

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

# DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

## Discussion Guide Sunday Sermon 3.22.26



### Exalting Jesus in Easter Part 1: His Cup

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

### Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

[Click Here](#)

**OLIVET**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

### How to Access the OBC App?

- 1 Open your App Store
- 2 Search "Olivet Baptist"
- 3 Download the App
- 4 Open & Create an Account
- 5 Access all of our resources!

The smartphone screen shows the app's home page with a church building image, the text "Sunday Mornings" and "Let us all look to be working together", a "PODCAST FEEDBACK FORM" button with a microphone icon, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for Home, Search, Live, Events, and More.

## Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts and minds to what He wants to teach you about Jesus through this discussion.

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## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- 1. Jesus is not just a means to an end—He is the prize.**
    - We cannot view Jesus merely as our ticket to heaven; He IS the provision, not just the provider.
  - 2. The greatest key to Christian growth is beholding Jesus in His glory.**
    - Spiritual growth comes primarily from seeing and worshiping Jesus, not just religious activities.
  - 3. Jesus was worthy to reign as King, but chose to lay down His life instead.**
    - He could have ruled immediately, but delayed His kingdom to become our sacrifice.
  - 4. Jesus lived a perfect life under constant pressure.**
    - Every single day, Jesus had to remain sinless—one mistake would have disqualified Him as our perfect sacrifice.
  - 5. The nation of Israel rejected their King, changing everything.**
    - Matthew 12 marks the turning point where Jesus shifts from proclaiming the kingdom to preparing for the cross.
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Sermon

1. What stood out to you most from this sermon? Why?
2. The pastor mentioned that many Christians have "left their first love" like the Church of Ephesus. What does that look like in practical terms?
3. Read Matthew 12:22-32 together. Why was the Pharisees' rejection of Jesus such a pivotal moment? How did it change Jesus' ministry?
4. What does it mean that Jesus "drank the cup of suffering" every day of His life, not just on Good Friday?

## Going Deeper

5. The sermon stated: "You will never be the Christian God wants you to be until you understand what Jesus went through on your behalf." Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. Jesus could have revealed His glory and forced everyone to worship Him. Why didn't He?
7. In Matthew 16:21-23, Peter rebukes Jesus for talking about His death, and Jesus responds harshly. Why was Peter's statement so dangerous? How might we be guilty of similar thinking today?
8. The Transfiguration (Matthew 17) gave three disciples a glimpse of Jesus' glory, but they were told to keep it secret. How would that have been difficult? What does this teach us about timing and obedience?

## Personal Reflection

9. On a scale of 1-10, how much does Jesus' sacrifice truly matter to you on a daily basis? Be honest. What keeps us from being more amazed by what He did?
  10. The pastor said many Christians love religion, church traditions, and serving, but their love for Jesus has grown cold. Which of these might you be guilty of prioritizing over Jesus Himself?
  11. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. How does "beholding Jesus in His glory" lead to transformation? What practical steps can you take to behold Him more?
  12. Where in your life are you treating Jesus as a "means to an end" rather than as the ultimate prize?
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## Practical Applications

**Choose one or more of these to practice this week:**

1. **Daily Meditation on Jesus' Kingship**
  - Each morning, spend 5 minutes reading a portion of Matthew 1-17 and reflect on who Jesus is as King.

## **2. Gratitude Journal**

- Write down 3 specific things Jesus gave up or suffered for you each day this week.

## **3. Examine Your Priorities**

- Take inventory: What gets more of your emotional energy—church activities/traditions or your actual relationship with Jesus?

## **4. Pray 2 Corinthians 3:18**

- Ask God to help you behold Jesus in His glory so you can be transformed into His image.

## **5. Share What You've Learned**

- Tell someone this week about one thing that struck you about Jesus' sacrifice from this sermon.

### **Group Accountability**

- Share with the group which challenge you'll commit to this week
  - Exchange contact information to check in with each other mid-week
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### **Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer**

#### **Personal Reflection Before Sharing:**

- Is there an area where you've been self-consumed rather than Christ-focused?
- Do you need prayer for a cold heart toward Jesus?
- Are you struggling to see Jesus as more than a means to an end?

#### **Group Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for humble hearts that truly worship Jesus
  - Pray for eyes to see what Jesus went through on our behalf
  - Pray for the church to fall in love with Jesus again, not just religion
  - Pray for anyone who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus
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## Looking Ahead

Next week we'll continue examining Jesus' path to the cross. Come prepared to discuss what it means that Jesus "drank the cup" and how that should impact our daily lives.

### Recommended Reading Before Next Week

- Matthew 26-27 (Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion)
- Isaiah 53 (Prophecy of the suffering servant)

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***"He is not just a means to an end. He is the whole point."***