



Week One: Unfiltered Dependence

Unfiltered Jesus, Matthew 14

ICEBREAKER

1. Answer one of the following questions:

- o Where is your favorite place to go to rest and relax?
- o Where do you like to get outside and take in God's creation?

OPENING THE DISCUSSION

2. What most impacted you from Tim's sermon and the video footage from Israel?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read Matthew 14:13-23.

- o What stands out to you in this passage about Jesus' priorities with God and people?
- o Pastor shared that "what you prioritize reveals what you truly value." What do your current priorities reveal about what you currently value?"

o Pastor shared how “Jesus said “no” to great things so He could say “yes” to the best thing.” What is something good you have had to say “no” to in order to say “yes” to something better?

4. Read Matthew 11:28.

o Where do you tend to look for rest instead of spending time with God?

o How might time with God leave us more rested than other ways we try to find rest?

5. Read Proverbs 3:5-6.

o What can we learn from this passage about how to increase our dependence on God?

APPLYING IT

6. What excuses do you find yourself using for not spending meaningful time with God?

7. What needs to change in your life to ensure you spend time alone with God?

GROWTH GOALS: (goal sheet at end of booklet)

- Set some growth goals for this spring session of small groups?
- What is a next step in your faith you want to commit to or recommit to pursue?

Week Two: Unfiltered Faith

Unfiltered Jesus, Mark 4:35-41

ICEBREAKER

1. **Answer one of the following questions:**

- o What is one of the biggest weather storms you have experienced in your life?
- o When is a time in your life you took a risk or did something scary?

OPENING THE DISCUSSION

2. How did Sunday's message impact you personally?
3. What is the situation for you that you would say is TOO MUCH for your faith?
4. How do fear and worry display themselves in your life when you face difficulty?
5. It was shared that, "Faith doesn't come in a moment, it comes from understanding and acting on who God is and what He is capable of."
 - o Based on that statement what are some ways we can increase our faith?

DIGGING DEEPER

6. Read Mark 4:35-41.
 - o What do you notice about the disciple's different reactions to the storm and to Jesus?
 - o What do you think of Jesus' response to the storm and to His disciples?
 - o How does this story impact how you are processing our current circumstances?

7. Read Philippians 4:6-7.

o As you think about this passage, how is it possible to have peace when life gets difficult?

o How might these verses impact how we respond to the Coronavirus moment our world and community is experiencing?

8. Read Hebrews 11:1.

o How would you contrast fear with the definition of faith from this verse?

APPLYING IT

9. What would it look like for you to replace fear with faith in your current circumstances?

9. What limits are you placing on God's capacity to come through in your life?

GROWTH GOALS

- What progress have you made on your goal so far this spring session?
- What is a next step in your faith you want to commit to or recommit to pursue?

Week Three: Unfiltered Resistance

Unfiltered Jesus, Luke 4:1-13

ICEBREAKER

1. Answer one of the following questions:

- o What is the one food you tend to crave the most?

- o What adjustments have you made in response to the Coronavirus pandemic?

OPENING THE DISCUSSION

2. How did Sunday's message impact you personally?

3. A 3-pronged strategy Satan uses sets us up for failure (Distorting God's Word, Attacking our weak points, and Isolation). Which one of these presents the most challenge for you?

4. "If Satan can get you to think that you are alone in this battle, he is at a major advantage. He makes you think...no one else struggles with this. You are the only one."
 - o Based on that statement, what are some areas of temptation where Christians may believe this is true?

5. **In what ways might the social distancing occurring right now increase these struggles?**

DIGGING DEEPER

6. Read 1 Peter 5:8.
 - o How does the idea of our enemy as a prowling lion cause you to feel?

o According to this verse, knowing that Satan operates like a lion, how should we respond?

7. Read Luke 4:1-13

o What stands out to you about Jesus' interaction with Satan?

o What do you notice about the tactics Satan used to tempt Jesus?

o What can we learn from how Jesus responded that would be helpful in our own response to temptation?

8. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

o What can we learn about temptation from this verse?

o What are some "ways out" of temptation that God might provide for us?

APPLYING IT

9. Like Jesus, as we resist temptation Satan might walk away frustrated. Is there an area you can celebrate where Satan hasn't succeeded in his efforts to tempt you?

10. Is there an area you need your group's help because you've struggled with temptation?

GROWTH GOALS

- What progress have you made on your goal so far this spring session?
- What is a next step in your faith you want to commit to or recommit to pursue?

Week Four: Unfiltered Love

Unfiltered Jesus, Luke 10:25-37

ICEBREAKER

1. Answer one of the following questions:

o Have you ever been lost or broken down while on a trip? Where were you? What was it like?

o What is your “go to” navigation app?

OPENING THE DISCUSSION

2. How did Sunday’s message impact you personally? It was mentioned that there are three perspectives we can live with, represented by the three characters in the passage:

- i. Lawyer: Complicates simple obedience, values philosophy over action.
- ii. Samaritan: Doesn’t allow personal busyness to get in the way of meeting needs.
- iii. Victim: Understands the experience of being broken and helpless, needing to be saved.

Which one of these do you personally relate to most?

3. Do you find it easier to focus on the philosophical or the practical?

4. What are some ways Christians can run the risk of complicating simple obedience?

5. What might being a “Good Samaritan” look like in the midst of social distancing?

DIGGING DEEPER

7. Read Luke 10:25-28

o If someone asked you how to have eternal life, how would you answer them?

o What does Jesus confirm are two indicators that a person has eternal life?

8. Read Luke 10:29-37

o How do the Samaritans actions expand our understanding of what it means to be a neighbor?

o What is filtering your ability to love like the Samaritan did?

9. Read Luke 6:31

o How does this idea change the way you think about the needy people you encounter?

o If you truly practiced this principle how would your life be different?

APPLYING IT

10. What need is the love of Christ compelling you to meet this week?

11. What are some ways our group could team together to put Christ's love on display in a tangible way?

GROWTH GOALS

- What progress have you made on your goal so far this spring session?
- What is a next step in your faith you want to commit to or recommit to pursue?

Week Five: Unfiltered Obedience

Unfiltered Jesus, John 12:12-16, 23-28, Matthew 21

ICEBREAKER

1. Answer the following question:

o If you had the option to know the future, would you take the option? Why or why not?

OPENING THE DISCUSSION

2. What did you find most helpful or challenging from Sunday's message?

3. What questions did Sunday's message raise for you?

4. What things have filtered out your obedience to God? (Examples: cost, reputation, ease, fear, uncertainty, comfort, something else?)

5. How have you been able to overcome the things filtering out your obedience to God?

DIGGING DEEPER

6. Read John 12:12-16 and 23-28.
 - o What stands out to you from these Scripture passages?

7. Reread John 12:27-28.
 - o What do you think of Jesus' response to His impending death?

8. Reread John 12:25.

o What might it look like for us to follow this challenge from Jesus right now?

APPLYING IT

9. It was asked, "Where is the path of least resistance calling your name?" Where are you tempted to take the easy instead of hard road right now?

10. How can our group be praying for or help you right now?

GROWTH GOALS

- What progress have you made on your goal so far this spring session?
- What is a next step in your faith you want to commit to or recommit to pursue?

Week Six: Unfiltered Pursuit

Unfiltered Jesus, Luke 24:13-35

ICEBREAKER

1. Answer the following question:

- o We recently celebrated Easter. What are some of your family's favorite Easter traditions?

OPENING THE DISCUSSION

2. What did you find most helpful or challenging from Sunday's message?

3. Are you still amazed by Easter?

- o On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being "unmoved", 10 being "greatly awed"), how would you rate your level of amazement?

4. Two categories of people were shared in regards to the resurrection: Those who believe and those who doubt.

- o How have your beliefs about the resurrection shifted over the course of your life?

- o If you question the resurrection, what is holding you back from believing?

DIGGING DEEPER

5. Read Luke 24:13-35.

- o What stands out to you from this story?

6. Reread Luke 24:30-32.

o What was it like for you when you first recognized Jesus?

o What factors might lead someone from unbelief to recognizing the resurrected Jesus and believing?

o If you don't believe, what questions do you still have for believing Jesus is who He claimed to be?

7. Read 1 Peter 1:3 and 8.

o What stands out to you from these verses about the impact of the resurrection on our lives?

o If we lose our amazement in Easter, how might we recapture it?

APPLYING IT

8. Does the fact that Jesus is alive still change your every day?

o What is an area of your life that needs to change in light of the resurrection?

GROWTH GOALS

- What progress have you made on your goal now that we've finished our spring session?
- What is a next step in your faith you want to commit to or recommit to pursue?

GROWTH GOAL FORM

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER:

GROWTH GOAL IDEAS:

- Read a chapter of the Bible every day.
- Commit to attend Small Group every week.
- Begin a volunteer role at Gracewood.
- Increase my volunteer level at Gracewood.
- Memorize a verse a week.
- Get baptized.
- Become a Gracewood Community Church member.
- Invite _____ to church.
- Connect with a friend to keep you accountable.
- Create your own goal: _____



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