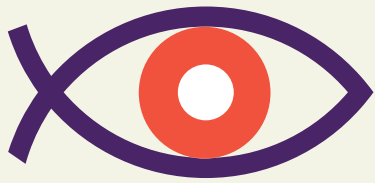


**SEEING
THROUGH
THE EYES OF
JESUS**

**ADULT
CURRICULUM
SESSION 6**

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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 6: SEEING JESUS; CLAIMING JESUS' MISSION

In this session, participants will consider how Jesus' mission has and has not been fulfilled in the years that have passed since his ascension. They will then examine what is required of us if we hope to take up that mission and see and love the world as Jesus does.

Prepare:

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

Pay special attention to the starter segment of this session and consider whether you need to ask readers to participate in advance or if you'll have volunteers in the moment.

Gather:

Make sure you have access to the marker board or butcher paper and markers you used during the previous sessions.

You'll also need enough pens or pencils and paper for your group.

Have participants bring a journal or provide one for them.

STARTER:

(5-10 minutes)

Explain that in this session, we'll work at defining Jesus' mission so that we can consider what role we are called to play in continuing to fulfill it. There are a number of texts we could utilize to begin this conversation, but for the sake of simplicity sake, we'll begin with Mary's song—words written about Jesus' mission long before he began his work.

Choose a good reader in your group to read Luke 1:46-55 aloud. Pause; then have a second participant reread verses 50-53. Have a third reader reread those same four verses

Take a moment to add any words or phrases that spring up from this text to your marker board/butcher paper collection.



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.

PROMPT: Reflect on the texts we've just shared. In what ways has this prophecy been fulfilled? What parts still await fulfillment? What stands in the way?

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:

Mary's words help us identify Jesus' vision. The gospels tell us stories of his work toward fulfilling it. And at the end of Matthew, we find Jesus' charge to his disciples.

Read Matthew 28:16-20 aloud as a group.

Ask:

- Who is Jesus talking to in this passage?
- What is Jesus' command? What do you think it meant for the disciples?
- Does this command apply to us as later followers of Jesus? Why or why not?
- Do you think this text is ever misused? How? Why?
- Consider this text alongside Mary's words about Jesus' work in Luke 1. What do these passages have in common? How do they differ? Do Jesus' words amplify Mary's in any way?

Read Luke 4:16-21 aloud as a group.

Ask:

- How do Jesus' words about his own work add specificity to Matthew 28:16-20? What in Jesus' work are we called to echo as we go about making disciples and teaching them to obey?

- Skim verses 21-30. What response did Jesus' proclamation garner?
- How was Jesus' work received in general? Who responded positively? Who responded negatively? Where did it ultimately lead?

Transition now to Matthew 14:22-33.

SAY OR SUMMARIZE:

If the disciples were the initial recipients of Jesus' command in Matthew 28, even after witnessing his persecution and eventual death, perhaps it's important for us to consider their context. How would their experiences with Jesus—both beautiful and difficult—have influenced their understanding of the mission they had been given? To think through this, we turn again the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water.

Read or summarize the passage, depending on what you feel your group needs.

SAY OR SUMMARIZE:

When Jesus called Peter, Peter was a fisherman like many of the other disciples. We don't know much about his life before he began to follow Jesus; but it's probably safe to say that Peter's decision to step out of the fishing boat that day and take up discipleship radically changed his trajectory. This moment of walking on water was just one of many experiences that Peter probably would not have had if he had not opted to follow Jesus.

Ask:

- What other experiences with Jesus do you suspect altered Peter's life? Were they positive experiences? Difficult ones? Both?

SAY OR SUMMARIZE:

In the years that come after the walking on water experience, Peter lives fully into Jesus' mission. He becomes a teacher, a healer and a prophet. He helps start churches. He shares Jesus' story everywhere he goes, fulfilling the great commission—not just because he was told to do so, but because his story is so wound up in Jesus' mission that he cannot help but see the world through Jesus' eyes.

Ask:

- What experiences or encounters with Jesus have altered the trajectory of your life?
- How do you tell those stories?
- What experiences or encounters with Jesus have impacted the life of our church?
- Do people in our congregation know these stories? How do we tell them? How could we tell them?
- What power could these stories hold for us?



CLOSING:

(3-5 minutes)

Close in prayer. Read Luke 1:50-53 one last time prior to or as part of your prayer. Ask God for experiences that will lead your church into fulfilling the Great Commission more fully.

As you dismiss the group, invite participants to watch for opportunities to share their story and your church's story between now and the next session.