

The Old Testament Christ and the Disciple

By Richard Ross

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Study Luke 24:13-26 concerning an event that occurred on the day Jesus rose from the dead. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: According to verses 27 and 44, Jesus said the Jewish Scriptures (the Old Testament) were focused on whom?

Assignment Two

Be prepared to tell your group one area of life where, for the moment, the forces of evil appear to be winning. Also, study Revelation 19:11-21 and 20:7-10. Be prepared to tell your group what the final fate will be for Satan and the forces of evil.

Assignment Three

Study 2 Corinthians 1:19-20. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: Who fulfills all the promises of God?

Scripture to Memorize

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me." John 5:39

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit - by the end of this session, disciples will have a greater desire to be a disciple of Christ because of new insight into His power and glory as revealed in the Old Testament.

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Richard has written or compiled twenty-four books for youth leaders and parents. His most recent book is *The Senior Pastor and the Reformation of Youth Ministry* (lifeway.com). You can connect with Richard through RichardARoss.com, [Facebook.com/rossrichard](https://www.facebook.com/rossrichard), and Twitter @richardaross.

It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

Your parents probably received a grainy, black-and-white picture of you in your mother's womb. Perhaps they later gave the picture to you. But is that the picture you use today when you want people to know what you look like? Is that what you post on social media?

In a way, the Old Testament is a grainy, black-and-white picture of Jesus Christ. The picture is entirely truthful and accurate, but it is missing important details. The full-color, high-resolution picture emerges in the New Testament.

That makes it all the more amazing that even the early Old Testament images of Christ present Him as a mighty, powerful, and glorious King. Over the past few months, would you say that you have been seeing Him that way?

Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now report on who Jesus said the Jewish Scriptures (the Old Testament) were focused on.

Read Psalms 110:1-3 out loud.

Studying the Passage

King David wrote this psalm many years before Jesus rose from the grave and then ascended back to heaven. Writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he was able to see an event that would happen nearly a thousand years in the future. Specifically, the event would take place 40 days after the resurrection, just after Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives (see Acts 1:1-3, 9).

Verse 1. The LORD says to my Lord. God the Father is speaking to God the Son. Even though David had not seen God's Son, the word "my" suggests he already felt devotion toward Him. **Sit at My right hand.** In a throne room, the throne on the right is associated with power, dominion, and dignity. **make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.** In that day kings sometimes demonstrated their complete domination over an enemy by putting their foot on his neck. God the Father promised His Son that He would bring all the forces of evil under such domination.

Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now tell the group one area of life where, for the moment, the forces of evil appear to be winning. They also can tell the group what the final fate will be for Satan and the forces of evil.

Studying the Passage

Verse 2. Your strong scepter. The scepter is a symbol of Christ's current rule and reign from heaven. Similar to the rod of Moses, the scepter is a powerful rod that also moves from heaven into the world. **Rule in the midst of Your enemies.** This phrase indicates that Jesus reigns *in* heaven but also *from* heaven. He is Ruler over those who adore Him *and* He is Ruler over those who hate Him. At the end of time, His absolute rule will be clear to all as *every* knee bows before Him.

Discussion Question

If Jesus were simply a genie in the pocket, then most of our prayers could be, “Jesus, here are the things You need to do to make my life easier or better.” But since Jesus is the all-glorious King over the universe, most of our prayers should be, “Jesus, how do I join You today in representing Your kingdom on earth for the glory of God?” As you think back on the last few days, which of those two expressions would characterize most of your prayers?

Read Daniel 7:13-14 out loud.

Studying the Passage

About six hundred years before Christ was born in Bethlehem, Daniel had a vision. The Holy Spirit gave him the ability to see a scene unfold in heaven.

Verse 13. behold. This is Daniel’s way of saying that he is about to announce something wonderful and important. **one like a Son of Man.** This phrase refers to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. **Ancient of Days.** God the Father.

Verse 14. dominion and glory and a kingdom. Christ absolutely rules today. The most complete expression of that reign will come at the end of time when there will be “loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever’” (Revelation 11:15b). **all peoples . . . serve Him.** Right now the Holy Spirit is calling and empowering believers to take the good news to the last people groups on the planet. “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14). **an everlasting dominion.** The Old Testament prophet Isaiah also knew the kingdom of Christ would be eternal. He wrote: “For to us a child is born, . . . His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. . . . on the throne of David and over his kingdom, . . . from this time forth and forevermore” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Christ existed in power and glory before time began. The Old Testament reveals even more of His glory. The story that unfolds in the Old Testament is all preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Christ is the point of the Old Testament, and He is the fulfillment of every promise found in those pages.

Assignment Three Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now report on who fulfills all the promises of God, including all His Old Testament promises.

On Your Own

The nearly seventy-five hundred promises of God are answered most fully in the person of Christ Himself. According to 2 Corinthians 1:19-20, Jesus is the “yes” answer of every promise, as well as the “Amen” of every promise. *Amen* means “so let it be.” In the space below, write one or two promises God has made to you that are answered in Christ.

Discussion Question

How does this lesson help prepare you for a year of discipleship study?

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to. . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights, and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

The more shallow our vision of Christ, the poorer our discipleship will be. On the other hand, the clearer and deeper our vision of Christ, the richer our discipleship will be. Passages in the Old Testament reveal the power and glory of Christ even before He was born in Bethlehem.

Author David Bryant says: "People with poor eyesight understand the value of a good pair of glasses. Believers can see the Old Testament with the kind of clarity God has made available in Christ. A pair of 'Jesus Glasses' is needed to see the Old Testament, and the good news of the New Testament, with 20/20 clarity. They are seen rightly when viewed through the person of Christ."

Luke 10:23-24 reports: "Then turning to the disciples He said privately, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.'"

Jesus could say something similar to you! Because you possess the New Testament, you know details about Christ that Moses, David, Isaiah and many others would have longed to see.

You *know* Christ conquered death and rose from the grave. You *know* He ascended to heaven forty days later. You *know* He is seated at the right hand of the Father, reigning King of kings and Lord of lords. Does that fuel your heart desire to follow Him? Does that motivate you to count all things as if loss for His greatness? Do you greatly desire to make life all about Him and not about you? If so, then you *are* His disciple.

Follow-up Question:

Do you sense a greater desire to be a disciple of Christ because of new insight into His power and glory as revealed in the Old Testament?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.