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WORKBOOK



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SESSION 1: THE CLAIMS OF JESUS



SESSION 1: THE CLAIMS OF JESUS

WHO IS JESUS?

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?" - Matthew 16:13-15

THREE RADICAL CLAIMS OF JESUS

THE CLAIM OF _____

All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. - Jesus [Matthew 28:18]

Jesus radically claimed to have absolute authority over heaven and earth. According to Jesus, his words and teachings were binding on everyone.

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash. - Matthew 7:24-27

To be a follower of Jesus, we would have to completely surrender to his will. He calls us to follow him at all costs.

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple... In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple. - Luke 14:27, 33

His followers were to obey him and to confess him before men. His disciples came to recognize the right of Jesus to make these totalitarian claims, and in their letters Paul, Peter, James and Jude delight to call themselves his "slaves." - John Stott, Basic Christianity



SESSION 1: THE CLAIMS OF JESUS

Who is Jesus? He is the Lord who demands of us absolute obedience and allegiance.

THE CLAIM OF _____

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. - Jesus [John 14:6]

Jesus radically claimed that our eternal destiny is dependent on our relationship to him. According to Jesus, he alone is the way to salvation.

Truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life. - John 5:24

Jesus rejected the idea that all religions are essentially the same and lead to truth. If we reject Jesus' authority and teaching, we will be rejected by God.

Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven. - Matthew 10:32-33

For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life... Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. - John 3:16, 18

Who is Jesus? He is the Savior who offers us eternal life and a right relationship with God.

THE CLAIM OF _____

I and the Father are one. - Jesus [John 10:30]

Jesus radically claimed that he was not just a man, but God himself. According to Jesus, if we want to know who God is and what he is like, we can look to him and find the answer.



SESSION 1: THE CLAIMS OF JESUS

“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?” - John 14:8-10

This union of man and God in the person of Jesus is known as the Hypostatic Union. Jesus is one person with two natures: divine and human. He is fully and truly human, and at the same time, he is fully and truly God.

Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to everyone you have given him. This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ. I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.” - John 17:1-5

His disciples and enemies, his friends and family, all recognized his claim to Godhood.

“I and the Father are one.” Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone him. Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these works are you stoning me?” “We aren’t stoning you for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because you—being a man—make yourself God.” - John 10:30-33

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created... The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father’s side—he has revealed him. - John 1:1-3, 14, 18

Who is Jesus? He is the God who became a man, worthy of our honor, obedience, and worship.



SESSION 1: THE CLAIMS OF JESUS

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

...People often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic —on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. - C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

KEY WORDS

- **Authority:** the power and right to influence or command another
- **Catechesis:** the process of instructing a person in the essential beliefs and practices of the Christian faith
- **Divinity:** Godhood; the nature and essence of being God
- **Exclusivity:** the belief that only one religion is true and can lead to salvation
- **Hypostatic Union:** the union of a divine and human nature in the one person of Jesus
- **Lord:** a master or ruler; one who has absolute authority over others
- **Salvation:** state of being rescued or delivered from the power and penalty of sin
- **Sponsor:** a mature follower of Jesus who commits to support and guide a person going through catechesis



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SESSION 2: RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL



SESSION 2: RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL

HOW DO YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it. - Matthew 7:13-14

The good news of Jesus demand a response from us. If Jesus is who he says he is, we have to do something about it. We must receive him and follow him.

THREE RESPONSES TO JESUS

[Jesus] came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name... - John 1:11-12

We receive Jesus by believing in him, or having faith in him. It is recognizing the truth of who Jesus is and trusting in him. When we have faith in Jesus, we are saved and made right with God.

For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

We don't receive Jesus by working really hard to change, or by doing more good works than bad works. Rather, we receive Jesus by looking away from ourselves and placing all our hope in him and his work.

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" - Mark 1:14-15



SESSION 2: RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL

If we have truly received Jesus by trusting in him, our lives are going to look different. Repentance is a change in the way we think that leads to a change in the way we live. It is the natural result of trusting in Jesus.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?... For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- James 2:14, 26

Repentance involves decisively turning away from our sin. It is renouncing our old way of life. Repentance means functionally living with Jesus as Lord, submitting to his Word in regards to our thoughts, words, and deeds.

In essence, repentance is a matter neither of what we feel nor of what we say. It is an inward change of mind and attitude toward sin that leads to a change of behavior. - John Stott, *Basic Christianity*

Repentance is not just turning away from sin, but turning toward Jesus.

When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." - Acts 2:37-38

As a sign of our faith and repentance, Jesus gave us the sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is the initial step of the Christian life, the first act of faith and repentance. In Baptism, a professing believer makes a public commitment to follow Jesus and is fully immersed in water. This act embodies our new spiritual reality: that we have died to our old way of life, and have been raised to a new life in Jesus.

Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.
- Romans 6:3-4



SESSION 2: RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL

Baptism is the way God visibly displays what he has done inside us. And throughout our life, our Baptism is a constant reminder of the promises that God has made towards us, to wash us clean and give us new life.

Christ instituted this outward washing and with it promised that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, that is, all my sins. - Heidelberg Catechism

CHURCH CULTURE

You were not made to live the Way of Jesus on your own. Jesus calls us to step into a community of other believers to experience his grace through them. The church is not just a Sunday morning event. It is during the six days between Sundays that we start to experience the Church as it was meant to be.

At Frontline Church, we believe the best way to accomplish this community is through Community Groups. These are small, diverse groups that meet in homes all around our city throughout the week. Community Groups are the primary place where you will experience discipleship, care, and mission at Frontline.

KEY WORDS

- **Baptism:** the initiation rite for new followers of Jesus, where a believer is immersed in water as an act of faith and repentance
- **Community Groups:** at Frontline, small groups that meet regularly in homes throughout the week.
- **Discipleship:** helping one another grow in following Jesus
- **Faith:** a trusting loyalty or allegiance to another
- **Grace:** undeserving and unmerited favor and acceptance from God
- **Repentance:** a change in the way we think about sin that leads to a change in how we live
- **Sacrament:** an visible sign and seal of God's grace which was instituted by Jesus
- **Sin:** disobedience and rebellion against God



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SESSION 3: THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



SESSION 3: THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE?

THE APOSTLES CREED

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting,
Amen.*

THE TRINITY

The Creed lays before us the God we believe in. The Creed states: *I believe in the Father; I believe in the Son (Jesus); I believe in the Holy Spirit.* This belief that God exists as Father, Son, and Spirit is called the Trinity. The Trinity means that there is one God who exists in three persons.

Four statements on the Trinity:

1. There is one God.
2. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.
3. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father.
4. Each person of the Trinity is equally and eternally God.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. - Matthew 28:19



SESSION 3: THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

THREE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY

THE _____

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.*

Because of the work of Jesus, God is our Father, and we are adopted as his sons and daughters. As a good Father, he loves us with unconditional love.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" - Romans 8:15

Our Father is the Almighty Creator. He created everything from nothing, order from chaos. He made everything seen and unseen, in heaven and on earth.

The heavens were made by the word of the LORD, and all the stars, by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the water of the sea into a heap; he puts the depths into storehouses. Let the whole earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it came into being; he commanded, and it came into existence. - Psalm 33:6-9

THE _____

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

The Creed summarizes the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. First, the Creed looks at Jesus' miraculous birth. He was born to a virgin mother by the power of the Holy Spirit. He lived as a human, yet without sin.

Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these... He had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest... - Hebrews 2:14, 17



SESSION 3: THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Next, the Creed turns to Jesus' death. After three years of public ministry, Jesus was condemned to execution through crucifixion. On the cross, Jesus died the death we deserved, taking the punishment of our sins upon him.

Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished him for the iniquity of us all - Isaiah 53:4-6

Finally, the Creed turns to Jesus' resurrection. On the third day, Jesus rose again from the dead. He was lifted up into heaven. He has promised to one day return in victory.

THE _____

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting,
Amen.*

The Holy Spirit is a person to be believed in. He is God himself. This section of the Creed focuses on the Spirit and the gifts he brings.

From the creating work of the Father and the rescue work of the Son, [the Creed] turns to the re-creating work of the Spirit, whereby we are actually made new in and through Christ. - J.I. Packer, Affirming the Apostle's Creed

In the Creed, "church" is not referring to a local gathering of believers, but to all followers of Jesus in all places. The Communion of the Saints refers to the reality that all Christians are united to one another.

Our personal salvation is a gift from the Holy Spirit. We receive the forgiveness of all our sins: past, present, and future. When Jesus returns, our bodies will be raised from the dead, and we will live with him forever.



SESSION 3: THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

CHURCH CULTURE

In early centuries, the Church created a Calendar to rehearse the gospel throughout the year, focusing on different aspects of Jesus' life and work.

- **Advent:** This season is the four weeks leading up to Christmas, in which we prepare our hearts to remember the birth of Christ for us.
- **Christmas:** The Christmas season begins on December 25 and continues for 12 days. We celebrate the birth of Jesus and his coming to rescue us.
- **Lent:** This season begins on Ash Wednesday, and continues for 46 days leading up to Easter. During this time, we remember the final days of Jesus, culminating in his crucifixion and death.
- **Easter:** Easter is a 50 day celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

KEY WORDS

- **Adoption:** By faith in Jesus, we are received into God's family as sons and daughters.
- **Church:** all the followers of Jesus in all places at all times; or a local community of followers of Jesus.
- **Christ:** a title for Jesus meaning "Anointed One" or "Messiah"; refers to Jesus' fulfillment of the long promised King and Savior.
- **Creed:** belief statements that summarize what is essential to believe as a follower of Jesus.
- **The Father:** title for the first person of the Trinity, Creator of all.
- **Gospel:** the good news of the person and work of Jesus.
- **The Holy Spirit:** title for the third person of the Trinity, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
- **The Son:** title for the second person of the Trinity, begotten from the Father; became incarnate in Jesus.
- **Trinity:** belief that there is one God who exists in the three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three persons of the Trinity are eternally God, all of whom are equal.



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SESSION 4: SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND HABITS



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HOW DO CHRISTIANS WORSHIP?

We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory... - 2 Corinthians 3:18

Jesus doesn't want us to just know about him; he wants to be formed in us. He understood that what shapes our actions is not primarily our thoughts, but our desires.

But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a person. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slander. These are the things that defile a person... - Matthew 15:18-20

What drives and guides us is not the thoughts of our brain, but the desires of our heart. In order to be formed by Jesus, we need our hearts to be directed towards him.

So discipleship is more a matter of hungering and thirsting than of knowing and believing. Jesus's command to follow him is a command to align our loves and longings with his—to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all... - James K.A. Smith, You Are What You Love

Our loves must be shaped, not by information, but by the things we do in our every day life. The things we do over and over again begin to affect what we desire. Spiritual habits shape our loves towards Jesus.

Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates. - Deuteronomy 6:5-9



SESSION 4: SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND HABITS

FOUR SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF _____

We worship what we desire above everything else. For followers of Jesus, all of life is worship. It is finding delight in God in all that we do.

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; ...to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with. - C. S. Lewis, Surprised by Joy

Every Sunday, millions of followers of Jesus all over the world gather together to worship as a habit. We gather together to train our hearts to worship God above whatever else stole our attention, our hearts, our worship that week.

THE HABIT OF _____

Prayer is communicating with God. It is speaking to him, talking to him, listening to him. Prayer is offering up the desires of our heart to God.

Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. - Matthew 6:9-13

The Bible calls us to pray continually, without ceasing, always walking in conversation with God.

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Philippians 4:6

Every Sunday, we unite our prayers with the followers of Jesus around us. We are training our hearts to live a life of prayer, always relying on God and communing with him.



SESSION 4: SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND HABITS

THE HABIT OF _____

Because of the teachings of Jesus, Christians believe that God has revealed himself to us in the Bible. Through reading and meditating on the Bible, God speaks to us and shapes the way we see the world.

The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the command of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are reliable and altogether righteous. - Psalm 19:7-9

As we dive into the Bible on Sundays, we train ourselves to build our lives on the words he has spoken to us.

THE HABIT OF _____

Jesus gave us the sacrament of Communion, also called the Eucharist or the Lord's Supper. For those who have taken the initial step of Baptism, this sacrament is a means to receive the love and grace of Jesus anew.

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The bread is a tangible symbol of the broken body of Jesus for us. The wine is a tangible symbol of the shed blood of Jesus. As followers of Jesus eat the bread and drink the wine, we actually commune with Jesus and feast on his presence. But further, we have fellowship and union with one another.

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, since all of us share the one bread. - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17



SESSION 4: SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND HABITS

CHURCH CULTURE

- **Call to Worship:** Through the reading of Scripture, we hear the voice of God calling us to worship him.
- **Worship in Song:** In our singing, we remember God, see his glory, and delight in who he is.
- **Confession and Assurance:** We confess our sins with one voice, followed by a proclamation of forgiveness.
- **Intercession:** We pray for God's justice and goodness to be poured out on Christians, non-Christians, leaders, cities, states, and nations.
- **Welcome and Greeting:** We model the peace and hospitality of Christ by welcoming one another.
- **Worship through Giving:** We give to the church as stewards of God's resources.
- **Preaching of the Word:** The exposition and application of God's word.
- **The Lord's Supper:** Believers partake of the bread and wine, remembering the broken body and shed blood of Jesus.
- **Benediction:** This is a pastoral impartation of grace upon the people.

KEY WORDS

- **Communion:** a rite where baptized followers of Jesus eat bread and drink wine together, remembering the body and blood of Jesus.
- **Liturgy:** the intentional order of a worship service to shape and form hearts toward Jesus.
- **Prayer:** communicating with God; offering up the desires of our heart to God.
- **Scripture:** writings through which God has revealed himself to us; Christian's view the Bible as Scripture
- **Sermon:** the gospel-centered and Spirit-filled preaching of God's Word in a Sunday gathering.
- **Spiritual Habits:** things we practice over and over again to shape our loves for Jesus
- **Worship:** loving, desiring, delighting, and praising something above everything else



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SESSION 5: OBEDIENCE OF THE FAITH



SESSION 5: OBEDIENCE OF THE FAITH

HOW DO CHRISTIANS LIVE?

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?" Then I will announce to them, "I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!" - Matthew 7:21-23

The Bible teaches we can never be made right with God by our works. Instead, we are only rescued by faith alone in Christ alone. Yet our faith cannot stand alone. True faith produces obedience and good works. While they do not in any way merit salvation, good works are the natural outworking of true faith.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself... For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. - James 2:14-17, 26

If we are followers of Jesus, we will have a way of life that looks something like Jesus. It won't be perfect, but it will be different from our old way of life.

The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked. - 1 John 2:4-6

THREE VIRTUES OF CHRISTIANS

PEOPLE OF _____

Instead of being driven by anxiety, anger, or strife, we are to be led by the peace Jesus gives. In him, we release any control we think we have over the world, and simply trust him.



SESSION 5: OBEDIENCE OF THE FAITH

So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. - Matthew 6:31-34

The peace of Jesus doesn't just affect our anxieties, but our relationships. Jesus calls his people to put away all strife and anger.

You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire. - Matthew 5:21-22

Jesus said that his followers would be marked by radical forgiveness. To forgive means to release others of their wrongs towards us and pursue the good of the other. We don't hold grudges, because God has forgiven us fully and freely.

For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses. - Matthew 6:14-15

PEOPLE OF _____

Jesus leaves no stone unturned. He lays claim over every part of our lives, including our body and our sexuality. Christians are to conform their sexual practices and desires to the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus upholds that sex is a good gift of God, which is to be enjoyed only in accordance with his purposes. Sex is solely to be experienced in the context of marriage between a man and a woman. And within marriage, there is to be complete sexual faithfulness to a spouse. Outside of this context, we should not engage in sexual practices with anyone.



SESSION 5: OBEDIENCE OF THE FAITH

As with anger, Jesus wants to tackle our sexual unfaithfulness at its root. He corrects not only our sexual behavior, but also our lustful hearts and wayward sexual desire.

You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery. But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. - Matthew 5:27-28

People are not objects for us to use as our sexual desire sees fit. Rather, in Jesus, we begin to see others as God sees them. We relate to other believers as mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters.

PEOPLE OF _____

Love drives us to radically serve and work for the good of others, regardless of how they have or will treat us. Christians should be marked by loving the unlovable, having compassion on the least likely. Jesus addresses how we should love those who attack us and hurt us and wrong us. Instead of retaliating, we should respond with self-sacrifice and love.

You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you, don't resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. - Matthew 5:38-42

Jesus tells us that we should love those who hate us, who are our enemies, who persecute us.

You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same?- Matthew 5:43-47



SESSION 5: OBEDIENCE OF THE FAITH

CHURCH CULTURE

The Way of Jesus changes how we engage Sundays. It is not just a time to come and be entertained. Rather, we are creating a space that is hospitable and displays the love of God to a lost and hurting world. That is why we encourage followers of Jesus to serve at our church on Sundays. We hope that as we walk in peace and love, others would hear the gospel, worship Jesus, and get connected to the church. But it is also for us. As we regularly sacrifice our time and talents in service to others, we are shaped and formed to be more like Jesus.

Whether you love to be in front of people or prefer to work behind the scenes, there is an opportunity to serve. We invite you to partner with us for the gospel. Your sponsor will talk to you about how you can get connected to serve on a Sunday.

KEY WORDS

- **Anxiety:** our response to a threat, whether real or perceived; distress about an impending or anticipated event.
- **Blessed:** state of human flourishing and happiness found in God
- **Chastity:** sexual faithfulness; abstaining from sexual practices outside of God's revealed will.
- **Forgiveness:** releasing a debt owed, particularly for a wrong done against you; ceasing to feel resentment and bitterness against an offender
- **Love:** affection and compassion that seeks the good of another
- **Peace:** state of contentment that comes from trust in God
- **Virtue:** the habitual and steadfast disposition or character to do good



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SESSION 6: SALT AND LIGHT



SESSION 6: SALT AND LIGHT

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS DO?

The Bible is not about the rescue of humans from the world but about the rescue of humans for the world, and indeed God's rescue of the world by means of those rescued humans... — N. T. Wright, Surprised By Hope

Jesus commands his followers to engage the world as they follow him. They are not to separate from the world, but to immerse the world with the good news of Jesus. He has given us a mission here and now, to see his kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:13-16

THREE ACTS OF MISSION

SEEKING _____

Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won't grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Luke 12:32-34

Jesus commands us to care for those around us who are hurting and suffering, just like he did. Alongside this, we seek justice by being generous and sacrificial in giving.

Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world. - James 1:27



SESSION 6: SALT AND LIGHT

EMBRACING _____

We all have a part to play in engaging the world with the good news of Jesus. In Scripture, we see that each of us are given various callings, or vocations. These can include our jobs, our marriage, our singleness, our parenting, our church. We are to see them as part of a larger picture: an avenue for the kingdom of God to come on earth as it is in heaven.

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. - Colossians 3:23-24

PRACTICING _____

The world is being renewed and redeemed as more people come to embrace Jesus as Lord and follow him. The good news of Jesus is something we are to share as his followers. Our mission is to see the good news of Jesus invade every tribe and tongue and nation, starting with our very own neighbors.

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20

As we live in relationship with our family and friends and neighbors, we talk about Jesus and the hope we have in him. We point them to his life, death, and resurrection. We invite others to walk in the Way of Jesus with us. This gospel announcement cannot be separated from how we live. As we live in the counter-cultural way that Jesus taught, it brings salty-brightness to the world.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light... Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits. - 1 Peter 2:9, 12



SESSION 6: SALT AND LIGHT

REDEMPTION OF THE WORLD

As the salty-brightness of the world, Jesus is using his church to bring about the redemption of all creation. We are to partner with him to see his kingdom come and his will be done. And one day, Jesus will come again to fully bring his kingdom and justice, to right every wrong, to restore what has been broken. And he will be victorious.

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. - Revelation 21:3-4

KEY WORDS

- **Evangelism:** sharing the good news of Jesus with others
- **Generosity:** freely and liberally giving, especially of our money and possessions
- **Justice:** giving to others what God says is owed to them
- **Kingdom of God:** the rule and reign of God in heaven and on earth
- **Mission:** our participation in God's work to spread his kingdom to the ends of the earth.
- **Redemption:** being set free from slavery and bondage
- **Vocation:** places, tasks, and roles to which God calls us



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