

THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT[®]

Jesus the Servant

Daily Discipleship Guide

SUMMER 2020 | VOL. 8 | CSB



God's Word to You



A Summary of the Bible

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

Suggested for
the week of

Unit 22: Jesus the Healer (Gospels)

June 7	11	<i>Session 1</i>	Jesus Heals Ten Lepers
June 14	20	<i>Session 2</i>	Jesus Heals a Woman and Raises a Girl
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August 30	121	<i>Session 4</i>	Jesus Is Transfigured

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Brian Dembowczyk

Managing Editor—*The Gospel Project*
AUTHOR OF *Gospel-Centered Kids Ministry*
AND *Cornerstones: 200 Questions and Answers to Learn Truth*

Jesus was born to die—a jarring statement indeed, but one that is quite true.

Christmas and Easter are fused together, linked hand-in-hand in such a way that each is dependent on the other for its meaning. The theology of such a statement is solid but incomplete, for Jesus was not born to die immediately but rather some thirty years later. Jesus' life, then, was not utilitarian—existing just so it could be taken away and picked up again—it had greater meaning and purpose. What Jesus did during those thirty years of walking the earth mattered; He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father. He satisfied the demands of righteousness that we could not so He might take away our sin when we trust in Him and so His righteousness might be credited to us, making us fully pleasing to the Father (2 Cor. 5:21).

In this volume we delve deeper into the marvelous truth of the incarnation to see still further glimpses of Christ's glory on earth. His righteousness did not occur in a vacuum but rather among people, ordinary people like you and me. In each unit of this volume, we will look at Jesus' interactions with people as through a prism, making slight turns to see different yet equally brilliant perspectives of Jesus' works. In Unit 22, we will see Jesus' power to heal coupled with His deep compassion for people, even those who were marginalized in society. In Unit 23, we will see Jesus' riveting teachings empowered by His divine authority. And finally, in Unit 24, we will see Jesus' miraculous power over nature, revealing His identity as Creator God.

Each ray of light we will see points to the same truth: that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God given for our salvation. Jesus was indeed born to die, but He lived so that we too might live.

About the Writers



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THE GOSPEL PROJECT

A Journey Through the Storyline of Scripture

Fall 2018

In the Beginning

Creation and the Fall (Genesis; Job)
God Establishes a Covenant People (Genesis)
God Grows His Covenant People (Genesis)



Winter 2018-19

Out of Egypt

God Redeems His People (Genesis; Exodus)
God Provides for His People (Exodus)
God Receives Worship from His People (Ex.; Lev.)



Spring 2019

Into the Promised Land

God Guides His People (Num.; Deut.)
God Gives His People a Home (Joshua)
God Delivers His People (Judges; Ruth)



Summer 2019

A Kingdom Provided

God Provides a King (1 Samuel)
God Provides a Godly King (1-2 Sam.; Psalms)
God Provides a Wise King (1 Kings; Eccl.)



Fall 2019

A Nation Divided

God Speaks to His People (1-2 Kings)
God Judges the Sin of His People (2 Kings; Prophets)
God Shows Mercy to His People (2 Chron.; Prophets)



Winter 2019-20

A People Restored

God Sustains His People (Daniel)
God Restores His People (Ezra; Prophets)
God Prepares His People (Neh.; Esth.; Mal.)



Spring 2020

Jesus the Messiah

Jesus Comes into the World (Luke)
Jesus Begins His Ministry (Gospels)
Jesus Among the People (Gospels)



Summer 2020

Jesus the Servant

Jesus the Healer (Gospels)
Jesus the Teacher (Gospels)
Jesus the Miracle-Worker (Gospels)



Fall 2020

Jesus the Savior

Jesus and the Kingdom (Gospels)
Jesus the Savior (Gospels)
Jesus the Risen King (Gospels)

Winter 2020-21

The Mission Begins

The Holy Spirit Comes (Acts; Epistles)
Fundamentals of the Faith (Acts; Epistles)
New Life in Christ (Acts; Epistles)

Spring 2021

The Church United

Living Like Jesus (Acts; Hebrews)
The Sent Church (Acts; Epistles)
Don't Forget (Acts; Epistles)

Summer 2021

All Things New

Paul in Prison (Acts; Epistles)
Facing Adversity (Acts; Epistles)
Jesus Will Come Again (Revelation)

Unit 22

Jesus the Healer

Gospels

Memory Verses

“We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

—JOHN 9:4-5

Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers

SESSION IN A SENTENCE: Jesus healed ten lepers who called for help but saved one who had faith.

BACKGROUND PASSAGE: Luke 17:11-19

A few years ago, I preached a sermon on Psalm 100, which is a psalm of thanksgiving. This topic was perfect for the Sunday after the Thanksgiving holiday. During part of our small group time in the week following, we discussed the sermon, and our group came to a startling realization—we weren't particularly grateful people.

Yes, we thanked the Lord when we prayed together and often when we prayed privately. And yes, we had good manners. We thanked all who served us in some way, big or small. But there is a difference between saying, "Thank you," and being grateful. You know as well as I do that sometimes a "thank you" is just the expected thing to say, like answering, "Fine," to those who ask how you are doing. Saying, "Thanks," can simply be the final step in a conversational ritual with little to no thought behind it.



Why do we have conversational rituals that require little to no thought behind them?

Group Time

Point 1: Infirmity leads to desperate cries to Jesus for mercy (Luke 17:11-13).

¹¹ While traveling to Jerusalem, he passed between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

To be a leper was to be an outcast. Even God’s law instructed the community to separate themselves from the diseased (Lev. 13–14; Num. 5:2-3). But it wasn’t primarily the community’s responsibility to ensure this separation; it was the leper’s. As if the disease weren’t bad enough, self-imposed social exile was added to it. Lepers wore torn clothes, let their hair go, and were required to cry out, “Unclean, unclean!” They also had to live outside the camp or city (Lev. 13:45-46).



What are some ways people experience separation from God and others because of *sin*?

The lepers took advantage of their opportunity with Jesus. They had heard He could heal, so they cried out for mercy. In other words, they prayed for Jesus to intervene and help them. We tend to complicate prayer, adding certain words to make our requests sound important, but prayer is a simple thing. Every Christian’s new life begins and continues the same way: **calling out to Jesus for rescue.**

Voices from the Church

“This is the kind of prayer that God loves to answer: a desperate cry for help offered in the name of his Son.”¹

—Philip Graham Ryken

Point 2: Healing leads to a grateful heart for what Jesus has done (Luke 17:14-16).

¹⁴ When he saw them, he told them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And while they were going, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ But one of them, seeing that he was healed, returned and, with a loud voice, gave glory to God. ¹⁶ He fell facedown at his feet, thanking him. And he was a Samaritan.

As Jesus turned to the lepers in mercy, He gave a simple command. He sent them on a path of obedience, and on the way, they found the healing for which they longed. Imagine if the lepers had done nothing. If they had delayed obeying Jesus’ word to them, they would not have found healing. On another occasion, Jesus touched a leper and made him clean instantly (Luke 5:12-14), so obeying Jesus’ command in this instance required a prolonged trust in Him to make them clean. It required obeying in faith.



What are some commands in Scripture that require obedience in faith?

Ten lepers found healing on the way to the priest, but only one turned around to find Jesus again. Ten lepers called out for mercy and received it, but only one thought to express his gratitude to his healer. Ten percent of those lepers whom Jesus healed returned to give thanks. How much thanks do we give to Him within our own hearts? Do we thank Him for even ten percent of His merciful gifts?

How often do you express thanksgiving to God for His work in your life?



Rarely, If Ever

Sometimes

More Often Than Not

Almost Always



What are some reasons you have for thanking God?

Point 3: Faith leads to a greater salvation in Christ (Luke 17:17-19).

¹⁷ Then Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?” ¹⁸ Didn’t any return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And he told him, “Get up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.”

The one former leper to return to Jesus was a Samaritan, a “foreigner,” as Jesus called him. That a Samaritan was the one to return is shocking and provided Jesus with a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate the reason He came. Presumably, the other lepers were Jewish men with a lineage that enjoyed the benefits of a relationship with God firsthand. The Samaritan, on the other hand, was not part of the people of God. Yet the Samaritan was the one to express worship to God and thankfulness to Jesus.



Why should a heightened sense of our own unworthiness lead to a grateful attitude and worship of God for our salvation in Jesus?

As the Samaritan fell before Jesus to thank Him and give glory to God, he received a word from Jesus weightier than any healing of any disease. He found the assurance of eternal salvation because He came to Jesus in faith. We find the same when we come to Him in faith. On the cross, Jesus met our deepest need we didn’t realize we had. He came to save sinners from their sin, and by faith, we receive the salvation Jesus purchased through His death and resurrection.

Justification by Faith: Justification refers to the moment when a person is objectively _____ righteous before God based on the righteousness of Christ’s atoning death. This act of declaration takes place through faith in _____ and not as a result of human _____ or effort.

Daily Study

Day 1: Read Luke 17:11-13

Every Christian has received God's merciful compassion (Luke 1:78), and Paul says God is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4). He isn't stingy. He doesn't ration His mercy to save enough for a rainy day. No, God is pouring out His mercy on us even now. It never ends. You can use up all you need today and there will still be more in the morning (Lam. 3:22-23).

But what exactly is God's mercy? God's mercy is His forgiving care of us—springing from, as Paul says in Ephesians 2:4, “his great love that he had for us.”

God's mercy is His never-ending love for us, the undeserving. Looking upon us in our sin, God chose to forgive us in His Son. His mercy brought us near. We need a love like that—a love that's near. Distant love, no matter how sincere, cannot change us. All life-changing love must be warmly close. The love of God is *that* kind of love—an all-encompassing, all-sufficient, all-surpassing love. And it's ours because of His mercy.

That's what the lepers cried out to Jesus to receive. And He came near to give it to them.



How will God's merciful nearness change the way you live today?

Day 2: Read Luke 17:14-16

“And while they were going, they were cleansed.” Imagine the joy. Imagine looking down at ruined skin and seeing it healed. Imagine looking at the men beside you to find faces not disfigured but whole. Cleansed!

The lepers’ cleansing came at an interesting time: “while they were going.” Going was obeying. A leper would go to a priest so that the priest could determine if the disease was healed or not. These men knew before Jesus came that they were as sick as ever. But when He told them to go, they went, trusting that in the going—sometime between now and then—they would be healed. And they were.

Trusting Jesus comes before the healing. It’s while we’re going that we realize all that Jesus has done under the skin.



How does trusting Jesus for healing change your outlook today?

Day 3: Read Luke 17:17-19

What is saving faith? It is comprised of three things, at least.

First, we must believe the right things about the true God. The leper believed that Jesus was worthy of worship. So he not only cried out for mercy at the beginning but also returned in worship at the end of his healing. He believed Jesus was more than a magician. He knew that God was present in Jesus to grant salvation.

Second, saving faith is an assurance that what we believe is true. The leper not only acknowledged who Jesus was, he also truly believed in Him. His knowledge didn’t stay at the surface level. It affected His worship.

Third, the leper acknowledged the personal implications of faith in Jesus. He returned in worship to Jesus not only because he knew the right things and accepted the truth of those ideas but also because he trusted Jesus and relied upon Him. The leper trusted that only Jesus could make him well because only Jesus *had* made him well.

Saving faith is just that—looking to the whole Christ for your whole need and knowing He alone can save.



How does salvation by faith set Christianity apart from all other religions and worldviews?

Day 4: Read Luke 17:20-21

God's kingdom is different than the Pharisees expected. They were looking for a military and political revolution. Jesus was a meek and humble king. They wanted a strong arm of justice, burying his enemies beneath his feet. Jesus won through weakness, dying upon the cross. The kingdom did not come in observable ways. It came like leaven in bread, as a good seed planted deep in the ground. It came quietly but triumphantly. It wasn't visible all at once. No one could spot it coming on the horizon. But it came truly and powerfully.

God wins over the long haul. History bends toward His glory. In the end, of all the kingdoms of the earth, only God's will remain strong and sure, filled with those too weak for the kingdoms of this world but just perfect for God's. Those like the leper will be there, standing in a glorified body never to contract disease or experience death again. He who was cast out in this world was brought into God's.



How does knowing God accepts the weak into His kingdom free you to live before Him now?

Day 5: Read Luke 17:22-37

Who would have thought the way God would win would be through rejection and suffering? How could the all-holy God above subject Himself to the horrors of crucifixion? Nonetheless, God planned to conquer this world through the cross. When God came down in Jesus Christ, the mission was set, the path was determined, the Son of Man came to die at the hands of His own people.

It should not surprise us that to save our life we must lose it. God's kingdom is an upside-down one where losing is winning, dying is living, and suffering leads to salvation.

It may look today like God's kingdom is losing, as if no one even knows it's here. But do not fear. The Son of Man is coming again. We don't know when it will be, but we know as sure as Jesus came once that He will also come again. And when He comes, His kingdom will reign forever and ever, and that rejection and suffering that was His once will be His enemies' forever.



How does the fact that Jesus was rejected and suffered help you understand the way God's kingdom is at work in this world?

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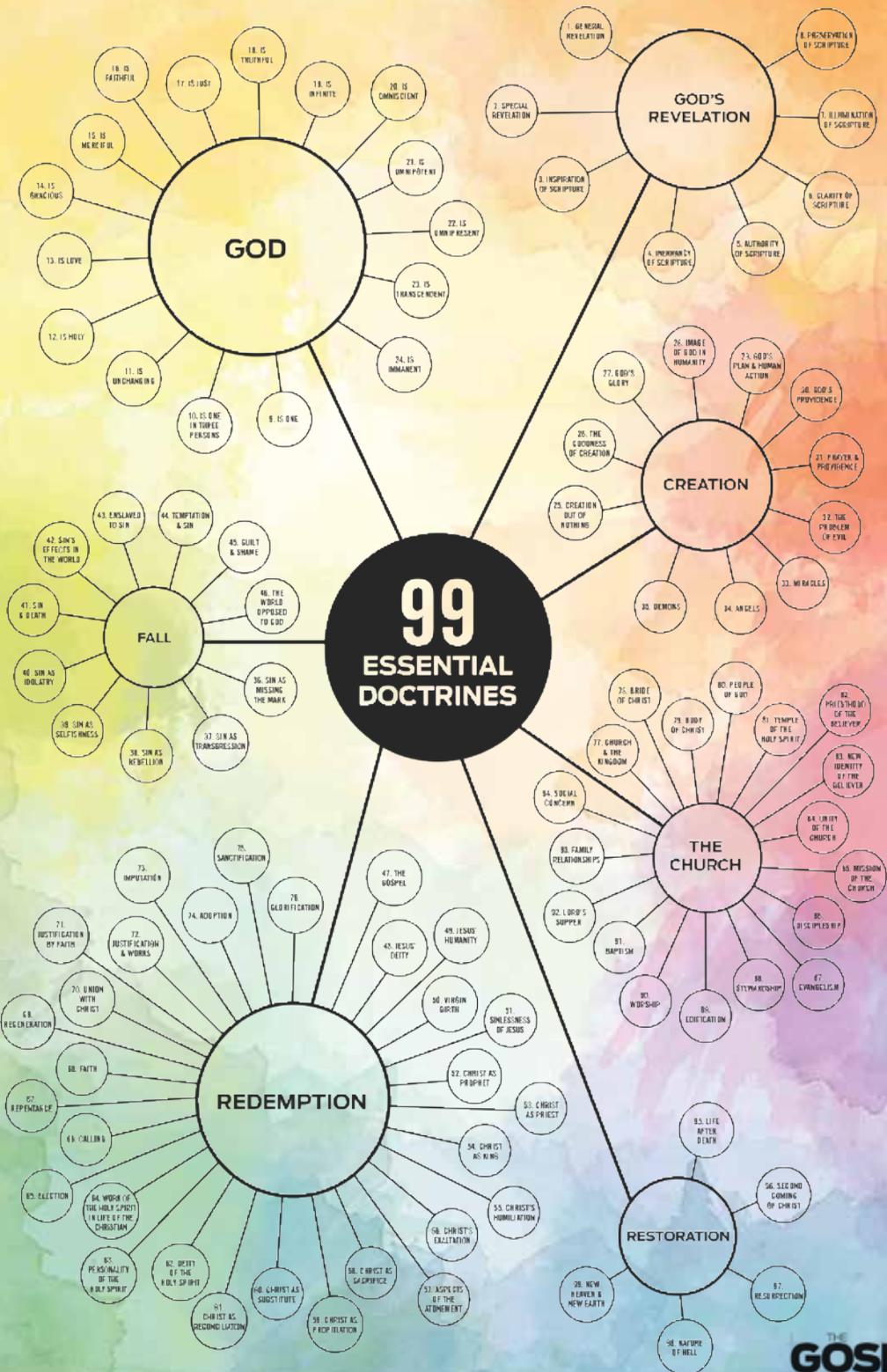
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Jesus the Servant

Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and part of His mission was to demonstrate for the saved what their new kingdom would be like. So Jesus healed people of their diseases and frailty. He brought people back home; He brought people back to life; and He brought people to a saving knowledge of Himself, providing the healing from sin that we all so desperately need.

Jesus was a masterful teacher. He taught the truth and nothing but the truth. Plus, He completely embodied His teaching and was the perfect example of the truth He laid upon the ears of His hearers. He called His disciples to count the cost, to obey, to pray, to give, and to trust Him. Anyone who has ears to hear should listen.

In addition to healings, Jesus performed miracles that attested to the truth of His message and identity and also displayed His glory and power over the world that was created by Him, through Him, and for Him. Whether over the physical realm or the spiritual realm, Jesus is King, and those who come to Him in faith are miracles to proclaim His greatness, His goodness, and His gospel.

What's Next?

FALL 2020

Volume 9: Jesus the Savior

Jesus and the Kingdom (Gospels)

Jesus the Savior (Gospels)

Jesus the Risen King (Gospels)

WINTER 2020-21

Volume 10: The Mission Begins

The Holy Spirit Comes (Acts; Epistles)

Fundamentals of the Faith (Acts; Epistles)

New Life in Christ (Acts; Epistles)

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