

## **Following Jesus**

### **Study Guide – Staying on Mission**

**Main Idea:** Jesus had a clear understanding of his God-given mission and a willingness to stick with his calling through all kinds of situations.

**Living like Jesus:** We can imitate Jesus by knowing our life calling and making decisions that support that calling. This involves being very intentional about God’s mission for all believers, knowing and living out our more specific life calling, practicing discernment, and refusing to be sidetracked by distractions or led astray by a desire to try to do everything or please everyone.

**Key Scriptures:** We cannot imitate all aspects of Jesus’ unique mission but we can imitate him by living mission-focused lives. Here are some examples of how Jesus stayed focused on his mission:

- Announced the kingdom of God (Isa. 9:6-7; 61:1-3; Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:43)
- Proclaimed the good news of the kingdom (Mark 1:38; Luke 4:43) and taught people the ways of the kingdom (Matt. 5-7; Mark 1:21; John 8:2)
- Brought physical healing (Matt. 4:23-14:14; Luke 4:40; 5:15; John 9:4-7) and deliverance from demonization (Mark 1:34; Matt. 9:33; 17:18)
- Suffered and died on the cross (Isa. 53:3-10; Matt. 16:31; Mark 8:31; Luke 24:26-27; Acts 8:32-35). In John, Jesus refers to his suffering and death as his “hour” (John 12:23-28; 17:1)
- Served sacrificially (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27; John 13:13-16; Phil. 2:7)
- Brought judgment on the earth (Luke 12:49; John 3:17-18; 5:22; 8:26; 12:47-48)
- Obeyed the Father’s will (John 4:34; 6:38; 14:31; 18:11; Matt. 26:39) and made known the Father (John 1:18; 14:9; 17:26)
- Fulfilled the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 5:17; Luke 4:18-21; 18:31)
- Came to seek and save the lost (Matt. 1:21; Luke 15:1-10; 19:10; John 3:17; 10:10)
- Brought eternal life (John 6:38-40; 10:10; 17:2-3)
- Made a priority of speaking to the Jews first (Matt. 10:5-6; 15:24; John 1:11) but his message was intended for all nations (Matt. 8:10-11; 28:18-20; John 10:16; Acts 1:8)

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How would you summarize Jesus’ mission?
2. What distractions did he face throughout his life and how did he stay focused on his God-given mission?
3. Do you think individual Christians have a life calling that is more specific than the mission given to all believers? If so, how do those two relate and work together?
4. What are some distractions you face at this stage of life?
5. What really helps you stay focused on what God wants you to do?
6. What is one thing your community could do to help you stay focused?