

▼ **Joining Jesus' Team**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday April 26, 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 finishing 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:**

▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:36-39
- Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage - John 1:35-51
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to life group.

▼ Opening Material

▼ 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:**

- No John reading on April 25 (yesterday).
- No John reading on April 26 (today).
- No John reading on April 27 (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 \(00:05:26\)](#)

▼ **John 1:35-51**

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

▼ Narrative

- John the Baptist identifies Jesus to Andrew and another disciple as the “Lamb of God”.
- The two disciples follow Jesus and ask him where he is staying.
- Jesus invites them to “come and see” and they spend the day with him.
- Andrew tells his brother Simon that they have found the Messiah and brings him to Jesus.
- Jesus gives Simon the name Cephas (i.e. Peter).
- The next day Jesus heads for Galilee and asks Philip to follow him.
- Philip finds Nathaniel and tells him about Jesus. Nathaniel is skeptical given that Jesus is from Nazareth.
- As Nathaniel approaches him, Jesus identifies him as a true Israelite who was under a fig tree before Philip called him. This convinces Nathaniel that Jesus is the Son of God and king of Israel.
- Jesus tells Nathaniel that he will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

▼ Observations

- ▼ The events in this passage almost certainly occur after Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness.

▼ Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “**It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’**”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered him, “**It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’**”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “**Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’**”

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

▼ Lessons

- ?

- It seems that Andrew and (John the future Apostle) were the disciples who initially heard John the Baptist identify Jesus as the “Lamb of God”.
 - Notice that Andrew and John respond by following Jesus and Jesus initiates the conversation. Andrew subsequently recruits Simon (Peter / Cephas).
 - Cephas comes from the Aramaic word for “Rock”. Peter comes from the Greek word for “Rock”.
 - Galilee is Jesus’ home base - where most of his ministry took place.
 - “Follow me” is the standard way that a rabbi enlists a disciple.
 - Notice that Jesus initiates the connection with Philip. Philip subsequently recruits Nathaniel.
 - Fig trees were common places where Jews would pray. Nathaniel is probably shocked, not just that Jesus knew what he was doing before Philip called him, but also because he had been praying at the time.
- ▼ Son of God is not yet a divine reference. It was a way of referring to the king as God’s adopted son. - Psalm 2

- Psalm 2

Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,
“Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles.”
The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.
He rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
“I have installed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain.”
I will proclaim the LORD’S decree:
He said to me, “You are my son;
today I have become your father.
Ask me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.
You will break them with a rod of iron;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”
Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear
and celebrate his rule with trembling.
Kiss his son, or he will be angry
and your way will lead to your destruction,

for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

▼ Jesus depicts himself as the ladder between heaven and earth seen in Jacob's dream. - Genesis 28:10-22

• Genesis 28:10-22

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

▼ Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man - a reference to a human who shares God's throne in Daniel 7.

• Daniel 7:13-14

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

▼ The enrollment of Peter, Andrew, James, and John as disciples was completed later in Galilee.

• Matthew 4:18-22

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

▼ Lessons

- Jesus begins by building a team of disciples.
- ▼ Video:
 - [David Mann: 08 Nooma Rob Bell DUST 008](#) - YouTube (00:15:34)
 - Disciples begin their connection with Jesus in different ways. Some have a less formal stage before moving on to more formal discipleship.
- ▼ Most American Christians pursue their relationship with Jesus as individuals rather than as part of a team of disciples.
 - American culture is individualistic.
 - Our ability to read reinforces our individualism.
 - What will it take for you to become a team player?

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

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)



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John 1:35-51 (NIV) 1 of 2

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And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, **“You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas”** (which, when translated, is Peter).



John 1:35-51 (NIV) 2 of 2



The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, **“Follow me.”**

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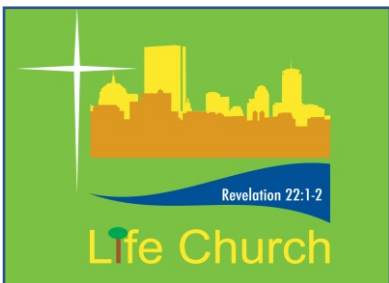
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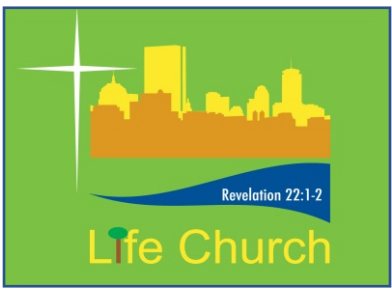
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Narrative



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Observations

- The events in this passage almost certainly occur after Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.
 - Matthew 4:1-11



Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV) 1 of 3



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said,

“If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered,

“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”



Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV) 2 of 3



Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”



Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV) 3 of 3



Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

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Jesus said to him, **“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”**

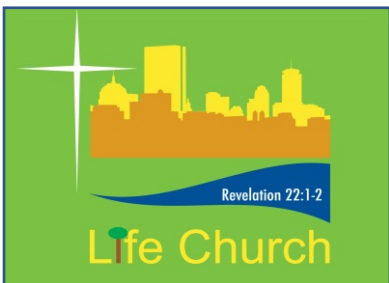
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Observations (continued)



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- Son of God is not yet a divine reference. It was a way of referring to the king as God's adopted son. - Psalm 2
 - Psalm 2



Psalm 2 (NIV) 1 of 3



Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,
“Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles.”
The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.
He rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
“I have installed my king
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Psalm 2 (NIV) 2 of 3



I will proclaim the LORD'S decree:
He said to me, "You are my son;
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Ask me,

and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.

You will break them with a rod of iron ;

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Psalm 2 (NIV) 3 of 3



Therefore, you kings, be wise;
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Observations (continued)

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- Jesus depicts himself as the ladder between heaven and earth seen in Jacob's dream. - Genesis 28:10-22
 - Genesis 28:10-22



Genesis 28:10-22 (NIV) 1 of 2



Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."



Genesis 28:10-22 (NIV) 2 of 2



When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

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Observations (continued)

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 - Matthew 4:18-22



Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV)



As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **“Come, follow me,”** Jesus said, **“and I will send you out to fish for people.”** At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.



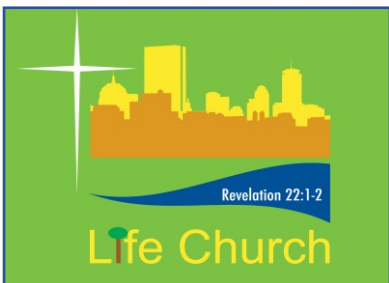
Lessons

- Jesus begins by building a team of disciples.
 - [David Mann: 08 Nooma Rob Bell DUST 008](#) - YouTube (00:15:34)



Nooma – Rob Bell Dust 008





Lessons



- Jesus begins by building a team of disciples.
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- Disciples begin their connection with Jesus in different ways. Some have a less formal stage before moving on to more formal discipleship.
- Most American Christians pursue their relationship with Jesus as individuals rather than as part of a team of disciples.
 - American culture is individualistic.
 - Our ability to read reinforces our individualism.
- What will it take for you to become a team player?



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 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
- Sunday Service May 17, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/20) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 24, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/27) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom



Life Groups

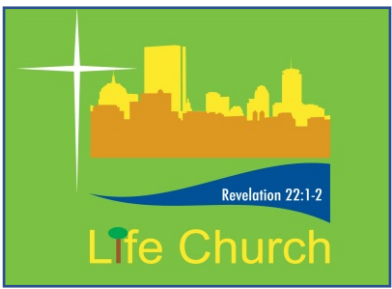


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Q&A / Discussion





Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups