

CONSIDER *Jesus*

A 10-WEEK STRATEGY FOR
COMMUNITY SMALL GROUPS



Consider Jesus

A 10-Week Strategy for Community Small Groups

Using the film Magdalena: Released From Shame to help people better understand who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him.



LEADER'S GUIDE

God will use you in meaningful ways to build His kingdom among your community.

Take a moment to remember when you first learned who Jesus is—His compassion, His tenderness, His holiness, His gentleness, His royalty. He was everything you hoped for and everything that could save and redeem you. He is your hope, and He is the hope to all nations and to all people.

The apostle John writes in the Book of Revelation:

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9-10, English Standard Version).

You hold powerful knowledge of who the King of kings is, and we want to equip you to share Him with others and grow together in the family of God.

Jesus said in the last verses of the Gospel of Matthew:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV).

He tells us to go, make disciples, baptize them and teach them, and that He will be with us always, accompanying us through each valley and mountaintop. *Consider Jesus* offers a great strategy to help. Using it you can help shape committed disciples who share their lives together as they learn more deeply who Jesus is.

Consider Jesus uses segments from the film *Magdalena: Released From Shame*, which depicts the biblical story of Jesus through the eyes of Mary Magdalene, through her testimony. It's a great tool to use in a small group setting with family members, friends and even acquaintances. As they watch each film segment, participants can learn more about Jesus' life, miracles, death and resurrection. Many will be compelled to follow Jesus simply because of who He is, while others will want more opportunities to learn about Him. At the end of the series, *Consider Jesus* offers an invitation for further small group discussions using either the *Rivka* or *Knowing Jesus* tools created by Jesus Film Project.®

There are four simple steps to using *Consider Jesus*.

Step One

01

Determine who you would like to reach

Who do you want to know more about Jesus? Is there a nearby village or neighborhood that needs to know about Him? A group of friends or coworkers?

First, identify a “person of peace” in that place. In Luke 10:6, Jesus sends out 72 of His followers to carry His message, instructing them to look for a person of peace in every place they went to host them.

A person of peace is someone, not necessarily a believer, who is:

- Open to Christ and His teachings
- Influential or well-known in the community
- Willing and available to introduce you to their network in your selected community
- Willing to help you invite others to come and see the film *Magdalena*

We recommend that you build a relationship with this person. You can use this three-step process as a guiding tool to help cultivate your relationship with your person of peace.

a. Prayer

Pray for this person of peace. Pray that God will show you who that person is—someone who will introduce you to their family and friends. As you get to know this person, ask how you can pray for them.

b. Care

As you pray for this new friend and begin to understand their needs, show that you care for them by listening and meeting those expressed needs. Be a genuine and supportive friend.

c. Share

As we listen to people and help meet their needs, we are given the privilege to share the good news of Jesus. When the opportunity presents itself, share the good news of Jesus and His forgiveness with your person of peace if they don't already know Him.

Step Two

02

Show *Magdalena: Released From Shame*

For this strategy, we will use a women's group as our example, however, men and families are also welcome and encouraged to use *Consider Jesus!*

Together with your person of peace, invite some women to watch *Magdalena*, perhaps at the home of the person of peace. Share a meal and watch the film afterward or provide snacks and something to drink. Care well for each person who attends and practice generous hospitality.

Magdalena is accessible for free at the [Jesus Film Project website](#) and the [Jesus Film Project app](#) in over 200 languages. If you have access to a television with a USB port, use a flash drive to show *Magdalena*. If you have a tablet equipment set with a Bluetooth speaker, you can show the film to a small group of up to 10, or to even more people in a larger environment.

At the close of the film, offer two invitations to your audience for further engagement:

First, invite the women to become followers of Jesus. Consider sharing your own story and relating it to the stories they saw in the film.

Second, invite them to come back the next day to talk more about Jesus! Challenge them to bring friends who may be interested. This way you can address questions they may have as well as begin studying the stories of Christ through the *Consider Jesus* curriculum.

Afterward, spend time getting to know the women who attended. The stories and themes they saw in the film may bring to the surface parts of their own story that are painful. Offer to pray for them individually if needed.

Now comes the best part!

Step Three

03

Start your new *Consider Jesus* Community Small Group

Pray over each woman who showed interest in Jesus and the small group—that the soil of her heart would be softened and turned by the Holy Spirit. Pray that each story of Jesus would impact them in significant and meaningful ways, and that they would connect with the stories personally.

In this meeting and the meetings that follow, you will use 10 segments from the film *Magdalena* to learn more about Jesus and talk about Him together. Here are the general themes for each segment:

1. Each Woman Seen and Known
2. Jesus: So Much More Than a Prophet
3. Deliverance from Bondage
4. Jesus' Compassion
5. Conflict and Prejudice
6. Healing and Restoration
7. Shame and Honor
8. Knowing Jesus and His Forgiveness
9. Desire to Accept and Share Jesus with Others
10. Living with Jesus

Over the course of the coming weeks, your new group will grow in their understanding about Jesus Christ and what it means to be His follower. They will also have the opportunity to experience life in a Christian community.

For every meeting we use what is called the Three-Thirds (3/3) Format to foster strong friendships. The 3/3 Format is a practical group structure that provides an easy flow and routine for your meetings and ensures intentionality, encouragement and growth. It consists of three parts: Looking Back, Looking Up and Looking Forward.

Note: *Consider Jesus* is designed to be a template to help you accomplish God's calling. **Please feel free to adapt this to best accommodate your cultural needs!**



THREE – THIRDS

A Discipleship Training Process



Looking BACK

- **Care:** Share how you are doing. Share life stories and backgrounds.
- **Worship:** Worship together in song and prayer.
- **Celebrate Faithfulness:** Share how you are applying what you are learning.
- **Cast Vision:** Share how Jesus can transform your life. Encourage one another.



Looking UP

- **Show:** Watch the segments twice. Learn a new story together about Jesus.
- **Tell:** Ask someone to tell the story of the segment in her own words.
- **Complete:** Invite others to fill in the gaps in the story.
- **Discuss:** Discuss as many discussion questions as time allows.



Looking FORWARD

- **Apply:** Determine how you will apply what you have learned.
- **Practice:** Tell the story to each other.
- **Share:** Discuss who you will tell the story to.
- **Pray:** Thank God for what we learned. Pray for one another and others in the community.

Step Four

04

Take the next step

The last lesson of *Consider Jesus* will discuss living the Christian life. In this segment, Mary reviews the high calling and cost of following Jesus. It will be important to guide the individuals in your group toward their next step if they are ready. **This may be a great opportunity to challenge one or more of your group members to begin their own *Consider Jesus* group and share what they have discovered with others.** If your group would like to continue meeting together, we recommend transitioning to a new group study such as *Rivka* or *Knowing Jesus*. You can find more information on both of these studies below:

Rivka Informational Page:

www.jesusfilm.org/partners/resources/strategies/women/gather-and-grow/

Knowing Jesus Informational Page:

www.jesusfilm.org/partners/resources/strategies/knowning-jesus/

Knowing Jesus Promotional Video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkYpNK5OvKk

LEADER'S QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

How to go through the segment studies

Magdalena is broken up into several segments to better study the moments of Mary's life where she witnessed Jesus powerfully overcome the depravity of the human condition. The best way to guide your investigative study is to go through the segments one at a time in the format provided.

It is not necessary to go through all the questions each week. The key is allowing your group members to freely discuss what the segments reveal about who Jesus is and Mary's transformation. It is also your responsibility as a facilitator to create a safe environment for your group. In order to do this, your role consists of listening and guiding. This is intended to be a *group* discussion and is not intended to be a time for preaching.

To access the clips, go to your [Jesus Film Project app](#) and use the search bar to find each segment by its title marked in italics below, or find them on the Jesus Film Project website [here](#). Each segment is also linked in the title of each lesson.

Here are the individual segments from the film *Magdalena* used in this study:

Lesson 1: Every Woman Seen and Known (Segment: *Mary Magdalene Goes to Rivka's House*).

Lesson 2: Jesus: So Much More Than a Prophet (Segment: *Announcement to Mary*).

Lesson 3: Deliverance From Bondage (Segment: *Mary Magdalene Freed from Demons*).

Lesson 4: Jesus' Compassion (Segment: *Jesus Raises the Widow's Son*).

Lesson 5: Conflict and Prejudice (Segment: *The Woman at the Well*).

Lesson 6: Healing and Restoration (Segment: *The Woman with the Issue of Blood*).

Lesson 7: Shame and Honor (Segment: *The Adulterous Woman Forgiven*).

Lesson 8: Jesus's Death and Resurrection (Segment: *Mary Explains Jesus's Death and Resurrection*).

Lesson 9: Knowing Jesus and His Forgiveness (Segment: *Rivka Believes*).

Lesson 10: Living with Jesus (Segment: *Living the Christian Life*).

We pray that God will bless you as you trust Him to use you to expand His kingdom.

Lesson 1 Each Woman Seen and Known

Mary Magdalene goes to Rivka's House (Psalm 139)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

In the midst of a wilderness, lost, alone and dejected, God met a female slave named Hagar. The Bible says, “So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, ‘You are a God of seeing,’ for she said, ‘Truly here I have seen him who looks after me’” (Genesis 16: 13-14, ESV). Today we begin our journey together learning about the God who truly sees and knows each one of us.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in their own words.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Group Discussion. Note: It is not necessary to complete all questions.

1. *What did you like the most about the story? What caught your attention?*
2. *Why do you think Rivka doubted that God would love her or even know her?*
3. *There are many today who talk about God. How can we know what God really thinks or feels about us?*
4. *Read Psalm 139:1-18. What does the prophet David say in this passage about how well God knows us?*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *How does it make you feel to know that God sees and understands everything about you?*
6. *David writes that God knows all about us, yet he is faithful to love and lead us, and is always with us. Why do you think we sometimes fail to believe this?*

Conclusion

Meditate on what it would mean to be fully known and fully loved by your Creator. What if every part of you was seen, covered and valued? Jesus offers forgiveness for all of your failures and a purpose for all of your life. He promises eternal life and His abiding presence to all those who come to Him. You were created in God's image and after His own likeness. You are dignified and treasured because you were made in God's image (Genesis 1: 26-27). Consider Jesus.



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 2 Jesus: So Much More Than a Prophet

Announcement to Mary (Luke 1:26–37)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

Several hundreds of years before Jesus, the prophet Isaiah prophesied that Israel would be given a sign: a virgin will conceive a son (Isaiah 7:14). This Son, Jesus, humbled Himself so low that He even became the most humble of all beings: a baby. He experienced humanity to the fullest extent, demonstrating that He was not only fully God, but fully man as well. He was willing to face growing pains, sickness, hunger, thirst, grief and injury to restore relationship with us. And when Jesus was born, He was born to a virgin: the virgin Mary.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in their own words.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. *What did you like the most about the story? What caught your attention?*
2. *How do you think Mary felt when she heard the angel's message? How would you have felt if you had received such news?*
3. *The angel says, "Nothing is impossible with God." What feels impossible for you right now?*
4. *What does it mean that the angel said the baby would be called "the Son of God?"*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *Why do you think it is important that Jesus was born to a virgin?*

Conclusion

Meditate on the incredible nature of Jesus' conception and birth. He is both God and man. He is both the Creator of the world and human. He is someone we can both identify with and trust as a Savior. Consider Jesus.



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 3 Deliverance From Bondage

Mary Magdalene Freed From Demons (Luke 8:1-2)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

Human trafficking, addiction, escapism. There are many types of slavery in our world today. The Bible teaches us that humanity is enslaved to sin, but it also teaches that freedom can be found. In this story, watch Mary, enslaved and possessed by demons, encounter Jesus' authority and power.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in their own words.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. *What did you like the most about the story? What caught your attention?*
2. *How was Mary's enslavement affecting her personally and in her community?*
3. *What does Jesus' response to Mary reveal about Him?*
4. *How was Mary transformed after being freed by Jesus?*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *Why is it significant that the demons knew who Jesus was, calling Him "the Holy One of God?"*
6. *What do you think the onlookers thought about Jesus after seeing Him free Mary?*
7. *Imagine you were Mary in the story. How do you think you would have felt towards Jesus?*

Conclusion

Meditate on the freedom Mary experienced in the story. Remember the clarity in her eyes after being freed, the gratitude she expressed and the transformation of her whole life. Can you believe this is the same woman from the beginning of the segment? Imagine the relief of Jesus setting you free from your bondages and enslavement. How do you wish to be made new? Allow Him to take the weight you are carrying off your shoulders and follow Him. Consider Jesus.



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 4 Jesus' Compassion

Jesus Raises the Widow's Son (Luke 7:11-17)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

Grief is defined as deep sorrow, especially caused by someone's death. In this story a widow is grieving because her only son has died. Mary watches Jesus move toward the woman and meet the needs of her heart. In this instance, Jesus chose to heal her only son—giving her most precious gift back to her. He may not always choose to do this, but we can always rely on His abiding presence in every circumstance, even in the most painful grief.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in their own words.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. *What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?*
2. *Jesus stops what He's doing to address the widow. What does this reveal about His heart?*
3. *What does it say about Jesus that He is able to raise the dead?*
4. *Have you ever been in a situation you felt was hopeless?*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *How did the people respond when Jesus raised the boy from the dead? How did the widow respond?*
6. *Is there anything or anyone you are grieving over right now? If so, are you willing to trust God to help you through that grief?*

Conclusion

Only God can give breath to the dead. Meditate on the truth that Jesus is God. He can and did raise the dead to life, not only for this man, but three times throughout His ministry. Not only is He powerful, but He is compassionate and full of gentleness and comfort. Consider Jesus.



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 5 Conflict and Prejudice

The Woman at the Well (John 4:1–42)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

Have you ever felt judged or looked down upon by someone? In this story, Mary watches an ostracized Samaritan woman take her daily journey to the water well. Hoping not to run into anyone, the woman walks alone in the heat of the day. When she arrives, she is disappointed to see a man. She discovers he is not only a man, but a Jew. The Samaritans were a mixture of Jewish and non-Jewish people who blended religious ideas and beliefs. The Jews and Samaritans despised each other, but both people groups looked forward to a coming Messiah, or Savior, who would bring them forgiveness of their sins. Imagine the woman's surprise when the man, Jesus, ignores the cultural contempt and reaches out to her. By the end of the story, the ostracized Samaritan woman becomes the first person to whom Jesus explicitly reveals Himself as the Messiah.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in their own words.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. *What did you like the most about the story? What caught your attention?*
2. *Why is it significant that Jesus knew all about the woman's past?*
3. *How do you think the woman felt when Jesus told her all about her own life and past sins?*
4. *When the disciples saw Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman, how did their reaction reveal their prejudice? What does this say about Jesus?*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *What do you think Jesus was trying to teach His followers in this story?*
6. *What did the woman do when Jesus told her He is the promised Messiah?*

Conclusion

Consider what it means that Jesus knows all of your past: every poor decision you've made, every embarrassing moment and all of your shame. Now meditate on the truth that even with all of that laid bare, He still sees you with honor and dignity. And not only you but even the people you may despise. Meditate on His desire for all people to know Him. Consider Jesus.



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 6 Healing and Restoration

The Woman With the Issue of Blood (Luke 8:40–48)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

Have you ever felt so desperate to be rid of some physical or emotional wound that you tried every possible way to fix it? Hoping to go unnoticed, the woman in this story believed that if she could just touch Jesus' robes, she could finally be healed from a bleeding condition that had only worsened over years of treatment. The bleeding condition had made her an outcast and labeled her unclean according to the religious laws at the time. In the middle of a large crowd, she decided to try to touch Jesus as Mary and others stood nearby. Watch what happens.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in their own words.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. *What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?*
2. *Why do you think Jesus had the woman identify herself before the crowd?*
3. *Why is Jesus' response to the woman's confession significant?*
4. *Imagine you are the woman in the story. What would the first moments after healing feel like and how would you feel toward Jesus?*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *What does it mean that Jesus is able to do what no one else can?*
6. *What do you think the woman's life was like before Jesus?*

Conclusion

In the middle of a large crowd, the woman reached out and touched Jesus' robe. As she felt the garment, she also felt restoration come over her body. She had been healed! Imagine the relief and gratitude she must have felt. Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace." Meditate on His words. He had said this after her confession. In front of the crowds of people who had labeled her as unclean, Jesus called her a daughter and honored her faith. Jesus cares about the hurts and wounds we feel. He longs to meet us in our brokenness and shame. Consider Jesus.



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 7 Shame and Honor

The Adulterous Woman Forgiven (John 8:1-11)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

The religious leaders of Jesus' day focused on a specific set of rules and regulations called "The Law of Moses." People had to obey the Law perfectly in order to be in relationship with God. Unfortunately, no one can keep all the requirements of the Law because we all have the same problem: sin. Sin in Hebrew means "to fail" or "miss the goal." Under the demands of the Law, all of us are guilty and deserving of death. Without a Savior, we are all doomed. Yet Jesus came into the world to offer Himself in our place to pay the penalty for our sin. In this story, a sinful woman is brought to Jesus. Watch what happens.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in their own words.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. *What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?*
2. *According to the Law, both the man and woman caught in adultery were to be punished, but only the woman was brought to Jesus. Why do you think only the woman was brought for judgment?*
3. *Why is Jesus' response to both the religious leaders and the woman significant?*
4. *How do you think the woman felt hearing Jesus say, "Neither will I condemn you?"*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *Why do you think Jesus responds this way? What do you think He wants them to understand?*
6. *If you were in the place of the religious leaders, what would have been your response to Jesus' reply?*

Conclusion

Reflect on the way Jesus responded to both the woman and the religious leaders. He knew the men were not bringing her before Him out of concern for her, but only to shame her and to trap Him. He chose not to condone the woman's behavior nor to align Himself with the religious leaders. He wisely led them all to conviction. Consider how Jesus' heart led both parties to repentance. Jesus is able to forgive sins—something only God can do—because He is God. When we choose to become followers of Jesus, He forgives us and offers us new life in Him. Consider Jesus.



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 8 Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Magdalena Explains Jesus' Death and Resurrection (Matthew 27–28)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

On the night of Jesus' death, the women hurried home to prepare spices and ointments to embalm Jesus' body. The following day, they honored the Sabbath and rested with hopes of returning the next day to their Lord's body. Tears formed as they recalled the beatings Jesus received and their hearts ached as the images of His death replayed in their minds. Their dear friend, their protector and their King, was dead.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice to understand the opportunity to receive Christ.
Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the new life Jesus offers us all.
Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.
Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. *What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?*
2. *Why is it significant that Jesus' death was foretold by the prophets in the Old Testament?*
3. *Mary mentions our curse of sin and death. How did Jesus' death and resurrection conquer both of these things?*
4. *Mary tells Rivka, "You are a cherished daughter." How does Jesus' death and resurrection demonstrate that we are cherished by God?*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *Why is it significant that Jesus appeared to Mary and the disciples several times after His death?*
6. *Read Psalm 22 together. What verses confirm Jesus as the Messiah?*
7. *There were three days between Jesus' death and resurrection. How do you think all of Jesus' disciples felt once He had died?*

Conclusion

Reflect on the prophet Isaiah's words, "But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds" (Isaiah 53:5, Christian Standard Bible). Jesus cherished people. He treasured them so deeply and so entirely that He became accursed, endured separation from God and died for our sake. And when He rose from the dead, He proved that He was genuinely God. Consider the compassion and power that Jesus demonstrated in His death and resurrection. Consider Jesus.



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 9 Knowing Jesus and His Forgiveness

Rivka Believes (Luke 24:36–50)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.

We reach the end of our series as Mary reviews God's story. He sees and knows each one of us. He is the Savior, God in the flesh, offering freedom and deliverance from bondage. He is powerful enough to raise the dead to life and compassionate enough to meet people in their deepest sorrows and grief. He has all the authority to forgive and redeem us, even following our most horrible and shameful acts. And His word is final, even in death. Watch as Rivka responds to Jesus.



Looking Up

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice to understand the opportunity to receive Christ.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the new life Jesus offers us all.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about Mary's review of Jesus's life? What caught your attention?
2. What characteristic about Jesus has been most meaningful to you?
3. How is our sin reconciled with God?
4. Rivka wasn't sure she could be forgiven. Why is it significant that her trust was ultimately in God's Word and His forgiveness and not in how she felt or in her behavior?
5. Did any of you pray alongside Rivka? Would any of you like to?

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

6. Why is it important for a follower of Jesus to be sure of their salvation?
7. Could you relate to Rivka's hesitation? If so, please share your hesitations or concerns.
8. Are you considering surrendering your life to Jesus right now?

Conclusion

In this segment, we watch Rivka decide to follow Jesus. Consider the implications of following Him and what that would mean for your life. Do you desire to be set free of sin? To be forgiven and redeemed? To be seen and known? To have someone to rely on? Genuine faith and honest sorrow over sin are what Jesus asks of us. Once you have come to Him, you can be confident that He will see and honor your faith now and forevermore. Now that you have considered Jesus, it is time to make a decision. Will you follow Him?

** Leader's Note: It's important to give someone the opportunity to decide to follow Jesus. Be sure to ask the group, "Did anyone pray alongside Rivka? Would anyone of you like to?" If it is more appropriate, reach out to each woman individually outside of the group.*



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others in the community.

Lesson 10 Living With Jesus

Living the Christian Life (Matthew 28:18–20)



Looking Back

Care

- Share how you are doing.
- Practice generosity.

Worship

- Worship together in song and prayer.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- Encourage one another in victories.

Cast Vision

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.



Looking Up

Just as Mary was transformed, following Jesus means you will also be transformed. He calls us to something greater—to live out of His identity and to carry dignity, hope and goodness. He calls us to share the words of life that have changed us with others. He calls us to trust Him at His word and His commands, knowing that He is for us. He calls us to rest securely in Him, knowing that He knows and understands every part of us.

Step 1: Show. Watch the segment twice.

Step 2: Tell. Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in their own words.

Step 3: Complete. Allow the group to fill in any gaps in the story or make any corrections.

Step 4: Discuss. Discussion questions:

1. *What did you like most about the call of the Christian life? What caught your attention?*
2. *What does it look like to follow Jesus?*
3. *How did Jesus' last words impact you?*
4. *What areas of your life would you like Jesus to transform?*

Going Deeper (further discussion if time allows)...

5. *What scares you the most about allowing Jesus to transform your life?*
6. *How has Jesus' words challenged you?*

Conclusion

Reflect on the three key elements of Jesus' last words to His disciples. Jesus declares that He was given all authority on heaven and earth. He commands us to go and make disciples, teaching them to obey everything He has commanded. And He assures us that he is with us, even to the very end of the age. Consider what it would mean for your life to reflect Jesus' last declaration, commandment and assurance. Consider Jesus.

Whether or not you're ready to follow Jesus, would you like to continue to learn about Him and how you can follow Him? There are more opportunities available for you to continue to learn and grow in your spiritual journey together. Although this concludes the *Consider Jesus* material, there are several steps you could take next. Discuss together what the next step could look like for each of you. *Rivka* and *Knowing Jesus* are Jesus Film Project's suggested next steps. More information is included on these tools in [Step Four](#) of the Leader's Guide. **You may also want to share what you have learned with others and begin your own *Consider Jesus* group. Ask your group leader for advice and support if this is the right next step for you.**



Looking Forward

Apply

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
- How will you apply what you've learned about God?

Practice

- Practice telling the story to one another.

Share

- Who will you share this story with?

Pray

- Thank God for what you learned.
- Pray for one another.
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Consider Jesus

A 10-week strategy for community small groups