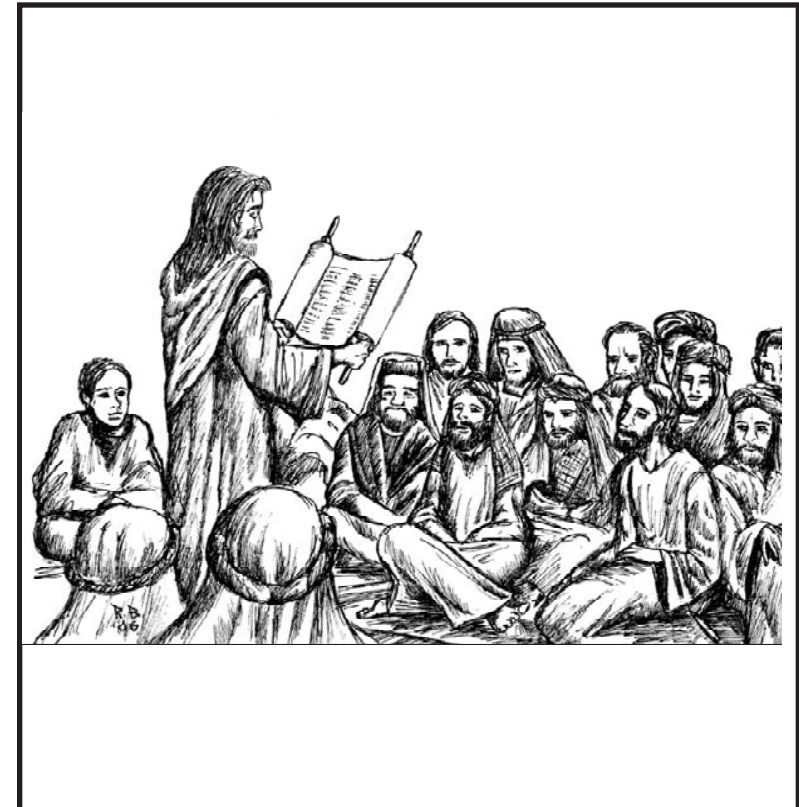


JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY



BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES



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CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES

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BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

Christ to the World Ministries is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel of Christ with the world through radio dramas and printed and oral studies based on Scripture. The printed lessons can be studied by one person or by a group.

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Dear Friend,

I am glad that you are interested in studying the Bible. It is God's Word to us and in it, we find the way of salvation and guidance for daily living. The main theme of the Bible is God's love for us and how he expressed that love by Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus arose from the grave and today He will save every person who puts his or her faith and trust in Him.

This study guide will help you gain a better understanding of the Bible. Open your heart to what God has for you through the study. I have prayed that your study will be life changing.

May God bless you richly,

*Larry Alston
Christ to the World Ministries*



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a study about the beginning of Jesus' ministry. This Bible study will help you

understand how Jesus began his ministry and how people received him. You will learn what Jesus came to do.

You can write in this study guide. Don't keep it clean and unmarked! When the guide asks you to respond, don't simply think of your response. Take time to write it down. Doing so helps internalize and reinforce your learning. Write from your heart. No one else will see what you write.

Keep your Bible before you as you complete your study. When asked to read a passage of Scripture, take time to read it.

Ready? Then let's get started.

Begin your study with prayer. Make the following prayer your very own.

Dear God, please open your Word to me as I study. Speak to my heart. Help me obey your will for my life. Help me do what you want me to do. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:14-5:11

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

23 Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"'

24 "I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. 32 They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, 34 Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"'

35 “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!” 37 And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. 39 So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

40 When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. 41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

42 At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. 43 But he said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” 44 And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:14-44

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2 he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:1-11

How does someone begin a new movement that needs to spread throughout a people?

INTRODUCTION

Jesus faced this question after his baptism. He expressed his thought in one sentence: “The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news” (Mark 1:15)!

The “kingdom of God” was not a new idea to the people of Galilee and Judea. It was a dream that had been preached by prophets of God for hundreds of years. It envisioned a descendant of the great king David sitting on the empty throne of Israel. This king would rule in “righteousness,” one who would bring justice and mercy to his nation. He would also overthrow the rule of Rome and restore greatness to the kingdom of Israel.

The people of Israel viewed the “kingdom of God” as a time when: (Check the correct answer)

- Prophets would come and tell them about God.
- A king would come and restore the nation to its former greatness.
- David would return to sit on the throne of the nation.

JESUS IN HIS HOMETOWN The people were looking for a messiah to come and restore the nation to its former greatness. But Jesus saw the kingdom of God in a new way. He brought this idea to his home synagogue in Nazareth, where he had been raised. He did it by reading a stirring passage from the prophet Isaiah (61:1-2a). The men (and perhaps women) sitting cross-legged on the dirt floor of the synagogue were thrilled. The idea of “good news to the poor,” “release to the captives,” “recovery of sight to the blind,” that the “oppressed would go free” was



Jesus’ concept of the kingdom of God involved: (Check the correct response)

- A ministry of compassion and release to persons oppressed by sin and burdens.
- A message of condemnation to the wealthy.
- A earthly kingdom with a sovereign ruler.

Jesus made clear that his ministry was that of salvation and help for persons in need. But then Jesus said something else that amazed the people. “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (v. 21). Was he talking about himself? But they knew who he was: Son of Joseph the carpenter, who had grown up in their town. God’s anointed, whom the prophets had proclaimed, wouldn’t be somebody like them! Maybe he would do some special miracles for them.

But Jesus refused. Instead, he reminded them that God works differently from human beings (vv. 25-27). God chooses people we would never think of to receive his blessings. If God wanted Jesus to be the long-awaited Messiah, God would do that.

Jesus plainly told the people of Nazareth that: (Check the correct response)

- The long-awaited Messiah would appear very shortly.
- He himself was the long-awaited Messiah.
- The long-awaited Messiah would be accepted by them.

In connecting his ministry to the prophecy of Isaiah, Jesus made a clear Messianic claim for himself. So the people rejected him. That happens, too, when a new idea comes to people.

JESUS MINISTERED THROUGHOUT GALILEE AND JUDEA

Jesus continued to spread his new idea. Along with his preaching the kingdom of God, he ministered to the needs of his people (v. 40). He did this, not to prove his claim to be the Messiah, but because this is what the prophet promised. No one could preach the kingdom of God and not care for those for whom the kingdom came. He even moved on to other towns in Galilee and Judea so that he could spread “good news to the poor” there (v. 44).



The Scriptures in column 1 show Jesus involved in his ministry. Read each passage in your Bible, and then match the passage with its description in column 2 by writing the letter of your choice in the blank. The first one is completed for you.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <u> </u> a_ Luke 4:31-32 | a. Preaching of good news to the poor (no financial, but spiritual poverty) |
| <u> </u> Luke 4:33-35 | |
| <u> </u> Luke 4:38-39 | b. Freedom for the prisoners or captives (all kinds: of bondage: physical, spiritual, demonic) |
| <u> </u> Luke 4:40 | c. Recovery of sight for the blind (both physical and spiritual) |
| <u> </u> Luke 5:1 | |
| <u> </u> Matthew 5:1-3 | d. Freedom for the oppressed (those burdened and broken by sin and life’s circumstances) |
| <u> </u> Matthew 9:27-31 | |
| <u> </u> Matthew 9:36 | |
| <u> </u> Luke 18:35-43 | |
| <u> </u> Luke 10:38-42 | |

Did you find it difficult to match the descriptions in column 2 to the verses? It was not easy for me. Here are my choices: a_ Luke 4:31-32; b_ Luke 4:33-35; b_ Luke 4:38-39; b_ Luke 4:40; a_ Luke 5:1; a_ Matthew 5:1-3; c_ Matthew 9:27-31; d_ Matthew 9:36; c_ Luke 18:35-43; d_ Luke 10:38-42. Your choices may differ from mine, and that is all right. Jesus ministered to the whole person, and several or all of the descriptions in column 2 could characterize most of the persons to whom he ministered.

JESUS CALLED HELPERS

But Jesus also recognized the importance of having helpers. His mission was too great for him to shoulder it all alone. He needed people to whom he could transmit his idea and with whom he could minister to those who needed it.

Read again Luke 5:1-11. Write the correct names in the following blanks.

Three of the early disciples of Jesus were: _____

He did not pick learned people or those who were rich. He looked among the people he already knew. Some of these were men who were in the fishing business. They owned boats, and they fished on the lake of Gennesaret (also known as the Sea of Galilee). One boat owner was called Simon, and he had partners named James and John, who had their own boats. Jesus called them to leave their fishing business and to become his followers. They were so impressed with Jesus that they answered his call immediately.

Jesus picked other persons who were ready to follow him wholeheartedly. They _____ were his constant companions.



He taught them especially. He sent them out to preach his “new idea.”

Jesus now had the elements of his mission: He had a “new idea” about God that he preached to everyone. He met the needs of his people as the scriptures had said God’s anointed would do. He surrounded himself with eager dis-

ciples. He could carry out the mission to which God had called him at his baptism.

CONCLUSION

Do you find yourself burdened and weighted down with sin and the problems of life? Does physical or spiritual bondage grip your life? What about the bondage of sin? The bondage of guilt? The bondage of money? The bondage of worry? The bondage of sensuality and worldly pleasure? Is your life broken in pieces? Are your dreams shattered? Do you yearn to be lifted and released from your moral and spiritual poverty?

Jesus can forgive your sins and heal your brokenness. He can set you free. He is the compassionate Savior who loves you with an everlasting love. He is waiting.

The Bible teaches that you are a sinner. But God loves you and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sins. You receive Christ as your Savior by turning from your sin and placing your faith and trust in him.

Pray this prayer: “Dear God, I know that I’m a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”

Welcome into God’s family!

Share with others that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism by immersion in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.