

getting equipped



Volume 3

***Jesus, the Church
& New Creation***

**Bible Based
Group Study Materials**

for use with the



BibleProject

getting equipped



Volume 3 Jesus, the Church & New Creation

Bible Based Group Study Materials

Getting Equipped, Volume 3

Jesus, the Church and New Creation

Bible-Based Group Study Materials

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Getting Equipped, Volume 3

Bible-Based Group Study Materials

Written by Brian Gammill
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This discipleship series has been designed for use with BibleProject videos which are available online at: www.YouTube.com/BibleProject and at BibleProject.com

The songwriting team at the Covenant School of Worship has written Indian language songs that fit the themes of the BibleProject videos featured in this series.

For more complementary resources for the “Getting Equipped” series, go to: www.equippers.in



Introduction to the Series

Getting Equipped, Volume 3 is the third in a series of discipleship curriculum from Equippers. It is specially designed for use in India for those who have decided to follow Jesus and are looking to grow in knowledge, understanding and faithfulness. To accomplish these multi-faceted goals, we have designed this curriculum with many distinctive features: character dialogues that introduce the lesson topics, group worship songs, videos from the BibleProject, discussion questions, and a variety of learning activities.

This learning is rooted in biblical teaching, the most reliable source of divine knowledge. While the sessions are intended to be informative, the focus is not on presenting a lot of information. Rather, these sessions utilize learning tactics designed for participants to learn as a group, to explore the deeper meanings of the Bible, and to consider how God's people are called to live.

Getting Equipped uses participatory learning methods which contrasts with lecture methods that are so common in India. It is intended that the leader using these lessons be a facilitator of learning, not the expert who has all the answers. In the learning process to discern God's will, understanding is developed through a process of examining scripture and then discussing open-ended questions with other learners. One of the goals is to consider how to put biblical principles into practice in everyday life.

The target audience for *Getting Equipped* are Christians aged 15 and above. As you go through these lessons, you will notice they follow a consistent pattern. In the margin, you will notice a variety of icons. These make it easier to identify when to sing, perform a dialogue, or play a video. The first one you will encounter is the music icon shown in the corner below. This indicates time for a group worship song. You may choose to sing one of the [recommended songs](#) or select other songs, in any language, that fit the theme of the lesson. On page 66, you will see there are also songs that have been written in Indian languages with Indian style music following the themes of the BibleProject videos.





The next icon you will notice in these lessons features theatre masks. This is the symbol for an opening dialogue that introduces the topic of the lesson. For those working with younger audiences, we encourage you to consider using puppets from Kleine Kinder, a partner of Equippers Resources. For more information, go to:

www.kleinekinder.in



The most notable feature in *Getting Equipped* are the videos from the BibleProject. These brief but information-packed animated videos represent the main ideas and lesson content for most of the sessions.

The entire collection of English BibleProject videos are available at:

www.YouTube.com/BibleProject

The BibleProject has many learning resources available on their website. You may download your own copy of the videos, posters, video notes, find links to related podcasts, and more at:

BibleProject.com

We hope that *Getting Equipped* will be part of a life changing experience as you gather together with like minded individuals who want to deepen their understanding of the Bible and grow in their knowledge of God. May these lessons help you develop your character so that you live a life worthy of the Lord, bearing fruit in love and good works.

Session 1 – The Gospel of Jesus

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will examine the biblical meaning of the gospel and how that meaning shapes our understanding of the Christian life and the identity of Jesus. We will study the biblical words translated as “gospel”. We will then apply that meaning as we examine the main points of the Gospel According to Mark, the briefest and earliest of the four gospels.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: “[Jesus Messiah](#)”, “[Here I Am to Worship](#)” or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The entirety of Volume 3 of “Getting Equipped” is about the Gospel of Jesus. This is also the title of the first lesson which introduces this topic with a study of the biblical words and meaning of “gospel”. The word “gospel” refers to the kingdom of God, which was the theme of Jesus’ teaching ministry. He came proclaiming the good news of God’s coming kingdom. He also claimed to be God’s anointed king, the Messiah the people of Israel had been anticipating. As early as the time of Adam, God had been planning on sending his son to defeat evil and prepare the way for a new heaven and new earth.

The Gospel According to Mark begins by identifying Jesus as both the Messiah and the Son of God. The Messiah was a royal figure, sometimes called ‘the son of God’, who Israel was expecting to come and set up a kingdom here on earth. Many Jews hoped that the Messiah would come and overthrow the Romans and rule as king. But Jesus did not overthrow the Romans. In fact, he was killed by them. So, his true identity is in doubt. Mark’s gospel is written to address the questions that surfaced after his surprising death on a cross and even more remarkable accounts that he was raised from the dead.

Mark designed the first half of the book to address specific questions about whether or not Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. In the second half he shows how Jesus became the messianic king. When he rose from the dead, he confirmed that he is the true king. Jesus appeared to hundreds of his followers and told them to spread the good news that all authority in heaven on earth now belongs to him. The real king of all creation is preparing the way for a new heaven and new earth where God will dwell with the new humanity.



Opening Dialogue: “Royal News”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. Did you read the good news?

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. No. What’s the story?

Kumar: A baby was just born into the royal family. This is the first son of the king.

Sneha: Oh. But, why should I care about that? India doesn’t have royal families anymore. We’re a republic.

Kumar: Right, but some of the countries we’re friendly with still have them. And they’re very important to the people there.

Sneha: How is that? How someone in a fancy palace lives seems pretty irrelevant to me.

Kumar: But, now the citizens won’t have to worry so much about the future of their kingdom. If there isn’t an heir to the king, a civil war could break out as rivals vie for the throne.

Sneha: So, it’s kind of like an election, when a new ruling party is announced?

Kumar: I suppose so. But it depends on who wins the election!

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Why do you think news about a new royal heir could be so important to people living in a kingdom?

Bridge:

Just a little over one hundred years ago, most of the nations of the world were ruled by kings and queens. In the age of democracy, it may be hard to imagine the difference between a good king and an oppressive king, or why news about a king would have its own category. This is what the gospel is, good news that changes everything for the citizens of that kingdom.

Read: [Isaiah 52:7](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why are the messengers bringing good news about the kingdom regarded to be so special?
- ☐ Why do you think it would be so remarkable to hear news that God reigns in Zion (Jerusalem)?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Word Study: Euangelion - 'Gospel'](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.



Group Discussion:

- ☐ What kind of good news do the biblical words *besorah* and *euangelion* refer to?
- ☐ How is the rule of God's kingdom completely different than the rule of other kingdoms?

Read: [2 Samuel 18:24-28, 31](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What kind of news was King David waiting for?

Read: [2 Kings 7:3-11](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why did the lepers decide they needed to share the good news with the people inside the gates of Samaria?
- ☐ Can you imagine how the people might respond to the news that the armies besieging their city had fled?

Read: [Matthew 11:2-5](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How did Jesus respond to John's disciples' request to know if he was the Messiah?
- ☐ What do you think is the "good news" that was preached to the poor? Why does this news favor them?

Read: [Mark 1:15, 22-27](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How might Jesus' proclamation of the good news of the kingdom fulfill the hopes of the people of Israel?
- ☐ How did Jesus' actions give evidence of royal authority?



Watch BibleProject Video: "[The Gospel According to Mark](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why do you think Mark opens his gospel by referring to Jesus as the "Messiah"?
- ☐ Why is it so surprising that a Roman soldier recognizes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Read: [Mark 8:27-35](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ How do you think Peter concluded Jesus was the Messiah?
- ☐ What was Jesus' disciples' reaction when he told them how he would become the Messiah? (vs. 31)
- ☐ How do you think you would react if you were one of the disciples being told that you must lose your life in order to be one of Jesus' followers? (vs. 34-35)

Read: [Mark 10:45](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ How does this concept of Jesus serving others compare with conventional notions of the role of a leader?

Read: [Mark 16:6-8](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think Mark ends his gospel so abruptly, with the news of that Jesus has risen from the dead?

Summary: In this session, participants have examined the biblical meaning of the gospel and how that meaning shapes our understanding of the Christian life and the identity of Jesus. We studied the biblical words for "gospel" and then examined the main points of the Gospel According to Mark.



Group Sing: "[Jesus Messiah](#)", "[Here I Am to Worship](#)" or other selection.

Pray: together as a group recite [Isaiah 61:1-3](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.

Session 2 – The Royal Birth

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will look at the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, including the historical anticipation of a Messiah created by the prophecies in the Hebrew Bible. The irony of Jesus' birth is that though the prophets prepared Israel to expect a king who would save them, the conditions of Jesus' birth were far from what most people would expect for the King of Kings.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: "[O Come O Come Emmanuel](#)", "[He Shall Reign Forever More](#)" or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The topic of this session is "The Royal Birth". But we will not just look at the events that unfold in Luke's account of Jesus' birth. We will examine the prophecies that foretold the coming of God's Son and anointed king. While the Old Testament prophecies influenced Israel's expectations, most people made their own conclusions about what it would mean for God to send a king who would save them.

To start with, Judea at that time was part of the Roman Empire. When Jews read the prophecies about the Messiah saving them, they imagined political liberation and the restoration of King David's dynasty. They assumed that God's anointed king would usher in a new era of political sovereignty that elevated their status and their role in world affairs.

With such a set of presumptions, the humble circumstances of Jesus' royal birth surprised many observers. Zechariah wondered how he and Elizabeth could become parents so late in life. Mary wondered how a virgin could become a mother. Shepherds must have wondered why people of their status were invited to witness such a momentous occasion.

So, while the prophecies did create the expectation for a Messiah, it was necessary for the Holy Spirit and angelic messengers to take an active role in confirming God's plans. Luke's Gospel reflects prophetic insight into spiritual forces at work beyond the view of ordinary eyewitnesses.



Opening Dialogue: “Not According to Expectations”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Sneha: Hi, Kumar, you like nice. Why are you so dressed up?

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. I feel a bit awkward. I was invited to a reception at a country club, which I expected to be formal.

Sneha: So, it wasn’t as you expected?

Kumar: Not at all! Everyone was dressed very casually. Apparently, this club is designed for people to relax and play sports. But I came dressed like I was attending a wedding.

Sneha: What made you think it was supposed to be formal?

Kumar: I had never been to a country club, but I had an image from watching movies that it was very posh. So, I just assumed...

Sneha: Didn’t the invitation give you a clue?

Kumar: Almost the opposite. It announced the location as the country club. I made the only logical conclusion I could. How was I supposed to know what it would be like?

Sneha shrugs her shoulders and both characters exit the stage.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Have you ever been like Kumar, having wrong expectations for something? Explain and discuss.

Bridge:

As long as we remain in familiar settings and circumstances, we are usually safe with our prevailing assumptions. However, sometimes our expectations result in a completely wrong idea about reality. This is what we find in the Gospel of Jesus and the people of Israel’s expectations of their anticipated king.

Read: [Malachi 3:1](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How does Malachi prepare the people of Israel to expect a messenger to prepare they way for the Lord they are seeking, who is also another messenger?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Gospel of Luke Ch. 1-2](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.



Group Discussion:

- ☐ Why do you think angels had to appear to Zechariah, to Mary and to the shepherds?
- ☐ How did the humble circumstances of Jesus' birth prepare the way for an "upside-down" kingdom?

Read: [Luke 1:19](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ Where did Gabriel come from before delivering the message to Zechariah?

Read: [Luke 1:28-38](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why was it so surprising that Mary was chosen to be the mother of a man whose kingdom would never end?
- ☐ How was Mary's response different from Zechariah's?

Read: [Luke 1:46-55](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How do you think Mary draws on Israel's history to inform her declarations that God favors the poor and humbles the rich?

Read: [Luke 2:1](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Since the Jews were part of the Roman world, they did not have national sovereignty like they did in the days of King David. How might this have affected their expectations of the Messiah to save them from their oppressors?

Read: [Luke 1:15, 35, 41, 67, 2:25-27](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What kind of role did the Holy Spirit have in all these events?

Read: [Luke 2:49-52](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How did Luke characterize Jesus' childhood? Is this surprising in any way?

Activity

Look up these passages in the Gospel of Luke and match them with their parallels or prophecies from the Old Testament, drawing a line to connect them.

[Luke 1:7](#)

[Isaiah 9:1](#)

[Luke 1:18](#)

[Leviticus 12:8](#)

[Luke 1:26](#)

[Isaiah 40:3](#)

[Luke 1:34](#)

[Genesis 18:11](#)

[Luke 1:80](#)

[Isaiah 7:14](#)

[Luke 2:4](#)

[Micah 5:2](#)

[Luke 2:23](#)

[Exodus 13:2, 12](#)

[Luke 2:24](#)

[Genesis 18:12](#)

Group Discussion:

- ☐ What do you think of all the connections between the Hebrew Bible and the Gospel of Jesus?

Summary: In this session, participants looked at the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, including the historical anticipation of a Messiah created by the prophecies in the Hebrew Bible. The irony of Jesus' birth is that though the prophets prepared Israel to expect a king who would save them, the conditions of Jesus' birth were far from what most people would expect for any royal heir, but especially for the King of Kings.

Group Sing: "[O Come O Come Emmanuel](#)", "[He Shall Reign Forever More](#)" or other selection.

Pray: together as a group recite [Isaiah 9:2-7](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



Session 3 – Announcing the Kingdom

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will examine the main themes found chapters 3-9 of Luke's Gospel, particularly as it explains what the announcement of the good news of God's kingdom means to the people of Israel.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: "[Lord of My Life](#)", "[Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God](#)" or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is "Announcing the Kingdom". In chapters 3 through 9 of Luke's Gospel, a messenger named John prepares the way for the Messiah. Jesus is baptized, tested in the wilderness, and then calls the twelve apostles as he begins his public ministry.

The people of Israel were accustomed to prophets. The message most prophets brought were a mix of warnings and reminders of God's promises. After all, the Hebrews were the people with whom God had made a covenant. When Jesus appeared, people were not sure what to think of him, whether he was a teacher, a prophet, or the promised king who would rule on David's throne.

In this context, Jesus began his teaching ministry by announcing the good news of God's kingdom. The Kingdom of God was finally at hand. Such announcements fueled speculation that Jesus might be the long awaited Messiah. He spoke with authority, healed the sick, cast out demons, and performed miracles that were evidence of divine power.

The Gospel of Luke also bears witness to events from God's perspective and shows how Jesus' appearance was foreshadowed by the Hebrew Scriptures. For example, when Jesus is baptized by John, the sky opens up, and the voice from heaven says, "You are my son whom I love. With you I am well pleased." This first line is from Psalm 2 where God promised that a king would come who would rule in Jerusalem and confront evil among the nations. The next line is from Isaiah, referring to the Messiah who would become a servant, suffer and die on Israel's behalf. As we will see, this is a pattern we can observe throughout the Gospel of Luke.



Opening Dialogue: “The Big Announcement”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi Sneha, have you heard the latest news?

Sneha: Hi Kumar. What’s that?

Kumar: Well, the newest smart phone is being released next month. They’re making a big announcement about it later today.

Sneha: What makes this one so special?

Kumar: It’s using a completely new technology. It is supposed to be many times faster than the last model, and has many new features. I’m so excited to hear about it!

Sneha: My old phone is so slow and the battery dies quickly.

Kumar: Maybe you should think about getting this new one.

Sneha: How much does it cost?

Kumar: I don’t know. We have to wait for the announcement.

Kumar and Sneha both nod and then they exit the stage.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ What was the most recent public announcement that made you anticipate hearing the message? Did the reality of the message live up to the hype of the promotion?

Bridge:

In today’s world of mass media, we are used to many announcements. Some are truly meaningful, but most have only a temporary effect. When Jesus came announcing the good news of the kingdom of God, the message was both highly anticipated and of great consequence. He was declaring that God was going to usher in a new government order. As we will see, this changes everything. But for now, things don’t seem very different. Understanding the timing of when this good news will be realized is critical to our hope persevering.

Read: [Luke 4:43](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What do you think it means that Jesus was sent to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God?
- ☐ What do you think he spent so much time talking about it?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Gospel of Luke Ch. 3-9](#)"



Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ How did Jesus' teachings correspond with the way that he interacted with people?
- ☐ How did Jesus' selections of his followers reflect his objective of ushering in a new world order?

Read: [Luke 3:3](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ What do you think is meant by a "baptism of repentance"?
- ☐ How would that prepare people for the coming of the Lord?

Read: [Luke 4:3](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ By tempting Jesus to turn stone into bread, what kind of parallel do you think the devil was making with the creation of manna for 40 years in the wilderness? (*see Exodus 16*)

Read: [Luke 4:18-19, 6:20-26](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ Why do you think the good news of God's kingdom is so focused on marginalized people?

Read: [Luke 5:11](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What do you think it meant for Jesus' disciples to leave everything and follow him?

Read: [Luke 5:13, 22-24](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How did Jesus' acts of healing and forgiving sins reinforce the announcement of the kingdom of God?

Read: [Luke 9:57-62](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think Jesus made it so hard to be one of his followers?
- ☐ So, who is fit for service in the kingdom of God?

Activity

Look up these passages in the Gospel of Luke and match them with their parallels or prophecies from the Old Testament, drawing a line to connect them.

[Luke 3:4-6](#)

[Malachi 3:1](#)

[Luke 3:21-22](#)

[Leviticus 25:10-13](#)

[Luke 4:19](#)

[Isaiah 40:3-5](#)

[Luke 6:5](#)

[Genesis 35:22](#)

[Luke 6:13](#)

[Exodus 20:8](#)

[Luke 7:27](#)

[Psalm 2:7](#)

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Which of these connections between the Hebrew Bible and the Gospel of Jesus surprised you the most?

Summary: In this session, participants have examined the main themes found chapters 3-9 of Luke's Gospel, particularly as it explains what the announcement of the good news of God's kingdom means to the people of Israel.

Group Sing: "[Lord of My Life](#)", "[Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God](#)" or other selection.

Pray: together as a group recite [Isaiah 9:6](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



Session 4 – Teaching the Followers

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will examine the teaching ministry of Jesus. In particular, we will study Jesus' personal metaphors in John's Gospel and his use of parables in explaining the Kingdom of God. We will give special attention to his teaching on the "water of life". Both the personal metaphors and the parables set his teaching apart from any other teacher and establish a foundation for the movement he began.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: "[You Are Holy \(Prince of Peace\)](#)", "[Hosanna \(Praise is Rising\)](#)" or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is "Teaching the Followers". While proclaiming the good news about God's kingdom, Jesus taught his disciples as well as the crowds the implications of living under God's rule. His teaching expanded on the moral instruction of the Hebrew Scriptures. For example, his discourse on loving others and the "Beatitudes" elevate the standards for what is right and wrong.

Jesus demonstrated the good news with concrete actions of healing the sick, visiting the outcast, and forgiving people of their sins. However, he used parables to illustrate abstract principles about himself and his mission. His teaching always seemed to defy people's expectations. For example, the parables about the Kingdom of God did not make everything clear. Rather, he provoked people's imaginations and invited them to see what God is doing in the world from a new perspective.

The Gospel of John records several personal metaphors, also known as "I am" statements. These are profound and unusual claims that establish Jesus as someone far more significant than a teacher. For example, when Jesus spoke about the water of life, the references were wide and deep, from the Garden of Eden to Jacob's well, his crucified body, the Spirit of God, and the New Creation. Altogether, Jesus' teaching was focused on establishing why his proclamations were good news, worthy of people trusting him as their Lord and obeying him as God's anointed king.



Opening Dialogue: “The Teacher”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. I have a question for you.

Sneha: What’s that, Kumar?

Kumar: Who is your favorite teacher, up to this point in your life?

Sneha: Oh, that’s easy. I had a great teacher when I was finishing 10th standard.

Kumar: What made that teacher special?

Sneha: I was going through a critical time in my life. I was wondering about my future and not sure what direction I wanted to pursue for further studies.

Kumar: So this teacher guided you to where you are now?

Sneha: Not exactly. But they cared about me and asked questions that helped me think through some important decisions.

Kumar: Wow. I wish I had a teacher like that.

Sneha: So, who was your favorite teacher?

Kumar: The one who didn’t use a stick to beat me!

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Do you have any teacher who stands out from the others? What made them special to you?

Bridge:

Teachers have a special role in most people’s lives. Good teachers do more than just prepare their students to get high marks on their exams. Rather, they have wisdom and they demonstrate concern for the well being of their students. In this session, we are going to look at the teaching ministry of Jesus and observe what he did to prepare his followers to carry on the movement that he started.

Read: [Luke 16:16-17](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How did the teaching among the people of Israel change after the time of John?



Watch BibleProject Video: "[The Parables of Jesus](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ How do parables uniquely fit the task of explaining the Kingdom of God?

Read: [Luke 13:18-21](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ In what ways do you think the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed or yeast in the bread dough?

Read: [Matthew 13:44-46](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ How is the Kingdom of Heaven like a treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great value?

Read: [Luke 19:11-27](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ How do you think Jesus is describing himself in this parable?

Read: [Matthew 13:10-15](#)

Discussion Questions :

- ☐ Why do you think Jesus relied so much on parables?
- ☐ What did Isaiah say about the reason for using parables?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Water of Life](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ What is the special significance of water to life?
- ☐ How many different instances in the Bible can you think of where water becomes both a symbolic and literal key to life?



Read: [John 4:5-14](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What might the woman have thought when Jesus suggested he could provide living water? What does it mean to you?

Read: [John 6:35, 41, 48, 51](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How is Jesus' claim about being the bread of life similar and different from his claims about the water of life?

Activity

Look up the following passages where Jesus explains who he is by stating, "I am..." Identify who or what he claims to be and whether that is metaphorical (M) or literal (L).

[John 8:12](#) _____ [John 8:23](#) _____

[John 8:28](#) _____ [John 10:7](#) _____

[John 10:11](#) _____ [John 11:25](#) _____

[John 14:6](#) _____ [John 14:11](#) _____

[John 15:1](#) _____ [John 18:37](#) _____

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How do Jesus' claims of who he was set him apart from any other teacher, prophet, or king?

Summary: In this session, participants have examined the teaching ministry of Jesus. In particular, we looked at Jesus' use of parables in explaining the Kingdom of God and his "I am" statements in John's Gospel. We gave special attention to his claim to offer the water of life. These claims set Jesus apart from any other teacher in history and established his identity as God's Messiah who was ushering in God's kingdom.

Group Sing: "[You Are Holy \(Prince of Peace\)](#)", "[Hosanna \(Praise is Rising\)](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [John 15:5-8](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



Session 5 – The Journey to Jerusalem

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will examine Jesus' journey to Jerusalem found in chapters 9 to 19 of Luke's Gospel. This is no ordinary trip or pilgrimage. Rather, Jesus is heading to the place where kings ruled and where his followers expect him to set up his own kingdom.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: "[This is Amazing Grace](#)", "[Behold Our God](#)", "[Jesus](#)" or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is "The Journey to Jerusalem". We start the study of this section of Luke's Gospel as Jesus is making his way with his disciples to Jerusalem. They think it is to celebrate the Passover. Despite many warnings from Jesus, they do not suspect that he will be the sacrificial lamb for this Passover. They are more prepared for a coronation than a crucifixion.

This journey to Jerusalem reminds readers of ancient Israel's experience with Moses when they went from Mount Sinai to the Promised Land. Later, King David established Jerusalem as their capital. Luke portrays Jesus as a new Moses who is renewing Israel's covenant with God. As a new David, he is gathering the people together to live under his rule.

As the journey to Jerusalem proceeds, Jesus sends out followers ahead of him to prepare each new place for his visit. When Jesus would arrive, he would announce the good news of God's Kingdom and call people to follow him. There are many of his teachings and parables about how following Jesus will radically change the order of society, such as how to view money, how to resolve conflict, and how to treat the poor. These teachings are given as Jesus heals the sick, restores sight to the blind, visits with tax collectors, meets with religious leaders and tells parables explaining the Kingdom of God.

As Jesus' road trip comes to an end, tension is rising. As he rides toward Jerusalem for Passover, religious leaders are plotting to take his life. Aware of what is in store for him, Jesus moves on.



Opening Dialogue: “The Journey”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. I see you have a suitcase with you. Are you going somewhere?

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. I’m on my way to the railway station. I’m traveling to New Delhi.

Kumar: That sounds exciting! Why are you going to Delhi?

Sneha: My aunt is staying there, but I have never been and I would like to see our nation’s capital and some of the historical monuments like the Red Fort, Humayun’s Tomb, and India Gate. I’m also interested to see how the government works.

Kumar: Can an ordinary person do that?

Sneha: Well, it’s not easy, but I wrote to our MP and he agreed to sign the documents to give me a one-day pass to visit the Lok Sabha while they are in session.

Kumar: Well, for your sake, I hope they behave politely that day. Have a great trip!

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Have you ever made a journey to an important place? How did you prepare for the trip?

Bridge:

In this lesson, we will continue our study of Luke’s Gospel. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, where King David ruled. While Luke uses several chapters for this journey, it is a relatively short part of Jesus’ public ministry. But Jerusalem is no ordinary destination. While Jesus and his disciples plan to celebrate Passover there, this trip represents a key part of Jesus’ mission on earth. We will explore the meaning of these events.

Read: [Luke 9:51-56](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why were Jesus and his disciples on their way to Jerusalem?
- ☐ Why do you think James and John made such a request? Do you suppose they had thoughts that Judgment Day was coming as they approached Jerusalem?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Gospel of Luke Ch. 9-19](#)"



Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ In what ways does Jesus' journey to Jerusalem remind us of Israel's journey with Moses to the Promised Land?
- ☐ How does Jesus' ministry with marginalized people reflect the upside down values of God's kingdom?

Read: [Luke 10:1-9, 16-20](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why was sending out his disciples such an important part of Jesus' mission?

Read: [Luke 11:29-32](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What do you think is the "sign of Jonah"?

Read: [Luke 13:31-35](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ Why do you think prophets had such a conflicted relationship with Jerusalem?
- ☐ What kind of reception do you think Jesus was anticipating as he approached Jerusalem?

Read: [Luke 14:15-24](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How does the parable of the banquet show the importance of the poor and downtrodden in God's kingdom?

Read: [Luke 14:25-33](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Since Jesus said this before he carried his own cross, how do you think his disciples made sense of this statement?

Read: [Luke 17:20-21](#)

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think Jesus means when he says the kingdom is in your midst? How does that affect our expectations regarding how the kingdom will be realized in the future?

Activity

Identify the metaphors used in Jesus' parables of the kingdom:

[Luke 10:25-37](#) _____ [Luke 12:16-21](#) _____

[Luke 12:35-40](#) _____ [Luke 13:6-9](#) _____

[Luke 13:18-19](#) _____ [Luke 13:20-21](#) _____

[Luke 14:16-24](#) _____ [Luke 15:3-7](#) _____

[Luke 15:8-10](#) _____ [Luke 15:11-32](#) _____

[Luke 16:1-9](#) _____ [Luke 16:19-31](#) _____

[Luke 18:1-5](#) _____ [Luke 18:10-14](#) _____

[Luke 19:11-27](#) _____

Discussion Questions:

- How varied are the metaphors used to explain the kingdom?
- Why do you think it is so hard for people to understand the teaching of the Kingdom of God?

Summary: In this session, participants have examined Jesus' journey to Jerusalem in Luke 9-19. This was not merely a pilgrimage to a holy city. Rather, Jesus was on his way to the destination where he will fulfill his most important work.

Group Sing: "[This is Amazing Grace](#)", "[Behold Our God](#)", "[Jesus](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Psalm 25:1-5](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



Session 6 – The Atoning Death

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will study Luke chapters 19-23, starting with Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and ending with his death on the cross. In the course of these events, we will note different people's reactions to Jesus. As the religious leaders conspire to have Jesus executed, their cruel schemes fit into God's plan to demonstrate his love for the world.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: "[Revelation Song](#)", "[Worthy is the Lamb](#)", "[Glorious Day](#)" or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is "The Suffering Servant". It starts as Jesus has finally come to the end of his journey to Jerusalem. He rides a donkey down the Mount of Olives towards the city. Crowds are forming and people are singing: "Praise the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" They give him a royal treatment, laying down their cloaks in front of him. They sense that God is fulfilling his promises to rescue his people by sending the long-awaited Messiah.

While the people of the city are hopeful, the religious leaders sense a direct threat. As Jesus enters the city, he also is troubled. He can see what is coming, for himself and for Jerusalem. The first thing Jesus does in Jerusalem is march to the temple courtyard. He stages a prophetic protest, driving out the money changers, disrupting the sacrificial system, and shouting out words from Israel's ancient prophets.

This disruption causes the religious leaders to start planning to have Jesus killed. This is no surprise to Jesus. In fact, he planned that all of this would happen during Passover. Jesus uses the symbols of Passover to reveal the meaning of his coming death. The broken bread was his broken body. And the wine was his blood that would establish a new covenant relationship between God and Israel. Jesus was going to die for his people and open up a new way forward.



Opening Dialogue: “Commencement”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. What’s new with you?

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. I’m going to a celebration for my cousin. He was selected for government service and has just completed a 3-month training program.

Kumar: Wow! What comes next?

Sneha: He will receive an assignment. We don’t know where he will live or how long he will stay there.

Kumar: He must be very excited.

Sneha: In a way, yes. But I think he is also nervous. It’s a tough job and most likely he will have to move to a place where he doesn’t have any friends or family.

Kumar: But there are so many benefits! And this is what he has been preparing for since he started his studies.

Sneha: That’s true. He is well suited for this assignment, but that doesn’t make it any easier to face all these new challenges.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Have you ever come to a point in your life where you were finally ready to do something for which you had prepared for a long time? Please explain.

Bridge:

Sometimes, we set a goal for ourselves and then set out to reach that goal. Other times, we set out on a journey to reach a particular place. While reaching that destination may at times be satisfying, there are other times when reaching our target puts us in danger, like a soldier going to battle. In this lesson, we will look at Jesus in Jerusalem during an event-filled Passover week that will lead him to the cross.

Read: [Luke 19:41-44](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think Jesus was weeping over Jerusalem?
- ☐ What kind of future events do you suppose he was imagining?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Gospel of Luke Ch. 19-23](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.



Group Discussion:

- ☐ Why do you think Jesus went from being welcomed as king to being executed as a rebellious leader in so few days?
- ☐ Why do you think all these events happened during the week of the Passover celebration?

Read: [Luke 19:28-44](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ How did each of the following respond to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?
 - The people of Jerusalem (v. 36)?
 - The crowd of disciples (v. 37)?
 - The religious leaders (Pharisees, v. 39)?
 - Jesus himself (v. 41)?

Read: [Luke 20:1-8](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think the chief priests and teachers of the law regarded it important to know by whose authority Jesus was doing the things he did?
- ☐ Why do you think Jesus refused to answer the religious leaders?

Read: [Luke 20:27-38](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ In what ways will those considered worthy of taking part in the resurrection be like the angels? (vs. 34-36)
- ☐ How did Moses show that the dead will rise? (v. 37)
- ☐ Why do you think the Sadducees asked Jesus questions about the resurrection when they didn't believe in it?

Read: [Luke 22:15-20](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ What did the bread represent? What about the cup?

Read: [Luke 22:66-71, 23:1-5](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ What convinced the religious leaders that Jesus needed to be charged as a rebel? (vs. 69-71)
- ☐ On what charges was Jesus brought before Pilate, the Roman governor? (v. 2)
- ☐ What is the difference between the two offenses, from the religious leaders and from Pilate? What are the similarities?

Read: [Luke 23:44-49](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What do you think about the two signs: 1) the sun not shining and 2) the curtain in the temple being torn in two?
- ☐ How do you think you would react if you had been a witness to Jesus' death?

Summary: In this session, participants studied the events that transpired in Luke chapters 19-23. It starts with Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and ends with his death on the cross. In the course of these events, we noted different people's reactions to Jesus and observed that as the religious leaders conspired to have Jesus executed, their cruel schemes fit into God's wonderful plan to demonstrate his love for the world.



Group Sing: "[Revelation Song](#)", "[Worthy is the Lamb](#)", "[Glorious Day](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite Isaiah 53, then have someone offer a closing prayer.

Session 7 – Surprised by the Resurrection

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will look at the last chapter of Luke and try to understand why Jesus' followers failed to remember what was foretold about all the events that had just shaken Jerusalem. We will also consider how Jesus' followers were surprised by his resurrection and its implications for understanding the Kingdom of God.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: “ [Resurrection Power](#)”, “[Ain't No Grave](#)” or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The topic of this session is “Surprised by the Resurrection”. Looking at Luke 24, we see the remarkable events that follow Jesus' death on the cross. It starts with the discovery of the empty tomb. We see his followers react to this surprising news. The first are the women who visit the tomb early on the third day. After meeting two angels, they go and report what they have seen to Jesus' apostles, who find the news hard to believe.

The next encounter Luke records is with two men walking on a road out of Jerusalem. When Jesus asks what they are talking about, they can hardly believe that someone in Jerusalem was not aware of all the events that just transpired with Jesus. But when Jesus responds and tells them all these things happened according to the Scriptures, they marvel. When they finally recognize Jesus, he mysteriously disappears. The two men go and report this to the Eleven. As they are still talking, Jesus appears among them. They wonder if they are seeing a ghost, so Jesus invites them to touch his wounded hands and feet.

Jesus' resurrection changes everything. His followers' despair is transformed to hope. Their expectations for how God's kingdom will unfold are turned upside down. Jesus will not take the throne with them at his sides. He will come again and make all things new. His resurrection is the sign for what is to come: new heavens, a new earth, and new bodies that will not die. But they must wait, expectantly and with hope for the future.



Opening Dialogue: “Forgotten Instructions”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. How was your trip?

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. The trip was interesting, but I got lost several times and wasn’t able to do everything I had planned.

Kumar: What happened? Didn’t you have someone to guide you?

Sneha: Even when I was with someone else, it was the first time there for both of us. My aunt had given us instructions and clearly warned us which ways to avoid. But when she explained things, I couldn’t imagine what she was talking about.

Kumar: Didn’t you think it was important enough to remember?

Sneha: I don’t think I disregarded her warnings, but they didn’t make sense to me when I heard them, so I basically forgot what she said. When we were in the situation ourselves, I was trying to go the direction that made sense to me.

Kumar: Well, I’m sorry for the trouble you faced. The next time you visit, I’m sure you will know your way better.

Sneha: Sure, if there is another visit!

Group Discussion:

- ❑ Has someone ever given you good instructions or wise warnings, but you couldn’t understand what they were talking about until later?

Bridge: Sometimes we are given good warnings or instructions for facing unknown circumstances. However, because we haven’t yet experienced what those people are talking about, we forget what was said. This was the case for Jesus’ followers. In this lesson, we will see that the Old Testament prophets had told the people of Israel some of the things that would happen to their Messiah. At other times, Jesus himself warned them. But since it didn’t make sense to them, they disregarded what he said. Only later did they remember what he had told them.

Read: [Luke 24:1-8](#)

Discussion Question:

- ❑ How do you imagine the women were feeling as they made their way to Jesus’ tomb?

- ❑ How do you think they could have forgotten that Jesus told them in Galilee that all this would happen?



Watch BibleProject Video: “[Gospel of Luke Ch. 24](#)”

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ❑ Why do you think Jesus’ followers were so surprised by his resurrection?
- ❑ What do you think they were expecting instead?

Read: [Luke 24:9-11](#)

Discussion Question:

- ❑ Why do you think the Eleven found it so hard to believe the women’s report about Jesus’ empty tomb?

Read: [Luke 24:13-27](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ❑ Why do you think Jesus scolded the two disciples for being slow to believe all that the prophets had spoken? (v. 25)
- ❑ How long do you think it took for Jesus to explain all that was written in the Scriptures about himself? (v. 27)

Read: [Luke 24:33-39](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ❑ Why do you suppose Jesus’ disciples thought they were seeing a ghost?
- ❑ How did Jesus convince his disciples that he had truly been raised from the dead?

Read: [Luke 24:44-48](#)

Discussion Question:

- ❑ Why do you think Jesus had to open his disciples’ minds so they could understand the Scriptures?

- ❑ Do you ever feel like you need God's help to understand what the Bible says?

Read: [Luke 24:49](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ❑ What is it that the Father has promised to send Jesus' disciples?
- ❑ Why do you think they needed to stay in the city until they had been "clothed on high"?

Read: [Luke 24:51](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ❑ What do you see as the connection between Jesus' resurrection and his ascension into heaven?
- ❑ What might Jesus' followers have been thinking about his return as they watched him ascend into heaven?

Application

Get into groups of 4-5 persons and consider things you have read in the Bible that you might have misunderstood. Ask yourselves, "How might you be wiser about your presumed interpretations of biblical teaching?" Give particular consideration to your thoughts on the topic of the resurrection. Once you discuss, have 1 or 2 people share their thoughts with the larger group.

Summary: In this session, participants have looked at the last chapter of Luke and tried to understand why Jesus' followers failed to remember what was foretold about all the events that shook Jerusalem. We asked why Jesus' followers were surprised by his resurrection and considered its implications for understanding the Kingdom of God.



Group Sing: " [Resurrection Power](#)", "[Ain't No Grave](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Psalm 20:6-9](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.

Session 8 – All Authority

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will consider the implications of anyone having exclusive authority. This is the responsibility Jesus has been granted, authority over all things in heaven and on earth. While that authority has been granted, it is not yet fully exercised. We will consider the complexities of this delegation of authority and how it helps us understand the Kingdom of God.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: “[Our God is an Awesome God](#)”, “[I Can Only Imagine](#)” or other selection.

Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is “All Authority.” The delegation of God’s authority goes back to the beginning. God created the heavens and the earth. The heavens is where God and other spiritual beings reside. The earth is the space for humanity. But sometimes these two spaces overlap, such as in the Garden of Eden where God and other spiritual beings dwelled with the humans. It was here, in the garden, that God delegated authority to humanity. They were to rule over the earth, to subdue it and to fill it.

When the humans rebelled against God’s authority, they were sent out of God’s presence. They were cut off from the Tree of Life, cursed to struggle for their livelihood, and destined to die. No one was worthy of receiving God’s delegated authority. So God sent his son to battle against the forces of sin and evil. His victorious life was capped by his sacrificial death on the cross. But he defeated death and came out of his tomb. His resurrection is a sign of what is to come for all those whose names are written in the Book of Life and are deemed faithful.

Jesus’ victory showed that he is worthy. Consequently, God has given him all authority in heaven and on earth. And while he is not yet fully exercising his authority, there is power in his name. His followers can call on him and trust in his faithfulness to help them overcome the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world until the day he comes again.





Opening Dialogue: “Boss of Two Divisions”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. How was work today?

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. It was very interesting. My division’s director was given responsibility for another division.

Kumar: So, you’ll be getting a new director?

Sneha: No, that’s what’s so interesting. He is being put in charge of both divisions.

Kumar: How can that be?

Sneha: Normally, our company is divided between operations and administration. Operations will focus on production and administration takes care of all the records.

Kumar: That sounds reasonable. So why did they change it?

Sneha: There were too many rivalries between the two divisions. This director was so effective, the board decided to give him responsibility for both divisions.

Kumar: Well, things should be very different for your company!

Sneha: That’s for sure!

Group Discussion:

- ☐ What is the risk of giving one person total control of something such as an organization, a business, or a government?
- ☐ Why do you think we tend to prefer decentralized authority?

Bridge:

Delegating authority has always been a critical issue for people to function well and live in peace with each other. As authority represents power, we also recognize there are many dangers with granting authority to a limited number of people or to people with impure motives or incapable skills. In this lesson, we are going to consider what it means that God has given all authority in heaven and on earth to Jesus.

Read: [Ephesians 1:9-10](#), [Genesis 1:26](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How does Jesus’ being given all authority in heaven and earth go beyond what God granted to Adam and Eve?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Heaven & Earth](#)"



Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Video Discussion Questions

- ❑ How is the biblical concept of heaven different from the popular idea that heaven is the place where people go after they die, if they have been good?
- ❑ How is Jesus the key link for humans to have access to God's space?

Read: [Matthew 4:8-9, Matthew 28:18](#)

Discussion Question:

- ❑ At one point, it appears that the devil has authority over all the earth, but later Jesus declares he has been given all authority. What do you think changed between these two episodes in Jesus' life?

Read: [Ephesians 3:10, 6:12](#)

Discussion Question:

- ❑ Why do you think it is important that Jesus have authority over the heavenly realm, where spiritual rulers and authorities reside?

Read: [Revelation 5:1-5](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ❑ In John's vision, no one in heaven or on earth is found to be worthy of breaking the seals and opening the scroll (v. 4). What do you think this represents?
- ❑ Who finally triumphed (v. 5)? How does this make the Lion of Judah worthy of all authority in heaven and earth?

Read: [Isaiah 9:6-7](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ❑ What do you think it means for the government to be on the shoulders of the Messiah?

- ❑ How does having all authority involve endeavors like running a government?

Read: [Daniel 7:13-14, Philippians 2:9-11](#)

Discovery Question:

- ❑ Authority over earthly realms is usually confined with geographical boundaries and a particular time frame. In what ways is the authority given to Jesus broader than this?

Read: [Romans 13:1-7](#)

Discussion Question:

- ❑ How does respecting governing authorities honor God?

Read: [Matthew 8:5-13](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ❑ What did the Roman centurion understand about authority?
- ❑ Why do you think Jesus was so impressed with his faith?

Read: [Matthew 10:1, Matthew 20:25-29](#)

Discovery Question:

- ❑ How are Jesus' followers to exercise authority differently than other rulers?
- ❑ How do you think you can exercise servant leadership in the realms where you have some authority?

Summary: In this session, participants have examined the implications of delegated authority. As we acknowledge that Jesus has been granted authority over all things in heaven and on earth, we observe that he is not yet fully exercising that authority. We have considered the complexities of the delegation of authority and how it helps us understand the Kingdom of God.

Group Sing: "[Our God is an Awesome God](#)", "[I Can Only Imagine](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Revelation 12:7-12](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



The Church

Session 9 – The New Temple

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will examine the concept of God dwelling in places like a tabernacle. We will look at the role and symbolic meaning of tabernacles and temples and relate that to the metaphor of the new temple. This illustrates the relationship between the church and the Holy Spirit.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: “[Rushing Wind](#)”, “[Spirit of the Living God](#)” or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is “The New Temple”. This is the first lesson in this section “The Church” that will be the focus of our study of the Book of Acts. As we will see, the biblical concept of the temple goes beyond the physical buildings in Jerusalem that were so important to Israel’s worship practices. In the Book of Acts, Jesus’ followers become God’s holy temple as they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

The book begins with the disciples being together with the risen Jesus who continued teaching them about his kingdom. The disciples feel ready to go into the world. But Jesus tells them to wait in Jerusalem until they receive a new kind of power so they can be faithful witnesses. Their mission will begin in Jerusalem and will move to Judea and Samaria. From there, it will go out into the nations. It is like a road map for the whole book of Acts.

The disciples saw Jesus enthroned as king of all creation. Then they wait, wondering when this power will come. At the time of Pentecost, a festival that brought thousands of Jewish pilgrims from all over the world back to Jerusalem, the disciples are together in a house. Suddenly, it is filled with rushing wind along with fire. The fire splinters off into tongues of fire hovering over people’s heads. God’s Holy Spirit has arrived, making the disciples God’s holy dwelling place. They are empowered to witness to the Jewish pilgrims in all their different languages, causing all to wonder. This starts the Jesus movement that will spread to the corners of the world.



Opening Dialogue: “A New Home”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. What’s new with you?

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. I’m on my way to help a friend look for a new place to live.

Kumar: Wow, that can be a challenge these days. I hope you have the patience to look at many places. What are the main features your friend is looking for?

Sneha: Well, she wants enough space for her and her sister to live together. She also wants a kitchen with built-in storage shelves.

Kumar: You also have to think about which part of town to live.

Sneha: She wants to be close to her workplace, but those areas are a bit costly.

Kumar: What about her friends and relatives? Are any nearby?

Sneha: I don’t know. We’ll have to think about that. She loves to have people over to her place, so there’s a lot to consider.

Kumar: Well, good luck!

Group Discussion:

- ☐ What are the most important things about home for you? Do you care more about the structure and amenities of the house, or the location and the neighborhood?

Bridge:

We all need a home. It’s a place where we take care of our basic needs, find rest and provide hospitality. But when we think of a home for God, those ideas of home don’t always fit. In this session, we are going to look at the biblical teaching regarding a dwelling place for the Lord. It progresses from a garden to a tabernacle to a temple. In the end, however, God finds dwelling through his Holy Spirit in the bodies of his followers. This transition leads us into a study of the church in the Book of Acts.

Read: [Exodus 29:44-46](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think God wanted to dwell among the Israelites?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Temple](#)"



Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Video Discussion Questions

- ☐ What is the basic concept of a temple? If it is a shelter for the Lord's presence, how could it come in many forms, such as the whole earth, a tabernacle, or the temple in Jerusalem?
- ☐ Where is God's dwelling place? If he resides in heaven, why does he need a special place on earth?

Read: [Exodus 25:8](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ What was the purpose of the tabernacle?

Read: [1 Kings 6:11-13, 29](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ What was the condition that God required from Solomon for him to live among the Israelites and not abandon them?
- ☐ Why do you think they decorated the inside of the temple with imagery of trees, flowers, and cherubim?

Read: [John 1:14](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How does Jesus' living among the Israelites reflect the concept of the tabernacle, God's dwelling place?

Read: [John 2:18-21](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think Jesus called his body a temple?

Read: [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ In what ways is your body a temple of the Holy Spirit?



Watch BibleProject Video: "[Acts Ch. 1-7](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Why do you think Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high?
- ☐ Why do you think the religious authorities were threatened by Stephen and felt the need to have him executed?

Read: [Acts 2:1-4](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How do you think the disciples being filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost remind them of God's presence in the tabernacle and in the temple?

Read: [Acts 3:2-10](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How do you think Peter was able to heal the lame man?

Read: [Acts 7:44-50](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ If the Most High doesn't dwell in houses made by human hands, why do you think God would have commissioned Solomon with building the temple?
- ☐ How might your awareness of being a temple of the Holy Spirit affect the way that you live your life?

Summary: In this session, participants have examined the concept of God dwelling in places on earth. We looked at the role and symbolic meaning of tabernacles and temples. We related those to understand how the metaphor of the new temple illustrates the relationship between the church and the Holy Spirit.

Group Sing: "[Rushing Wind](#)", "[Spirit of the Living God](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [1 Corinthians 3:10-17](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



Session 10 – The Gospel to Judea & Samaria

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will examine the Book of Acts chapters 8 through 12. As Jesus' followers move out from Jerusalem, witnessing becomes a major theme in these chapters. Consequently, participants will study the biblical word for "witness" and consider the implications of its fuller meaning.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: "[Pass It On](#)", "[Voice of Truth](#)" or other selection.

Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is "The Gospel to Judea & Samaria". In this section, we will study the portion of the book of Acts where Jesus' followers move out from Jerusalem to share the message of the Gospel with others. In addition to looking at Acts 8-12, we will study the biblical word for witness and its action, bearing witness.

After the execution of Stephen, recorded in Acts 7, Jesus' followers are scattered. They end up in surprising places like Samaria where their ancient enemies live. Luke shows his readers how many unexpected people started following Jesus. For example, a sorcerer from Samaria learns that the way of Jesus isn't about gaining power but giving it up to serve others. An Ethiopian delegate discusses the scroll of Isaiah with Philip and decides to follow Israel's Messiah.

Through these encounters, we see that Jesus is expanding his movement out into Judea and Samaria just like He said He would. This is not easy for some of the Jewish believers, as they had been raised to believe non-Israelites were impure. But, as we see in the church in Antioch, the Jesus movement is to be made up of people from all over the world.

In these five chapters of Acts, leaders such as the Apostle Peter, Saul of Tarsus, and a man named Barnabas advance this outward movement. The disciples who witnessed Jesus' life, death and resurrection go out into the world to bear witness. Like the mustard seed, the Kingdom of God grows and spreads out into new corners, fulfilling Jesus' command to make disciples among all nations.





Opening Dialogue: “The Witness”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. What’s new?

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. I’m on my way to the police station.

Sneha: Uh-oh. Did you do something wrong?

Kumar: Not exactly. But I’m a witness to a crime.

Sneha: Wow! What happened?

Kumar: I was walking home one night last week when I heard an unusual noise. I was curious so I walked toward the noise.

Sneha: What did you see?

Kumar: I saw a man climbing out the window of a first floor flat. When his feet hit the ground, he ran toward a motorbike. Just then, I heard a woman scream for help. So I ran toward the man.

Sneha: Did you stop him?

Kumar: No, he got away on his motorbike. But I got a good look at him and I took down his license plate number. Now the police want to record my statement.

Sneha: Well, I hope your testimony helps them find the guy.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Have you ever been a witness to an event that needed to be recorded or told to others?
- ☐ Why are the testimonies of witnesses regarded so highly by courts, historians, and other recordings of events?

Bridge:

When someone observes a consequential event, it is important that they bear witness to what they have seen. In today’s session, we are going to look at the concept of being a witness and bearing witness to what we have seen or experienced. This will help us as we study chapters 8-12 of the Book of Acts. .

Read: [Luke 24:46-48](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What would have happened if there was no one who witnessed Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, or had not studied the Scriptures to understand what it all meant?



Watch BibleProject Video: "[Word Study: Martus - 'Witness'](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ What do you think is the connection between “being a witness” and “bearing witness”?
- ☐ Why is it so natural for those who have heard the story of Jesus and experienced the love of God to bear witness?

Read: [Exodus 34:29-32](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ How would it have been wrong if, after meeting with God, Moses did not share the words of the Lord with Israel?

Read: [Ruth 4:9-11](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think Boaz called together witnesses to observe his purchase of Naomi’s land and taking Ruth as his wife?

Read: [Isaiah 55:3-5](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Who is God’s ruler and commander? Why do you think he is sent to be a witness?
- ☐ Why did God endow the people of Israel with splendor? How did this affect their relationships with unknown nations?

Read: [Acts 10:39-43](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why was it so important for eye witnesses to report what they had seen regarding Jesus’ death and resurrection?
- ☐ Why do you think Jesus commanded his disciples to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead?



Watch BibleProject Video: “[Acts Ch. 8-12](#)”

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Why was it so surprising for Peter to show up at the house of a Roman centurion? How was he being challenged to extend his witness beyond the Jews?
- ☐ Why do you think Barnabas recruited Saul to help him with the work in Antioch? Why is it surprising that a Jewish religious leader like Saul would advance the Jesus movement among the non-Jewish people?

Read: [Acts 8:4-13](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How do you make sense of a Samaritan sorcerer being baptized by one of Jesus’ apostles? Why was Philip even in Samaria? (see v. 1)

Read: [Acts 11:1, 15-18](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ What was the evidence that the apostles accepted that God had granted repentance to the Gentiles?

Read: [Acts 11:19-21](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ How did Jesus’ disciples end up bearing witness to the gospel in distant places like Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch?

Summary: In this session, participants have examined the Book of Acts chapters 8 through 12. As Jesus’ followers move out from Jerusalem, witnessing becomes a major theme in these chapters. Consequently, we studied the biblical word for “witness” and considered the implications of its fuller meaning.

Group Sing: “[Pass It On](#)”, “[Voice of Truth](#)” or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Isaiah 44:6-8](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



Session 11 – To the Ends of the Earth

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will study chapters 13 to 20 of the Book of Acts. This follows Paul's journeys through the Roman Empire to preach the good news and make disciples.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: “ [Pass It On](#)”, “[Until the Whole World Hears](#)” or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is “To the Ends of the Earth”. In the first 12 chapters of the Book of Acts, we see the Jesus movement stirring. When the believers receive the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, a global movement begins. It starts as Jesus’ disciples are scattered and start ministering outside of Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria. From there, it continues to move outward, toward the ends of the earth.

Chapters 13 to 20 of Acts recounts the stories of the Apostle Paul’s travels through the Roman Empire. It shows how people received Paul’s invitation to live under the rule of God’s anointed king, Jesus of Nazareth. For some time, Paul’s home base had been in the city of Antioch. From there, he and his co-workers went on three road trips, traveling by land and by sea to strategic cities throughout the Mediterranean region.

In each city, Paul’s custom was to go first to the Jewish synagogue where his people gathered. He would show them how Jesus is the messianic king promised in the Hebrew Scriptures. Another part of his pattern was that Paul would go to the marketplace of the city and set up shop to make and sell leather tents. This covered his travel expenses. In the marketplace, Paul would share the news about the risen King Jesus. The response was mixed. Some believed, some didn’t and others thought his message was misleading and dangerous. It often stirred up opposition and even riots. Paul was beaten and even thrown in jail.

Despite how dangerous it was to join this movement, people were captivated by the good news of God’s kingdom. So, Paul would stay in that city and teach them the way of Jesus. In every city where Paul ministered, people were transformed by God’s Spirit to become new kinds of humans.



Opening Dialogue: “Crossing Cultures”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. What’s new?

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. I’m going on a trip to a tribal village.

Sneha: That sounds adventurous. How will you get there and then, once you’re there, how will you communicate with people?

Kumar: Good questions. The village is located too far away from a train station. But we can get within 100 kilometers of the village going by bus. I’m traveling with my friend who is from that tribe. He speaks the language and knows how to take local transportation to get to the village.

Sneha: You’re going to a lot of trouble to get there. What’s the purpose of the trip?

Kumar: My company is thinking of marketing our products to this tribe, but we need to get an idea how feasible that might be.

Sneha: So, this is a kind of fact-finding trip to another country?

Kumar: I guess you could put it that way.

Sneha: I hope it goes well for you. Happy journey!

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Have you ever traveled to another country, state or place where they have different customs or speak other languages? What are some of the challenges of such kinds of travel?

Bridge:

Crossing borders, encountering new cultures and meeting people who speak different languages can be an unsettling experience. In the ancient world, such travel was difficult and required great personal sacrifice and courage. These were some of the challenges that accompanied the call for Jesus’ followers to bear witness to other nations. In this lesson, we will look at the Jesus movement as it spreads out to the ends of the earth.

Read: [Psalm 98:2-3](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ In what ways has the Lord made himself known to the nations, or his salvation seen in all the ends of the earth?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Acts Ch. 13-20](#)"



Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Why was Paul's message that Jesus is Israel's king seen to be dangerous to the Jews? What about for the Romans?
- ☐ Why do you think Paul was willing to endure so much pain and suffering to spread the message of Jesus?

Read: [Acts 13:2-5, 44-47](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ How were Barnabas and Saul called and sent out by the church in Antioch?
- ☐ Where did they first proclaim the word of God when they arrived at Salamis? Why do you think they started there?

Read: [Acts 14:8-13](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ How did the crowd in Lystra's cultural expectations shape their reaction to Paul healing the man who had been lame?

Read: [Acts 14:19-22](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ What do you think would compel new believers to persevere through hardships in order to enter the kingdom of God?

Read: [Acts 15:5-11, 19-20](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How did the addition of Gentile believers in the churches cause cultural conflict for the leaders in Jerusalem?

Read: [Acts 16:4-5](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think it was important for Paul and Timothy visit the churches and instruct them in the faith?

Read: [Acts 17:10-12](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ Why were the Jews in Berea regarded as being of more noble character than those in Thessalonica?

Read: [Acts 18:1-8](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ Why do you think Paul became so frustrated with the Jews in Corinth, turning instead to the Greeks?

Read: [Acts 19:19-20, 23-27](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ What were some of the financial consequences to the cities where the message of Jesus was embraced?

Read: [Acts 20:16-24](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think Paul would go to places where prison and hardships were waiting for him?

Application

Read: [Ephesians 4:11-13](#)

Get into groups of 4-5 persons and discuss:

- ☐ How did Paul's work among all the churches equip them for works of service and help them mature?
- ☐ How might you endeavor to equip others for Christ's service?

Have 1 or 2 people share their thoughts with the larger group.

Summary: In this session, participants studied chapters 13-20 of the Book of Acts. This follows Paul's journeys through the Roman Empire to preach the good news and make disciples.

Group Sing: " [Pass It On](#)", " [Until the Whole World Hears](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Psalm 19:1-6](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



Session 12 – Faith on Trial

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will examine the final eight chapters of the book of Acts. The main event in these chapters is Paul's journey to Jerusalem and his subsequent trials before Jewish and Roman authorities.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: "[Take My Life and Let It Be](#)", "[Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)" or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is "Faith on Trial". The final section of Acts begins with Paul's return journey to Jerusalem. Jesus' Jewish followers in Jerusalem were suffering from a drought and food shortage. Paul was so passionate about the church's unity that he raised funds from the churches he had started, pooling their money together so he and a group of representatives could take it as a relief gift.

The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem wanted Paul dead, but he was willing to risk his life to bring this gift. For him, this was personal. Jerusalem was where he participated in the execution of Jesus' followers. Now, he gets to serve them.

In Jerusalem, Paul's enemies find him. A mob forms and they try to kill him. He is rescued by Roman soldiers who took him into custody. The Jewish leaders accused Paul of starting a revolt against Rome but they could not prove it. The Roman authorities could see Paul was not a criminal, but his claim that a crucified Jewish man was the risen king of the world raises concerns. Paul gets transferred from one court to another until he demands that his case be tried before the court of Caesar in Rome.

The journey by sea to Rome runs into trouble when they are shipwrecked. Paul is brought to Rome and put under house arrest where he is able to meet with groups of Jews and non-Jews, sharing with them the good news about Jesus, the risen king. This is provocative, as Rome is the center of power where Caesar rules the world as king. This contrasts with Jesus' alternative, upside-down kingdom, represented through the suffering of a prisoner. With this contrast between kingdoms, Luke ends his story.



Opening Dialogue: “Ideas on Trial”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. What’s new with you?

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. I’m trying to compose my thoughts to a group on friends on social media.

Kumar: What’s so important that you have to prepare your ideas?

Sneha: Well, it’s a really divisive issue. Half of my friends see it one way and half see it the other.

Kumar: Wouldn’t it be better just to remain silent. Sharing your views puts you at risk of losing many of your friends.

Sneha: Well, that would certainly be easier. But these ideas are consequential. So, it’s something I see as being worth the risk.

Kumar: Well, I admire your courage. I just hope it ends well.

Sneha: It may not end well, but I have to defend what I believe is right, regardless of the outcome.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Have you ever had to defend your ideas or actions from people who don’t agree with your values or your goals?
- ☐ How is that different from defending yourself among people who share your core values and beliefs?

Bridge: Sometimes in life we are tested. This could be a test of character, a test of friendship, loyalty, or even ideas. Young people often rely on older people to defend ideas, since it can take a long time to understand the background of ideas or their implications. At some point, however, all people may have their ideas and life values put to the test. This is what happens in the final section of Acts that we will look at in this session. The Apostle Paul stirs up controversy and then has to defend himself, first among the Jews in Jerusalem and next before Rome’s highest authority, Caesar.

Read: [James 1:2-4, 12](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why do you think our faith needs to occasionally be tested?
- ☐ What are some of the outcomes of persevering under trial?

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Acts Ch. 21-28](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.



Group Discussion:

- ☐ Why do you think it was so important to Paul to take the relief gift to the believers in Jerusalem where it was dangerous, rather than staying where his teaching was honored?

Read: [Acts 21:17-21](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ How did the believers in Jerusalem respond to Paul's report about what God had done among the Gentiles?
- ☐ What were their concerns about his teaching to the Gentiles?

Read: [Acts 22:1, 21-22](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think the Jews would become so angry when Paul testified that he was sent to the Gentiles?

Read: [Acts 23:6-9](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ What was it that divided the Pharisee and the Sadducees?
- ☐ Why do you think Paul appealed to the Pharisees' belief in spirits, angels and the resurrection?

Read: [Acts 24:5-8, 13-16, 21](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ Which charges did Paul deny and which did he accept?
- ☐ What did Paul claim was the main reason for him being accused of wrongdoing? (v. 21)

Read: [Acts 25:9-12](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think Paul appealed to be tried by Caesar?

Read: [Acts 26:4-8, 22-23](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ In what ways was Paul's faith rooted in God's covenant promises to Israel?
- ☐ Why do you think the resurrection of Jesus was such a problem for the Jewish religious leaders?

Read: [Acts 27:9-11, 21-25](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ What kind of test do you think the sea journey was for Paul and those with him? What did they learn from it?

Read: [Acts 28:30-31](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ After all the drama preceding Paul's arrival in Rome, do you find it surprising that the book ends by describing his routine, unhindered teaching ministry in his rented house?
- ☐ How do you imagine God used Paul's trials and his time in Rome for the purposes of advancing his kingdom?

Application

Have each person imagine how things would be different if Jesus' followers never took up the call to bear witness and make disciples among the nations. In groups of 4-5 participants each, discuss ways you might be part of efforts to spread the good news of God's kingdom to people outside your faith community. Have one or two people share their ideas with the larger group.

Summary: In this session, participants examined the final eight chapters of the book of Acts. The main event in these chapters is Paul's journey to Jerusalem and his subsequent trials before Jewish and Roman authorities.

Group Sing: "[Take My Life and Let It Be](#)", "[Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Ephesians 1:15-23](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



New Creation

Session 13 – Previews of the Kingdom

Lesson Objectives: In this session, the first in the section on New Creation, participants will examine ways people might experience a foretaste of heaven, the future Kingdom of God. The main example in this lesson is the way the generosity of God provides clues for the things that God has in store for his faithful servants, at the same time it represents what he expects from them.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: “[Micah 6:8 Song](#)”, “[Step by Step](#)” or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is “Previews of the Kingdom”. As we have seen through our study of the Kingdom of God, Christians are a people whose hope is in the resurrection. Jesus’ resurrection accomplished many things. It is also a sign of what is to come. When Jesus comes again, the dead will rise and will be given new bodies. The righteous will be invited to enter into their eternal rest in the new creation: a new heaven and a new earth.

Among the features of the new creation are things that we can experience in some measure in this life such as peace, justice, righteousness, loving relationships, healthy bodies, renewed strength, and generosity. The act of generosity is more than just someone sharing from the excess of their possessions. For God’s people, it is an act for both the rich and the poor. Generosity demonstrates trust in God and faith in the abundance of his provision. Creation itself is an expression of God’s generous love. He is the host of an elaborate banquet and humans are his guests in a world of opportunity and abundance. Being created in God’s image, however, means that we are more than guests. We are to be hosts who follow in his generous ways, spreading his goodness.

Exercising generosity is just one way that God’s people can bear witness to God’s promised kingdom. By experiencing a measure of generosity here and now, people are actually getting a foretaste of the kind of generosity that will be the norm in the New Creation.



Opening Dialogue: “The Preview”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar is looking at his smart phone, unaware of Sneha.

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. What are you looking at?

Kumar: Oh, hi, Sneha. I’m searching the internet for the reviews of a new book that is coming out.

Sneha: What kind of book is it?

Kumar: It’s an historical novel based on the life of a person I admire.

Sneha: Why wouldn’t you just purchase the book, so you can know for yourself?

Kumar: The review gives me an idea about how they wrote the book and indicates whether it’s worth all the time reading it.

Sneha: Won’t reading the review spoil the book for you?

Kumar: Not at all. If it’s good, it will give me a preview and build up my excitement for reading the entire book.

Sneha: Well, maybe I’ll have to read the review with you.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ How does a book review or preview of a movie help you decide whether you are interested to see the entire thing?

Bridge:

There are many kinds of previews. You can take a test ride of a vehicle before you decide to purchase it. You can sample different varieties at a sweet shop before you buy a gift box. That preview or foretaste can inform your desire to have the whole thing. In this lesson, we will discuss ways that God provides us with a preview of the good things he has in store for his faithful servants in the New Creation.

Read: [Revelation 11:15](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ What do you imagine it will be like when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord?
- ☐ How do you think we can get a preview or foretaste of what is to come in God’s eternal kingdom?

Read: Luke 10:3-4



Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why do you think Jesus would instruct his disciples to not take money with them on their visits to villages approaching Jerusalem?
- ☐ How would Jesus' disciples' reliance on the hospitality of their hosts help them learn to trust God for provision?

Watch BibleProject Video: "Generosity"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Video Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How do people's concerns about the scarcity of resources keep them from exercising generosity?
- ☐ How could trusting in God's generosity change the way that people treat others?

Read: Exodus 16:31-32, 1 Kings 17:2-6

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ How did the provision of manna for the Israelites or bread and water from ravens for Elijah demonstrate God's ability to provide for his people?
- ☐ What do you think was the price of manna in the wilderness? What will be the price of fruit, or gold, or any other resource in the New Creation?
- ☐ When scarcity of resources is eliminated, how is the social order, wealth and poverty, affected?

Read: Isaiah 25:8, Revelation 21:4

Discussion Question:

- ☐ If suffering and death were no longer a risk, how do you think human relationships would change?

Activity

Look up these passages that talk about the kingdom to come. Identify the differences with this present world.

[Isaiah 11:6-9](#) _____

[Isaiah 35:5](#) _____

[Colossians 3:1](#) _____

[Matthew 4:17](#) _____

[Hebrews 2:8-9](#) _____

[John 18:36](#) _____

[Philippians 1:9-11](#) _____

[Philippians 1:27-30](#) _____

[Revelation 21:6](#) _____

Group Discussion:

- ☐ What are some of the things you see in these passages that talk about features of the kingdom to come?

Application

Individually, think and pray about something each of you may do, with the Spirit's help, to exercise your faith in God's provision through an act of generosity. Try to be specific.

Summary: In this session, participants have examined ways in which people might experience a foretaste of the future Kingdom of God. The main example in this lesson is the way the generosity of God provides clues for the things that God has in store for his faithful servants, at the same time it represents what he expects from them.

Group Sing: "[Micah 6:8 Song](#)", "[Step by Step](#)" or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Isaiah 40:28-31](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.



Session 14 – Signposts of Eternity

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will learn about prophetic signposts in the Bible that give people a symbolic hint of what God has in store for his people in the future. While there are many such signposts in the Bible, we will look at the particular example of Sabbath rest.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: “[Blessed Assurance](#)”, “[Child of Heaven](#)” or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this session is “Signposts of Eternity”. Many of the things written in the Bible give readers hints about the complex wisdom of God and about what God has in store for those people whose names are written in the Book of Life. In this session, we will explore a few of these but will give special attention to the concept of the Sabbath.

As we have seen through our study of the Kingdom of God, Christians are a people whose hope is in the resurrection. Jesus’ resurrection is a sign of what is to come for all those who will inherit eternal life. Our present bodies are vulnerable to getting injured, growing tired, and dying. In fact, experience demonstrates that, despite human fears and the creation of knowledge and technology that prolongs life, all humans will eventually die. Each and every day we use our energy and then need rest to restore our energy and bring healing to our bodies. This is similar to the sign of Jesus’ resurrection, which points to new bodies that will not grow tired, grow old, get sick, or die.

The Sabbath is a day for remembering the time when God’s presence filled his creation. The land provided for all of God’s creatures, including humans. When the humans sinned, they forfeited that rest and were exiled into the wilderness to work the land. To restore humanity back to the seventh day rest, God chose to give the nation of Israel a Sabbath day, an experience of ultimate rest so they can share it with others. The Sabbath is just one of many practices we read about in the Bible that give humans clues regarding the future creation.



Opening Dialogue: "Not Enough Sleep"

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. Are you okay? You look so tired.

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. It's been a busy week. I have had to work through the night 2 days in a row now. I can barely see straight.

Sneha: Oh, my. That sounds very dangerous. How are you able to keep going?

Kumar: I'm drinking lots of tea and I have to keep moving. If I slow down, my body collapses.

Sneha: Is your work so important? I can't imagine how you can do very good work under such conditions.

Kumar: Well, I think my body is going to demand sleep very soon, whether I want it, or not!

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Have you ever gone a long time without sleep?
- ☐ What happens to your mind and body when you don't get enough rest?

Bridge:

Our bodies are designed to need rest. Without rest, our strength cannot be renewed and many healing processes cannot take place. The Creator of our bodies has also instructed us to take rest part of the pattern of our lives. For the nation of Israel, the covenant commands included many patterns of rest. But these were not just for physical necessity, they point us both backward and forward. Backward to the Garden of Eden and forward to the New Creation. This is a type of signpost of what is to come.

Read: [Genesis 2:2-3](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why do you suppose that God decided to rest? Do you think he needed some kind of rest?
- ☐ Why do you think God created humans to need rest each and every day? How does rest lead to healing and renewal?



Watch BibleProject Video: "[Sabbath](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Video Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Why do you think God made Sabbath rest an important part of his covenant with Israel?
- ☐ How did the pattern of periods of rest and restoration reflect God continually renewing his creation?

Read: [Exodus 20:8-11](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ What kind of reminder do you think it would be for God's people to observe the Sabbath faithfully?

Read: [Leviticus 23:15-16, 25:3-4, 11-13](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ How were the Festival of Weeks, the Sabbath Year, and the Year of Jubilee part of God's pattern of rest in sets of seven?

Read: [Hebrews 4:1-4](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How do you think "entering his rest" represents entry to eternity, where death is no longer a threat?

Read: [Exodus 16:4-5, Revelation 22:1-2](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How do you think God's provision of manna in the wilderness may be a signpost for his provision in the New Creation?

Read: [2 Peter 3:10, 13](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ What do you think it would look like to be in a place where everything is right? What are some of the specific things you think would be different?

Read: [Isaiah 40:28-31](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How do you think that trusting in the Lord might increase your power when you are weak and give you strength when you are weary?

Activity

Look up these passages that talk about what is to come. Identify the signpost that reveals clues about what new humans will experience in the New Creation.

[Isaiah 2:4](#) _____

[Joel 2:28](#) _____

[Matthew 10:7-8](#) _____

[Luke 7:22](#) _____

[John 13:35](#) _____

Group Discussion:

- ☐ Have you ever observed any of these signposts? Describe.

Reflection

Reflect on one of the signposts of God's kingdom. Consider how this signpost might reshape your expectations of what is to come in the New Creation and what that reveals about God's mission, his plans, and his character. Have one or two share their thoughts.

Summary: In this session, participants learned about prophetic signposts in the Bible that give people a foretaste of the future. While there are many such signposts in the Bible, we looked at the particular example of Sabbath rest and how that is not just a command to test the faithfulness of God's people, but is more closely related to God's plans for humanity and the kind of rest we can expect to experience in the New Creation.



Group Sing: "[Blessed Assurance](#)", "[Child of Heaven](#)" or other.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Psalm 62:1-8](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.

Session 15 – The New Creation

Lesson Objectives: In this session, participants will explore the biblical promise of the New Creation. This teaching is rooted in the hope of the resurrection that was inaugurated when Jesus rose from the dead. The Old Testament prophecies and Jesus' promises of making all things new come together in this vision of what happens at the end of this age.

Pray: Have someone open the session by leading in prayer.

Group Sing: "[Days of Elijah](#)", "[Lion and the Lamb](#)" or other selection.



Opening Introduction: The theme of this final session is "The New Creation". It is a fitting culmination of the story of Jesus and the Church as it helps explain the purpose and destiny of both. The story of the Bible begins and ends in a garden where God and humans live together. God's presence is most intense at the top of the garden. It is here where we find the tree of life. It represents God's own life and creative power that is made available to others. It contrasts with the tree of knowing good and bad, which brings death. Both trees look beautiful, but the second tree is a false tree of life. When the humans eat its fruit they are exiled and have to wonder if anyone can ever get back.

When Jesus arrives, he identifies himself as the tree of life when he claimed to be the vine that brings God's life into the world. Jesus invited people to eat from him, to trust him and be transformed by his life. Jesus also exposed how corrupt humans are, how much they love false trees of life.

So, Jesus presented people with a new choice between life or death. This time, they do not just choose death, they attack the one who sustains all life. Jesus said he is the vine and we are his branches. Not only do you eat from this tree, you are invited to become a part of it, helping produce its fruit so that his life and love can spread through us to others.

The story of the Bible ends in the garden of the New Creation which is also a kind of temple. The tree of life is at its center, providing healing and life forever to all who choose to eat from it.



Opening Dialogue: “Life or Death”

Two characters: Kumar and Sneha

Kumar: Hi, Sneha. What’s the latest?

Sneha: Hi, Kumar. My pet dog is not well. I’m on my way to see a veterinarian.

Kumar: What have they told you so far?

Sneha: Well, it looks like she has some kind of disease. They have given her some medicine.

Kumar: What’s next?

Sneha: If she responds to the medicine, we can avoid surgery, which is risky and more expensive than we can afford.

Kumar: How soon will you know if the medicine is working?

Sneha: If she responds in the next few days, she will likely live. Otherwise, the veterinarian says we may have to put her to sleep.

Kumar: So, she will either be taking medicine that leads to life, or medicine that leads to death.

Sneha: I hadn’t thought of it that way, but I suppose you’re right.

Group Discussion:

- ☐ How often do you face decisions that can lead to opposite extremes, such as life or death, prosperity or destruction?

Bridge:

In today’s session, we are examining life’s most consequential decisions, those that affect enduring outcomes. When God created humans, he gave us freedom to make our own choices. The weight of that freedom becomes more serious when we consider the contrasting outcomes of our choices.

Read: [Deuteronomy 30:15-19](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How do the choices laid out for the people of Israel reflect the choices of humans today?
- ☐ Are these choices only about this present life, or do they affect our eternal destiny as well? Please explain.

Watch BibleProject Video: "[Tree of Life](#)"

Video Review: Ask participants to share their reactions to the video. Replay any parts of the video they would like to see again.

Video Discussion Questions:

- ☐ How does the tree of life represent the choice of faithful service to the Lord and its corresponding promise of life?
- ☐ Why do you think humans are so easily deceived and tend to make choices that lead to destruction?

Read: [Genesis 2:9](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Why do you think God put both the tree of life and the tree of knowing good and bad in the middle of the garden?

Read: [Deuteronomy 32:39](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ Does it surprise you that God puts to death and brings to life, or that he both wounds and heals?

Read: [Romans 8:20-25](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ In what way do you imagine creation will be liberated from its pattern of decay and death? When will this happen?

Read: [Proverbs 10:16, 11:19, 13:14](#)

Discovery Question:

- ☐ Why do you think righteousness is connected to life while wickedness is related to death?

Read: [Genesis 2:4-17, Revelation 21:1-7](#)

Discovery Questions:

- ☐ What are the similarities between the creation of heaven and earth and the creation of the new heaven and new earth?
- ☐ What differences do you notice?



Read: [Revelation 1:17-18](#)

Discussion Question:

- ☐ How do you think Jesus' resurrection led to him holding the keys of death and hell?

Read: [Ezekiel 11:19-20](#)

Discussion Questions:

- ☐ When do you suspect that this promise will be fulfilled?
- ☐ How will having a new heart change relationships between people? What about between God and people?

Deeper Reflection

Get into groups of 4-5 participants each. Consider the following questions carefully:

- ☐ What are some of your choices that represent either the tree of life or the tree of knowing good and bad?
- ☐ What are your expectations for what comes after death? Do you live in the present with consideration for what will come after this life?
- ☐ How does learning about the hope of the resurrection and the New Creation affect your perspective on life and death?

Once your group has discussed each of these questions have one or two people share their ideas with the larger group.

Summary: In this session, participants explored the promise of the New Creation, a teaching rooted in the hope of the resurrection. The Old Testament prophecies and Jesus' promises of making all things new come together in this vision of what happens at the end of this age, revealing deeper meanings of the tree of life.



Group Sing: “ [Days of Elijah](#)”, “[Lion and the Lamb](#)” or other selection.

Pray: Together as a group recite [Revelation 22:1-5](#), then have someone offer a closing prayer.

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Notes

[illegible]

Appendices

BibleProject Videos

The lesson content in *Getting Equipped* are designed around themes from the series of animated videos created by the BibleProject. Equippers is a partner with the BibleProject, localizing these videos into Indian languages. Below is a chart that identifies the lesson topics and the videos that correspond with those lessons.

Jesus

The Gospel of Jesus

[Word Study: Euangelion - 'Gospel'](#)

[The Gospel According to Mark](#)

The Birth of Jesus

[Gospel of Luke Ch. 1-2](#)

Announcing the Kingdom

[Gospel of Luke Ch. 3-9](#)

Teaching the Followers

[The Parables of Jesus](#)

[Water of Life](#)

The Journey to Jerusalem

[Gospel of Luke Ch. 9-19](#)

The Atoning Death

[Gospel of Luke Ch. 19-23](#)

The Resurrection

[Gospel of Luke Ch. 24](#)

All Authority

[Heaven & Earth](#)

The Church

The New Temple

[Temple](#)

[Acts Ch. 1-7](#)

The Gospel to Judea and Samaria

[Word Study: Martus - 'Witness'](#)

[Acts Ch. 8-12](#)

To the Ends of the Earth

[Acts Ch. 13-20](#)

Faith on Trial

[Acts Ch. 21-28](#)

New Creation

The Kingdom of God is Like...

[Generosity](#)

Signposts of Eternity

[Sabbath](#)

The New Creation

[Tree of Life](#)



BibleProject

Group Singing

We recommend groups to sing worship songs together, to usher in a spirit of attentiveness, listening and learning. While styles and preferences will vary and you may choose to sing in other languages, we have selected a sampling of English songs whose lyrics fit the themes of the lessons. All these songs can be found with displayed lyrics by searching on YouTube. If you have the digital interactive version of Volume 2, you can find the song by clicking on the hyperlinked text.

[Session 1: “Jesus Messiah”, “Here I Am to Worship”](#)

[Session 2: “O Come O Come Emmanuel”, “He Shall Reign Forever More”](#)

[Session 3: “Lord of My Life”, “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”](#)

[Session 4: “You Are Holy \(Prince of Peace\)”, “Hosanna \(Praise is Rising\)”](#)

[Session 5: “This is Amazing Grace”, “Behold Our God”, “Jesus”](#)

[Session 6: “Revelation Song”, “Worthy is the Lamb”, “Glorious Day”](#)

[Session 7: “Resurrection Power”, “Ain’t No Grave”](#)

[Session 8: “Our God is an Awesome God”, “I Can Only Imagine”](#)

[Session 9: “Rushing Wind”, “Spirit of the Living God”](#)

[Session 10: “Pass It On”, “Voice of Truth”](#)

[Session 11: “Pass It On”, “Until the Whole World Hears”](#)

[Session 12: “Take My Life and Let It Be”, “Great is Thy Faithfulness”](#)

[Session 13: “Micah 6:8 Song”, “Step by Step”](#)

[Session 14: “Blessed Assurance”, “Child of Heaven”](#)

[Session 15: “Days of Elijah”, “Lion and the Lamb”](#)

Other options: [“The Beatitudes Song”](#), [“To Obey is Better Than Sacrifice”](#), [“Good Good Father”](#), [“Lord I Need You”](#), [“Gracefully Broken”](#), [“Throne Room”](#),

Getting Equipped

Bible Based Group Study Materials

Volume 1

Understanding God

1. The Good News of God's Kingdom
2. The Holiness of God
3. The Lordship of God
4. The Holy Spirit of God
5. The Covenant Faithfulness of God

Understanding the Bible

6. Learning What the Bible Is
7. The Story of the Bible
8. The Literature of the Bible
9. The Timeline of the Bible
10. The Public Reading of Scripture

Building Christian Character

11. Listening to and Obeying God
12. The Beginning of Wisdom
13. Loving God and Loving Others
14. Seeking Justice
15. Becoming Peacemakers

Volume 3

Jesus

1. The Gospel of Jesus
2. The Royal Birth
3. Announcing the Kingdom
4. Teaching the Followers
5. The Journey to Jerusalem
6. The Suffering Servant
7. Surprised by the Resurrection
8. All Authority

The Church

9. The New Temple
10. The Gospel to Judea & Samaria
11. To the Ends of the Earth
12. Faith on Trial

New Creation

13. Previews of the Kingdom
14. Signposts of Eternity
15. The New Creation

Volume 2

Divinity

1. The Mystery of God
2. The Name of God
3. Spiritual Beings
4. Mysterious Servants
5. The Son of God

Humanity

6. The Mission of Humanity
7. Human Heart and Soul
8. Human Brokenness
9. Human Belonging
10. The Hope of New Humanity

Overcoming Evil

11. Evil in the World
12. Overcoming Social Conformity
13. The Spirit of Love
14. Atonement & Forgiveness
15. Judgment Day



Getting Equipped, Volume 3

is the third in a series of discipleship curriculum from Equippers. It is specially designed for use in India for those who have decided to follow Jesus and are looking to grow in knowledge, understanding and faithfulness.

This group study curriculum is designed with many distinctive features: dialogues that introduce the lesson topics, group singing, videos from the BibleProject, discussion questions, and a variety of learning activities.

Learners who are eager to break from lecture style teaching will appreciate the way Getting Equipped uses participatory learning methods and draws from a variety of teaching resources. Leaders will value how these tactics grab and keep the attention of your group. More importantly, these lessons are a gateway to opening up deeper meanings of the Bible and finding a path that guides your group toward a collective identity and sense of purpose.