

Introduction: Need a miracle?

1. If you could ask God to do a miracle in your life, what would it be?

2. Why did Jesus perform miracles?

Miracle #1: Jesus feeds the 5,000:

John 6:1-15

- The “sign” –

- The lesson –

- The response –

Miracle #2: Jesus walks on the water:

John 6:16-21

- The “sign” –
- The lesson –
- The response –

Jesus exposes the error of “Spiritual **CONSUMERISM”:**

John 6:22-29

- The rebuke –
- The lesson –
- The invitation –

The people ask for “proof” of Jesus’ claims:

John 6:30-40

- A miracle requested –
- An explanation given –

- A promise made –

- Another invitation extended –

The people reject Jesus' invitation:

John 6:41-42

Jesus repeats His offer of eternal life:

John 6:43-51

Jesus amplifies the condition of His offer of eternal life:

John 6:52-65

- The condition –

- The meaning of the condition –
 - Then?

 - Now?

Those who see the miracles respond in one of two ways:

John 6:66-71

- The disciples of convenience = **DEFECTION**
- The disciples of conviction = **CONFESSION**

Conclusion: Do you want **CHRIST** or simply something **FROM CHRIST?**

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus perform miracles?
2. What impact did miracles have on His followers?
3. What are the dangers of “spiritual consumerism?”
4. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I am the bread of life?”
5. What would it look like for you to fully partake of “the bread of life?” Explain.

Introduction: Quenching your spiritual thirst

- Thirst – “A strong wish for something; an appetite, craving, hankering, longing for, yearning, or passionate desire for” -Webster
- Satisfaction – “The feeling experienced when one’s wishes are met; content, delighted, happy, enjoyment, gladness, gratification, relish” -Webster
- Dissatisfied – “Not content, happy, or pleased with something or someone; miserable, aggravated, gloomy, melancholy, despondent, restless, annoyed” -Webster

Jesus’ promise of satisfaction:

... Jesus stood, and He cried in a loud voice, “**If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink! He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, *From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water...***”

John 7:37-38

Solomon’s counsel for satisfaction:

Proverbs 2:1-6

How to unearth spiritual **WISDOM** from God's Word -

The Truth:

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life."
Jesus – John 6:63 (NIV)

3 Important Tools:

1. **CONTEXT** - What informs this passage?

- Historically, culturally, within the book?
- i.e. The Feast of Tabernacles

2. **CONTENT** - What is the basic flow/outline?

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| I. Jesus goes to the Feast | John 7:1-13 |
| II. Jesus teaches in the Temple | John 7:14-24 |
| III. Jesus is the center of controversy | John 7:25-44 |
| IV. Jewish leaders reject Jesus | John 7:45-52 |

3. **CLIMAX** - What seems to be the most important truth, event, or action in the passage?

- Jesus' offer to all! John 7:37-44

How to hear God's **VOICE** from your study of His Word

The Principle:

"If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself."

Jesus – John 7:17 (NASB)

4 Great Questions:

1. Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?

- **COME** to Me and **DRINK**. John 7:37

2. Is there a **PROMISE** to claim?

- Streams of living water will flow from **WITHIN** him. John 7:38

3. Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?

- Some in the crowd John 7:31
- Nicodemus' question John 7:50

4. Is there a **PATTERN** to discern?

- All of these are barriers to belief!

John 7:5

John 7:24

John 7:45-52

John 7:12-13

John 7:27

John 7:19-20

John 7:42

How to personally apply God's Word to your present **SITUATION**

The Promise:

"... If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Jesus – John 8:31-32 (NIV)

Barriers to receiving Jesus' promise:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Familiarity – brothers | John 7:5 |
| 2. Fear of what others may think or do | John 7:13 |
| 3. Unwillingness to obey | John 7:17 |
| 4. Ignorance | John 7:24 |
| 5. Superficial assessment or evaluation | John 7:25-31 |

Discussion Questions:

1. What are you most thirsty for in your life?
2. What is the biggest barrier to your faith?
3. What step will you take to glean wisdom from God's Word this week?

Introduction: Jesus, me, and my failure

1. What's the biggest mistake you've ever made? What's the greatest regret in your life?
2. Put another way, what "one thing" do you wish you could do over?
3. How do you picture God's attitude toward you when you think of this blemish in your past?
4. How have you chosen to deal with this failure in your life? (Hide it? Forget it? Make up for it? Learn from it? Try harder?)

A story to ponder:

John 8:1-11

A truth to remember:

*¹⁷For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
¹⁸No one has ever seen God, **but the one and only Son**, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, **has made Him known.***

John 1:17-18

God will always greet you with **GRACE** and **TRUTH**.

- We can receive **COMPASSION** and **FORGIVENESS**.
- All grace = **SYMPATHY** and **WISHFUL THINKING**.
- All truth = **LEGALISM**.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:12

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Moving from forgiveness to RESTORATION and FREEDOM.

- David experienced the burden of sin. Psalm 32
- David experienced the grace of God. Psalm 51

Sexual sin is an ADDICTION.

- It's devastating.
- It impacts relationships.
- It cuts off the **GRACE** and **POWER** of God in significant ways.

Why is it devastating?

⁹ Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

¹² “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:12-13

¹⁴ By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:14-17

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

1 Corinthians 6:18

A very practical way to come home

- Jesus is saying,
“Neither do I condemn you [grace], now go and sin no more [truth]. John 8:11
- When the prodigal son came to his senses he turned and went home.

See Luke 15:17-24

H **Honesty – It’s the painfully difficult first step**

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to those who call upon Him in truth.

Psalm 145:18

O **Openness – God fills clean vessels**

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the Light, as even He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. [keeps on continuously freeing and forgiving us].

1 John 1:6-7

M **Mentor – Get over the shame of someone knowing**

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called today, so that no one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13

E **Exit – Be as drastic as you need to be**

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 5:27-30

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you actually believe God forgives? What does it mean that He has removed our sin “as far as the east is from the west”?
2. In your response to others’ sin, do you have a tendency toward either all grace or all truth? Has this message equipped you for a better balance? Explain.
3. If you are willing to share, have you ever experienced restoration and freedom from sin? How did that happen?

Introduction: Everyone “follows” something or someone

- Some follow in the footsteps of their family.
- Some follow a philosophy about life.
- Some follow a religious leader or spiritual path.
- Some follow their own intuition.
- Some follow whatever is popular.
- Some follow a formula for success.

Three important questions:

1. Who, or what, do you **THINK** you follow?
2. Who, or what, does your time, money, and energy **REVEAL** you follow?
3. Why would anyone follow Jesus Christ?

Hearing God's voice from John Chapter 8...

The Context: When, where, and why – does this intensified conflict occur?

The Content: Jesus challenges the status quo.

- Jesus' declaration and promise John 8:12

- Pharisees challenge Jesus' credibility John 8:13-20

- Jesus warns of the consequences of unbelief: John 8:21-30
 - You'll **DIE** in your sin.
 - You'll only know who I am **AFTER** the cross.
 - **MANY PEOPLE** put their faith in Him.

- Jesus defines the "acid test" of true discipleship: John 8:31-53
 1. If you obey My Word... the result is you will have **FREEDOM**.
 2. If you love Me... the result is you will **HEAR** from God.
 3. If you keep My Word... the result is you will **NEVER DIE**.

The Climax: Jesus is the great "I AM."

John 8:54-59

- Pharisees attempt to stone Him.

Why should anyone follow Jesus?

1. He's the **LIGHT** of the world.
2. You'll **DIE** in your sins.
3. He's **ONE** with the Father.
4. The Father testifies **WITH** Him.
5. He **NEVER** sinned.
6. He'll be the **JUDGE**.
7. He's one with **GOD**.

1. **A Promise to claim:**

...Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Jesus - John 8:12

- What does it mean to walk in the light?
- How do you walk in the light?
- What are the results?

2. **A Command to obey:**

...If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Jesus - John 8:31-32

- What does it mean to “hold to Jesus’ teaching”?
- Why is this the “real test” of discipleship?
- What is the result?

3. **An Example to follow:**

...“If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “you would do the things Abraham did.”

Jesus - John 8:39

- What did Abraham do?
Romans 4:20-21
Hebrews 11:8-10
- What would it look like, in your life, to really trust God?

Assignment: Read John Chapter 9

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

John 9:41

Discussion Questions:

1. What was Jesus claiming when He said He was the light of the world?
(Read John 1:1-5 and discuss)
2. What is the difference between someone who "professes to believe in Jesus" and a real disciple (follower), according to Jesus? (see John 8:31-32)
3. What specific truth or concept did the Holy Spirit use to speak to your life from this passage?
4. How will you respond to the truth? Who can you share that with? Who might need your help or encouragement?

Introduction: Two questions will determine the course of your life

Question #1: How do you see God?

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

A.W. Tozer – Knowledge of the Holy

Question #2: How do you think God sees you?

Seeing the people [multitudes], He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited [downcast], like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

- **Compassion** – A deep awareness and understanding of the suffering of others that compels you to do something about it.
- **Question** – How does God communicate the depth of His compassion and concern to finite people who simply can't understand?
- **Answer** – The sheep and shepherd metaphor

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Psalms 23

Every Sheep Needs a Shepherd

Jesus is the **GOOD** Shepherd. John 10:1-6

- The Parable - John 10:1-6
- The Teaching - John 10:7-10
 - His Offer - John 10:9
 - His Purpose - John 10:10

The good Shepherd **LAYS DOWN** His life for the sheep. John 10:11-21

- He offers His life “in our place.” John 10:15
- He offers His life to all people. John 10:16
- He offers His life voluntarily. John 10:18

The good Shepherd reveals His identity as Savior and **GOD**. John 10:28-29

- His promise - John 10:28-29
- His identity - John 10:30
- Two vivid responses - John 10:39-42

Jesus wants to be **YOUR** good Shepherd.

1. To meet your deepest **NEEDS**.

*The Lord is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.*

Psalm 23:1

2. To **RESTORE** your soul.

*He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul;*

Psalm 23:2-3a

3. To **GUIDE** and direct your life.

*He guides me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.*

Psalm 23:3b

4. To **PROTECT** you from evil.

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

Psalm 23:4

5. To fill your life with **JOY**.

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me
all the days of my life.*

Psalm 23:5-6a

6. To give you **ETERNAL** life.

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23:6b

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time when you've felt deep, almost overwhelming compassion for someone.
2. Discuss the truth: "My deepest hurts and most painful challenges stir Jesus' compassion for me."
3. Why did Jesus come to earth, die for our sin, and rise from the dead - according to John 10:10?
4. Is the Lord your Shepherd? What next step do you need to take to experience His personal provision and protection for your life?
5. Who can you share that with? Who might need your help or encouragement to take the "next step" of faith?