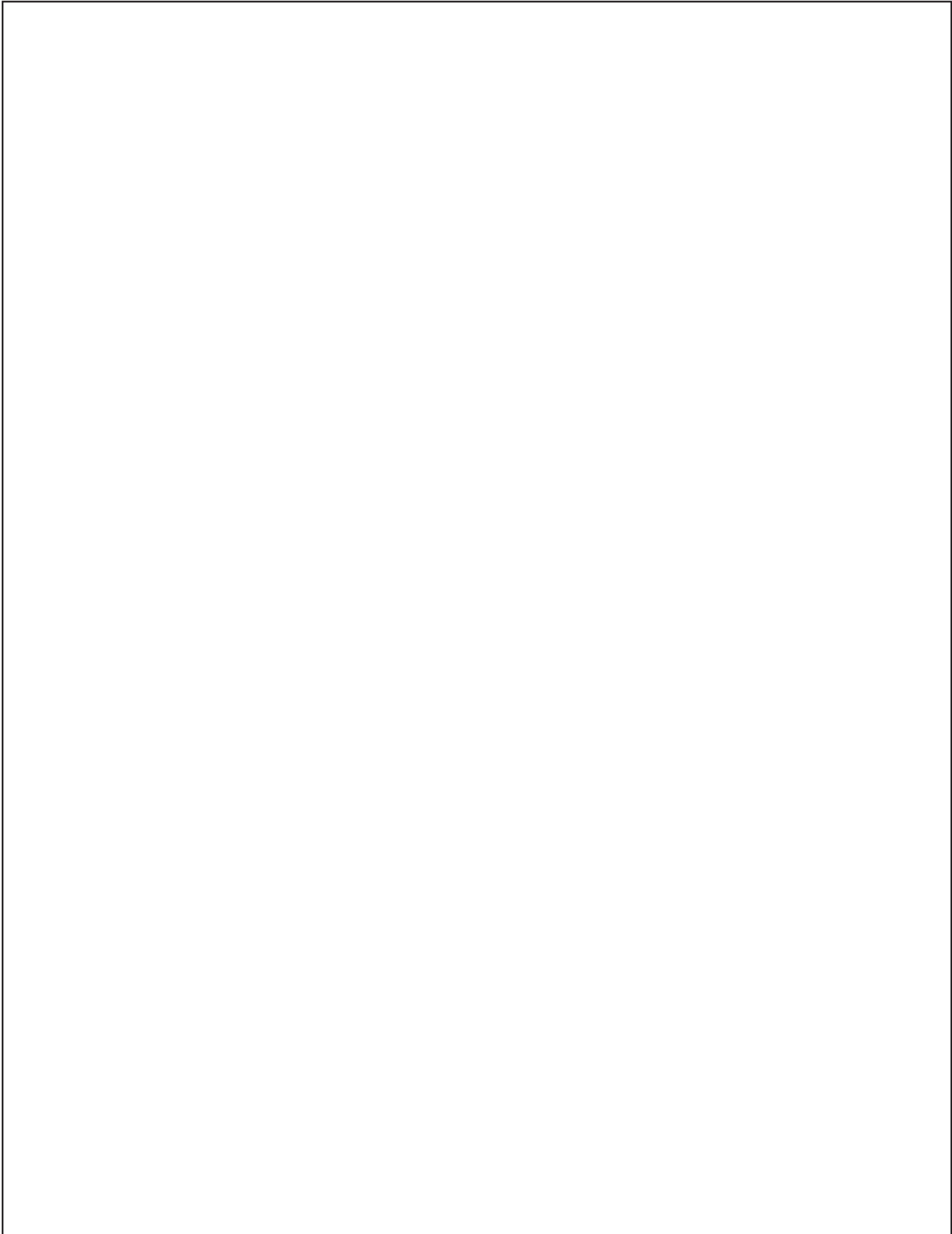


THE RESURRECTED JESUS

GM LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM BASED ON THE SERMON SERIES
SPRING 2022

<u>WEEK OF</u>	<u>STORY TITLE (OR CONTENTS)</u>	<u>PAGE #</u>
1 APR 10	AT THE CROSS MATTHEW 27:51-56	4 - 7
2 APR 17	HE REMOVES OUR DOUBT LUKE 24:13-43	8 - 11
3 APR 24	HE RESTORES US JOHN 21:1-25	12 - 15
4 MAY 1	HE COMMISSIONS US MATTHEW 28:16-20	16 - 19
5 MAY 8	HE ASCENDED FOR US ACTS 1:9-12	20 - 23
6 MAY 15	LIFE GROUP SERVE WEEK NO CURRICULUM <i>HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!</i>	
	COMPONENTS OF A LIFE GROUP	24
	GROUND RULES	25
	ICEBREAKER IDEAS	26
	ADDITIONAL NOTES/PRAYER REQUESTS	27



Matthew 27:51-56

⁵¹ Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs were also opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ And they came out of the tombs after his resurrection, entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵ Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him were there, watching from a distance. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

AVOID SENSITIVE TOPICS

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

H.....

Jesus, the perfect Son of God, had been brutally beaten, crucified on a cross, and mocked by the people of Jerusalem. Crucifixion is said to be the most horrible type of execution. In fact, the word "excruciating" was created to describe the pain as there were no other words to do so; however, Jesus knew this must be done to save the whole world from sin, even those who were not yet born. He was put on the cross in the morning, and by noon, He became silent. Darkness fell over the sky for three hours, similar to the darkness that covered the land of Egypt three days before the Passover (Exodus 10:21-23). Around three o'clock, Jesus shouted out and gave up His spirit. This is where we begin today's passage.



U

Today's story appears as if it came from a sci-fi movie. Jesus did many miraculous things while He walked the earth, but His death was the most miraculous. Even non-believing bystanders claimed what they saw was unexplainable and significant. Jesus finished the work of salvation when He died on the cross. There was now freedom in Christ that had not been experienced by anyone before. The torn veil signified there was no more need for temples, altars, sacrifices, and priests as mediators (Heb 10:14-26). The earthquake signified the curse of the law being abolished (Heb 12:18-24). And the resurrection of the dead saints proved He had defeated death.

As you are listening, be thinking of how knowing Jesus has altered the course of your life.

KEY VERSE

Philippians 2:7b-8

^{7b} And when he had come as a man, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.

SUMMARY

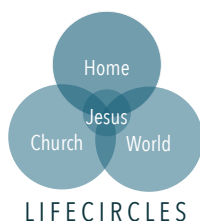
Because of Jesus,
we can approach
God directly

Jesus conquered sin

Jesus conquered the law

Jesus conquered death

Who's your
ONE?



TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

DEATH OF JESUS MATTHEW 27:51-56

10
MIN

TELL THE STORY → → READ THE STORY



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



Describe the miracles and their significance that occurred during the crucifixion of Jesus.

How did the soldiers respond to all that was happening?



Imagine yourself as the centurion. How would you describe what was happening in your heart at that time?

How has the realization of Jesus Christ truly being the Son of God altered the course of your life?



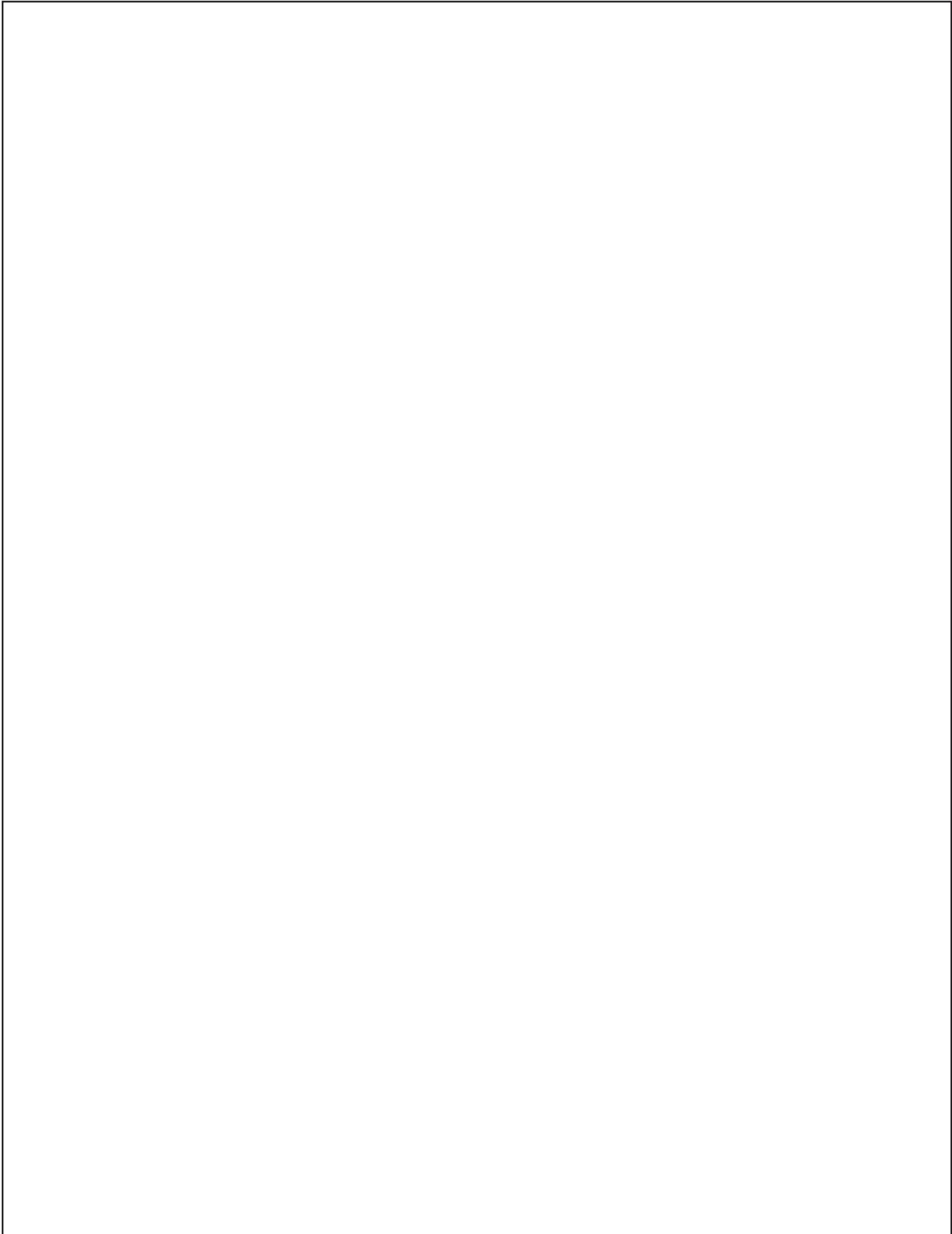
Take some time this week to share the testimony of how Jesus became real to you.

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

20
MIN



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Luke 24:13-43

¹³ Now that same day two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ Together they were discussing everything that had taken place. ¹⁵ And while they were discussing and arguing, Jesus himself came near and began to walk along with them. ¹⁶ But they were prevented from recognizing him. ¹⁷ Then he asked them, "What is this dispute that you're having with each other as you are walking?" And they stopped walking and looked discouraged.

¹⁸ The one named Cleopas answered him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked them.

So they said to him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ But we were hoping that he was the one who was about to redeem Israel. Besides all this, it's the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women from our group astounded us. They arrived early at the tomb, ²³ and when they didn't find his body, they came and reported that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn't see him."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

²⁸ They came near the village where they were going, and he gave the impression that he was going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him, "Stay with us, because it's almost evening, and now the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ It was as he reclined at the table with them that he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?" ³³ That very hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those with them gathered together, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they began to describe what had happened on the road and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ As they were saying these things, he himself stood in their midst. He said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ "Why are you troubled?" he asked them. "And why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself! Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." ⁴⁰ Having said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ But while they still were amazed and in disbelief because of their joy, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² So they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

HE REMOVES OUR DOUBT

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

AVOID SENSITIVE TOPICS

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

H.....

Jesus, the Son of God, had just been brutally beaten, crucified on a cross, and buried in a tomb. Three days later Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view His tomb and bring spices they prepared. When they arrived, the tomb was empty, and two men were standing in white clothes exclaiming, "He has been resurrected!" The women immediately returned from the tomb, reporting to the disciples and others what they saw. The people thought it was nonsense and did not believe the women. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. When he got there and looked inside, all he saw was the linen cloths Jesus was wrapped in, folded up where he was placed. He turned around and went home. Today we pick up where Jesus, just risen from the dead, appears to two of His disciples.

U

One would think that the very men who walked with Jesus for years, would have known Him after His resurrection. However, they were so caught up in their ideology of what happened and what they thought should have happened that they missed Jesus right in front of them. In their defense, while they knew of the Old Testament scriptures, they were living out what became the beginning of the New Testament. Today we have the whole Bible, in its entirety, and still, sometimes we are blind to the total message. *"The key to understanding the Bible is to see Jesus Christ on every page"* (Warren Wiersbe). It may seem silly that they didn't know who Jesus was, but how many times in your life have you essentially asked Jesus Christ to prove Himself before you would truly believe? There are many who know all about the bible, but don't actually know the author.



As you're listening today, be thinking of when Jesus guided you through times of doubt in your life.

KEY VERSE

Luke 24:45

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

SUMMARY

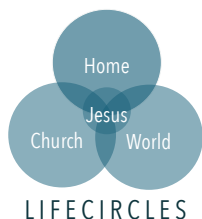
When we focus on our own frustrated plans and false hopes, we can miss Jesus

God's Word has the answers to all of our problems and disappointments

Even when we don't recognize Him, Jesus is always working around us

"The more we receive the Word of God, the more we will want to fellowship with the God of the Word"
-Warren Wiersbe

Who's your
ONE?



TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

JESUS APPEARS TO BELIEVERS

LUKE 24:13-43

TELL THE STORY → → READ THE STORY



WEEK 2

10
MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



Who did the disciples think Jesus was when He appeared to them on the road to Emmaus?

What did Jesus do to prove who He was?



What are some ways Jesus has guided you through times of doubt?

In what areas of your life are you essentially asking Jesus to prove Himself to you so you will believe?



Who in your life circles needs to hear the good news of the gospel. How can you use this story to share it with them?

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

20
MIN



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

John 21:1 - 25

After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way:

² Simon Peter, Thomas (called "Twin"), Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples were together.

³ "I'm going fishing," Simon Peter said to them.

"We're coming with you," they told him. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ When daybreak came, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know it was Jesus. ⁵ "Friends," Jesus called to them, "you don't have any fish, do you?"

"No," they answered.

⁶ "Cast the net on the right side of the boat," he told them, "and you'll find some." So they did, and they were unable to haul it in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ The disciple, the one Jesus loved, said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied his outer clothing around him (for he had taken it off) and plunged into the sea. ⁸ Since they were not far from land (about a hundred yards away), the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. ¹⁰ "Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus told them. ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed up and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish—153 of them. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

¹² "Come and have breakfast," Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said to him, "you know that I love you."

"Feed my lambs," he told him. ¹⁶ A second time he asked him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord," he said to him, "you know that I love you."

"Shepherd my sheep," he told him.

¹⁷ He asked him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

"Feed my sheep," Jesus said. ¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, when you were younger, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don't want to go." ¹⁹ He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After saying this, he told him, "Follow me."

²⁰ So Peter turned around and saw the disciple Jesus loved following them, the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and asked, "Lord, who is the one that's going to betray you?" ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?"

²² "If I want him to remain until I come," Jesus answered, "what is that to you? As for you, follow me."

²³ So this rumor spread to the brothers and sisters that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not tell him that he would not die, but, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?"

²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if every one of them were written down, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

AVOID SENSITIVE TOPICS

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LETS GET STARTED...

H.....

Peter was out fishing with his brothers when he first met Jesus. Jesus told them to cast their net one more time despite them fishing all day and not catching anything. When they pulled up a boatload of fish, Peter knew something was special about this Jesus and told Him, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8). Jesus told Peter, "Follow Me," and Peter faithfully followed Jesus until He was crucified. Jesus had warned Peter he would deny Him three times, but Peter did not believe this accusation until on the day of Jesus' crucifixion, when Peter did, just as Jesus said he would. Peter went on with the guilt and condemnation of that denial. But then, he was awestruck to hear that Jesus' tomb was empty. So he ran to the tomb to find Jesus gone. After Jesus had resurrected from the dead, He appeared to many people and visited with the disciples, preparing them for the coming Spirit and their upcoming ministry. Today's story of restoration applies to each and every believer.



U

Just because we believe in Christ does not mean we don't fail Jesus daily. Peter loved Christ so passionately that he cut off a soldier's ear when they tried to arrest Jesus. But in a moment of weakness and fear, he denied his Savior. Just like Peter, we succumb to our flesh quite often and deny His power. We still love Him, but we fail to obey Him or even acknowledge His complete sovereignty. Jesus isn't looking for perfection, only He is perfect. He knows we mess up and give in to our sinful nature. He is looking for truly repentant hearts that are willing to come before Him humbly and desire to be more like Him.

As you are listening, be thinking of how Jesus has restored you.

KEY VERSE

Matthew 28:6

"He is not here.
For he has risen,
just as he said.
Come and see the
place where he lay."

SUMMARY

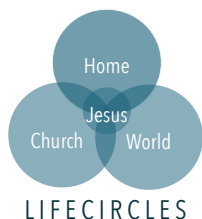
It's one thing to say you
love Jesus, but the true
test is your willingness
to serve and obey Him

Better to be a follower who
sometimes fails than one
who fails to follow

Each Christian is respon-
sible to "feed the sheep,"
not just pastors and
leaders of the church

One who loves the *flock*
will serve it faithfully,
no matter the cost

Who's your
ONE?



TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

THE RESTORATION OF PETER

JOHN 21:1 - 25

TELL THE STORY → → → READ THE STORY



10
MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What was the disciples' reaction when they realized it was Jesus?

What did Jesus mean by "feed my sheep"?



How would you respond to Jesus if He asked you, "Do you love me?"

What are some ways that Jesus has restored you?



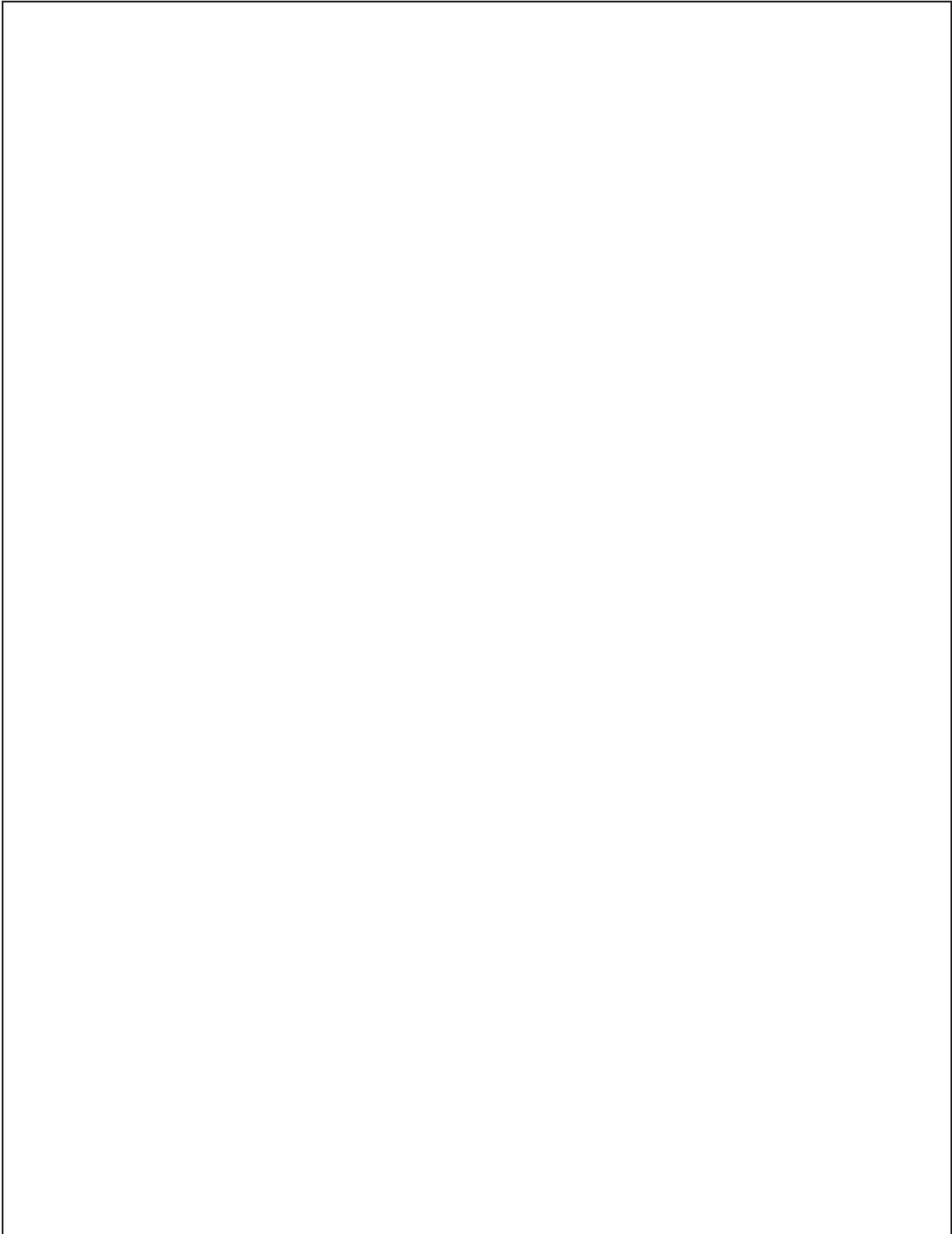
What are some ways you can feed Jesus' sheep this week?

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

20
MIN



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Matthew 28:16 - 20

¹⁶ The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them.

¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples

of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

AVOID SENSITIVE TOPICS

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LETS GET STARTED...

H.....

Before Jesus was crucified, He spent most of His time pouring into His disciples, teaching truths to multitudes of people, leading by example, healing the sick, and raising the dead. A disciple was very important in those days. It meant that you were an apprentice of a well-respected teacher of the Scriptures. The disciple would attach themselves to this teacher, learning, listening, living life with them, and doing as they did. The disciples of Jesus were well aware of what it meant to make disciples and not just converts. When Jesus was crucified, most of the disciples scattered out of fear. One day they were hiding in defeat, and three days later they were exclaiming Christ had risen from the dead, declaring victory over death. Jesus spent 40 days *after* His resurrection, walking the earth, teaching multitudes, and spending time with the disciples.

U

When someone in your life shows sign that they are about to pass away, you want to cling to their every last word. You know that the things they say to you in their last moments are the most important things they want you to know. In today's story, we will see what Jesus thought was important for us to know before He ascended to Heaven. His commandment was specific in that we are to make disciples of those in our community, our state, our nation, and places overseas unknown to us. This commandment to make disciples of all nations is not an option if you are a believer. As a matter of fact, it is non-negotiable. Jesus wants us to get out of our comfort zones and get busy doing the work of the Father. Our days here are not guaranteed, and we must share the gospel and make disciples who make disciples so that *none will perish*.

As you're listening today, be thinking of how you personally obey this commandment.



KEY VERSE

Matthew 28:19

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

SUMMARY

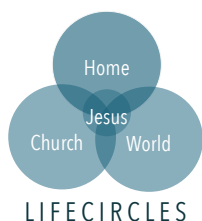
For anyone who calls Jesus their Lord and Savior, it is not an option but a command to make disciples

As we obey, we have the assurance that Jesus is always with us

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward faith in Jesus Christ

Jesus continues to be "with us" through His Holy Spirit

Who's your
ONE?



TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

MATTHEW 28:16 - 20

TELL THE STORY  → → READ THE STORY 

10
MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



What is Jesus commanding us to do?

How long did Jesus say He would be with us?



What does it mean to make disciples of all nations?

How are you personally doing at obeying this commandment?



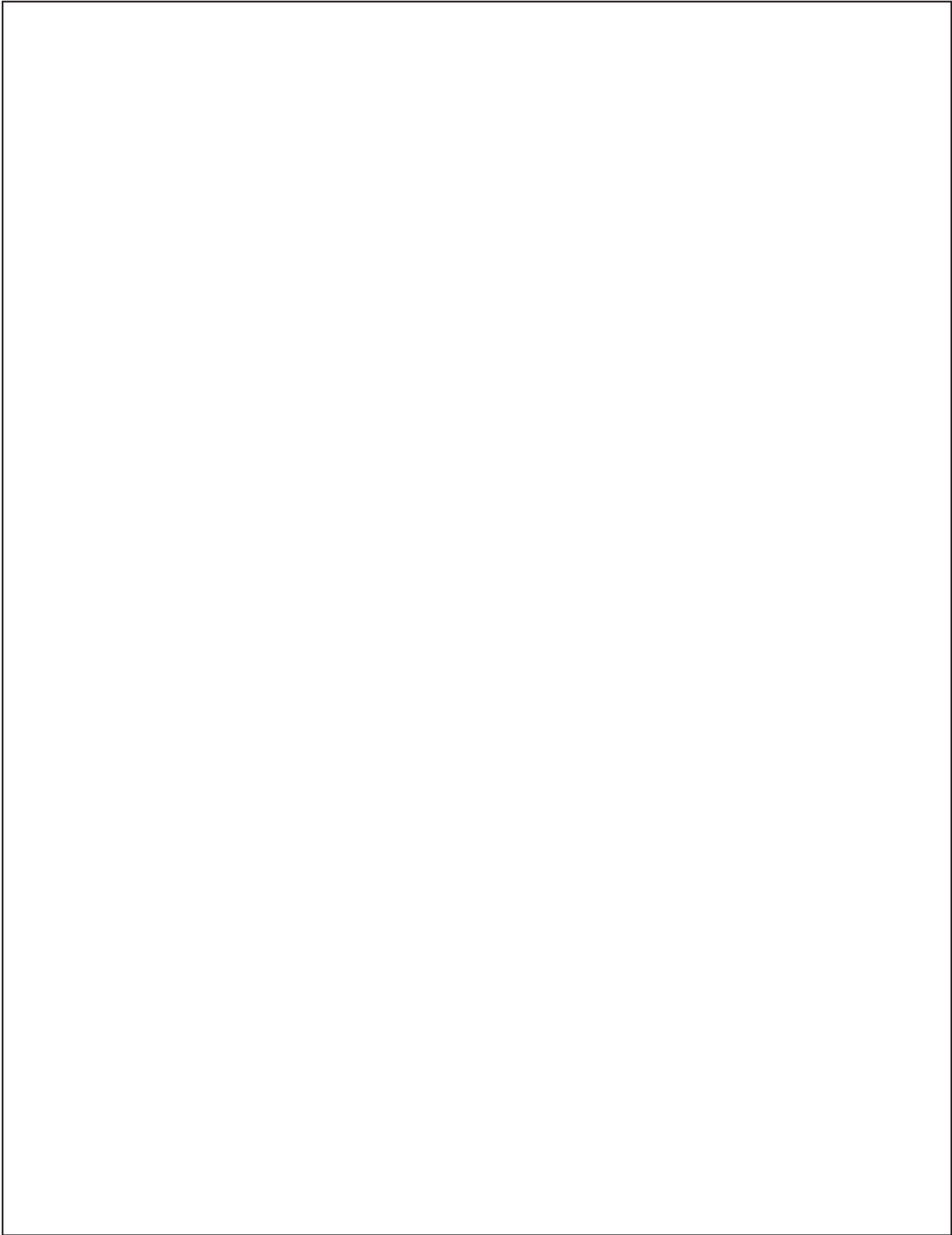
If you aren't already in discipleship relationships with others, pray about who God wants to disciple you, and who you can disciple.

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

20
MIN



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Acts 1:9-12

⁹ After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven."

COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to worship God, focus on His mission, confess and present any requests to Him

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

AVOID SENSITIVE TOPICS

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to Matthew 18

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____



LET'S GET STARTED...

Jesus had just spent over a month teaching and preaching to multitudes of people after His resurrection. He knew He wouldn't be staying because the Holy Spirit was to come. Instead, He would return to heaven, interceding as our High Priest, giving us the grace and mercy to help us in times of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). He brought His disciples together and gave them a very important commandment: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Jesus commanded them to go to places that were extremely outside of their comfort zones. Jerusalem & Judea, where the people hated them; Samaria, where the Jews rejected the people; and the ends of the earth, places where they didn't speak the language or know anything about.

H.....

In John 14:1-3, Jesus tells us, "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also." He said this to His disciples in the last hours before Judas betrayed Him. This was confusing to them in the moment, but all that Jesus had taught them became more clear. Also, this scripture did not only apply to the disciples at the time, but God's Word is living and active. This means that Jesus did all this for us today. He ascended so that the Holy Spirit could be sent for us, and we could live holy lives, obey God, and love others.



As you are listening today, be thinking of how this scripture encourages you as a believer.

KEY VERSE

Acts 1:12

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.

SUMMARY

Jesus is coming again, and can come at any time

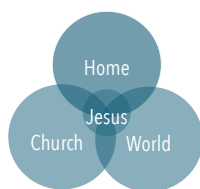
Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven

Jesus ascended so that His Holy Spirit could come to dwell within us

"You ascended to the heights, taking away captives; you received gifts from people, even from the rebellious, so that the Lord God might dwell there."

Psalms 68:18

Who's your
ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

WEEK 5

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN ACTS 1:9-12

TELL THE STORY → → → READ THE STORY



10
MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.



Why is it so important that the disciples physically saw Jesus ascend to heaven?

What was the reaction of the disciples when Jesus ascended?



How would you have responded to this scene if you were one of Jesus' disciples?

How does today's scripture encourage you as a believer?



Take some time this week to pray through this scripture. Thank God for His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension that made it possible for the Holy Spirit to come and dwell in you today.

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

20
MIN



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

COMPONENTS OF A LIFE GROUP

WELCOME

- Makes new believers, visitors, and members feel valued and welcomed
- Begins with our phone calls, continues as they enter our homes, and until they leave
- Establishes a foundation for relationships
- Makes them aware of what's going on and brings focus

OPENING PRAYER

- Invites God's Holy Spirit into our presence
- Prepares our hearts for what God has for us
- Shifts our attention from individual fellowship to the group

PURPOSE

- Express the purpose of why we are meeting as a LIFE Group (to make disciples, reach the lost, connect the unconnected, etc.)
- Helps prepare our hearts and minds for the group
- Must be in alignment with Glen Meadows Vision and Mission

GROUND RULES

- Establishes agreed upon boundaries for a healthy group
- Establishes a safe environment where everyone can share openly and honestly
- Provides biblical guidance for healthy conflict resolution

ICEBREAKER

- Activity that sets the stage for transparency and trust
- Helps create a safe environment and levels the playing field
- May involve low-risk participation
- Game, Testimony, Question, etc
- Celebrating the "wins" and what God is doing through our group

STORY

- This is the "meat" of the group
- Story from God's Word

CLOSING PRAYER

- Re-Focuses our attention to God and His provision
- Personal requests, Group needs, Praise God

PLACES TO PLAY

- Providing others with opportunities to lead by assigning them with components, builds confidence, and models servant leadership and reproducibility

GROUND RULES

WHY GROUND RULES?

Many of us find ourselves cringing when the subject of rules come up. Rules can often indicate limits or restrictions that impede our desired actions. The ground rules we will abide by are specifically designed to give freedom rather than restrictions. It is our desire that through effective ground rules each person will feel the freedom to share from their hearts, feel the assurance of confidence, and experience a group willing to listen. When interacting as a group, we can find ourselves checking out or shutting down for the smallest of reasons. Being aware of our impact on each other is paramount for a safe environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY:

We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with our struggles and victories. What is said in the group stays in the group.

NO FIXING OTHERS:

Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they'll ask for it. If people think that as soon as they share a problem or issue everyone is going to immediately try to fix them (offer advice/solutions), often they simply won't share at all.

LISTEN & PAUSE

Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Don't think about what you're going to say next or how you're going to respond; really listen. After someone shares, give a pause to allow the group to feel the weight of what is being shared and fully consider it before the next person shares. This pause also gives the person time to reflect a little deeper while continuing to share more. Remember, SILENCE IS OK. It gives time for reflection and others to begin sharing.

DON'T RESCUE:

When people are sharing something deeply personal and painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and result in not going as deep as they intended. Resist the temptation to rescue people. We must be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing in their life.

USE "I" STATEMENTS:

It's easy to talk about the issues of others; in LIFE Groups we will use "I" statements. We will try to avoid words such as "them," "the church," "us," "we," "he/she," etc. Using "I" statements helps us to focus on what God is doing in our lives and gives us opportunity to self-reflect. This allows maximum potential for effectual change in our lives.

NO CROSS TALK:

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, texting, or phone calls. Cross talk devalues the person sharing and communicates that they are not as important as what you may be doing. (Be sensitive to those with cell phones—kids, family issues, on-call at work). Remember, when going over the Ground Rules in your group, give those who may be on-call or have children the opportunity to communicate that they may need to take a call or text during group.

STAY ON TOPIC:

Much time and prayer is put into the determination of the biblical direction our church is headed. We must value the importance of that direction in taking it to a heart level in our LIFE Groups during the week. In addition, LIFE Group leaders prepare according to this direction and the topic for each lesson. Rabbit trails may devalue the unity as well as what the Lord is doing in our church body. In honoring each individuals time & schedules, please try to stay on topic with every group question. Rabbit trails can also add time to the end of the LIFE Group and does not honor others in our group who may need to get to their families and/or may need rest for the next day's busy schedule.

AVOID SENSITIVE TOPICS:

We are living in very uncertain times. It seems that everyone is offended by something. Hot topics like politics, views on society, and our personal ideals about certain national headlines can cause inappropriate rabbit trails if we aren't careful. It is best to avoid these topics all together and stick to God's Word and His truth.

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK:

We all have a story or response to share, making it important that we value each other during LIFE Group. Sometimes we may find ourselves overtalking out of nervousness or even habit. However, to honor each person and their time, we must do our part by keeping our own talk time limited and to the point, giving each person an opportunity to interact.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION IDEAS: (QUICK ONES ARE IN BOLD)

1. **What was your first job?**
2. Tell of a memorable time of cooking in the kitchen?
3. **Act out your favorite animal in 10 seconds.**
4. **What was your favorite pet growing up?**
5. Say a line from your favorite movie (see if group can guess it).
6. Share of an interesting encounter with a police officer.
7. **What is the weirdest job you've ever had?**
8. **What is your worst habit?**
9. **If you could be any item in the grocery store what would you be?**
10. What is your middle name and the meaning behind it?
11. Share of an encounter you had with a famous person.
12. What was your favorite hangout as a teenager?
13. Act out your favorite scene in a movie.
14. What is the worst meal you've ever made?
15. **What is one non-living item you can't live without?**
16. **If you could only eat one thing for dinner (breakfast or lunch), for the rest of your life what would it be?**
17. **What's the last song you listened to?**
18. **Share of two words that describe you best.**
19. What is your biggest phobia?
20. If you were in the Olympics, what sport would it be for?
21. What is one moment in your life that has defined you?
22. **If you could only have one of your five senses, which one would it be?**
23. Share of a time when you laughed at an inappropriate time.
24. (pt 1) If you knew one non-family member had one week to live, what would you do with them? (pt 2) What is keeping you from doing that with them now?
25. If you could be a fly on a wall, where would you most want to be?
26. **What is your favorite soda?**
27. **If you were a magazine, which one would you be?**
28. **If you could be a fictitious superhero, who would you be? Or what super power would you most want?**
29. Greatest peer pressure as an adult?
30. **What is your favorite music genre?**
31. How do you react when people sing "Happy Birthday" to you in a restaurant?
32. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?
33. **Who is your favorite singer?**
34. **What is your favorite musical instrument?**
35. **In just a few words, what is at the top of your bucket list?**
36. How would you describe God to a child?
37. What color best describes you and why?
38. What was the high point of last week? The low point?
39. **What one word would be your theme for the year?**
40. Name one person who has had the biggest impact in your life and why?
41. **If I could visit any place in the world, it would be...**
42. If I had a million dollars to spend for the benefit of mankind...
43. The thing that causes me the greatest satisfaction is...
44. What is your favorite memory as a child?
45. Share something you fear.
46. What's your most embarrassing moment?
47. What would you do with an extra free day off of work?
48. Where would you go if you could go anywhere in the world?
49. **If you could become an animal for one day, which one would it be?**
50. **What is one secret place in your house that you only clean on special occasions (like mother-in-law visiting)?**
51. If you knew your time was cut short, what's one thing you'd change about the way you are now living?
52. If you could be famous, what would you be famous for?
53. If you could go back in time and not return, what would you try to accomplish even if you knew you might change the course of history?
54. If someone were to write a book about you, what do you think the title and theme would be?
55. If your animals could talk, what would they tell you?
56. Which emoji best describes you and why?
57. **What was the make / model / year / color of your first car?**
58. What's your biggest pet peeve?
59. **What's your first name and an adjective that starts with the same first letter, that best describes you? (ie: Carl:Caring)**
60. Favorite Christmas Carol and why?
61. If you could have coffee with anyone in the history of ever, who would it be and why?

ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS

Curriculum published by GM Leadership Development Team
Glen Meadows Baptist Church, San Angelo, TX ©2022

