

Life of Jesus

Session 15: Helper for the Journey

Here in the West, Jesus is a familiar figure to Christians, but 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 lived under Roman Rule, awaiting a Messianic Kingdom.
2. 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.
3. 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!
4. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus was revealed as the climax of God's story—but only Mary recognized Jesus' Power of Love that conquers all other powers.
5. Jesus gave Himself to His followers, creating a new union between God and man.
6. Jesus destroyed the barriers that kept people from God—and prophesied a day when the building would be destroyed and He and His followers would become the new Temple.
7. Jesus shattered Messianic expectations by giving His life as a sacrifice to redeem from sin and death, not Rome. He entered suffering and death instead of inflicting them in others.
8. Jesus rose from the dead to show us what God's New Creation looks like—and invite our participation.

PART II: Helper for the Journey

1. **Big Idea:** The Holy Spirit is Jesus with (and within) us; everything God the Father wants to do _____ and _____ us happens _____ the Spirit.
2. The Holy Spirit appears in the Old Testament at many key moments, where His power helps: _____ the world; _____ art; _____ the future; _____ the kingdom; provide _____ for war; live a life devoted to God; bring forth Jesus!
3. Jesus Himself receives the Spirit at His _____ and the Spirit empowers Jesus to _____.
4. When Jesus speaks of the Spirit, He describes Him as a _____ who will help the disciples _____, _____, _____.

5. The Spirit provides gifts so that all _____ could do, we can too!
6. The Spirit in us is only step one; we must continually _____ up the Spirit in order to be _____ by Him—under His influence. This stirring can happen in many ways.
7. The idea is that we would never be without His _____ and His work could continue _____ multiplied.

Part III: Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What key moments did the Spirit appear in the Old Testament? What did He help with?
2. Why did Jesus Himself need the Spirit?
3. Jesus speaks about the Spirit being our Helper, our Advocate, our Comforter, our Teacher, and even as He Himself. Which of these descriptions seems most familiar to you? Which would you like to explore more?
4. Why did Jesus say that it would be better for us if He left and the Helper came?
5. Why does the Spirit give different people different gifts?
6. What does it mean to be filled with God's Spirit? How can we partner with God to be filled with His Spirit?
7. Do you have an experience from your own life of the Holy Spirit you'd like to share? (This could be a daily experience or a once-in-a-lifetime event)

Part IV: Scripture Reading: Luke 14:1-24; I Corinthians 1; James 1

When Jesus was on earth, He consistently moved to the margins of His society, attracting those deemed “too bad” or “too dirty” or “too weak” to be of any good. Both His followers and the crowds included those others may have given up on. As followers of Jesus, our call is to do the same! What does it look like today to move to the margins? What does it look like to see those our culture has made invisible? What if a deeper experience of Jesus was only as far as those we typically avoid?

Prayer: *“Father, we need Your Spirit. The Spirit of Jesus. The Spirit that makes us more than simply imitators of Jesus’ good example, but rather supernatural children of Yours, experiencing Your life, working with Your power. We are so prone to do things on our own,*

please show us that dependence on You is true strength. Thank You for being so willing to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Amen.”