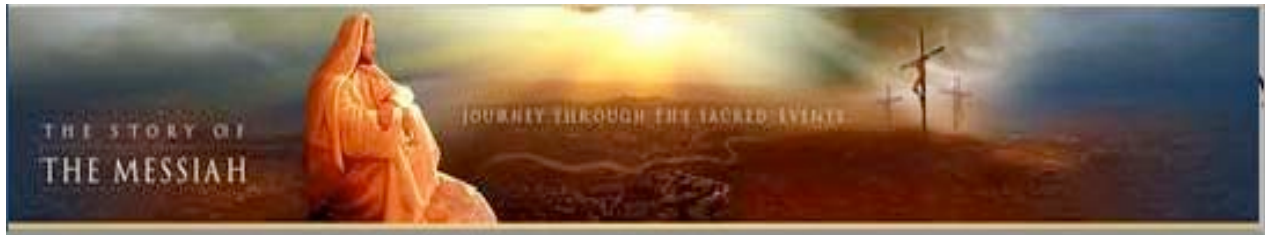


THE STORY OF
THE MESSIAH



Discussion Guide

Journey Through the Sacred Events



The Story of the Messiah

<http://www.messiahstory.com>

<http://www.messiahstory.org>

Course 1: Learning and Applying the Content of the Four Gospels

The basic course is designed so the student can explore the events of the four gospels in a chronological sequence. The objective is for the student to gain a comprehensive knowledge about the contents of the four gospels of the New Testament.

Course Resources:

- Audio Program: The Story of the Messiah – Six CD Set (7.5 hours) and Download Version
- Illustrated Text: The Story of the Messiah
- Study Guide - Program Content: The course study guide is available in the appendices of the text and can also be downloaded from the resources section of the website.
- Discussion Guide - Program Content: This guide is to suggest discussions and dialogue related to the chapter being studied.
- Teacher Resources - Context & Implementation: The context resources permits the students to deeper into the context so as to better understand how the teachings of the Gospel should be implemented in life.
- Storyboards: The 'storyboards' are color-coded to permit an overview of the four gospels. This presentation reveals the events that are unique to individual gospels. The storyboards can be downloaded from the website. The storyboards locate the events in a chronological order.
- Footprints of Jesus: The purpose of the footprint graphics is locate Jesus in a specific place, and identify the reference in the gospels that places him there.
- Index of Events: The index number of each event is linked to the 'Synopsis of the Gospels' that gives the precise reference where the event is located in the specific gospel or gospels. This comprehensive index is in the appendices of the text and can be downloaded from the website.

TWO AMAZING EVENTS

The first chapter describes two amazing events. One event might be called 'supernatural'. The other event is miraculous.

John the Baptist

- Why is the birth of John called supernatural?
- Who were the mother and father of John?
- What was the occupation of Zechariah?
- What news did the angel give to Zechariah?
- Why was Zechariah struck dumb - and could not speak?

The Annunciation

- Where was Mary living at the time of 'the Annunciation'?
- Is possible to consider the Annunciation - the message of the Angel to Mary as being miraculous in some way?
- What was the significance of the Holy Spirit of God being responsible for Mary having a child?
- What name did the angel say the child should be given?

CHAPTER 1: DISCUSSION GUIDE

<p>The preface sets up the story and provides background historical information. The information in the text can be reviewed. The teacher can also expand the information.</p> <p>The questions and answers in the study guide are for the purpose learning basic information s well as the significance of the events. Students can be asked to give their version of the story as an aid to remembering the events.</p>	<p>Index: Event 001: Prologue 002: Birth of John the Baptist Foretold 003: The Annunciation – Angel to Mary 004: Mary Visits Elizabeth</p>
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TWO REMARKABLE BIRTHS

John the Baptist and Jesus Christ are dramatically linked together in life and in history. Again - we encounter the supernatural and the miraculous.

The Birth John the Baptist

- What did the relatives of Zechariah and Elizabeth want to name the child?
- What was the response of the parents?
- According to the prophecy of Zechariah, what was the special mission of John?

The Birth of Jesus Christ

- Who were the first people to hear the announcement by the angels about the birth of Jesus the Christ?
- The angel spoke to the shepherds. What did the angel say about Jesus?
- What was the sign that was given? What happened?

Truth to Remember - What Believers Affirm

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us mankind and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

The above statement is from the Nicene Creed.

CHAPTER 2: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The storyboard makes it possible to relate the events in the various gospels with a chronological time line. Each gospel was directed to a different audience where there were themes that were not related to chronological events. To construct a comprehensive story, it was necessary to arrange the events with reference to a chronological time line.

Index: Event

- 005: Birth of John the Baptist
- 005: Prophecy of Zechariah
- 005: Hidden Life of John the Baptist
- 007: The Birth of Christ
- 009: Infant Jesus Presented in Temple
- 008: Visit of the Wise Men

TEACHING - PREACHING - BAPTISM - TEMPTATION

Jesus was special - even as a child. John the Baptist makes an amazing statement about Jesus that is confirmed by the voice of God. Then - Jesus is tempted.

Jesus and the Religious Leaders

- How many days had passed before Joseph and Mary discovered that Jesus was not with the group of travelers?
- Did Joseph and Mary find Jesus immediately after returning to Jerusalem?
- Where did they find Jesus
- Why were the doctors of religious law so amazed at Jesus' wisdom?

John and the Messiah

John made a curious statement that was also related to Jesus' mission on earth the first time he ever saw Jesus.

- What was that statement?
- What else did John the Baptist say about Jesus that was so astounding?

The Voice of God

- When John baptized Jesus, what did the voice from heaven say?

Triumph Over Temptation

Satan used all of his power in an attempt to cause Jesus to obey him.

- How did Jesus respond?

CHAPTER 3: DISCUSSION GUIDE

There are time gaps in the gospels. The writers of the gospels were not writing biographies – they were concerned with events related to Jesus Christ, the Messiah. A significant incident took place when Jesus was baptized – the visible manifestation of the Holy Spirit and the voice from heaven.

Index: Event

010: Escape to Egypt; Return to Nazareth
012: Jesus Among Doctors of Law–12 Years
013: The Preaching of John the Baptist
018: The Baptism of Jesus
020: Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness

The Testimony of John the Baptist

- What did John say about Jesus that was so important?

The First Miracle

- What miracle did Jesus perform at the Wedding in Cana?
- What was one of results of this miracle?

The First Passover

- What were the people suppose to remember at the time of Passover?
- What was happening in the Temple that made Jesus angry?

The Temple Cleansed

- What did Jesus do in the Temple?

The Kingdom of God

Nicodemus was impressed with Jesus Christ.

- What attracted his attention?
- What did Nicodemus affirm when he spoke to Jesus?
- What important truth do we learn about the Kingdom from Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus?

CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION GUIDE

John the Baptist declared unequivocally that Jesus Christ was the Messiah. He also said that eternal life was through Jesus. The first miracle happened at a wedding, followed by a visit to Jerusalem that was tumultuous.

After the temple cleansing Jesus received a late-night visitor. During this dialogue Jesus related the Kingdom of God with being 'born again'.

Index: Event

- 029: John's Testimony to Christ
- 017: John Arrested
- 022: The Wedding at Cana
- 024: 1st Passover
- 024: The Temple Cleansed
- 027: Nicodemus Visits Jesus

BORN FROM ABOVE ~ THE DECLARATION OF JESUS

In this chapter, we learn how being born from above is connected to the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ also makes a powerful statement.

Jesus and the Exodus

Jesus compared himself to an experience that the children of Israel had when they were wandering in the wilderness.

- What was that experience?
- How was the brass snake used in the wilderness?
- How did Jesus compare himself with the experience in the wilderness?
- What famous words did Jesus say when he spoke about believing in him?

The Declaration of Jesus

- Was there something strange about Jesus sharing this truth with this particular woman?
- What did Jesus tell the woman at the well in Samaria about worshipping God?
- What declaration did Jesus say to the woman about himself when she spoke about the Messiah who was to come in the future?

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus tells a sinful woman about true worship – worshipping God in spirit and truth, and that he is the Messiah!	<u>Index: Event</u> 030: Jesus Journey to Galilee 031: The Samaritan Woman at the Well
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JESUS AT NAZARETH AND CAPERNAUM

In this chapter, Jesus taught in the synagogue in Nazareth with a surprising and dangerous result. Then, we find Jesus in Capernaum where he performs miracles and calls his first four disciples.

Jesus at Nazareth

In the synagogue, Jesus read from the prophet, Isaiah.

- Why was this so important?
- What was the response of the people that heard Jesus speak?
- After showing approval, why did some of the people turned against Jesus?

Jesus at Capernaum

- What happened when Jesus went to the synagogue at Capernaum?
- Jesus called his first four disciples while he was at Lake Galilee. What is the most surprising thing that happened after this event?
- When Jesus healed the leper, what was so surprising to the diseased man?
- What was the major difference between the Pharisees and the Sadducees?

CHAPTER 6: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The prophet Isaiah spoke about the future Messiah. On the first occasion of Jesus speaking in the Synagogue, he chose a scripture that linked a prophecy of Isaiah with himself. A short time later, the people tried to kill Jesus. The center of activity for Jesus shifted to town of Capernaum on the shores lake of Galilee.

Jesus performed miracles and called the first four of his disciples. Remarkably, the four fishermen left their boats and their nets to follow Jesus. They left everything. Jesus engaged the Pharisees and Sadducees in dialogue relating to the resurrection of the body.

Index: Event

- 031: Jesus at Nazareth
- 032: Jesus in Synagogue
- 035: Jesus Teaches at Capernaum
- 036: Heals Demoniac
- 037: Simon's Mother-in-Law Healed
- 038: Jesus Quietly Leaves Capernaum
- 039: Travels Throughout Judea
- 040: The First Four Disciples are Called
- 041: The Healing of the Leper

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man - Forgiving of Sin

In this story, there was a strong argument concerning sin and disease.

- What caused the disagreement?
- How did Jesus respond to this situation?
- What was important about Jesus telling the man that his sins were forgiven?
- Did Jesus believe that a person was sick because of sin?

Jesus - the Lord of the Sabbath

- Why did the religious leaders become angry because Jesus' disciples picked corn and ate it?
- What did Jesus say about the Sabbath?

God the Father

- What did Jesus say that made the religious leaders so angry?

CHAPTER 7: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The 'Law of Moses' dominated the religious culture in Palestine. Jesus took exception to the interpretation of the 'Law' by the religious leaders again and again. In addition to the 'Law', there were multiple rules applied to every aspect of life.

The interpretation of the Law even took exception over miraculous acts of healing that Jesus did. The religious leaders did not view these acts as evidence of God's approval of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Index: Event

- 043: The Paralytic Healed
- 044: The Call of Levi (Matthew) See 093
- 045: Discussion About Fasting
- 046: Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath
- 140: 2nd Passover
- 141: Man Healed – Pool of Bethesda
- 141: Discourse on Divinity

Jesus and the Law of God

The religious leaders built a hedge around the law.

- What does this mean?
- Why did Jesus object to this approach?
- Why were the religious leaders so upset when Jesus healed the man with the withered hand?

Jesus Calls the Twelve Disciples

- What did Jesus do before he selected the disciples?
- What did Jesus call the disciples? What does the 'word' he called the disciples mean?

The Sermon on the Mount

This sermon begins by Jesus telling people what it is to be blessed.

- What are these blessings called?
- What did Jesus say was the true test of loving others?
- How did the Lord describe a true disciple?

The Healing of the Centurion's Servant

- Why was this particular healing different and important?

CHAPTER 8: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Moses was regarded as the greatest leader in Jewish history. Now, Jesus makes a astounding statement about Moses – that Moses wrote about Jesus. Jesus said that if then they really believed Moses, then they would believe him. After speaking of Moses, Jesus performed a miracle of healing. In the 'Sermon on the Mount', Jesus explains a new and better covenant. The old covenant – the Law, was all about keeping many external rules.

The new covenant was all about having an internal desire to obey God. Love, compassion and integrity – moral excellence was to come from within. Jesus spoke about the need to build on a good foundation – that foundation is Jesus Christ. Jesus then healed the servant of a Gentile. Jesus praised the Centurion for having more faith in God than he had seen before.

Index: Event

000: Moses & the Son of Man
047: Man with Withered Hand Healed
049: Choosing the Twelve Disciples
050: The Crowds Follow Jesus
077: The Sermon on the Mount
078: The Beatitudes
079: The Curses
080: Love of Enemies
081: Compassion and Generosity
082: Integrity – Moral Excellence
083: The True Disciple (House on the Rock)
085: Healing of Centurion's Servant

The Widow from the Village of Nain

Jesus performed many miracles of healing.

- What was different about the son of the widow from Nain?
- How did some of the people respond to this miracle?

The Parable of the Sower

- What does the 'seed' represent in the parable?
- What central truth does the parable reveal about the Kingdom of God?

The Parable of the Wheat and Tares

- Who planted the seed?
- What is meant by field?
- What are the good seeds?
- What are the tares?
- Who is the enemy?
- When is the harvest?
- What central truth is revealed by this parable?

CHAPTER 9: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus performs an amazing miracle – raising a person from the dead. John then asks a curious question – is Jesus the Messiah or should another be expected? This is the John who baptized Jesus, saw the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus and heard the voice from heaven.

Why did John ask that question? This is something to ponder. Jesus tells parables that are intended to help the listeners learn more about the Kingdom of God. The gospel of Matthew speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven. The other gospels speak of the Kingdom of God.

Index: Event

- 086: The Widow of Nain
- 106: John the Baptist Questions Jesus
- 107: John the Baptist Commended
- 114: The Pharisee and the Sinful Woman
- 114: Parable of Two Debtors
- 122: Parable of the Sower
- 124: Parable of the Sower Explained
- 127: Parable of the Wheat and Tares

The Parable of the Lamp

- What does light represent in the parable of the lamp?

The Mission of the Twelve Disciples

- What was the mission of the twelve disciples?
- What did the disciples do?

Feeding the Multitude

- Where did the feeding of the multitude happen?
- What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?
- How did the disciples respond?
- How many people were counted?
- What instructions did Jesus give to the disciples?
- After the people were fed, how much food was left over?

CHAPTER 10: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The storm of the Sea of Galilee was like no other storm before. The disciples that were in the boat had many years of experience on this body of water. It is thought that this was another attempt by Satan to kill Jesus before completing his mission. The gospels record other occasions when there were attempts to kill Jesus.

King Herod was concerned about what he was hearing about Jesus. Herod had put John the Baptist to death in an arrogant example of brutality and pride over a foolish statement. Jesus sends out his disciples to

Index: Event

- 125: Parable of the Lamp
- 136: The Calming of the Storm
- 137: The Gerasene Demoniac
- 093: Levi's Feast
- 138: More Miracles of Healing
- 142: The Mission of the Twelve Disciples
- 143: Herod & Jesus –
- 143: Death of John the Baptist
- 143: The Return of the Apostles
- 146: Feeding the Multitude

Jesus Walks on the Sea of Galilee

- What did the disciples think when they saw a person moving across the waters?
- What happened when they realized it was Jesus walking on the water?
- What caused Peter to start to sink after he took a few steps on the water?

Jesus - the Bread of Life

- What did Jesus mean when he referred to himself as the bread of life?
- What did Jesus say were the works of God?

The Healing of the Syro-Phoenician Daughter

- What is important about Jesus healing this young girl?
- What is surprising about this story?
- What was demonstrated by Jesus healing this child?

The Pharisees Seek a Sign

- Why were the Pharisees seeking a sign?

CHAPTER 11: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus walking on the water should not be a surprise. Peter walking on the water was miraculous as well. Jesus healed the daughter of a Gentile ... and he fed 4,000 people who were also Gentiles.

This miracle clearly demonstrates that the 'good news' was for everyone. And yet the Pharisees still would not accept Jesus as Messiah without a sign.

Index: Event

147: Jesus Walks on the Sea
149: Discourse on Bread of Life
151: Syro-Phoenician Daughter Healed
153: Feeding the 4,000
154: Pharisees Seek a Sign

Peter's Profession of Faith

- What question did Jesus ask the disciples?
- What was Peter's reply?
- Jesus then asked Peter what he thought?

The First Prophecy of the Passion of Christ

- What did Jesus say would happen to him in the future?
- What did Jesus say about being his disciple?

The Transfiguration

- Jesus went to a mountain to pray. Who did he take with him?
- What happened on the mountain?
- What did a voice from the cloud say about Jesus?

Who is the Greatest?

- What did Jesus do and say when the disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of God?

CHAPTER 12: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter's answer was a profound statement of faith even though Peter would later deny that he even knew the Lord. Jesus spoke of his future 'death'. Peter, James and John witnessed the 'transfiguration' of Jesus and heard the voice God acknowledge Jesus as His Son. Jesus spoke about his destiny – the journey that would lead to the Cross.

The Lord also used children to teach his disciples about true greatness. The faith of a child was necessary to enter and be part of the Kingdom of God. The disciples were warned that their calling was difficult, but with great rewards.

Index: Event

- 156: Blind Man at Bethsaida
- 158: Peter's Profession of Faith
- 159: 1st Prophecy of the Passion
- 160: The Condition of Following Christ
- 161: The Transfiguration
- 163: The Epileptic Demoniac Healed
- 164: 2nd Prophecy of the Passion
- 166: Who is the Greatest – Children
- 174: A Samaritan Village is Inhospitable
- 176: Hardships of Apostolic Calling

The Mission of the Seventy Disciples

- In sending the seventy disciples, what did Jesus say about their task?
- What is the harvest and who are the laborers?
- In seeking for lodging or a place to stay, what were the disciples told to do?

The Joyous Results

- What did the disciples report to Jesus when they returned?
- Jesus said something amazing about Satan. What did he say?

The Adulterous Woman

The Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman before Jesus who was guilty of committing adultery.

- Why did they do this?
- When Jesus was told that the woman must be stoned, what did Jesus say?
- What do we learn from the words of Jesus to the woman?

CHAPTER 13: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The first promise in the New Testament is in the first Gospel. An angel declared, "His name shall be called Jesus, for he shall save the people from their sins. When a mob sought to stone a woman to death, Jesus forgave that woman saying, "Go – and do not sin again."

Index: Event

177: The Mission of the Seventy Disciples
180: The Joyous Results
240: Teaching at Feast of Tabernacles
242: The Adulterous Woman

The Greatest Commandment

A religious lawyer was interested in eternal life.

- What did the lawyer say when Jesus asked the man about God's law?
- Jesus agreed. Then the man wanted to know "who is my neighbor"?
- How did Jesus answer the question?
- According to the parable, who was the neighbor?
- In the story, who did not fulfill the command? Who kept the commandment?

Martha and Mary

- In the story, what did Martha do?
- What did Mary do, and how did Jesus respond?

The Lord's Prayer

- Why were the disciples amazed at the instructions given to them about prayer?
- Why is the Lord's Prayer important for believers as a model for prayer?
- What is one of the most important truths we can learn from the prayer?

CHAPTER 14: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus referred to 'God' as Father again and again with one exception. When Jesus was on the Cross he exclaimed, "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me!"

Three hours later, he was calling God his 'Father' once again. In the story of the 'good Samaritan' we learn what

Index: Event

- 243: Discourse on Fatherhood
- 182: Who is My Neighbor?
- 183: The Good Samaritan
- 184: Martha & Mary
- 185: The Lord's Prayer
- 186: Effective Prayer

The Sign of Jonah

- What were the people seeking from Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond to this seeking of signs?
- Who was Jonah?

The story of Jonah is in the Old Testament. Jonah was sent to the people of Nineveh.

- How was the sign of Jonah significant in the time of Jesus Christ and today?

Jesus Warns the Pharisees and Lawyers

- Why was Jesus angry with the Pharisees and Lawyers?

The Accumulation of Possessions

- Jesus said some strong words against accumulating possessions. What caused him to do this?
- How did Jesus respond?
- Did Jesus give advice about accumulating possessions?

Being Ready for the Return of Jesus Christ

- What did Jesus tell his disciples about serving the master?

CHAPTER 15: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus was always kind and understanding with sinners. He was not patient with the religious leaders. He made a great distinction between external rules and obedience that was a result of loving and honoring God.

Jesus taught against desiring personal possessions rather than trusting in God. Jesus urged the people to sell their possession and place the trust in God. Jesus spoke about living in life in a way that God will honor. Jesus talked about being ready for the 'Master' to return. The people did not understand.

Index: Event

- 188: Jesus, Beelzebul, Pharisees' Blasphemy
- 191: The Sign of Jonah
- 194: The Pharisees & the Lawyers Attacked
- 195: God Knows & Cares
- 199: Jesus Speaks About Hoarding Posses
- 201: Trust in God
- 202: On Almsgiving
- 203: Being Ready for the Master's Return

PARABLES

There are 40 parables in the first three gospels, but no parables in the Gospel of John. John's Gospel is rich in allegories. Perhaps the most important allegory to understand is about the good shepherd.

The Parable of the Good Shepherd

- Why was the story of the good shepherd so important in those times?
- Is the relationship between a shepherd and the sheep relevant?
- What are the characteristics of a good shepherd?
- Who is the good shepherd in the allegory? Who are the sheep?
- What is the most important truth that Jesus explained in this allegory?

Raising Lazarus from the Dead

The village of Bethany - the home of Lazarus, is near Jerusalem on the slopes of the Mount of Olives.

- Why were the disciples concerned when Jesus received news about Lazarus being sick?
- Why did Jesus delay going to Bethany to heal Lazarus?
- What statement did Jesus make to Martha that is the most important thing that Jesus said about eternal life?

CHAPTER 16: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus gave the people an example of the love that he has for others in	<u>Index: Event</u> 249: Parable of the Good Shepherd 259: Raising of Lazarus
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The Signs of the Times

Jesus compared the weather with the signs of the times.

- Explain how Jesus applied this comparison to the people?
- What did the people think about bad things that happened to people?
- What did Jesus think about bad things and sin?

Parable of the Fig Tree

- In the parable of the fig tree, what truth was Jesus trying to teach?
- Did Jesus also talk about the dangers of not repenting?

Two Ways

- In speaking about the Kingdom of God, what is the most important truth?
- What are two ways that are described in the story?

The Great Banquet

- Jesus told the story of a great banquet. Who was invited to the banquet?
- How did some of the people respond to the invitation?
- The banquet can be compared to heaven. What happens to those who refused?

CHAPTER 17: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Once again, Jesus refers to his future passion – he was always aware of his destiny. He also told a parable that was to show how God is patient with sinners. Jesus also defied the religious leaders by healing on the Sabbath again. Jesus explained that there were two ways. He also told that although God was patient, the time to repent was not to last indefinitely.

The common belief among the people was that when the Messiah came, he would establish an earthly kingdom and Israel would be a powerful kingdom. The people were not willing to accept that the Kingdom of God would be different. God invites many to be part of the Kingdom of God. The Jews regarded themselves as special because they were descendants of Abraham. Most of the people would not understand what Jesus was saying.

Index: Event

- 204: Jesus & His Passion
- 205: The Signs of the Times
- 207: Examples of Repentance – Parable of Fig Tree
- 208: Healing the Crippled Woman on Sabbath
- 209: Parable of the Mustard Seed
- 210: Parable of the Yeast
- 211: Two Ways – Teaching in the Villages
- 212: Threats from Herod
- 213: Jesus Warned – Admonished
- 214: Jesus Heals on the Sabbath Again
- 215: Parable of the Guests – Choosing Guests
- 216: The Invited Guest Who Made Excuses

Renouncing Everything

Jesus talked about being a disciple.

- What is the most important motivation to be a disciple of Jesus?
- What must the disciple do to follow Jesus Christ?
- What did Jesus mean by telling the disciples to carry his cross?

The Cost of Being a Disciple

Jesus told two parables about being a disciple.

- What was he trying to teach the disciples?

The Lost Sheep and the Good Shepherd

- Who is the sheep in this parable? Who is the shepherd?
- What is the truth that the parable teaches?

The Lost Son - A Picture of Salvation

- Who is the son in this parable? Who is the father?
- What do we learn about salvation from this parable?

CHAPTER 18: DISCUSSION GUIDE

<p>Jesus Christ said there were three things a person must do to be a faithful disciple. The disciple must renounce his family, renounce himself, and renounce his personal possessions. Nothing can be more important than devotion to God. Jesus told three parables about God’s mercy.</p> <p>The lost son is an example of the love of God – the Father.</p> <p>The lost sheep is an example of Jesus Christ – the good shepherd.</p> <p>The lost coin is an example of the Holy Spirit seeking for the lost. There are some scholars who see the woman as an example of the church and the Holy Spirit seeking the lost through the church.</p>	<p><u>Index: Event</u></p> <p>000: Renouncing All That One Holds Dear 217: Discipleship Tested 217: Counting the Cost 000: Three Parables About God’s Mercy 219: The Lost Sheep 220: The Lost Coin 221: The Lost Son (and Elder Son) 222: The Crafty Steward or Manager 225: The Pharisees & Their Love of Money</p>
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The Rich Man and Lazarus

In these days, it was popular to believe that being rich possessing material goods was a sign of God’s blessing.

- What did Jesus teach the people in this parable?
- In the parable, how did Abraham respond to the plea of the rich man to send someone form the dead to warn his brothers?

Humble Services

- What should a believer feel or believe about giving service to God?
- How did Jesus encourage believers about serving God?

The Day of the Son of Man

- Jesus spoke about two signs that were connected to the ‘days of the Son of Man. what were these two signs?

The Pharisee and the Publican

- The Pharisee and the Publican each were praying in the Temple. What was the difference between the two men?

The story also was the basis for one of the oldest prayers in church history:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, be merciful to me - a sinner.

CHAPTER 19: DISCUSSION GUIDE

<p>Death has been feared and speculated about for thousands of years. The story of the ‘rich man and Lazarus’ told by Jesus is regarded as being a description of what happens after death. The rich man begged for someone to return from the grave to warn his brothers who were still living. Jesus said that the brothers had the words of Moses and the prophets as recorded in the Bible. If the brothers did not believe the Bible, they would not believe a person that had come from the grave.</p> <p>The Jews hated the Samaritans. Jesus used the Samaritan’s as an example more than once. One time, Jesus healed ten lepers. Nine of the lepers went away rejoicing. It was a Samaritan leper that came to Jesus, kneeled before the Lord and thanked him.</p>	<p><u>Index: Event</u> 228: The Rich Man & Lazarus 229: Leading Others Astray 230: Brother Correction 231: The Power of Faith 232: Humble Service 233: The Ten Lepers 234: The Coming of the Kingdom of God 235: The Day of the Son of Man 000: The Persistent Widow 236: Encouragement to Prayer 237: The Pharisee & Publican</p>
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Jesus and the Children

- Why were children not held in high regard in these days?
- What did Jesus do when the disciples tried to stop the children from approaching Jesus?
- *Jesus invited the children to come to him.*
- How did Jesus link or connect the children and the kingdom of God?

The Reward of Renunciation

- Peter told the Lord that he and the other disciples had left everything to follow him. How did Jesus respond to Peter?

Parable of the Pounds relating to money

- What was the background for this story - the circumstances?
- What did the nobleman do?
- What did the servants do?
- What is the truth revealed in the story?
- What happened to the enemies of the nobleman?

CHAPTER 20: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus used children as an example about the Kingdom of God on two occasions. Jesus said that one must have the faith of a child to enter the Kingdom of God. Another time when the disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of God, the Lord said that to become great in the 'Kingdom' one should be like a child.

The Lord warned about the danger of riches, and he gave an example of repentance and restitution when he told the story of Zaccheus. At this time, Jesus was very aware that the time of his death on the Cross was approaching. During his entire public ministry, Jesus knew that he would offer himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Index: Event

253: Jesus & the Children
254: The Rich Aristocrat
255: The Danger of Riches
255: The Reward of Renunciation
262: 3rd Prophecy of the Passion
264: The Blind Men (Bartimaeus)
265: Story of Zaccheus
266: Parable of the Pounds
267: Anointing at Bethany
000: Death Plot

Passion Week - The Messiah Enters Jerusalem

The Passion Week is connected to an annual celebration of the Jewish people.

- What is that celebration?
- What does the Passover celebration have in common with the Passion?
- What scripture from the Gospel of John is the best expression of this event?

Parable of the Wicked Vine Growers

- In this parable, who is the owner of the vineyard?
- Who are the servants in the Parable?
- Who are the tenants?
- Who is the son in the Parable?
- How do you explain the parable?

Paying Tribute to Caesar

The religious leaders asked Jesus if it was permissible to pay taxes to Caesar.

- How did Jesus respond?

CHAPTER 21: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The time had arrive for Jesus to fulfill his destiny. More than 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, the prophet Isaiah wrote about the Messiah entering the Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Another prophet, the prophet Zechariah also predicted that the Messiah would enter the city riding on a colt – the foal of an ass. The book Daniel revealed the day that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem. And now, that fateful day had arrived. Jesus lamented over the city of Jerusalem – he knew that the result of rejecting the Messiah would be terrible.

During the five days before his death, Jesus would speak again and again about the events that would happen in a matter of days.

Index: Event

- 269: The Messiah Enters Jerusalem
- 269: Praising the Lord
- 269: Jesus Defends Disciples – Acclamation
- 270: Lament for Jerusalem
- 273: Cleansing the Temple
- 274: Jesus Teaches in the Temple
- 276: The Authority of Jesus Questioned
- 278: Parable of the Wicked Vine-Growers
- 280: Paying Tribute to Caesar
- 281: The Resurrection of the Dead

The Widow’s Gift

The widow put all she had into the collection plate along with rich people.
What do we learn from the words of Jesus?

Be on the Alert

Jesus told the people that the temple would be destroyed. What are the signs that Jesus said would happen before the destruction of the Temple?

The Institution of the Eucharist - Communion - Lord’s Supper

At the last Passover meal that Jesus celebrated, he established what is called ‘The Eucharist’.

- What does that word mean?
- What other words are used to describe the Eucharist?
- What does the broken bread symbolize or represent in the celebration?
- What does the cup of wine symbolize or represent in the celebration?
- What do believers affirm when they celebrate the Eucharist?

CHAPTER 22: DISCUSSION GUIDE

<p>Passover week in Jerusalem was always a busy and tumultuous week. The city was filled with pilgrims from all over Palestine. There were also the non-stop sacrifices of animals, more than 200,000. The altar of sacrifice was ingeniously designed so that the blood of the animals would be drained from the altar. It was a sober reminder of the words that had echoed down from ages past, “without the shedding of blood, there was no remission of sin”.</p> <p>The animal sacrifices reminded the people that they were all sinful, and they could not atone for their own sin. Would the people come to understand that God provided for the death of His own Son to pay for the sins of the world?</p> <p>In the midst of the special Passover meal, a dram was unfolding. The supper would reenact the night when the blood of a lamb spared the children of Israel when they were slaves in Egypt. The drama continued.</p>	<p><u>Index: Event</u></p> <p>283: Christ – Son and Lord of David 284: The Scribes Condemned by Jesus 286: The Widow’s Gift 287: The Future Destruction of Jerusalem 288: The Warning Signs 290: The Siege of Jerusalem 292: The Disaster of the Pagan Age 293: The Time of the Lord’s Coming 301: The Last Days 305: The Conspiracy Against Jesus 308: Preparation for the Passover Supper 311: The Supper 310: Treachery of Judas Foretold</p>
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Who is the Greatest?

During the Passover meal, the disciples had an argument.

- What were they arguing about?
- Why did Jesus do on another occasion when there was conversation about the kingdom of God?

Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

Jesus rebuked the disciples for their attitude.

- What did Jesus do to help the disciples understand about the kingdom of God?
- What important lesson was Jesus trying to teach the disciples?

The Gift of Peace

Jesus talked about peace.

- What does the word mean to believers?
- What is the source of peace?

Promise of the Holy Spirit

Jesus promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit.

- What will the Holy Spirit do for believers?

CHAPTER 23: DISCUSSION GUIDE

<p>The Passover meal is so special and solemn, yet, here were the disciples arguing about which of them would be the greatest in the Kingdom of God. This was happening the night before Jesus would be crucified.</p> <p>What Jesus did was much more important than any words he could have spoken – Jesus took a basin of water and a towel and began to wash the feet of his disciples.</p> <p>After this action, Jesus said that to be great in the Kingdom, one must be the servant of others. Then, he promised the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p><u>Index: Event</u></p> <p>313: Who is the Greatest?</p> <p>309: Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet</p> <p>320: Parable of the Vine</p> <p>321: Abide in My Love</p> <p>317: Let Not Your Heart be Troubled</p> <p>319: The Gift of Peace</p> <p>322: The World’s Hatred</p> <p>318: The Promise of the Holy Spirit</p>
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The Reward Promised to the Apostles

- What are the future rewards that Jesus promised to the Apostles?
- What kingdom was Jesus talking about; and when?
- Is the future kingdom of God sometime after a person dies?

The Prayer of Jesus

The gospel written by John records a very special prayer by Jesus.

- Who did Jesus pray for?
- What did Jesus ask the Father for in his prayer?
- How does Jesus' prayer relate to the new commandment Jesus gave?

Peter Denies Christ

Jesus warned Peter to be careful - that Satan desired to separate him from his faith.

- How did Peter respond?
- What did Jesus then tell Peter?
- What did Peter do after he actually denied the Lord?

CHAPTER 24: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The 'Our Father' is often referred to as the 'Lord's Prayer'. It is more appropriate to refer to the prayer that Jesus prayed this night as also being the 'Lord's Prayer'.

In this prayer, Jesus asked his Heavenly Father to make believers one – united in heart and spirit. This oneness among believers would be the sign that the believers were his disciples – if they had love for each other.

Index: Event

- 313: The Reward Promised to Apostles
- 329: Priestly Prayer of Jesus
- 315: Peter's Denial and Repentance Foretold
- 330: The Mount of Olives
- 331: The Arrest of Jesus
- 333: Peter's Denials

Jesus and Pilate

- Who was Pilate?
- Why did the religious leaders bring Jesus before Pilate?

Jesus of Barabbas

- Who was Barabbas?
- What part did Barabbas have in the death of Jesus?

Jesus Condemned to Death

- Pilate thought Jesus was innocent of any crime. So then, why did Pilate sentence Jesus to death?
- What special orders did Pilate give concerning the charges against Jesus?

Pilate Washes His Hands

- After Jesus was sentenced to death, why did Pilate wash his hands?
- How did the people respond?

CHAPTER 25: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The long night of trials began with Jesus Christ being mocked by the guards who had arrested him. In the 'sermon on the mount', Jesus had spoken of the ways that the Kingdom of God was different from the world. Jesus spoke about forgiveness, kindness, praying for your enemies – and now, he was living out those very qualities that he had talked about to his disciples. Pilate offered a cynical exchange to the mob – to release Jesus Christ or the murderer Barabbas.

When Pilate posed the question, "what shall I do with Jesus?" The crowd demanded that Jesus be killed. And so, Jesus was beaten and condemned to death. A few hours earlier Jesus said to his disciples to love one another. Now Jesus went beyond that commandment, as he loved his persecutors.

Index: Event

332: Jesus Mocked by the Guards
332: Jesus Before the Sanhedrin
334: Jesus Before Pilate
337: Jesus Before Herod
338: Jesus Before Pilate Again
338: Appeal of Pilate's Wife
339: Jesus or Barabbas
000: Jesus Scourged
000: Pilate Gives Death Sentence
339: Pilate Orders Barabbas Release
338: Pilate Washes His Hands

The Way to Calvary - Lament of the Women

Jesus saw women he knew as he made his way to Calvary.

- What did Jesus tell this women who were crying?
- Why was Jesus not concerned for himself?

The Crucifixion

- What words did Jesus speak as he was being nailed to the cross?
- What did Jesus during his most terrible moments on the cross?

The Death of Jesus

- What are the last words that Jesus spoke before he died?
- How can you explain the difference between his words on the cross and his commitment to God before he died?
- What happened in the Temple when Jesus died?
- Why was this tearing of the curtain from top to bottom important?

CHAPTER 26: DISCUSSION GUIDE

<p>Even though Jesus was sentenced to death, he was subjected to more cruelty even before arriving at the hill of Calvary where three crosses would be raised with the condemned prisoners. The scriptures say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved".</p> <p>What does it mean to believe? Some might imagine that some specific words need to be spoken, or there needs to some affirmation to some kind of theological formula.</p> <p>One thief ridiculed Jesus and taunted him to come off the cross and save himself and the other two. The other thief confessed that they – the thieves deserved their punishment.</p> <p>Then he turned to Jesus and said, "Remember me when you come into your Kingdom". The thief who confessed his sin and expressed his faith was told by Jesus, "today you will be with me in paradise".</p> <p>Saint Paul said, "if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved".</p>	<p><u>Index: Event</u></p> <p>000: Jesus Taken to Prison</p> <p>335: Suicide of Judas</p> <p>000: Release of Barabbas –</p> <p>000: Anger of Two Condemned Prisoners</p> <p>343: The Way to Calvary</p> <p>000: Jesus Offered Wine</p> <p>344: The Crucifixion</p> <p>345: The Crucified Christ is Mocked</p> <p>346: The Good Thief</p> <p>347: Jesus Commends Mary to John</p> <p>000: The Death of Jesus – Darkness</p> <p>000: After Death of Jesus – Temple Veil Torn</p> <p>348: Centurion's Confession</p> <p>000: Earthquake – Death of Prisoners</p>
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The Burial of Jesus

- Who were the two men who buried Jesus?
- Who was Joseph of Arimathea?
- Who was Nicodemus?

The Empty Tomb

- Who were the first ones to discover the empty tomb?
- Mary saw two angels in the empty tomb. What did she do?
- Who was the first person to meet the resurrected Jesus?
- Did the Lord permit Mary to touch him?

The Message to the Disciples - The Men of Emmaus

- Jesus gave Mary a message to give to the disciples. What did he call them?
- What was the message?
- Who were the next people to see the risen Lord?

CHAPTER 27: DISCUSSION GUIDE

<p>Jesus Christ accords women a unique place in the New Testament and. Jesus makes the most profound statement about worship to a sinful woman. Jesus also permits a sinful woman to wash his feet with perfume and her tears; he defends a woman who was caught in act of adultery; and the first person to discover the empty tomb and to be spoken to by the resurrected Christ was Mary Magdalene – a woman who had been a prostitute but came to faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus treated women with dignity and respect. This was so unlike the culture of that day.</p>	<p><u>Index: Event</u> 000: Decent from the Cross 350: The Burial 351: Watch at the Sepulcher 352: Women at Sepulcher 352: Mary Finds Tomb Empty 000: Mary Magdalene Tells Peter 000: Empty Tomb – Angel’s Message 355: The Road to Emmaus 000: Isaiah 53</p>
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Jesus Appears to Disciples - Thomas Absent

Jesus appeared to his disciples.

- What did he do?
- Why did Jesus refuse to let Mary touch him?
- Why did Jesus let the disciples touch him?
- What assumption can be made about these events?

Jesus and Thomas

- What happened when Jesus appeared to Thomas?
- What did Thomas say to Jesus?
- What was special to the reply that Jesus made to Thomas?

Challenge to Peter

After breakfast by the lake of Galilee, Jesus asked Peter a similar a question three times.

- What was the question?
- After listening to Peter's reply, what did the Lord tell Peter to do?

The Great Commission

- What did Jesus command the disciples and all believers to do?

CHAPTER 28: DISCUSSION GUIDE

The religious leaders asked Jesus to show them a sign that he was the promised Messiah. One day, the leaders asked for the ultimate sign – “show us the Father and that will be enough”. Jesus said, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father”.

Jesus is the example of the way we should live. Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would be in all believers. We can know this is true by our own behavior.

The qualities of behavior that are the evidence of the Holy Spirit living in us are, 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Saint Peter said, “As we know Jesus better his divine power gives us every thing we need for living a godly life.”

Index: Event

000: Dinner at Emmaus
356: Jesus Appears to Apostles Thomas Absent
357: Jesus Appears to Apostles Thomas Present
359: Appearances in Galilee
360: Draught of Fishes
000: Appearance to 500
000: Challenge to Peter
364: Last Instructions – Great Commission
000: Ascension of Jesus into Heaven
000: Epilogue