

Lifeline

BELONG

ICE-BREAKER

Now that we have had a taste of Spring, what is one thing you are looking forward to once the weather gets warm again?

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:29 NLT

29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Philippians 2:6-7 NLT

Though he was God,

he did not think of equality with God

as something to cling to.

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;

he took the humble position of a slave

and was born as a human being.

Mark 1:10-11 NLT

10 As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove.
11 And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Mark 1:14-15 NLT

14 Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. 15 "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

Luke 10:8-9 NLT

8 "If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. 9 Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.'

BE

Have you ever read the first three gospels, the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) back-to-back? What was your experience like? Did it feel repetitive? Did it feel like each gospel had a different emphasis?

Take 5-10 minutes and try and create an outline, from memory, of the Gospel of Matthew. Consider working with a partner or as a group. Then, share with the group and fill in the details that you missed.

Read Romans 8:29 NLT and Philippians 2:6-7 NLT. How is Jesus described in comparison to human beings? How is He the same? How is He different? How does that impact your understanding of Him?

Read Mark 1:10-11 NLT and Ephesians 2:10 NLT. If the Father is saying these words to Jesus, His son, what is He saying to us, His masterpiece?

Read Mark 1:14-15 NLT and Luke 10:8-9 NLT. What is the Kingdom of God? Why does Jesus make a point of instructing his disciples to teach this?

What is one way this week that you imagine these scriptures will encourage you?

DO

For ministry time, begin by reading Ephesians 2:10 NLT again, this time, aloud as a group.

Then, spend time meditating on these words, and break them into three parts:

- 1) We are God's masterpiece
- 2) Created anew in Christ Jesus
- 3) To do the good things He planned for us

Ask God to bring each person revelation about His holy plan, His Good News.

Conclude by spending time thanking God for the ways He has shown you His love this past week.

