



# **LIFEgroup Study Guide**

November 29 - December 20



# LIFEgroup Study Guide

This study guide follows along with LBF Church's current Sunday message series, and is intended to be a supplement in your daily passionate pursuit of Jesus.

- *Watch last Sunday's message video:*  
*[[www.lbf.church/messages](http://www.lbf.church/messages)]*

Is your group stumped? Did you come to a question that you feel needs clarification? Our church isn't too big. Contact Pastor Dan with your questions.

- *Contact Pastor Dan:*  
*[danfranklin@lbfchurch.com](mailto:danfranklin@lbfchurch.com)*

## **Lesson 1: To Fulfill the Scriptures**

Matthew 5:17-20 • Pg. 5-6 • November 29

## **Lesson 2: To Call Sinners**

Mark 2:13-17 • Pg. 7-8 • December 6

## **Lesson 3: To Bring a Sword**

Matthew 10:34-39 • Pg. 9-10 • December 13

## **Lesson 4: To Serve**

Matthew 20:20-28 • Pg. 11-12 • December 20



# WHY HE CAME

## To Fulfill the Scriptures

Lesson 1 • November 29 • by Dan Franklin

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### Main Point

Jesus came to be the fulfillment of all of Scripture.

### Getting Started

1. Christmas is about the coming of Jesus. If someone asked you, “Why did Jesus come?” how would you respond?

2. What do you think God intends to be the relationship between Christians and the rules in the Bible?

### Digging In

Read Matthew 5:17-20.

*17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the*

*least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

4. Jesus says that he didn’t come to abolish the law (to reject it as something bad), but to fulfill it. Read Luke 24:44-47; how does this passage shed light of what Jesus means by “fulfill”?

5. How do Jesus’ words in verse 19 reinforce his statement in verse 17 about not abolishing the law?

6. In verse 18 Jesus says that none of the law can disappear “until everything is accomplished.” How does this statement relate to both Jesus’ life and his death?

7. Look at Jesus’ statement in verse 20. What does this say about our need for a Savior?

## **Wrestling With Big Ideas**

8. Because Jesus fulfilled the law, not all Old Testament laws are binding on Christians today (dietary laws, circumcision, Sabbath, etc.). How does this idea relate to Jesus’ words in verse 19?

## **Connecting With The Gospel**

9. Read Romans 7:7-12. What does this passage say about why the law is good and useful? According to this passage, how does the law prepare us for Jesus?

## **Taking It To Heart**

10. Take a moment to reflect on the many, many laws in the Old Testament. Think of the burden that you would bear if Jesus hadn’t come to fulfill the law. Write a couple of sentences about how you want to respond to this liberating reality.

# WHY HE CAME

## To Call Sinners

Lesson 2 • December 6 • by Dan Franklin

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### Main Point

Jesus came to call lost sinners to be rescued.

### Getting Started

1. What are some attitudes in our culture toward the idea of sin?

2. How is the Christmas story good news for sinners?

### Digging In

Read Mark 2:13-17.

*13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. 14 As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. 15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating*

*with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

*17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

4. Tax collectors were considered to be corrupt traitors in Israel. When you think of what first century Jews thought of tax collectors, what do you think might be some modern equivalents?

5. People were shocked that Jesus spent time with tax collectors and sinners. What do you think this response says about their own practices?

6. What stands out to you about Jesus' reasoning in verse 17?

7. Jesus' goal was not just to "hang out" with sinners, but to "call" sinners. What do you think he meant by the word "call"? Look up Luke 5:31-32 for a parallel passage.

## Wrestling With Big Ideas

8. Jesus sets an example for us in the way he engages with "sinners." Give an example of (1) an appropriate way we can follow his lead and (2) a way that we might misapply his actions.

## Connecting With The Gospel

9. When Jesus calls sinners, he is not (a) overlooking our faults or (b) placing upon our shoulders the burden of perfect living. He is calling us to himself as the sin-bearer, who died for the sins of the world (1 Corinthians 15:3). How did you experience Jesus calling you?

## Taking It To Heart

10. What is your emotional response to the idea of Jesus recognizing that we are not righteous (or healthy), and yet still coming for us?

11. Name at least one practical way that, this Christmas season, you can put on display for others the reality that Jesus came to call sinners.

# WHY HE CAME

## To Bring a Sword

Lesson 3 • December 13 • by Dan Franklin

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### Main Point

Jesus came to bring division, not shallow unity.

### Getting Started

1. In the Christmas story, the angels announce the birth of Jesus by talking about peace on earth. What kind of peace has Jesus brought and what kind of peace has he not brought?

2. What are some ways that Christians and non-Christians are divided?

### Digging In

Read Matthew 10:34-39.

*34 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn*

*“ a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36 a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household. 37 Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.*

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

4. Based on what Jesus says in verses 35-36, what does he mean when he says that he came to bring a sword?

5. In what sense has Jesus turned family members against one another?

6. Why would someone be unable to follow Jesus if they loved someone else more than they loved him?

7. Focus on Jesus' statements in verses 38-39. Apart from dying for your faith in Jesus, how do you think these verses can be lived out?

## **Wrestling With Big Ideas**

8. Jesus calls us to love him more than we love others. At the same time he calls us to love others (John 13:34-35). How does loving Jesus above all change the way that we love others?

## **Connecting With The Gospel**

9. In order to respond to the gospel, we must "lose" our life for Jesus' sake. What makes this sacrifice worthwhile?

## **Taking It To Heart**

10. In light of the fact that Jesus came to divide, name one specific way that this impacts how you interact with Christians and with non-Christians.

11. Jesus' desire is not that we would be divided over him, but that all would come to him for salvation. How can you take part in putting the good news of Jesus on display during this Christmas season?

# WHY HE CAME

## To Serve

Lesson 4 • December 20 • by Dan Franklin

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### Main Point

Jesus came to serve others by giving his life for them.

### Getting Started

1. What images or ideas come to your mind when you hear the word “servant”?

2. Think of the circumstances surrounding Jesus’ birth. How do these circumstances relate to the reality that he came not to be served, but to serve?

### Digging In

Read Matthew 20:20-28.

*20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.*

*21 “What is it you want?” he asked.*

*She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”*

*22 “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered.*

*23 Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”*

*24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

4. In verse 22 Jesus speaks of his cup, which is a reference to his suffering. Why do you think Jesus talked about suffering when he was asked this request?

## Connecting With The Gospel

9. The gospel is not an invitation for us to do something for God, but rather an announcement that God has done something for us. How do you think God intends for you to relate to him in light of this?

5. According to Jesus, how are Christian leaders meant to be different than secular leaders?

6. Jesus came to serve. In what ways did Jesus serve people in his coming to the earth?

7. How do you think Jesus serving is connected to him giving his life “as a ransom for many”?

## Taking It To Heart

10. If you were to put Jesus’ words in verses 25-27 into practice, how would it impact your relationships with others?

11. In what ways do you need to actively receive Jesus serving you?

## Wrestling With Big Ideas

8. We are all called to worship and serve Jesus. What, then, do you think he means when he says that he didn’t come to be served?