

CZ ALIVE.

**KICK
START**

**Disciple
Making
Movement**



How did I obey



Who did I tell



**What does this
say about God**

**What does this say
about people**



How do I obey

Who do I tell



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Making
Movement**

2nd Edition
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Why

Jesus gave us the assignment to go into all the world, making disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father, in the name of Jesus and in the name of the Holy Spirit. (Matt 28:19)

Who

For everyone who wants to grow into a personal relationship with God.

Where

Right where you live. In everyday places you visit, especially with those who don't know Jesus yet.

What

Daily putting into practice what we read in the Bible.

How

Through a Discovery Bible Study and a personal, intimate relationship. To build up our faith and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

A large, stylized purple quotation mark graphic consisting of two thick, rounded shapes. The left shape is partially obscured by a light purple horizontal bar that extends from the left edge of the page.

**Living with Jesus
will KICK START
your life in a
new direction**

Introduction

In front of you is everything you need to start and finish your first DMM group. Whether you are facilitating or participating, we want to say, welcome! We hope you are excited to begin and KICK START this new adventure. To those who are in search of spirituality and meaning in their life we want to say, you are in the right place. As we set out on a journey through the Bible, you will quickly notice that Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end. Thank you for trusting us in your journey. We pray it will be a true blessing and KICK START of new beginnings.

We pray you will encounter Jesus somewhere in the next couple of weeks. That HE may touch your heart and mind so that you will surrender your life to Him. Be blessed to be a blessing!

Basic instructions:

Before we start, it is good to cover the basics and give you some much-needed information.

- The **Word of God** is at the centre of this disciple-making movement.
- Every meeting consists of three parts: **Fellowship, Scripture, and Application**. Take your time going through these parts. Know that it's better to take things slowly than to rush through them; more on this later.
- Make every effort to **meet face-to-face**. It's an intimate process that thrives through personal contact.
- It's vital that you only meet when you are all able. When someone cancels, they arrange a new meeting.
- Try to meet **once a week**, not once every two weeks, and most certainly not once in three or more weeks. Meetings with short intervals work much better than long intervals.
- Be **HOT**, ready to share honestly, openly, and transparently about both your personal and spiritual life,
- Each meeting will be guided by the questions that you find on the back of the cover. Either the questions, icons, or both will be displayed as a reminder.

GOOD TO KNOW

- The Bible consists of 66 'books', 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Combined, these books are the Bible as we know it today.
- "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)
- The Bible was originally written in three different languages. Hebrew for the Old Testament, with some parts in Aramaic, and Greek for the New Testament. Over a period of 1500 years, on three different continents, despite this, it does not contradict itself, and it is all one big story.
- Originally, there were no chapter and verse markers. These were placed around 1500 to help with Bible reading, studying, and teaching.

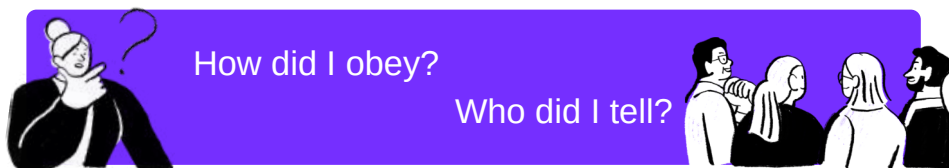
Guide

To help ensure everything runs smoothly, we provide some guidelines. We highly recommend you use these guidelines at least the first couple of times when you meet. Get comfortable with them, and soon you will find yourself adapting to the specific needs of those you meet with.

Every meeting consists of three parts: **Fellowship**, **Scripture**, and **Application**. With these parts come two questions that have to be answered. Let's take a quick look at what the different parts entail.

Fellowship

In the first part, we set out to really get to know each other. Seek interest in the people you meet with. Actively listen to each other with open ears and an open heart. **After the first meeting**, this will also be the part to ask the following questions:



These questions challenge us to share about the previous assignments that we set for ourselves. Share about how you obeyed, and what happened. If you were not able to do so, share why you were unable. Share how one could help make it happen. Did you tell someone about what you learned? Then share about how it went and what it did with you. As you probably already noticed, the conversation will become quite intimate. For this reason, we must understand that the place where we meet is the place of grace. So no condemnation if something didn't work out as hoped or planned.

Besides the questions above, we could ask things such as:

- How are you really doing?
- What are you thankful for?
- What challenges are in front of you?

These seem like simple questions, but often we hardly listen to the answer being given. Prepare yourself to listen actively and engage in conversation. Take time to **listen and pray** for each other.

Scripture

It is time to dive into the Bible. The second part of the meeting focuses on scripture. Every meeting will have a new theme, which will be introduced as we set out to show you the big story during the weeks that you will meet. Take your time going through the provided scripture(s). If possible, **use multiple Bible translations**, as previously mentioned, the Bible was originally not written in English, and therefore, we are dealing with translations. So the more we use it, the better our understanding of the word of God becomes. In this part of the meeting, we will answer the following questions:



What does this say about God?

What does this say about humans?



If you have been a Christian for a while, it becomes interesting to talk about specific theology. This, however, is not the purpose of a DMM. Avoid debating theological differences, but seek what we can simply learn from the text. Trust us when we say, this is already difficult enough. To help us find answers to the questions mentioned above, we can ask these follow-up questions:

- How does the text describe God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- How do we see this being lived out by other people?
- How does this scripture influence us in our daily lives?

Engage in conversation about what you think. It is not about being right or wrong, so do not be ashamed of simply speaking up. We encourage you to speak up boldly, rather than to be silent and withhold a possible revelation from the other person you meet with.

Application

We like to say that application is transformation, meaning that the real personal change will only come after we start to apply what we have found in the text. Welcome to the third and final part of the meeting. It is time to be honest about those things we struggle with, listen to others, and speak God's truths to each other. We do not have to come up with all kinds of advice or solutions for potential problems. Simply bring it before the Lord in prayer after answering the following questions:



How do I obey?

Who do I tell?



Becoming like Jesus Christ is not something that happens overnight. It will take our entire lives to become more and more like Him. It all starts with a concrete application. One that no one but you yourself will determine. Make sure you can accomplish it within one week, because the following week we will meet again and set a new concrete application.

Other questions you can ask are

- How can we implement what we read about on a daily basis?
- Do I know someone else that I can bless with what I've learned?
- Am I willing to change my life to implement what I've read about?

PRAY, PRAY, and PRAY!

We close the meeting with prayer. You could say the most important part of the meeting. For without prayer, we are simply doing it out of our own strength, which will mean nothing more than failure. Seek God and ask the Holy Spirit to speak into each other's lives. To bring to light those areas where we may grow.

- Share your prayer points.
- Think about two other people whom you might start a new DMM with and pray for them.
- Pray for more and more people coming to Christ in the Czech Republic and worldwide.

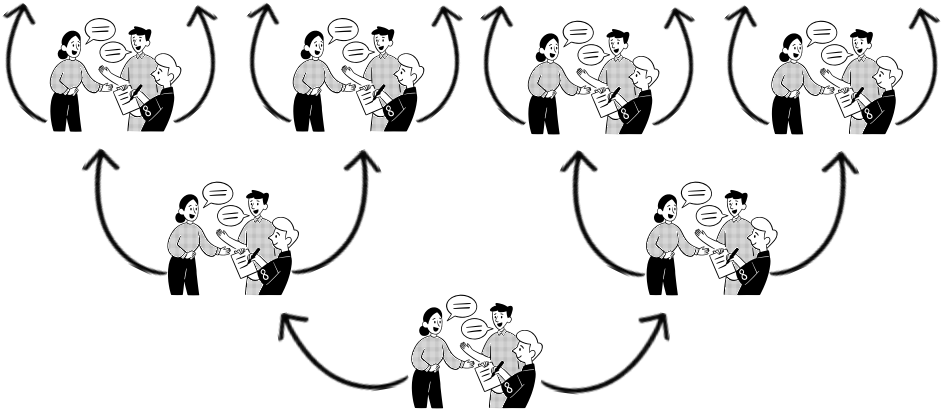
Again, take your time, don't rush through it because it's the end of the meeting. Yes, we all have to do things and go places, but as God has the highest priority in our lives, He deserves the most of our time and adoration.

Extra

Don't forget to arrange a new time and place where you meet the next time! Make sure you have fun and let the Holy Spirit guide you through the meetings. "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." (Gal. 5:25 NLT)

Application

When we talk about a 'movement', it might help to see the bigger picture. Because, where are we moving to, and how are we moving? The moment you are reading this, you most likely will either start or join a DMM group. This is where the movement begins. When you start to meet, we are all of a sudden moving towards a Christlike life and a Christlike Czech Republic. As you continue to meet the urge to start a new group with new people will be fuelled. By simply obeying this call and starting a second group, **you will see exponential growth.** After this multiplication, you can keep meeting each other or just start a third, fourth or even fifth group. The graphic gives an idea of how it "moves" and what this will look like.



IMPORTANT

Join us online and get updates and invitations to our social gatherings. Together, we build God's Kingdom in the Czech Republic. We would love to equip and encourage you through worship, testimonies, teachings, seminars, and workshops, so make sure to join!

EXPLANATION

FOR EVERYTHING
YOU NEED MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT

ICONS

Throughout the book you will find the following icons. They will guide you through the chapters and hopefully give the book a bit of structure.



INTRODUCTION

This is where you will find some information about the theme you're about to discuss.



SCRIPTURE READING

This is where you will find the verses you will be reading.



QUESTIONS

Besides the questions already provided on your question card, here are some to help you go even deeper.



GOOD TO KNOW

Here you will find more information about the piece of scripture, with either some fun facts or a deeper layer to the text.

NOTES

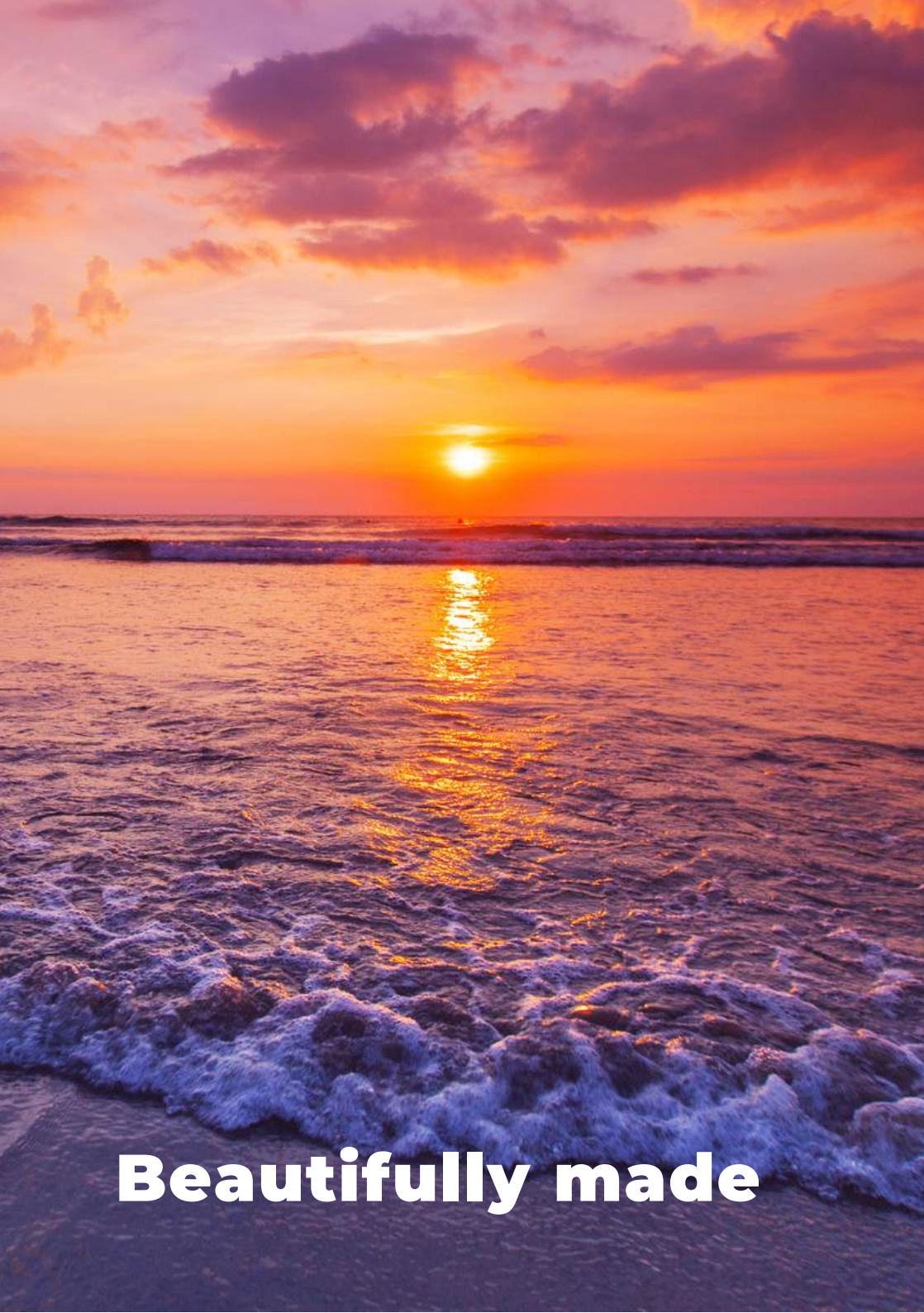
You'll find similar pages in the DMM tracks that are available. We highly recommend you use these pages to write down lessons learned and put your prayer points on paper. Moses did the same when God told him vital information (Ex 24:4). So why should we not do the same?

How nice is it to look back after a couple of weeks and see how you've grown or which prayers are answered by God!

There is no specified way to use the page, just some possibilities for writing down the things that are important to you.

“

**The real personal
change
will only come
after we start to apply
what we have found
in the text**



Beautifully made



INTRODUCTION

God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it, and he called it Good.

When we look at the stars or the roaring seas, we can be overcome with awe at how incredible it is, how wide, how deep, how far; it looks like it has no end. The God of the bible is the creator of this. How creative and great is He, who can create something so beautiful as the sky or so majestic as the waters?

In our first meeting, we will dive into the beginning of beginnings. Where do we come from? What does it mean for us to be created, and what does this say about our lives today?

God created the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. He created them in God's own image or likeness. He gave them all they needed for life: companionship, a wonderful place, work to do, food to eat, and water to drink or to swim in. Life was abundantly good in a world that was so good as new.

GENESIS 2:4-25

4 This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth. When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, **5** neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. **6** Instead, springs came up from the ground and watered all the land. **7** Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

8 Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. **9** The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden, he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. **11** The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. **12** The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. **13** The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush.



14 The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. **16** But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— **17** except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." **19**, So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. **20** He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still, there was no helper just right for him.

21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. **22** Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

23 "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'"

24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Take your question card and start with the 3rd question today. What does this say about God?



Imagine exercise

Imagine an empty and dark space, God stepping in, creating with his words. And instantly it was formed. How does this affect your view of who God is?

What do you think the garden must have looked like?

Can you imagine a life without stress, without pressure, without overwhelming expectations?

GOOD TO KNOW



The book of Genesis is sometimes also called the first book of Moses, after its writer, Moses. Later, we will discover more about this man whom God used in such mighty ways. Unfortunately for us, Moses didn't write in English but in Hebrew. This means we have to translate the Hebrew text into English. In the translation process, some obvious and beautiful linguistic links are, unfortunately, lost. To show you how beautifully made the Bible is, we like to show some of these 'missing' facts.

You probably know that the first man and woman were called Adam and Eve. If we take a look at verse 7 of Genesis 2, we read that God formed the man from the dust of the ground. In Hebrew, the word for man is adam, that's where he got his name from. The meaning of the Hebrew word Eve is life. In Genesis 3:20, we then read: "The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living." We now see that the Hebrew language holds more than one might perceive at first glance, especially after it has been translated into English, or any other language for that matter.

Let's look at one more example of the beautiful language that Moses wrote in. Adamah is the Hebrew word for ground, from which the man (Adam) was formed and beautifully made.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET



DECIEVED



INTRODUCTION

One little voice was enough to go against God's desire. Eve was misled by the serpent, by her own desires, and by her own eyes.

Unfortunately, the happy, peaceful time in the garden was ruined by a talking serpent. God Himself is not seen in this part of the text. We only read about Eve's conversation with the serpent. He asked her one question in which God's words were deliberately changed to make it seem like God was hiding something from Adam and Eve. As if God was holding something back, or they were missing out.

The moment Adam and Eve took a bite from the fruit, they instantly knew why God forbade them to eat from that one tree in the garden. Evil entered in, shame came into existence.

It all sounds like a fairytale that needs a good ending. Luckily for us, we will find out later that there will, in fact, be a happy ending!



GENESIS 3:1-7

1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day, he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

2 "Of course, we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. **3** "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. **5** "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. **7** At that moment, their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

READ THE WHOLE CHAPTER DURING THE WEEK

**The serpent
deceived me,
she replied.
“That’s why I
ate it.”
Gen. 3:1-7**



What do you think about

Why did God put this tree in the garden?
Why did God give Adam and Eve their own will and desires?
Why would the snake go against God?
If you were in their place, would you have listened to God?

GOOD TO KNOW



In verse 4, we read the words of the serpent saying, “You won’t die!” Unfortunately for Eve, she was being lied to, deceived by the father of lies, Satan himself. God had previously said, “For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:17) By following Satan’s deception and temptation, and Adam and Eve giving in to their own desires, sin entered into mankind.

The saddest part of this is that both Adam and Eve were tempted with something they already had. Satan told them, “you will be like God”, “but when they ate the fruit, instead of seeing the good they saw the evil, and it was in themselves. Instead of being clothed with wisdom they found themselves clothed with nothing—naked—stripped of all their glory and privileges. Instead of becoming more like God, they became less like Him.”¹ This is the greatest deception in the world, us, you and I, thinking that we are God’s equals. Capable of deciding everything for ourselves, independent from Him. Living a self-centred life in our own little paradise.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET



I SPEAK...



INTRODUCTION

A lot happened after the fall; it became almost impossible to choose the right thing after what happened in the Garden. From generation to generation, evil grew, and people became far from what the Creator had intended for the world.

Now, generations later, God had chosen Moses to lead His people, the Israelites. They were set free by God, from slavery under the Egyptians, with a lot of power and miracles displayed. Maybe you know the story of the 10 plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. They were on their way to the land God had promised them through their forefathers, Abraham and Isaac.

Now in Exodus, we read about God speaking to Moses. He wants a new covenant with His people. God is promising to be there for them, as He has shown His care and protection in the stories we just mentioned. Now let's take a look at the renewed covenant that is being made here.

EXODUS 19:3-9

3 Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: **4** 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. **5** Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. **6** And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

7 So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the Lord had commanded him. **8** And all the people responded together, "We will do everything the Lord has commanded." So Moses brought the people's answer back to the Lord.

9 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you." Moses told the Lord what the people had said.



**ALSO READ EXODUS
20:1-21**

You will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on the earth

Ex 19:5



Also read **Exodus 20:1-21**

God gave the people some boundaries so they knew how to behave.

Do you think these commands are hard to follow?

What Command is most challenging for you?

What do you think about the role of Moses in this story?

Would you like to stand in his shoes?

GOOD TO KNOW



A covenant, in the Biblical sense, is an agreement between God and men. It comes into effect the moment we accept what God has spoken. In verse 8, we read that they replied, "We will do all the Lord has commanded." In other words, they entered into a covenant with God.

Remember how we mentioned the importance of Moses in the first gathering? Well, this week, we get a good view of why Moses is such an important person. Moses has become the intermediary between God and the Israelites. God talks with Moses, Moses talks with the Israelites and vice versa. This intermediary role came after the Israelites realised they would die if God spoke to them directly. They said: "If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we shall die." (Deut 5:25b) It is their guilt, as sinful people, that keeps them from approaching God. For us, it unfortunately is the same. We, too, are in need of an intermediary between God and us. Later, more on this.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET



Humans offer



INTRODUCTION

Humans turn out to be humans. Even though the Israelites made a covenant with God and promised to do whatever God told them to do. They did not. They disobeyed. In Genesis, we read that God made clothes for Adam and Eve so their shame and nakedness was covert. God made these clothes from animal skin. If we give this a quick thought, we understand that some animal had to die to become their clothing.

Having arrived in the book of Leviticus, we see the same thing. Humans, still being humans, are tempted to go after their own desires, messing up the covenant with God. What a blessing to know that God gave the option for a sacrifice that made things right again.

God in His Holiness can't bear sins, wrongdoing, messing up, and ungodliness. He had to give us a solution.

We will read in the text of this meeting that God wants to be right with us. But because we are the ones violating the covenant, we have to meet God's requirements to receive His forgiveness. In the old days, before Jesus, this looked a bit different from today. We hope you are happy, living in the days after the revealing of Jesus Christ.

LEVITICUS 4:1-2, 13-21, 27-31



Then the Lord said to Moses, **2** "Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. This is how you are to deal with those who sin unintentionally by doing anything that violates one of the Lord's commands.

13 "If the entire Israelite community sins by violating one of the Lord's commands, but the people don't realise it, they are still guilty. **14** When they become aware of their sin, the people must bring a young bull as an offering for their sin and present it before the Tabernacle. **15** The elders of the community must then lay their hands on the bull's head and slaughter it before the Lord. **16** The high priest will then take some of the bull's blood into the Tabernacle, **17** dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the Lord in front of the inner curtain. **18** He will then put some of the blood on the horns of the altar for fragrant incense that stands in the Lord's presence inside the Tabernacle. He will pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar for burnt offerings at the entrance of the Tabernacle. **19** Then the priest must remove all the animal's fat and burn it on the altar, **20** just as he does with the bull offered as a sin offering for the high priest. Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the Lord,

and they will be forgiven. **21** Then the priest must take what is left of the bull and carry it outside the camp and burn it there, just as is done with the sin offering for the high priest. This offering is for the sin of the entire congregation of Israel.

27 “If any of the common people sin by violating one of the Lord’s commands, but they don’t realise it, they are still guilty. **28** When they become aware of their sin, they must bring as an offering for their sin a female goat with no defects. **29** They must lay a hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it at the place where burnt offerings are slaughtered. **30** Then the priest will dip his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar for burnt offerings. He will pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. **31** Then he must remove all the goat’s fat, just as he does with the fat of the peace offering. He will burn the fat on the altar, and it will be a pleasing aroma to the Lord. Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the Lord, and they will be forgiven.

This offering is for the sin of the entire congregation of Israel.

Lev. 4:21



Imagine exercise

You are walking towards the holy place with your animal because you have stolen some berries from a tree that belonged to the neighbours.

What are the things that would hold you back from going to God for forgiveness?

In the context of our days, are these things holding you back, even though you don’t have to bring an animal?

GOOD TO KNOW



After having read this text, you might wonder why. Why did they have to sacrifice an animal? Didn't they have another option? This is where we will learn a valuable lesson: the Bible interprets itself. This means that the answer to our question has to come from the Bible itself. This isn't always what we want to hear, but it is what we need to hear.

In this case, it is good to know that the blood of the sacrificial animal functioned as atonement, that is to say, cover or make amends for the sin of the one sacrificing. As verse 20 mentions, making things right with the Lord. In Leviticus 17:11 we read that "the life of the body is in the blood". The blood has to be given on an altar to purify us so we are made right with the Lord. Whether we are aware of it or not, if we break the covenant, we are guilty. As such, atonement needs to be made. The fact that our wrongdoing is sometimes unintentional (Lev 4:2) doesn't take away from this reality.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET

A large, empty white rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for taking notes. It is positioned on the right side of the page, below the 'NOTES' header.



God's Offer



INTRODUCTION

Isaiah is a prophet, speaking the words of God to the original audience at that time, for that specific period in history, and for the time to come.

Today's text is a prophecy about a man who didn't look like anyone special, was rejected by people, and endured suffering. He was oppressed and not welcomed. This man bore our sicknesses; he carried the iniquities of all. This prophecy speaks of Jesus Christ, 700 years before Jesus was born.

We (Christians) know that Jesus is the fulfilment of this prophecy. We look back to the cross and see what Jesus changed. For the original audience, this was not the case; they were waiting on someone who would fulfil this promise. Jesus, the innocent lamb, the righteous man, was to come; to be slaughtered, so we could be counted righteous through the obedience of this one man.

Jesus, the son of God.



ISAIAH 53:1-12

Who has believed our message? To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?

2 My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground.

There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.

3 He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

8 Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people.

9 He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.

10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.

11 When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.

12 I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

Is. 53:6



Imagine exercise

You are an Israelite, you hear this prophecy. What would be your first response?

Your own father asking you to endure so much trouble, even face death, to rescue other people's lives, would you do it voluntarily?

Read Hebrews 4:15

GOOD TO KNOW



A prophecy in the Bible means a spoken word “proclaiming or announcing something under the influence of divine inspiration”.² This ‘divine inspiration’ is from the Spirit of the Lord, also known as the Holy Spirit. In this week’s text, we read from Isaiah, who, inspired by the Holy Spirit, announces a servant of the Lord (verse 2). One who is pierced, crushed, beaten, whipped, oppressed, treated harshly and slaughtered. Unjustly condemned, struck down and buried like a criminal, all to make Him an offering for sin (verse 10). In the introduction of this week, you read that this is talking about Jesus Christ. It is He who did all this, making Himself an offering for sin, so that you and I are atoned for.

For Jesus’ death to serve as atonement for us means we have to accept that He took our place. This is what they call ‘substitutionary atonement’, meaning Jesus is the one who was the substitute for our atonement, or even more plainly, everything He went through, mentioned above and in the Bible text, He did so that we don’t have to.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET

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Jesus is born



INTRODUCTION

The announcement of the messiah, the long-expected deliverer for the Israelites. He is coming, and how! We will take a closer look at the beginnings of the Son of God on earth. God himself chose a woman, an unmarried, virgin young woman. Mary must have been around 16 years old when she got this unexpected visit from the heavens.

This must have been an impressive moment, one that would change Mary's life completely. A visit from an angel, being called 'a favored woman', hearing the words, 'the lord is with you'. Now this is a night to remember.

Not that there was a chance she would forget quickly, because her life had been drastically changed. A growing belly, pregnant without wearing a wedding ring. I guess in that moment, Mary's thoughts were going crazy; what about her relationship with Joseph? And what about the community in the culture that she was living in? They wouldn't believe her. Mary would be judged by her surroundings. She knew, but her response to the message of the angel was submissive. How impressive and how courageous. She is willing to endure this so she can be a great servant to her God.

LUKE 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, **27** to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. **28** Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. **30** "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. **36** What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. **37** For the word of God will never fail.



38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

LUKE 2:1-7

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. **2** (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. **4** And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. **5** He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.

7 She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.

Luke 1:32



Imagine exercise

How often do you think of what other people might think of you?

Do you think Mary acted upon her feelings or her rational thinking in this moment?

GOOD TO KNOW



It is always good to ask questions when reading the Bible. It helps us interact with the word of God and think about what we actually read. Sometimes the writer or the person in the text does this for us, which often leads us to deeper insight. In this case, we see Mary asking a question. How will it happen, she asks in verse 34. It is a question that leads to an answer in which some of God's methods are shown. We read that the angel tells Mary that she will be overshadowed. But what does this actually mean, being overshadowed?

In Mark 9 verse 7 we read: "Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him'". The voice that speaks is the voice of God. As such, we see that it is God who, when overshadowing people, is actually present. From here, He pronounces the truth about who Jesus is. It is the "cloud that indicates the presence of God"³ from which he overshadows the people. That means that in Mary's case, when she is overshadowed, God is present. The text tells us that it is the "power of the Most High", in other words, the power of God.

It is His power that will give life to the one she is supposed to call Jesus. Jesus coming to life is the ultimate proof of God's presence when He overshadows Mary.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET

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Jesus is baptized



INTRODUCTION

We jump from baby Jesus to a grown adult Jesus, a man, 30 years old.

From his childhood, we don't know much, we only know that Jesus spent his first few years in Egypt. They returned to Israel when King Herod died (Matt 2:19-23). When Jesus turned 12, he went to the temple in Jerusalem with his parents. Here we learn that Jesus turned out to be a very wise boy, full of the wisdom of the scriptures, listening and asking the teachers questions. All people were amazed by Jesus's understanding and answers. (Luke 2:41-47)

So, Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people. (Luke 2:52)

Now we step into the moment when Jesus starts his public ministry. He steps into the footsteps of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Him. He is baptised, and His own father acknowledges with a voice from heaven that He, Jesus, is His beloved son. Jesus receives the acknowledgement of His Father, the confirmation that he truly is the promised one.

Just like Adam and Eve were tested in the Garden of Eden, Jesus was also tested. This time, not in a beautiful garden, but in the wilderness. No food and no companion to help Him make the right choice. Still, Jesus doesn't bow to Satan. He fights the battle with the word of God, and he overcomes the temptation.

MATTHEW 3:13-17



13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. **14** But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

MATTHEW 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. **2** For forty days and forty nights He fasted and became very hungry. **3** During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple,

6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’”

7 Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.”

10 “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.



Imagine exercise

How well do you think you know the Bible? Is it well enough to overcome temptations?

What kind of acknowledgement would you like to receive from God, the Father?

Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

Matt. 4:10

GOOD TO KNOW

Often, we will find so-called Bible references in texts that explain the Bible. These references will most often start with an abbreviation of the Bible book, followed by the chapter and verse that are mentioned. For example, Matt 3:13, where Matt stands for The Gospel of Matthew, 3rd chapter, 13th verse, which says: “Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John.”

Following the Bible references makes it a lot easier to check (or reference) the Bible verses mentioned in the material we are reading.



When we take a closer look at what happens to Jesus after He was baptised, we see a pattern emerge. To show you this pattern, we have to go back to the chapter Deceived. The time we talked about how Satan deceived Adam and Eve. We saw Satan approaching Eve and asking her, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" (Gen 3:1) and telling her, "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." (Gen 3:5) He was giving both Adam and Eve a false narrative about who they were. Having been made in the image of God, they already were like God.

Satan was offering something they already were, like God. He was testing their identity.

In this chapter, Jesus is being approached. Again, we see Satan asking questions based upon the same false narrative, offering something that has already been given. Twice, Satan tries to deceive Jesus by asking Him, "If you are the Son of God..."(Matt 4:3,6). The third time, he promises to give Jesus everything he sees, but only when Jesus kneels down and worships Satan. (Matt 4:9) This time, it is Jesus who is being tested in his identity.

Jesus understands who He is, and therefore He can put Satan in his place. Satan's final attempt to offer Jesus something that He already has is a miserable failure. Jesus knows his identity. He understands that everything He sees has already been given to Him by God. After all, it was God who declared, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." (Matt 3:17)

As you can see, Bible references are very common in biblical literature. Whenever you write something, whether it is for your own study or in preparation for a group study, include them so it is clear where your ideas are based on.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET



Jesus announces



INTRODUCTION

How do you introduce yourself to the public?

In our days, full of social media, we are concerned with how we come across. On the socials, we display the parts of us that everyone may know: who we are, what we look like, the things we do or make, what we are part of, and what we are proud of. Our accomplishments and relationships, all for the world to see. Most of us do this without thinking about it, it's part of our culture and how the world is ruled nowadays. Some of us want to make an impact on the world and make use of these media to be known and to spread a vision.

I believe that Jesus did the same. He had a vision, a plan, and a purpose. He needed people to know about the vision of God and that He was part of it. Of course, there was no social media and all of that kind of media attention. But there was something else, a public place with a lot of people, people talking, rumours. Jesus knew that the word would spread fast.

In today's text, we will dive into how Jesus announces himself as the one, the messiah, whom every Jew was waiting for.

LUKE 4:14-21

14 Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. **15** He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. **17** The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

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,

19 and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

20 He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. **21** Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"



The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

Luke 4:21



Imagine exercise

Imagine yourself being in the synagogue where Jesus is announcing himself. What would have been your reaction?

What are the things that you want the world to know?

GOOD TO KNOW



"The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!" (Luke 4:21). Previously, we spoke about prophecy and how it proclaims or announces something under the influence of the Holy Spirit. In this chapter, we see a prophecy being fulfilled. Or in other words, that which was proclaimed to happen came into existence. The text tells us that it was prophesied by Isaiah (Luke 4:18). In the Old Testament, we find the book of Isaiah, in which we should find what Jesus is telling the people in verse 18 of Luke 4. Looking for this text is called cross-referencing. It is a valuable tool that helps us show the connection between the Old and New Testaments. After all, they are both needed and equally important. One cannot do with only the New Testament. To understand it in its own context, we need the Old Testament, and vice versa.

Most commonly, you find the cross-references in the footnotes of your Bible. For our text from Luke 4, we have to go to Isaiah 61:1-2. If we take a close look at the text, we see that, although they look very similar, they are not exactly the same. "In the original Old Testament passage, there is no reference to making the blind see. Conversely, Isaiah speaks of "binding up the brokenhearted," a phrase absent in Luke."⁴

This is because of the translation that Luke most likely used. A Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, which is called the Septuagint. This leaves us with two possibilities for the differences. Either Jesus read from “a Hebrew text that reflected the Septuagint, or Luke fills in the quoted passage with the Septuagint.”⁴

Nothing really shocking as you can see, and simultaneously perfectly explainable if we know what we are talking about. It teaches a couple of valuable lessons. First, the Bible has been written in different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek).

Secondly, already in Jesus' days did they use a translation from the Hebrew to the Greek, so nothing wrong with using different translations, and thirdly, following cross-references gives us a wider and more in-depth view of the connection between the Old and New Testaments. It shows us they belong together and are equally important.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET



Jesus heals



INTRODUCTION

After Jesus announced himself as the 'messiah.' He read the scroll of Isaiah, which states that He will give sight to the blind. (Isaiah 42:7 and 35:5) He puts words into action.

Jesus starts his miracle works, he turns water into wine, he gives people food from 5 loaves and 2 fishes, he gives back the sight of blind man, and he heals many people.

Now we will take a look at one of those incredible moments in which Jesus heals someone. The healing itself makes it an impressive story, but I want to draw your attention to the officer, who comes to ask Jesus. This man is not coming for himself, but for his servant who is in severe pain. The officer is taking good care of his servant; he has compassion on him, even so much so that he takes the time to go and find Jesus. Now, in the conversation that he has with Jesus, we get to know a lot about his attitude. It is a beautiful attitude; Jesus takes the man as an example for the people around them. In doing this, Jesus is honouring the officer. Then he tells him that his request is granted because of his faith. The servant is healed. imagine the officer coming back home while the servant is just doing his job, like nothing ever happened. They had a story to tell.

MATTHEW 8:5-17

5 When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him,

6 "Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain."

7 Jesus said, "I will come and heal him."

8 But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. **9** I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it."

10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel! **11** And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. **12** But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

13 Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened." And the young servant was healed that same hour.



14 When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. **15** But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him.

16 That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. **17** This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases."

He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick.

Matt. 8:16



Imagine exercise

There is a warning in the story for the Israelites (verse 12). What do you think this is about?

In verse 16, Jesus is delivering people from demons. What are your thoughts about demons and how they can torment people?

GOOD TO KNOW



Again, we see a connection between the Old and the New Testament. Matthew 8:17 tells us that Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would take our sicknesses and remove our diseases. Matthew quotes from Isaiah 53 here and thus connects the old with the new. By now, you'll understand that the whole Bible is filled with these kinds of connections. It shows us how wonderfully and remarkably the Bible actually is. Just like you and I are wonderfully and remarkably made in the image of God.

In this chapter, we read how Jesus healed all the sick, no exceptions. The same matters for those who were under the influence of evil spirits; they were set free. If we connect what we see Jesus do to what is said in the conversation with the Roman officer, it becomes clear that all creation is under Jesus' authority. Whether it be the things we see or the things that we don't see, such as evil spirits. Every knee should bow to the name of Jesus. Leading us to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:10)

Perhaps you still wonder whether or not Jesus truly is God.

If this is the case, we see Jesus saying in John 10:38 "even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father." (ESV) In other words, when people are healed, delivered and set free from sickness and oppression by evil spirits, let it be a testimony to Jesus' authority.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET





Jesus paid it all



INTRODUCTION

Jesus was praised by many for the miracles he did and for the authority with which he spoke. But! He was also hated by the people of the law, who couldn't wrap their minds around all that Jesus did. His words were dishonouring God from their point of view. They called Him a deceiver (John 7:12) and thought that he was demon-possessed (John 10:20). He couldn't be from God because he was not following the rules (John 9:16).

OH boy, they couldn't be more wrong.

But even these people served a purpose; these people of the law would help fulfil the prophecies. Thanks to their behaviour and attitude, Jesus ended up on the cross. Dying a cruel death. The death of a criminal. The one who was without mistakes, without sin and blame, died in our place.

They shamed Him, but He forgave them. They insulted Him, but he gave mercy. They hurt Him, but He healed them. They mocked Him, but He kept silent. He fulfilled the prophecy till the end. He trusted His father God in all of it.

LUKE 23:32-56



32 Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. **33** When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

35 The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." **36** The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. **37** They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" **38** A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"

40 But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?" **41** We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." **42** Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

43 And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

44 By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. **45** The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. **46** Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.

47 When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." **48** And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. **49** But Jesus' friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching.

The Burial of Jesus

50 Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish high council, **51** but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come. **52** He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. **53** Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock. **54** This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation, as the Sabbath was about to begin.

55 As his body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed. **56** Then they went home and prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body. But by the time they were finished the Sabbath had begun, so they rested as required by the law.

**Father, I
entrust my
spirit into
your hands!**

Luke 23:46



Imagine exercise

Can you imagine being treated this badly and still being able to forgive them?

What do you need, to forgive the ones who hurt you?

GOOD TO KNOW



In the middle of the crucifixion story, we all of a sudden read this small, but very important detail:

“The curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle.” (Luke 23:45b) You might wonder why, and to show it to you we once again have to go back all the way to the beginning.

In Genesis, we read that God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The place where God dwelt among them. The moment they took of the fruit, after having been deceived by Satan, their freedom was taken, and they were placed outside the garden. We see the same principle applied within the tabernacle and later the temple. The places in the Old Testament where God dwelt among men. In both of them, there was the holy place and the most holy place, also known as the Holy of Holies. These two areas were divided by a curtain, or better said, a veil. Separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy place. Inside this closed area was the Ark of the Covenant, in which the two tablets of stone were that Moses brought down from the mountain. The ark represented God's presence on earth; access to it was only permitted once a year by the High Priest.

It was impossible for God's people to dwell with Him, just as in the story of Adam and Eve.

Now we read that Jesus, being the Highest Priest, is breaking the veil. He is ripping the curtain in half, giving us access to walk with God once again. It shows God's beautiful restoring work from which we can enter in and dwell with Him in a close relationship once again.

Just like this, there are many more sides to the power of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. All of them have this one thing in common: restoration of God's creation.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET





Jesus resurrected



INTRODUCTION

The followers, disciples, and loved ones of Jesus were grieving. They lost their friend and teacher. They were afraid that what happened to Jesus could also happen to them. They were taught and trained by Him, speaking the same words, doing the same miracles. Out of fear, they hid, while simultaneously grieving.

Jesus already prepared His disciples for this moment; He had told them multiple times that He had to suffer severely, to the point of death, and that He would rise again on the third day. (John 2:19-21, Matthew 16:21, Matthew 17:22-23, Matthew 20:17-19, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:22, Luke 18:31-34)

They had totally forgotten His words.

When the Sabbath was over, the woman went to the grave. They had the intention to honour Jesus by putting herbs and spices on his body. What a huge surprise they run into, an empty tomb and angels speaking to them. Reminding them of the words that Jesus had spoken about this very moment.

Jesus did what he had always said He would do; he rose from the dead, the grave could not hold Him! What a glorious day!

The prophet Isaiah wrote about this moment when he said, ' To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair' (Isaiah 61:3).

The woman experienced this prophecy first-hand, returned to the men and shared the good news: Jesus is alive!

LUKE 24:1-12

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. **2** They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. **3** So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? **6** He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."

8 Then they remembered that he had said this. **9** So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.



10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened.

They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.



What do you think about

Read some of the references from the introduction. How could it happen that they totally forgot these words of Jesus?

If you put yourself into this story, where would you have been? With the man, the woman, or would you be like Peter?

11 But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. **12** However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

GOOD TO KNOW



The biblical narrative, more often than we think, flips the script in unexpected ways. The resurrection story is one of those narratives. We are not talking about the fact that the tomb was empty, but the fact that Jesus' resurrection happened in a tomb. Almost as if the tomb was a womb, giving life and new beginnings.

When Jesus was born, we read in Luke 2 that it happened in a manger. Most people think of this as a wooden trough for animals, in a stable also made of wood. However, "traditionally, the manger area in which Jesus was born was a cave stable".⁵ The manger was a stone trough from which the animals were fed. In other words, the place where Jesus was born and the place where he was resurrected are alike. Jesus, being born in a cave and laid in a stone manger, dies and is once again laid in a stone cave. Only to be resurrected from a stone bed, ushering in new and eternal life. Making the tomb a womb, not only for Jesus but for all of creation, hallelujah!

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET



Jesus' disciple



INTRODUCTION

The story continues. Jesus spent fifty more days on earth before He ascended to heaven. (Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:9-11) I encourage you to read at least one of the gospels (Matthew, Luke, John, Mark) in full. To be continued in the book of Acts.

But for now, we go back in time approximately 2,5 years. We will take a closer look at Nicodemus. The Pharisee, of whom we already know, provided an excessive amount of herbs and spices for Jesus' burial.

Nicodemus was a respected man, a member of the Jewish ruling council, influential and wealthy. He had a nightly encounter with the Messiah, recognising that Jesus was sent by God as a teacher and stating that the miracles are proof of that.

Jesus' response is remarkable; He gives this honourable man a mystery to unravel.

This mystery is clear for us today, we have to be born again in spirit.

As Nicodemus was coming to Jesus in the dark, Jesus brought in the light. He gave Nicodemus and us the solution to step into the light with Him and through Him. When we believe and acknowledge who Jesus truly is, we want Him to save us from the dark. Our spirit will be born again.

JOHN 3:1-21

1 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. **2** After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." **3** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." **4** "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" **5** Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. **6** Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. **7** So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." **9** "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

10 Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things?"

11 I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. **12** But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things?



13 No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. **14** And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **17** God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

18 "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.

19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. **20** All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. **21** But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

ALSO READ MARK
16:15-18

**But those who
do what is
right come to
the light so
others can see
that they are
doing what
God wants.**



Imagine exercise

Imagine an empty and dark space, God stepping in, creating with his words.

And instantly it was formed. How does this affect your view of who God is?

What do you think the garden must have looked like?

Can you imagine a life without stress, without pressure, without overwhelming expectations?

GOOD TO KNOW



In the most basic sense, the word disciple means: “to be a pupil, with implication of being an adherent of the teacher”.⁶ If we dive deeper, we see that a disciple is also someone baptised and obedient to the teachings of Jesus. (Matt 28:19-20) This means that, only hearing and not being obedient to what you have heard, is not being a disciple. A disciple is someone who does what Jesus has taught. Jesus tells us that the ones who do what they have been taught are blessed. (Matt 7:24-27, John 13:17) This means that the things you have been taught have to be put into practice. After all, it is the application that leads to transformation. Transformation towards the image of Christ, not only in knowledge, but even more so in character and behaviour.


We pray that the things you have been taught may help you grasp and understand the beauty of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the depth and beauty of God’s word and the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, the moment you surrendered your life to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

After all, it is Christ! No more, no less.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET

A large, empty white rounded rectangular area intended for the reader to take notes on the text provided.

A silhouette of a shepherd wearing a cap and boots, holding a long staff, leading a flock of sheep through a grassy field. The scene is set against a bright sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a strong backlighting effect and long shadows. The sheep are moving away from the viewer towards the right side of the frame.

SHOUT WITH JOY TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH!
WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS.
COME BEFORE HIM, SINGING WITH JOY.
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE LORD IS GOD!
HE MADE US, AND WE ARE HIS.
WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE.
ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING;
GO INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE.
GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND PRAISE HIS NAME.
FOR THE LORD IS GOOD.
HIS UNFAILING LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER,
AND HIS FAITHFULNESS CONTINUES
TO EACH GENERATION.

Psalm 100

Final Words

IT ALL BEGINS AND ENDS WITH LOVE

We hope you've enjoyed our time together. We pray that by now you have set your focus on being a disciple of Jesus. That you will put Him first in everything you will do. We trust that those in your circle will recognize your personal growth in Jesus, don't keep silent about it and share with whomever want to hear.

If you like to **GO DEEPER** into a lifestyle of discipleship, make sure to download the next handout and continue growing. We would love to hear your testimony, so don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Finally, we would like to say that we love you and we pray for you. One day we will meet and see each other face to face, until that time know that the LORD is God and his **LOVES** endures forever.

**"Acknowledge
that the LORD is God!
He made us,
and we are his.
We are his people,
the sheep of his pasture."**



GO and Make Disciples!

We are a walking
testimony of our Lord
and Saviour Jesus
Christ!

Don't stop now,
continue growing and
sharing.
Become a facilitator
for the next DMM
group.

NOTES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
DON'T WANT TO FORGET

Notes

1. Thomas Hale, *The Applied Old Testament Commentary* (Colorado Springs, CO; Ontario, Canada; East Sussex, England: David C. Cook, 2007), 135.
2. Elwell, Walter A., and Barry J. Beitzel. "Prophecy." *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988.
3. William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 378.
4. Michael S. Heiser, "D. I. Y. Bible Study: The New Testament Misquotes the Old," ed. John D. Barry, *Bible Study Magazine*: March–April 2010 (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2010), 42.
5. Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "Manger," *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1392.
6. William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 609.

Other books from CZ Alive.



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How did I obey



Who did I tell



**What does this
say about God**

**What does this say
about people**



How do I obey

Who do I tell





THIS BOOKLET WAS MADE
TO STRENGTHEN THOSE
WHO WANT TO GROW IN
THEIR RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS CHRIST AND
STAND UP AS DISCIPLES
BRINGING THE GOSPEL
TO THOSE WHO HAVEN'T
HEARD IT YET.