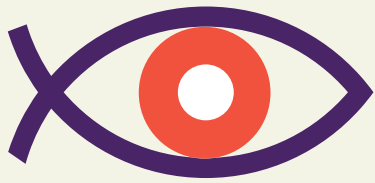


**SEEING  
THROUGH  
THE EYES OF  
JESUS**

**ADULT  
CURRICULUM  
SESSION 7**

***[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 7: SEEING JESUS; TRANSFORMING ME

In this session, participants will be asked to reflect on their own receptiveness to seeing and engaging with Jesus and the world in new ways and to consider how they can cultivate an attitude of hospitality and welcoming toward what Jesus may be teaching us.

### *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 in advance to participate 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.

Locate a can of Play-Doh or something similar, along with a timer, for the starter activity.

Have participants bring a journal or provide one for them.

### **STARTER:**

*(5-10 minutes)*

Begin this session with a game. Ask for a volunteer to be the first to play the role of sculptor in the game. Without sharing it with the rest of the group, give the sculptor a prompt of something to shape using the Play-Doh. The prompts can be anything you'd like. Some ideas to get you started: a shoe, a dog, a flower, a cave, a camera, a church.

Set the timer for 60 seconds. As soon as the sculptor begins working, the rest of the group can begin trying to guess what he or she is making. The first person to guess correctly becomes the next sculptor. Repeat as time allows.



## 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 in advance and consider sharing it with the group to help get the ideas flowing.

**PROMPT:** Have you ever had a strong opinion about something and later changed your mind? What happened? What influenced your change of perspective?

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:

We've spent a lot of time in Matthew 14:22-33; but let's consider it today from one more angle. Imagine, the disciples as children. We don't know much about them, but it's probably safe to assume that as children, they didn't see anyone feed a large crowd with five loaves and two fish. They likely didn't see religious leaders eating with tax collectors. They didn't experience anyone walking on water. They probably didn't see healings or hear stories quite like the ones Jesus told. They certainly didn't witness transfigurations or resurrections.

And then they began following Jesus. And they saw things they had never seen. They heard things they had never heard. They DID things they did not think were possible before.

Ask:

- What would it have been like if the disciples had insisted that God could only behave in the ways that were familiar to them from the stories they had heard as children?
- How did experiencing life with Jesus expand the disciples' understanding of who God is and how God works in our world?

### SAY OR SUMMARIZE:

Sometimes as Christians, and particularly as adult Christians, we grow stagnant. We assume that the system of beliefs we developed as children, teenagers or even young adults is sufficient. We stop asking questions. We stop exploring. Perhaps we even grow fearful of change. We forget that we are people who know now in part and will someday know in full (1 Cor. 13:12). Consider Romans 12:1-2.

Read Romans 12:1-2 aloud.

Ask:

- What do you think it means to "renew our minds"?
- What might it look like to be "transformed"?
- Is transformation a one-time event or something that is ongoing?

### SAY OR SUMMARIZE:

Consider also Philippians 2:1-11, which reminds us that we are not changing our minds or our lives simply for the sake of change.

Read Philippians 2:1-11.

Ask:

- What does it look like to have the same mind in you that is in Jesus? How would that impact how you see the world?

- The word for “mind” in this passage is more accurately translated “our way of thinking, feeling and acting.” What does this suggest about what our posture should be as we study, learn and explore together? Are there specific practices we might take up to help us to lean into growing?

If time allows, dig into this last question: Consider what your church is doing that promotes growth and new understandings. Consider what might spur even more.

**SAY OR SUMMARIZE:**

Perhaps truly following Jesus is an invitation to be a bit like the Play-Doh we worked with at the beginning of this session. Perhaps we are called to be flexible, adaptable and teachable no matter where we are on this journey.



**CLOSING:**

*(3-5 minutes)*

Close in prayer. Ask God to open the participants in your group to being flexible, adaptable and teachable disciples as you continue your journey together.

As you dismiss the group, invite participants to look again at your marker board/butcher paper project. Challenge them to be alert between now and the next session as to where these things are happening in your community, not just inside the church.