



NINE LESSONS FROM **JESUS** **WORDS**

created by
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The Jesus Lessons: 1

The parable of the sower

Read the following scripture passages: Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15. Take notes on what each of the three parable accounts have to say. Under each type of ground and heart section, write what happens to the seed (word) that is planted (spoken) to them. Also, write down the reasons why these things happened.

The Hard Heart	The Shallow Heart	The Strangled Heart	The Open Heart

Why did Jesus teach this parable?

Questions to Discuss & Journal

1. What do you notice about the way the farmer tosses the seed? Why isn't he more selective about where the seeds land?
2. What troubles have you experienced in life? What did you learn about yourself?
3. Have you experienced degrees of persecution? If so, what did you learn about yourself? What are some of the worries of this life that you've experienced? What did you learn about yourself?
4. How have you struggled with the deceitfulness of wealth?
5. What did you learn about yourself?
6. As you think about what's been going on in your life and in your heart, which of these four kinds of ground do you think describes where you're at right now?
7. Why would Satan want us to believe he doesn't exist or doesn't pose a threat?
8. How have you seen yourself or others get really busy just when spiritual progress is being made? Do you think it's by coincidence or by design? How's this make you feel?
9. What is your response when you don't understand something in the Bible?
10. Is there anything holding you back from welcoming truth into your life, and being willing to go wherever truth takes you? If so, what is it?
11. What does it mean to produce fruit?
12. What are some steps you can take to continue to make spiritual progress?
13. If you were to pray a prayer of confession in light of this parable, what would you confess, and how can the rest of us pray for you?
14. What principles can we gather from this parable that apply to sharing our faith?
15. As you think about playing the role of the farmer, name two or three people you know who need to hear the message of the kingdom.
16. What type of heart do you think they have? How can you reach out to them this week?

Places to Visit

- A farm
- A garden
- A greenhouse

Things to Do

- Write a poem
- Write a song
- Write/perform a skit
- Arrange/perform an interpretive dance
- Make a collage
- Paint a picture

People to Interview

- A farmer
- A gardener
- Someone who fell away
- A long-time believer

Topics to Research

- How to become a Christian
- How to grow spiritually
- Satan
- The persecuted church
- How to share your faith

Songs to Listen to

- “Lord, You Have My Heart” (Delirious)
- “Blessed Are You” (Cheryl Bear)
- “Break Our Hearts” (Passion Worship Band)
- “Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord” (Sonic Flood)
- “I Give You My Heart” (Michael W. Smith)
- “Just As I Am” (Andrew Peterson)
- “Lamp” (Charlie Hall)
- “Only Truth” (Acappella)
- “Red Letters” (DC Talk)
- “Let You In” (Kutless)
- “Longing Heart” (Jeremy Camp)
- “Psalm 1” (Marty Goetz)
- “All the Pretty Things” (Tenth Avenue North)

Books to Read

- *Hell’s Best Kept Secret* (Ray Comfort)
- *Lord Foulgrin’s Letters* (Randy Alcorn)
- *Radical* (David Platt)
- *The Christian Atheist* (Craig Groeschel)
- *Crazy Love* (Francis Chan)
- *Pilgrim’s Progress* (John Bunyan)
- *Redeeming Love* (Francine Rivers)
- *Jake’s Choice* (Jim & Rachel Britts)
- *Scouting the Divine* (Margaret Feinberg)
- *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* (Eugene Peterson)
- *Shaped By the Word* (Robert Mulholland)

Movies to Watch

- *Matthew Visual Bible*
- *Blue Like Jazz*
- *To Save A Life*

Scriptures to Read

- Joshua 22:5
- Psalm 1
- Ezekiel 36:25-27
- Matthew 7:21-23
- Matthew 7:24-29
- 2 Corinthians 13:5
- 1 Timothy 2:4
- 1 Timothy 6:8-10
- Hebrews 3:7-11
- Hebrews 10:32-39
- James 1:2-5
- James 1:21-25
- 1 Peter 5:8
- 2 Peter 3:9

The Jesus Lessons: 2

The parable of the prodigal son & older brother

Read the following scripture passages: Luke 15:1-2,11-32. As you read, take notes on what Jesus says about the younger brother, the father, and the older brother.

The Younger Brother	The Father	The Older Brother
<i>What did Jesus say about him?</i>	<i>What did Jesus say about him?</i>	<i>What did Jesus say about him?</i>
<i>What lessons apply to our lives?</i>	<i>What lessons apply to our lives?</i>	<i>What lessons apply to our lives?</i>

Experiments in digging deeper

Lesson 2 (cont.)

Questions to Discuss & Journal

Icebreaker questions

1. Have your parents told you what you are to inherit? If so, what is it? If not, what do you hope to inherit?
2. What's the nastiest thing you've ever eaten?
3. Have you ever begun something with fun that ended in disaster?
4. What's the most extravagant celebration you've attended?

Observation questions

1. "Some people have to hit rock bottom before they will ____."
2. How was the older brother representative of the Pharisees?
3. How are the father's responses to his two sons similar?
4. What does this parable teach us about our Heavenly Father?

Reflection questions

1. What does it say about Jesus that sinners came to hear him and eat with him?
2. What might be wrong if all non-Christians like you? What might be wrong if all non-Christians dislike you?
3. What did the father mean when he said on two occasions (v. 24, 32) that his younger son was "dead"?
4. In what ways can you relate to the younger son?
5. In what ways can you relate to the older son?
6. Have you ever been in the father's shoes (in a position to receive someone who has walked away from you, betrayed you, or deceived you)? If so, how did you respond?

People to Interview

- Someone who was restored to God

Projects to Do

- Send a "Thank You" note
- Write a poem
- Write a song
- Write/perform a skit
- Arrange/perform an interpretive dance
- Make a collage

Movies to Watch

- *Turning Back*
- *Blue Like Jazz*
- *Devil's Play-ground*
- *The Prodigal Son* (Big Book Media)
- *The Lion King*
- *Taken*

Places to Visit

- A pig pen

Topics to Research

- Homelessness
- The Amish and the Rumspringah tradition
- A famous Christian who returned to God
- The items of clothing the father used to reinstate the younger son

Scriptures to Read

- Psalm 51
- Ecclesiastes
- Matthew 9:9-13
- Luke 9:25
- Luke 15:1-10
- Luke 18:9-14
- John 3:16
- Romans 5

Experiments in digging deeper

Lesson 2 (cont.)

Books to Read

- *What's So Amazing About Grace* (Philip Yancey)
- *Messy Spirituality* (Mike Yaconelli)
- *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (Henri J.M. Nouwen)
- *The Prodigal Son* (John MacArthur)
- *The Principle of the Path* (Andy Stanley)
- *The Grace of God* (Andy Stanley)
- *Too Christian, Too Pagan* (Dick Staub)

Songs to Listen to

- "Please Come Home" (Dustin Kensrue)
- "Prodigal" (Gungor)
- "Prodigal" (Pas Neos)
- "When God Ran" (Phillips, Craig, and Dean)
- "Lose My Soul" (Toby Mac)

The Jesus Lessons: 3

The parable of the pharisee & the tax collector

Read Luke 18:9-14. As you read, take notes on who the characters represent, how Jesus described their prayers, and what [need content]

The Pharisee

The Tax Collector

What lessons can we learn from this parable?

Questions to Discuss & Journal

Icebreaker questions

1. What's the most awkward prayer you've ever heard?
2. Growing up, who was the most despised person in your neighborhood? Why?
3. The "point system" is engrained in our society. What examples can you think of when people are rewarded for performing well but not for performing poorly?
4. What would you consider to be the best thing you've ever done?
5. What would you say are the pros and cons of growing up in the church? What would you say are the pros and cons of not growing up in the church?

Observation questions

1. How was the prayer of each man different physically?
2. How was the prayer of each man different verbally?

Reflection questions

1. Why did Jesus choose these two characters for his parable?
2. Satan would have us believe that the only testimonies that are useful are the ones that are sensational, like coming out of drugs and prison. How can a testimony about missing the point of Jesus, make an impact?
3. What good would it do us to stop comparing ourselves to others, but start comparing ourselves to God?

Application Questions

1. Suppose God appeared to you and asked, "Why should I accept you into Heaven?" How would you have [need content]
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People to Interview

- A leader of a world religion
- Someone raised Christian

Places to Visit

- A temple

Projects to Do

- Write out your testimony
- Write a poem
- Write a song
- Write/perform a skit
- Arrange/perform an interpretive dance

Topics to Research

- Pharisees and tax collectors in Jewish culture
- Word studies: propitiation; humility; justification
- What various world religions teach concerning: 1) Sin; 2) What can be [need content]

Books to Read

- *How Good Is Good Enough?* (Andy Stanley)
- *Sidney & Norman: A Tale of Two Pigs* (Phil Vischer)
- *Why It's Hard To Love Jesus* (Joseph M. Stowell)
- *The Passion of Jesus Christ* (John Piper)

Movies to Watch

- *Luther*
- *Les Misérables*
- *Saved*
- *Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Scriptures to Read

- Psalm 51
- Isaiah 64:6a
- Jonah 4:1-4
- Matthew 9:9-13
- Romans 6:1-10; 10:1-4
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Galatians 1:6-9; 2:21; 3:10-11; 5:4
- Ephesians 2:8-10

Songs to Listen to

- “Not What My Hands” (Aaron Keyes)
- “You Alone Can Rescue” (Matt Redman)
- “The Solid Rock” (Charlie Hall)
- “Embracing Accusation” (Shane & Shane)
- “Before The Throne of God Above” (Shane & Shane)
- “The Pharisee & the Tax Collector” (Timothy Brindle)
- “Nothing But The Blood” (Seventh Day Slumber)
- “I Am Nothing” (Jeremy Camp)
- “Cry Mercy” (David Crowder Band)
- “Mystery of Mercy” (Caedmon’s Call)
- “Be Merciful To Me” (Caedmon’s Call)

The Jesus Lessons: 4

Jesus & Nicodemus

Read John 3:1-21. As you read, take notes on the lessons we can learn from Nicodemus and from Jesus.

Nicodemus

*What can we learn from Nicodemus
about searching for God?*

Jesus

*What can we learn from Jesus
about friendship with God?*

Questions to Discuss & Journal

Icebreaker questions

1. Where have you seen “John 3:16” referenced in our culture?
2. When and where were you born, and what’s the name on your birth certificate?
3. Share a time you had to scrap something and to start from scratch. What were the pros and cons of having to start over?
4. Tell about your most memorable late-night conversation.
5. Tell one embarrassing story that resulted from you thinking you knew more than you actually did.
6. What’s the best gift you’ve ever received? Why?
7. What is the darkest literal place you’ve ever been in?

Observation questions

1. What attitude do you sense in Nicodemus as he questioned Jesus?
2. Why do some people receive condemnation?

Reflection questions

1. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?
2. Why do some people create excuses for not making their search for truth a great priority?
3. What can we do to keep our gratitude fresh concerning God’s gift of Jesus?

Application Questions

1. [need content]

People to Interview

- An intellectual Christian
- A charismatic Christian

Places to Visit

- A maternity ward (“born”)
- A windy place (“wind”)

Projects to Do

- Write a poem
- Write a song
- Write/perform a skit
- Arrange/perform an interpretive dance
- Make a collage

Topics to Research

- Baptism and the early church father’s interpretation of John 3:5
- Pneumatology

Scriptures to Read

- Numbers 21:4-9
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Ezekiel 36:25-27
- John 7:45-51; 12:32-33; 19:38-39
- Acts 2:37-38
- Romans 5:6-11; 6:1-14
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Experiments in digging deeper

Lesson 4 (cont.)

Books to Read

- *What Does It Mean to be Born Again?* (R.C. Sproul)
- *Not A Fan* (Kyle Idleman)
- *3:16* (Max Lucado)

Movies to Watch

- *The Gospel of John*
- *To Save A Life*
- *Most*

Songs to Listen to

- “These Things Take Take (Sanctus Real)
- “Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” (U2)
- “This Is Who I Am” (Shane & Shane)
- “Baptize My Mind” (Jon Foreman)
- “God So Loved The World” (Aaron Shust)
- “All Consuming Fire” (Misty Edwards)
- “Baptize My Heart” (Misty Edwards)
- “Born Again” (Third Day)
- “God So Loved” (Jaci Velasquez)
- “Baptize Me” (Jaci Velasquez)
- “Down To The River To Pray” (Alison Krauss)
- “Baptize Me In The River” (Robbie Seay Band)
- “Pray For The Fish” (Randy Travis)

The Jesus Lessons: 5

The parable of the rich fool

Read Luke 12:13-21. As you read, take notes on important observations and life lessons, as well as on the meaning of certain words.

Notes

What's interesting about Jesus' reply to a certain man's request? (v. 13-14)

What did Jesus say to watch out for? (v. 15)

What scenario did Jesus present? (v. 16-17)

What did the rich man decide to do? (v. 18-19)

How did God respond to the man's decision? (v. 20)

Life Lessons

What does this passage reveal about Jesus and God?

What lessons apply to our lives?

Words to Define

1. *Arbitrator (v.14)*
2. *Covetousness (v.15)*
3. *Merry (v.19)*

Questions to Discuss & Journal

Icebreaker questions

1. What sibling quarrel can you think of that you had as a child?
 2. Hypothetically, if you became a hoarder, what would you hoard?
 3. Have you heard the phrase, “Keeping up with the Jones’”? What does it mean? Share a story about a time you struggled with this?
 4. What do you think about our culture’s obsession with retirement?
 5. What famous people can you think of who acquired wealth and fame but died unhappy or even committed suicide? If they could speak from the grave, what advice might they share with the world?
 6. What was one time where you sacrificed so much, it hurt?
4. Do you view yourself as rich? What’s the danger of rich people not realizing they’re rich?
 5. Why do you suppose Christians often pass the test of persecution, but fail the test of prosperity?
 6. How can our attitude toward money serve as a gauge for our spiritual condition?
 7. What lies have our Adversary sown into our culture that hinder people from experiencing what Jesus intended?

Observation questions

1. According to v. 15, what are we instructed to watch out for?
2. What did the man in the parable want most?

Reflection questions

1. If one’s life does not consist of possessions, what should it consist of?
2. What else could the rich man have done with his excess crop?
3. If everyone gave like you do, where would the church be?

People to Interview

- A farmer
- A missionary living on support

Places to Visit

- A barn
- A junkyard

Projects to Do

- Make a budget
- Begin tithing
- Support a missionary
- Sponsor an orphan
- Sell or donate possessions
- Write a poem or song
- Write/perform a skit

Topics to Research

- Baptism and the early church father’s interpretation of John 3:5
- Pneumatology

Experiments in digging deeper

Lesson 5 (cont.)

Books to Read

- *The Treasure Principle* (Randy Alcorn)
- *Money, Possessions & Eternity* (Randy Alcorn)
- *The Law of Rewards* (Randy Alcorn)
- *Radical* (David Platt)
- *Blue Like Jazz: Chapter 6* (Donald Miller)
- *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* (Ron Sider)

Movies to Watch

- *The Family Man*
- *Confessions of a Shopaholic*
- *There Will Be Blood*
- *Click*
- *The Pursuit of Happyness*

Scriptures to Read

- Psalm 52
- Proverbs 30:8-9
- Ecclesiastes 2:10-11; 5:10-15
- Ezekiel 16:1-48
- Matthew 6:19-34
- Luke 12:4-5,22-34,48b; 14:25-33; 16:13

Songs to Listen to

- “Lose My Soul” (TobyMac)
- “Gone” (Switchfoot)
- “The Lumber Song” (Eli)
- “American Dream” (Casting Crowns)
- “Knowing You” (Passion)
- “Ezekiel” (Gungor)
- “Rich Young Ruler” (Derek Webb)

The Jesus Lessons: 6

The cost of being a disciple

Read Luke 14:25-35. As you read, take notes on important observations and life lessons, as well as on the meaning of certain words.

Notes

What does it mean to hate our family and our own life? (v. 25-26)

What does it mean to carry our cross? (v. 27)

How does building a tower relate to being a disciple? (v. 28-30)

How does going to war relate to being a disciple? (v. 31-33)

Words to Define

1. *Disciple (v.26)*

2. *Forsake (v.33)*

Experiments in digging deeper

Lesson 6 (cont.)

Questions to Discuss & Journal

Icebreaker questions

1. What are some things you hate?
2. If your house was burning down and you could only save one possession, what would it be?
3. Tell about a project you started and never finished.

Observation questions

1. What illustrations does Jesus use to communicate the cost of being a disciple?
2. What keeps people from following Jesus?
3. What do you know about the use of salt in the ancient world?

Reflection questions

1. What's the difference between being a fan of Jesus and a follower of Jesus?
2. What scenarios can you think of when people's love for family hinders them from being a disciple of Jesus?
3. How are we like the king with 10,000 men, and Jesus is like the king with 20,000 men?
4. How is giving up everything connected to loving the Lord?
5. What lies have our Adversary sown into our culture that hinder people from experiencing what Jesus intended?
6. What would it look like to lose your saltiness and be no good for soil nor manure?
7. What does it look like to begin with the end in mind, spiritually?

Places to Visit

- An incomplete structure

People to Interview

- An architect or construction worker
- Someone whose family ostracized them

Projects to Do

- Play the board game, Risk
- Write a poem or song
- Write/perform a skit
- Make a collage

Scriptures to Read

- Psalm 73:25
- Job 1
- Matthew 7:21-23; 8:18-22; 13:45-46; 25:14-30
- Luke 6:40; 9:23-26; 18:18-30
- John 12:20-26; 13:34-35; 15
- Acts 20:24

Topics to Research

- The rules of war in ancient times
- The history and use of salt

Books to Read

- *Not A Fan* (Kyle Idleman)
- *The Christian Atheist* (Craig Groeschel)
- *Radical* (David Platt)
- *Slave* (John MacArthur)
- *The Purpose Driven Life* (Rick Warren)
- *Following Christ* (Joseph M. Stowell)

Movies to Watch

- *To Save A Life*
- *Dust* (Nooma)

Songs to Listen to

- “You Are My King” (Newsboys)
- “Kingdom And A King” (Robbie Seay Band)
- “I Surrender To You” (Jeremy Camp)
- “King Jesus” (Jeremy Camp)
- “Surrender” (Jeremy Camp)
- “Take My Life” (Jeremy Camp)
- “Surrender” (Barlow Girl)
- “I Surrender All” (Caedmon’s Call)
- “I Surrender” (Seventh Day Slumber)
- “White Flag” (Passion, Chris Tomlin)
- “Take My Life” (Chris Tomlin)
- “Song of Surrender” (Shane & Shane)

The Jesus Lessons: 7

Jesus & the Samaritan woman

Read John 4. As you read, take notes on important observations and life lessons, as well as on the meaning of certain words.

Notes

What do you know about the historical dynamic between Jews and Samaritans? (v.1-9)

What can we learn about sharing our faith from Jesus' harvest analogy? (v.31-42)

How did Jesus swing the conversation from natural things to spiritual things? (v.10-15)

Words to Define

How did the Samaritan woman get sidetracked with trivial things? (v.16-26)

1. Samaritan (v.7)

2. Messiah (v.25)

What can we learn from the Samaritan woman about sharing our faith? (v.27-30)

3. Testimony (v.39)

Questions to Discuss & Journal

Icebreaker questions

1. Who is the most evangelistic person you know?
2. What was it like the first time you ever tried to share your faith?
3. Have you ever had a random conversation that ended up changing your life? If so, share about it briefly.

Observation questions

1. In our modern day, what might be equivalent to a well where people come for water?
2. What was the woman's experience with men? What scenarios can you think of that would cause someone to have five spouses?
3. What claims does Jesus make in this passage?
4. What kind of worshipers did Jesus say the Father seeks? What does that mean?
5. What did Jesus say about his food? How does this challenge you?
6. How did the Samaritan's reason for faith change?

Reflection questions

1. How can Christians sometimes treat non-Christians the way Jews treated Samaritans?
2. What keeps Christians from sharing their faith?
3. What is significance about the fact that the woman left her water jar?

4. What are the pros and cons of waiting until we have established a close friendship with a person before talking to them about God?
5. What can we learn from the Samaritan woman about sharing our faith?
6. What can we learn from Jesus' harvest analogy that relates to sharing [need content]

People to Interview

- Someone who lost their spouse
- Someone who is sidetracked from

Places to Visit

- A well

Projects to Do

- Write out and share your testimony
- Write a poem or song
- Write/perform a skit

Topics to Research

- The historic dynamic between Jews and Samaritans
- The historic dynamic between men and women
- The role of wells & water pots in [need content]

Scriptures to Read

- 2 Kings 17
- Matthew 6:33; 28:19-20
- Luke 9:51-56
- John 7:37-39

Books to Read

- *Becoming A Contagious Christian* (Bill Hybels & Mark Mittelberg)
- *The Unexpected Adventure* (Lee Strobel & Mark Mittelberg)
- *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions* (Greg Koukl)
- *They Like Jesus but Not the Church* (Dan Kimball)
- *Too Christian, Too Pagan* (Dick Staub)
- *Hell's Best Kept Secret* (Ray Comfort)

Movies to Watch

- *The Gospel of John*
- *To Save A Life*
- *The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry*
- *Becoming A Contagious Christian*

Songs to Listen to

- “Come And Listen” (David Crowder*Band)
- “It’s Like Me” (Kutless)
- “The Mission Field” (Blessed Union of Souls)
- “Here I Am” (Downhere)
- “Send Me” (Lecrae)
- “I’ll Tell The World” (Ever Stays Red)
- “To Shine For You” (Ever Stays Red)
- “Here I Go Again” (Casting Crowns)
- “Come To The Well” (Casting Crowns)
- “Prayer for a Friend” (Casting Crowns)
- “Song For My Family”(Gungor)

The Jesus Lessons: 8

Many disciples turn away from Jesus

Read John 6:22-71. As you read, take notes on important observations and life lessons.

Notes

What were some of the claims Jesus made? (v.22-59)

How did some of Jesus' disciples respond to his claims? (v.60-66)

What can we learn about faith from Peter's conclusion? (v.67-71)

Questions to Discuss & Journal

Icebreaker questions

1. What are some things you believed as a child that you no longer believe today?
2. What was one thing you quit because it just felt like “too much”?
3. If you were to ask 100 strangers on the street, “What comes to mind when you think about Jesus?” what do you think might characterize their responses?
4. What’s one story from your life where someone around you turned away from Jesus? How did that affect you? How did you respond?

Observation questions

1. What do you think Jesus was getting at when he asked his deserters the rhetorical question, “What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?” (v.62)
2. Judas saw and heard everything the other eleven disciples saw and heard concerning Jesus. Why is this an important observation?

Reflection questions

3. How can doubt be the best or worst thing that ever happened to you?
4. Why do some people look for reasons not to believe in God?
5. Have you viewed faith as something only religious people have?

6. What do you think of the idea that *all* people have faith?
 7. Some people assume that having faith means you have to believe something without good reasons. How can this assumption negatively affect a person’s relationship with God?
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People to Interview

- Someone who lost their faith

Projects to Do

- Go to a debate on a related topic
- Write a poem or song
- Write/perform a skit

Movies to Watch

- *Blue Like Jazz*
- *Luther*

Topics to Research

- Messianic prophecies Jesus fulfilled
- Miracles Jesus performed

Scriptures to Read

- Psalm 16
- John 5:31-47; 15
- Acts 17:26-27
- Colossians 2:8
- 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 6:10,20-21

Experiments in digging deeper

Lesson 8 (cont.)

Books to Read

- *Choosing Your Faith* (Mark Mittelberg)
- *If I Really Believe, Why Do I Have These Doubts* (Dr. Lynn Anderson)
- *Jake's Choice* (Jim & Rachel Britts)
- *Safely Home* (Randy Alcorn)
- *Who Is This Man?* (John Ortberg)
- *The Case For Christ* (Lee Strobel)
- *Letters From A Skeptic* (Gregory Boyd)
- *Lord or Legend* (Gregory Boyd)

Songs to Listen to

- “Where Could I Go” (Adie Camp)
- “Mind’s Eye” (DC Talk)
- “These Things Take Time” (Sanctus Real)
- “What If” (Nicole Nordeman)
- “Strayed” (Church of Rhythm)
- “I Still Believe” (Jeremy Camp)
- “My Portion” (Shane & Shane)
- “Good Life” (Audio Adrenaline)

The Jesus Lessons: 9

The cut-off principle

Read Matthew 5:27-30; Mark 9:43-48. As you read, take notes on important lessons.

Notes

Experiments in digging deeper

Lesson 9 (cont.)

Questions to Discuss & Journal

Icebreaker questions

1. Share about a time you had surgery or accidentally cut yourself. What happened?
2. Share a childhood story of a time you took something too literally.
3. Share about a time you tried to change yourself without God's help? How did things turn out?

Observation questions

1. What does it mean to “stumble”?

Reflection questions

1. What are some of the most common temptations and what might it look like to “cut off” those causes of sin?
2. What is the difference between *resisting* temptation and *avoiding* temptation?
3. What lies have our Adversary sown into our culture that hinder people from experiencing what Jesus intended?

Application questions

1. What is something you need to “pluck out” of your life right now that is spiritually crippling you?
2. What are your top three triggers that bring on temptation? What steps can you take to avoid them?
3. Who do you know that would make a good accountability partner.

People to Interview

- A surgeon

Projects to Do

- Memorize relevant scriptures
- Write a poem or song
- Write/perform a skit

Movies to Watch

- *Facing the Giants*

Websites to Utilize:

- settingcaptivesfree.com

Topics to Research

- Joseph & Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39)

Scriptures to Read

- Psalm 119:9-11; 139:23-24
- Proverbs 4:14-15
- Matthew 4:1-11
- Romans 6; 7:14-25; 8:5-10; 13:11-14
- 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 6:18-20; 10:12-13
- Galatians 5:16-26; 6:7-9
- Ephesians 4:22-32; 5:3-4
- Colossians 3:1-13
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 5:23-24
- 2 Timothy 2:22
- Titus 2:11-12
- Hebrews 12:14; 13:4

Experiments in digging deeper

Lesson 9 (cont.)

Books to Read

- *The Purity Principle* (Randy Alcorn)
- *Sex is Not the Problem, Lust is* (Joshua Harris)
- *The Pursuit of Holiness* (Jerry Bridges)
- *Getting To No* (Erwin Lutzer)
- *Soul Detox* (Craig Groeschel)
- *Every Man's Battle* (Arterburn & Stoeke)

Songs to Listen to

- "Slow Fade" (Casting Crowns)
- "Pure Bride" (Leeland)
- "Something Holy" (Stellar Kart)
- "War With Myself" (Acappella)
- "I Need Thee Every Hour" (Brad Hooks)
- "Give Us Clean Hands" (Kutless)
- "In the Light" (DC Talk)
- "Two Hands" (Jars of Clay)