

Following Jesus Study Guide – Giving Life

Main Idea: Jesus always brought life and hope and joy and healing to those who acknowledged their need and turned to him for answers. He healed the sick, raised the dead, fed the hungry, forgave the sinful, showed compassion on those who cried out for mercy, and so on.

Living like Jesus: We can imitate Jesus by bringing life to others through prayer, acts of compassion, intervention, counseling, advocacy, encouragement, personal presence, and a variety of other ways.

Key Scriptures: Here are some examples of how Jesus brought life:

- As a light to the Gentiles (Matt. 4:12-17; 7:24-30; Luke 7:1-10; 15:25-27; John 4:1-42)
- Through forgiveness (Matt. 9:1-8; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 7:36-50; 23:34, 43; John 12:1-11)
- Through his many miracles of healing (Matt. 4:23-25; 8:14-17; 14:14; Mark 3:7-12)
- Through acts of compassion (Matt. 9:35-38; 15:32; 20:34; Mark 6:34)
- Through feeding the hungry (Matt. 14:13-21; 15:29-39 and parallels)
- Through security and spiritual protection (John 10:1-21)
- To those who cry out for mercy (Matt. 9:27-30; 15:22; 20:29-34)
- To children (Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)
- To the worried (Matt. 6:25-33; Luke 10:38-42; 12:22-31)
- To the burdened (Matt. 11:28-30)
- To the spiritually lost (Luke 15:1-32)
- To the fearful and confused (Matt. 28:9-10; Luke 24:13-35, 36-49; John 20:11-31)
- To the grieving (Luke 7:11-13; John 11:1-44)
- To discouraged, despairing disciples (John 21:1-23)
- To his disciples just before his death (John 13-17)
- To encourage and affirm (Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 12:41-44; 14:1-11)
- To encourage celebration (John 2:1-12)
- To give life to others even as he was sacrificing his life (Matt. 16:21-28; Mark 8:31-9:1; 9:30-32; 10:32-34; Luke 23:34, 43; John 19:26-27)

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways did Jesus bring life that we could never bring life because he is the Son of God?
In what ways can we imitate Jesus in bringing life to others?
2. How has God used you to bring life to others in the past? In other words, in what ways do you feel gifted and called to bring life to others?
3. How has God used other people in your group to bring life to others?
4. What are your strongest motivations for wanting to be a person who brings life?
5. What are the most difficult obstacles and challenges?
6. How can we pray for each other and help each other to be less selfish and more life giving?