

JESUS

through the eyes of...

Week of March 12 – The Poser¹

Overview:

Who do *you* see when you look at Jesus? Teacher? Miracle worker? Divine Son of God? All of these? Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. Over the next several weeks, we will view Jesus from Luke's perspective, through the eyes of some of the enemies he faced while on earth. We'll discover themes like identity, power, surrender, forgiveness, redemption, and many more. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.²

Group Objectives:

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Consider how Jesus related to powers of his day and how we can follow his example today.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We are empowered by the Holy Spirit*—The Holy Spirit within us enables us to live life beyond belief—a life filled with joy, purpose, and power. We live in a supernatural reality that includes yet transcends the physical universe.

Conversation Starters:

- If you could visit any time and place in history, where would you go? Why?

Listening to God

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

- ***Read Luke 13:18-35***
 - Reread verses 31-33. How does Jesus characterize Herod? What do you think of the Pharisees' warning?
 - Based on his response, how did Jesus view his mission? Who did Jesus believe was in control of the events to come? What evidence do you find for this in the text?
 - How does reading the larger context change your understanding of verses 31-33? What might we miss by pulling them out by themselves?

¹ This week's lesson was written by Rachel Vaughn and edited by Dawn Gentry.

² For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to cccomaha.info.

- **Read Luke 22:66-23:12**
 - What did Herod want from Jesus?
 - How did Jesus respond to the Council (v. 67-70) and Pilate (v. 3)? How, then, did he respond to Herod? Why do you think this was different?
- **Read Philippians 2:3-11**
 - According to this passage, what did Jesus surrender and why? What did he then gain? How is this different from Herod?
 - If we want to be more like Jesus, how are we to live? For whom should we fight?
 - What is the difference in “pursuing a position” from which we can help others and “grasping for power”? What are some challenges and pitfalls of each?

Leaning into Obedience:

As God the Son, Jesus had the authority and power to not only prevent his death, but also rule over the earthly powers aligned against him. However, he knew grasping for earthly power would not lead to salvation. Jesus surrendered himself to those in power on earth, knowing his death would lead to a greater victory.

- How can surrender lead to victory? How does this play out in our daily lives? When we find ourselves at odds with earthy powers, what guideposts can we use to judge our actions and motivations?
- Do you believe God has ultimate control of earthly events? In what areas do you struggle the most to believe?
- How can Jesus’ example be a model for us when we face injustice in this world? What are ways we can fight against evil without grasping for the idol of power?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

Prayer Prompts:

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.
 - Do I trust God is in control of this world?*
 - Am I willing to surrender to God’s will and fight for justice in ways which align Jesus’ example of humility?*
- Option: Watch this Bible Project video on how God “overturns human systems [of power] and replaces power with love.” <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/last-will-be-first/>
- Pray this prayer together with your group.
 - Thank you, Lord, for the signs that confirm you are indeed sovereign, and your kingdom will always prevail. May these signs encourage us to persevere in working toward justice for all who have reason to question its possibility in this world. Amen³*

³ From *Common Prayer, A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*, Zondervan 2010