

Beginning With Jesus

A nine-part strategy to form
fruitful and joyful believers.

Using the *JESUS* film to help
people better understand
what it means to follow Him.





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Leader's Guide

God will use you to help other believers understand key concepts so that they will grow in their relationship with Christ.

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

This passage emphasizes the scope of the gospel. It is for every people group and every language. As a follower of Christ, you already understand powerful truths that others need to hear. We want to equip you to help others know Him 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

In this passage, Jesus gives us a bold command. As we go through life, we are to make disciples of every people group and nation. That involves helping them understand the gospel and what it means to follow Christ. *Beginning With Jesus* offers you a strategy to help other believers understand key concepts so that they become committed disciples, and in turn can share those concepts with others.

The *JESUS* film is an excellent tool to use to introduce people to the gospel. But you can do more than just tell your friends and family about Jesus. As they come to Christ, you can use the *JESUS* film to help them learn about what it means to follow Him. *Beginning With Jesus* provides a small-group experience where acquaintances, friends or family watch short segments of the *JESUS* film to learn more about His life, miracles, death and resurrection. The series ends with an invitation for further small-group discussions using either the *Knowing Jesus* or other tools from Jesus Film Project®.

There are four simple steps to using *Beginning With Jesus*:

1. Prepare
2. Show
3. Start
4. Continue

Step One: Prepare!

01

First, prepare yourself. Before we can help others grow in their spiritual lives, we must first understand the foundational truths found in *Beginning With Jesus*. We suggest that you practice with your own family or a small group of close friends. You will become familiar with the lessons while you help them grow spiritually. Also, as you guide your family and friends through *Beginning With Jesus*, you will gain more skill and confidence as a leader.

Next, prepare by identifying a “Timothy” to help you use *Beginning With Jesus* with others. The New Testament tells us that the apostle Paul teamed up with a young man named Timothy, who learns and ministers alongside Paul for a season. In the same way, a Timothy is someone who will come with you to help other new believers understand the key concepts. This person serves as your co-leader and may begin their own *Beginning With Jesus* group when your group ends. Paul writes to his Timothy, “... *and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also*” (2 Timothy 2:2, ESV).

Lastly, prepare by identifying a “person of peace” in the area where you plan your outreach. In Luke 10:6, Jesus sends out 72 of His followers to carry His message; they looked for “someone who promotes peace” to host them in every place they went.

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

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

We recommend that you build your relationship with your person of peace using this three-step process:

a. Prayer

Pray that God will lead you to your person of peace who will introduce you to his or her family and friends. As you get to know this person, ask how you can pray for him or her and for the community.

b. Care

As you pray for this new friend and begin to understand his or her needs, show that you care by listening and meeting those needs if you can. Be a genuine friend.

c. Share

Because of your loving care, your new friend is more likely to allow you to share about Jesus. When the opportunity presents itself, share the good news of Jesus and His forgiveness with your person of peace if he or she doesn’t already know Him.

Step Two: Show!

02

Show the *JESUS* film

Note: If you have already shown the *JESUS* film as an evangelism outreach and are seeking only to do follow-up and to start your small group, you can skip ahead to Page 5. Otherwise, continue here.

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

The *JESUS* film is accessible for free in over 2,000 languages at the [Jesus Film Project® website](#) and using the [Jesus Film Project® app](#). If you have access to a television with a USB port, use a flash drive to show the *JESUS* film in the home of your person of peace. If you have a tablet equipment set with a Bluetooth speaker, you can also show the film to a small group of people in a larger space.

At the closing of the film, offer two invitations to your audience:

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

Second, invite those who respond to Christ to come back the next day to talk more about Jesus! This way you can address questions they may have as well as begin studying the nine foundational truths using the *Beginning With Jesus* curriculum.

Afterward, spend time getting to know the people who came. The stories and themes they saw in the film may bring up painful parts of their own story. Offer to pray for them individually.

Now comes the best part!

Step Three: Start!

03

Start your new *Beginning With Jesus* Community Small Group

Pray over each person that showed interest in Jesus and the small group. Ask God to soften their hearts and draw them by the Holy Spirit. Pray that they would understand each foundational truth and that they would connect personally with the stories.

In this meeting and the meetings that follow, you will use nine segments from the *JESUS* film to learn more about Jesus and what is true about us as followers of Christ. Cru® (Jesus Film Project's parent ministry) developed several lessons collected in a series entitled *Transferable Concepts*, to help establish new believers in their faith. *Beginning With Jesus* uses the foundational truths of these *Transferable Concepts* paired with various segments of the *JESUS* film.

Here are the general topics for each segment:

1. How You Can Be Sure You Are a Christian
2. How You Can Experience God's Love and Forgiveness
3. How You Can Be Filled With the Holy Spirit
4. How You Can Be a Fruitful Witness
5. How to Help Fulfill the Great Commission
6. How You Can Love by Faith
7. How You Can Pray With Confidence
8. How You Can Experience the Adventure of Giving
9. How You Can Continue to Grow

Over the course of the coming weeks, your new group will grow in their understanding of Jesus Christ and what it means to be His follower. In addition, as they work through the curriculum, they will also have the opportunity to experience life in a Christian community.

Beginning with Jesus uses the "three-thirds" (3/3) format for every meeting to nurture strong friendships. The 3/3 format is a practical group structure that provides an easy and effective routine for your meetings, which will support encouragement and growth. It consists of three parts: Looking Back, Looking Up and Looking Forward.

Note: Beginning With Jesus is designed to be a template to support your ministry in your community. Please feel free to adapt this curriculum to best accommodate your cultural needs!



THREE – THIRDS

A Discipleship Training Process



Looking Back

- Caring for each other, ask “How are you doing?”
- Worship and sing.
- Share life stories and backgrounds.
- Motivate and encourage.
- Reflect.



Looking Up

- Learn a new story together about Jesus.
- Acknowledge all Scripture is God-breathed, authoritative and true.
- Discuss as many questions as time allows.



Looking Forward

- Determine how you will apply what you’ve learned.
- Pray together.
- Practice sharing the story among the group.
- Share concerns and needs for the coming week.

See the Leader’s Quick Reference Guide on page 9 for more detailed instructions.

Step Four: Continue!

04

Take the next step

The last lesson of *Beginning With Jesus* is about continuing to follow Jesus. In the segment for this lesson, Jesus tells the parable of the four types of soil representing four types of people and the ways they respond to the call to follow Jesus. Prayerfully guide the individuals in your group towards the most appropriate next step. If they are ready, you might challenge one or more of your group members to begin their own *Beginning With Jesus* group and share what they have discovered with others. If your group would like to continue meeting together, we recommend moving on to a new group study such as *Knowing Jesus*. For more information, click on the links below:



[Knowing Jesus Informational Page](#)



[Knowing Jesus Promotional Video](#)



Leader's Quick Reference Guide

How to go through the segment studies

The *JESUS* film has been broken up into several segments to make the life and teachings of Jesus easier to study. *Beginning With Jesus* uses nine of these segments. The curriculum provides a very effective way to guide your small group through the segments one at a time.

It is not necessary to go through all the questions each week. The key is to allow your group members to discuss freely what the segments reveal about Jesus and about us as His followers. It is also your responsibility as a facilitator to create a safe environment for your group's discussion. Our role is to listen and to guide, but not to preach.

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

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

Lesson 1: How You Can Be Sure You Are a Christian.

Segment Title "Invitation to Know Jesus Personally"

Lesson 2: How You Can Experience God's Love and Forgiveness.

Segment Title "Sinful Woman Forgiven"

Lesson 3: How You Can Be Filled With the Spirit.

Segment Title "Teaching About Prayer and Faith"

Lesson 4: How You Can Be a Fruitful Witness.

Segment Title "Miraculous Catch of Fish"

Lesson 5: How You Can Help Fulfill the Great Commission.

Segment Title "Great Commission and Ascension"

Lesson 6: How You Can Love By Faith.

Segment Title "Parable of the Good Samaritan"

Lesson 7: How To Pray With Confidence.

Segment Title "The Lord's Prayer"

Lesson 8: How You Can Experience the Adventure of Giving.

Segment Title "Widow's Offering"

Lesson 9: How You Can Continue to Grow.

Segment Title "Parable of the Sower and the Seed"

Lesson 1 – How You Can Be Sure You Are a Christian

“Invitation to Know Jesus Personally”

1 Corinthians 15:1-4



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.



Looking Up

Introduction

Millions of people have invited Christ into their lives but they are not sure of their salvation. They have no confidence that if they died today, they would go to be with the Lord in heaven. Are you confident? A commitment to Christ involves intellect, emotions and will.

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 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. What does the word “sin” mean to you? How did Jesus pay the price for your sin?
3. Christians are called to live by faith, not emotions. What place does emotion have in your Christian life? How and when can emotions be misleading?
4. Why is it important that you be sure of your salvation?

Conclusion

There are four essential truths you need to understand to be sure you are a Christian:

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.
2. We are all sinful and separated from God; therefore, we cannot experience His love and plan for our lives apart from Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for man’s sin. Through Him alone we can know God personally and experience His love.
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know God personally and experience His love.

Watch the segment one last time, this time praying with certainty to receive Jesus. If you have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you can be sure you are a Christian based on the promises of His Word.



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.



Looking Forward

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you’ve learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other’s needs.

Lesson 2 - How to Experience God's Love and Forgiveness

"Sinful Woman Forgiven"

Luke 7:36-50



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.

Introduction

Jesus loved and spent time with tax collectors, prostitutes, outcasts and the sick. In those days, sick people were sometimes assumed to be sinful because of their illness. Jesus never condemned these people; in fact, the only people He ever condemned were religious leaders who considered themselves better than others. Those religious leaders focused on a specific set of rules and regulations called "The Law" that people had to keep in order to earn God's forgiveness and approval. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross, has set us free—free from sin, free from having to earn God's approval by our own works, and free from the bondage of guilt that comes from our inability to obey all that The Law demanded.



Looking Up

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. Why do you think the young woman was crying?
3. What was the reaction of the Pharisee to what the woman did? How did Jesus react?
4. What do you think was the point of the story about forgiveness that Jesus told the Pharisee?
5. How did the woman show that she believed in Jesus?
6. Why do you think Simon did not offer any hospitality to Jesus?
7. When Jesus says to the woman "Your faith has saved you," what do you think she was saved from?



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.

Conclusion

To experience the same forgiveness as the young woman in this story, you must confess your sins by faith. The Bible promises that if you confess your sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive and purify you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). The word "confess" doesn't mean to tell God something He doesn't know. Rather, the word means "to agree with God." Specifically, we are called to agree with God in three ways. First, we agree that our sins are wrong and grieve God. Second, we agree that God has already forgiven our sins through Christ's death and the shedding of His blood on the cross. Third, we agree that we need to yield that area of sin to the Lord and repent. We allow the Holy Spirit to change our attitude. Through the strength of the Holy Spirit, we turn from our sins, and our behavior begins to change.



Looking Forward

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you've learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other's needs.

Lesson 3 – How You Can Be Filled With the Holy Spirit

“Teaching About Prayer and Faith”

Luke 11:9-13, 12:22-30, 17:5-6



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.

Introduction

When Jesus taught about prayer He used three pairs of words: *ask* and *given*, *seek* and *find*, *knock* and *opened*. His description emphasizes the Father’s desire to give us the fullness of the Holy Spirit, if we ask. As the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they received a supernatural power from God that changed them from fearful people to bold witnesses for Christ. God used them to change the course of history. This same power of the Holy Spirit is available to you to empower you to live a holy and fruitful life for Jesus Christ.



Looking Up

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What conditions does Jesus put on how He will answer prayer? Why might there be some prayers God might not answer? Give an example.
3. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “If you then being evil”? Why is it that people can be both good and evil?
4. Read Ephesians 5:18 in your Bible. What command does God give us in this passage?
5. Why do you think it would be important for us to have the power of the Holy Spirit in us?
6. How might the Holy Spirit’s power be seen in the life of a Christian?



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit is God Himself. He came to live inside you the moment you received Christ as your Savior. The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ and to lead believers into all truth. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the fullness of God. We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith. First, each of us must desire to live a life that will please the Lord. Second, we must be willing to surrender our lives totally to Him. Third, we must confess every known sin which God brings to our remembrance. Then by faith, we must trust God to fill us with His Holy Spirit, and to give us the power to live the life He has in store for us.



Looking Forward

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you’ve learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other’s needs.

Lesson 4 – How You Can Be a Fruitful Witness

“Miraculous Catch of Fish”

Luke 5:1-11



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.



Looking Up

Introduction

Jesus performed this miracle to show His disciples that He was the Messiah, and that they should follow Him and become “fishers of men.” They recognized that Jesus was the Messiah, and they left their fishing nets and followed Him. There is no experience in life more exciting than helping others come to follow Christ. Jesus invites you to follow Him so that you, too, can lead many people to become followers of Jesus.

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What did Jesus ask Peter to do? Was it a suggestion or a command?
3. What was Peter’s reaction to Jesus’ words?
4. Why do you think Peter said that he was a “sinful man”? Why would he ask Jesus to go away?
5. How did Peter, James, and John show their commitment to Jesus?
6. What do you think Jesus meant when He said they would become “fishers of men”?
7. What are some things that may keep you from talking to others about Jesus? What might encourage you to talk to others about Jesus?

Conclusion

In our earlier lessons we learned that to be a fruitful witness, you should be confident in our salvation, have confessed the sin in your life and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Last, you must be prepared to share your faith by learning the story of the gospel. You can tell the gospel in your own words or show the last segment from the *JESUS* film to a friend or neighbor who needs to know Jesus. Most importantly, you need to love people and take the initiative to go and tell the good news. Pray for opportunities and expect God to use you.



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.



Looking Forward

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you’ve learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other’s needs.

Lesson 5 - How You Can Help Fulfill the Great Commission

“Great Commission and Ascension”

Luke 24:50-53



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.

Introduction

Have someone in your group read Matthew 28:16-20 in their heart language, if possible. Jesus' command to His followers to tell others the message of salvation is called the Great Commission. Every Christian is commanded to be involved in reaching the world for Christ. That means each of us has a God-given role to play in helping to fulfill His Great Commission.

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What are the specific commands that Jesus gives His disciples in the Great Commission?
3. Is this commission meant for the disciples only, or is it a calling for all believers? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Jesus tells us as His followers that He has “all authority in heaven and Earth”? How might that be significant to us as we seek to share Christ with others?
5. Read Acts 1:8-9. (This is another account of Jesus' Great Commission and ascension.) Why do you think Jesus told His disciples to start first in Jerusalem? Why was that significant? What does Jesus say they are to do next?
6. Based on the passage we just read from Acts 1, to whom were the disciples commanded to take the gospel? What might this tell us about how Jesus views all people?
7. Can you think of a people group in your country that needs to hear the gospel? How could you be the one to GO and TELL them about Jesus?

Conclusion

How can you help fulfill the Great Commission? First, be sure you are personally committed to Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit. Second, pray for God to guide you. Third, as God answers your prayers, plan where you will GO. Fourth, seek training from other mature Christians. Fifth, take the initiative and GO. Find a Christian friend to go with you to share the gospel with others who desperately need Him.

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you've learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other's needs.



Looking Up



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.



Looking Forward

Lesson 6 – How You Can Love By Faith

“Parable of the Good Samaritan”

Luke 10:25-37



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.



Looking Up

Introduction

Love is the greatest privilege and power known to man. In this story, a lawyer spoke the truth when he said we should love God and our neighbor. But then he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus answered by telling a story in which a Samaritan (a people group hated by the Jews) is the only person who helps a man in desperate need. Only by God’s power and strength can we truly love our neighbors unconditionally, just as God loves us.

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What question is asked of Jesus at the beginning of this story?
3. How does Jesus answer the man? What does this tell us about the significance of the Bible?
4. What do you think is revealed about the lawyer’s heart by the second question he asks Jesus?
5. Who were the people that did not help the man who had been robbed? Why do you think they failed to help the wounded man?
6. How did the Samaritan show that “he loved his neighbor”? What did this love cost the Samaritan?
7. How can our group show love to others in our community?



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.

Conclusion – Five points to remember about love

- God loves us unconditionally.
- We are commanded to love others.
- We cannot love in our own strength.
- We can love with God’s love.
- We love by faith, just as we received Jesus by faith.



Looking Forward

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you’ve learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other’s needs.

Lesson 7 - How You Can Pray With Confidence

"The Lord's Prayer"

Luke 11:1-4



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.

Introduction

Prayer is a dialogue between two persons who love each other—God and man. Simply put, prayer is communicating with God. Prayer is much more than words, however. It is an expression of the heart towards God. It is an experience within a relationship more than an activity. As a child of God, you are invited to come boldly before Him in prayer.



Looking Up

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. Why do you think one of the disciples would ask Jesus to teach them to pray after He had finished praying?
3. To whom does Jesus say that we should direct our prayers? Why is this important?
4. When Jesus says, "Your Kingdom come," what is He indicating about the future?
5. What does it mean when Jesus asks God to supply "our daily bread"? What do you think is the significance of the word "daily"?
6. Why do you think Jesus connects our asking God for forgiveness with our willingness to forgive others who sin against us?
7. Why do you think it is sometimes hard to forgive those who have hurt or wronged us?
8. How might God help us in times of temptation?

Conclusion

God commands us to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17). At the same time, prayer is a privilege. We pray to have fellowship with God, to express our needs and desires to God, to bring our concerns and fears to Him, to ask God to help those we care about, to ask God to help others understand the gospel and come to Christ, to confess our sins, to express our thanks and to praise and adore Him. We pray to the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We pray to God in adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. As we abide in Him, we can pray with confidence.



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you've learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other's needs.



Looking Forward

Lesson 8 – How You Can Experience the Adventure of Giving: “Widow’s Offering”

Luke 21:1-4



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.



Looking Up

Introduction

God loves widows and orphans. In Jesus’ day, widows were usually the poorest group in the community. In this story, we find a widow giving everything she had as an offering to God. She demonstrated a concept called “stewardship.” This is a belief that everything we possess belongs to God and we are simply “managers” of God’s possessions. Your life can also exhibit stewardship. Giving by faith is meant by God to be an exciting privilege. When you honor God through your commitment and obedience to stewardship, He showers you with joy. He turns your giving into a thrilling adventure in Christian living.

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. Do you think it is easier for rich people to give money than for poor people?
3. Why would the widow give everything she had to live on? What does this tell us about her personal faith in God?
4. Share a way in which you might be tempted to give less. How might you overcome this?
5. How can our group share our abundance with others in both material and non-material ways?
6. Do you think Jesus expects even poor people to give to the church?



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.

Conclusion

All that we have, we possess because God has provided it for us. So everything we have belongs to Him. Our task as “faithful stewards” is to manage those blessings to bring glory to His name. When we give freely of ourselves, and of our possessions, we are making a material expression of our spiritual dependence upon Christ. God knows our needs and He wants us to trust Him to provide for us. The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Philippi: “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19, NIV). By faith, God supplies all of our needs as we trust Him and as we give generously.



Looking Forward

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you’ve learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other’s needs.

Lesson 9 – How You Can Continue to Grow

“Parable of the Sower and the Seed”

Luke 8:4-15



Looking Back

Care for one another

- Share time and conversation together.
- Pray for one another.

Desire for yourselves and the group

- Encourage each other to be committed followers of Christ.
- Worship together in song or prayer.

Give

- Practice generosity.

Celebrate your community

- Encourage one another in victories.

Introduction

Jesus taught the people through sermons, through questions and answers, and in “parables.” Parables were a common way of teaching others through telling stories. A parable is “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

Step 1 Watch the segment twice.

Step 2 Ask a member of the group to tell the story of the segment in his or her own words.

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

Step 4 Discussion questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What are the four soils that Jesus talks about in this parable? What does each soil represent?
3. What do you think that Jesus means when He says, “Let him who has ears to hear, let him hear”?
4. What kind of temptation might cause people to give up their faith in God?
5. Jesus says the good soil will yield a harvest of fruit. What spiritual fruit Jesus is talking about?
6. What can we do to prepare our soil so God can produce fruit in our lives?

Conclusion

In this story, Jesus explains how the Word of God brings about spiritual growth. The good soil represents those who produce fruit in their lives and the lives of others. In order to become that “good soil” we need to continue following Jesus by learning more about Jesus and obeying God in our daily lives. It also involves serving Christ by helping others to hear the gospel and learn to follow Jesus. Do you desire to be good soil?

Although this concludes the *Beginning With Jesus* material, Jesus Film Project offers other opportunities to help you continue to learn and grow spiritually. You may also wish to share what you have learned with others and begin your own *Beginning With Jesus* group.

Leader’s Note: It’s important to invite everyone to continue to follow Jesus, in general, and specifically by continuing the discipleship program. Be sure to ask the group, “Does anyone wish to learn more about following Jesus? Would any of you like to continue learning together?” If so, you can invite them to join a Knowing Jesus group or something similar to involve them into an ongoing ministry. If it is more appropriate, reach out to each person privately.

Application

- How did God demonstrate Himself as trustworthy?
 - How will you apply what you’ve learned about God?
 - Who will you share this story with?
- Practice telling the story to one another.

Prayer

- Thank God for what you have learned.
- Pray about how the theme of the story relates to your life.
- Pray for each other’s needs.



Looking Up



Use this code to watch the segment on your smartphone. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project website.



Looking Forward

