



MESSIAH

CREW LEADER GUIDE

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MESSIAH

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TOPIC

Why did He come, why did He have to die, was He really God?
Why Jesus Christ?

As a Christian you may have been asked questions like these...maybe you did always have an answer. This series will unpack the story of Jesus starting back in Genesis, all the way through to His second coming. We pray that this empowers you to share the good news, the gospel, of what Jesus has done making a way for everyone to spend eternity with Him.

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17



START HERE

SET THE TONE WITH PRAYER

Begin your time together with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and speak to each person.

Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

EPHESIANS 1:17

PREPARATION

The purpose of this guide is to equip and prepare you as the Crew Leader to lead your crew in discussion about the story of Jesus. Review the video and guide prior to your crew so that you can be prepared to answer questions and lead the discussion. Consider your “audience” and tailor the content to best fit your crew.

RESOURCES

Jesus the King : Tim Keller

True North College :
BIB 101 New Testament Survey
BIB 103 Doctrine of God and Man

LESSON ONE

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

INTRO

Today we are starting a series on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. To get the full story we need to start in the very begin, Genesis. Now you may be saying...wait, I thought Jesus came on the scene in the Gospels of the New Testament? But the truth is, Jesus was here before creation: Jesus is the third part of the trinity: Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

▶ WATCH

LESSON ONE JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

CREW DISCUSSION

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

GOD'S PLAN

We see prophetic evidence of Gods plans concerning Jesus in just the third chapter of Genesis. God was already working to make a way people could be reunited back into relationship with Him.

And I (God) will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

GENESIS 3:15

This is the first time we hear the gospel, it's not in the new testament, but right here in Genesis. This is a picture of what is to come: the Hebrew word for enmity means blood feud. This is a picture of the blood shed on the cross, the offspring of the women being Jesus himself. The striking of the heel refers to the cross and the pain of that event. Her offspring Crush your head refers to the total destruction of the devil and Triumph of good over evil.



OVER 100 PROPHECIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

That tell about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus.

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

ZECHARIAH 12:10

- This verse prophecies that the Messiah would be pierced and mourned as a firstborn son. This was fulfilled hundreds of years later when Jesus was pierced with a spear while Mary looked on.

*But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

ISAIAH 53:5-6

- *The entire passage of Isaiah Chapter 53 describes how Jesus would be crucified on a cross. This was written 700 years before Jesus would be crucified, and hundreds of years before crucifixion would even be invented by the Romans.*

FATHER & SON

God tells Abraham takes his son Issac to a hillside to sacrifice him in Genesis 22:2. But in the last moment, God tells Abraham to stop and instead provides a ram as a sacrifice. This is a picture of what God would do for us with Jesus... God would not stop short, God went through with it and give up his son to take the punishment meant for us. Even more fascinating is the fact that this Mountain in Genesis Mt Moriah, has special significance. Thousands of years later, this is the exact spot that Jesus would be hung on a cross for us.

ALPHA AND OMEGA

Jesus is the beginning and the end. If you want to understand Revelation at the end of the Bible, you need to understand Genesis. Because Jesus is woven all the way through scripture. He is the scarlet thread that ties everything together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Can you think of some other Old Testament stories where we see pictures of Jesus?*
- 2. How has your view of Jesus shifted and changed over the years?*
- 3. What are you most looking forward to learning more about Jesus in this series?*

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON TWO

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS BEGINS

INTRO

In this lesson we will focus on two significant events right at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. And also answer this question: Why did Jesus come to earth and live and die like a human?

▶ WATCH

LESSON TWO THE MINISTRY OF JESUS BEGINS

CREW DISCUSSION

OUR ANNOINTED HIGH PRIEST

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

MATTHEW 3:13-17

There is so much significance in this short passage beyond the fact Jesus has been anointed a priest. The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus like a dove. Jesus is anointed for a special task that has just begun. God declares that he is pleased with his son, and loves him. In this one passage we see the complete trinity working in unity to show honor to one another. This event marks the beginning of the earthly ministry of Jesus.

CALLING THE DISCIPLES

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

MATTHEW 4:18-22

We see Jesus gathering the people who would be his disciples and eventually lead the local church. It was this group eventually made up of twelve people that Jesus would share his life with. It's significant to point out how these men gave up their livelihood to follow Jesus. This was not a casual decision but these men must have seen something in Jesus that made them follow.

- *Each of us are called to the same thing, to leave our own hopes, dreams and plans behind...And instead lay those at the feet of Jesus so that we can pick up his hopes, dreams and plan for our life. This is what every person on earth was born for... to live a life that honors and follows after God.*

FIVE REASONS JESUS CAME

1. Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Jesus came to proclaim the gospel, the good news that people could be reconnected with God. The world was full of lost and broken people and Jesus came to set those people free.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost

LUKE 19:10

2. Jesus Came to die on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven.

Because of what Jesus was about to do, even sinners could be forgiven and spend eternity with God.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

3. Jesus came to teach the disciples and through them, establish the local church.

...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

MATTHEW 16:18

4. Jesus came to re-establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

God came to explain what the kingdom of heaven is and how we can literally bring heaven to earth.

...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

MATTHEW 6:10

5. Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil.

This is why later we'll see Jesus cast out demons and demonstrate his authority over anything the devil does.

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 JOHN 3:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *What was the main reason you have held up to this point for why Jesus came to earth?*
2. *What are some other things not listed that Jesus accomplished during his 3-year ministry?*
3. *In what ways has Jesus brought the kingdom of heaven down to earth?*

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON THREE

THREE STATEMENTS JESUS DECLARED

INTRO

Today for lesson three we will be taking a look at three important things that Jesus taught about himself. Obviously he taught many things over his three year ministry, but I want to focus on three key things. All three of these statements are key points of christian doctrine that each of us should understand. It's also important to note that everything Jesus said about himself, he backed by what he did. His actions and miracles he performed showed that his declarations were true. And it was these very counter-culture statements which eventually led to people wanting him murdered.

[▶ WATCH](#)[LESSON THREE THREE STATEMENTS JESUS DECLARED](#)

CREW DISCUSSION

THREE STATEMENTS JESUS DECLARED

1. Jesus declared that He and His father were one.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

JOHN 10:29-30

Immediately after Jesus said these words, it says Jewish leaders tried to pick up rocks and kill Jesus. Why? Because with these words, Jesus was elevating himself up and saying that he was equal to God. The Jewish leaders would either have to accept that this was true, or else it was blasphemy.

- *Some religions like Jehovah Witnesses claim that Jesus was not equal to God. Many other people claim that Jesus was only a good teacher or enlightened but not God. That is why it is important for all Christ followers to know who Jesus actually was.*

2. Jesus declared that he was the long awaited Messiah and Savior of mankind.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

MATTHEW 16:13-17

Peter got the answer right. He said Jesus was the messiah, the savior whom the Jewish people. The one who they had been praying for and prophesying about for thousands of years. And Jesus agreed with this and admitted that he indeed was the Messiah.

3. Jesus declared that he was the only way to spend eternity with God.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

JOHN 14:6

By saying this, Jesus is saying at all others paths will not lead to eternity with God. Jesus was saying that he was the standard for truth, the source of life and the only way to God and freedom. This is also saying that every other path (or religion) will not lead to God, despite their doctrine. This belief is what distinguishes Christianity from all other belief systems in the world.

TWO BELIEF SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD

1. The first belief system is based on the idea that man can find their own way to heaven, or nirvana, or oneness. This can be done through discipline, good deeds, enlightenment, achieving higher consciousness or climbing some other type of spiritual ladder. But always this is accomplished and earned by the person; You basically save yourself.

2. Christianity on the other hand, is the only belief in all the world and in all of history in which you can't save yourself. You are not the solution, you're the problem and the problem can't fix the problem. We have sin and can only be saved and freed from that sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is only by giving up control over our own lives and giving our lives to God that we can have true joy, peace, happiness, freedom and eternal life with God.

Every single person on earth will make a decision in life on who to follow. We will also make a decision about who Jesus is and what our relationship with him will be. Are you going to follow yourself, your own plans, desires and dreams, or will you follow God and his plans and purposes for your life?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Who do you say that Jesus is?*
- 2. How does your answer effect the way that you live your life?*
- 3. How would you explain these three declarations to a non-christian who was curious about Jesus?*

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON FOUR

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

INTRO

Today we want to focus on answering this question, “Why did Jesus have to Die on the Cross?”. The simple answer is this, “He didn’t have to.” Jesus was not forced to die on a cross. He chose to. He could have stopped the whole thing at any time, but he didn’t. Before we get into answering this question, I want to quickly give you a timeline leading up to this.

▶ WATCH

LESSON FOUR WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

CREW DISCUSSION

JESUS’ MINISTRY

He performed miracles where he showed his authority over demons, over nature and even over death. He taught his followers as well as crowds about the concept of love, grace, mercy, joy and much more. A great number of people began to follow and listen to him, causing hatred of him by the ruling religious class. He was betrayed by Judas and the Romans came to arrest him. Jesus was brought before both the Jewish religious rulers and Roman rulers in a mockery of a trial. It was the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate that had the authority to enact the death penalty - which he did. Jesus was beaten, mocked, spit on and a crown of thorns was shoved up his head.

- *And that brings us to this question “Why? Why did all of this have to happen?”. Jesus knew what was coming in advance and he knew when his time was coming. But he still chose to go through with it.*

THE ROMAN ROAD

Just five verses in the book of Romans that explains why we needed Jesus to die on the cross for us.

1. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23

We all have sinned, each one of us have fallen short of Gods perfect standard. There would be no way for us to be reconnected or to be able to spend eternity with God in heaven.

2. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23

Wages are something we earn. The Wages of sin is death & eternal separation from God. This separation from God is what we deserve and it is what we were all headed for. But the gift of God (not wage, not earned) is eternal life. This gift is not a wage, it is not earned, it can only be given by God and accepted by us. This is grace & mercy...Getting a gift we don't deserve and not getting the punishment we did deserve.

3. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:6-8

Jesus Christ came from heaven to earth, lived a sinless life and died in our place. Jesus took our sin upon himself and received the death penalty in our place.

4. If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9

This is salvation, believe that Jesus is who he said he is and confessing that he is your lord. Salvation is accepting the free gift of Jesus taking our place on the cross. It's not forced on you. You can choose to attempt to pay for your own sins separated from God for eternity. Or you can choose to accept that Jesus already paid for your sins on the cross. It is only through this admission and forgiveness of sins through Jesus that you can be in Gods presence. There is no other way... through salvation, when God see's you, he sees you through the blood of Jesus.

5. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

ROMANS 10:13

It's not just a certain race, or class, or those who are chosen... Everyone can be saved. All you have to do is call on the name of Jesus and declare that He is the lord of your life. This is great news...which is why this news is called the Gospel, which simply means "Good news".



Without Jesus doing what he did on the cross, none of this would be possible. We would attempt and fail to purify ourselves and be good enough for God...and we would always fail. An eternity with God can only happen through Jesus. You cannot save yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Prior to this teaching, what was your reasoning for why Jesus died on the cross?*
- 2. How would you explain sin and salvation to someone who thought of themselves as a good person?*
- 3. Do you feel like you could lead someone else to Christ? Why or why not?*

CLOSING PRAYER

LESSON FIVE

RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

INTRO

Today we want to focus on the future return of Jesus Christ. He is coming back! Did you know that Jesus is also found in the Book of Revelation? The final book of the Bible. Jesus can be found in the book of Genesis, the beginning, and also Revelation, the end. We'll take a look at some of those verses in just a moment but first lets go back to Easter Sunday.

[▶ WATCH](#)[LESSON FIVE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST](#)

CREW DISCUSSION

Jesus had stood trial, been sentenced to death and has died on a cross just as he said he would. On the third day after his death, Jesus resurrects from the grave, conquering death itself. This is what we celebrate every year on Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. Jesus appeared to his disciples and hundreds more people for a period of forty days. This is documented not only in the gospels but also by secular historians of the day. Then, after forty days, Jesus ascended back into heaven with his followers looking on.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

ACTS 1:10-11

- Jesus is coming back. And there was a lot to do to prepare for his return. 10 Days later was the day of Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit came and filled the followers of Jesus. This marked the beginning of the early church...and it would be this church that Jesus will return for.

BOOK OF REVELATION

The Disciple John had a series of vision which he wrote down called the book of Revelation. It is often seen as a very confusing Book with a lot of symbolisms and various interpretations. But we can learn to understand it if we recognize that it's really about Jesus and his bride...thats us.

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

REVELATION 1:7-8

- Did you catch that. The Lord God quotes that he is the Alpha and the Omega. He also says that he was the one who was pierced. This is a powerful statement in that the one who was pierced was Jesus and Jesus is the Lord God.

Jesus says..."I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it.

REVELATION 3:11

This passage is important not only because of what it says about Jesus, but what it says about us. See to it that no one takes your crown. We have a crown in Gods eyes because we are children of the king. Don't be deceived or tricked out of what you have in Jesus Christ.

Too many of us have allowed our crowns to be stolen by circumstances, by the world, fear, doubt... But we are called to be Kings, and to live as kings with Gods power and authority working through us. And we are called to be overcomers of anything this life can throw at us. We are on mission for God our father. We are here for a divine purpose... a royal purpose! We are called to bring God's light into dark places, to be ambassadors of heaven to the earth, and to live as royal citizens of heaven through the power of God's love.

Be encouraged by the last two verses of the Bible.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen, Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

REVELATION 22:20-21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the things that we should do to prepare for the return of Christ?*
- 2. What do you think it means for your crown to be stolen?*
- 3. What do you think your next step is in light of completing this series on Jesus? Whats next?*

CLOSING PRAYER