

# *Aftermath*

## *Celebrate New Life (February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021)*

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#). **Then make sure to watch our [Special Series Video](#)!**
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

### DISCUSSION

**Opening Prayer:** (1-2 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another just as Jesus loved us by dying for us on the cross. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to remind us of the victory we have over sin in Jesus Christ! Finally, pray that as we look toward the horizon of a New Year that the Holy Spirit would search our hearts and continue to transform us into the likeness of His son!

**Discussion:** (45-60 minutes)

#### What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, we got to watch several people make a public proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ by being baptized! Pastor Danny also introduced us into our new series that will be walking through the book of John who authors his gospel to invite his readers to *come and see* Jesus! Pastor Danny points to *John 1:35-51* to challenge us to reflect on whether or not we have *actually* seen Jesus for who he is in our lives. Therefore, John's gospel challenges those who cannot see clearly to come and see as we navigate the rest of his gospel account in this new series!

**“As we embark on this series today, we decide to take Jesus at his word: If we come along for the journey, we will see! In this series, we will journey with Jesus and learn how faith can become sight.” – Pastor Danny Strange**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In: Icebreaker** – What was the most influential baptism story that you heard this week and why?

**\*\*NEW\*\* Series Video:** Each week, a collection of ministry leaders will be recording a video that discusses this week's sermon and how it may apply to our lives according to each demographic represented here at 3Crosses church! We recommend that you either encourage your group to watch the video *before* the meeting, or the video can make for a great opening activity for your group!



**Objective #1: Identify your current perception of Jesus and the areas to which you may be blind?**

*Primary Texts: John 1:35-51; 1 John 1:1-10* – Pastor Danny's introductory sermon challenges us to reflect on our perceptions about Jesus. He then invites us to journey with the church over the next seven weeks of our new series to discover the gospel according to John so that Jesus becomes more clear to us! **At the beginning of this series, take some time to gauge your own perception of Jesus? What are some of the ways that you would describe what you think about Jesus? What are some of the things you pray that you can begin to see clearer at the end of this series about seeing Jesus?**

**Objective #2: Explore how the global movement of Christianity has challenged your perspective of Jesus.**

*Selected Passages and Themes: Matthew 16:18, 24:14; Ephesians 3:20 (Prayer)* – In the roundtable discussion video, Pastor Mark spoke about the different ways Jesus has been opening the eyes of the spiritually blind around the world. **What are some of the most encouraging things that you heard from Pastor Mark in this particular video about Christians around the world? In which area did you feel the most challenged and how might God be giving you new vision for this area in your life?**

**Objective #3: Pray that your group members would learn to follow Jesus based on His promises!**

*Primary Texts: Hebrews 11:1 - 12:2* – One of the final points that Pastor Danny makes is that the disciples start to blindly follow Jesus based on a simple promise that if they will come, then they will see. This call to follow Jesus based on what he promises is a pattern in scripture identified in the Hebrews passage listed. **What are some of the promises of God that you are holding onto in this difficult season and how might God be calling you to take that next step toward him?**

## **Closing Prayer:** (5-10 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for sending His son at the perfect time! Praise the Son for emptying himself by becoming a human so that he might give up his own life so that we could be free from the bondage of our spiritual enemy! Ask that the Holy Spirit would mold our hearts and continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus. Finally, pray that we as a church would have the courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel of Jesus as we continue to stay connected to the Holy Spirit and follow His lead in our lives.

## **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

**-Can You See It! Series:** Each week, we will be recording a message that includes a collection of our ministry leaders and helps explain this week's study guide! *Tune in at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday Nights* each week for the premier of the video or check it out anytime on our [YouTube channel](#)!

**-Group Prayer:** This week, pray that the Spirit would illuminate the truth of Jesus in our lives! Challenge one or two members of your group by contacting them with a truth about Jesus upon which you are reflecting!

**-Further Reading:** *John 3* Next week, we will begin our new series by looking at the story of Nicodemus. As you read Nicodemus' story, remember that Nicodemus was a religious leader invested in understanding the law, yet Jesus comes and shatters his expectations. Try and empathize with the motivations of Nicodemus and stand in his shoes as we will discuss what it means to be blind to what Jesus is trying to do!

**-Community Groups 2021:** For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)