



THE WAY

A SERIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Week 14: December 11, 2022

John 7:37-39 and Jeremiah 2:13

Read the passage together as a group.

We see at the Feast, that Jesus disrupts the cracked cisterns of tradition and ritual, in the hope of returning God's people to relationship with Him. We all set up things in our lives that we run to instead of Jesus. Matt referred to these as cracked cisterns.

Q: In Jeremiah, God makes it clear that our cracked cisterns lead to our abandonment of God, because they take us out of relationship and reliance on Him. What cracked cisterns in your life need to be disrupted in order to deepen your relationship with Jesus?

Q: Unlike the example of Jesus at the Feast, God doesn't always disrupt our cisterns without being asked or invited in. What do you need to surrender this week that is keeping you from a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus?

Q: As we wrap up "The Way - Season 1" – what are some of your biggest takeaways about who Jesus is?



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Week 13: December 4, 2022

John 6:60-71

Read the passage together as a group.

Q: Why did so many of His disciples leave Jesus after what He had told them?

Q: What causes you to doubt in Jesus?

Q: What can we learn from Peter's response to Jesus' question; "Do you want to go away as well?"

Read John 7:1-31

Q: How do you respond in the low points of your life?

Q: What impact does it have on your faith, knowing that Jesus went through so many low points, with people betraying Him, doubting Him, and unwilling to even defend Him?

Q: What obstacles are you facing in your life right now? What does it look like for you to be faithful in the face of challenges, so that you may be fruitful in spite of them?



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Week 12: November 27, 2022

John 6:22-59

Read the passage together as a group.

Q: What is the context of this passage? What ideas or concepts are difficult to understand? What is the big idea?

John 6:26-29

When Jesus is talking to the crowd, he challenges them not to be so focused on perishable things.

Q: What is the right heart for following God? What should our attitude be towards spiritual rewards and material benefits? How does Jesus deal with this issue in verse 27?

In John 6:29, Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one He has sent.”

Q: In your own words, what does Jesus mean when he tells people to believe?

Q: In John 6:41-59. How do the crowds misunderstand the meaning and purpose of Jesus’ words? In what ways do people misunderstand Jesus today? If you were to help someone see Jesus clearly, what would you say, not say or do?



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Week 11: November 20, 2022

John 6:1-15

Read the passage together as a group.

John 6:5-7

When Jesus asked Phillip about feeding the crowd, Phillip immediately got stuck in his perception of the problem (a task that seemed impossible) instead of turning to the person he needed to, Jesus.

Q: When you have a problem come up in your life, where does your focus usually go first?

In **Genesis 18:14**, God asks a rhetorical question. He says, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Q: What's a situation/problem in your life right now where you need to believe this truth?

Q: How can we reconcile it when God may not answer our prayers how we want Him to?

The disciples gave up the 5 loaves and 2 fish, and God did something incredible with it.

Q: What in your life can you give up to Him? (examples: weakness, grief, pain, anxiety, loss, suffering, a problem, etc.)

Q: What does it look like to offer something up to Jesus?

Q: What's one practical step you can take this week to either (1) focus on the person of Jesus over the problem you're facing or (2) give something up to Jesus?



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Week 10: November 13, 2022

John 5:16-47

Read the passage together as a group.

Q: As we consider the ways in which God is working in our lives right now, how is our perspective of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit evolving?

In John 5:16, Jesus gets wrongly judged.

Q: What do you do when you find yourself being wrongly judged? What keeps you from wrongly judging others?

In John 5:41, Jesus talks about living from others' approval.

Q: How can we support each other in overcoming our pride or vanity: needing to be liked/accepted, apathy, self absorption, social media, labeling others, group think, or any other temptations?

Q: What actions steps will I commit to taking so that we give God the glory?

Action Step

Read Matthew 16:24-27

Q: What does it mean to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him? Can you share an example from your life?



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Week 9: November 6, 2022

John 4:46-5:17

Read the passage together as a group.

At LifeBridge, we say that a mature disciple is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and engaged in the mission of Jesus.

Q: How is following Jesus different from being changed by Jesus?

Q: What needs to happen before we can be changed by Jesus?

Thoughts to help with the conversation:

- Desire to be changed – John 5:6 “Do you want to be well?”
- Faith that Jesus can change us – John 4:47

Q: How do we grow our faith, so that we engage in the mission of Jesus?

Practical - “Faith is a gift that grows when you act on it.”

Q: What’s holding you back from acting?

Q: How are you already “acting” on it?

Q: What step can you take to grow your faith and your engagement in the mission of Jesus?



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Week 8: October 30, 2022

John 4:1-45

Read the passage together as a group.

The Jews and Samaritans had spent nearly a thousand years separated by hate and animosity. As a result, it was culturally unacceptable for a Jew to be seen with or even talk to a Samaritan, as they were considered “unclean”.

Q: Discuss reasons why Jesus might have chosen to cross both cultural and gender barriers to speak to the woman of Samaria?

Q: What can we learn from Jesus about how we should interact with the world outside our normal Christian circles?

Q: Do you ever feel too inadequate to be used by Jesus? Why?

Q: Seeing that Jesus chose a woman who was likely viewed with shame and dishonor, to share the Gospel, how does that help you engage in the mission of Jesus going forward?

Q: What are some practical things you can do this week to see and engage people around you?

Additional Study

Mark 1:16-45

As you read this passage, notice who Jesus calls. So often, because of our human nature, we focus on our skills, our energy, our drive, or any number of other attributes which are celebrated in our culture. Jesus doesn't always call qualified people into a mission or moment; He qualifies people for the mission or moment, based on their willingness to respond to His call.



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Week 7: October 23, 2022

John 3:22-36

Read the passage together as a group.

Verses 27-30

Matt used an illustration with sand that helped us visualize what it looks like when we try to hold onto things that were never ours from the beginning.

Q: If verse 27 is true, what has been given to you that you are trying to hold onto?

Thoughts to help your group identify these:

- Think through people you compare yourself to
- Think about people you secretly envy
- When or what do you feel most insecure about?

Q: What is God trying to give you or do through you, that you can't receive because you're trying to hold on to everything else?

Thoughts to help your group identify these:

- Something that you feel the need or desire to do, but don't feel like you have the resources.
- Someone that you feel the need or desire to help, but don't feel like you have the time.
- Your heart breaks for an issue and you think that someday you'd like to be able to lean into that issue in a meaningful way.

Q: How do we balance the tension between stewardship and ownership?

Q: What are the practical steps I can take to hold what God has given me loosely, so that I can receive what else He has for me to steward?



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Week 6: October 16, 2022

John 3:1-21

Read the passage together as a group.

Nicodemus comes to Jesus feeling like he was missing something. In their conversation together, Jesus helps Nicodemus realize that he had placed his hope in the wrong things. Jesus helped him see the greatest thing he could ever know by explaining to Nicodemus that we experience true life in Christ not through our own efforts, but through belief, through understanding, and through repentance.

On Sunday, Matt broke down John 3:16 section by section.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him, will not perish but have eternal life.”

God – the greatest Lover
So loved – to the greatest degree
The world – in the greatest company
That he gave – the greatest act
His only Son – the greatest gift
That whoever – the greatest opportunity
Believes – the greatest simplicity
In Him – the greatest attraction
Will not perish – the greatest promise
But – the greatest difference
Have – the greatest certainty
Eternal life – the greatest possession

Q: Which ones of these do you identify with or feel the most?

Q: Which one of these is the most challenging for you to believe?

Q: What can you do this week to make these more real for you?

Practical application ideas for you group:

- Pray through one of these each day between now and the next time you meet.
- Memorize the verse and the attributes that Matt shared for each part of it.
- Write out the ways you see each of these characteristics in your life.
- Pray each day as you read through John, that God would write His word on our heart.

Additional Study:

Numbers 21:4-9

As you read through this passage, how does seeing Jesus take the place of sin (the serpent on the staff) impact your realization of how Jesus truly paid for our sin? How do you want that to change your life as a result? Is there anything you need to repent from? Is there anything you need to share with your group, so they can help you with it?



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Week 5: October 9, 2022

John 2:13-25

Read the passage together as a group.

In this passage, Jesus appears to lose his temper.

Q: What do you think/how do you feel about Jesus getting angry? Does it change your perception of Him?

On Sunday, Matt pointed out that Jesus was angry because people were being distracted from worship.

Q: How would you define what worship is?

Q: What are the different ways we can worship?

Q: How can a loving God be angry or wrathful? Knowing Jesus' wrath is an extension of His love, how does that impact your ability or desire to worship him?

Q: Thinking again about the different ways we can worship, what's one new way you can worship this week?

Additional Study:

Worship is not relegated to our time in praise during our weekend experience. We see throughout scripture that there is worship that involves speaking, listening, and doing. Study these additional scriptures, with that in mind, and think through what it looks like for you to worship in all facets of your life.

1 Peter 2:9

Jeremiah 7: 21-23

Micah 6:6-8

1 Chronicles 25:6-8

John 4:22-24

Matthew 15:1-8

Romans 12:1



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Week 4: October 2, 2022

John 2:1-12

Read the passage together as a group.

In verse 4, Jesus demonstrates that He is no longer being directed by His mother, or human pressures, but rather “His time” – focused and directed completely by His mission - the crucifixion. If we are following Jesus, our focus on Him and His mission we will be tested by disruption, distraction, and discouragement.

Read 2 Cor. 5:17

Q: Have you fully accepted that as a new creation in Christ, you have been transformed?

John 2:6-11

Don't miss the deity of Jesus as He transformed one physical element into a completely different element. Only the Creator can transform creation.

Q: How have you seen transformation in your own life?

Q: What do you need or are hoping for Jesus to transform?

When we live reactively, we have no intention, no priority, we allow anything to disrupt, distract, or discourage us. Jesus was so far ahead of that because He knew the end game. He had a very clear purpose, which gave Him command over what He was doing.

Q: As you think about your purpose, are your thoughts conflicted between things from this world or are you wholly focused on the purpose for which you were created?

On Sunday, Matt said that we were created on purpose, for a purpose.

Q: What do you think your purpose is?

Q: What can you do this week to make sure that you are living out your purpose on a daily basis?

Additional study:

Ephesians 2:8-10

Matthew 28:18-20

Philippians 2:1-8

Luke 9:46-48

Philippians 3:8-11

John 13:31-35

Colossians 3:2-17



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Week 3: September 25, 2022

John 1:35-51

Read the passage together as a group.

John 1:35-37

On Sunday, Matt said that for people to listen to you, you have to earn the right to be heard. John the Baptist had clearly been given that right by Andrew and the other disciple who turned to follow Jesus.

Q: How do we either earn or lose that right?

John 1: 41-42, 45

Think about the most important relationships in your life, maybe a spouse, or a close friend.

Q: Did someone introduce you? How did your relationship with the person who introduced you impact your desire to get to know the person who is now a trusted relationship?

Q: If our mission statement is to “Introduce people to Jesus and lead them in their next step with him”, how do we create a culture of introduction?

Q: We each have multiple circles of influence; some where you all have Jesus in our life, and some where you don’t. What keeps you from introducing Jesus to people within your circles of influence? What’s one commitment you can make today, to overcome that obstacle?

Group Leaders – Share Your Story

No matter how colorful or bland your introduction story with Jesus is, share with your group how you met Jesus. One of the best ways we can create a culture of introduction within our church, is to show people what it looks like to introduce others to Jesus. Take 3-4 minutes and model this for your group. ***Here are things to focus on:***

- *Who introduced you to Him*
 - Complete stranger or a friend?
- *What was your life like at the time of that introduction?*
 - Was it a difficult time or a season of peace?
- *What was that encounter with Jesus like for you?*
 - What made you pursue a relationship with Jesus?
- *How has meeting Jesus changed your life since that introduction?*
 - Better? Harder? How?

Additional study:

Read Genesis 22:1-18

As you read through this passage, think about how Genesis 22:8 points to Jesus. What do we learn about the faith of Abraham and how do we apply that lesson to our lives today? Abraham was an old man (>100 yrs. old) and Isaac was between 20-36 years old. He could have resisted his father but laid quietly waiting to be sacrificed. What do you see in Isaac’s faith that we can learn from? What about the parallels between Abraham/Isaac and God/Jesus?



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Week 2: September 18, 2022

John 1:19-34

Read the passage together as a group.

Q: If you were to use one word to describe John the Baptist, what would it be?

John 1:19-23

John was secure in his identity because he knew who he was, and most importantly, he knew who Jesus was.

Q: What are the risks of having a confused identity and how does a confused identity show up in your life personally?

John 1:29

A confused identity typically leads to sin in our life. And when we have sin in our life, we often try to fix it ourselves, taking on Jesus' role and responsibilities, minimizing His glory, position, and sacrifice.

Q: When the opportunity for sin is presented, what are some practical ways we can be like John and point to Jesus, keeping temptation and sin away?

Summary

An identity in Jesus that is secure, will always point others to Him. Aaron used the golf swing as an analogy on Sunday. Some of us are all back swing. Lots of knowledge about God. Books, podcasts, church services, and worship junkies. But there's no follow through. You aren't putting into practice what you know. Some of us are all follow through. Lots of activity. Serving like crazy. Desire to change political/social issues. You're building relationships with people outside the church. But there's no power in it because there's little time with God and His Word.

Q: We're all predisposed to one or the other, but are you more backswing (study/knowledge) or follow through (action/obedience)?

Spend time evaluating your swing and identify 2-3 practical ways you can create balance between what you're learning every day in your backswing, and what you're incorporating in your follow through.

Additional Study

Luke 1

As you read through this passage, think about the faithfulness of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Where in your life do you need God to make you silent, so you can hear what He's asking you to step into?



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Week 1: September 11, 2022

John 1:1-18

Read through the passage together as a group to refresh people's memory, in case they haven't read through it recently.

In verses 1-5, John states that the Word (Jesus) was there in the beginning (creation) and that nothing was made without Him.

Q: If Jesus was present in the beginning, how does that change your perspective on the whole Bible? Can you see Jesus and the story of Jesus throughout the rest of the Bible, not just the New Testament? If so, how?

John 1: 14,16

The good news of Jesus Christ is not just the resurrection, the good news of Jesus is also that He came, and he brought Grace with Him. Matt defined Grace as "getting something you don't deserve".

Q: In what ways are you trying to deserve Jesus?

John 1:17

John contrasts the Law vs Grace and Truth; he's alluding to things which were old and now new.

Q: If Jesus didn't come to abolish but to fulfill the Law, what does Jesus truly want from us? What does a balanced life of Grace and Truth look like? How does that lead to a life full of what Jesus wants for us?

Summary

Q: Based on the text, Matt's message, and your own life experiences, what do you believe to be true about Jesus?

Additional Study

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

John 1:1-18

As you read through these passages, what were God's goals for our life? What were His objectives? How has God accomplished that through Jesus?