

A Life Revolved Around Jesus: Part I

2026-08-17 • PASTOR ELIJAH TADEMA



Matthew 28:16-18

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

What would you say if a stranger asked what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? Pastor Elijah opened with that question, then gave the answer written into Orbit's mission: a disciple is someone who revolves everything around Jesus. From Psalm 16:8 he pulled two words, priority and authority. Priority is what comes first. Authority is who decides. And from David's story he showed what a revolved life looks like when it fails: sin gets named, and real repentance turns around instead of just apologizing.

To get started

- Who taught you how to do something you still do their way?

Looking back at the message

Start with what people actually heard, not what they think they should have heard.

- 1 Pastor Elijah asked what you would tell a stranger who wanted to know what a disciple of Jesus is. What came to mind for you?
- 2 Pastor Elijah defined a disciple as someone who revolves everything around Jesus. What does that definition cover that a shorter one would miss?
- 3 Pastor Elijah pointed out that in Matthew 28:17, some worshiped and some doubted, on the same mountain at the same time. What do you make of both being in the text?

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Psalm 16:8 aloud before anyone answers.

- 4 Read Matthew 28:16-20. What does Jesus tell them to do, and what does he say about himself first?
- 5 Psalm 16:8 says: I have set the Lord always before me. Pastor Elijah read before me as priority and at my right hand as authority. Reading it yourself, how do you see it?
- 6 Psalm 46 declares who God is before it ever mentions trouble. What difference does that order make?
- 7 In 2 Samuel 12, Nathan tells David a story before he brings the charge. Why do you think he did it that way? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Priority and authority are different things; let people say which is harder without deciding for them.

- 8 Priority is what comes first. Authority is who decides. Which one is easier for you to give God, and which is harder?
- 9 Pastor Elijah said your difficulties are not your identity, but they will take the center of your life whenever Jesus does not. What takes up the most room in your head during a hard week?
- 10 Pastor Elijah described real repentance as turning around and changing the pattern, not just apologizing. What does that difference look like in real life?
- 11 David is called a man after God's own heart in the same book where he is confronted for his worst sin. How do you hold those together?

The group together

Sin being named is easier to talk about in the abstract. Do not push anyone past the abstract.

- 12 Pastor Elijah said God calls out sin because he does not want distance between us. How does that compare with how you usually hear correction?
- 13 What would make this group a place where someone could admit they were wrong and not regret saying it?
- 14 What is something you would want this group to keep asking you about? You can name it without explaining it. OPTIONAL

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What sits at the center of your week right now, and what would it take for that thing to orbit Jesus instead?

You might pray about

- For the person here who is doubting and came anyway
- For whatever each of us has been keeping outside of God's authority
- For families where following Jesus has cost someone something
- For repentance that changes a pattern rather than only expressing regret