

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY
PRESENTS

RVL
DISCIPLESHIP™
THE STUDY

"A disciple is one who knows God's path and chooses to walk in it, passionately." Ray Vander Laan

Season Three Episode Details

OVERVIEW

What was daily life like for the Jews of Jesus' day? How did they practice their faith under Roman occupation? And most importantly, what did it mean to be a rabbi? This season focuses on Jesus as a man, our God made flesh, who chose to reveal Himself as a first century rabbi to a first century Jewish audience.

Episode 1 - The Descendant

As RVL taught in the first season, the Bible was written by Eastern thinkers, people who preferred to communicate truth through story. In this episode, RVL introduces Season 3's emphasis on Jesus as a human being by exploring another Eastern literary technique found in two of the Gospels—the genealogies.

Episode 2 - The Gospel

Jesus was born into a specific time in history, a period in which Israel was under the control of the Roman Empire. Caesar was not only considered an emperor over nations—he was thought of as a god himself. In this episode, RVL explores the origin of the word "gospel," digging into how the original Jewish and Gentile audiences would have experienced the "good news" that Jesus preached.

Episode 3 - The Servant

Fully God and yet fully human, the way that Jesus chose to announce and expand His kingdom was in complete opposition to the way that earthly kings clawed for power. In this episode, RVL considers Jesus' example in contrast with some of those worldly rulers, unpacking more of Jesus' historical context and focusing on how the Kingdom of God is expanded.

Episode 4 - The Question

John the Baptist was a key figure in Jesus' life and ministry, one that modern-day disciples would do well to imitate. Yet as he languished in prison, John sent messengers to Jesus to ask, "Are the One who is to come, or should we wait for someone else?" Near the end of his life, did John lose faith? Or is there more behind this question, which we can learn from today?

Episode 5 - The Flock

In this episode, RVL continues our study of the conversation between Jesus and John the Baptist, unpacking a fascinating interpretation from Jewish scholarship which may help us to better understand one of the most difficult passages in the New Testament.

Episode 6 - The Community

As this season shifts from focusing on the importance of Jesus' humanity to examining the context in which He preached, this episode reveals much about daily life in Galilee. With a few notable exceptions, Jesus conducted most of His ministry among the relatively small collection of villages off the north and east sides of the Sea of Galilee. What was daily life like there, and what can we learn about discipleship from this original audience?

Episode 7 - The Text

In this study, we have emphasized over and over how most of Jesus' original audience—at least, in Galilee—appear to have been highly literate in the Hebrew Bible. This would make sense for scholars or those with leisure time to study, but how would ordinary people become so well-versed in Scripture? In today's episode, we will examine one of the regular practices that allowed the people of Galilee to become so Biblically literate, considering how this can affect our lives as disciples today.

Episode 8 - The Synagogue

It would be impossible to consider the world of rabbis and disciples without exploring the idea of the synagogue. What was this place in Jesus' day, and how did it fit into the rabbi/disciple system? This episode explores the synagogues of the first century, examining why this system mattered so much for community discipleship.

Episode 9 - The Rabbi

What was a rabbi, in Jesus' day? What was his role, and what does it mean to follow Jesus as our Rabbi today? This episode introduces the idea of these honored teachers and begins to tie in everything we know so far about discipleship to this Jewish system.

Episode 10 - The Yoke

In order to follow a rabbi, one needed to know how to imitate him. This episode concludes Season 3 by examining how a rabbi would interpret, teach, and model Scripture—and what that means for followers of Jesus today.