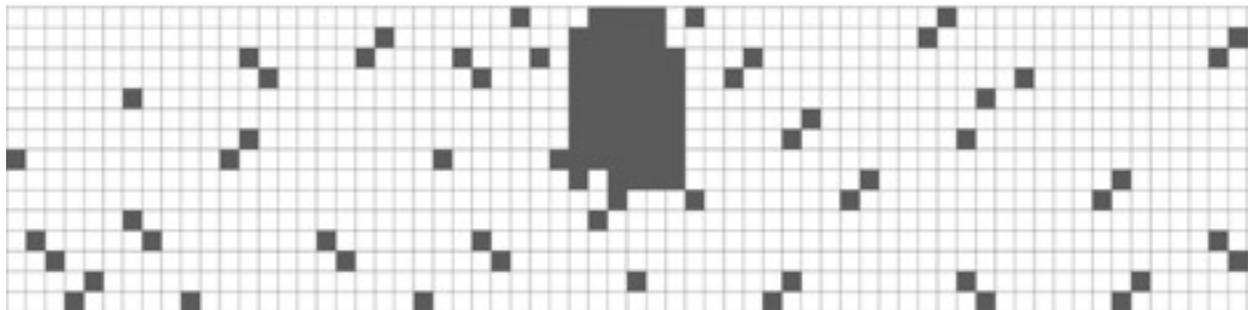


T H E J E S U S S E R I E S



## **Liberty Students Connect Groups**

**September 18 & 25, 2016**



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**September 25, 2016**

**Series: The Jesus Series**

**Date: Sunday September 18, 2016**

**Lesson: Jesus' Life (Miracles, Teachings, Obedience)**

**Text: Passages in the Gospels, Philippians, and Hebrews**

**Author: Pastor Zac (Student Pastor at Harbour View)**

### **Lead Teacher Welcome and Game (for 10 min at 9:15 & 11:15)**

Lead Teachers, as all the students and leaders come into the room, please welcome them with the music continuing behind you.

As they are coming in, give them a couple of really brief announcement reminders like: These announcements will be given in the weekly email.

**Come up with a simple game lasting for no more than 5 minutes for Connect Groups to compete each other:** A PowerPoint game of trivia about people's lives called Who Did It? Or He Did What??!! We could either give multiple names for a particular accomplishment, or we could give multiple accomplishments with a name and they have to guess the correct one.

### **Lead Teacher Introduction (5 min at 9:25 & 11:25)**

**Story:** The best way to illustrate the idea today is to talk about what makes someone the greatest of all time in their sport or profession. Then, talk about how we want to be like the greatest in our respective fields. Similarly, Jesus is the greatest person of all time, and we should aim to be like him. Below is an example of how I am going to do it.

#### **Here are a couple of stories from me personally that might help:**

Football is back! A few weeks ago I saw a picture of a former Georgia quarterback with Peyton Manning (who played for Tennessee). The caption said, "This is the all-time leading quarterback in SEC history in completions, yards, and touchdowns. The other person in the picture is Peyton Manning."

#### **Explanation of these stories in relation to Jesus' Life:**

Who the greatest quarterback of all time is could be debatable, but there is no debate about the greatest life ever lived. That title belongs to Jesus. He is the all-time leading miracle maker, teacher, and good work doer (lol I know that is clunky wording). Today, we are going to look at each of those areas to see why Jesus' life was the greatest, and find out what He accomplished with His life.

#### **Transition into Lesson:**

As we talk about this, open your Bibles and get into conversations with one another from these discussion questions. Remember, our Sunday Connect Groups are not

about teachers lecturing, students just listening, or a time of question and answer. Instead, our goal is teachers asking questions and students to engage in conversations and discussions. So students, feel the freedom to speak up, answer, ask more questions, as we want everyone to be a part of the discussion.

### **Connect Group Introductions (5 min at 9:30 & 11:30)**

- **Welcome** and personally speak to **every** student by name, **especially** first-time guests to learn their names.
- Discussion starter questions you could use:
  - 1) How has the start of school been going? Do you already have a favorite class?
  - 2) How has your favorite football team done in the first few weeks of the season?
- Ask them if there was anything that was cool that happened this past week, and tell them of anything interesting that has been going on in your life lately.
- **Go over the Newsletter** and **Daily Devos** on your table with your students.
- **Pray** to begin the morning together.

### **Connect Group Discussion #1 (30 mins at 9:35 & 11:35)**

**Connect Group Leader Note:** The purpose of this section is to **study the life of Jesus by considering three main areas—His miracles, His teachings, and His perfect obedience.** While each area could merit its own series, this lesson will simply highlight each one, in order to get a glimpse of what Jesus' life accomplished.

***Please study this lesson, internalize it, pray through it, and own it so that you don't have to just read the answers or the teaching points from this curriculum. I realize you will need to read the questions of course, but the more the students hear the answers and the teaching points from your heart, the more they will want to memorize it as well and let it sink deeply into their hearts!***

***We are well aware you will not be able to get to or through every single question in the curriculum. Please do not even try! We put more questions than you need into the curriculum because we know that some questions will connect with some groups better than others. Please prayerfully study which questions to facilitate your Connect Group through.***

- What is the all-time greatest Disney movie and why?
- What is the all-time greatest sports movie?
- What is the greatest fast food meal in the world? (A specific order, not the best fast food restaurant)

- **What was the greatest birthday party you’ve ever had or been to?**
- **Think about famous people in history. Excluding Jesus, who do you think lived the greatest life and why?** (Leaders, use this question to transition into the lesson by saying something like— “Today we are going to discuss the greatest life that has ever been lived, the life of Jesus. Let’s start with His miracles...”)

## JESUS’ MIRACLES

The following chart lists all of the recorded miracles of Jesus:

	Miracle	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
1	Jesus Turns Water into Wine				2:1-11
2	Jesus Heals an Official’s Son				4:43-54
3	Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit		1:21-27	4:31-36	
4	Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-Law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
5	Jesus Heals Many Sick at Evening	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
6	First Miraculous Catch of Fish			5:1-11	
7	Jesus Cleanses a Man with Leprosy	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-14	
8	Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
9	Jesus Heals a Paralytic	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
10	Jesus Heals a Man’s Withered Hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
11	Jesus Raises a Widow’s Son in Nain			7:11-17	
12	Jesus Calms a Storm	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
13	Jesus Casts Demons into a Herd of Pigs	8:28-33	5:1-20	8:26-39	
14	Jesus Heals a Woman in the Crowd	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:42-48	
15	Jesus Raises Jairus’ Daughter to Life	9:18, 23-26	5:21-24, 35-43	8:40-42, 49-56	
16	Jesus Heals Two Blind Men	9:27-31			
17	Jesus Heals a Man Unable to Speak	9:32-34			
18	Jesus Heals an Invalid at Bethesda				5:1-15
19	Jesus Feeds 5,000	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-15

20	Jesus Walks on Water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
21	Jesus Heals Many Sick in Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		
22	Jesus Heals a Gentile Woman's Demon-Possessed Daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
23	Jesus Heals a Deaf and Dumb Man		7:31-37		
24	Jesus Feeds 4,000	15:32-39	8:1-13		
25	Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
26	Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind				9:1-12
27	Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon	17:14-20	9:14-29	9:37-43	
28	Miraculous Temple Tax in a Fish's Mouth	17:24-27			
29	Jesus Heals a Blind, Mute Demoniac	12:22-23		11:14-23	
30	Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman			13:10-17	
31	Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy on the Sabbath			14:1-6	
32	Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers			17:11-19	
33	Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead				11:1-45
34	Jesus Restores Sight to Bartimaeus	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
35	Jesus Withers the Fig Tree	21:18-22	11:12-14		
36	Jesus Heals a Servant's Severed Ear			22:50-51	
37	Second Miraculous Catch of Fish				21:4-11

**Choose, or let your group choose, 3 favorite miracles. Ask the next two questions about each one:**

- **What does this miracle teach us about Jesus' authority or power?**

Think categorically. For example, it may show his power over 1. The curse 2. The creation, or 3. Satan. Try to identify a miracle in each category.

- **Jesus arrival is the arrival of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:15)! What does this miracle teach us about the kingdom?**

It may teach us that the kingdom is a place where people lack no good thing (like food or drink), or teach us that the kingdom is a place where Satan is defeated, or that it is a place where the effects of the curse are reversed. Ultimately, it shows us that in God's kingdom, Jesus is in charge!

- **What do these miracles reveal about what Jesus cares about/values? What can the things Jesus valued teach us about what we should prioritize?**

One thing that stands out in this chart is that Jesus cares about and values people! Jesus prioritized people in His life, and took time to show them compassion and love. We should do the same thing! People are the most valuable things we encounter in life, and we should live in a way that reflects that.

## **JESUS' TEACHINGS:**

**Read the following portions of the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, and 43-44.**

- **What do these verses show us about the moral standard of Jesus' teachings? Is he just focused on our outward actions? If not, what does he also think is important?**

Jesus took the OT Law and doubled down! He teaches us that the real problem is not just that we tend to do bad things, but we have bad hearts. We need to be changed on the inside.

**Read John 5:46 and Luke 24:27.**

- **What did Jesus teach about the Old Testament?**

Jesus taught that the Scriptures were all about Him!

**Read John 5:24 and John 6:40.**

- **What did Jesus teach about salvation?**

Jesus taught salvation by faith in Him. In these verses, we see that He believed in God's judgment on sinners, and also in eternal life.

**Read Matthew 28:19-20.**

- **What does Jesus expect His disciples to do with His teachings? What does that look like if you're not a pastor?**

He expected them to teach people everything that he taught them! It is important to understand that every Christian plays a role in teaching others the teachings of Jesus. It's not just for pastors; it's for disciples! That means we need to all be influencing others by pointing them to the words of Jesus in our relationships.

## **JESUS' PERFECT OBEDIENCE:**

**Read John 4:34, John 6:38, and Luke 22:42. Also read Philippians 2:4-8.**

- **What do these verses teach us about Jesus' life?**

Jesus lived on mission, in perfect submission to the Father. He accomplished the will of the Father through humble obedience, even to the point of death!

**Summarize the temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13).**

- **Did Jesus give into Satan's temptations? How did he respond to the temptations? We just finished the Pentateuch, so contrast Jesus in the wilderness to the Israelites in the wilderness.**

NO! He fought temptation with the truth of God's word, which sets us free from sin. When the Jews were in the wilderness, they complained against God and disobeyed God's word. But Jesus, the perfect Jew, fully obeyed God for us.

**Read Hebrews 12:2-4.**

- **How can looking to Jesus' obedience motivate our own obedience?**

He shows us how to look past the present difficulty to the future reward in order to find the strength to obey. If He can obey the Father by dying for sinners, then surely we can obey God by living for our righteous Savior.

## **Conclusion:**

- **Read John 20:31-32. Why were Jesus' miracles and works recorded for us? Are they of any value to us if we fail to respond in the right way to His life?**

John says that he wrote his gospel so that we would know that Jesus is the promised Savior and Son of God, and so that we would have life by putting our faith in Him. Ultimately, if we do not respond to His life in the right way, we will not have life ourselves.

## **Closing by Lead Teacher (5 min at 10:10 & 12:10)**

Jesus lived the greatest life of all time, and we can live great lives too if we 1. Use the limited power we have to care for and value other people 2. Share the teachings of Jesus with other people and 3. Live in obedience to God. Ultimately, we experience the miraculous power of Jesus' life when we believe in His teachings about salvation, and live in missional obedience to Him!

**Series: The Jesus Series**  
**Date: Sunday, September 25, 2016**  
**Lesson: Prophet, Priest, and King**  
**Text: Various**  
**Author: Chip Dean (Global Student Pastor)**

### **Lead Teacher Welcome and Game (for 10 min at 9:15 & 11:15)**

Lead Teachers, as all the students and leaders come into the room, please welcome them with the music continuing lightly behind you.

**When they get seated, go over the week's announcements with them.**  
Announcements will be provided in the weekly email.

### **Come up with a simple game lasting for no more than 5 minutes for Connect Groups to compete each other:**

This game will be Gorilla, Man, Gun. Play it as Connect Groups choosing one of the characters together against the Lead Teacher. Play however many rounds to last up to 5 minutes. If you want to spice it up, think up how to play Prophet, Priest, King in the same was Gorilla, Man, Gun. Make it fun! Winning team gets donuts at their Connect Group Table.

### **Lead Teacher Lesson Introduction (5 min at 9:25 & 11:25)**

**Story:** Lead Teachers, share a story with the Connect Groups about a person in your life who taught you what you wanted to learn, who cared for you the way you needed, but also someone you loved to follow and be like in life.

### **Here are a couple of stories from me personally that might help:**

When I was a sophomore in high school, one of my best friends was Jason. Jason was a senior at my school. He and I started hanging out. It was awesome because Jason had a car, so we could go anywhere we wanted. Being two years older than me, Jason taught me a lot about high school and life. It meant the world to me how much time Jason would spend hanging out with me. Jason was also one of the most popular dudes in my school, he was the high school quarterback, and he loved Jesus. Jason quickly became one of my heroes.

### **Explanation of these stories in relation to the lesson:**

Because Jason spoke into my life, he was like a prophet to me.  
Because Jason hung out with me, he was like a priest to me.  
Because Jason was a great leader, he was like a king to me.

God created all with a need to have prophets, priests, and kings in our lives. The problem is, sometimes the people we want to learn from or live like don't even know us. Other times the people who hang out with us really aren't the kind of people who can teach us anything. Wouldn't it be awesome if everyone had a Jason in their life to speak into their life, to hang out with, and to follow in life? God has provided us with an even better Jason, and his name is Jesus!

### **Transition into Lesson:**

As we talk about this, open your Bibles and get into conversations with one another from these discussion questions. Remember, our Sunday Connect Groups are not about teachers lecturing, students just listening, or a time of question and answer. Instead, our goal is teachers asking questions and students to engage in conversations and discussions. So students, feel the freedom to speak up, answer, ask more questions, as we want everyone to be a part of the discussion.

## **Connect Group Introductions (5 min at 9:30 & 11:30)**

- **Welcome** and personally speak to **every** student, **especially** first-time guests.
- Ask them if there was anything that was cool that happened this past week, and tell them of anything interesting that has been going on in your life lately.
- **Go over the Newsletter** and **Daily Devos** on your table with your students.
- **Pray** to begin the morning together.

## **Connect Group Discussion #1 (40 mins at 9:35 & 11:35)**

**Connect Group Leader Note:** The purpose of this section is to both believe in and be living for Jesus as our Prophet, Priest, and King.

*Please study this lesson, internalize it, pray through it, and own it so that you don't have to just read the answers or the teaching points from this curriculum. I realize you will need to read the questions of course, but the more the students hear the answers and the teaching points from your heart, the more they will want to memorize it as well and let it sink deeply into their hearts!*

*We are well aware you will not be able to get to or through every single question in the curriculum. Please do not even try! We put more questions than you need into the curriculum because we know that some questions will connect with some groups better than others. Please prayerfully study which questions to facilitate your Connect Group through.*

- **Who is it that you love to take advice from most? Who seems to explain life the best to you? Who speaks into your life best and most? They are like a prophet to you.**

- **Who is it loves you most, serves you most, and helps you most in life? Who is the one who cares for you more than anyone else? Who is able to bring you the closest to God? They are like a priest to you.**
- **Who is it that you follow most? Who do you tend to love to obey, live your life for, and want to become most like? They are like a king to you.**

## **BIBLE: Interpretation questions. (9:45 & 11:45)**

Ask your Connect Group to think up 5 things together about last week's lesson about Jesus' life, miracles, teachings, and obedience.

### **Jesus is The Prophet.**

- **Have you ever noticed that everyone is looking for someone to be a Prophet in their life? In what ways are people looking for prophets to speak into their lives and teach them how to live?**  
Some people are looking for “prophets” to help them make more money.  
Some students are looking for “prophets” to help them get a girlfriend or boyfriend.  
Some athletes are looking for “prophets” to help them play college ball.  
Some people are looking for “prophets” to help them make better grades.
- **Teaching Point: Why does everyone seem to be looking for a Prophet to speak into their life? God created us this way so that we would want and look to Jesus as The Great Prophet who speaks life changes Truth into our lives!**
- **Read Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19. Who is this passage prophesying to be our Great Prophet? How did Jesus fulfill this prophesy personally?**  
This passage is clearly prophesying Jesus to be our Great Prophet. Jesus came to us as God in human form (like us). Jesus is the one we are supposed to listen to. Jesus spoke whatever God His Father gave Him. Jesus came speaking about God.
- **Read Matthew 4:17. What is Jesus prophesying, and what is Jesus instructing the people to do?**  
Jesus is prophesying that the Kingdom of God has come through Himself. He is the King of the Kingdom, therefore the Kingdom of God is before them in Him!

Jesus is instructing them to repent from other kings and kingdoms because God's King and Kingdom is among them through Him.

- **Teaching Point: If you're looking for that person to make sense of your life, look no further than Jesus' teachings in the Bible. Jesus as The Great Prophet is the most incredible teacher in all history! Children loved Him. He told gripping stories with incredible twists at the end. He asked thought provoking questions and taught mind-blowing truths. If you read the end of Matthew 7 after Jesus gets done preaching, it says that the people were ASTONISHED at His authority!**
- **What did Jesus say and teach that makes His truths as our Great Prophet better than any other prophet who has ever lived? What are some of your personal favorite teachings, stories, questions, and/or truths from Jesus as your Great Prophet?**

## **Jesus is The High Priest. (9:50 and 11:50)**

- **Have you ever noticed that everyone is looking for someone to be a Priest in their life? In what ways are people looking for priests to love them, care for them, accept them, and even connect them to God?**  
Everyone is looking for the group who will accept them as they are.  
Everyone is looking for someone to love them and never leave them.  
Everyone is looking for someone to speak some kind of spiritual truth into their life.
- **Teaching Point: Everyone is looking for a someone in their life who can love them, make them feel better about themselves, and make them a better person. The reason we are all wired like this is because we're all created for and called to the Great High Priest who is Jesus. Priests were men in the Old Testament mentioned 700 times. They were sinners who made thousands of sacrifices for themselves and others during their lifetime. They were the ones who approached God in prayer for the people. It was absolutely shocking to people in the New Testament when they heard Jesus come on the scene, claim to be God, forgive people of their sins, and approach them as God.**
- **Read Hebrews 4:14-16.**
- **What statements in these verses describe Jesus as our High Priest?**
  1. Jesus has passed through the heavens (14).
  2. Jesus is the Son of God (14).
  3. Can sympathize with our weaknesses (15).
  4. Tempted as we are yet without sin (15).
- **What commands are in these verses for us since Jesus is our High Priest?**

1. Hold fast to our confession of Jesus as our High Priest (14).
  2. Draw near to His throne of grace with confidence to receive mercy and find help in our time of need (16).
- **How do the descriptive statements and the commands in these verses make Jesus a better High Priest than those in the Old Testament and those today we look to as our “Priests”?**

## **Jesus is The King. (9:55 and 11:55)**

- **Have you ever noticed that everyone is looking for someone to be a King in their life? In what ways are people looking for kings to follow, to become like, to serve, etc?**  
 Everyone is looking for someone greater than them to follow.  
 Everyone is looking for someone greater than them to become like.  
 Everyone is looking for someone greater than them to serve.
- **Teaching Point: Everyone is looking for their king and kingdom. Your king is whatever or whoever you allow to rule over you, who you follow and obey. Your kingdom are the people you love to be around most, the place you love to be most, and the lifestyle you love living most. The reason everyone lives this way is because God created us for a King to live for and a Kingdom to live in. Jesus is that King, and His is the Kingdom we long for. In the Bible, we see that Jesus is King over disease (Luke 7:1-10), King over death (Luke 7:11-14), King over creation (Mark 4:35-41), and King over all evil (Luke 11:14-23). Jesus’ rule is final, His reign is all encompassing, and His power is good. It only makes sense for people to give their lives to Him by bowing their knee before Him and confessing that He is the Lord over their life (Philippians 2:9-11).**
- **Read Revelation 17:14?**  
**Who will wage war against King Jesus?** The world who doesn’t follow Jesus.  
**How do we know King Jesus will win?** BECAUSE He is King of Kings!  
**How do we know we will win with Jesus?** Because Jesus chose us, and we are called to be faithful to Him.
- **In a world that sets up everything and everyone else as King, why is Jesus worth following as our only King?**

## **GOSPEL: Theological questions. (10:00 and 12:00)**

- **Teaching Points:**

Jesus lived as our Prophet teaching us the truths of His Kingdom.  
Jesus died as our Priest sacrificed for our sin.  
Jesus rose from the dead as our King in glory to rule and reign eternally.

**We are called to daily turn from our sin and live our lives:**

Like Him as our Prophet

With Him as our Priest

For Him as our King

## **PERSONAL: Practical questions. (10:05 and 12:05)**

**Applying Prophet, Priest, and King to life.** We know that one man, Jesus, fulfilled these 3 offices held by hundreds of men over thousands of years. We know that we are becoming like Christ as Christians. We aren't becoming like Him in cookie-cutter or copy-cat kinds of ways. We are all becoming like Him in His righteousness but also personally different in our own giftedness. Some of us are more like prophets, others more priests, and others more kings. Let's try to identify which one of these that you are most like Jesus.

**Prophets:** Prophets are more large group kinds of people. They love to teach, communicate, speak, and even preach. They are people who love truth, theology, doctrine. They listen to podcasts, love hearing others preach, and read books to expand their biblical knowledge. They see things very black and white. They don't mind calling out sin, and they are quick to proclaim the truth. Their weaknesses can be that they are sometimes too harsh or too cold towards others.

**Priests:** Priests are more small groups or one-on-one kinds of people. They love to comfort, show compassion, be patient, extend mercy, ensure justice, help the suffering, love on those who have been sinned against, encourage the hurting, etc. When they read a Bible passage, they think about how they can counsel someone going through a hard time, or sharing their testimony with a friend to encourage them. Their weaknesses can be that they are sometimes too tolerant and focus too much on love and not enough truth.

**Kings:** Kings are more office kinds of people. They love quietness so they can get their work done. They are task oriented. They love administration, organization, systems, policies, technology, money, management, leadership, and strategizing. They get frustrated when an event doesn't go smoothly, doesn't run exactly by the schedule, and they don't like it when things change. Their weakness can be that they are sometimes too rigid, rules oriented, and legalistic.

**Which one are you most like Jesus?** Of course He has no weaknesses in any of these as He is all three perfectly. Are you most like Jesus as a Prophet, Priest, or King?

How much of this is a revelation to you? How much do you think this revelation can help you in your life as you know yourself better?

**Which one of these would you say is your #2?**

**Which one would you say is your #3?**

**(Everyone in your Connect Group should have ordered themselves in terms of Prophet, Priest, and King. For example, Pastor Chip's God-made personality is Prophet first, King second, and Priest third.)**

How should each one (Prophets, Priests, and Kings) play a part in your Connect Group? In other words, how should your Connect Group on Sunday morning go better if everyone is operating out of their gifts correctly?

How should each one (Prophets, Priests, and Kings) play a part in your Connect Group hanging out together away from the church campus? Fellowships? Events? Spontaneous hangouts?

## **Closing by Lead Teacher (5 min at 10:15 & 12:15)**

In the Old Testament, God called hundreds of men to prophets, priests, or kings for thousands of years. He did this to prepare His people for the one man, His Son, Jesus to be the Great and Final Prophet, High Priest, and King. Today, for those who are saved in Jesus, God gifts us in these three areas. Lead Teacher, share with the students your order of Prophet, Priest, and King. Share with them how those play out in your life.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDERS**

Go back over these announcements briefly as quick reminders