

# Connecting with Jesus

***“The time has come, “ he said. “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”... Come follow me...”*** Mark 1:15,17.

## Look back

- How are you doing?
- What has God been doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and to share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule in this world.

## Look up

### Read:

- John 4:1-42. A marginalized woman meets Jesus
- John 3:1-21 A respectable leader meets Jesus
- Luke 15:11-31 Story of a wayward son, a respectable son and a loving Father
- Extra: if time is available also read Luke 19:1-10. A rich but marginalized man.

Retell the story in your own words.

- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about God or Jesus?

- What did I learn about people or life?
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey? Is there something to avoid?
- What is God saying to me?
- Who do you identify with most?

Would you like to know Jesus? Are you willing to let him be in charge of your life?

If so here are the simple steps

1. **Acknowledge** your need of God and your failures (sin) and turn to Jesus (repent) asking for his forgiveness. Matt 4:17
2. **Believe** and invite Jesus into your life. Claim his promise of eternal life John 3:16, 5:24.
3. **Commit** to follow Jesus in you life's journey Matt7:21-23.

You can do this in a simple prayer.

### **Look forward**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?
- Who am I praying for, and planning to share with? (spiritual conversations, my story and the story of Jesus)
- Pray for each other

# Baptism

***Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20.***

## Look back

- How are you doing?
- What is God doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule in this world.

## Look up

To baptize means to immerse or dip. Faith in Jesus was shown by a person being baptized in the name of God the Father, Son and Spirit.

## Read

- Matt 28:18-20. The commission of Jesus to his Disciples
- Acts 8:26-38. Philip and the Ethiopian.
- Retell the story/passage in your own words.

- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about Jesus in these passages?
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey?
  
- Am I a disciple of Jesus and have I been baptized?
- What is God saying to me?

### **Look forward**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?
  
- Who am I planning on sharing with? (spiritual conversations, my story and the story of Jesus)
  
- Pray for each other

# Making Disciples

***“The time has come, “ he said. “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”... Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men”*** Mark 1:15,17.

## Look back

- How are you doing? What has God been doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule in this world.

## Look up

Read:

1. Matthew 28:16-20. What did Jesus ask his followers to do?
2. John 4:39-42, Luke 8: 26-39.  
What can we learn about sharing our experience with others from these two stories?
3. Mark 4:1-20. How do people respond to the good news?
4. Luke 10:1-11. What are the key principles Jesus gave to his followers in this passage?

- Retell the story/passage in your own words.
- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about God or Jesus?
- What have I learned about life and people?
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey?
- What is God saying to me?

### **Look forward**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?
- Who am I praying for and planning on sharing with? ( spiritual conversations, my story and the story of Jesus)
  
- Pray for each other

## Prayer: Communicating with God

***This then is how you should pray:***

***Our Father in heaven,***

***hallowed is your name,***

***Your kingdom come,***

***Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread.***

***Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,***

***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one***

***For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.***

***Matt5: 9-13.***

### Look back

- How are you doing? What's God been doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule in this world.

### Look up

#### Read

- Matt 6:5-14.

What are the key parts of the prayer?

How could you use these parts as heading for your prayers?

Eg v 12 forgive me my debts as I forgive\_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is there any one I harbor unforgiveness towards and need to forgive?

- James 1:5-7

What is this passage teaching us about prayer?

- Retell the story/passage in your own words.
- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about God or Jesus?
- What did I learn about people or life?
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey? Is there something to avoid?
- What is God saying to me?

### **Look forward**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?
- Who am I planning on sharing with? ( spiritual conversations, my story and the story of Jesus)
- Pray for each other



# The Holy Spirit

***“And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him or knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” John 14:16,17.***

## Look back

- How are you doing? What is God doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- How did you what we shared last week work in your life?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule in this world.

## Look up

God has given his followers the gift of the Holy Spirit who guides, corrects, empowers and infill’s believers. The Holy Spirit is like our Coach and he connects us to God’s presence and power.

## Read

- John 14:15 – 27
- John 16:5-15
- Luke 11:9-13

- Retell the story/passage in your own words.
- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about the Holy Spirit in these passages?
- List what the Holy Spirit does in disciples hearts
  
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey?
  
- What is God saying to me?

### **Look forward**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?  
Do you wish to invite the Holy Spirit to fill you again? You can do this in a simple prayer.
  
- Who am I planning on sharing with? (Spiritual conversations, and the story of Jesus)
  
- Pray for each other

## The Two Kingdoms

***After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the good news of God. The time has come he said. "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:14***

### Look back

- How are you doing? What has God been doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?
- 

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule in this world.

### Look up

In this world there are two governments or kingdoms, which claim our allegiance. One is the kingdom of this World belong to, and give allegiance to one or the other. Jesus contrasted these two kingdoms or governments as light and darkness.

List how these two kingdoms are described, who is in charge and the characteristics of each in the following passages.

### Read

- John 8:42-45
- John 10:10,
- John 12: 35-36

Kingdom of Light	Kingdom of Darkness
Leader:	Leader

There is a battle on a cosmic scale between God and Satan, good and evil.

You can read further about this struggle in Revelation. 12:7-12.

How does this struggle touch us personally? Eph 6:10-13

What can I learn from Jesus teaching on this battle in Luke 11:14-26?

- Retell the story/passage in your own words.
- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about God or Jesus?
- What did I learn about people or life?
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey? Is there something to avoid?
- What is God saying to me?

**Look forward**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?
- Who am I planning on sharing with? (spiritual conversations, my story, and the story of Jesus)
- Pray for each other

## Love and Community

***“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13: 34,35***

### Look back

- How are you doing? What is God doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- How did you obey what we shared last week work in your life?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule or kingdom in this world.

### Look up

#### Read:

- Matt 22:34-40.
- John 13: 34-35.

What do these passages teach us about love?

What is the distinguishing mark of a true follower of Jesus?

How can we express love?

Matt 25: 31-45.

God's people come together to encourage each other, worship, and to serve. They form Faith Communities or Churches. Church is not a building or program, but the gathering of disciples in Jesus name and these gathering can be held in various places.

- Heb 10: 23-25.
- Acts 2: 42-47.
  
- Retell the passage/story in your own words.
- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about God or Jesus?
- What did I learn about people or life?
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey? Is there something to avoid?
- What is God saying to me?

### **Look forward**

How can I obey what I have learned this week?

Who am I praying for and planning on sharing with? (spiritual conversations, my story, and the story of Jesus)

Pray for each other

# Communion

***And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, this is my body, given for you; do this in remembrance of me” In the same way after the supper he took the cup, saying “ This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” Luke 22:19-20.***

## Look back

- How are you doing? What is God doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?
- How did you apply what we learned in our last session in your life?

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule in this world.

## Look up

Jesus gave his disciples a special reminder of himself and his sacrifice and of the promise of the New Covenant. It is called the Lords supper or Communion, and is still regularly celebrated by his followers all around the world

## Read

- John 13:1-17

What was Jesus teaching his followers though his actions?

Luke 22:7-20 (see also Matt 26:17-30)

What was Jesus teaching his followers in this passage?

- Retell the story/passage in your own words.
  - Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
  - What have I learned about Jesus in these passages?
  - Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey?
- 
- What is God saying to me?

Would you like to participate in the communion meal?

**Look forward.**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?
  - Who am I planning on sharing with? (spiritual conversations, my story and the story of Jesus)
- 
- Pray for each other



## Priorities, Generosity and Giving

***Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break through and steal. But store for your selves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matt 6:19-21.***

### Look back

- How are you doing? What is God doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?
- How did you apply what we learned in our last session in your life?

Vision reminder: Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his rule in this world.

### Look up

Jesus taught much about practical life, including priorities, money and generosity.

### Read

- Matt 6: 25- 33.
- Luke 12:15-34
  
- Retell the story/passage in your own words.

- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about Jesus in these passages?
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey? Is there something to avoid?

What principles should guide our giving?

2 Cor 9:6-15

What is God saying to me?

### **Look forward**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?
- Who am I planning on sharing with? (spiritual conversations, my story and the story of Jesus)
- Pray for each other

## Jesus and the future

***And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” Matt 24:14***

### Look back

- How are you doing? What is God doing in our midst?
- Is there something you can thank God for, or a need to pray for?
- Were you able to have spiritual conversations and share faith in Jesus with some one?
- How did you apply what we learned in our last session in your life this week?

**Vision reminder:** Jesus left his followers (disciples) with the command to follow him and to make disciples of others and share the good news of Jesus and his Kingdom. We have the opportunity and challenge to make new disciples and extend his Kingdom in this world. His Kingdom is fully established when he returns.

### Look up

Jesus gave his disciples a glimpse into the future, including both the destruction of Jerusalem (by the Roman armies) and of the end of the age. He gave his followers warnings of what they face, instruction on how to live and hope in his return.

### Read

- John 14:1-3

What did Jesus promise?

- Matt 24:1-44

What characterizes the times before Jesus returns?

- Matt 24:42 – Matt 25:46

How should disciples live in the final times prior to his return?

What does “keeping watch” mean for his people? (Matt 24: 42, Mark 13:32-37)

What will be markedly different in the future?

- Rev 21:1-5

(Extra reading: 1 Thes 4:13-5:11, 1Cor 15:-1-28, Rev 1:7 )

- Retell the story/passage in your own words.
- Others in the group - Was anything missed out?
- What have I learned about Jesus in these passages?
- Is there a principle to follow or a command to obey? Is there something to avoid?
  
- What is God saying to me?

### **Look forward.**

- How can I obey what I have learned this week?
- Who am I planning on sharing with? (spiritual conversations, my story and the story of Jesus)
- Pray for each other







