



## CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

*Like Jesus #1 – Begin Like Jesus*

### BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

**Grow up like Jesus.** Sometimes we can dismiss or not fully realize the humanity of Jesus. He grew up and experienced life like us in many ways. He was fully human. These questions about our own growing up are meant to help us realize that Jesus can relate to our growing up experiences in many ways. As your group shares growing up stories, feel free to ask the obvious question, I wonder if Jesus experienced something similar? How did he handle that? How was his childhood different from mine?

### A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

**Jesus was fully human (and fully God)** These scripture passages highlight Jesus' humanity and the purpose or result of that humanity for us. The introduction paragraph has some key ideas, terminology, and definitions of Jesus humanity if you need a few guardrails for the discussion. **Bible Study idea:** Stop before you discuss the first passage and ask someone to pray that the Holy Spirit would help you as a group to understand God's Word and apply it to your lives this week. Invite the Spirit into your study of the Word.

### MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

**Choose your own ending.** There are three different ideas in this section this week for applying what you've learned in this study. I would suggest choosing one of them for your group to focus on and then attempting to have a deeper discussion about that application. Encourage the group to be doers of the word and not hearers only. The series is called Like Jesus, because he is our example to follow. So, with the help of the Spirit, let's follow His example.

## Christ Community Church Announcements

**Vision Planning Process** | On Sunday, APR 30, 4:00-6:00 pm, in G2, contribute to our Ten Year Vision Plan process. On this day, ALL are invited to join in answering the question, "Lord, where are you taking Christ Community over the next 10+ years?" This will include small group discussion on questions that will shape our current process of long-range planning. Plan to come for this important conversation.

**New on the CHURCH APP!** What's ahead for Christ Community over the next ten years? Join in praying and discussing this future with others. More details about "Vision Proper" are now available on the church app.

**Serve opportunities and information** are now available in our monthly Serve newsletter. Learn about ways to serve in our church and community; meet missionary partners; be updated regarding mission trips, as well prayer ideas. Go to [www.ccames.org/Serve](http://www.ccames.org/Serve) to sign up and see past newsletters.

**Mind the Gap** | At Christ Community, our gap is the number of volunteers we need to step off the platform and serve within our church each week. We need your gifts and talents! Staff and volunteers are available in the atrium to share more information and answer your questions.

**Fall Bolivia Trip** | We will be taking a group to Bolivia in early SEP to do a clean water project, which will include a two-day motorcycle adventure! We will be drilling a well and distributing water filter systems. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, MAY 7 at noon in room C1. If you have ever considered joining a Bolivia team, we would love to answer any questions you have and give you more details about the project. You can go to [ccames.org](http://ccames.org), Serve 4th Place for more information or contact James Carlat [[jacarlat@gmail.com](mailto:jacarlat@gmail.com)].



GATHER



CONNECT



SERVE

## Connect Group Study for Like Jesus

### *Begin Like Jesus*

This series focuses on the idea that Jesus' life is the perfect example for us to follow. Would you like to know what a life lived for God looks like? Look no further than the life of Christ. This week we thought about the way His life began, choosing humility, vulnerability, and weakness. What purpose does the humanity of Jesus accomplish?



### **BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART**

Let's get the discussion started with some questions for the group to get to know each other better. Remember the joy and struggle of what it was like to be born, to depend on others, to grow up and experience being human. Jesus had similar experiences.

1. How did your life begin? Share about the situation you were born into.
2. Was there ever a time when you "stood out" as a child? What made you stand out and was it a good or bad experience?
3. Were you ever treated unfairly or misunderstood growing up? Share what bothered you the most about that.
4. What about Jesus would have made him MORE or LESS well-liked do you think?

### **IN THE WORD**

Let's look at the importance of understanding the humanity of Jesus. The incarnation is a marvelous mystery; Jesus was both fully God and fully man in one person. He had a human body (grew and got tired), mind (increased in wisdom), and emotions (joy and sorrow). He became the perfect man, the man that God intended man to be. He was not just God in a man costume. Because of this, Jesus is the perfect example of what it means to live a life honoring to God, but He was also our obedient representative and substitute sacrifice for sin. **Identify Jesus' humanity in the passage and then look for the purpose or result of that humanity.**

#### Jesus' Humanity

#### Purpose/Result of His Humanity

Philippians 2:5-11

Hebrews 2:14-18

Hebrews 4:14-16

Hebrews 5:7-14

Hebrews 10:19-25

**Why was it necessary for Jesus to be fully human?**

### **MY LIFE, OUR MISSION**

The humanity of Jesus adds dimension to our understanding of what it means to connect people to a life-defining relationship IN CHRIST. After working through this study, are there specific ways in which you think of Jesus as being more like you than before?

Jesus lived within a family unit as the oldest brother, the first-born son. He had a mom and dad, brothers and sisters and extended relatives. How will you approach any of those roles differently, thinking of Jesus as an example to follow in that relationship? What changes if you think of being a brother like Jesus, parenting like Jesus, or being a cousin like Jesus?

Jesus came to us and sought us out to rescue us by taking the form of a servant. His sacrifice opened up the door for us to have a relationship with the Father through the forgiveness of our sin. Though Jesus didn't have a house to call home, the welcome mat of his life was well worn. Stop and ask today, "How worn is my welcome mat?" What am I doing to invite others closer to me and closer to Jesus? Is this part of my life LIKE JESUS?