


JANUARY SMALL GROUP SERIES



Who do you
say I am?

AS TOLD BY THE GOSPELS

SESSION 1: THE LAMB OF GOD

ICEBREAKER

Who do you know the best? How did you get to know them so well?

BIBLE REFERENCES

John 1:29

Exodus 12

1 Corinthians 5:7

Isaiah 53:7

KNOWLEDGE & INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1. How is the importance of the lamb to the Passover meal?
2. Why is Jesus known as the Lamb of God?
3. How are the Passover meal and Holy Communion connected?
4. In the consecration we hear the following words, “the once brought, eternally valid sacrifice of Jesus Christ.” Why is it that after Christ’s sacrifice as the Lamb of God no other sacrifice is needed or valid?

BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1. Split your group into pairs. Divide the chapter of Exodus 12 into sections and assign a portion to each pair. Read with your partner. What did your section describe? What references did you find that might refer to Jesus Christ? How do you understand those references?

2. Read together Revelation 5. In this chapter, there is an incredible scene depicted of an unopened scroll that only the Lion of Judah can open. While waiting for the Lion, a Lamb stood in the midst of the elders and then took the scroll and sat on the throne. Then there is a proclamation, *Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing.* Why was the Lamb worthy to open the scroll?

3. Why is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in the New Testament so significant? How do these prophecies help us to understand the New Testament?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways to deepen your understanding of who Jesus is? What are the benefits of knowing Jesus better?

2. How did the death of the Lamb of God give us life?

3. What does the sacrifice of the Lamb of God mean to you personally? Share your experience with the group.

PERSONAL TAKE-HOME

John 1:29 and Isaiah 53:7 both refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Exodus 12:3 and 4 draw a parallel between the Passover lamb and Jesus as the new Passover Lamb.

Find and discuss additional references in the Bible that point to Jesus as the Lamb of God.

SESSION 2: OUR SAVIOR

ICEBREAKER

What is your favorite rescue story?

BIBLE REFERENCES

John 4:40-42

Matthew 1:21

Luke 2:11

Romans 3:23

John 4:10

KNOWLEDGE & INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that Jesus is our Savior? What was He sent to do?
2. Why does everyone who has ever lived need a Savior?
3. The video mentions that we receive what we need to overcome our struggles through the incredible gifts given to us by our heavenly Father. What are some of these gifts?

BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1. Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman was a unique experience. Read John 4:1-30, 39-42. Why was this meeting so unique and what does this interaction teach us about Jesus' mission?

2. The disciples who were on their way to Emmaus also struggled to recognize Christ, just like the Samaritan woman at the well. Read Luke 24:13-35. When was it that they finally recognized Him? Discuss the significance of this. When and where do you recognize your Savior?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How does it feel knowing that Jesus was willing to sacrifice His life in order to give you life? What is your response to His salvation?
2. Are we disappointed today that Jesus saves us from our sin and not some of our earthly struggles? What are some ways to keep ourselves confident and resolute as we face the continuing challenges of life?
3. When we look at the struggles we are facing, is it possible that some might be the result of our own sinfulness? If that is the case, what should our next steps be?
4. It was mentioned in the video that even with her lack of understanding, many believed in Jesus after hearing the testimony of the Samaritan woman. Have you ever felt discouraged after sharing the gospel because you felt your knowledge or understanding was not sufficient? What does this account tell you about how God works?

PERSONAL TAKE-HOME

As you go through your week, be encouraged by the account of the Samaritan woman, and seek opportunities to share your Savior with others.

SESSION 3: THE COMPASSIONATE ONE

ICEBREAKER

What do you picture when you hear the word “compassion”?

BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 116:5

James 5:11

Matthew 9

KNOWLEDGE & INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1. Reflecting upon the life of Jesus, how would you define compassion?
2. How did Jesus' compassion lead Him to the cross?
3. *Compassion is a true mark of Christian character.* What does this phrase mean to you? Why should we be compassionate?

BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1. In chapter 9 of Matthew we can read how Jesus demonstrated His compassion by healing. What does that teach us about Him and how does it direct us as His followers? Read through the chapter together if necessary.

PERSONAL TAKE-HOME

Commit to seeking an opportunity to show someone compassion this week; someone in your family, in your neighborhood, at work, etc.

2. James 5:11 reads, *“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord - that the Lord is **very compassionate and merciful.**”* How are compassion and mercy connected? How was God compassionate and merciful towards Job? How is He compassionate and merciful towards us?
3. Find and discuss additional examples in the Bible where Jesus showed compassion.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. In the session, it was said that *“Christ’s compassion always leads to something.”* Is this true of compassion in your experience? What might prevent someone from following through on compassion?
2. As disciples of Jesus, we are to follow Him in having compassion for others. How can we grow in our compassion for others and extend the care of Jesus?
3. Describe a way either that *you showed* compassion to someone else recently, or a time when you saw *someone else* showing compassion. What was the result of these experiences?

SESSION 4: THE HUMBLE SERVANT

ICEBREAKER

Who in the Bible (besides Jesus) inspires you the most?

BIBLE REFERENCES

John 13:1-17

Philippians 2:4-7 NIV

Matthew 28:18

Romans 8:29

KNOWLEDGE & INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1. What are the characteristics of a humble servant?
2. Why was the washing of guests feet a part of the culture in the first century and why was it so out of the ordinary that Jesus chose to do that job?
3. How is Jesus' death on the cross an example of His humble servant mindset?

BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1. What are some other examples from the Gospels that show us Jesus being a humble servant?
2. Read the account of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples in John 13:1-17. Take a moment to reflect on the things it says that Jesus knew throughout the account. Why is it significant that Jesus knew all the things mentioned in the verses and still decided to serve others? What does this tell us about our priorities in life or excuses we might make that hold up our serving?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords, humbled Himself to serve us. Why is it difficult for us at times to humble ourselves in order to serve others?
2. Disciples of Jesus are expected to align their lives according to His will and mindset. That includes the willingness to be humble servants. How have you been able to align your life in this way?
3. In John 13:35, Jesus says, *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* Jesus clearly shows us that service is one way that we can show our love for others. What are some additional ways that we can, through love, make it clear that we are disciples of Christ?
4. Philippians 2:4-7 mentions the “mindset of Christ Jesus.” In your own words, describe what it means to have the same mindset of Jesus.

PERSONAL TAKE-HOME

What could you do this week to follow Jesus' example of humble service? Pray that God would make you aware of the needs of others and shows you ways on how to better serve them as Jesus would.

SESSION 5: THE TRUE VINE

ICEBREAKER

What are the top three characteristics you would say describe you the best?

BIBLE REFERENCES

John 13-17

John 15:1-4

Isaiah 5:1-7

John 5:5

John 15:7, 10

KNOWLEDGE & INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus often employed metaphors to explain truths about Himself and the kingdom of God in a way that could be easily understood. How does the metaphor of the vine help you to understand Him and who you are?
2. What does it mean to *abide*? What does it look like when a follower of Jesus *abides in Him*?
3. Christ's words, "*for without Me you can do nothing,*" are reiterated twice in the video. Discuss their significance. Can we truly not do anything without Christ? What is Jesus saying here?

BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1. What are the 7 "*I Am*" statements of Jesus? Why are these statements so important to our understanding of Him?

2. When reading verses from the Old Testament we often focus on the failures of the people of Israel in fulfilling their calling. Why did they struggle to do what they were intended to do? How do we keep ourselves from making the same mistakes as God's people today? Read Isaiah 5:1-7 for some context.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to be connected to the true vine, Jesus Christ?
2. Do you feel you are abiding in Jesus? What are some aspects in your life that could be preventing you from abiding in Him?
3. In John 15 it says, "...every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. What does it mean to be pruned? How do you think you have experienced pruning in your life? How has it helped you to bear more fruit?
4. When we are connected to the vine, what will the fruit of our life look like? How does abiding with Jesus effect the way you go about your daily life?

PERSONAL TAKE-HOME

One way to *abide in Him* is to remain and dwell in Jesus' teachings.

Take some time this week to read through all the *I Am* statements of Jesus and write down what they mean to you.

How does these statements bring Christ closer to you?

SESSION 6: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

ICEBREAKER

Who in your life has helped to direct you and help you to stay focused?

BIBLE REFERENCES

John 10:11-16

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16

John 15:13

Romans 8:35-39

PSALM 23

*The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in
green pastures;
He leads me beside the still
waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of
righteousness
For His name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they
comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in
the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of
the Lord forever.*

KNOWLEDGE & INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1. Review John 10:11-16. What has the Good Shepherd done for sheep?
2. Discuss the differences between a shepherd and a hireling. Why is it better to be in the care of a shepherd?
3. When Jesus is our shepherd, why are we able to say "I shall not want"?

BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1. In Psalm 23, David confidently shares his faith in God. Which of the phrases in this Psalm stand out to you the most? What does that phrase mean to you and teach you about the Good Shepherd?

2. Read and discuss Romans 8:35-39. What is your response to the truth that nothing can separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How do you hear the Shepherd's voice?
2. *He leads me besides still waters... and ...in the paths of righteousness.* What are some ways that Jesus has guided you in the past? How can you better allow Him to lead your way? How can you be confident which is the right path?
3. Reiterate and discuss what it means that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. How has He shown that He's the Good Shepherd in *your* life?
4. As we conclude this series of small groups on who Jesus is, what have you learned about Him? How would you describe Him now to someone who has never heard about Him?

PERSONAL TAKE-HOME

We've been reminded this month that Jesus is the Lamb of God, our Savior, compassionate, a humble servant, the True Vine, and the Good Shepherd.

Write down some additional names for Jesus found in the Bible.

Further, who is He to *you*?