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Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith With: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.

Who Is Jesus: Epiphany 2025 Bible Study

Jesus, the Vagabond

Opening Premise

Jesus is God in motion ... Jesus is on the road, constantly going elsewhere, often to where he is not invited. And in his final message, as found in Matthew's Gospel, we are invited to be in motion with Jesus. "Go!" Jesus declares, "Make disciples."

Discovering Jesus ... on the road

Read: Matthew 8:18-22 and Luke 19:1-10

Where is Jesus "from"? Yet where does Jesus spend most of his time?

Jesus is very itinerant, which contrasts our daily life how?

What does Jesus' constant moving tell us about him?

Consider his road trip to Jerusalem in Luke 19, when he enters Jericho. First, Jesus healed a blind man.

Now he intends to pass through Jericho. Why would he stop?

What happens in this chance encounter as Jesus' movement toward Jerusalem is interrupted?

While Jesus is often on the road in the Gospels, where do we tend to encounter Jesus today?

How limiting of faith is it when we only experience Jesus in a building called "church"?

Taking Jesus on the Road with us:

Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Luke 10:25-37

What does Jesus' invitation to "Go! Make disciples" mean for those who want to follow Jesus?

What kind of interruptions do we experience when we are traveling?

What feelings do we have when we are interrupted when we are trying to get somewhere?

What kind of ministry is possible in those interruptions?

Closing Thought: If Jesus is God in motion, then we have a faith that should be constantly in motion, and our faith leads us to get out of our static ways, to encounter Jesus on the move, beyond the sitting of meeting rooms and worship spaces. Where might we begin to join in the motion of God that is Jesus today?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, you call us to follow, and then you don't stop moving, causing us to run to catch up to where you are next. Help us in our journey, prepare us with enough faith to see you in the people we meet along the way, and equip us with all we need, so that we are always ready to minister in your name, wherever you are. In your holy name we pray. Amen

Matthew 8:18-22 Now when Jesus saw the great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Luke 19:1-10 [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Matthew 28:16-20 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Luke 10:25-37 ²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."