

## **Small Group Guide: The Hidden Messiah**

### **December 20, 2025**

#### **Key Points**

- Beyond the miracle of oil, Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish people's resistance to assimilation and their return to holiness, preparing the way for Messiah.
- Yeshua's Jewishness is central to understanding His teachings, mission, and messiahship.
- Faith means loyalty; Yeshua isn't just Savior but King requiring our allegiance.
- Like the Maccabees, we're called to resist cultural assimilation and shine God's light.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. "The presenting issue is usually not the core issue." Can you think of examples in Scripture where people asked the wrong questions or missed the real issue? How does this apply to our spiritual lives today?
2. How does understanding Hanukkah as a victory against assimilation change your perspective on this holiday? What parallels do you see in today's culture?
3. The message asks: "Is Yeshua your King, or just your Savior?" What's the difference between these two concepts? How does viewing Him as King change the way we live?
4. "Faith in the 1st Century meant loyalty." How does understanding faith as loyalty rather than just belief transform your relationship with Yeshua?
5. The message emphasized Yeshua's Jewishness. How does recognizing that Jesus was born, raised, and taught as a Jew impact:
  - How you read the Gospels?
  - Your understanding of being "grafted in"?
  - Your relationship with Jewish people and Israel?

#### **Personal Application**

6. The message mentions that Jerusalem fell because of "baseless hate" within the Jewish community. Where do you see baseless hate or division within the Body of Messiah today? What's our responsibility in addressing this?

7. "Each one of us needs to help others from assimilating into the world and away from God." In what areas of your life do you feel the pressure to assimilate into worldly culture? How can this group help you resist?

8. The Maccabees said "enough is enough" to cultural compromise. Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to draw a line and say "enough is enough"?

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### **Key Takeaways**

✓ **\*\*Hanukkah prepared the world for Yeshua\*\*** by calling Jewish people back to holiness and resisting assimilation.

✓ **\*\*We often ask the wrong questions\*\*** - dig deeper to find the real spiritual issues beneath surface problems.

✓ **\*\*Yeshua's Jewishness matters\*\*** - we must read His teachings through a Jewish lens to fully understand them.

✓ **\*\*We are called to shine God's light\*\*** and resist cultural assimilation, just as the Maccabees did.

✓ **\*\*Baseless love defeats baseless hate\*\*** - unity in the Body of Messiah is essential for our witness.