

### ▼ On the Road Again! - Part 1

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday May 2, 2021

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#### • Read the Passage: Acts 16

He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household." Then they

spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God — he and his whole family.

When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

### ▼ **Sermon’s Purpose (what listeners should do)**

- Understand the issues at stake in the the conflict.
- The Language of Harvest
- Understanding Salvation

### ▼ **Understand the issues at stake in the conflict**

#### ▼ Evangelism — —> Discipleship Sequence:

##### ▼ Evangelism

- 1 Trust
- 2 Curiosity
- 3 Open to Change
- 4 Seeking
- 5 Commitment to Christ

##### • Discipleship

#### ▼ Background

- Peter preaches the gospel to Cornelius’ household. - Acts 10 - 11
  - Jews scattered by persecution began sharing the gospel with gentiles. - Acts 11:19-21
  - Barnabas and Saul shepherd a mixed Jewish & Gentile church in Antioch - Acts 11:22-26
  - Barnabas and Paul (aka Saul) conduct a successful missions trip evangelizing Gentiles and Jews. - Acts 13 - 14
- ▼ There is now a substantial population of Gentile Christians with “headquarters” in Antioch.

- ▼ They have a well-established understanding of what it means to be “saved” (Acts 2:40-41).
  - Luke refers to them as “brothers”.
  - The new teaching from the Judean visitors threatens to undermine the Antioch church and all the other churches that Paul and Barnabas have established.
  - This is a major crisis in the short history of the church!
- ▼ **The Language of Harvest**
  - ▼ Bearing Fruit
    - Parable of the sower - Matthew 13:1-23
  - ▼ Ladder of Abstraction
    - concrete language
  - ▼ Physical Fitness:
    - You can’t achieve it using only words such as: fitness, health, flexibility, strength.
    - You must use words such as: reps, squats, presses, push-ups, speed, incline, etc.
  - ▼ Education
    - You can’t achieve it using only words such as: education, knowledge, learning, understanding.
    - You must use words such as: add, multiply, conjugate, microscope, experiment, essay, verb, noun, translate.
  - ▼ Farming: seed, sower, scattering, harvesting
    - What is a crop and how do I know when I’ve produced one?
  - ▼ Fishing: nets, fisherman, lake or sea, boat
    - What is a fish and how do I know when I’ve caught one?
    - How do I know when I’ve cooked one?
- ▼ **Understanding Salvation**
  - ▼ The Bible uses many terms to describe a single experience from multiple perspectives:
    - Believer, Born Again, Christian, Disciple, Follower of Jesus, Saints, Saved
    - See Following Jesus: Introduction - Lesson 2
    - Consider these terms from “Following Jesus: Introduction” Lesson 2 (<https://lifechurchboston.org/activities/classes-programs/following-jesus/introduction/>)
    - **Believer** – someone who believes in or has faith in Jesus and therefore follows him. In the Bible, the term “believer” refers to much more than simply agreeing with an

idea. It implies a level of commitment such that, when given a chance, you will act on the belief. For example, you demonstrate your belief that a chair will support your weight by sitting in it; you demonstrate your belief that an airplane will take you safely to your destination by flying in it.

John 4:39-41; Acts 2:44-47; Acts 4:31-32; Galatians 6:9-10; James 2:1

- **Born again** – those who believe in Jesus are born again from God’s Spirit. You must be born again to see or enter the Kingdom of God.  
John 3:1-21; 1Peter 1:22-23
  - **Brother** – those who follow Jesus are part of a new family and become brothers and sisters to one another.  
Matthew 12:46-50; Matthew 23:8; Acts 6:3; Acts 9:28-30; Acts 11:1; Acts 11:29; Acts 15
  - **Christian** – means “belonging to Christ” “The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch” – Acts 11:19-26
  - **Disciples** – those who are trained by the one they are following.  
Matthew 5:1-2; Acts 6:1-7; Acts 9:1-31; Acts 11:19-26; Acts 18:23
  - **Follower of Jesus** – Someone who follows and organizes his/her life around the life of Jesus as revealed in the Bible, especially the four gospels (i.e. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and as revealed by the Holy Spirit.  
Matthew 4:19; Matthew 8:19-22; Matthew 9:9; Matthew 10:37-39; Matthew 16:24-26; Matthew 19:21-22; Matthew 19:27-30; John 1:43; John 12:26; John 21:19-22
  - **Saints** – those who are “sanctified”, or set apart for God’s use.  
Romans 1:1-8; Ephesians 1:1-2; Philippians 1:1-2
  - **Saved** – those who by following Jesus have been rescued from this world and from God’s wrath.  
Luke 8:12; Luke 8:4-15; John 10:1-9; Acts 2:17-21; Acts 4:8-12; Romans 10:1-13
- ▶ Confess and Believe
  - ▶ The Gospels give us a picture of what salvation looks like.
  - ▼ This is what salvation looks like.
    - ▼ People who
      - have been captivated by Jesus.
      - follow him in order to learn from him.
      - abandon their past teachers in favor of learning directly from Jesus.
    - ▼ Jesus
      - Welcomes them regardless of their past social status or degree of spiritual achievement.

- Considers them to be disciples from the beginning.
  - Treats them with an expectation of success.
  - The disciples' attention is focused on Jesus and they are not at all anxious about whether they are "in" or "out".
- ▼ With salvation we receive a "superpower" - the ability to distinguish between Jesus and other sources and to pay attention to Jesus.
- "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." - John 10:1-5 (NIV)
- This is the flip side of the "faith" that is the evidence of salvation.
  - What we do with this "superpower" will determine the course of our spiritual life.
- ▼ Modeling Conversion
- ▼ Compare 2 paradigms:
- Salvation as a free gift.
  - Salvation as a commitment to following and obeying Jesus.
- ▼ Salvation as a free gift:
- Illustration: Free tickets to a show I can't afford.
- ▼ Salvation as a commitment to following and obeying Jesus.
- Illustration
- ▼ What is the normal path to conversion (i.e. becoming a follower)?
- Gospel proclamation (e.g. The Kingdom of God is here)
  - Saving faith (includes the "superpower" ability to pay attention to Jesus)
  - Acts of commitment (e.g. baptism, "Jesus is Lord", joining family of believers)
  - Discipleship
- ▼ Let's use Peter's Pentecost sermon as a model:
- "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
- When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
- Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call."
- With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. - Acts 2:36-42 (NIV)

- Peter: God has made this Jesus . . . both Lord and Christ.
- ▼ People: What shall we do?
  - This indicates that Peter's message has generated saving faith in some of his audience!
  - We need to leave space for an indication that saving faith has been generated!
- ▼ Peter: Repent and be baptized . . .
  - Peter responds to their faith by "opening the door" to the Kingdom.
- ▼ Outcome:
  - They responded and 3,000 men were added to their number.
  - They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching . . .
- ▶ Putting The Model To Work
- ▶ The Solution
- The Breakup: Paul & Barnabas
- ▶ Putting The Model To Work
- ▼ Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey
  - ▼ Phase 1
    - ▼ Paul has split from Barnabas and is now traveling with Silas.
      - ▼ Paul was unwilling to make John Mark part of the team again. - Acts 15:36-41
        - Sometimes we fail to resolve a conflict with a mentor or a partner.
        - Sometimes we feel hopelessly disappointed with a team mate.
        - Sometimes we are a disappointment to our partners or leaders.
      - Paul later embraces John Mark. - 2 Timothy 4:9-13
    - ▼ Paul returns to Derbe and then Lystra - Acts 14:5-23
      - ▼ Paul adds Timothy to the team after having him circumcised.
        - Paul has just won a battle in defense of not requiring Gentiles to be circumcised!
        - Nevertheless, Paul has Timothy circumcised.
  - ▼ From town to town they deliver the decisions reached by the apostles and elders. - Acts 15: 22-29
    - ▼ Paul's church-planting pattern:
      - Preach the gospel.
      - Form those who respond into a local congregation.
      - Assumption: lay a foundation that will sustain them until he returns.

- Return and appoint elders, then leave again.
- Write letters to deal with new issues. Return when possible to give further instruction.
- ▼ The Jerusalem Council Decision:
  - Abstain from food sacrificed to idols.
  - Abstain from blood.
  - Abstain from the meat of strangled animals.
  - Abstain from sexual immorality.
- ▼ Skill Building
  - If you're not prepared to recognize, protect, and nurture the believers in your sphere of influence, then you're not loving them the way Christ has loved you - John 13:34-35.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
  - ▼ Questions for those who may be struggling

These are questions you can use to help those who are struggling in their understanding of and/or relationship with Christ. Practice these on one another.

    - What do you want God to do for you? What role does Jesus play in this?
    - Are you confident that you are saved? If not, was there ever a time when you were confident?
  - ▼ What were you told about salvation and how it happens?
    - Probe for understanding of who Jesus is and what role he plays.
    - Probe for understanding of the Kingdom of God.
    - What did you do that caused you to be confident that you were saved?
  - ▼ In order to defend the salvation of the believers around you, you must understand and be able to share the gospel message.
    - In order to understand and share the gospel message you must be able to find it in the Bible (not Google).
    - Let's develop our skill at finding the gospel message in the Bible.
  - ▼ Messages, Content, and Method
    - Message Content: What the message says.
    - Message Method: How the message is delivered.
    - News - The same story can be delivered via physical newspaper, web page, or broadcast.
    - Bible - Can be delivered via printed book, audio recordings, or electronically.
  - ▼ Some messages strongly imply a method:

- “Play ball!”
- Wedding vows
- “Amazing Grace”
- “Taps”
- “National Anthem”
- “We interrupt this program . . .”
- In the 1st Century, Gospel (i.e. “good news) strongly implies a method - it was announced verbally to a public audience of many people. It could then be repeated at lower volume among smaller groups, but it was initially encountered via public announcement.
- We are looking to find that initial public announcement of the good news!
- We will also be on the lookout for variants of the gospel message!
- ▼ Building the House
  - Excerpt from “The Math Gene” pp. 125-127
  - It’s not just about math!
- ▼ You build houses too:
  - Lawyers
  - Healthcare professionals
  - Recovery counselors
  - Hair stylists
  - Police
  - Asset managers
  - Teachers
- ▼ We are building a "house" of biblical understanding
  - ▼ Building the House: Israel’s Purpose
    - ▼ What is it?
      - Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” - Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)
      - Exodus 19:1-6

In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt — on the very day — they came to the Desert of Sinai. After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to

the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

- ▼ Israel is called to be set apart (i.e. holy) as a kingdom of priests who represent God to the world and through whom the entire world will be blessed.
  - ▼ What is Israel's purpose in exodus, Judges, 2 Samuel, Isaiah, Malachi?
    - The same!
  - ▼ How did Israel do regarding its purpose?
    - It failed.
    - Israel is like a car whose tires have a slow leak. No matter how much air you pump in, the tires will eventually go flat.
  - ▼ What would an Old Testament Israelite say was the solution to Israel's performance?
    - Deuteronomy 30:1-10 - Returning to obedience to God.

When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you. You will again obey the LORD and follow all his commands I am giving you today. Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your fathers, if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
    - Putting God back in charge.
    - God becomes King.
    - Kingdom of God!
  - ▼ What were John the Baptist and then Jesus announcing?
    - The Kingdom of God!

- The Kingdom of God redeems Israel and redefines it as all those who follow Jesus.
- The Church is the visible expression of God's Kingdom. When it functions properly it is like a car with an automatic air supply and self-healing tires.
- ▼ Think about the home you live in.
  - ▼ It has a bathroom.
    - The bathroom has the same address as the house.
  - ▼ It has a kitchen.
    - The kitchen has the same address as the house.
  - ▼ It has other rooms.
    - Each room has the same address as the house.
- ▼ New Testament
  - A House named "Kingdom of God".
  - What names do the rooms have?
- ▼ Discussion - Part 1 (Mark - Review)
  - ▼ For each Gospel, give everyone enough time to read through the first four chapters looking for the gospel message. Then, when everyone has had time to finish, discuss what you found. Take notes on what passage you find.
    - Find the 1st proclamation of the gospel message in the Gospel of Mark. Hint look for the word "gospel" or the phrase "good news".
  - ▼ What is the gospel (i.e. what are the words used in the passage you found)?  
After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" - Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)
  - ▼ Does this passage have a key word?
    - "Kingdom"
  - ▼ What other words in the Bible are related to that key word? Is one of them a title?
    - "King"
  - ▼ Is one of them a title? How did Jews express that title in Hebrew and in Greek?
    - "Messiah"
    - "Christ"
    - "Son of God" (see Psalm 2)
- ▼ Discussion - Part 2 (Matthew - Review)

- ▼ For each Gospel, give everyone enough time to read through the first four chapters looking for the gospel message. Then, when everyone has had time to finish, discuss what you found. Take notes on what passage you find.
  - Find the 1st proclamation of the gospel message in the Gospel of Matthew. Hint look for the word “gospel” or the phrase “good news”.
- ▼ What is the proclamation of the gospel that we found in Matthew?
  - Matthew 4:17 (NIV)  
From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”
  - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of Matthew 4:23 (NIV)  
Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.
- ▼ These passages have the same keyword:
  - “Kingdom”
- ▼ As we learned from the Mark 1:14-15 passage, this keyword is related to others:
  - “Messiah”
  - “Christ”
  - “Son of God” (see Psalm 2)
- ▼ Discussion - Part 3 (Luke - Review)
  - ▼ For this Gospel, give everyone enough time to read through the first four chapters looking for the gospel message. Then, when everyone has had time to finish, discuss what you found. Take notes on what passage you find.
    - Find the 1st proclamation of the gospel message in the Gospel of Luke. Hint look for the word “gospel” or the phrase “good news”.
  - ▼ What was the proclamation of the gospel that we found in Luke?
    - Luke 4:14-21 (NIV)  
Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.  
  
He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”  
  
Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- **Luke 4:42-44 (NIV)**

At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

- ▼ The house of biblical understanding we're building is "The kingdom of God".

- ▼ When we read the word "kingdom" we've entered one of the rooms.

- We're in the "kingdom" room but we're in the same house.

- ▼ When we read the word "king" we've entered one of the rooms.

- We're in the "king" room but we're in the same house.

- ▼ When we read the word "Messiah" we've entered one of the rooms.

- We're in the "Messiah" room but we're in the same house.

- ▼ When we read the word "Christ" we've entered one of the rooms.

- We're in the "Christ" room but we're in the same house.

- ▼ When we read the phrase "Son of God" we've entered one of the rooms.

- We're in the "Son of God" room but we're in the same house.

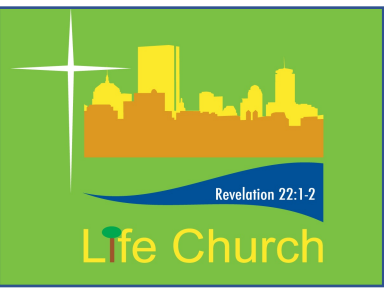
- ▼ **Followup**

- **Q&A**



# On the Road Again!

Part 1 – Sunday May 2, 2021



# Review

Bearing Fruit

Parable of the sower - Matthew 13:1-23

Ladder of Abstraction

Concrete Language





# Review

## Concrete Language

### Physical Fitness:

- You can't achieve it using only words such as: fitness, health, flexibility, strength.
- You must use words such as: reps, squats, presses, push-ups, speed, incline, etc.

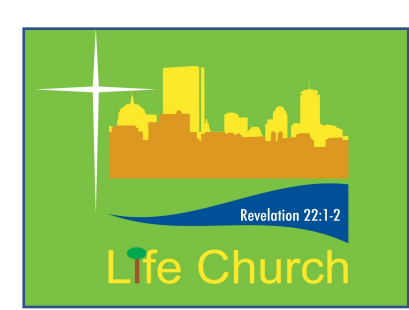


# Review

## Concrete Language

## Education

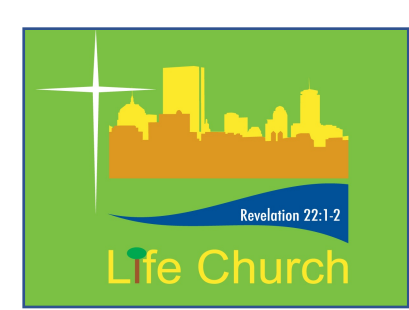
- You can't achieve it using only words such as: education, knowledge, learning, understanding.
- You must use words such as: spell, add, multiply, conjugate, microscope, experiment, essay, verb, noun, translate, 1492, 1620, 1776, George Washington, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King.



# Our Passage – Acts 16

## Acts 16:1-5 (NIV)

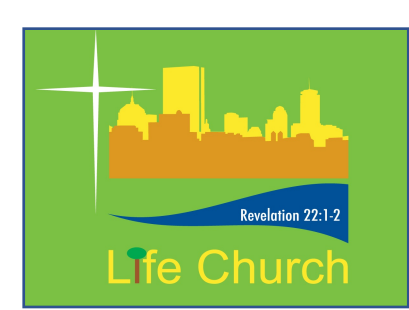
He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.



# Our Passage – Acts 16

## Paul's vision of the Man of Macedonia - Acts 16:6-10 (NIV)

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

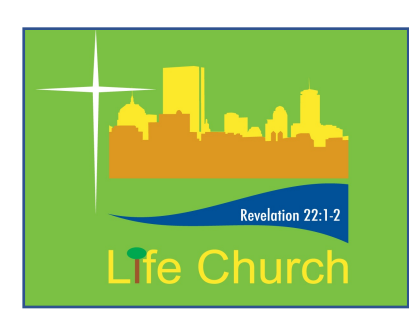


# Our Passage – Acts 16

## Lydia's Conversion in Philippi - Acts 16:11-15 (NIV)

From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.



# Our Passage – Acts 16

## Paul and Silas in Prison - Acts 16:16-21 (NIV)

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

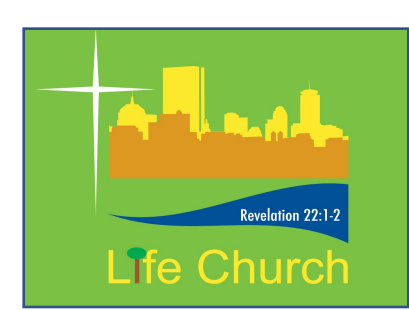


# Our Passage – Acts 16

## Paul and Silas in Prison (continued) - Acts 16:22-28 (NIV)

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"



# Our Passage – Acts 16

## Paul and Silas in Prison (continued) - Acts 16:29-34 (NIV)

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God — he and his whole family.



# Our Passage – Acts 16

## Paul and Silas in Prison (continued) - Acts 16:35-40 (NIV)

When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.



# Understanding the Issues

Some Definitions:

Evangelism → Discipleship Sequence

1. Trust
2. Curiosity
3. Open to Change
4. Seeking
5. Commitment to Christ

Discipleship



# Terminology

Consider these terms from “[Following Jesus: Introduction](https://lfechurchboston.org/activities/classes-programs/following-jesus/introduction/)” Lesson 2  
(<https://lfechurchboston.org/activities/classes-programs/following-jesus/introduction/>)

**Believer** – someone who believes in or has faith in Jesus and therefore follows him. In the Bible, the term “believer” refers to much more than simply agreeing with an idea. It implies a level of commitment such that, when given a chance, you will act on the belief. For example, you demonstrate your belief that a chair will support your weight by sitting in it; you demonstrate your belief that an airplane will take you safely to your destination by flying in it.

[John 4:39-41; Acts 2:44-47; Acts 4:31-32; Galatians 6:9-10; James 2:1](#)

**Born again** – those who believe in Jesus are born again from God’s Spirit. You must be born again to see or enter the Kingdom of God.

[John 3:1-21; 1Peter 1:22-23](#)

**Brother** – those who follow Jesus are part of a new family and become brothers and sisters to one another.

Matthew 12:46-50; Matthew 23:8; Acts 6:3; Acts 9:28-30; Acts 11:1; Acts 11:29; Acts 15

**Christian** – means “belonging to Christ” “The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch” – [Acts 11:19-26](#)



# Terminology

- **Disciples** – those who are trained by the one they are following.  
[Matthew 5:1-2; Acts 6:1-7; Acts 9:1-31; Acts 11:19-26; Acts 18:23](#)
- **Follower of Jesus** – Someone who follows and organizes his/her life around the life of Jesus as revealed in the Bible, especially the four gospels (i.e. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and as revealed by the Holy Spirit.  
[Matthew 4:19; Matthew 8:19-22; Matthew 9:9; Matthew 10:37-39; Matthew 16:24-26; Matthew 19:21-22; Matthew 19:27-30; John 1:43; John 12:26; John 21:19-22](#)
- **Saints** – those who are “sanctified”, or set apart for God’s use.  
[Romans 1:1-8; Ephesians 1:1-2; Philippians 1:1-2](#)
- **Saved** – those who by following Jesus have been rescued from this world and from God’s wrath.  
[Luke 8:12; Luke 8:4-15; John 10:1-9; Acts 2:17-21; Acts 4:8-12; Romans 10:1-13](#)



# Picturing Salvation

This is what salvation looks like.

- People who
  - have been captivated by Jesus.
  - follow him in order to learn from him.
  - abandon their past teachers in favor of learning directly from Jesus.
- Jesus
  - Welcomes them regardless of their past social status or degree of spiritual achievement.
  - Considers them to be disciples from the beginning.
  - Treats them with an expectation of success.
- Their attention is focused on Jesus and they are not at all anxious about whether they are “in” or “out”.



# Picturing Salvation

With salvation we receive a “superpower” - the ability to distinguish between Jesus and other sources and to pay attention to Jesus.

“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” - John 10:1-5 (NIV)

- This is the flip side of the “faith” that is the evidence of salvation.
- What we do with this “superpower” will determine the course of our spiritual life.



# Modeling Conversion

Compare 2 paradigms:

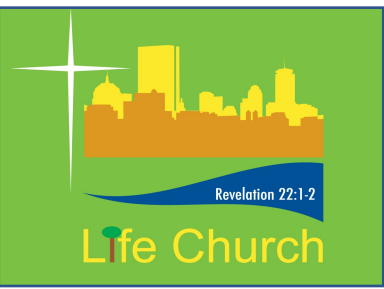
- Salvation as a free gift.
- Salvation as a commitment to following and obeying Jesus.

Salvation as a free gift:

- Illustration: Free tickets to a show I can't afford.

Salvation as a commitment to following and obeying Jesus.

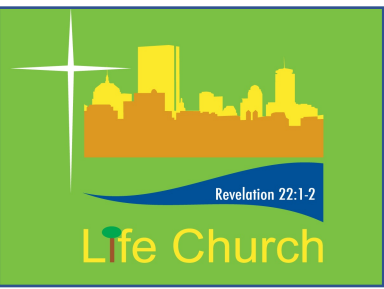
- Illustration: Free membership to a gym with a trainer.
- Illustration: Scholarship to college with a faculty mentor.



# Modeling Conversion

What is the normal path to conversion (i.e. becoming a follower)?

- Gospel proclamation (e.g. The Kingdom of God is here)
- Saving faith (includes the “superpower” ability to pay attention to Jesus)
- Acts of commitment (e.g. baptism, “Jesus is Lord”, joining family of believers)
- Discipleship



# Modeling Conversion

Let's use Peter's Pentecost sermon as a model:

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

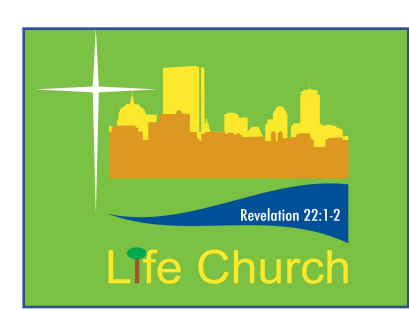
When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. - Acts 2:36-42 (NIV)

- Peter: "God has made this Jesus . . . both Lord and Christ."
- People: "What shall we do?"
- Peter: "Repent and be baptized . . ."
- Outcome: Those who accepted the message responded (were baptized) and 3,000 were added to their number.
- Outcome: They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching . . .



# Reviewing Acts 15

The Status of the Believers in Antioch (Jew and Gentile) is initially clear:

- Luke refers to them as “brothers”.
- Their status as “saved” is not initially in doubt.

The visitors from Judea were bringing contrary teaching:

- They told them that unless they were circumcised they couldn’t be saved.
- They were “un-saving” these Gentile believers.
- Paul and Barnabas responded to this false teaching!

Paul and Barnabas and others go to Jerusalem to settle the issue.

- They recognize that this is an issue that needs to be settled. What about you?
- When they arrive they encounter more Judaizers.



# Putting the Model To Work: The Solution

The entire assembly (church, apostles, elders) takes up the issue:

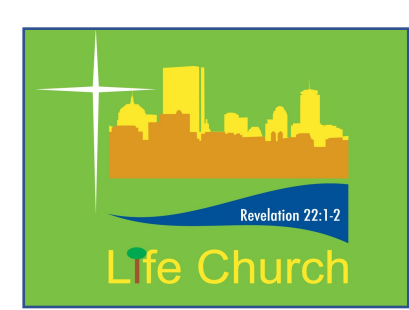
- They treated this as something they had to resolve.
- How did they resolve it?

No needful circumcision

- Gentiles are not “flying coach”. They don’t need to become Jews.

No needless offense. Gentiles should forgo:

- Things polluted by idols
- Sexual immorality
- Meat of strangled animals
- Blood

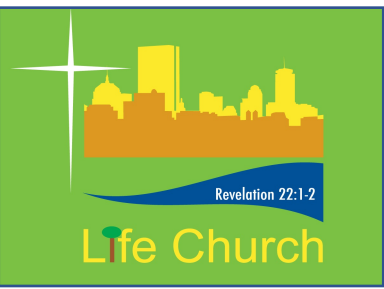


# Putting the Model To Work

- Does Paul ever again encounter Judaizers in his ministry?
  - Yes he does!
- Do subsequent encounters with Judaizers make Paul uncertain about the message of salvation he preaches?
  - No – He continues teaching that those who respond to the gospel in faith are saved!
- What about you? Do you see this as an issue that must be resolved?
  - Is this an issue that has been resolved for you?

We must be familiar with and use the salvation terms we have listed because we must have a clear sense of whom we are discipling and whom we are evangelizing.

Salvation is not an “I hope so” experience. Jesus expects his followers to know where they stand with him.



# Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey – Phase 1

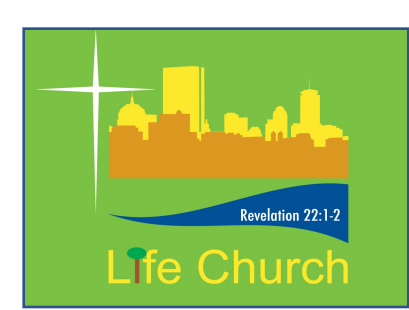
Paul split from Barnabas because he was unwilling to make John Mark part of the team again:

*Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. – Acts 15:36-41 (NIV)*

- Sometimes we fail to resolve a conflict with a mentor or a partner.
- Sometimes we feel hopelessly disappointed with a team mate.
- Sometimes we are a disappointment to our partners or leaders.

Paul later embraces John Mark:

*Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. - 2 Timothy 4:9-13*



# Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey – Phase 1

Paul returns to Derbe and then Lystra

*There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, where they continued to preach the good news.*

*In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.*

*When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. - Acts 14:5-13*



# Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey – Phase 1

Paul returns to Derbe and then Lystra (continued)

*But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.*

*Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.*

*They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. - Acts 14:14-23*



# Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey – Phase 1

Paul adds Timothy to the team after having him circumcised.

- Paul has just won a battle in defense of not requiring Gentiles to be circumcised!
- Nevertheless, Paul has Timothy circumcised.

From town to town they deliver the decisions reached by the apostles and elders. - Acts 15: 22-29

- Paul's church-planting pattern:
  - Preach the gospel.
  - Form those who respond into a local congregation.
  - Assumption: lay a foundation that will sustain them until he returns.
  - Return and appoint elders, then leave again.
  - Write letters to deal with new issues. Return when possible to give further instruction.



# Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey – Phase 1

From town to town they deliver the decisions reached by the apostles and elders. - Acts 15: 22-29

- The Jerusalem Council Decision:
  - Abstain from food sacrificed to idols.
  - Abstain from blood.
  - Abstain from the meat of strangled animals.
  - Abstain from sexual immorality.



# Skill Building

If you're not prepared to recognize, protect, and nurture the believers in your sphere of influence, then you're not loving them the way Christ has loved you.

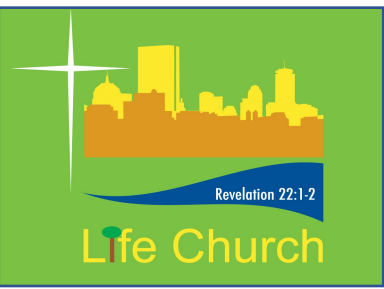
“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” - John 13:34-35 (NIV)



# Skill Building

## Questions for those who may be struggling:

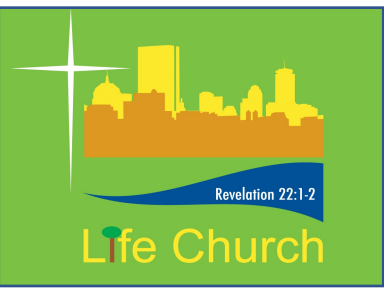
- What do you want God to do for you? What role does Jesus play in this?
- Are you confident that you are saved? If not, was there ever a time when you were confident?
- What were you told about salvation and how it happens?
  - Probe for understanding of who Jesus is and what role he plays.
  - Probe for understanding of the Kingdom of God.
- What did you do that caused you to be confident that you were saved?
- How does this person respond to opportunities to know Jesus better?



# Skill Building

In order to defend the salvation of the believers around you, you must understand and be able to share the gospel message.

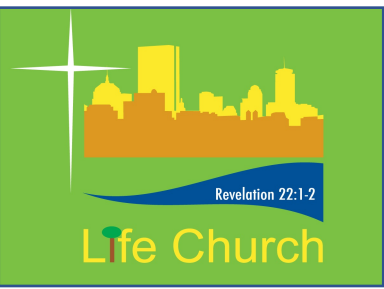
- In order to understand and share the gospel message you must be able to find it in the Bible (not Google).
- Let's develop our skill at finding the gospel message in the Bible.
- In the 1st Century, Gospel (i.e. "good news) strongly implies a method - it was announced verbally to a public audience of many people. It could then be repeated at lower volume among smaller groups, but it was initially encountered via public announcement.
- We are looking to find that initial public announcement of the good news!
- We will also be on the lookout for variants of the gospel message!



# Building the House

In his book “The Math Gene” author Keith Devlin describes his experience working on abstract mathematics problems:

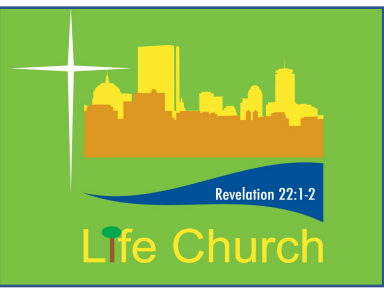
- His first task is to bring to life the mathematical concepts involved.
- It’s like building and furnishing a house from a detailed set of instructions (including plans and blueprints).
  - Study the instructions.
  - Locate and acquire the necessary materials, etc.
  - Construct the house step by step.
  - Move in.



# Building the House

As the builder, he knows the layout and can get around easily - even in the dark.

- Some components (e.g. the boiler) are installed as complete units even though he doesn't have a detailed understanding of how they work. If they break, he will need the manufacturers help.
- His next task is to move the furniture around to suit his lifestyle.

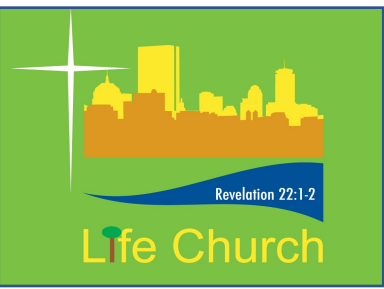


# Building the House

## Conclusion:

- Learning new mathematics is like constructing a mental house in your mind.
- Understanding that new mathematics is like becoming familiar with the interior of your mental house.
- Working on a mathematical problem is like arranging the furniture.

Thinking mathematics is like living in the house. As a mathematician, he creates a symbolic world in his mind and then enters that world.



# Building the House

This doesn't apply only to the field of mathematics.

You build houses too:

- Lawyers
- Healthcare professionals
- Recovery counselors
- Hair stylists
- Police
- Asset managers
- Teachers

We are building a "house" of biblical understanding



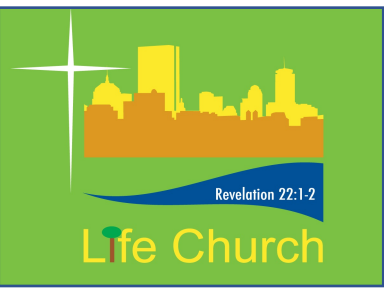
# Building the House: Israel's Purpose

## What is it?

*The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." - Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)*

*In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt — on the very day — they came to the Desert of Sinai. After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." - Exodus 19:1-6 (NIV)*

Israel is called to be set apart (i.e. holy) as a kingdom of priests who represent God to the world and through whom the entire world will be blessed.



# Building the House: Israel's Purpose

To be a holy kingdom of priests who represent God to the world and through whom the entire world will be blessed.

What is Israel's purpose in Exodus, Judges, 2 Samuel, Isaiah, Malachi?

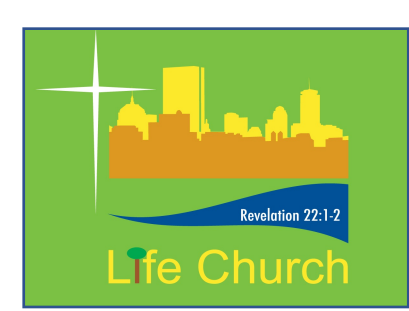
- The same!
- How did Israel do regarding its purpose?
  - It failed.
  - Israel is like a car whose tires have a slow leak. No matter how much air you pump in, the tires will eventually go flat.
- What would an Old Testament Israelite say was the solution to Israel's performance?



# Building the House: Israel's Purpose

What would an Old Testament Israelite say was the solution to Israel's failure?

*When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you. You will again obey the LORD and follow all his commands I am giving you today. Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your fathers, if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. - Deuteronomy 30:1-10 (NIV)*



# Building the House: Israel's Purpose

What would an O.T. Israelite say was the solution to Israel's failure?

- Deuteronomy 30:1-10 (NIV): Returning to obedience to God.
- Putting God back in charge.
- God becomes King.
- Kingdom of God!

What were John the Baptist and then Jesus announcing?

- The Kingdom of God!
- The Kingdom of God redeems Israel and redefines it as all those who follow Jesus.
- The Church is the visible expression of God's Kingdom. When it functions properly it is like a car with an automatic air supply and self-healing tires.



# Building the House: Kingdom of God

Think about the home you live in.

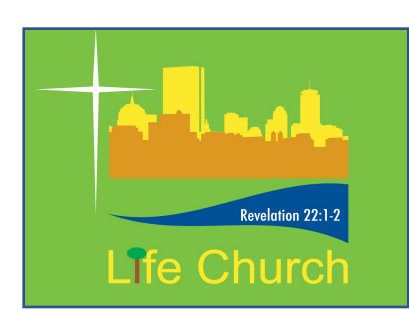
- It has a bathroom.
  - The bathroom has the same address as the house.
- It has a kitchen.
  - The kitchen has the same address as the house.
- It has other rooms.
  - Each room has the same address as the house.



# Discussion – Part 1 (Mark – Review)

For this Gospel, give everyone enough time to read through the first four chapters looking for the gospel message. Then, when everyone has had time to finish, discuss what you found. Take notes on what passage you find.

- Find the 1st proclamation of the gospel message in the Gospel of Mark. Hint look for the word “gospel” or the phrase “good news”.
- What is the gospel (i.e. what are the words used in the passage you found)?



# Building the House: Kingdom of God

What was the proclamation of the gospel that we found in Mark?

*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" - Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)*

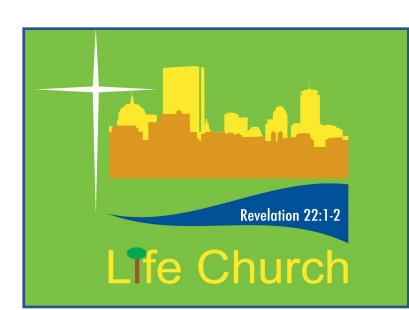
- Does this passage have a key word?
  - "Kingdom"
- What other words in the Bible are related to that key word? Is one of them a title?
  - "King"
- Is one of them a title? How did Jews express that title in Hebrew and in Greek?
  - "Messiah", "Christ", "Son of God" (see Psalm 2)



# Discussion – Part 2 (Matthew – Review)

For this Gospel, give everyone enough time to read through the first four chapters looking for the gospel message. Then, when everyone has had time to finish, discuss what you found. Take notes on what passage you find.

- Find the 1<sup>st</sup> proclamation of the gospel message in the Gospel of Matthew. Hint look for the word “gospel” or the phrase “good news”.



# Building the House: Kingdom of God

What was the proclamation of the gospel that we found in Matthew?

*From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

- Matthew 4:17 (NIV)

*Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. - Matthew 4:23 (NIV)*

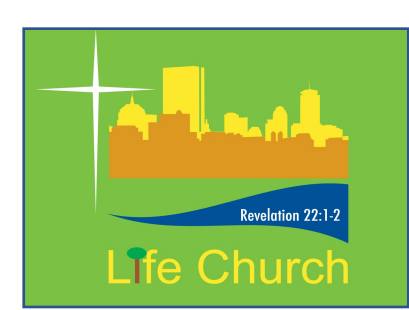
- These passages have the same keyword:
  - "Kingdom"
- As we learned from the Mark 1:14-15 passage, this keyword is related to others:
  - "Messiah", "Christ", "Son of God" (see Psalm 2)



## Discussion – Part 3 (Luke - Review)

For this Gospel, give everyone enough time to read through the first four chapters looking for the gospel message. Then, when everyone has had time to finish, discuss what you found. Take notes on what passage you find.

- Find the 1<sup>st</sup> proclamation of the gospel message in the Gospel of Luke. Hint look for the word “gospel” or the phrase “good news”.



# Building the House: Kingdom of God

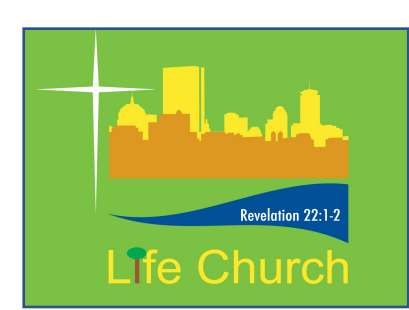
What was the proclamation of the gospel that we found in Luke?

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” - Luke 4:14-21 (NIV)

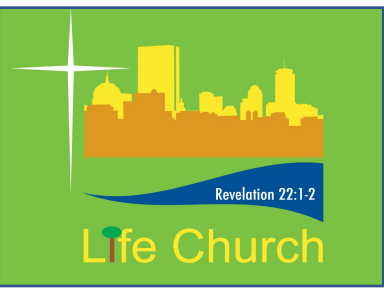
At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea. – Luke 4:42-44 (NIV)



# Building the House: Kingdom of God

The house of biblical understanding we're building is "The Kingdom of God".

- When we read the word "kingdom" we've entered one of the rooms.
  - We're in the "kingdom" room but we're still in the same house.
- When we read the word "king" we've entered one of the rooms.
  - We're in the "king" room but we're still in the same house.
- When we read the word "Messiah" we've entered one of the rooms.
  - We're in the "Messiah" room but we're still in the same house.
- When we read the word "Christ" we've entered one of the rooms.
  - We're in the "Christ" room but we're still in the same house.
- When we read the phrase "Son of God" we've entered one of the rooms.
  - We're in the "Son of God" room but we're still in the same house.



# Discussion Questions – Part 4

For this Gospel, give everyone enough time to read through the first four chapters looking for the gospel message. Then, when everyone has had time to finish, discuss what you found. Take notes on what passage you find.

- Find the 1<sup>st</sup> place where the gospel message appears or is implied in the Gospel of John. Hint – look for a variation on a key word you found in Mark.



# Discussion Questions – Part 5

Compare what you've found:

- How are each of these gospel passages similar?
- How are they different?