



encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

disciple:

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

01 Print the PDF.

-or-

02 Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally.

-or-

03 Use the PDF to transcribe into a notebook or journal.

5 Marks of a Disciple

- Know Jesus Intimately
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally



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Week of May 15th // Conversation: May 21st

You Are Not What We Expected


Have you ever had preconceived notions about what God was going to do in a particular circumstance? Did you think He would act one way but did something else? Have any of your views on God or Jesus been challenged when they've come up against Scripture? During the days of Jesus, many people had preconceived notions about what the Messiah would do and when. They were challenged by how Jesus acted and what He said. Even John the Baptist!

pray.

In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...(John 1:1, 14a). From the very beginning, the Word existed. The very Word of God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ and dwelt among man. As you settle into this time of study and worship, you are encountering the very Word of God, Jesus Himself. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide and help you understand the Scripture below.

observe.

Using different colors, mark the following keywords in the text that has been printed out for you below. Make sure you mark only 1 word at a time as you read through. When you're finished, you should have read through this section several times.

01 Mark every reference to Jesus with a cross , including pronouns like he, him, and the Lord.

02  every mention of John the Baptist, including pronouns.

Luke 7:18-35 (ESV)

At this point in time, John the Baptist is in prison for calling out Herod Antipas for his sin of divorcing his own wife to marry his brother's wife, Herodias.

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John,
¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying,
“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰
And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist
has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall
we look for another?’”

In John 1:32-34, John the Baptist testified that he saw the Spirit descend from heaven, like a dove, and remain upon Jesus. This is how he knew that Jesus was the Son of Man. It seems as though he still doesn't quite understand what God is doing through Jesus.

²¹ In that hour he [Jesus] healed many people of diseases and
plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed
sight. ²² And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have
seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers
are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor
have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is
not offended by me.”

Jesus's answer was to perform miracles. Many of these miracles were prophesied in Isaiah 35:5-6 in the context of the coming Messiah. Jesus knew exactly what kind of answer John would need to be strengthened and convicted.

²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the
crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness

to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written (in Malachi 3:1), "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Even though John wavered in his understanding of Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus established his trustworthiness and importance as a prophet.

²⁹ (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him [John the Baptist].) ³¹ "To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep."

*In other words, **you did not do what we expected you to do.***

³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."



interpret.

01

How did Jesus answer John the Baptist's question? What did He do?

02

Why do you think He answered John in this way?



interpret.

03 What did Jesus say the people were expecting to see in John the Baptist? Look at vs. 24 - 25.

04 What did the people say about John in v. 33? Did they believe he was a prophet?

05 What did they say about Jesus in v. 34? Were these things the same or the opposite of John?

apply.

01 Has God ever acted in a way that you did not expect? Did He disappoint you, or not meet your expectations by how He moved (or didn't move)?

02 What can you glean from this passage when this happens in your life? Does it mean that God is wrong, or that He isn't who He says He is?

03 How can you encourage someone else who may be questioning the goodness and promises of God with this passage? Spend some time praying for them and lifting them up to the Lord.

bring it together.

In the time of Jesus, many people were looking and praying for the promised Messiah. They knew prophecies about Him, like how He would heal the sick, make the lame walk, make the blind see, etc. There were also other prophecies about how he would establish His kingdom (Dan 7:13-14), free the prisoners, and judge the wicked (Isaiah 61:1-2). These prophecies were especially poignant for John the Baptist, who was currently in prison for calling out Herod Antipas for his sexual sin. People were looking for a conquering Messiah who would overthrow the Romans and establish His kingdom on earth.

When Jesus came, He performed many miracles in confirmation that He was the Messiah. With that said, He didn't perform others that characterized a conquering Messiah who would set up His kingdom. That would be a part of His second coming, not the first. This was not what the people expected.

Jesus and John led contrasting lifestyles, but both came with the same message - Jesus is the Messiah. Both of them were not quite what people expected. Some believed, and some did not.

When God moves in ways we don't expect, we can fall back on what we know to be true about His nature. We can go to the Bible and lean on His promises. We can remember how He showed up for us in the past, and by faith, believe He will show up for us in our present circumstances.

connect.

We are available to answer any questions you might have.

 info@gtwy.church

We believe life is better in circles. Groups are a great place to grow in your relationship with other believers and find encouragement and accountability as you grow in your relationship with God.

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