

# EYEWITNESSES

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN

## A STUDY OF THE GOSPELS

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Luke 1:1-2



**PARKWAY**  
CHURCH

[WWW.PARKWAYCHURCH.TV](http://WWW.PARKWAYCHURCH.TV)

OUR VISION

# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT BUILD DISCIPLES

## SMALL GROUP GROUND RULES

Small Group ground rules give boundaries for people to operate within to encourage discussion-based learning and relationship building. They help group members value one another so that everyone grows more comfortable sharing deep, meaningful things.

- Priority: Be here. What we are doing matters.
- Confidentiality: What is said here stays here.
- Respect and Honor: Give everyone room to share and grow
- Welcoming: We will pray for and invite others to join our group and fill the empty chair.

**We strive to create an environment  
where everyone can be real, open, and honest**

## WHAT WE DO IN GROUPS

Our groups do four things together:

**Connect** people to God and to each other.

Recommend gender-based groups (men with men and ladies with ladies) for the last meeting of the month.

**Grow spiritually** by loving God and loving people. Sermon based small group studies and 30 essential Bible stories

**Serve others** to share the love and message of Jesus

Make a difference by serving together two times a year and by inviting people to join your group.

**Worship Jesus** Through Living Faithfully and Generous Giving

Hold one another accountable. Encourage each other to take the next step. Sit together at church.

**A DISCIPLE IS ONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS FOR ETERNAL LIFE  
AND IS FOLLOWING JESUS WITH ALL OF THEIR LIFE.**

# EYEWITNESS TO GOD'S PROMISE

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

## GET TALKING

What is the most amazing thing that you have ever been an eyewitness to?

## WATCH THE VIDEO

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **Matthew 9:9-12**

## DISCUSS AND APPLY

What do we learn about Jesus from Matthew's eyewitness account in Matthew 9:9-12?

Why is it surprising that Jesus would call Matthew to follow Him?

Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus?

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 24

## NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

What does the virgin birth (Matthew 1:18-25) tell us about Jesus and how He fulfills God's promise to Isaiah (Isa. 7:14) of "God with us" (Matt. 1:23)?

What does Matthew 5:20, 48 tell us about God's standard for holiness and why no one can work for or earn their way to heaven?

While Jesus is presented as the king of the Jews (Matt. 2:2; 27:11, 29, 37), why didn't Jesus set up His kingdom during His first coming? Read Matthew 23:37-39

What did Jesus tell His disciples about His rejection by the Jewish leaders and people, crucifixion and resurrection (Matt. 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:18-19; 26:22)?



**Because Matthew was a witness to  
God's mercy, the people that he was stealing from,  
He was now called to reach.**

Read Luke 6:12-15. What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

Who is God sending out today to share the good news with others?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. What is it that compels us to share the love of Christ with others?

What is the message of Christ that we share with others?

How does knowing that God always delivers on a promise help you to trust and follow Him today?

**When you are an eyewitness to God's grace, you  
become a witness for His grace?**

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

What does Jesus promise His faithful disciples in His future Kingdom where Jesus will rule on earth (Matthew 19:28-30)?

If Jesus is the King, how should that change your values (Matt. 5:3-10), your priorities (Matt. 6:33), your service (Matt. 20:28) and your mission in life (Matt. 28:18-20)?

# EYEWITNESS TO GOD'S POWER

## THE GOSPEL OF MARK

### GET TALKING

What is your favorite movie? How many times have you watched it?

### WATCH THE VIDEO

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). 35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." **Mark 7:31-37**

### DISCUSS AND APPLY

Why did Jesus tell them not to tell anyone about this miracle? Why did they do so anyway?

Why did Jesus perform miracles as a part of His ministry?

Read Mark 8:22-25. When we read about miracles in Scripture, what are we to learn?

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 31

### NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

How do you define the term "good news" in Mark 1:1?

What does it mean "Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God" in Mark 1:1?

What was Jesus day like in Mark 1:21-45?

How are your typical days similar to and different from Jesus' day in Mark 1:21-45?

How did Jesus prepare Himself for this busy day (Mark 1:35)?

How does Jesus' own family and friends react to His ministry in Nazareth (Mark 6:1-6)?

Why did Jesus send out the disciples "two by two" with the instructions "take nothing for the journey" (Mark 6:8)?

**Every miracle, in the Gospels, proves that Jesus has authority over all things and all people.**

Read Mark 8:27-30. What conversation did Jesus have with His disciples after healing the blind man?

Whom did the people say that Jesus was? Why would they think that He was one of these men?

Whom did Peter say that Jesus is? What did He get right in His confession of Christ?

**Every miracle, in the Gospels, displays God's power and leads us to answer the question, "Who do you say I am?"**

If someone asked you who Jesus is to you, what would you say?

How does knowing that God is all-powerful help you to trust and follow Him?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

Why does Peter confess Jesus as the Christ (Mark 8:27-29) and then rebuke Jesus in Mark 8:31-32?

Why did Jesus rebuke Peter so harshly in Mark 8:33?

What does Jesus say about the cost of discipleship (following Jesus) in Mark 8:34-38?

How have you seen God's power in your life this past year?

Since Jesus is the servant king, where are you serving others with your gifts and abilities?



# EYEWITNESS TO GOD'S LOVE

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

### GET TALKING

How do you define love? If someone loves you, what will they do for you? What will you do for them?

### WATCH THE VIDEO

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. **Luke 1:1-3**

### DISCUSS AND APPLY

From Luke 1:1-3, what makes Luke's Gospel different from Matthew's and Mark's? How will this give us a unique view of Jesus?

Why did Jesus teach in parables?

Read Luke 15:1-2. What is the setting for Jesus' 3 famous parables in Luke 15? What issue is He addressing with these three parables?

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7

### NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

How is the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 1-2 different from the other Gospels?

Luke 1-2 tells about the Christmas story with angels, Mary, Joseph, a census, shepherds, a heavenly host, Simeon and Anna. How does the Christmas story in Luke differ from our cultural beliefs about Christmas?

How important was prayer in the life of Jesus? Read Luke 3:21; 5:16; 6:12-16; 22:39-46; 23:34.

What does Jesus teach about prayer in Luke 18:1-8?

How does our attitude toward money and wealth impact our attitude about God and life? Read Luke 16:1-15

**3 Parables to Prove Jesus' Point: In each story, something is lost: (1) a sheep; (2) a shekel; and (3) a son. In each case, the lost object is found and produces rejoicing.**

Read Luke 15:3-7. What do we learn about God's love from the Parable of the Lost Sheep?

How does God pursue us today?

Read Luke 15:8-10. What do we learn about God's love from the Parable of the Lost Coin?

How does God show that we are valuable to Him?

Read Luke 15:11-32. What do we learn about God's love from the Parable of the Lost Son?

Why do people respond differently to the love of God?

How does knowing that God is all-loving help you to trust and follow Him?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

What final message and challenge does the resurrected Jesus give His disciples in Luke 24:36-49?

What was the disciples' attitude and outlook after Jesus left them and returned to heaven (ascended) in Luke 24:50-53?

How can you have the same attitude and outlook as the disciples in your life?



# EYEWITNESS TO GOD'S PERFECTION

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## GET TALKING

Tell us about something God is up to in your life.

## WATCH THE VIDEO

44 Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. 45 The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

47 "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. 49 For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." **John 12:44-50**

24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. 25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. **John 5:24-25**

## DISCUSS AND APPLY

Read John 20:31. What is the purpose of John's Gospel?

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14

## NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

What does it mean when we say, "Jesus is 100% God and 100% man?" Read John 1:1, 14

Why is it important to believe that Jesus is both God AND man?

How does John describe Jesus' ministry in contrast to the ministry of Moses in John 1:17?

What does it mean "No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known." John 1:18? Read Colossians 2:9

**John wanted everyone to know that Jesus is  
our perfect Savior and our perfect Lord.**

Read John 1:1-5. What three things do we learn about Jesus from these verses?

Why does each of these things matter?

What did Jesus do in His life to show that He is the perfect Savior for the world?

Read John 5:24-25. What does Jesus say gives us eternal life?

Read John 13:12-17. What did Jesus do to show that He is the perfect Lord of those who believe in Him?

If we are following Him, what should we be doing?

How does knowing that Jesus is perfect help you to love, trust, and obey Him?

The Gospel of John never uses the words “repent/repentance,” “commit/surrender,” “give your heart/life” or “ask Jesus into your life” when offering the free gift of eternal life. What does the word “believe” (used 98 times in the Gospel of John) mean in John’s Gospel? Read John 20:31

How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith (“faith” is the same root word as “believe”)?

What does Jesus promise to anyone who believes in Him? Read John 6:40

What are the 7 “I AM” statements in John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7; 10:11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5 and what do they tell us about Jesus?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

# EYEWITNESS TO GOD'S HEART

## THE LIFE OF PETER

### GET TALKING

How is God using this group or our church to grow you?

### WATCH THE VIDEO

13 Jesus came into the country of Caesarea Philippi. He asked His followers, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 They said, "Some say You are John the Baptist and some say Elijah and others say Jeremiah or one of the early preachers."

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of Jonah, you are happy because you did not learn this from man. My Father in heaven has shown you this."

18 "And I tell you that you are Peter. On this rock I will build My church. The powers of hell will not be able to have power over My church. 19 I will give you the keys of the holy nation of heaven. Whatever you do not allow on earth will not have been allowed in heaven. Whatever you allow on earth will have been allowed in heaven." 20 Then with strong words He told His followers to tell no one that He was the Christ.

21 From that time on Jesus began to tell His followers that He had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things. These hard things would come from the leaders and from the head religious leaders of the Jews and from the teachers of the Law. He told them He would be killed and three days later He would be raised from the dead. 22 Peter took Jesus away from the others and spoke sharp words to Him. He said, "Never, Lord! This must not happen to You!" 23 Then Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are standing in My way. You are not thinking how God thinks. You are thinking how man thinks." **Matthew 16:13-23**

### DISCUSS AND APPLY

Read Luke 5:1-11. How did Peter's response to Jesus change in this story?

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28

### NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

Why do you think that Jesus invited four fishermen (Peter, Andrew, James and John Luke 5:2, 10) to follow Him and to "fish for people?"

What does Luke 5:11 say about the commitment and choices that discipleship involves?

Peter did trust Jesus enough to get out of the boat, so why did Peter stop trusting Jesus as he was walking on water in Matthew 14:29-30?

Where have you struggled to trust Jesus with something in your life that is humanly impossible?

Why did the Lord choose Peter to lead His future work, the church, in Matthew 16:17-19?



Read Luke 5:1-11. How did Peter's response to Jesus change in this story?

What questions did Jesus ask Peter in John 21:15-18 and how did Peter respond to Him?

Read Matthew 16:13-23. What did Peter get right? What did he miss?

What did Jesus command Peter to do in John 21:15-18?

Read Matthew 14:25-33. What is the big takeaway from this story?

What are some ways that you can show your love for Jesus?

Read Matthew 26:31-35. What did Jesus predict that Peter would do? What did Peter do?

Despite all of these failures, did Jesus ever give up on Peter? What did He do instead?

Read John 21:15-19. How did Jesus pursue and call Peter to follow Him?

What are some of the big lessons that we learn from Peter's life?

How does the story of Peter encourage you to live for Jesus?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

# EYEWITNESS TO GOD'S GRACE

THE LIFE OF THOMAS

## GET TALKING

What do you do to remember God's grace throughout the Christmas season?

## WATCH THE VIDEO

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." **John 11:5-16**

## DISCUSS AND APPLY

What doubts or questions have you had to deal with in your faith?

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 5

## NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

When did you first hear about Jesus Christ?

When did you believe in Jesus for eternal life? How long was it after you first heard about Jesus?

Have you ever felt like Jesus has called you to serve Him with your time, talents and treasure? Read Matthew 28:18-20 and apply it to yourself!

How can a person who believes in Jesus for eternal life still struggle with NOT believing in Jesus in certain circumstances like Thomas did?

What are some areas in your life where you find it difficult to believe in Jesus (God)?

What do you think Jesus would say to you about your unbelief?

**What is Thomas known for?**

**In John 11:5-16, what did Thomas get right?**

**Tell us about a time when you lived your faith courageously.**

**Why is it that we can be courageous one moment and have big questions or doubt another?**

**Read John 20:19-29. What did Thomas struggle with when He heard that Jesus is alive?**

**How did Jesus answer his questions and encourage him?**

**How does God help us deal with doubts and answer our questions today?**

**Notice how Thomas responded to Jesus in John 20:28?**

**How do you usually respond to Jesus? Like Doubting Thomas in John 20:25 or Thomas in John 20:28?**

**How do we KNOW that Thomas did not lose eternal life when he was unbelieving in John 20:25-27. Read John 5:24; 6:40; 1 John 5:11-13**

**When a believer loses his or her faith in the Lord what happens to them? Read Hebrews 11:6; 2 Timothy 2:13; 2 Peter 1:8-10**

**Where does your faith in Jesus need to grow? Read 2 Peter 1:5-9**

**PRAY AND ENCOURAGE**