

▼ **The Son Takes Over**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday May 31, 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 3.
- 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 3:22-36
 - 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.

- **John 21:25**

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

▼ **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 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)
- The Gospel of John in August (8/1 – 8/21)

▼ **For May this means:**

- No Matthew reading on May 30 (yesterday).
- No Matthew reading on May 31 (today).
- Read Mark 1 on June 1 (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 \(00:05:26\)](#)

▼ **Making Disciples:**

▼ **A Disciple is someone who is:**

- Following Jesus
- Being changed by Jesus
- Committed to the mission of Jesus
- **We want to establish a disciple-making community.**

▼ **John 3:22-36**

After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. (This was before John was put in prison.) An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less."

The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he

has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

▼ Parallel & Related Passages

- **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the LORD.

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

- **Matthew 9:14-15**

Then John's disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?”

Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.”

▼ Narrative

- Jesus and his disciples are baptizing in the Judean countryside.
- John the Baptist is also baptizing at Aenon near Salim. John was later put in prison.
- One of the Jews is arguing with John's disciples about ceremonial washing.
- John's disciples complain to John that more people are going to Jesus for baptism.
- John explains to them that Jesus is the bridegroom and he is just the friend who attends him. The bride belongs to the bridegroom - not the friend. John is happy with his role. Jesus must increase and John must decrease.

- While others are from the earth, Jesus is from above and take precedence over everyone else. God gives him the Spirit without limit and has placed everything in his hands.
- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life and remains in God's wrath.

▼ Observations

- Jesus continues the practice of baptism initiated by John. We will learn at the beginning of the next chapter, that Jesus himself didn't baptize, but left this to his disciples.
- John's disciples are jealous on John's behalf, but John is actually glad that Jesus' ministry is exceeding his.
- Jesus refers to himself as the bridegroom in Matthew 9:15.
- ▼ The theme of Israel as God's bride is seen in Jeremiah 3:14, Jeremiah 31:31-34 and in several other passages:
 - Isaiah 54:5-8
 - Jeremiah 2:2
 - Jeremiah 3
 - Ezekiel 16
 - Hosea 2
- Some people consider vs. 31-36 to be part of John's speech, but it is more likely the author's comment on the preceding discussion.
- "No one accepts his testimony": this is a general observation that so many people rejected Jesus' message.
- The following verse makes it clear that some did accept Jesus' testimony.
- Because God has placed everything in Jesus' hands, embracing Jesus leads to eternal life and rejecting Jesus leaves you under God's wrath.

▼ Video

- [Bible Project: Eternal Life](#) - YouTube (00:05:30)
- [Bible Project: Slow to Anger](#) - YouTube (00:05:20)

▼ Lessons

- ▼ Jesus now has a team of disciples who are:
 - following Jesus
 - being changed by Jesus
 - committed to the mission of Jesus

- Jesus is the one whom God has sent. He speaks God's words, and the Holy Spirit operates in him without limitation.
- God has placed everything in Jesus' hands.
- Are you part of a team of disciples who work together to carry out Jesus' agenda?

▶ **What shall we do?**

▼ **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 May 31, 2026



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Thoughts

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



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

- Why are we here?
 - Acts 2:29-39
 - Acts 17:29-31
- Review our passage – John 3:22-36
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.



John's Purpose



John 20:30-31

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)



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?

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)

As you read, write down any questions you have.

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)

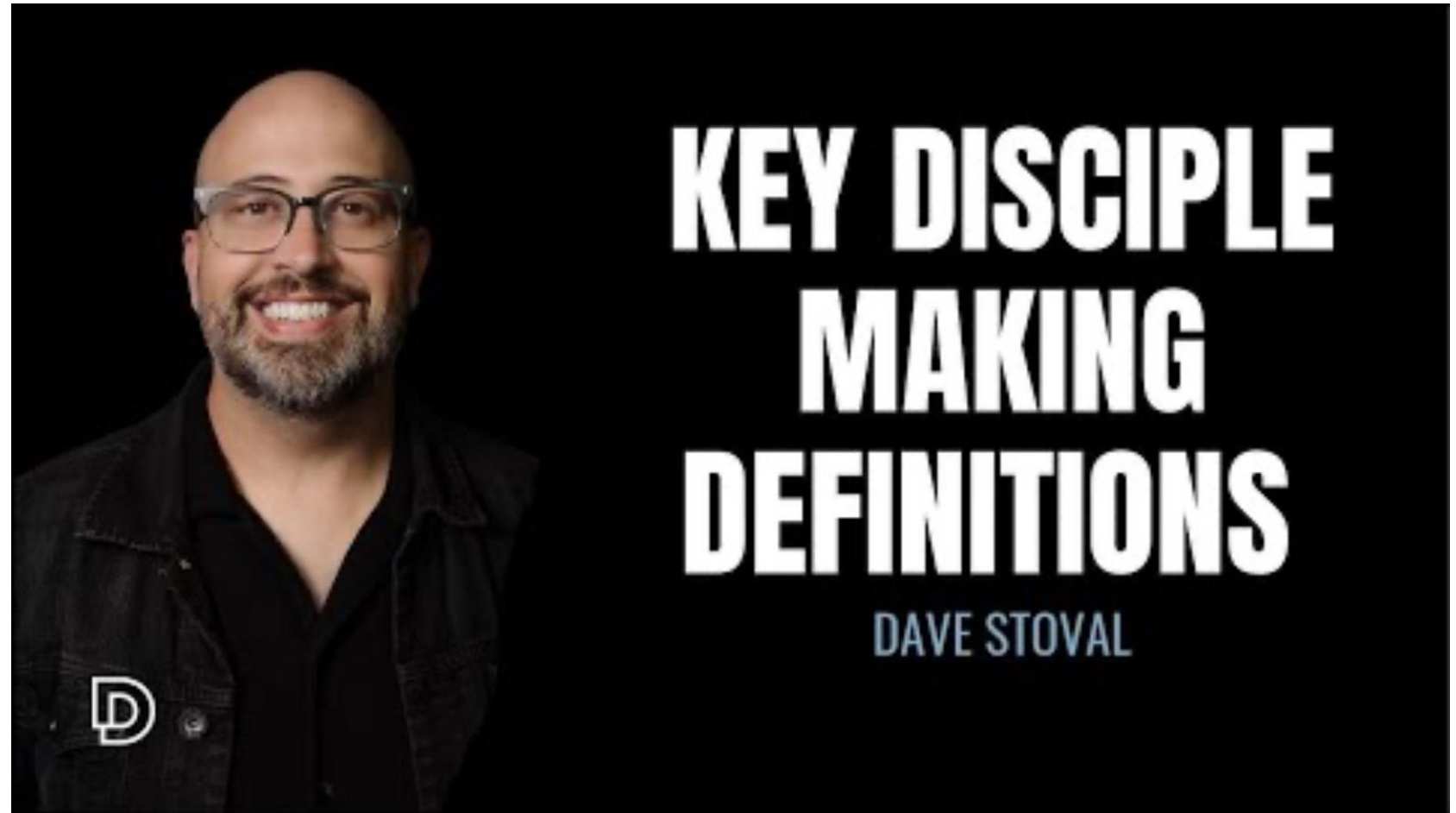
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Key Disciple Making Definitions





Discipleship Definition

A Disciple is someone who is:

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John 3:22-36 (NIV) 1 of 3



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John 3:22-36 (NIV) 2 of 3



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John 3:22-36 (NIV) 3 of 3



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Matthew 9:14-15 (NIV) - Bridegroom



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 - Hosea 2



Jeremiah 3:14 (NIV) - Husband



“Return, faithless people,” declares the LORD, “**for I am your husband.** I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion.



Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV) 1 of 3

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
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Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV) 2 of 3

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

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Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV) 3 of 3

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Observations (continued)

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Bible Project: Slow to Anger





Lessons

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 - committed to the mission of Jesus
- Jesus is the one whom God has sent. He speaks God's words, and the Holy Spirit operates in him without limitation.
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- Are you part of a team of disciples who work together to carry out Jesus' agenda?



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 May 24, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/27) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 31, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (6/3) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) June 7, 2026
- Sunday Connection June 7, 2026 12n - 2pm
- Men's Bible Study Wed (6/10) 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