

deepest needs. He also wants his followers to be salt and light to the world. But we can't share what we don't possess.

Psalm 34:8 NIV - 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Psalm 34:8 tells us to taste and see that the Lord is good. Often God's goodness is most evident when he is our refuge in times of pain and hurt. What are some of the ways you have personally experienced God's goodness? Have you had opportunities to share that with others in similar circumstances?

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT - 3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

The comfort you received from God can be a source of comfort to others experiencing the same thing. (1 Cor 1:3-4). But we have to be willing to share the source of living water. We don't have a bucket, we are the bucket. Rather than quote chapter and verse, we come alongside someone in their pain and love them enough to get messy. That is how we can do what Jesus did.

WRAP-UP

Jesus came to earth because he loves us and meets our deepest needs. He was willing to go where things were messy, start relationships with the hurting and speak the truth in love so that they would have hope for a better ending to their story. He calls us to do the same. Be salt and light in a hurting world, and comfort others just as you have received comfort from God yourself.

Memory Verse

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.
-2 Corinthians 1:4 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- Ask God if you have a divine appointment this week.

"Do What Jesus Did"

Focused #3

INTRODUCTION

This sermon series has focused on three of the ideas which should be the heartbeat of the church; we are loved by Jesus, we are shaped by Jesus, and we are called to do what Jesus did. In this final study we will take a close look at what motivated Jesus' ministry on earth, and how we can carry it on as his followers.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Did you ever wear a WWJD bracelet?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. Why Jesus Came

If you were asked why Jesus came to earth, you might say something like – to save the world. But why did He choose to save the world in the way he did? Why didn't he just remove the faithful directly to heaven and bypass coming to earth at all? All of the Gospels have descriptions of why Jesus came to earth.

What reasons were given in the passages below?

Mark 1:15 NLT - 15 "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

Luke 4:18 NLT - 18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,

Matthew 5:17 NLT - 17 "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

John 1:16-17 NLT - 16 From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

In the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-10, Jesus lists many types of people in need, both physically and spiritually. Read over that passage. Do you see yourself anywhere on that list? If so, you have the promise of God's blessing.

There is one motive that underlies all of the other reasons why Jesus came. It is His very nature.

How is God's nature summarized in Psalm 145:8?

Psalm 145:8 NIV - 8 The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

2. What Jesus Did

John 4:3-4 NIV - 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4 Now he had to go through Samaria.

The most direct route from Judea to Galilee was through Samaria, but it was not the only route. In fact, Jews didn't take that route because Samaritans were despised by the Jews.

Why do you think John said Jesus had to go through Samaria if there was an alternate route? Have you ever experienced a "divine appointment"? If so, describe that and how you sense when you need to be at a certain place or speak to a certain person.

In Samaria Jesus encountered a woman seeking water.

John 4:7-15 NIV - 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus engaged with this woman by asking her for a drink.

Why was she surprised that he spoke to her?

Jesus did not wait for her to serve him water, instead he let her know that he had something to give to her. The woman was looking for literal water, but Jesus saw a different need in her life.

How did Jesus describe the difference between what he offered and what she sought? What are some of the temporary fixes we see used to satisfy deeper needs by those around us?

John 4:16-19 NIV - 16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." 19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet."

Jesus recognized that this woman was trying to meet a deep need in the wrong way. He spoke the truth, not to shame her but because he understood her.

Based on what He said, what needs might she have been trying to meet as she went from husband to husband? Do you know anyone who is in a similar situation?

Jesus extends the offer of new life that doesn't justify or erase the memories and consequences of her old life but sustains her from this point forward and gives her a different ending. She can't change the beginning, but Jesus can change her ending.

3. What we can do

Matthew 5:13-16 NIV - 13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Jesus came into the world because he loves us, and he wants to meet our