

A Life Revolved Around Jesus: Part II

2026-08-23 • PASTOR ELIJAH TADEMA



John 8:31-32

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

Pastor Elijah continued the discipleship series by moving from becoming a disciple to being one. He gave three essentials, each in two parts. First, truths and promises, which come from the Word of God. Second, adjustments and assignments, which come from the Lord, and an assignment usually has a name and a face. Third, support and encouragement, which believers give and receive from one another. He pressed surrender into the places we usually hold back: big decisions, dating, money. And he warned with a story about a friend drifting away from the group on a river float: a disciple who unhooks from Christian community drifts into trouble alone.

To get started

- What is a small change to your routine that turned out to make a bigger difference than you expected?

Looking back at the message

The three essentials are easy to recite and harder to describe. Let people put them in their own words.

- 1 Pastor Elijah named three essentials: truths and promises from God's word, adjustments and assignments from the Lord, and support and encouragement from one another. Which of the three is strongest in your life right now?
- 2 An assignment from God usually has a name and a face, a specific person. Who came to mind when you heard that?
- 3 Pastor Elijah told about feeling nudged to help a man with a van at a laundromat, and admitted he ignored the nudge at first. Why do you think he told it that way, failure included? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 8:31-32, Romans 12:2 and Hebrews 10:24-25 aloud. Let the group compare them.

- 4 Read John 8:31-32. What condition does Jesus set, and what does he say follows from it?
- 5 Read Romans 12:2. Paul contrasts conforming with being transformed. Where does the verse say the transformation happens?
- 6 Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What reason does this passage actually give for meeting together?
- 7 Pastor Elijah described the world's pattern as a stream of you-should statements and God's word as I-am statements. Where do you hear each of those voices in your week?

Bringing it home

He named money, dating and big decisions. Do not let the group settle only on the safest one.

- 8 Pastor Elijah said that for a surrendered disciple, the big decisions are no longer entirely yours to make, and he called that a luxury rather than a loss. Which does it feel like to you?
- 9 Money is not bad. Money is a bad god. What is the difference, and where would you notice it in your own life?
- 10 Adjustments can be as ordinary as sleep or as costly as forgiving someone. What adjustment do you suspect God has been asking of you?
- 11 Is there an assignment you think you have already been given and have not said yes to? You do not have to name it. OPTIONAL

The group together

This section is the one that concerns this group directly. Be concrete.

- 12 Pastor Elijah's friend Tim drifted away from the group while floating a river and ended up stuck alone. Where have you seen that drift happen, in yourself or someone else?
- 13 Rejoicing with those who rejoice is sometimes harder than mourning with those who mourn. Which does this group do better?
- 14 What is one practical thing that would make it easier for someone in this group to ask for help?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Of the three essentials, which one do you want to be different a month from now, and what is the first step?

You might pray about

- For an assignment someone here is hesitating over
- For the areas we have quietly kept off the table
- For the people in this group carrying something they have not mentioned
- For a move of God that starts here rather than somewhere else