

“Jesus Is...The Sovereign Shepherd”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

The Gospel writer records in Matthew 4:19 Jesus’ words to His disciples on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. He said, “*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!*” These men weren’t invited to follow just any man. They were invited to follow the Man. This Man is the Promised Offspring that will crush Satan’s head and bless the whole world. He is the Promised King Whose reign has begun and He demands our allegiance. He is the Promised Messiah Who rules with authority as King; representing God to us as Prophet and us to God as Priest. He is the Promised Savior Who will save you from the bondage and consequences of sin. He is the Center of History and no other person, population, or power can change the fact that Jesus is the One toward Whom all of history before and after Him points. He is the God-Man; man’s perfect God and God’s perfect Man. This week we learned that this Jesus is the Sovereign Shepherd.

Sometime after the birth of Jesus wise men from the east came to visit the newborn baby. They came to Jerusalem looking for the baby who was “born King of the Jews.” They saw His star and wanted to worship Him. These wise men, while far from the kind of people the Jews wanted to hang around, definitely knew something significant was up in the world. The King had come to His people. This caused Herod the king to worry that he would be deposed and therefore sought to discover and destroy this newborn King.

But according to the prophets, this king was more than a ruler. He was a Shepherd King. He would be Sovereign over the wisest of men and yet love and care for the weak. He would do what the shepherds of Israel didn’t do. He will lead, feed, and rescue His sheep.

This Sovereign Shepherd deserves our worship. Further, as Shepherd He is the One to which we should run for guidance, sustenance, and deliverance. His Word is our food that sustains us, His Spirit leads us, and His Work saves us. This Jesus is worthy to be followed. And when we follow Him, He will make us fishers of men!

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine how you give worship to the Sovereign Shepherd. Do you run to Him for guidance, sustenance, and deliverance? Or do you look to other things to sustain and save you? Do you worship Him in the normal stuff of life or do you only think about worship on Sundays? Be prepared to discuss these questions and more when you gather this week.

Message Outline

Jesus is the...

1. Sovereign over the wise.

He is the rightful King.

He is owed worship.

2. Shepherd over the weak.

He leads.

He Feeds.

He rescues.

Therefore...

1. Let’s give Him our worship.

2. Let’s run to Him for...

Guidance.

Sustenance.

Deliverance.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Matthew 2:1-12:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to establish their goals and objects and begin to live them out.
- Pray for the 2016 Financial Ministry Plan as we seek to be a church of disciples who make disciples of all the nations.

- **Local:**

- Pray for the Friday Night Beach Bonfire Outreach and the developing friendships. Pray these will lead toward Gospel conversations.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.