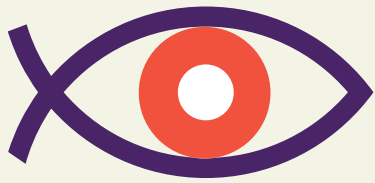


**SEEING  
THROUGH  
THE EYES OF  
JESUS**

**ADULT  
CURRICULUM  
SESSION 2**

***[www.cbf.net/eyesofjesus](http://www.cbf.net/eyesofjesus)***



# SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

**Calling us back to  
the central focus of  
our Christian faith:  
The Risen and  
Living Jesus!**

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## SESSION 2: JESUS IS LORD

In this session, participants will be invited to join with the disciples in declaring that Jesus is Lord as well as to grapple with how easy it is to lose sight of that truth.

### *Prepare:*

Read through the session and familiarize yourself with both Scripture stories. Preview the video and set up the equipment needed to show it in your space.

### *Gather:*

Make sure you have access to the marker board or butcher paper and markers you used during the last session. If needed, add a few answers of your own to the mix for today's journaling prompt. You'll also need enough pens or pencils and paper for your group.

Locate a timer. (You probably have one on your phone!)

Finally, collect an assortment of 20-25 small objects from your home or church and arrange them on a tray or a table in the center of the room. You can use anything—from a spatula to a toothbrush to a hymnal. Focus on finding a variety of items from different parts of your house or church. Add one especially large, attention-grabbing object, like a big stuffed animal or toy or even a portable kitchen appliance, to the center of your display. Cover the whole thing with a tablecloth or towel.

Have participants bring a journal or provide one for them.

### **STARTER:**

*(5-10 minutes)*

This session begins with a game. Instruct everyone to put their writing utensils and tech gear away. Then, unveil the table or tray of assorted objects and give the group 60 seconds to study it. Participants can move closer if that is needed in your space. When time runs out, reset the timer for three minutes and invite the participants (independently) to list on a piece of scrap paper as many of the items they can remember seeing.



## JOURNAL:

*(5-7 minutes for journaling; 3 minutes for sharing)*

Each session in this series has a journaling segment.

Participants may draw, write, doodle or simply sit quietly with their thoughts during this time. Prepare your own answer ahead of time and share it with the group to help set the tone and get ideas flowing.

**PROMPT:** At the end of the last session, we took a few minutes to begin to answer this question: “What is it like when Jesus is here?” Examine the answers shared on your collaborative board or paper. Consider where you may have seen Jesus this week. Do any of the words or phrases listed ring particularly true to your experience? Was there any obstacle that held you back from leaning fully into the moment?

At the end of the journaling segment, invite the group to briefly share their responses in pairs or trios.



## SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION:

*(15-20 minutes)*

### SAY OR SUMMARIZE THE FOLLOWING TO INTRODUCE THE TEXT:

By the time this conversation takes place, the disciples have been following Jesus for quite a while. They’ve heard parables and other teachings and seen and even participated in miracles. Before long, they’ll turn toward Jerusalem and experience what we know as Holy Week. But in the midst of all of this, they’re still grappling with exactly what all of this means. It is in this space that Jesus invites this discussion.

Read Matthew 16:13-20.

Discuss as a whole group or in small groups:

- What might it have felt like to follow Jesus in those early days of his ministry? What about Jesus do you think might have amazed you? What might have frightened you?
- The disciples made a life-altering decision to follow Jesus without a full understanding of what they were getting into. Perhaps many of us have had a similar experience. Think back to your own baptism or initial decision to be a Christ-follower and what you **THOUGHT** you were choosing. What has surprised you most about your journey since then?

- When Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah—the Lord—Jesus gives him a blessing that is weighted with responsibility. What kingdom responsibilities accompany recognizing Jesus as Lord in our own lives?
- When you read through the book of Matthew, it’s apparent that Peter’s pronouncement before Jesus and the others here is neither the beginning nor the end of the disciples’ continued struggle to focus on Jesus and the work he’s calling them to do. Recall, for example, the time recorded a few chapters earlier when several disciples argued about who would be greatest in the kingdom, or the incident just a week or so later where they wanted to build a shelter for Jesus, Moses and Elijah rather than witnessing the transfiguration. What can you think of in our world today that might distract us as individuals or as a church from focusing on Jesus?

Transition the group’s attention to Matthew 14:22-33.

Introduce the text by reading aloud or summarizing the following:

Now we turn back a few chapters to Matthew 14 to pick up with the story we began discussing last week—the one where the disciples spot Jesus walking on water. Today, we’ll read the passage together and simply make an observation about it before we close our session.

Read the text aloud, then say:

When Peter steps out onto the water, he must surely have been fully focused on Jesus and on coming closer to him. It's hard to imagine any other circumstance in which a fisherman, well-aware of the sea and all its dangers, would leap out of a boat that was nowhere near the shore and expect to do anything but struggle in the water. When Peter keeps his eyes on Jesus, he walks on water. It's only when Peter becomes consumed with the other "stuff"—the wind and the waves—that he begins to falter.



## **CLOSING:**

*(3-5 minutes)*

Close in prayer. Read Hebrews 12:1-2 before you pray or as part of your prayer.

As you dismiss the group, invite participants to look again at the butcher paper or board where your group is considering what it looks like to follow Jesus. Ask participants to choose a word or phrase to hold in their hearts and minds between now and the next session that might help them keep their eyes open to where Jesus is at work in your church, community and world.