



DECONSTRUCTING JESUS

November/December 2022

Tips for leading your LifeGroup through this series:

-In order to be well-equipped to lead your group through this series, we strongly recommend that you both take good sermon notes throughout this series and follow the featured reading plans on YouVersion. There are additional resource suggestions that are optional for you.

-The YouVersion Reading plan schedule follows 3 of the gospels:

November 6-19 [The Crucified King](#) (Mark)

November 20-December 3 [God's Eternal Love](#) (John)

December 4-25 [Jesus in All of Luke](#)

-In order to follow the YouVersion reading plans with your group:

-Encourage all group members to set Grace as "my church" in their YouVersion app. When that is set, you will see our featured plan on the home page every week.

-As the leader, invite members of your group to read the week's featured plan with you. Select "with friends" when you start the Grace featured plan. Select group members or share the link with them.

-Additionally, you can find links to the reading plans at www.whoisgrace.com/read as well as a PDF explaining how to READ through this series, a pdf of ancient creeds, and a Christology dictionary of theological terms.

-Additional (optional!) resources:

[Systematic Theology](#), Wayne Grudem (chapters 14, 17, 26-29)

[Simply Jesus](#), N.T. Wright

[The BibleProject](#) (several suggested links are included in the guides below)

-Remember: There are a lot of opinions and "I think..." answers to who Jesus is. This series, the reading plans, and the discussions in your group are meant to provide solid biblical truth. As a leader, please be mindful and attentive! Not everyone in your group will have an orthodox (right beliefs) understanding of who Jesus is. Encourage them to follow the reading plans and commit to each sermon of the series.

Leader, we are cheering you on! You are not in this alone and you don't have to know all the answers. If you have any questions about leading your group, please contact your LifeGroup coach. For questions about YouVersion or this plan, please contact Pastor Sarah (sarah@whoisgrace.com).



DECONSTRUCTING JESUS: Fully God, Fully Man

Pastor Derek

November 6, 2022

*Optional resources from The BibleProject to help you prepare: [An Intro to Reading the Gospels](#); [Mark: The Gospel of the Servant](#)

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: What are some false ideas of Jesus that you once believed, or you have heard from others? What about Jesus drew you to Him as Savior? What are your questions about Him? What do you hope to learn from this series?

Scripture:

Sermon discussion ([Romans 1:1-4](#); [Philippians 2:5-8](#); [John 1:14](#))

-Share any highlights, questions, or notes from the sermon.

-How does the humanity of Jesus make Him like us? What are the implications for us when we're facing temptation? Or when we're praying?

-What might it have been like for the disciples as they came to understand who Jesus really was? How does His deity make Him different from us?

-Read the [Chalcedonian Creed](#). (Find the pdf at whoisgrace.com/read)

READ plan discussion ([Mark 1-8](#))

-Review the week's journal prompts: Who is Jesus?; How can I be like Jesus?

-At Grace, our mission is "to make and be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ." How important is it for us to study the life and work and words of Jesus? How can we encourage one another to do that?

Prayer: Pray in earnest for each person in the group to increase their hunger for God's Word and increase both their adoration of and trust in Jesus. *Jesus, we want to know You. Open our eyes to see you working. Open our minds to your Truth. Open our hearts to your transforming power...*

Next Steps:

-Reflect on who Jesus is and what that means for your relationship with Him.

-Consider His humanity: He is not distant. He is a man and He understands temptation, sorrow, joy, etc. Consider His divinity: He is not a warm, snuggly teddy bear. He is the Creator of the universe.

-November Call to Action: We are collecting NEW and very gently used coats for Climate Changers. Bring to the drop-off area in the atrium any Sunday in November.



DECONSTRUCTING JESUS: Miracle Worker

Pastor Sarah

November 13, 2022

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Have you experienced a miracle in your life? Briefly share.

Scripture:

Sermon discussion ([Mark 5:21-43](#); [John 3:2](#); [20:30-31](#))

- Share any highlights, questions, or notes from the sermon.
- Choose a miracle story from the gospels and read it together.
- What type of miracle is this? (healing, resuscitation, exorcism, nature)
- What does this reveal about who Jesus is and his mission?
- Jesus performed a lot of miracles, but He didn't heal everyone or stop all pain. Reflect on that fact- what does that mean for us?

READ plan discussion ([Mark 9-16](#))

- Review the week's journal prompts: Who is Jesus?; How can I be like Jesus?

Prayer: "When Christians pray for something, they properly focus on the outcome, and leave it to God to decide what mix of "ordinary providence" and "miracle" to use. A healing is no less God's gift for having come through a physician's skill (1Tim. 5:23)!" (John Collins, The Gospel Coalition)

Use the Lord's prayer, "*thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*" to ask God for a miracle while surrendering the "how" to Him.

Next Steps:

- Allow the work of Christ to lead you to awe, wonder, faith, and gratitude. Be intentional about spending time in worship. Share different ways to worship God throughout the week.
- November Call to Action: We are collecting NEW and very gently used coats for Climate Changers. Bring to the drop-off area in the atrium any Sunday in November.



DECONSTRUCTING JESUS: The Messiah

Pastor Derek

November 20, 2022

*Optional resources from The BibleProject to help you prepare: [Messiah](#); [Light of the World](#) (John 1); [John](#)

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Choose a well-known person and ask, “who is ____”? How do the answers vary? How has your understanding of who Jesus is grown since you became a Christian?

Scripture:

Sermon discussion ([Psalm 2:2](#); [Daniel 9:25-26](#); [Matthew 16:13-19](#))

-Share any highlights, questions, or notes from the sermon.

-The entire story of the Old Testament points forward to a Messiah who will restore God’s kingdom. How does that change your perspective on reading the OT?

-How do you see your life fit into God’s redemption story?

READ plan discussion ([John 1-13](#))

-Review the week’s journal prompts: Who is Jesus?; How can I be like Jesus?

Prayer: Who in your life needs to know Jesus? Spend time praying for friends and family.

Next Steps:

-November Call to Action: We are collecting NEW and very gently used coats for Climate Changers. Bring to the drop-off area in the atrium any Sunday in November.

-What Bible reading plan will you begin in the New Year? Consider reading all or portions of the Old Testament in 2023 and discovering how it points to Jesus.

-The Jesus Storybook Bible is a great read for adults and kids!

-Beginning Monday, November 28th, listen to the Advent season of MY CHAIR- Pastor Sarah spends 5 minutes every Mon-Wed-Fri reflecting on the names of Jesus.



DECONSTRUCTING JESUS: Upside-Down Power

Pastor Derek

November 27, 2022

*Optional resources from The BibleProject to help you prepare: [Upside Down Kingdom](#); [Jesus the I AM](#)

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Where do you see the restoring work of Jesus in the world right now? (if the answers don't come quickly- why is that?)

Scripture:

Sermon discussion ([John 18:36](#))

-Share any highlights, questions, or notes from the sermon.

-What makes the Kingdom of God seem “upside-down” in this world?

-What does it mean that God’s Kingdom is here *now*, but it is also *not yet*?

-Why is it hard to live in the *not yet*?

-How do we both live as citizens of the Kingdom and share Jesus to this upside-down world?

READ plan discussion ([John 14- 21](#))

-Review the week’s journal prompts: Who is Jesus?; How can I be like Jesus?

Prayer: *Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!*

Next Steps:

-In what ways can we go into the world, restoring, repairing, rebuilding and redeeming every dimension of human society as we go about our days?

-December Call to Action: TBD



DECONSTRUCTING JESUS: Perfect Sacrifice

Pastor Sarah

December 4, 2022

*Optional resources from The BibleProject to help you prepare: [Sacrifice & Atonement](#); [Suffering Servant](#); [The Birth Of Jesus](#) (Luke 1-2); [The Baptism of Jesus](#) (Luke 3-9)

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.* (John 15:13). Where does this idea surface in our secular culture? What sets Jesus' sacrifice apart from any hero?

Scripture:

Sermon discussion ([Romans 3:23-26](#); [Hebrews 9:1-28](#))

- Share any highlights, questions, or notes from the sermon.
- How do you feel when you think about Christ paying the penalty for your sin?
- What confidence does the atonement give us as Christ-followers?
- How do we now live and walk as "living sacrifices" (Romans 12:1)?
- Read the [Apostles Creed](#). (Find the pdf at whoisgrace.com/read)

READ plan discussion ([Luke 1-9](#))

- Review the week's journal prompts: Who is Jesus?; How can I be like Jesus?

Prayer: Use the ACTS prayer method. Adore/praise Jesus for his atoning sacrifice. Confess your lack of faith, etc. Thank God for turning away his wrath from your life. Say what you need...

Next Steps:

- December Call to Action: TBD
- Invite someone to Christmas at the Warner! (December 23, 5pm and 7:30pm; December 24, 2pm and 4:30pm)



DECONSTRUCTING JESUS: Risen Savior

Pastor Sarah

December 11, 2022

*Optional resources from The BibleProject to help you prepare: [The Prodigal Son](#) (Luke 9-19)

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Which “season” represents where you are in life right now (winter-spring-summer-fall)? How does the cycle of seasons give glory to God’s story of redemption?

Scripture:

Sermon discussion ([1 Corinthians 15](#))

-Share any highlights, questions, or notes from the sermon.

-Imagine watching Jesus die. Imagine the tomb, covered by a stone. Jesus’ disciples really believed He was the Messiah. But like other wannabe-messiahs, He is now dead. What must that have felt like?

-Now imagine the empty tomb, encountering the resurrected Jesus. How does the resurrection change everything?

-How does your life tell His story? (I once was... Because of the resurrection, I am now...)

-Are you alive in Him? Or like the church in Sardis, do you need to wake up?

“I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.” -Rev 3:1-2

READ plan discussion ([Luke 10-16](#))

-Review the week’s journal prompts: Who is Jesus?; How can I be like Jesus?

Prayer: *O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (The Book of Common Prayer)

Next Steps:

-December Call to Action: TBD

-Invite someone to Christmas at the Warner! (December 23, 5pm and 7:30pm; December 24, 2pm and 4:30pm)



DECONSTRUCTING JESUS: Returning King

Pastor Derek

December 18, 2022

*Optional resources from The BibleProject to help you prepare: [The Crucifixion](#) (Luke 19-23); [The Resurrection](#) (Luke 24)

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: What has been the most meaningful thing you learned about Jesus through this series? How has the study of Jesus impacted your anticipation of Christmas?

Scripture:

Sermon discussion ([Matthew 22:29-31, 42-44](#); [Revelation 19:11-16](#))

-Share any highlights, questions, or notes from the sermon.

-How do you feel knowing that Jesus is alive, He is seated on His throne, He is interceding on your behalf, and He is coming again?

-Are we too comfortable in 21st century America to long for Christ's return? How do we change our attitude?

-What does it look like to embrace a way of life that anticipates Christ's return?

READ plan discussion ([Luke 17-24](#))

-Review the week's journal prompts: Who is Jesus?; How can I be like Jesus?

Prayer: Give everyone an opportunity to pray "sentence" prayers- short prayers of praise and thanksgiving for who Jesus is and what He has done. Close with the prayer of Revelation 22:20- Come, Lord Jesus!

Next Steps:

-How you will Find Your Chair and spend time with Jesus in the new year? Now is the best time to decide and make a plan!

-Invite someone to Christmas at the Warner! (December 23, 5pm and 7:30pm; December 24, 2pm and 4:30pm)