

# NEW COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

## A BRIEF EXPLANATION

Community Group meetings are a time to dig deep into scripture together and see our lives changed by God's word. The discussion guide is intended to assist with that, and is designed to build on itself by presenting biblical concepts that point towards our need for redemption and our eternal hope in Jesus, then developing how we can walk in a manner worthy of our calling (Eph. 4:1). The guide is also designed to aid you as a leader in your preparations for group and enrich your own studies. It is made up of three primary sections: Knowing & Understanding, Evaluating, and Applying.

- **Section 1: Understanding**
  - **What this week's section of scripture says, and what it means.**
- **Section 2: Evaluating**
  - **How this week's scripture calls us to evaluate our lives. This is when we look at:**
    - **What the Gospel says about our sin and our absolute need for Jesus.**
    - **The eternal hope we have in Jesus and his love for us, and how that dispels our disobedience, guilt, and shame.**
- **Section 3: Applying**
  - **What the next steps in our lives might be, given our discussion. This especially relates to how we can believe the truth of the Gospel more fully and how we can love and serve others more gladly.**

## Example Section Layout & What to Look For

### **Section #: Section Heading**

Below the section heading you'll find a brief description of this section for your discussion. Below this explanation you'll find a list of general topics as well as questions related to those topics. Very simply, the explanations are for your preparation and the questions are for your group meeting.

- Topic and brief overview
  - **Question for group discussion**



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# MATTHEW: AN INTRODUCTION

## Author, Date, & Setting

Although the title was added later, the general consensus among scholars going back to the early church agree that the author of this gospel is Matthew, a former tax collector who later became an Apostle. It is believed that Matthew and Luke were written around the same time, between 60-65 CE, without the other's knowledge, and at least 30 years after Jesus' death. Matthew's lack of detail in regard to Jewish traditions such as the Sabbath and the Law as well as possible Jewish tension with Christians make it clear that he was writing to a predominately Jewish audience, most likely in Palestine or Syria.

## Purpose

Matthew's gospel was written during a time of extreme internal persecution of Jewish-Christians by their Jewish neighbors. Proclamation of the gospel and Jesus as the promised Messiah was seen as blasphemy. Any attempts to spread this message were greeted with hostility, physical and economical persecution, and sometimes even death. As a result, Matthew seems to be trying to accomplish several goals: 1) Affirm that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promised Messiah; 2) Communicate that the Kingdom of God has been inaugurated with the arrival of the King; 3) Communicate that those who faithfully embrace his arrival will receive a place in the kingdom and are tasked with joining Jesus on mission to advance the consummation of his Kingdom at the end of the age.

## Themes

Matthew is able to accomplish this by weaving together several theological themes that unite the gospel and fits perfectly into God's redemptive narrative of the Old and New Testament. These include: Christ's identity as the Son of Man, Son of God, Messiah, Davidic and universal king; Salvation for all sinners through grace by faith; The Kingdom of God's inauguration and consummation; The mission of the citizens of the kingdom. See the appendix for a more detailed understanding of these thoughts.



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# WEEK ONE: JESUS CALLS MATTHEW

**MATTHEW 9:9-13 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 16**

## Intro

Jesus has arrived and up until this point in his journey, things have gone pretty smoothly. He has confirmed his right to David's throne (chapter 1), established the standard for godly living in his Sermon on the Mount (chapter 5), and demonstrated that he will not be like other kings who use their authority to take but rather to use it to serve and even forgive sins (chapter 8). The journey begins to intensify as Jesus recruits an unlikely disciple to his core group and angers the Pharisees by not sticking to their rules.

## 1. Understanding

Jesus was not the Messiah that everyone expected. He was more than we could ever hope for.

- **Why was it a big deal for Jesus to call and hang out with tax collectors?**
- **What verse is Jesus quoting when he says, "I desire mercy not sacrifice?" What does this mean?**
- **Based on Jesus' actions, what does that say about his character?**

## 2. Evaluating

No one deserves the Jesus that arrived but everyone needs him. Whether you are a crooked tax collector or a legalistic Pharisee, we are all born sinners.

- **What does Jesus' mercy say about us?**
- **How does Jesus' mercy meet your needs?**

## 3. Applying

Because Jesus has shown mercy to us, we are now able to show mercy to everyone, even people the world despises or has forgotten.

- **How does God's mercy towards us encourage us to proclaim the good news to others?**
- **What steps can we take as a group and individually to show mercy to unbelievers and each other?**



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# WEEK TWO: JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH

**MATTHEW 9:18-26 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 23**

## Intro

After Jesus recruited Matthew and explained to the Pharisees that religious rituals mean nothing if they're not preceded by love, he demonstrates this truth by performing two miracles. In this passage, Jesus helps a desperate woman who had an incurable condition that caused her to bleed for 12 years and a father whose daughter just died. To the culture around them, those people were irredeemable, but to Jesus they were his creation in need of healing and restoration.

## 1. Understanding

Jesus is both 100% God and 100% man, making him the only person who can relate to our pain yet and permanently do something about it.

- **Read Leviticus 15:25 and Luke 8:42b-43. What do these say about the woman's condition and what it would've been like to be her during this time?**
- **How did the woman's actions and words demonstrate faith?**
- **What does Jesus' healing the sick and raising the dead say about who he is?**

## 2. Evaluating

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The only solution is Jesus. Only he has the authority and power to heal our sin and restore the brokenness in our hearts and in our city.

- **Where do you need healing and restoration in your life?**
- **What would it look like for Jesus to bring healing in this area? What about who God is makes this possible? What is your role in pursuing healing and restoration?**

## 3. Applying

Jesus uses the people he saves to join him in loving their neighbors, even the people the world has abandoned or deemed unlovable.

- **As a community group, what is our role in pursuing healing and restoration in each other's lives? In our city?**



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# WEEK THREE: JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE

**MATTHEW 9:35-10:14 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 30**

## Intro

Jesus continued to reveal himself as the loving Messiah by opening the eyes of two faithful blind men and removing the demonic influence that kept a man from speaking. These few were only a small representation of the work that had to be done. The disciples are about to discover that following Jesus is not a spectator sport and that true followers of Jesus are expected to daily join Jesus on mission no matter the outcome.

## 1. Understanding

Jesus is both the good shepherd who cares for his sheep and the Lord of the harvest who sends out his sheep to reach the lost.

- **What does Matthew 9:35-38 say about Jesus' mission?**
- **Why did Jesus send out the disciples?**
- **How does Jesus' ministry inform what you are called to do?**

## 2. Evaluating

We were all once helpless sheep in need of the kind of compassion and rescue that only Jesus could give.

- **How does Jesus' compassion for the lost motivate you to be on mission?**
- **What is stopping or distracting you from the mission Jesus has given you?**

## 3. Applying

As a result of who Jesus is and what he has done for us, we are now missionaries sent out to distribute the blessings of our King in our neighborhoods, our cities, and beyond.

- **As a group, how can we begin to join Jesus on mission on a daily basis?**



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# PSALM 133 DISCUSSION GUIDE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

*\*This week is a break in the sermon series.*

## Intro

This psalm celebrates the beauty of brothers in Israel dwelling together with two colorful similes that describe the blessedness of Israel being true to its calling.

*<sup>1</sup>Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! <sup>2</sup>It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! <sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore. (Psalm 133 ESV)*

## Discussion Questions

- 1. Read Philippians 2:1-5. Why is it good and pleasant for the church to dwell in unity?**
- 2. If God's blessing is eternal life, how important is it that we strive to get along now with those with whom we will be spending eternity?**
- 3. What are some personal roadblocks that may be keeping that from happening? Think about extending or accepting forgiveness, bitterness, unmet expectations, differences in opinion, backgrounds and lifestyle.**
- 4. Confess to God where you have failed to pursue unity in the church. Seek to reconcile and build meaningful relationships through a community group or serving together in the church or city.**



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# WEEK FOUR: JESUS CLAIMS TO BE THE MESSIAH

**MATTHEW 11:1-19 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

## Intro

Even with the amazing work Jesus and his disciples were doing, several of his own people were concerned that Jesus may not be the savior the Old Testament spoke of. They thought this because Jesus did not arrive and re-establish Israel's kingdom and former dominance immediately. Jesus reminds John the Baptist and his disciples that any doubt of Jesus' identity can be settled by looking at his work. Eventually, they will see that is also includes his resurrection and the testimony of his followers.

## 1. Understanding

Jesus is the savior that was promised in the Old Testament (Gen. 3:15, 49:8-12; Exodus 12-14; Isa. 40, 43, 53, 61, 65) but he accomplishes his perfect plan his way and on his terms.

- **What are some of the misconceptions you have had about Jesus?**
- **What are some misconceptions that others (both believers and non-believers) accept as truth?**
- **What does Jesus' response teach us about how to react when we encounter people who have misunderstood Jesus and are seeking answers?**

## 2. Evaluating

Commitment to Jesus will show itself in our everyday life but can be interrupted by doubt and unrest due to unmet expectations, selfish motives, and spiritual indifference.

- **Up until this point in the series, what do we know about Jesus?**
- **How does this conflict with what you personally believe or what the world believes?**
- **How does the gospel respond to those conflicts?**



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### 3. Applying

Our sin separated us from God, but because of Jesus' sacrifice, we now have fellowship with the Father. This should energize us to embrace the privilege of being on mission with Jesus and celebrate the work he is doing in us and through us.

- **Discuss with your group how this series has both influenced you and celebrate together the work that God is doing in your life.**

#### **CONTENT CONTRIBUTOR NOTE:**

**Vintage gives special thanks to content writers, Eric Spivey and Ted Yap, for using their gifts to equip leaders and glorify God.**



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# WEEK FIVE: COMING AGAINST RELIGION

## MATTHEW 12:1-14 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

### Intro

Jesus's name is growing as well as his followers. Many have become threatened and are beginning to take steps to discredit him through public debates. Matthew begins a series of encounters with Jesus that are intentionally designed to make him look foolish by challenging on his understanding of the Jewish Law. Instead, the exact opposite is about to happen. Those who have followed Jesus on this are about to learn that Jesus not understands the Law but is the fulfillment of it.

### 1. Knowing & Understanding

Jesus is greater than any law or religion and as a result he determines the standard for his people and we joyfully submit.

- **Why are the Pharisees upset with Jesus and his disciples?**
- **Were the Pharisees justified in rebuking Jesus? Where do you see support for your answer in the bible?**

### 2. Evaluating

Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it so that we would find our rest in him.

- **Discuss the differences between Jesus' response to the law and the Pharisee's**
- **How does Jesus bring mercy through the law?**

### 3. Applying

We are only able to be obedient to God and merciful to others because Jesus lived a perfect life and died a perfect death. He knew we could never live out God's holy standard apart from his mercy.

- **How does Jesus' mercy inspire obedience?**
- **What are some practical ways we can show mercy to one another?**



# WEEK SIX: JESUS HAS POWER OVER NATURE

## MATTHEW 14:13-33 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

### Intro

The message of the kingdom continues along with amazing display of his power of the one true King. Some have responded with gratitude and amazement, some have questioned his methods and are still seeking to understand, and others have determined that he is a threat to the system they have established. In this section, the disciples begin to put the pieces together as to who Jesus really is: the Son of God who deserves worship.

### 1. Knowing & Understanding

Jesus' power and authority extend beyond Jerusalem into the entire created order.

- **If you were in the boat with the disciples, how would you have reacted?**
- **How does Jesus choose to display his power? How is this different from how man would try to display his power?**
- **What do Jesus' actions say about his character?**

### 2. Evaluating

How we respond when God reveals himself to us will communicate what we truly believe.

- **What do the responses of the disciples say about what they believe about Jesus?**
- **Why is faith so important to the Christian life?**
- **What does the Gospel say about the origin and endurance of faith?**

### 3. Applying

Our faith is strengthened through seeing God at work in us, in his people, and in his city.

- **Discuss how Jesus has been faithful to keep his promises or answer prayer recently. Spend time thanking him for his faithfulness, confessing areas where it is difficult to be faithful and ask God to strengthen those areas for his glory.**



# WEEK SEVEN: WHEN YOUR FRIENDS FOLLOW JESUS

**MATTHEW 16:13-20 | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

## Intro

The disciples have been following, watching, and learning from Jesus. They have also gained first hand ministry experience on their own. In a normal apprenticeship, this would have been enough for them to begin making disciples of their own, but it wasn't because Jesus was not an ordinary teacher. In order for the disciples to become and do everything Jesus intended, several events had to take place including realizing who Jesus truly is.

## 1. Knowing & Understanding

Jesus is the Son of the living God and has come so that we can have a satisfying and joyful relationship with God.

- **Is there any difference today in what others are saying about Jesus? If so, what would you add to the list?**
- **Where did Peter's insight come from? Why were the miracles the disciples witnessed not enough to reveal who Jesus is?**

## 2. Evaluating

The Church is an assembly of God's people who are united in confessing that he is our Savior.

- **What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Christ?**
- **How does your answer support or conflict the gospel?**

## 3. Applying

Part of our responsibility as the church is to display God's glory in our city by joyfully communicating the truth about what he has done and who he is.

- **What are some ways we as a group and individually can make sure our neighbors hear the truth about who Jesus is and what he has done?**



# PRAYER & PARTNERSHIP

## Philippians 1:3-11 | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

*\*This week is a break in the sermon series*

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:3-11 ESV)*

### Intro

While under arrest, Paul takes time to write to the Philippian church. From the beginning it is clear that he sincerely loves this church and is grateful for their generosity towards him. His brief prayer not only reflects that but also a high regard for Christian community. This passage still carries a tremendous value for the church today in that it sheds light on what is important to God and clarity on how to pray and care for our church.

### Discussion Questions

1. **Take time to share stories within the group of some specific ways that being in community has impacted your life.**
2. **Based on Paul's prayer, how would you describe his feelings and relationship with the Philippian church?**
3. **Paul makes several special requests in his prayer that are essential to the Philippians' spiritual maturity. Discuss what the requests were and how they would be valuable to the church.**
4. **What encourages a sense of partnership among Christians? How can you encourage, through your attitudes and practices, a sense of partnership in the church (v. 7-8)?**



# WEEK 8: JESUS HAS POWER OVER THE SPIRITUAL REALM

MATTHEW 17:14-20 | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

## Intro

Jesus is coming to the end of his ministry. There can be no confusion among his inner circle of who he is in order for the Church to advance. Two key events have already taken place to reveal his identity as the prophesied King who will save his people: Peter's confession (16:13-28) and his transfiguration (17:1-13). In this section, we will see Jesus bring his ministry to a close, similar to how he started, by demonstrating his authority over both the physical and the spiritual realm.

## 1. Knowing & Understanding

Jesus is our all-powerful King who delights to work through faith and prayer.

- **What does Jesus' healing of this boy reveal about his character?**
- **How is Jesus' all-powerful nature a comfort to you?**
- **If Jesus is an all-powerful God, why does he make such a big deal about us having faith in him?**
- **Why weren't the disciples able to heal the boy?**

## 2. Evaluating

Our work is not meant to be a form of entertainment that places us as the headliner, but rather to deeply connect to God, who is the source of our power and strong conviction. He will meet our needs.

- **What does it say about how the disciples were going about their ministry?**
- **Where have you experienced doubt about God's all-powerful nature, and how has that affected you?**
- **Where do you need God to move in your life right now? Or, where have you seen him move lately?**

## 3. Applying

Our trust in God is not rooted in possibility but rather in a faithful, steadfast God who always keeps his promises.

- **Do we believe that God keeps his promises?**
- **How can we learn to trust God more in every area of our lives?**



# WEEK 9: JESUS SEES YOU

MATTHEW 26:6-13 | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

## Intro

Jesus ends his ministry by leaving Galilee and heading toward Jerusalem. On the way, he provides his disciples with how to function and live on earth when he is gone. This includes teachings on divorce (19:1-12), caring for children (13-15), parables on preparing for the Kingdom (19:16-20:34), and his final sermon—The Olivet Discourse (24:1-25:46). All of these events launch us into the climax of the narrative. Here we find Jesus' disciples once again oblivious to what is happening: a woman offering a beautiful display of joyful devotion to a King who is preparing to be unjustly murdered.

## 1. Knowing & Understanding

Jesus is the gentle and humble King worthy of our devotion.

- **What do the disciples' statements reveal about their priorities?**
- **What do the woman's actions reveal about her priorities?**
- **How would you describe this woman's devotion to Jesus? Why is she so devoted?**

## 2. Evaluating

Jesus was not an ordinary king. Instead of subjecting us to the wrath we deserve, he takes it on himself so that we may know and enjoy him forever.

- **Scripture calls Jesus the King of Kings. What does this passage reveal about Jesus' qualities as a king?**
- **When you're lacking devotion to Jesus, how do you feel about yourself? How does Jesus feel about you?**
- **Why does Jesus correct the disciples in verse 10? What does he want them to learn?**

## 3. Applying

Life is not complete without God's community regularly seeking opportunities to worship and celebrate him individually and corporately.

- **What are some ways we can grow in our devotion to Jesus together?**



# WEEK 10: THE LAST SUPPER

**MATTHEW 26:17-29 | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

## Intro

The scene of the Last Supper is the quiet before the storm. It is a moment of peace and friendship that is demonstrated among brothers who are unaware of the betrayal and plotting that has been going on around them. In the meantime, Jesus uses this moment to initiate a new custom for his followers and later, the Church. This custom will be a constant reminder of the covenant relationship between God and his people, which is now possible because of the events in Scripture that occupy the next seven days.

## 1. Knowing & Understanding

Jesus is not only the perfect King, but he is also the perfect sacrifice.

- **When you read this narrative knowing that Jesus is preparing to die for you, what thoughts and feelings come to mind?**
- **What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?**
- **What do we learn about Jesus and his feelings toward those who follow him and have a relationship with him in this passage?**

## 2. Evaluating

Jesus' death is critical for a peaceful relationship between God and God's people.

- **If this is how Jesus feels about those who follow him, if you are a doubter or seeker, how does this change your perspective?**
- **If you are a follower of Jesus, how does this affect how you live your life?**
- **When were you recently tempted to stop following Jesus? What was your response and why?**

## 3. Applying

Jesus is not looking for perfection, but desires his people to be faithful worshipers who are dependent on him in all circumstances and seasons of life.

- **Both Jesus and the disciples faced temptation in this chapter. How can Jesus' example and the disciples' failure help us withstand temptation and testing?**



# WEEK 11: Crucifixion & Death

**Matthew 27:32-55 | Sunday, November 8**

## Intro

The virgin birth, the baptism, the healings, the arguments, the sermons, the miracles, casting out demons, the expensive oil, the betrayal, arrest, and trial have all been leading up to a climactic event – the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Crucifixion was a malicious way to act out a form of capital punishment to enemies and the worst criminals. Consider the irony in that throughout Matthew’s narrative, Jesus continuously presented himself as neither enemy nor criminal. This makes this next passage all the more important – Jesus suffers a criminal’s death to save sinners including the people who torture and mock him repeatedly.

## 1. Knowing & Understanding

Matthew has shown us that Jesus is the promised Savior but people’s misplaced expectations and hardened hearts blinded them to who he really is and his purposes.

- **If someone promised you that a person would arrive soon to save you from your problems and establish you to be successful, what would that look like in your life? How does that match up with Jesus’s intentions in Matthew? How does that contradict?**
- **Take time to read the passage together as a group. What does the crucifixion teach us about Jesus?**
- **Jesus was mocked on three separate occasions. What motivated these verbal attacks and what do they reveal about the spiritual choice they have made?**

## 2. Evaluating

Jesus is the crucified king who saves sinners. He took our place to satisfy God’s need for justice so we can enjoy God’s everlasting love. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

- **How do you relate to the people mocking Jesus?**
- **When you take a good look at the crucifixion of Jesus, what does it stir up in you? (What should your response be if you are a doubter, seeker or follower of Jesus and why?)**



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### 3. Applying

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:12-14

- **How does the crucifixion, especially Jesus' cry to the Father, change the way you see Jesus and relate to others?**



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# WEEK 12: The Resurrection

## MATTHEW 28

### Intro

Great victories are not just spoken about—they're proclaimed! When a battle has been won, it's time to spread the word. Matthew 28 focuses on those who proclaim the resurrection of Jesus. We see the angel at the tomb tell Mary and the other Mary about the good news of the resurrection, which they tell to the disciples and the disciples later tell to the nations. We even see the guards go and tell the religious leaders what happened. At the close of Matthew's Gospel we are invited to join those who throughout history who have witnessed and announced the victory of the resurrected Lord.

## 1. Knowing & Understanding

Christianity hinges on the truth of Christ crucified and resurrected, defeating sin and death. This message begs a response from those who believe.

- **What are the implications of the resurrection?**
- **What do we see happen in the lives of Mary, the other Mary, and the disciples after the resurrection?**

## 2. Evaluating

The resurrection changes everything, and the lives of believers are shaped by the power of God, the same power that brought Jesus up from the grave. God's transformative work in history compels us onward to proclaim the good news of reconciliation and the hope of life eternal.

- **How has the resurrection of Jesus personally affected you?**
- **We see the resurrection lead into Jesus' call in Matthew 28:18-20 to "go therefore and make disciples." What does it mean to make disciples?**
- **How does the resurrection motivate you to make disciples?**



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### 3. Applying

Before we move on to Advent, let's take some time to reflect on what God has taught us in our lives in the past few months. After discussion, thank God for how he has moved in your group through the Matthew series, and pray that God would continue to reveal himself through Advent.

- **Recap: What are some things we've learned from our series in Matthew together?**
- **What are some things that have happened or that we've learned while in Matthew that we want to keep reflecting on as we head into Advent?**



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# WEEK 9: JESUS SEES YOU

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, MATTHEW 26:6-13**

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## 1. Knowing & Understanding

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- **What do the disciple's statements reveal about their priorities?**
- **What do the woman's actions reveal about her priorities?**
- **How would you describe this woman's devotion to Jesus? Why is she so devoted?**

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## 1. Knowing & Understanding

Jesus is not only the perfect King but he is also the perfect sacrifice.

- **When you read this narrative knowing that Jesus is preparing to die for you, what thoughts and feelings come to mind?**
- **What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?**
- **What do we learn about Jesus and his feelings towards those follow him and have a relationship with him in this passage.**

## 2. Evaluating

Jesus' death is critical for a peaceful relationship between God and God's people.



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- **If this is how Jesus feels about those who follow him, if you are doubter or seeker how does this change your perspective.**
- **If you are a follower of Jesus ,how does this affect how you live your life?**
- **When were you recently tempted to stop following Jesus? What was your response and why?**

### 3. Applying

Jesus is not looking for perfection but desire his people to be faithful worshipers who are dependent on him in all circumstances and seasons of life.

- **Both Jesus and the disciples faced temptation in this chapter. How can Jesus' example and the disciples' failure help us withstand temptation and testing?**



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# APPENDIX

## Messiah

In the Old Testament, the title *Messiah* was used to refer to prophets, priests, and kings as the “anointed one.” The title is similar in the New Testament, but is more often translated as Christ. God promises that he will send someone who will once and for all defeat sin and restore order (Genesis 3:15). Matthew’s gospel confirms that Jesus is the promised Christ when he is anointed by God (Matthew 3:16) and perfectly fulfills the office of prophet, priest, and king by freeing people from the bondage of sin.

## Missional Disciple

A committed follower of Jesus who has joined him on his mission to reach all people by proclaiming the good news. A missional disciple also seeks to make other disciples.

## Pharisees

Origin is still uncertain. Most believe they were one of the three groups that formed out of a group known as the Hasidim as a response to the influence Greece was having on Jewish culture. Their main purpose was to interpret and maintain the Old Testament law. They were mostly known for their constant critique of and anger towards Jesus’ teaching and ministry, which ultimately led to Jesus’ death.

## Kingdom of God

Also known as the Kingdom of Heaven. This kingdom is a spiritual kingdom and according to Matthew, Jesus rules his kingdom with full authority from God the Father (John 18:33, Luke 22:29). Jesus’ rule was launched with his arrival and will be consummated when he returns to earth for those who are called by the Father to repent of their sin and joyfully submit to Jesus’ authority.

## Gospel

The gospel is the “good news” that God himself has come to save sinners and restore creation in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.



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