



ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Spring 2020 // Unit 21: Jesus Among the People
Session 2: Jesus Reveals His Mission

Suggested Use Date: 5/17/2020

For use with The Gospel Project Leader Guide and Daily Discipleship Guide



PREPARATION

Best Practices for Leading an Online Group



PRAY for your group members and for God to grant you insight as you study and prepare for your Bible study session. Do this throughout the week.



SCHEDULE your group's online Bible study using the online meeting tool you prefer. Invite group members and guests to participate using a meeting ID if required by your online meeting tool. [Click here](#) to view a Best Practices document for online groups.



SEND a digital copy of the next session in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* to group members who do not have a print copy. Encourage your group members to have this session handy for your group's upcoming online Bible study and the five daily Bible readings for the week following your session.



CONNECT with your group via email or text messaging early in the week.

Create your own message:

- Remind group members to follow up your previous online study with the daily readings in their *Daily Discipleship Guide*.
- Briefly tell the group the title of your next Bible study, why it is important, and what they will learn.
- Remind group members when your group will meet online.

Or copy and paste this suggested wording into the email or text message to your group:

WEEKLY MESSAGE

Remember to keep up with your daily devotions for Unit 21, Session 1 this week. And consider ways to discuss insights and questions with others from the group.

While finding a solution to the COVID-19 pandemic might appear to be humanity's greatest need at the moment (and it is a real and definite need), Jesus came to meet our greatest need, namely, to serve as the Messiah who would save us from our sin and establish God's kingdom on earth. In the upcoming study of Luke 4 from Unit 21, Session 2, we will learn about Jesus' identity and mission along with how the people of His own hometown did not readily receive His claims about Himself.

We will meet at (add time) using (name of online tool). Here is the link to our meeting: (add meeting ID if your online tool doesn't do that automatically).



PREPARE to lead your group's Bible study.

- **Study** the Bible passage(s).
- **Listen** to *The Gospel Project* for Adults Weekly Leader Training Podcast. Go to gospelproject.com/podcasts for an overview of the main points and key ideas from each session.
- **Visit** *The Gospel Project* website for additional leader helps at gospelproject.com/blog and gospelproject.com/additional-resources.
- **Create** your teaching plan for guiding your group's online Bible study experience. Use the Online Group Plan on the next pages as a starting point, modifying it for your group as needed. Consult *The Gospel Project* for Adults *Leader Pack* and *Biblical Illustrator* for additional ideas and resources.



REMIND your group members early in the week via another email or text message to follow up the weekly study with the daily devotions in their *Daily Discipleship Guide*.

- Include a quote from a *Daily Discipleship Guide* devotion, a question, or an insight you found helpful to encourage this step of personal discipleship and growth for your group members.



HELPFUL LINKS

- *The Gospel Project* main landing page: gospelproject.com
- Digital version of *The Gospel Project*: curriculum.lifeway.com
- *The Gospel Project* leader helps: gospelproject.com/additional-resources
- *The Gospel Project* podcast: gospelproject.com/podcasts
- Free Coronavirus links and leader helps: lifeway.com/coronavirus



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NOTES

GREET people as they join your online group. **SAY:** Many stories are centered around a hero who fulfills an ancient prophecy, a “chosen one” who saves the world as someone predicted they would long ago. The characters in these stories surely face a lot of opposition along the way, but they stick to their purpose and persevere in their quest as they fulfill the prophecies foretold about them. **Option:** *If you have time, for an example, relay the information about the protagonists from The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, by C. S. Lewis (Daily Discipleship Guide [DDG] p. 106; Leader Guide [LDR] p. 117).*

TRANSITION: Jesus is the real-life version of such a story. He is the fulfillment of ancient prophecy. Although Jesus faced rejection from the family and friends He grew up with, He continued to press on along the difficult path to which He was called. Jesus fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy of the Messiah and how the people rejected Jesus. Ultimately, the rejection shown in His hometown of Nazareth would culminate in His paramount rejection by the people at the crucifixion.

READ: Ask a volunteer to read **Luke 4:16-22** (DDG p. 107; LDR p. 118).

EXPLAIN the boldness and truthfulness of Jesus’ claim to fulfill the prophecy from Isaiah and the omniscience of God to proclaim the prophecy through Isaiah in the first place. We serve a timeless God of complete knowledge and authority who is worthy of our trust (DDG p. 107; LDR p. 118).

FILL IN THE BLANKS: Provide group members with the answers for the essential Christian doctrine call-out in their DDG (p. 107): **“God Is Omniscient”:** Scripture teaches that God is all-knowing. He is the One who “has perfect knowledge” (Job 37:16), and this knowledge extends to all things past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. His knowledge is **complete**, and as He is **outside** of time, He has known from all **eternity** whatever will come to pass. In response to God’s omniscience, we admit our finite knowledge and trust His decisions as wise and good.



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EXPLAIN that Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1-2, with an insertion from 58:6, revealing that the Messiah's mission is, in summary, to proclaim good news to the poor. Isaiah's prophecy provided hope to Jewish exiles in Babylon, but Jesus' ministry was aimed at the ultimate fulfillment of this passage—freedom from sin for the whole world (DDG p. 107; LDR p. 119).

ASK: What are some ways the good news of Jesus addresses the suffering the world experiences today?

READ: Ask a volunteer to read **Luke 4:23-27** (DDG p. 108; LDR p. 120).

EXPLAIN: Jesus anticipated the people's rejection of Him and this rejection foreshadowed the events leading to His crucifixion (DDG p. 108; LDR p. 120).

ASK: What doubts might arise in our own hearts as we consider the claims of Christ?

EXPLAIN the significance of Jesus' references to Elijah (1 Kings 17:8-24) and Elisha (2 Kings 5:1-19) ministering to Gentiles outside of Israel. In rejecting Jesus, the Jews would be rejecting God's blessing, just as their ancestors had, and so, His ministry would go forth to the ends of the earth (DDG p. 108; LDR p. 121).

ASK: Who are some people on the margins of your community, and how can you reach out to them with the gospel?

READ: Ask a volunteer to read **Luke 4:28-31** (DDG p. 109; LDR p. 122).

EXPLAIN that while those in Nazareth rejected Jesus and attempted to throw Him over a cliff, the appointed time for Jesus to die had not yet come.

ASK: What comfort and encouragement should we take from the fact that Jesus passed through the crowd unharmed?



NOTES

FILL IN THE BLANKS: Provide group members with the answers for the essential Christian doctrine call-out in their DDG (p. 109): **“The World Opposed to God”**: There are times in Scripture where the term world refers to more than the physical planet Earth or the collective human population. In many instances, the term refers to an active and evil spiritual force that is in direct conflict with God and His **kingdom**. This evil world force operates under **Satan’s** control (Eph. 2:2; John 14:30), displaying the same self-centeredness and deceit that is found within his character. Christians are called to overcome this world of spiritual evil by **faith** in the Son of God (1 John 5:4-5).

CHALLENGE group members to reflect on and respond to the My Mission questions (DDG p. 110; LDR p. 124).

ENCOURAGE group members to use the daily devotions in the week ahead to look more closely at Jesus’ ministry as a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

ASK group members to share **prayer requests** and then **PRAY**.

NEXT STEPS



- Contact group members regularly to pray with them. Encourage them to devote some personal quiet time with God this week with the daily devotions in the Daily Discipleship Guide that follow up on today’s session.
- Send a digital copy of the next session to group members who do not have a print copy.
- Repeat the process outlined in the Preparation section of this document.