

Life of Jesus

Session 11: Take, Eat

Here in the West, Jesus is a familiar figure to Christians, but removed as we are by 2,000 years since he walked the earth, He remains somewhat mysterious. Why did He come? What did He teach? What was He really like? We will be exploring the Life of Jesus in 21 sessions; the first 14 will focus on Jesus' life and ministry in the 1st Century and will end around Easter. The last 7 will focus on Jesus' life and ministry in our own century and will take us through the month of May. Let's experience the Life of Jesus together!

Deep Hope: May we, together, (re-) fall in Love with the Messiah as we understand, imitate, and experience the Life of Jesus.

PART I: Review

1. 1st Century Jews were living in the Promised Land, but under Roman Rule.
2. Many believed that Messiah would free Israel and reinstate God's kingdom on earth.
3. Jesus announced (and proved with miracles!) that the Kingdom was at hand—not an after-death reality, but rather God's rule breaking into our reality.
4. Jesus' miracles show what God's kingdom looks like, and the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus' parables tell what it is like!
5. Jesus loved those at the margins of His society—spending time with the sick and the sinners—his disciples were sent out to do the same!
6. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus was revealed as the climax of God's story—three disciples caught a glimpse of kingdom past, present, and future.
7. Mary recognized Jesus' power of love, which was soon to be pitted against the powers of His day—political, religious, and spiritual.

PART II: Take, Eat

1. The Last Supper is a _____ meal—recalling the exodus from Egypt.
2. Jesus begins by washing his disciples' feet, showcasing his place as _____.
3. Jesus looks ahead the coming _____.
4. Jesus re-centers the meal around _____ and his coming _____.
5. Judas opts out of this fellowship. Why?
6. Jesus is inaugurating a New _____. That is to say, a new _____.
7. The universe has a new center: _____ and _____, in radical unity.

Part III: Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What is the significance of Jesus dying on Passover? Make some connections!
2. When has someone's act of service been especially meaningful to you?
3. Why do you think it's so hard for Peter to be served in this way? Is it hard for you? How can Communion help us accept *receiving* God's forgiveness and service?
4. Jesus says the cup is the New Covenant in His blood. The Old Covenant was about external obedience to high standards. The New Covenant is about being transformed through receiving Jesus' Life and giving it away to others in a way that blows the old standards away! When do you still find yourself trying to live in the Old Covenant?
5. Judas does not want to sit at this table. We can speculate about what kept him out, but what sorts of things keep you from unity with God and others?
6. God becoming man is already a radical step toward unity. Jesus takes this unity *further* and creates a new human family that is drawn up into the very life of God, through feeding on Jesus! Whoa. What does this look like, practically speaking? Can you think of places/spaces where you see people united with God and with each other? It might be rare, but what does healthy unity look like???
7. Jesus speaks of a feast in a coming kingdom. With whom do you long to celebrate? With whom might it be difficult? How can Communion help us begin to truly love others—both friends and enemies?

Part IV: Gospel Reading: The Destruction of the Temple

The final week of Jesus' life has some dramatic stories, but the most dramatic has to be Jesus clearing the temple of money changers. Read about Jesus' drastic action in John 2 OR Matthew 21:12-13 or Mark 11:15-17 or Luke 19:45-46! Then, take a look at Mark 13 to see what Jesus says will happen to this temple very soon. What is up with all this talk about the temple?! Does Jesus love it or hate it?

Prayer: *"Father, we are so hungry. The promises of this world have all fallen through and our own attempts to make a meal for ourselves have failed. There is nothing to eat that truly satisfies. We are hungry, deep down, for You, and You long to feed us. Give us today our bread from You. And Father, it is so hard to love others. Teach us, as we receive Your love and forgiveness, to share them with others. You are enough. We long for You. Come, Lord Jesus."*