



What happens when Jesus becomes more than just part of your life—and becomes the center of it?

Jesus Over Everything is a four-week journey through four life-changing encounters with Jesus. Alongside the Woman at the Well, Nicodemus, Peter, and Mary & Martha, you'll explore questions of identity, faith, surrender, purpose, and devotion. Their stories reveal how Jesus meets people where they are and lovingly calls them to something greater.

Designed for individuals or small groups, each session includes biblical insights, personal reflection, and engaging discussion questions. Sessions typically take about an hour in a group setting and can be completed more quickly on your own.

Join us as we discover what it means to place Jesus above our searching, failure, priorities, and our old selves—because when Jesus is over everything, everything changes.

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Session 1



“Jesus Over My Searching

(The Woman at the Well)

Purpose: To recognize how Jesus satisfies our needs and desires.

Icebreaker: What’s your go-to local spot and what’s your standard order there?

Leader Say It: Whether it's a favorite coffee shop, a drive-thru, or a spot in the park, we all have routines around where we go to refuel. Today we're looking at a woman who went to her usual local spot for daily water, only to have an encounter that completely changed her routine.

Read: John 4:1-8

Observe: Explain the passage in your own words. What conflicts, questions, or goals show up in the passage? Are there any connections to other parts of Scripture?

Leader Notes: Encourage the group to observe the text by looking for patterns, points of emphasis (repetition is a big one, key words), tension (between people or concepts), perspectives, and connections (to life, to other parts of Scripture, etc.). You don't need to walk through this every time you observe the text, but it's good to bring it up often so it becomes familiar.

Discuss:

Jesus left Israel and traveled through Samaria. He met the woman at the well in a foreign (and potentially unwelcoming) land. She met Jesus at the well where she gets her daily water. To her, this location might have been completely mundane, or even uncomfortable. It's possible it had shame associated with it (that would explain why she's getting water alone, at noon, instead of in the morning with the other women).

- In the past, how has God met you in the mundane (the normal, the routine, etc.)?

Read: John 4:9-15

Observe: What objections does the woman raise when Jesus offers her living water?

Discuss:

When the woman finally asks Jesus for living water she says, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

- How is this mentality reflected in the way we usually approach Jesus?
- What misconceptions have you had to work through in your own life regarding what you thought Jesus was going to give you vs what he actually gave you?

Read: John 4:16-20

Observe: How does the conversation shift in this section? Do you think the woman is changing the topic as a diversion from her sinful lifestyle, or do you think she’s asking genuine questions?

Discuss:

One commentary notes a parallel between the water and the woman’s husbands. Just as her daily water can’t permanently satisfy her thirst, neither has she been satisfied in her pursuit of relationships.

- What are some ways you find yourself seeking satisfaction in the things of the world?
- It's often noted that the woman is getting water in the middle of the day, alone, instead of in the morning when the other women would typically get their water. This is possibly because of her own shame or because of a poor reputation as a result of her many relationships.
- Has isolation (self-inflicted or otherwise) played a role in your faith journey? If so, how?

Read: John 4:21-26

Observe: As the discussion has turned from physical needs to spiritual realities, how has Jesus guided the woman on a path of discovery?

Discuss:

- When you stepped over the line of faith (if you have), did you have many questions you wanted answered before doing so? If yes, what were they? How were they answered?
- If you haven't stepped over the line of faith, what unanswered questions are holding you back?

Read: John 27-30

Discuss:

Most of us have “safe” sins that we’re okay talking about (pride, gossip, anxiety, etc.) and “shameful” sins that we try to hide, or hide from, (addiction, moral failures, destructive habits, etc.).

- If the whole world suddenly knew about your “shameful” sins, how do you think they would treat you? Base your answer on how the world actually is, not how you’d like it to be.
- When’s the last time you confessed your “shameful” sins to someone? How did you feel after?

Read: John 4:31-38

Observe: Explore the connections in this passage between drinking and eating, in particular the tension between the meeting of physical vs spiritual needs.

Read: John 4:39-42

Observe: The woman’s story results in her town’s revival. It likely wasn’t comfortable, as the town knew her history, but her story had incredible power.

Discuss:

- What would it take for you to share your story with the people most likely to judge you for it?

Application Suggestions:

Leader notes: Ask everyone to pick a practice for this week, and explain that you will ask them about it next week

The Daily Pause. Attach a 1-minute prayer to a daily routine (like coffee or driving to work): "Jesus, satisfy my heart today so I don't chase things that won't last."

The "Well" Audit. Write down 2–3 things you turn to for comfort when stressed (e.g., social media, shopping, overworking). Pray over the list, asking God to replace those habits with His peace.

Share a Snapshot. Text or tell a trusted friend one thing God is teaching you in this study.

Session 2



“Jesus Over My Failure”

(Peter’s Restoration)

Purpose: To recognize how Jesus redeems and restores us.

Group Practice Check-In: Discipleship is about putting our faith into practice. Let's take a quick look back at last week:

- Which application option did you try this week and how did it go? (If you didn't do it, that's OK, but can you identify why not?)

Icebreaker: How do you handle failure?

Read: John 21:1-7 and Luke 5:1-8

Observe: Compare those passages. How are the two passages similar? How are they different? Think about both basic details and deeper personal responses.

Discuss:

The time between the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus was 40 days. In that time, Jesus appeared to the disciples for relatively short interactions before disappearing again. Before this moment by the lake, Jesus has given the apostles proof of life and appointed them as his witnesses, but he's told them to wait until they receive power. That's what they're doing now. . . waiting. In the lull, Peter decides to go fishing.

- How well do you handle extended periods of waiting?
- What's your comfort activity? When you're in a period of waiting, what are you most likely to do to fill the time?

Read: John 21:8-14

Observe: What do you see in the behavior of each person present in the passage?

Discuss:

Jesus already had fish on the fire, and we know he only needs one fish to feed thousands of people, but he still told the

disciples to bring the fish they caught (which they would not have caught without his help).

- How does this reflect our everyday discipleship?

Read: John 21:15-17

Observe: Compare Peter's reaction to Jesus in John 21:15 with Peter's reaction to Jesus in Matthew 26:31-33.

Discuss:

Peter has a history of big, over-the-top declarations. Whether he's swearing he'll never fall away, promising to build three temples (one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah), or asking Jesus not only to wash his feet, but his whole body. But this Peter seems to be more understated. He's learned something about himself, and it changed his perception.

- When has your walk with Jesus involved learning something new about yourself?
- Have you ever made a big promise to God that you didn't follow through on? How does that impact how you interact with God now?

Leader Notes: Do the different "loves" matter? In the original Greek, this passage shows a potential progression of love intensities. Jesus begins with agape: "Peter, do you agape me?" But Peter responds with phileo: "Yes, I phileo you." This repeats

the second time. On the third time, Jesus switches to phileo and Peter again uses phileo.

The line is pretty split down the middle between the two sides. On one side, commentators say that agape represents a higher, more intense love. Because of that, Jesus is calling Peter to a higher love but meets Peter where he is when Peter struggles to match that energy. On the other side, commentators argue that John doesn't use a hierarchy of loves anywhere else in his book. Agape and phileo are used interchangeably. It is significant that most Greek language scholars seem to fall on the latter side, insisting that there's no significance.

Optional Question based on Leader Notes:

This is a non-essential issue that's sure to create spirited debates and fun discussions.

- If the change in "love"s matters, how do you think that impacts this passage?
- If the change in "love"s doesn't matter, how does that impact this passage?

The passage is undeniably a parallel to his three-fold denial of Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-62, and John 18:15-18, 25-27).

Jesus didn't just rub Peter's nose in his failure; he used that failure to build Peter up again. God uses all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Even our greatest failures.

- Is there a failure or failing in your life that God has directly redeemed for good?

Jesus tells Peter, “Feed my sheep,” each time Peter affirms his love for Jesus. In John 14:15, Jesus says, “If you love me, keep my commands.” With each profession of love, Jesus gives Peter a command to keep.

There are general commands, true and applied for all believers, but there are also direct callings like this. Not everyone is called into a shepherding role, like Peter. Not everyone is called to the same task John was called to, and so on.

- Do you love God?
- If so, what command is He calling you to keep? Does anything specific come to mind?

Read: John 21:18-22

Our separate callings are affirmed here in John 21:18-22. Jesus calls Peter to follow him, even though it will end with Peter dying on a cross. When Peter wonders about John’s fate, Jesus essentially tells him not to worry about what God’s plans are for other people and again tells Peter to follow him.

- Do you find yourself comparing your discipleship journey to other people often?

- How do you feel knowing some Christians will go through life in general comfort and luxury, but others will spend their days in struggle and trial?

Notice how Jesus prioritizes relationship over performance. Before He gave Peter a job to do, Jesus invited him to sit by the fire, share a meal, and experience grace. Jesus isn't looking for hired hands to complete a task list; He desires real communion with you. Our calling to serve Him is simply the natural overflow of walking in close, restored relationship with Him.

Application Suggestions:

Leader notes: Ask everyone to pick a practice for this week, and explain that you will ask them about it next week

The Restoration Prayer. Identify one area where you feel like you've failed or fallen short recently. Spend two minutes praying: "Jesus, thank You that Your grace is bigger than my failure. Help me walk in Your restoration today."

"Next Step" Obedience. Jesus told Peter to "feed my sheep" as his next step. Pick one simple, direct way to serve or encourage someone this week (a text of encouragement, an act of kindness, or serving at home/church) as a response to Jesus' love.

The Comparison Reset. Identify one place where you consistently compare your life or faith to others (e.g., social media, parenting, work). Take a 3-day break from that trigger (remove the app from your phone) this week to focus on your own walk with Jesus.

Session 3



“Jesus Over My Priorities”

(Mary and Martha)

Purpose: To recognize that Jesus should be the object of our focus.

Group Practice Check -In: Discipleship is about putting our faith into practice. Let's take a quick look back at last week:

- Which application option did you try this week and how did it go? (If you didn't do it, that's OK, but can you identify why not?)

Icebreaker: Do you have siblings? If so, what kind of relationship do you have with them?

Read: Luke 10:38-42

Observe: What do you think about this passage? What do we know about Mary and Martha?

Discuss:

Martha is the one who “opened her home” to Jesus and she is the one working hard to be a good host (which was very important in Jewish culture). But Jesus says Mary is the one with the right focus.

- Is Martha wrong for caring about the preparations and details of hosting?
- In your own life, when has a good thing (behavior, mindset, belief, etc) become unhealthy? Or when have you settled for something good instead of something great?

We often group ourselves with either Martha or Mary. Many who identify with Martha do so because they identify with the desire to care for the preparations, but this isn't just about whether you'd choose Jesus over cleaning the house or cooking for guests.

- What thing or focus in your life is most likely to turn you into a “Martha”? In other words, what in your life is most likely to distract you from sitting at the feet of Jesus?

Leader notes: Look at everything, but don't skip over the “good” things. Even “being a good parent” can turn unhealthy if it draws you away from the feet of Jesus.

It could be said that, at some point, the house needs to get cleaned and mouths need to get fed.

- If we're only ever sitting at the feet of Jesus, when do you take care of chores, go to work, and so on?
- What does that balance look like for you personally? How could it be better?

Read: John 11:21, 32 and John 12:1-3

Observe:

- What pattern do we see in Mary's interactions with Jesus?

- How has Martha changed throughout her story?

Discuss:

In Luke 10, we saw Martha overwhelmed, anxious, and frustrated while serving in the kitchen. But here in John 12, we see her serving again—only this time, without the complaints or tension.

- What shift do you see in Martha's heart between these two moments?
- How do we move from doing things for God out of obligation to serving with God out of devotion?
- Is there a time in your own life where focusing on Jesus was either a major challenge (like Martha) or felt like your natural reaction (like Mary)?

Read: John 12:3-8

Observe: What's the worldly response to someone focusing on Jesus?

Discuss:

In Luke 10, Martha went to Jesus because she was upset with Mary. In John 12, Judas went to Jesus because he was upset with Mary. In both passages, Jesus defends Mary because

she's focusing on what's good (Jesus) and they're focusing on something else (personal anxiety and greed).

- As we shift our focus away from the world and onto Jesus, how might we prepare for the world's reaction?

Application Suggestions:

Leader notes: Ask everyone to pick a practice for this week, and explain that you will ask them about it next week

"Sitting at the Feet" Pause. Set a daily 2-minute timer before you start your routine (or look at your phone) to sit in silence with Jesus. Simply pray: "Jesus, You are my primary focus today."

The Priority Swap. Identify one "good" distraction this week that tends to pull you away from God or family (e.g., extra chores, news, social media). Trade 15 minutes of that activity for reading Scripture or prayer.

Person over Preparation. Invite someone to your home this week with a single focus: prioritize the person over the preparations. Intentionally leave a few chores undone so you can sit, listen, and be fully present without rushing.

Session 4



“Jesus Over My Old Self”

(Nicodemus)

Purpose: To recognize our need for faith in Jesus.

Group Practice Check -In: Discipleship is about putting our faith into practice. Let's take a quick look back at last week:

- Which application option did you try this week and how did it go? (If you didn't do it, that's OK, but can you identify why not?)

Icebreaker: What's the biggest leap of faith you've ever taken?

Read: John 3:1-2

Observe: What do we learn about the Pharisees from these verses?

Discuss:

According to Nicodemus, the Pharisees knew Jesus was from God because of the signs he performed.

- Has anything in your own life felt like a clear and undeniable sign from God?
- The Pharisees believed Jesus was from God, but they still opposed him. What were they lacking?
- How would you respond to someone who believes that Jesus is from God, but doesn't submit to Jesus as God?

Nicodemus likely came at night so that he wouldn't be seen going to speak to Jesus.

- When have social expectations or pressures influenced your own pursuit of a stronger relationship with Jesus?
- How can we help someone dealing with that kind of pressure?

Read: John 3:3-8

Observe: What does it mean to be born again?

Discuss:

Notice the transition from verse 2 to verse 3. Nicodemus isn't asking a question and doesn't mention the kingdom of God but Jesus responds with a warning about the need to be born again.

- Why do you think Jesus responds to Nicodemus like this?

Born again, saved, redeemed, justified. The Bible uses many terms to describe it, but until we experience this transformation, we are completely separated from God.

- How many times did you hear the Gospel before you stepped over the line of faith? or, have you stepped over the line of faith?

- How can we approach salvation discussions with people who already know about Jesus, but don't believe in him?

In verse 8, Jesus compares the work of the Spirit to the wind. We can't see it, but we can see evidence of it.

- What are some ways you've seen the evidence of the Spirit in your own life?

Read: John 3:9-15 and Numbers 21:4-9

Observe: What's the connection between Jesus and the serpent Moses raised up?

Discuss:

Jesus repeats his rebuke of Nicodemus, even emphasizing Nicodemus's role as "Israel's teacher." A man like this should not be confused about what Jesus is saying... but we often have similar gaps in our own understanding.

- How can we bridge the gap between what we should know and accept and what we do know and accept?

Read: John 3:16-21, John 7:45-52, and John 19:38-40

Observe: Describe how Nicodemus changed over time as he interacted with Jesus.

Discuss:

Nicodemus doesn't respond again in John 3. Maybe they talked more, or maybe he just walked away in silence. But we see how Nicodemus shows up throughout the story.

- By the end of his story, do you think Nicodemus showed evidence of true belief?

John 3:16-21 emphasizes again that there's a difference between "knowing Jesus is from God" and believing in Jesus. It also gives hope. Just as the bronze snake saved those who looked at it, Jesus saves those who believe in him.

- What does this, "not condemned" mean for us in our daily discipleship?

Application Suggestions:

Leader notes: Ask everyone to pick a practice for this week, and encourage everyone to adopt something as a permanent regular practice.

The Daily Scripture Rhythm. Commit to reading one chapter of Scripture each day for the next month (starting with the Rest of John or another Gospel). Set a

consistent time and place each day to build a lasting habit of daily reflection.

"Line of Faith" Conversation. Nicodemus took a step of faith. He moved from asking questions in secret to identifying himself with Jesus by caring for His body. Schedule a coffee or phone call with a friend, mentor, or pastor to talk through your current faith journey to identify and plan your next spiritual step.

Rooted. Take the leap from this short-term group into long-term community. Sign up for Rooted or get connected in a long-term small group to continue building relationships, studying the Bible, and growing alongside others.