

“Jesus Is...The Hope for the World”

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

Jesus said to His disciples on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, “*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!*” These men dropped their nets and followed Him. But who were they following? Prior to this invitation, Matthew gives us a picture of the Man they decided to follow. As a matter of fact, he gives us no less than 20 pictures of Jesus. David Platt, who identified these 20 pictures, said, “This Jesus is worthy of more than nominal adherence and church association...it’s either turn and run or bow and worship.”

This Jesus 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 sent by God. He is the Promised Savior Who will save you from the bondage and consequences of sin. He is the Center of History toward Whom all of history before and after Him points. He is the God-Man; 100% God, 100% man. This Jesus is Sovereign over the wise and Shepherd over the weak. Jesus is the Inaugurator of the New Exodus. Just as the blood of the lamb over the doorposts of the Jews in Egypt inaugurated the Exodus from Egypt, God in His great mercy inaugurated a New Exodus from sin through the blood of His Son. Jesus is the Ender of our Exile. He is our only hope for ending our exile in sin. Jesus is the Lover of His Fiercest Enemies. Jesus pursued to love those who pursued to kill Him. Jesus is the Savior-Judge who came to save a people for Himself but judge those who turn their hearts against Him. Jesus is the Son of God who was filled with God the Spirit and loved by God the Father. Jesus is the New Adam who overcame the temptation to sin unlike the first Adam. He is the True Israel; the faithful and obedient Son of God unlike Israel who continued to rebel against God.

This week we see the final two pictures of Jesus from Matthew 4. He is the Light of the world. As Isaiah prophesied, the Jews would see a great light. Jesus, who perfectly obeyed the Father’s will, would come to illuminate God’s purposes for their lives. However, Jesus didn’t come just to save the Jews. He came as Hope for all nations. This has always been God’s plan. We see this fulfilled in Revelation 7:9-10 where people from every nation tribe and tongue are gathered around the throne of God worshiping the Lamb!

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine how Jesus has illuminated God’s purposes for your life. How has He brought hope to you, your neighbors, and those in your sphere of influence? How will you participate in bringing this Hope to the whole world?

Message Outline

Jesus is ...

1. The Light of the World.
 - He perfectly obeyed the Father unlike Israel.
 - He illuminates God’s purposes.
2. The Hope for all Nations.
 - He brings joy to the distressed.
 - He liberates the oppressed.
 - He is victorious over death.
 - He is given graciously by God as:
 - Wonderful Counselor.
 - Mighty God.
 - Everlasting Father.
 - Prince of Peace.
 - His rule & reign will be...
 - Limitlessly expanded.
 - The fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.
 - Just & Right.
 - Accomplished by God Himself.

Therefore let us...

1. Walk in the Light through:
 - Repentance.
 - Faith.
2. Rest in Hope of Eternal Life.
 - Now.
 - Forever.

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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 4:12-17:

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 those who will be invited to the Storyformed Way, a 10-week journey through the Story of God. Pray for open and receptive hearts and for God to use this journey to draw people to Himself.
- Pray for the relationships that were built during the Community Thanksgiving Meal.
- 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.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.