

“The Works of Jesus”

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 came on the scene as the Promised Messiah who would redeem God’s people from bondage once and for all. He was the true Word of God who became flesh, dwelt among His people, and they beheld His glory, the glory as of the only Son of God. Many thought He would come and lead God’s people from the bondage of Rome. However, Jesus had something else in mind.

After Jesus started His public ministry at about 30 years old, He went about the countryside from town to town and village to village ministering directly to people who were completely and utterly discouraged. Jesus did the same thing everywhere He went; He taught the Word of God, preached the Gospel, and performed miracle after miracle including healing the sick and raising the dead. Jesus did these things to not only establish His identity as God but also because He had a deep compassion for hurting people.

Jesus not only ministered to the needs of people but He mentored His disciples to do the same so they might multiply disciples. Just as Jesus told His disciples early on to “*Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men,*” He set the stage for His disciples to expand His works here on earth so that others might come to know Him too. Jesus told His disciples to “*pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*” When they prayed, they began to see real needs of people and have a real compassion to meet those needs.

Jesus set a pattern for the church to follow today. Jesus ministered, mentored, and multiplied disciple-makers. He not only encouraged his first disciples to do this but He has commanded us to do this as well. As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine how compassionate you are toward those in need. Are you meeting real needs of people? Do you engage them with the Gospel, lead them to faith, equip them to follow Jesus, and send them out so they might do the same? This is Jesus’ plan for the church; it’s His plan for you!

Message Outline

The works of Jesus include:

1. Ministry to the discouraged.
He taught the word.
He preached the Gospel.
He healed the sick.
2. Mentoring His disciples.
They saw the needs of people.
They developed compassionate hearts.
They learned Jesus’ purpose.
They participated in Jesus’ mission.
3. Multiplying disciple-makers.
When we pray for workers we will...
 - See what Jesus sees.
 - Feel what Jesus feels.
 - Know what Jesus knows.
 - Do what Jesus does.

The works of Jesus continue through us when we:

- Establish – “I do, you watch”
- Engage – “I do, you do”
- Equip – “You do, I coach”
- Empower – “You do, others watch”

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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 9:35-38:

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 for those who will be taking the New Member Orientation this Sunday.
 - 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 impact their communities with the Gospel.
 - Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
 - Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- **Local:**
 - Pray for 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 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.