



Beyond The Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Jesus: The Story Unfolds

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme

Embodying God: Our Connection to the Father

Prayer Focus

Father God, Thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ, who's present throughout the Word and my life. Help me recognize His influence and follow His example of love, humility, and strength. Inspire me to live with purity and make choices that honor You, knowing that one day I'll stand before You and give an account of my actions. May I strive to grow in my relationship with You, reflecting the light of Jesus in all that I do. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Key Truths

The Bible contains evidence of Jesus before His birth. In the beginning, all things were created through and for God. When He created Adam, He said, "Let us make man in *our* image." These words highlighted the collaboration between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus was fully man and fully God, sent from Heaven to Earth. Throughout the Bible, we see shadows and examples of Christ, but none compare to the reality of His presence. Here are some examples of how Jesus showed up before the Incarnation:

- In Genesis, He's the woman's seed.
- In Exodus, He's the Passover lamb.
- In Leviticus, He's our High Priest.
- In Numbers, He's the cloud by day and the pillar by night.
- In Judges, He's our Lawgiver.
- In Ruth, He's our Redeemer.
- In Psalms, He's our Shepherd.

Understanding who Jesus is—and that He's returning—transforms how we live. Believing in Christ gets us into heaven, but our reward is based on our actions during life. When we realize that one day, we'll stand before God and give an account of our lives, we're inspired to purify ourselves and become more conscious of our choices.

In the New Testament, an angel visits Mary to announce the baby she'll carry, revealing His significance and the role He'll play for generations. Jesus was fully human and faced temptations just like us. To redeem us from

death, He first had to conquer it. Jesus came in a physical body; we can only receive what He did for us during our mortal lives. One day, when Jesus returns, our true selves—the spirit within us—will emerge.

Practical Application

Reflect on Jesus's presence throughout the Bible and in your life every day. Acknowledge His influence and the examples He sets.

Purposefully strive to purify your actions and thoughts, knowing that one day, you'll give an account to God. Let this understanding guide your decisions and behaviors.

Reference Verses

- John 1:1-13, 1:18, 5:39
- Genesis 1:26-28, 3:15
- Isaiah 9:6
- Hebrews 2:14-15, 10:1, 10:5
- Exodus 3:1-6
- Joshua 5:13
- Daniel 3:7, 3:13-27
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Luke 1:28-35
- Revelation 4:11
- Colossians 1:16
- Amos 3:7
- 2 Corinthians 5:21

Declarations

- When I read the Word, I will seek out moments that contain Jesus before His birth.
- I will strive to live in purity and mindfulness, making choices that honor God.
- I will share the story of Jesus and His significance with others, aiming to be a light that shines His truth and love in the world.

What's Next?

Understanding who Jesus is, embracing your identity in Him, and sharing the Good News are at the core of the Christian life. These steps help us grow in faith, deepen our relationship with God, and reflect His love to the world. Let's explore how we can live out these truths in practical ways, becoming disciples who not only know Jesus but also make Him known.

Deepen Your Understanding of Jesus:

Explore the Old Testament prophecies and foreshadowings of Jesus. Look for themes of redemption, sacrifice, and the coming Messiah. Immerse yourself in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Pay close attention to Jesus's teachings, miracles, and interactions with others. Study the Epistles by examining how the New Testament writers interpret and apply the life and teachings of Jesus.

Embrace Your Identity in Christ:

Recognize that you cannot earn salvation through your own efforts. Receive God's grace by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, acknowledging his sacrifice on the cross for your sins. Live out your new identity and allow your faith in Jesus to transform your thoughts, words, and actions.

Share the Good News:

Share your personal experience of encountering Jesus with others. Be an ambassador for Christ by living a life that reflects the love and grace of Jesus to those around you. Look for opportunities to share the Gospel and be prepared to share your faith with others in a meaningful and authentic way.

The journey of faith starts with knowing Jesus, transforms us as we embrace our identity in Him, and extends outward as we share His love with others. As you explore His Word, live out your faith, and share the Gospel, remember that God is with you every step of the way. Let's commit to being faithful followers of Christ, bringing glory to Him and hope to the world.

Scripture References

Jesus: The Story Unfolds

John 1:1-3 NKJV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Colossians 1:16 NKJV All things were created through Him and for Him.

Genesis 1:26 NKJV Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."

Isaiah 9:6 NKJV For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given...

Hebrews 2:14 NKJV ...have partaken of flesh and blood...

Exodus 3:1-6 NKJV Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

Joshua 5:13-14 NKJV And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?” So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”

Daniel 3:7 NKJV So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel 3:13-19 NKJV Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?” Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

Daniel 3:22-25 NKJV Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

John 5:39 NKJV You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Hebrews 10:1 NKJV For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

1 John 3:1-3 NKJV Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know s, because it did not know Him. Beloved,

now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Luke 1:28-33 NKJV And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Hebrews 2:14 NKJV Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same...

Hebrews 9:14 NKJV ...the blood of Christ... cleanse your conscience from dead works...

Luke 16:19-31 NKJV REF “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

Ecclesiastes 11:3 NKJV And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.

Revelation 4:11 KJV Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Colossians 1:16 NKJV For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Amos 3:7 NKJV Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Hebrews 10:5-7 NKJV Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.' "

John 1:29 NKJV "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV 1 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.