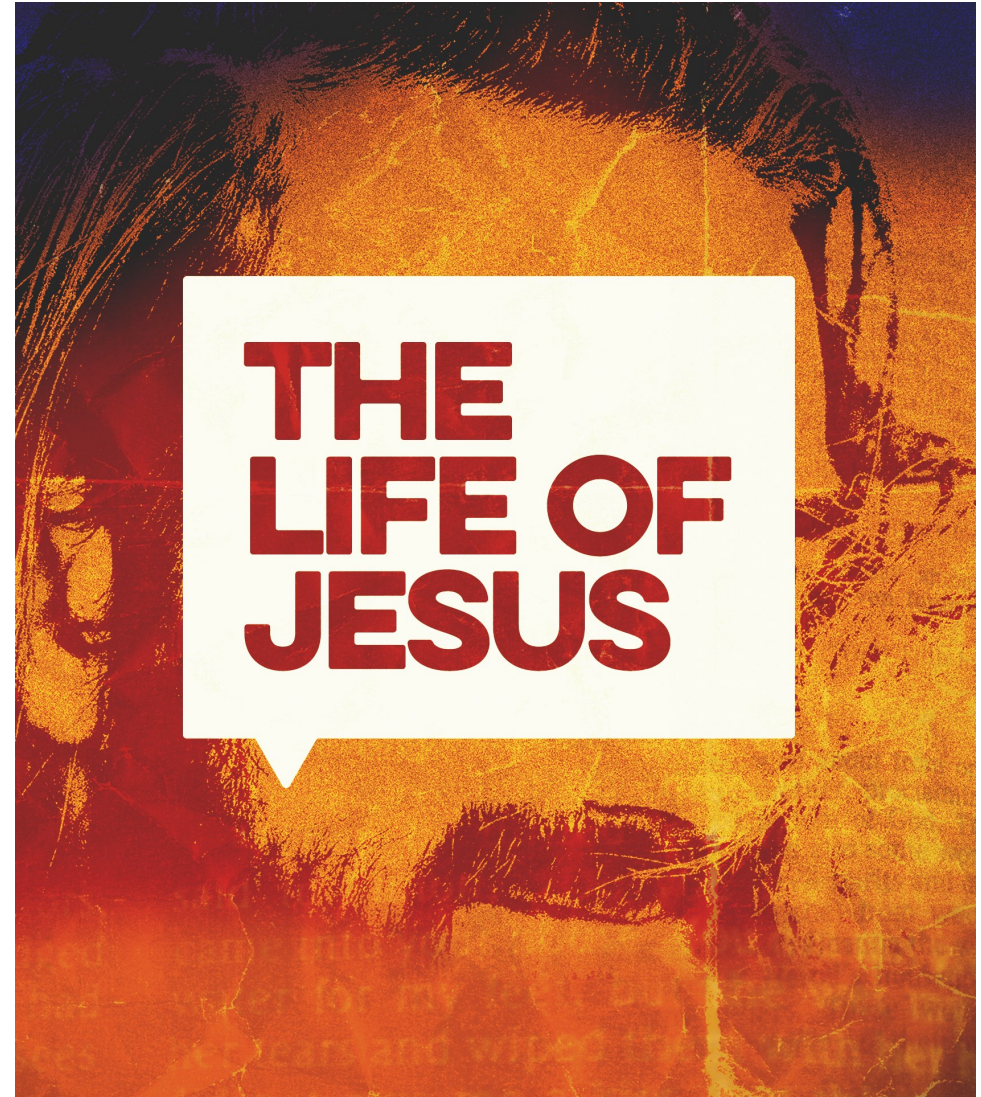


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SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

NORTH: May 23/27 | **SOUTH & CHAPEL:** December 31



JESUS AND YOU

Pastor Mike Toomey



This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo.hope.org/resources)

JESUS AND YOU

READ: Luke 24:44-48

After enjoying a meal of boiled fish, Jesus speaks to his disciples for the last time. He says two things to them: he is the fulfillment of scripture from the law, the prophets and the Psalms and then he commissions them and all future followers to be witnesses to God's marvelous work of salvation for all people.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead separates Christianity from all other religions. No other religious/spiritual faith community ever claimed that its leader and founder had been killed and then bodily raised from the dead. And in fact, his spirit is now present with those who worship and serve him! Jesus wants one last time to prove to the disciples that he is their friend and our friend. The basic sin of Adam and Eve was that they doubted God was on their side and was their friend. The rest of the Bible story is all about God's attempts to help us understand that he is on our side and that we really can trust him! We can trust him with our lives, our jobs, our marriages, our family, and even our future, into eternity!

After Jesus reviews God's salvation history, he then challenges them to keep telling and inviting others to hear what God is up to, even right now! God is real! He is alive. God has no Plan B. This is it! He is counting on each of us as his followers to keep telling others what God is doing in our lives! Faith makes all the difference! F.B. Meyer has said that, "Unbelief puts our circumstances between us and God. Faith puts God between us and our circumstances." Frederick Buechner has said that faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. Rick Warren has said, "God doesn't seem to be interested in giving us a map with the destination on it. He seems to be more into turn-by-turn directions. It's all part of the training he wants to give us in trusting him instead of our own wisdom, intelligence and problem-solving prowess." Read the words of this old Gospel hymn: "I love to tell the story, of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do." Don't they ring true? With such an incredible story to tell, let's be a witness for Jesus!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Describe how God works in your life.
2. What kind of evidence helped you become a solid follower of Jesus?
3. When is God most authentic and real to you? Describe a decisive moment in your faith walk that convinced you that Jesus is who the Bible says he is?
4. How would you describe Jesus' life mission?
5. It is a "privilege" to be a witness for Jesus Christ. What makes witnessing hard to do?
6. Reflect on this thought: Will anyone be in heaven because of you?
7. How would you describe the Good News to someone who does not know about Jesus?

PRAYER

Gracious Lord, what a privilege it is to know your story of salvation from the Bible. Even more exciting is when the Bible's story becomes not only my story, but my song! In every area of my life, help me to be your witness so that others may know the source and blessings of your amazing grace, even, in the midst of my own brokenness. In Jesus' name. Amen.