

▼ **John - Preparing The Way**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday April 12, 2026

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<http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/>

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are continuing John 1.
- We will have life group after the message.

▼ **Thoughts**

▼ **Video**

- [Chase: We Talkin' Bout Cashbacking | Chase Freedom Unlimited](#) - YouTube (00:00:30)
- [Talking About Making Disciples](#) - YouTube (00:00:25)

▼ **Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:**

- The apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer
- **Cultural Rivers**

▼ **Overview**

- ▶ **In today's message we will do the following:**

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▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:36-39
- Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage - John 1:19-28
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to life group.

▼ **Opening Material**

▶ **Moralistic Therapeutic Deism**

▼ **Why are we here?**

• **Acts 2:29-39 - Spoken to Jews**

"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

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

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."

• **Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles**

"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**"

▼ **Welcome to John!**

▼ Video

- [Bible Project: John 1-12](#) - (00:08:46)

- John 20:30-31

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

▼ **Embrace Jesus' Mission**

▼ **Jesus' mission, (expressed in the synoptic gospels) still applies.**

- Matthew 4:17 – “Repent, for the Kingdom of God has come near!”
- Mark 1:14-15 – “The Kingdom of God has come near . . .”
- Luke 4:14-21 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . .”

▼ **Feed on the Life of Jesus**

- **Are you “worded up”?**
- **Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17**
- **Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?**

▼ **What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?**

- The Gospel of John in April (4/1 – 4/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in May (5/1 – 5/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in June (6/1 – 6/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in July (7/1 – 7/24)

▼ **For April this means:**

- Read John 11 on April 11 (yesterday).
- Read John 12 on April 12 (today).
- Read John 13 on April 13 (tomorrow).
- etc.
- **As you read, write down any questions you have.**

▼ **Ask yourself the following questions:**

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?

- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ **Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:**

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ **Video:**

- [Discipleship.ORG: Key Disciple Making Definitions for Church Leaders](#) - YouTube (00:05:26)
- [Bible Project: Messiah](#) - (00:05:48)
- [BimBam: What is a Mikvah? An introduction to the Jewish Ritual Bath](#) - YouTube (00:02:21)

▼ **John 1:19-28**

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

▼ **Parallel Passages**

▼ Malachi 4

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root

or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act," says the LORD Almighty.

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

▼ Lessons

- ?

▼ Deuteronomy 18:14-22

The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.

▼ Lessons

- ?

▼ Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD'S hand
double for all her sins.
A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD ;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,

and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

▼ Lessons

- ?

▼ **Narrative**

- John never claims to be the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet.
- John is the voice in Isaiah calling for people to straighten our the path for the Lord.
- John makes it clear that the one coming after him is the “star of the show”.

▼ **Observations**

- We’ve already read that John came as a witness to testify about the light, but he himself was not the light. (John 1:6-8)
- ▼ John is not literally Elijah returned from the dead, but his ministry is in the spirit and power of Elijah.
 - Luke 1:11-17
 - Matthew 11:7-15
 - Matthew 17:9-13
- John’s practice of baptism is probably derived from the Jewish practice of Mikvah.
- The people are eager for God to deliver them from their condition of Roman captivity.

▼ **Lessons**

- Stay in your lane.
- Live according to what the Bible says about you.
- Keep the focus on Jesus.

▼ **Life Group**

▼ **Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)**

- [Icebreaker](#)

• **Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)**

▼ **Word - Discussion Questions**

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- **What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?**
- **What does this passage mean to you?**

- **How will you apply this passage this coming week?**

▼ **Witness**

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

▼ **Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.**

▼ What level are you at with these?

- Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
 - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- **Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.**



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Sunday April 12, 2026



Welcome!



Visitor Page

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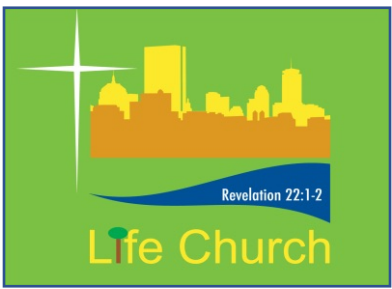
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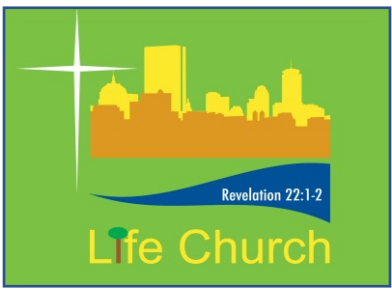
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Thoughts

- Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:
 - the apostles' teaching
 - fellowship
 - the breaking of bread
 - Prayer
- Cultural Rivers



Overview

In today's message we will deal with the following:

- Why are we here?
 - Acts 2:36-39
 - Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage – John 1:19-28
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to life group.



Why are we here?

Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews

Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles



Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (1 of 3)



“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.



Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (2 of 3)



For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
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Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (3 of 3)

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**”

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.**”



Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles



“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**”



Bible Project: John 1-12





John 20:30-31 – John's Purpose

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



Embrace Jesus' Mission:



Jesus' mission, (expressed in the synoptic gospels) still applies.

- Matthew 4:17 – “Repent, for the Kingdom of God has come near!”
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Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

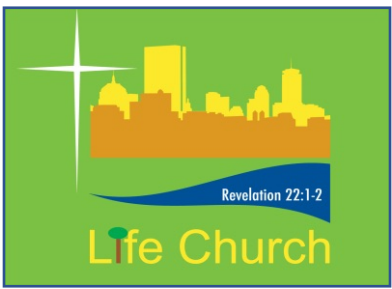
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Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

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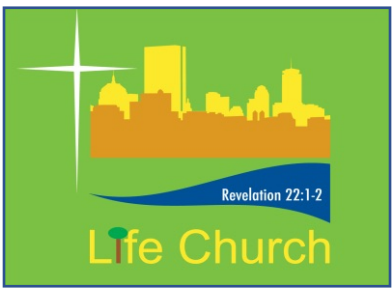
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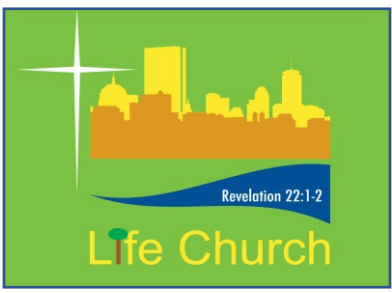


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Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)



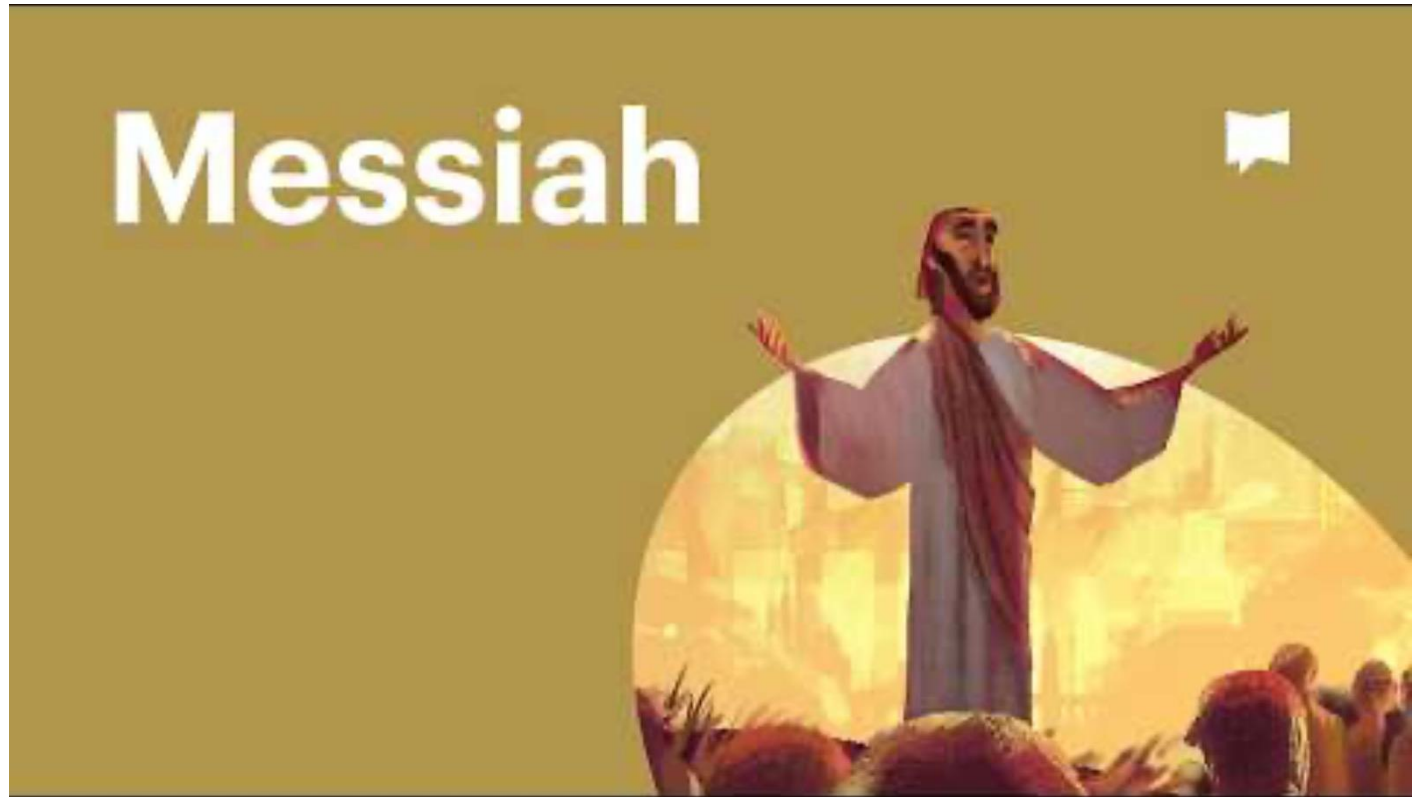
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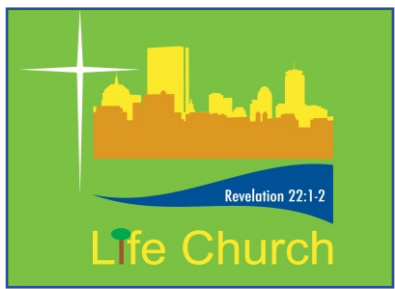


Bible Project: Messiah





What is a Mikvah?





John 1:19-28 (NIV) 1 of 2



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John 1:19-28 (NIV) 2 of 2



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Isaiah 40:1-5 1 (NIV) 1 of 2



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Isaiah 40:1-5 1 (NIV) 2 of 2



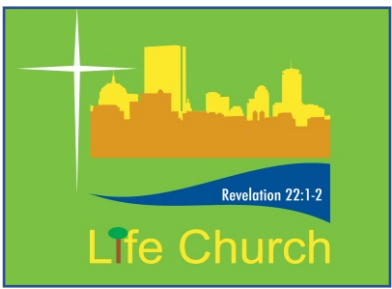
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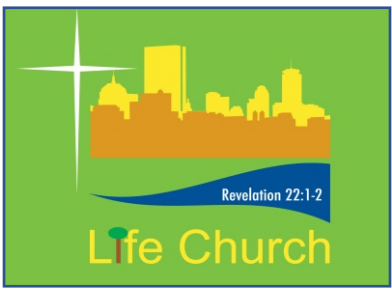
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Lessons

- Stay in your lane.
- Live according to what the Bible says about you.
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Life Groups

Word - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Witness (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.
- What level are you at with these?
 - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
 - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.



Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service April 12, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (4/15) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service April 19, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (4/22) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service April 26, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (4/29) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) May 3, 2026
- Sunday Connection May 3, 2026 12n - 2pm
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/6) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 10, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/13) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom



Life Groups



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Q&A / Discussion





Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups