



Huddles Sermon Series, The Jesus I Wish You Knew, Week 2

Learning to love and follow Jesus—together—by His strength, in every
day life.

What are huddles at Foundations?

- Groups of 3-8 people (or 3-4 couples) that meet for one hour per week at a time and location of your choosing. Larger groups should plan for 75 minutes.
- Huddles last for 8 weeks. At the end of each 8-week session, you can keep your group, add to your group or even change groups & topics.
- While gathering on Sunday is vital to spiritual growth, so is connecting with others to encourage one another, discussing what it means to follow Jesus and praying for one another. These practices are detailed in our RHYTHMS course (which is not necessary to take part in huddles, but highly recommended).

Our Mission is to bring the extraordinary life-changing message of Jesus Christ to a lost and broken world.

- Huddles are one way we prepare to do this very thing, and we can't do that unless our lives are being transformed by Him.
- Hence, the goal of every session is that you will grow more like Jesus in some small way.
- In order to do this, we will focus on God's Word, encourage one another and commit to praying for one another.
- Each week, there are individual rhythms we encourage that will help you "love and follow Jesus."
- Similarly, there are corporate rhythms that help us in our spiritual formation.
- Consistent practice of these rhythms is part of the holistic development of disciples, and this booklet is designed to touch on that development.
- This holistic framework will give structure to your meeting time.

The individual rhythms overview (for those that haven't taken the Rhythms course):

Prayer: Talking to God and listening to Him via His Word, His Spirit-Filled people and His creation. If you don't know how to pray, a good start is the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 5.

Abide in the Word: Reading the Bible, prayerfully, asking God to show you what He wants for you. A good practice is to read with a pen & journal to write your thoughts as He leads them.

Silence: choosing to avoid speaking in order to listen to what He might want to say to us. Another **Solitude:** avoidance of interaction with others in order to be alone with Him. Silence enhances this.

Reflection (especially effective at the end of the day, maybe before sleep): Take some time in stillness to experience His presence, tell God things you're thankful for, make note of where you experienced Him today--or where you didn't—and note instances of loving your “neighbor” well—or failure to do so. Ask God for what He may want for you in the day tomorrow.

Other rhythms that will likely be practiced less frequently: Fasting (food; if there's an area you are seeking specific guidance); giving joyfully (financially as an act of worship) and rest (setting aside time to enjoy your life and choosing to refrain from work)

The corporate rhythms overview (for those that haven't taken the Rhythms course):

Worship gathering: A time for our family to be together to participate corporately in the rhythms of worship together.

Participation in community: A time to engage in huddle, as well as other forms of being together as a church family (such as concerts, conferences/classes, events, etc.)

Lord's Supper: A chance for our family to reflect on the person and work of Jesus and look forward in hope to His coming again in a symbol of eternal unity.

Baptism: A one-time action of a declaration of faith in Christ. It is our hope that everyone be baptized, as well as choosing to enjoy the celebration of others who choose to do so.

Using your gift to serve the Body: We have been given a gift to help the body of Christ come to maturity in faith, and we benefit by your presence.

Having a ministry of love for neighbor: We choose to exemplify the abundant life in order to fulfill our mission of bringing the extraordinary life of Jesus Christ to a lost and broken world.

P Prayer, Day 1 (Week 7, David & Bathsheba)

- If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so.
- Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions.
- You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.

If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to pray aloud the following prayer from St. Augustine:

Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know you, And desire nothing, save only you.

Let me hate myself and love you. Let me do everything for the sake of you.

Let me humble myself and exalt you. Let me think of nothing except you.

Let me accept whatever happens as from you. Let me banish self and follow you,

And ever desire to follow you. Let me fly from myself and take refuge in you,

That I may deserve to be defended by you. Let me fear for myself, let me fear you,

And let me be among those who are chosen by you.

Let me be willing to obey for the sake of you. Let me cling to nothing, save only to you,

And let me be poor because of you. Look upon me, that I may love you.

Call me, that I may see you,

And for ever enjoy you. Amen

Sermon Series: The Jesus I Wish You Knew, Week 2

Abiding in the Word, Day 1, John 8: 12-20

- Background & Insights on the Reading:
- This section of Scripture takes place around the Feast of the Tabernacles (either the preparation or the aftermath). This was a huge celebration, with four large lamps in the Temple's Court of the Women which lit up the entire temple courts. It was a wild celebration with enthusiastic dancing all night, singing loudly and everyone bearing torches. It was rich in reminding the Israelites that the Lord is their "light and salvation," drawing images of the pillar of fire, and showing the watching world that God is great. It was quite the party.
- When Jesus said HE was the light of the world, given the situation, He was equating Himself with God. The Pharisees had to refute this claim or accept Him as such. Their argument against it is about Jesus' inability to prove that, and His testimony isn't valid.
- Jesus responds by letting them know He knows where He came from and where He's going and that He is the Son of God. Their logic was refuted and they resort to public ridicule in hopes of swaying the crowd back to their favor.
- Questions for Reflection:
- How does this view of the Feast of Tabernacles and Jesus claim to be the light of the world deepen your understanding of both His claim to be God, as well as how God values celebration of His faithfulness & provision? ("God values good parties")
- How does the reality that Jesus using the "light" metaphor and connecting to psalms that say that the Lord is "light and salvation" (Psalm 27) and His word is a "lamp unto my feet" (Psalm 119) give you insight into your life today?

Prayer, Day 2

- If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so.
- Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions.
- You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.

- If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to pray using the Lord's Prayer as an outline for your own words to express...

Tell God how thankful you are for the privilege of calling the King of Kings "our Father," & that He listens and hears.

God is worthy of honor and worship

We should acknowledge that things on earth are not what they are supposed to be, and that we should ask God to be aware of His presence and strive to see what He wants this world to be. We should let others see His Kingdom by how we live.

We should be thankful that He provides our basic needs.

We should pray for forgiveness and forgive others

We should name our weaknesses and our temptations, and for the Spirit to strengthen us. We should close with praise.

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Abiding in the Word, Day 2, John 13:33–14:6

- Background & Insights on the Reading:
- This section takes place on the night in which Jesus will be betrayed. Jesus has shared a meal with the 12 and predicts that Peter will betray him 3 times before the sun comes up.
- He tells them that He will be going away and that they can't follow Him & tells them to love one another.
- Peter says He wants to follow Jesus wherever He's going, and in 14:2-4 Jesus tells them He's going to prepare a place for them and they can come later...and that they know the way to get there.
- Thomas asks Jesus how to get there since they don't know the way. Jesus responds with 14:6. He is the Way, Truth and the Life. And no one gets to the Father except through Jesus.
- Questions for Reflection:
- C.S. Lewis once wrote: *"You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."*
- Are there any areas you're struggling with in allowing Jesus to be "Lord" in your life? How might you choose to submit to His authority in that area, specifically?
- How might this three-pronged choice regarding Jesus assist you as you tell others about Him?

Prayer, Day 3

- If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so.
- Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions.
- You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.
- If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to pray using the ACTS method as an outline for your own words to express...
- Adoration (a time of worship): don't be afraid of "artistic expressions" here, or to use Psalms or hymns or other forms of praise.
- Confession: We all fall short and miss the mark. Confession of sin helps us our relationship to God.
- Thanksgiving: Simply tell God what you're thankful for.
- Supplication: Asking God for needs of the world, our country & leaders, our church, and anything and everything else. God wants to hear from you.

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Abiding in the Word, Day 3, Acts 2: 42-47

- Background & Insights on the Reading:
 - This section follows the founding of the Church after Jesus had returned to God and the disciples began to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples.
 - The Holy Spirit had filled the disciples, and Peter preached a sermon in chapter 1 where roughly 3,000 people became believers in Jesus Christ.
 - Verses 42-47 shows the nature of the church: A group of people committed to the disciples' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, & prayer. They gave sacrificially, worshiped and spent time in homes together.
- Questions for Reflection:
 - Notice this view of "church" focuses on the reality that it's the PEOPLE that are the church, not a building or anything like that.
 - In what ways does our gathering of believers at Foundations imitate the characteristics on the left? Are there any ways we don't exemplify those?
 - How does this view of the church change the way we talk about our Foundations family? (Do we go to church or do we gather for worship, etc.?)

Prayer, Day 4

- If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so.
 - Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions.
 - You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.
 - If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to pray using the breath method to pray:
 - Simply take a Psalm and breathe in as you read the first line, and then exhale on the second.
 - Take deep, long, slow breaths.
- You can also do this with just one verse of Scripture, and almost every Psalm can be done this way. Try to focus on the ones that focus on God and/or resonate with where you are at the moment.

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Abiding in the Word, Day 4, 1 Corinthians 12: 1-7

- Background & Insights on the Reading:
- The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church gathering in Corinth to help them correct some mistakes. For example, in the section just before what we read today, they needed proper instruction regarding the practice of the Lord's Supper.
- This section focuses on their use of spiritual gifts. Every believer has one. And apparently, the church in Corinth were taking great pride in having "more valuable" gifts than others. This would obviously cause a great deal of tension and disunity. Paul wanted them to be unified.
- Questions for Reflection:
- Everyone has a spiritual gift. They are given by the Holy Spirit as He wills, to help the church family you belong to grow to be more like Jesus. Do you feel confident you know your spiritual gift?
- Spiritual gifts can be used in a variety of different ministries (hospitality, for example, can be used in every ministry in the church from children to senior citizens). If you could use your gift in any ministry at Foundations, what would you choose and why?

Prayer, Day 5

- If you are comfortable praying as a conversation with God, find some focused time to do so.
- Find a place where you can have silence and solitude and talk to God and be attentive to how He leads your thoughts and emotions.
- You may find it helpful to write down what you talked with God about and/or how He answered in a journal.
- If you are new to prayer, or struggle with focus, you may want to simply pray using a Psalm...they are really great prayers! Find one that you resonate with, and pray it aloud:
- Simply take a Psalm, such as Psalm 23 or 51
- Pray aloud, even if in a whisper, slowly and with concentration on the words.
- Try to be attentive to the thoughts that come to mind and discern if those may be something God is trying to tell you.

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Abiding in the Word, Day 5, Luke 14: 15-23

- Background & Insights on the Reading:
- Jesus has been teaching a number of parables in this section, such as one about a wedding feast where the dangers of pride are seen. He's also been performing miracles and drawing large crowds. His public ministry is in full-swing.
- This parable involves a great banquet. He mentions that paying attention to the lowly of society and including them to be part of the festivities, not just the "a-list" crowd.
- Jesus frequently taught on the Kingdom of God. This parable provides more insight on what the Kingdom is like.
- Questions for Reflection:
- When you read this, you learn that not everyone is invited to the banquet in the Kingdom. If someone were to ask you how you get an invitation, what might you tell them?
- The host of the party abandons all social codes, and invites the downtrodden and outcasts. How does this broaden your view of the character of God?

Prayer, Day 6: A Time for Reflection

Traditional time of Examen	A Few Thoughts on This Method
<p>This is a version of the five-step Daily Examen that St. Ignatius practiced.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Become aware of God’s presence.2. Review the day with gratitude.3. Pay attention to your emotions.4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.5. Look toward tomorrow.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Breathe & slow down. Ask God to make you aware of His presence and to bring to mind moments of your day to focus on.2. Walk through your day and give thanks for areas where you saw God “show up” and for His blessings.3. The things you feel when you review often highlight areas where God wants you to focus and what he wants to teach you. Often this results in confession when you see your emotions out of line with walking in the Spirit.4. Ask God to show you moments where you loved others well (or, conversely, He may bring to mind an area you didn’t). Give thanks or ask forgiveness as warranted.5. Think through your day tomorrow and ask God what He may be calling you to do or be in the upcoming day.

Sermon Series: The Jesus I Wish You Knew, Week 2

Abiding in the Word, Day 6, Luke 14: 15-23

- Background & Insights on the Reading:
- Jesus has been teaching a number of parables in this section, such as one about a wedding feast where the dangers of pride are seen. He's also been performing miracles and drawing large crowds. His public ministry is in full-swing.
- This parable involves a great banquet. He mentions that paying attention to the lowly of society and including them to be part of the festivities, not just the "a-list" crowd.
- Jesus frequently taught on the Kingdom of God. This parable provides more insight on what the Kingdom is like.
- Questions for Reflection:
- Notice there are 3 different excuses given by different invitees: one involves having to check on a business matter, another wanting to see how his new oxen are doing. One did say he couldn't come as his wife wasn't invited (generally, women weren't). Are there any excuses you're making or have made in the past that are keeping you further from God? What might you do to change that?
- Notice that there's always room for more people. How does this affect your sharing your faith with others, if at all?

Huddle Meeting: (suggested time = 30 mins)

General Check-In (10 minutes)

Describe your sleep habits this week.

Describe your dietary habits this week.

Describe your exercise habits this week.

Describe your development in intellectual curiosity this week (keeping up with current events, artistic endeavors, learning new skills, hobbies, etc)

Emotional Check-In (10 minutes)

Using the SACHET wheel, describe how you're doing emotionally right now. You may want to write down some of these to pray for your huddle during the week.



Rhythms Check-In (10 minutes)

Describe your experience with the individual rhythms this week.

Describe your experience with the corporate rhythms this week.

How can the huddle encourage you this week in these areas? Or...

...How can you encourage the huddle this week in these areas?

Huddle Meeting: Discussion for Growth

10 Minutes:

What is something you feel God truly taught you this week?

20 Minutes (based on Acts 2:42-47 & Luke 14:15-23):

Marcus mentioned in the sermon that you should become an “atheist to the fake Jesuses in your life.” What are your “fake Jesuses” and how will you (or how did you) become an “atheist” to them?

How are you doing with loving your neighbors and “inviting them to the party?” How might the “Liar, Lunatic, or Lord” quote help you?

Regardless of your faith level, if you were to make any changes in your life based on what we read this week, what would that look like?

Additional Helps & Resources:

<https://www.planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/html/nt/john/john.htm>

<https://www.planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/html/nt/luke/luke.htm>

This is an excellent resource from a Dallas Seminary professor who taught all the books of the Bible in his career. They are Dr. Tom Constable's class notes. Very academic, but free & very insightful. Simply scroll the PDF until you get to John 14 and/or Luke 14.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0060M8H84/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

This is an easy, enjoyable read about how following Christ and His mission will cause you to defy the "rules" set by society about how Jesus acts. Since he's definitely a God who wants you at the party, this is a helpful way to see Jesus differently by Michael Frost..