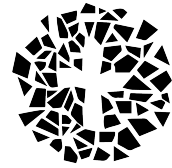


# INTRODUCING JESUS

LUKE 7:18-35

Community Group Study Guide  
Week of August 19, 2018



MOSAIC BOSTON  
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week, we looked at Luke 7:18-35 where John the Baptist sends messengers to Jesus to ask Him if He really is the Messiah. John had been arrested and doubts were beginning to creep in. If Jesus really was the savior of God's people, then why was he stuck in prison? Jesus responds to John by telling his disciples to go back and tell John what they had seen and heard. "...the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." Jesus was fulfilling these prophetic words, but not exactly in the way John has expected Him to.

Like John, it is tempting for us to doubt Jesus when the events of our life don't go the way we expect them to, or when God doesn't do what we expect Him to do. John gives us a good example of what to do when doubts creep in. Rather than growing bitter and running away from Jesus, John takes his doubts to Jesus and to the community of believers he has around him. By doing so, he finds encouragement to strengthen his faith.

If Jesus really is the perfect God of the universe, we should expect him to contradict and offend us in our imperfect perceptions and understanding. While this can be painful to face, these moments of doubt can be opportunities for us to grow closer to God and gain a deeper understanding of who He really is. Through Christian community, prayer, and God's word, we can continue growing closer to God through our lives.

For John, growing closer to Jesus meant having faith that his imprisonment was part of Jesus' good plan, and that it didn't contradict Jesus' goodness or His greatness. John was not in prison because Jesus was powerless to save him. He was also not in prison because Jesus didn't care to save him. Jesus had saved, was saving, and would one day save John completely, not from the prisons of an earthly king, but from the flames of an eternal Hell. In the meantime Jesus was using John's imprisonment for His glory, for John's sanctification, and for the spread of the Gospel. The signs of wonder and compassion that Jesus performed were enough for John to trust Him. For us, we have the greater benefit of being able to look back on Jesus' death and resurrection as well. Through the cross, we know that Jesus cares for us, and through the resurrection, we know He also has the power to save us. If at times that salvation doesn't look like what we expect it to, we can have faith that God is behind the scenes "working all things together for our good."

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

To understand why the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus make Him worthy of our trust and faith.

### Heart

To trust that Jesus loves us and has the power to save us.

### Hands

To bring our doubts to Jesus in prayer, in community, and by reading His Word.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CG Hosts:** A lot of people are moving around this summer and we're in need of many new CG hosts. Please pray for this in your groups and let your CG Coach know of anyone willing to host a CG.

### Membership or Baptism:

Contact  
[admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com) to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### ICE BREAKER

What is currently your favorite song or band?

#### Read Luke 7:18-35

- What were some of the misconceptions that people had of the Messiah in Luke's day? What are some common misconceptions of Jesus today?
- Have you had any misconceptions of Jesus? Can you think of any examples from your own life where you learned something about Jesus from scripture that contradicted what you assumed to be true of Him?
- Of times we begin to experience doubts when we find out Jesus isn't exactly who we expected him to be. Why do you think that is?
- Why did John begin to have doubts about Jesus, and what can we learn from John about how we should address the doubts we have about Jesus?
- Tyler mentioned that **prayer, scripture, and christian community** are three powerful tools for overcoming doubts and getting to know Jesus for who He really is. Why are all three essential? What might happen if you neglect one of the three?
- Read v22-23 again. Why would these examples have been an encouragement to John in his doubts?
- John had the miracles and teachings of Jesus to encourage his faith, but we have the even greater encouragement of Jesus' death and resurrection to strengthen our faith. Why should Jesus' death fill us with courage when we have doubts? Why should His resurrection fill us with courage when we have doubts?
- What are some common doubts Christians have about Jesus? Or what are some that you have? How, specifically, does the Gospel answer some of these common doubts?