

# *Becoming*

## *Becoming Like Jesus (February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020)*

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader 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:** (1-5 minutes)

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

Thank Jesus for coming to this world and showing us the way in which humanity was called to live now and in eternity! Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal to us how Jesus is at the center of all truth that leads to the Father. Finally, thank Jesus for making the ultimate sacrifice on the cross so that we may have eternal life with the Father!

#### **Discussion:** (30 minutes)

##### What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the first week of our Community Group series titled *Becoming*. Pastor Danny pointed us to the dialogue between Jesus and Thomas in John 14:1-6 in order to emphasize how trusting in Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life as we hope for future life transformation in this life and eternity. Pastor Danny highlights that even though the disciples of Jesus may not have known where Jesus was heading, their task was to abide in Jesus because it was inevitably going to change the way they behaved in this world.

**“If you trust in Jesus, you will begin to become like Jesus. Belief creates behavior!” – Pastor Danny Strange**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In:** *Luke 15:1-7* – Last week at 3Crosses, we were able to celebrate new life! Our group discussions revolved around our testimonies of life transformation in Jesus by sharing our stories of being lost and then being found by our Good Shepherd. As we begin our new series, what aspect of your relationship with Jesus are you thankful for when you consider where you have been and where you are today?

**Study Tip:** Jesus' words in John 14 begin what is traditionally called the Upper Room Discourse. In preparation for the traditional Passover meal, Jesus proceeds to humbly wash his disciple's feet and allows Judas Iscariot to betray him (Jn. 13). Furthermore, after spending several years witnessing the ministry of Jesus, Peter, Thomas, Judas, and Philip express their confusion and blindness about Jesus' ministry moving forward (Jn. 13:36-14:14). As you engage with this week's study guide, remember that even Jesus' closest disciples were challenged by the unknown and unpredictable. Think about how confusion or doubt in your life challenges the truth that Jesus is waiting to humbly lead us to eternal life!

- **Objective #1: Identify the ways in which your behavior is not aligned with Jesus.**

*Primary Texts: John 14:1-6* – Pastor Danny begins by introducing the driving question of the series; how can we begin to modify our behavior to become more like Jesus? In many instances, like Pastor Danny's friend on anesthetics after his wisdom teeth procedure, our mind desires to do something but we are unable to make any behavioral changes. In this season of your life, what are some ways in which your behavior does **not** align with Jesus' way of life?

*Supporting Texts:* (The power of Sin) Rom. 3:10-24; 7:14-25, 1 Cor. 6:9-11 (Character of Jesus) Phil. 2:1-11

- **Objective #2: Dig deeper into the belief that is driving your misaligned behavior.**

*Primary Texts: John 15:1-8* – Pastor Danny mentions that even though we recognize our misaligned behavior, our tendency is to continue to try harder to do better rather than trusting in Jesus. Pastor Danny uses his "follow-the-leader" blindfold story to illustrate how even though we may be blind to the overall destination of our future, we are called to cling to Jesus and trust him as he guides us step-by-step towards becoming more like him. What does your misaligned behavior(s) tell you about where your mind is at and where you have placed your trust? What is a truth about Jesus that directly affects your behavior that you desire to trust over this new series?

*Supporting Texts:* (Transformed) John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Peter 5:7-9, Phil. 4:4-9

- **Objective #3: Cast a vision of behavioral changes you would like to see over the next 8 weeks.**

*Primary Texts: Ephesians 4:17-24* – Pastor Danny concludes the sermon by presenting a simple phrase that will influence your journey of life transformation and will summarize the next 8 weeks: **belief creates behavior**. What are the ways in which you hope to experience life transformation over the next 8 weeks and how can we begin praying that Jesus would transform your behavior by the renewing of your mind?

*Supporting Texts:* (New Life) Ezk. 11:19-20; 2 Cor. 3:18, 5:16-21; Gal. 2:19-21; Rev. 21:5

**Closing Prayer:** (5-15 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 Jesus for being the way, the truth, and the life! Ask that the Holy Spirit would reveal to us the depth of that statement not only in terms of eternal life, but every-day life within creation! Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would transform our minds so that we would begin to recognize our beliefs and worldviews that drive our behaviors!

**THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Further Reading and Exploration!** *Read John 14-17:* The upper room discourse is loaded with many great final sayings and teachings from Jesus. As you read these passages, try and keep track of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit's relationship with one another and how God affects our lives. In addition, try and identify what Jesus ultimately wants for your life!

**- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Pray that they would continue to be aware that the Spirit of Jesus would fill them as they interact with the people of the Bay Area today!

**- Join us for our Community Group Meet-Up on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020!** If you have any questions about Community Groups, feel free to email AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)