galatians 2:20**) Why is baptism so important for believers?
8. Jesus' baptism was the pivot point of His work in the past, present, and future of history. How is Jesus in the past, present, and future of *your* life?
9. As you feel comfortable, discuss with your group your own feelings about baptism. If you were baptized what are your memories? What did it mean to you? If you have not been baptized what are your thoughts about it?

Next Steps: a) Is someone in your group ready to take the step of baptism? The next opportunity is April 28th. How can your group support someone making this step? b) Commit as a group to pray for those who will be baptized on April 28.

Prayer Thought: Following the ACTS method, have your group take some time to ADORE and thank the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for their presence at baptisms. Then ask them to silently CONFESS ways they have neglected to make God first in their lives. Next THANK Jesus for giving us baptism as a symbol of our new life in Him, then SAY WHAT YOU NEED and ask Him to do His work in your group as you follow Him in baptism or pray for others who will.



Walking with Jesus: First Miracle

Pastor Derek Sanford

March 17, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Review the daily readings from the devotional book. What did you learn about Jesus this week? What did He reveal to you about you- your calling, your faith, your sin, etc?
2. The spiritual discipline from the end of week 2 was Celebration - were you able to set aside time to practice that? What did you learn from that experience? How can we make that a regular discipline in our lives?
3. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
4. **Read John 20:30-31** and **John 2:1-11**. How does this miracle help us know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
5. **Read Mark 7:1-4**. What role did purification have in the life of a devout Jew? Why don't we follow these purification rules today?
6. **Read Hebrews 9:11-14**. How does Jesus purify us? What is the difference between the purification of the Old Testament and the purification of Jesus?
7. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**. What does this passage say about us through Jesus?
8. What are some ways that you have been "made new" by Jesus?
9. **Read Psalm 139: 1-6**. How does this Psalm point to how much God cares about us? What prevents us from seeking his help in the "ordinary" things?

Next Steps:

Look up the other miracles recorded in John. How do these point to Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God?

Where have you, personally, run dry and need the "new wine" of Jesus Christ?

Prayer Thought:

Praise the Lord through prayer for all the ways that he has made each of you into a new creation. Be as specific as you can! Consider using **Psalm 139** to guide your prayer time.

Take time to share burdens and together invite Jesus into the situation. Ask Him for what you need!



Walking with Jesus: Sermon on the Mount

Pastor Derek Sanford

March 24, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Review the daily readings from the devotional book. What did you learn about Jesus this week? What did He reveal to you about you- your calling, your faith, your sin, etc?
2. The spiritual discipline from the end of week 3 was Silence - were you able to set aside time to practice that? What did you learn from that experience? How can we make that a regular discipline in our lives?
3. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
4. Read **Matthew 5-7**. (Yes, this is lengthy! But read through it all out loud as a group.)
5. Each Life Group is unique and brings much different life experience and situations. These chapters talk about MANY different subjects. Have members bring up sections of scripture they want to discuss.
6. As a group, re-read the passage people want to discuss and take time to talk through it. Remember, have a study Bible, a cross reference of other scriptures talking about the subject, and commentaries.
7. Allow for the discussion to direct itself, always using scripture for answers.
8. Read **Mark 6:30-44** and **Mark 8:1-10**. What are the similarities and differences between this miracle, and the miracle in Mark 6 where Jesus fed 5,000?

Next Steps:

Commit to attending church on Sunday, and encountering God through the daily use of the Walking with Jesus Devotional book. Put them on your calendar. Make it a priority!

Which Kingdom are you walking in? What is the cost of following Jesus? What is the cost of not following Jesus?

Prayer Thought:

Spend time collectively praising God for the truth of Scripture, and the gift He has given us through our ability to have it. Ask that there will be continued wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit revealing what the scriptures mean.



WALKING WITH JESUS: The Transfiguration

Pastor John Tiernan

March 31, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Review the daily readings from the devotional book. What did you learn about Jesus this week? What did He reveal to you about you- your calling, your faith, your sin, etc?
2. The spiritual discipline from the end of week 4 was Solitude- were you able to set aside time to practice that? What did you learn from that experience? How can we make that a regular discipline in our lives?
3. Thinking back on this week's sermon on Jesus' Transfiguration, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
4. Read **Matthew 17:1-8**. In light of what you have been learning about Jesus through this study, how significant is this moment for Him and for the disciples who were with Him?
5. Put yourself in Peter, James or John's shoes. What would you have seen, felt, experienced? (Read **Mark 9:2-8** for another perspective)
6. Read **Mark 9:9-29**. Note that Peter wanted to stay on the mountain but Jesus led them down. What happens next?
7. Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience with Jesus? Did you want to stay there? Why must we allow Jesus to lead us down from the mountain?
8. Why is walking with Jesus the only way to glory?

Next Steps: You will risk rejection when you invite someone to Easter, but remember **Luke 9:26**, *For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.* How can this group support, encourage and hold one another accountable to inviting someone to meet Jesus?

Prayer Thought: Take time to meditate on the glory of Jesus. Use passages of Scripture and/or music that puts you in a posture of worship and giving Him glory. (**John 1:1-5, 14, 16; Romans 8:34-39; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 5:9-14**)



WALKING WITH JESUS: The Lord's Supper

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 7, 2019

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Review the daily readings from the devotional book. What did you learn about Jesus this week? What did He reveal to you about you- your calling, your faith, your sin, etc?
2. The spiritual discipline from the end of week 5 was Service - were you able to set aside time to practice that? What did you learn from that experience? How can we make that a regular discipline in our lives?
3. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
4. Read the account of the first Passover in **Exodus 12**. Now read the account of the final Passover in **Luke 22:7-23**. How do these accounts testify to God's Sovereignty- that He is always in control of every detail?
5. Read **Jeremiah 31:31, 33**. How significant is it for us that Jesus has established a new covenant? Compare with the blessings and curses of obedience/disobedience to the Mosaic (Old) covenant in **Deuteronomy 28**.
6. Read **Isaiah 25:6-9**. What awaits those who love and serve the Lord? What should a seat at the table do to us? When this story gets inside of you - what kind of person should it make you? What kind of community should we be? What kind of people would we be if we lived like that was real?
7. For you, what does it mean that Jesus has given hope to your past, present, future?

Next Steps: Pursue a righteous life - His sacrifice calls forth a response of sacrifice of a life honoring to him and drawing on the resources of the new covenant and He has given us the Lord's supper as a way to remember. How can we as a group encourage one another and hold one another accountable to pursuing a life worthy of Jesus?

Prayer Thought: Praise God for His sovereign plan. Praise Jesus for establishing the new covenant. Confess where you have settled for a mediocre life and Thank Him that He has called you to a righteous life in Him. Ask Him to increase your faith, to increase your commitment to Him, to His Word, to walking in His Spirit.



Walking with Jesus Through Lent: Triumphal Entry

Pastor Derek

April 14

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Review the daily readings from the devotional book. What did you learn about Jesus this week? What did He reveal to you about you- your calling, your faith, your sin, etc?
2. The spiritual discipline from the end of week 6 was Worship - were you able to set aside time to practice that? What did you learn from that experience? How can we make that a regular discipline in our lives?
3. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
4. Read **John 6:35-40, John 8:31-38, John 10:14-18**. What do these scriptures say about Jesus? What are some of the ways He describes himself?
5. Read Isaiah **55:8-9**. How does this passage help us reframe expectations we may have on Jesus and the mentality of "what's in it for me"?
6. In his sermon, Pastor Derek referenced three ways that the crowd was disappointed during Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Have you ever felt disappointed by Jesus? In light of the sermon's big idea (*Follow Jesus because of who He is, not what He can do for you.*), how can you look at your disappointment differently? What do you see now that you didn't see then?
7. Has there been a time in your life where you chose to follow Jesus even when it was hard or seemed impossible? What did you learn though that experience?
8. In his sermon next steps, Pastor Derek challenged us to find an area in our life where we need to choose Jesus because of who He is, not because of what he can do for us. What does it look like in your life to do this?

Next Steps: In these last few days before we reflect on Jesus' death on Good Friday, and rejoice in His resurrection on Easter Sunday, be intentional in choosing Jesus for who He is. In your quiet time, thank Him for who He is, praise Him for the gravity of Easter week – what it meant then and what it means for eternity.

Prayer Thought: Have a group member read **Psalm 136** as a reminder and declaration of who God the Father is.