

Mission of Christ

Lesson 3 – The Deeds of Jesus

Instructions for the Coach:

General Instructions:

As in the first two lessons, this lesson on the Deeds of Jesus is intended to be a discussion oriented lesson where instruction is provided through group participation. As a coach, you will be facilitating the discussion.

This lesson is intended to illustrate how the end goal of Christ's mission is evident in his actions. What he did, how he spent his time and who he met with.

Opening the Discussion:

The value of this discussion will be in observing trends and patterns in Jesus' ministry. It will be important as you go through the discussion questions to get a broad view of what Jesus did before making conclusions. This may take a little time and thought. To help you we have provided some examples of some trends, observations and conclusions:

- Jesus conducted his ministry in a local area. He did not travel regionally or globally nor did he seek to spread his influence in these areas. However, he did spend a great deal of effort training his followers by teaching them, sending them out on practice runs 2 by 2, explaining the meaning of the parables etc. (The impact of this training became evident in the years following Jesus death as his message did spread regionally and globally.)
- Jesus demonstrated his diety rather than declaring it through a lecture or other format. He performed miracles, walked on water, accepted praise and the offering of expensive perfume.
- People's reaction to Jesus: the needy tended to come to Jesus seeking his aid and care. Many of these followed him. Religious leaders also came to Jesus, however, they often came to trap or confront him. Many of these turned away.

You may find it helpful to review all the discussion questions briefly before making summary conclusions about your observations.

Completing the Discussion:

As you complete your discussion time, be sure to reflect on how your observations of Jesus' actions can impact the mission and priorities of the house churches.

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1. Grasp the Issue:

Focus:

WWJD -- How many times have we seen these words pasted on car bumpers, tied around the wrist, or printed on a shirt. For several years, WWJD was an extremely popular fad in the Christian culture. The fad became so prevalent and commercialized that the words almost became trite and overdone. Despite the negatives of a fad, this trend did ask a very relevant question for those who are trying to follow Jesus in the 21st century. What Would Jesus Do?

Understanding what Jesus did as he walked the earth and conducted his ministry is very valuable to understanding his mission and what is important to him. It is important as we conduct our own personal lives and interact with others. It is also important to understand what Jesus did to plan and form our own mission as we lead our house churches. Jesus communicated much by what he did and did not do as he walked the earth.

The topic of this lesson is to look at what Jesus did. We will then be able to make inferences to understand more fully his mission on earth. We hope these insights will be influential for you as you mentor your house church.

Sound Bites: (These are statements that may or may not reflect biblical truth, but represent a variety of common statements you may here in our culture on the topic. The purpose is to get you thinking about the lesson topic.) The internet is ripe with observations of WWJD. Here are a few from various perspectives.

- Jesus would surely frequent nursing homes, homeless shelters, hospitals and jails. Rich people (America's middle class) are not a very receptive market for the message "take up your cross and follow me."
- Would Jesus launch a "pre-emptive" war?
- What might Jesus do about poverty and welfare assistance?
- (Jesus would) Condemn in the strongest language anyone who transgresses the pure word of God. Be prepared to face persecution and to die for your preaching. Be sure that religious people will be responsible for your death, though they will deny that they seek to kill you.

- So what I want to know is - what would Jesus do about the victims of the subprime mortgage crisis? I mean, he was a sink or swim kind of guy, right?
- Jesus Would **NOT** own his own religious television network, host a religious radio show, or sell time shares in his religious theme park.
- First of all, Jesus would not participate in a marketing fad that reduces the severity of God to just another trinket.

2. Study the Scriptures:

Read through the gospel of Mark. As you read, we are going to focus on what Jesus did during his ministry. As you read try to pay attention to where Jesus went, who he met with and what he did. You may also want to note how Jesus reacted to various groups of people, and the differing reactions people had to Jesus. To gather meaning from these observations will require noting trends and patterns in Jesus' ministry. Therefore, it may be helpful for you to take a few notes as you read. With your notes, you may be able to spot patterns in Jesus' life. Be prepared to share your observations during the discussion session. Feel free to include references of Jesus message taken from the other gospels (Matthew, Luke or John).

3. Discuss the Issue:

1. How did Jesus spend his time (alone time/time with others, teaching/observing, hands on/delegating, ministering/recreating etc.)? What priorities or patterns do you see in the way Jesus used his available time. How does this influence your own thinking of the use of your own time?
2. What kinds of people did Jesus meet with (rich/poor, educated/unlearned, religious/sinners ect.)? How did Jesus respond to these various groups of individuals? What impact does this have on your house church mission?
3. Where did Jesus go (rural/city, regional/global etc.)? Does this impact your vision for your house church and Grace Gathering?
4. What kinds of reactions did people have to Jesus' ministry? Do you notice any patterns in the responses of various groups of people? How does this help you evaluate various outreach or mission focus for your house church.