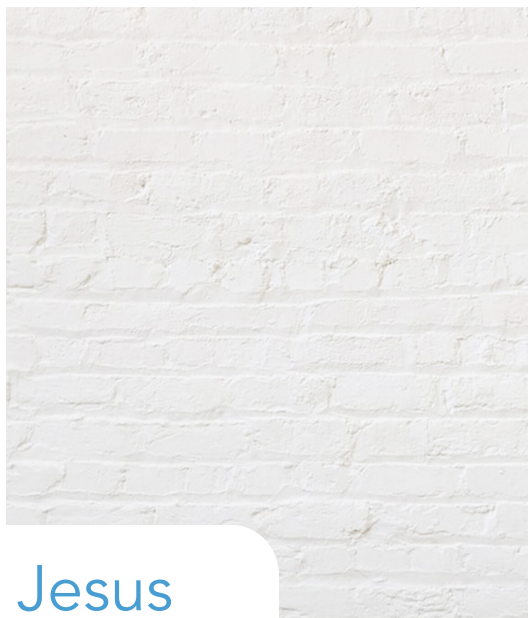


CHURCH AT THE CROSSING  
SIX-WEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH JOURNEY



Things Jesus  
Never Said



## **A Note from Pastor James**

Hello Church Family,

I am looking forward to all God will do during this season as we journey together through our new message series, "Things Jesus Never Said."

My prayer for each of us as we dive into Scripture over the next several weeks is to experience the presence of God in a new and fresh way. I am praying that the Holy Spirit will speak truth, love, and hope into your life each day as you encounter the wonderful and amazing Word of God.

Please join me in praying for God to challenge and change us through His Word.

Blessings to you, my friend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Roberts  
Senior Pastor

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# How to Use this Book

Welcome to our study of our new message series, "Things Jesus Never Said." For the next six weeks, we will focus on three things as a church:

- Attend an online service weekly
- Join a group
- Spend time individually with God each day

To get the most out of this journey, we encourage you to participate in all three. This book is a tool to help achieve these goals.

For each one of the six weeks, you will find the following resources here:

- A space for sermon notes
- That week's Group Guide (basis for your group discussion)
- A sample S.O.A.P. written by a staff member to start off your week
- A S.O.A.P. passage and guide for each of the remaining days for you to use in your time with God (with a day off to catch-up if you need it)

We have designed each week of this book to begin on Sundays. If you want to start on a different day of the week - no problem! Also, if you have found another model helpful and beneficial in engaging Scripture, please feel free to use that! S.O.A.P. is just one of many tools which help us to see what is happening in a biblical passage and how God might want us to apply that to our lives.

Make this book your own! Not everyone's journey looks the same, but what is important is that we are all moving toward God together and with intentionality.

# S.O.A.P. Instructions and Tips

Sometimes it can be hard to know how to get something out of reading your Bible. We don't want to just read, we want the words to transform us, give us hope, guidance, and help us become more like Jesus. The S.O.A.P. tool is one way to help dig in deeper.

## What does S.O.A.P. mean?

S– The S stands for Scripture

As you read that passage for each day, be on the lookout for words or phrases that strike you. Take a few minutes to physically write them down, making yourself slow down and take them in.

O– The O stands for observation

Ask yourself questions like: What is happening in the passage? Who is the audience? What do you learn about God and people? Are there any examples, promises or commands to note? Sometimes it can help to record these things in a bullet list.

A– The A stands for Application

This is an opportunity for God's Word to become personal. Reflect on the following: what is God saying to me? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there a step of faith that I need to take?

P– The P stands for Prayer

Prayer is two-way communication with God. What do you sense God may want you to take away from your time? A step you need to take? Ask Him for help and encouragement if you need it. Use this time for confession and repentance if you need to, in order to restore your intimacy with him.

# Other Tips For Your Devotional Time

You can expect that your S.O.A.P. devotional time will take about 15-20 minutes each day. It isn't a strict rule to be followed, but a model that you can use to interact with God. Some days might be easier than others, some days might involve more insight than others.

Please reference the S.O.A.P. examples as a template for how others have used this tool. Everyone brings their own style and personality to this tool. That's good! This is your time with God; it doesn't need to be done in a rigid and rote way.

The most important part is that you exercise these spiritual muscles. God will speak! All we have to do is be willing to spend time with him.

It can be helpful to decide ahead of time where and when you will spend this devotional time in Scripture and with God. If it helps to decide and commit to that here and now, go ahead! You may want to share these with your group for accountability and encouragement.

**The place I will spend my time with God each day for the next 6 weeks:**

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**The time I will spend my time with God each day for the next 6 weeks:**

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# Things Jesus Never Said" Overview

## Welcome to the Gospels

The earthly life and ministry of Jesus are recorded in four books of the Bible known as the gospels. The word gospel means "good news". Each one of the authors of the four gospels either knew Jesus personally, or they wrote their particular gospel based on the accounts from eyewitnesses who knew Jesus. The gospels have distinct themes and theses. Understanding these major themes and the target audience for each author will help the reader appreciate the message within the gospels.

This graph provides a basic description of the gospels.

| Gospel  | Author   | Authorship Date | Audience           | Primary Theme   |
|---------|--|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| Matthew | Matthew (aka Levi) one of the twelve disciples | AD 55-60        | Jews               | Jesus is the king/messiah the Jews have waited for                  |
| Mark    | Mark (aka John Mark) companion to Peter & Paul | AD 55-65        | Romans             | The Kingdom of God has arrived and displaying its power             |
| Luke    | Luke, converted Gentile & companion to Paul    | AD 62-70        | Gentile Christians | Jesus brings salvation to all people                                |
| John    | John, one of the twelve disciples              | AD 90-100       | Mankind            | Jesus is the truth, and he performed signs demonstrating who he is. |

## Parables

Jesus spoke many things and taught in a variety of settings. One of his common teaching tools is called a parable. A parable is a short story to teach a moral, spiritual truth or religious lesson. Examples can be found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Jesus taught in parables for those who were ready to hear and understand the information he was revealing. He wanted to be able to speak so everyone, no matter what their status, could understand.

## **Distinctions**

Throughout the gospels, we read stories about Jesus in one of the gospels that may not appear in the others. Or one might include details not included in the others. Each of the authors may choose to emphasize particular stories or themes in order to articulate the authors primary theme.

## **Humanity and Deity**

Jesus claimed that he is the Son of God. Most historians agree Jesus lived a human life. Very few deny that he existed in history. However, several belief systems only recognize Jesus as a good teacher or prophet. The primary source of evidence Jesus is truly the Son of God is the historical account of his resurrection. You can find many helpful resources that provide evidence for the resurrection, and here are a few points of consideration:

- The first eyewitnesses to the risen Jesus were Jewish women. In first century, Israel, women were not considered viable witnesses in a court of law. If the gospel writers were trying to fabricate the resurrection, it is unlikely they would have chosen eyewitnesses who were considered unreliable.
- 11 of the original 12 disciples were tortured for claiming Jesus rose from the dead. Many scholars agree that 10 of them were executed for their claims. It is unlikely that these ten would have suffered so greatly and willingly died for a lie that they could have recanted.
- Throughout history, millions of people have claimed faith in Jesus and his death and resurrection. Additionally, few individuals appeared in history who claimed to be divine or claimed to be the savior, and their followers dissipated and fizzled out. However, the followers of Jesus have grown and multiplied at a rate unrivaled by other self-proclaimed messiahs.



Week 1: You Don't Need to Forgive Them

## **Sermon Notes**

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

## Week 1: You Don't Need to Forgive Them

### Group Guide

#### Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- What are you hoping to get out of this 6-weeks?
- Is there anything you're nervous about as we begin?
- What do you like to do for fun?

#### Check In (10 Minutes)

- What has been the most challenging part of this COVID-19 pandemic for you personally?
- Pray, thanking God for those present and asking God to lead your discussion.

#### Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read Matthew 6:5-15

- What do you find yourself praying for most often?
- How do prayer and forgiveness relate?
- What do verses 12, 14, and 15 say to you about the relationship between forgiving and being forgiven?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?

#### Act On It (15 Minutes)

- What is your initial reaction to the concept of forgiveness?
- What grudges are you having difficulty letting go?
- For you, what is a good first step to forgiving someone?
- Is there someone from whom you need to ask forgiveness? Is there someone you need to forgive?
- What impact does not forgiving have on your faith/spiritual life?
- How can you take a step toward that this week?

**Pray Together (10 Minutes)**

As your group time closes, your group leader will give any updates or news that you might want to take note of. You will also pray as a group. Use this space to write down how you can pray for your group members throughout the coming week.

Week 1: You Don't Need to Forgive Them

**Sunday Example S.O.A.P.**

Passage: Matthew 6:5-15

Author: John Drake

**Scripture:**

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

**Observation:**

- Prayer is not a show for people, but a conversation with God.
- We can speak honestly and simply to God. He is not moved by big words and fancy phrases.
- Recognize Him for who He is – honor Him. Tell Him so.
- Recognize He wants to provide for us – ask Him for the things we need.

- Recognize He wants to lead us in good ways - trust and ask Him to do that.
- Realize that forgiving others is our choice, but God directly links our willingness to forgive others to His willingness to forgive us.

### **Application:**

For me, praying to God in private just seems more real. Just He and I. I can throw off every mask and pretense when I talk with Him and know He listens to my heart. Nothing scares Him. But I have to get a handle on this forgiveness thing. Sometimes I struggle when I have been wronged or treated badly. It really helps me when I can pull back on the reins a bit to think of my own shortcomings and my need for God's forgiveness. That is when I become more aware of the "power" of forgiveness in my own life. It is so freeing. I forgive others because it can be a life changer for them. I forgive others because I want to experience God's forgiveness to the fullest in my own life.

### **Prayer:**

Father, I want to speak with you today in simple words and thoughts. Thank you for always being up for an honest conversation. Forgiveness is a big thing. Jesus, you offer it to me that my life would be changed forever. It is an expression of Your love. How convincing it can be for others to realize you are willing to forgive them, if I can first show them some of the same...right here in real time? You know I often wrestle to come to a place of gifting that to others, but I need your forgiveness, and so do others. Who do I need to forgive this week? Holy Spirit please give me the power to do so. In Jesus name, amen.

Week 1: You Don't Need to Forgive Them  
**Monday S.O.A.P**

**Scripture: Colossians 3: 8-17**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 1: You Don't Need to Forgive Them  
**Tuesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Luke 17:1-10**

**Observation:**



**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 1: You Don't Need to Forgive Them  
**Wednesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-32**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 1: You Don't Need to Forgive Them  
**Thursday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 1: You Don't Need to Forgive Them  
**Friday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-22**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 2: Try Harder

**Sermon Notes**

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...



## Week 2: Try Harder

### Group Guide

#### **Break the Ice (15 Minutes)**

- What was your first job, and what do you remember most about it?
- What has been one of the greatest adventures you've ever been on?

#### **Check In (10 Minutes)**

- What stood out to you the most during your S.O.A.P. time this week?
- Pray, thanking God for those present, and asking God to lead your discussion.

#### **Learn Together (15 Minutes)**

Read Matthew 11:25-30

- What invitation does Jesus extend?
- What do you think Jesus means by 'taking up his yoke'?
- In your mind, how would Jesus define rest?
- Does this mean following Jesus is meant to be easy? Why or why not?
- In what ways does our culture world look for rest?

#### **Act On It (15 Minutes)**

- How does taking up the way of Jesus lead to rest?
- In what areas of your life are you feeling weary and burdened?
- How would you explain this verse to someone who isn't following Jesus?
- What are some ways you grow in your spiritual life the most? Does rest fall into that category?
- Why does resting feel like we aren't making any progress?
- What is a personal takeaway from this passage for you?
- How can you take a step toward that this week?

**Pray Together (10 Minutes)**

As your group time closes, your group leader will give any updates or news that you might want to take note of. You will also pray as a group. Use this space to write down how you can pray for your group members throughout the coming week.

Week 2: Try Harder

**Sunday Example S.O.A.P.**

Passage: Matthew 11:25-30.

Author: Andrew Miller

**Scripture:**

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, because this was your good pleasure. All things have been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal him. "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**Observation:**

I have felt worn out many times! Between work, family responsibilities, and day-to-day activities, I can get worn out. This scripture is for me! I am a type-A, goal-oriented personality, and my default attitude is to work harder and try harder, but sometimes that isn't healthy. Jesus is offering me rest. And this is more than a good night's sleep or a mental break. He says "rest for your souls." I want that rest!

**Application:**

I need to rest. I need to pause and rest in the presence of God. Instead of resting from work, I want to rest for work. Many times, I race through my week and collapse in exhaustion. Instead of that pace, I want to intentionally schedule time to rest my mind, my spirit, and my body to prepare for the next week or season of work. If I work from a place of rest, I go further and go longer.

**Prayer:**

Father, give me the peace and confidence to rest without worrying about my to-do list. Give me the trust to know that you will take care of my worries and cares - you hold everything in your hands. Father, may I find rest for my soul today in your presence. Amen.

Week 2: Try Harder  
**Monday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Psalm 23**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 2: Try Harder  
**Tuesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Psalm 4**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**



Week 2: Try Harder

**Wednesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Hebrews 4:1-13**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 2: Try Harder  
**Thursday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Psalm 91**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 2: Try Harder

**Friday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

## Week 3: Do What Makes You Happy

### **Sermon Notes**

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

## Week 3: Do What Makes You Happy

### Group Guide

#### Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- My favorite way to spend time is \_\_\_\_\_?
- One of my biggest pet peeves is \_\_\_\_\_?
- Describe your week in weather terms (sunny, cloudy, etc.)

#### Check In (10 Minutes)

- What stood out to you the most during your S.O.A.P. time this week?
- Pray, thanking God for those present, and asking God to lead your discussion.

#### Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read Luke 19:1-10

- How would you have felt if you were Zacchaeus and Jesus asked you to "come down immediately"?
- With a "good paying job," what do you think motivated Zacchaeus to want to look at Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus dines with Zacchaeus?
- Why does this bother others?

#### Act On It (15 Minutes)

- What motivated Zacchaeus to make restitution?
- Jesus saw positive qualities in Zacchaeus. Who provides encouragement for you to grow in your faith?
- What is one personal takeaway from this passage?
- We are halfway through our journey! How have you seen God at work in your life during these last three weeks? In what ways would you like to see him be at work as we finish out this journey?



**Pray Together (10 Minutes)**

As your group time closes, your group leader will give any updates or news that you might want to take note of. You will also pray as a group. Use this space to write down how you can pray for your group members throughout the coming week.

Week 3: Do What Makes You Happy

**Sunday Example S.O.A.P.**

Passage: Luke 19:1-10.

Author: Zach Chapman

**Scripture:**

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich.

He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

**Observation:**

- Jesus addressing and inviting himself to meet with Zacchaeus is crazy scandalous - tax collecting was not only an incredibly self-serving role, but one caught between religious and political factions that made this profession looked down on in a variety of ways.

- We can only imagine what was going on in Zacchaeus's mind and heart to go from a life of seeking wealth by exploitation and systematic injustice to seeking Jesus, an itinerant teacher who consistently and intentionally associated with exploited and discounted people weighed down by systematic injustice.

### **Application:**

Whenever Jesus says something, it is incredibly important to also consider what He didn't say. In the story with Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus doesn't mention Zacchaeus's profession or his transgressions, both of which He surely knew about. Zacchaeus would have been a known enemy of the people (just look at the people's reaction in verse 7), but Jesus doesn't mention this at all. Instead, Jesus offers Zacchaeus a new identity in his repentance: from lost to 'a true son of Abraham.' By recognizing how his self-serving behavior has wronged others, Zacchaeus's new path is not at the expense of others but is grounded in belonging with others. The same goes for us - no matter our stories, I'm convinced that Jesus is more concerned about offering us a new path than dredging up what's defined us so far. Through loving-kindness, we can lay down what's heavy and walk in Light.

### **Prayer:**

Father, thank you for seeing me, even in the middle of my mess. When I take on the weight of self-preservation and act self-serving, thank you for your kindness which leads me to repentance. Help me see your life-giving path of discipleship and faithfulness when my vision gets cloudy with shame. Guide me to trust in Your way more and more. Amen.

Week 3: Do What Makes You Happy  
**Monday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Isaiah 30:8-18**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 3: Do What Makes You Happy  
**Tuesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Romans 2:1-16**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 3: Do What Makes You Happy  
**Wednesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Acts 3:17-26**

**Observation:**



**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 3: Do What Makes You Happy

**Thursday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Ezekiel 18:21-32**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 3: Do What Makes You Happy  
**Friday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: 2 Chronicles 7:12-22**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 4: You Won't Have Bad Days

**Sermon Notes**

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

## Week 4: You Won't Have Bad Days

### Group Guide

#### Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- My favorite day of the week is \_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_?
- What is your most used emoji in messaging others?

#### Check In (10 Minutes)

- What stood out to you during your S.O.A.P. time this week?
- Pray, thanking God for those present, and asking God to lead your discussion.

#### Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read John 16:19-33

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- In what ways does the world's "joy" (v.20) contrast with the joy the disciples will experience (v.22)?
- Do you think the disciples truly grasp what Jesus says in verse 28? Why or why not?
- What is your response to the bluntness of Jesus' in v. 33?

#### Act On It (15 Minutes)

- How do you typically deal with change and transition?
- Share one way you have experienced Jesus' peace in your life.
- From your experience, what have you found helpful comforting someone going through change?
- Have you ever experienced a sorrowful scenario in your life turn into joy? How does that shape your faith?
- What is one personal takeaway from this passage for you?
- How can you take a step toward that this week?

**Pray Together (10 Minutes)**

As your group time closes, your group leader will give any updates or news that you might want to take note of. You will also pray as a group. Use this space to write down how you can pray for your group members throughout the coming week.



Week 4: You Won't Have Bad Days

**Sunday Example S.O.A.P.**

Passage: John 16:19-33.

Author: Andrea

Capsel

**Scripture:**

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." 56

**Observation:**

- Pain turning into joy is a theme. Jesus is preparing his disciples for pain after the crucifixion, and then joy!
- Jesus is describing a new type of relationship with the Father. He has willingly interceded on our behalf to allow us to have a direct relationship with God.
- Jesus was preparing them to know they may feel alone, but his Spirit will be with them. Jesus is also preparing mankind thereafter to commune with him as if he were there in the flesh.
- Through Jesus' death and resurrection came the ultimate defeat of sin and the vast joy and promise of eternal life.

**Application:**

This passage is such a powerful reminder to me of how Christ willingly interceded on my behalf so I can have a direct relationship with the Father. Jesus has overcome the world and defeated the enemy to bring me the promise of eternal life. When I look back on some difficult situations I have faced, I can see how Jesus was at work in my life and was with me through it all. Yes, there was pain and suffering, but out of that came a stronger relationship with the Lord and He brought joy back into my life. For me, it was through those times when the powerful meaning of the cross took on a new and much deeper meaning. Jesus paved the way and for that, I am so grateful.

**Prayer:**

God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to give me eternal life. That is a gift that knows no bounds, and I thank you for the hope and promise your Son has freely given to me. Please help me to not take that for granted. Help me to turn my eyes to you in the middle of difficult times and to lean on you for peace, comfort, joy, and strength. Thank you for the blessings you have given and continue to give to me daily. I pray these things in Jesus' name, amen!

Week 4: You Won't Have Bad Days

**Monday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: James 1:2-12**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 4: You Won't Have Bad Days

**Tuesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Romans 5:1-11**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 4: You Won't Have Bad Days

**Wednesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Philippians 1:19-30**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**



Week 4: You Won't Have Bad Days  
**Thursday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-19**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 4: You Won't Have Bad Days  
**Friday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Romans 8:18-28**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 5: It's All About Me

**Sermon Notes**

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

## Week 5: It's All About Me

### Group Guide

#### Break the Ice (15 Minutes)

- If I could invent a gadget to make my life easier, I'd invent something that \_\_\_\_\_?
- Have each group member use one positive adjective to describe the person to their right (on the screen)?
- What is a challenge you are facing right now?

#### Check In (10 Minutes)

- When did God become more than a word to you?
- Pray, thanking God for those present, and asking God to lead your discussion.

#### Learn Together (15 Minutes)

Read John 14:1-14

- What comfort does Jesus offer his disciples?
- Put Jesus' statement in 14:6 in your own words.
- With what tone do you think Jesus is speaking in this passage? Why?
- Do you think this passage makes a "blank check" promise about prayer? Why or why not?

#### Act On It (15 Minutes)

- Verse 6 says, "No one can come to the father except through me." This can sound narrow in our multi-faith society. What do you think Jesus wanted to communicate by saying this?
- What does it mean to you to trust in God?
- What have you found helpful in avoiding selfish thoughts and actions?
- What action step do you think Jesus wants you to take?

**Pray Together (10 Minutes)**

As your group time closes, your group leader will give any updates or news that you might want to take note of. You will also pray as a group. Use this space to write down how you can pray for your group members throughout the coming week.

Week 5: It's All About Me

**Sunday Example S.O.A.P.**

Passage: John 14:1-14.

Author: Shelly Clasen

**Scripture:**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”



**Observation:**

- Jesus had been telling his followers that he would soon be leaving. They were confused and starting to worry.
- I can't imagine what it felt like to hear these strange things for the first time...no wonder they were troubled and confused!
- Jesus cared about his friends' enough to spend his last night on Earth to reassure them.
- They wanted a road map for finding God.
- Jesus makes some bold claims here, that He is the same as God, and that everything Jesus does is really God doing it. Either Jesus is who he says he is, or he is crazy for making these claims.

**Application:**

I resonated with Thomas when he asked, "how can we know the way?" I like a plan; I like to know what is coming. I also want to be sure I'm doing the right things; I like to know the clear expectations so I can follow them. Jesus' answer seems confusing at first. He is the way? But then He says, "If you really know me, you will know my Father as well." I guess I'd better spend my time getting to know Jesus! Jesus isn't a map that doesn't change, He is The Way for us to follow, one step at a time.

**Prayer:**

You as the one true God. I know your plans since the beginning have had the purpose of building relationship with people. I don't always understand it, but maybe that's just more evidence that You are really God, because your plans are way bigger than what I can see from my viewpoint. Thank you for your patience with my lack of understanding! Thank you for sending Jesus to show me who you truly are, and for showing me The Way to know you. Please help me as I try to learn more about You. Please forgive me for the times I've been lazy or selfish. I offer You my life and ask You to use them to bless others and point them to You. It's in the name of Jesus that I pray and believe! Amen.

Week 5: It's All About Me

**Monday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 5: It's All About Me

**Tuesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Psalm 119:25-40**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 5: It's All About Me

**Wednesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Proverbs 18:1-12**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 5: It's All About Me

**Thursday S.O.A.P**

**Scripture: Galatians 5:16-26**

**Observation:**



**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 5: It's All About Me  
**Friday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: James 3:10-18**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 6: You Get What You Deserve

**Sermon Notes**

What stood out to me...

What I have questions about...

One thing I learned about God...

One thing I learned about people...

How I can apply what I've learned...

How I'm going to pray this week...

## Week 6: You Get What You Deserve

### **Group Guide**

#### **Break the Ice (15 Minutes)**

- What is your favorite comeback story/movie?
- Would you rather have the ability to read other people's minds or see into the future?

#### **Check In (10 Minutes)**

- What was the biggest step of faith you took during these 6 weeks?
- Pray, thanking God for those present, and asking God to lead your discussion.

#### **Learn Together (15 Minutes)**

Read Luke 23:26-43

- What attitudes and motives do you see in the crowd?
- What aspects of the gospel message do you see here?
- What have you learned about the death of Christ from this passage?
- What did you learn from Christ's interaction with the thief on the cross who asked to be remembered? What does this teach you about salvation?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?

#### **Act On It (15 Minutes)**

- In what areas of your life are you prone to feel despair?
- What is one step you could take this week to entrust those areas of your life to Jesus?
- What are some practical ways we might demonstrate the hope we have in Christ to the people around us?

**Pray Together (10 Minutes)**

As your group time closes, your group leader will give any updates or news that you might want to take note of. You will also pray as a group. Use this space to write down how you can pray for your group members throughout the coming week.

Week 6: You Get What You Deserve

**Sunday Example S.O.A.P.**

Passage: Luke 23:13-25.

Author: Lauren Miller

**Scripture:**

But the whole crowd shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will."

**Observation:**

- Jesus was the only human to ever live a perfect, sinless life.
- Jewish leaders wanted to crucify Jesus and their opinions spread to many.
- Pilate found no reason to crucify Jesus and wanted to release him.
- The crowd chanting for Jesus to die grew louder.
- Barabbas has committed evil sins and by law deserved to die.
- Jesus died in Barabbas' place.

**Application:**

This week's message series is focusing on the lie "You get what you deserve". What stood out to me in this passage is that both Jesus and Barabbas did not get what they deserved. Barabbas was a murderer and a thief, he had broken the law and deserved to die. I believe Barabbas represents every person that has broken God's law and deserves to face justice. However, God had a different plan. Jesus lived a sinless life and died on the cross in Barabbas' place as a substitute for us all. Because of Jesus we can break the bondage of sin and receive true freedom and salvation.

**Prayer:**

Dear God, I thank you for your grace. By all accounts I deserve judgement for the sins I have committed but I am forever grateful for Jesus making a pardon for my sins. I pray for those who are still held captive by the weight of their sins. I pray they will find forgiveness in Jesus and walk in freedom.



Week 6: You Get What You Deserve

**Monday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 6: You Get What You Deserve

**Tuesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 6: You Get What You Deserve

**Wednesday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Romans 6:4-14**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

Week 6: You Get What You Deserve

**Thursday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: Titus 3:1-8**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**



Week 6: You Get What You Deserve

**Friday S.O.A.P.**

**Scripture: John 14:10-21**

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**