



Sermon Discussion Guide

Greg Jones

May 23, 2021

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them**.
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.

- 1. Where is the farthest place away from Bellingham that you have traveled? What did you do while you were there?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
 - **Mark 5:24-34**
 - **Luke 5:12-13**

- 2. If these passages are all you knew about Jesus, what could you say is true about him? What does that say about the God he reveals? Make a list of words and phrases that describe him from these stories.

- 3. How do you think Jesus changed the ways people thought about God in these events?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.

- 4. What are some narratives that we find in our culture (movies, education, popular opinion) that attempt to describe the source of our identity?



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Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.

- 5. Greg listed three falsehoods its easy for us to believe:
 - a. God can't forgive me for what I have done in my past.
 - b. I am too broken to be useful to God and I can't be fixed.
 - c. God is not good so I cannot trust him.
- 6. Which of these do you find yourself most easily believing?
- 7. How do they hold you back from participating in God's true desire for your life?
- 8. What do you believe God is saying is true through these stories of Jesus you read easier?

Time of Prayer

- 9. Take some time this week to pray for one another. Pray about God's true identity as a loving father who is deeply interested in you and desires your well being.