

# DETROIT CHURCH LIFE GROUPS



*Know the story*

WEEK 15 // BAPTISM, TEMPTATION & DISCIPLES





**DETROIT  
CHURCH**



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# OUR VISION

VISION. MISSION. VALUES

## **VISION** > *WHAT IS OUR OPTIMAL DESIRED FUTURED STATE?*

ALL THINGS NEW. While Jesus is busy making everything new, we also want to be busy developing new and meaningful relationships to help people connect with Him.

## **MISSION** > *WHAT ARE WE ULTIMATELY TRYING TO DO?*

Awaken Detroit to the greatest adventure of all time. We believe that is the adventure of following Jesus. LIFE Groups exist to help us all become better followers of Jesus.

## **VALUES** > *WHY ARE WE DOING IT?*

- BELONG BEFORE YOU BELIEVE.  
Romans 5:6-11
- SEE THE UNSEEN.  
2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- LOOK UP.  
Hebrews 12:2
- JUSTICE IS AN ACTIVE, RELENTLESS PURSUIT.  
Micah 6:8
- EMBRACE, THE ULTIMATE ARTIST WITHIN.  
Exodus 35:30-33



## **STRATEGY** > *HOW WE DO IT*

*SHOW UP TO ENCOUNTER* Our gatherings will be all about helping people encounter Jesus through creative inspiration and the preached word of God.

*MOVE INTO RELATIONSHIPS* We believe that true growth results from life change that happens in intentional communities. Detroit Church exists to establish these communities of accountability where beauty can emerge and everyone can belong.

*GO OUT AND IMPACT* Church is more than a building and the Great Commission is not just for ministers. Our impact groups will be all about getting into the marketplace and transforming the culture from within.



## SETTING THE TONE

- We are here to learn and change (not just a social time, but we also desire to grow closer and build community).
- Have fun, and keep things moving and participatory.
- Welcome a challenge from me or others in the group (give each other permission to challenge us—probe, ask questions, etc.).
- Strive to be honest and vulnerable, and we should honor that by keeping what is shared in confidence.
- We are going to try and answer questions as much as possible from within the story found in the Bible. Everything we need to learn about God and humans can be found right here in His story!
- Let's try and stay "in the story." Even when tempted to go "out of the story", lets call it out.

## WEEK FIFTEEN - BAPTISM, TEMPTATION & DISCIPLES

### REVIEW PREVIOUS STORY

(Guide the group as they give an overview of previous stories and retell the last story.)

### PRE-STORY SETUP

**Q:** When was the last time you saw a movie trailer and said "I'm definitely going to see that?" What was it about the message of things to come that got you excited? The best trailers give us an idea about what's coming. It's as if we can peak into the future just enough to see that what's about to happen is going to be an incredible experience. In many ways John (the baptist) as he become known was a type of announcement of what was on the way. While he was certainly eccentric in his day his message was undeniable: "turn from sins, and turn to God" Then came Jesus.



# STORY 15: BAPTISM, TEMPTATION & DISCIPLES

Story from Matthew 3 – 4, Luke 3 – 4, Mark 1, and John 1

## TELL THE SCENE

*(Don't, Just read it-know it and bring it to life!)*

### SCENE 1: BAPTISM

God sent a messenger named John to tell people to get ready because the Messiah was coming. John was a distant cousin of Jesus, born just six months before Him. He was a rugged man who lived in the wilderness ate locusts and wild honey, and wore clothes made out of camel hair.

John boldly challenged the Jews "Don't just say you love God-prove it with your life, turn from your sins and turn to God!"

He became known as John the Baptizer as he dunked those who had confessed their sins in the Jordan River. Baptism was a symbol of being washed clean from your sins and choosing a new way of living.

When Jewish leaders asked John if he was the Messiah, he responded No! But someone is coming soon who is far greater than me. I'm not worthy to untie His sandals or even to be His slave. You see, I baptize with water but He will baptize with God's Spirit!"

Soon after that Jesus came to be baptized. When John saw Him he said "I'm the one who needs to be baptized by you."

Jesus insisted, so John baptized Him in front of the crowds. When Jesus came out of the water God's Spirit came down from the sky. It looked like a dove floating down and it rested on Him. A voice from heaven said, you are my son whom I love-you bring me great joy!

## RETELL THE SCENE

*(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story.)*

(CONTINUED)

## DIALOGUE

*(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story.)*

1. What do we learn about John from this scene?
2. What was John's message?
3. Why do you think people came to be baptized by John?
4. What do we learn about Jesus from this scene?

## TELL THE SCENE

*(Don't, Just read it-know it and bring it to life!)*

### SCENE 2: TEMPTATION

After leaving the Jordan River, Jesus was led by God's Spirit to go into the wilderness. There Satan, one of the angels who had rebelled against God, tempted Him for forty days and forty nights. During that entire time, Jesus didn't eat anything and became very hungry. Satan tried to deceive Jesus saying, "Since you're God's Son why don't you turn these rocks into loaves of bread to eat?"

Jesus answered him, "No. When God spoke to Moses He said "People need more than bread to live—they must find their life in the words of God."

Then Satan took Jesus to the top of the tallest building in Jerusalem and said, "If you are God's Son jump off! Your sacred writings say "God will send His angels to catch you and you won't even hit the ground!"

Jesus replied "Moses also wrote, 'Do not even try to test God.'"

Next Satan took Jesus to the peak of a huge mountain. He showed Him all of the kingdoms of the world in their brilliance. He said to Jesus, "I will give you all of this—anything you want—if you'll kneel down and worship me."

Jesus responded "Get away from me Satan! It's commanded, 'Put God above everything else and only worship Him!"

Satan went away and angels came and took care of Jesus. At this time, He was about thirty years old. Throughout Jesus' life, He never sinned or rebelled against God. He always chose to do what was good and right and true.

### RETELL THE SCENE

*(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story.)*

*(CONTINUED)*

## DIALOGUE

*(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story.)*

- 1. Where have we seen Satan or evil tempt a person in the stories before? How did that person respond?**
- 2. How did Jesus respond in this scene to Satan's temptations?**
  - Resisted, quoted God's words to Satan
- 3. In your own words, what was Satan tempting Jesus with (three things)?**



## TELL THE SCENE

*(Don't, Just read it-know it and bring it to life!)*

### SCENE 2: DISCIPLES

As Jesus walked along the sea He told some of John's followers, "Come and follow me!"

From then on Jesus surrounded Himself with a few close followers called disciples showing them how to live in the ways of God.

Jesus traveled throughout the area, meeting in market places, homes and Jewish synagogues teaching people God's ways. He brought a new message to tell them, saying, "The kingdom of God has come. Turn from your sins, and turn to God!"

Jesus healed people with every kind of sickness and disease. News spread quickly about Him and huge crowds began following Him wherever He went. People traveled from miles away to be near Him and see the amazing miracles He performed.

## RETELL THE SCENE

*(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story.)*

## DIALOGUE

*(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story.)*

1. **Why do you think crowds of people wanted to be near Jesus?**
2. **Who were the disciples? What was Jesus teaching and showing them?**
3. **What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "The Kingdom of God has come."?**
4. **What do we learn about Jesus from this story (all three scenes)?**
  - He never rebelled against God. He is like God. God called Him His Son whom He loves.
  - He has amazing powers. He knows the writings of His people, the Hebrews.
  - People wanted to be near Him. He taught in new ways.

## APPLICATION

*(Optional questions that also work well in smaller groups)*

- What did you notice from the story for the first time?
- What questions do you have about the story? What do you wonder about?
- How did the story challenge or encourage you?
- How do you think you would have responded to Jesus?
- What does it mean to be tempted? What can we be tempted by?
- Which one of the three temptations would be the toughest for you resist right now? Why?

