This Is King Jesus

Glory. Greatness. Division.
I Am. Sight. Shepherd.
HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

Verse of the Week – Each week we’ll reflect on a different verse from God’s Word. Take a few moments at the beginning of each week to thoughtfully and prayerfully reflect on that verse.

Group Discussion Questions – If you’re not already in a Community Group that is discussing the weekly themes and sermons, we encourage you to join one or form your own. (Reach out to Pastor Bill at bcraig@hopemason.org for ideas.)

Worship Song - In our Life at Hope weekly email, we’ll be including a ‘Song of the Week’ that relates to the Scripture theme for the week. We recommend listening to that song on Wednesday as part of your time with God.

EVENTS TO NOTE

1. New Gathering Opens Sunday, June 25 – We’re so excited to meet together in the new space to worship God, to hear His Word proclaimed, and to continue to grow together in The LIFE Jesus came to give us! Pray that God will work mightily in that space for generations to come, for His glory and the lasting joy of all people!

2. Pride Month – We are in the middle of “Pride Month,” a month that many in our culture set aside to celebrate and affirm homosexuality. This is a challenging month for many, as we see our culture celebrate what God has called sin. Over these next couple of weeks, please:
   
   • Pray that God will give you wisdom and courage to hold to the truth of His Word;
   
   • Pray that God would give you His heart for all people who are far from Him;
   
   • Pray that the LGBTQ+ community would come to know the joy of life surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus;
   
   • Pray for your Hope Church family, that He would do the same in all of us!
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Matthew 11:28. “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”


What questions do you have about this passage? Star your most important ones.

Re-read verses 1-3 slowly, picturing the scene. Write your thoughts. What difference do you imagine it would make in your life if you had a similar experience?

DIG DEEPER: Read Revelation 1:12-18. How is John’s experience here similar? Different?
WEEK 1: JUNE 12-18
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: MATTHEW 17:1-13

READ Matthew 17:1-5.
What did Peter offer, and why do you think he did?

Re-read verse 5 slowly, picturing the scene. How do you imagine you would have responded, and why?

REFLECT: Imagine being there, hearing God say those words to you from the cloud. Write a brief prayer of response.
READ Matthew 17:4-8.

Why were the disciples terrified now (and not earlier)?

How did Jesus respond to their fear, and why?

DIG DEEPER: Read Exodus 19:9-20. Why did God speak to Moses from the cloud? How did the people respond? How might that relate to our passage for the week?

LISTEN to Hope’s ‘Song of the Week’ found in our Life at Hope weekly email.
What do you imagine the disciples were feeling afterwards, as they walked down the mountain?

Why didn’t Jesus want them to tell the others? What must it have been like to have that secret?

DIG DEEPER: What does Jesus say about Elijah? What does Malachi 4:4-6 (the closing words of the Old Testament) say about Moses and Elijah?
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Matthew 11:28. “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”


What do you sense God saying to you through this passage this week?

Pray that God would show the glory of Jesus in new ways to:

- You!
- A brother or sister in Christ at Hope (write their name)
- One person who doesn’t know Jesus (write their name)

PRACTICE: Send a text message to one of the above, letting them know that you’re praying for them.
WEEK 1: JUNE 12-18
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: MATTHEW 17:1-13
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Jude 24-25. “Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

READ Matthew 18:1-5.

Why might the disciples be asking who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

You may not think of yourself as wanting to be the greatest, but what are you tempted to do or say to have people think better of you in the church? What do you hide to avoid their disrespect?

What is Jesus’ answer to their question? List ways you might live that out.
WEEK 2: JUNE 19-25
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: MATTHEW 18:1-35


How does Jesus feel about sin and the causes of sin? How do you feel about them? Ask God to give you His heart, to love what He loves and hate what He hates!

What are the causes of sin in your life? What would it look like to cut them off?

PRACTICE: Confess your sin to a trusted brother or sister in Christ. Tell them of your plan to “cut off the cause of that sin,” and ask for their prayer and accountability. (If you don’t have such a person in your life, what’s a next step to develop such a relationship?)
READ Matthew 18:10-14.

Why would someone “despise” (“think against” or “think down on”) children? In what ways are you tempted to do so?

What reasons does Jesus give for not despising or looking down upon them?

What do these verses teach us about the heart of God? Write a brief prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God.

LISTEN to Hope’s ‘Song of the Week’ found in our Life at Hope weekly email.
READ Matthew 18:15-20.

Why are you/we so reluctant to point out a fellow Christian’s sin to them? List all the reasons you can think of, and put a star by the biggest ones for you.

Write out the four steps Jesus says we should take with a brother or sister in Christ who sins.

How are we called to treat “pagans or tax collectors”? How are we to treat Christians who are unrepentant in their sin? (Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13)
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Jude 24-25. “Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

READ Matthew 18:21-35.

What is shocking about this parable? How do you see yourself in it?

Whom have you (or do you) struggled to forgive, and why?
What is Jesus saying to you through this parable?

REFLECT: Picture yourself standing under one arm of Jesus on the cross, and the person you struggle to forgive standing under the other. Ask God’s grace for both of you. What step do you need to take towards that person?
WEEK 2: JUNE 19-25
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: MATTHEW 18:1-35
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Psalm 143:8. “Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”


Why might Jesus’ brothers have wanted Him to go to the feast? How does Jesus see unbelief in their request? (Remember that James, one of the brothers of Jesus, would later become a leader of the church!)

Why does the world hate Jesus? How do you feel about being hated by the world? Talk to Jesus about that.

DIG DEEPER: Read Leviticus 23:33-43 for an explanation of the Feast of Booths (also called “Feast of Tabernacles,” “Feast of Ingathering,” and “Sukkot”). Why did they celebrate it, how, and what was the tone of the feast?
Tuesday

READ John 7:14-24.

What does Jesus say about His teaching in these verses? Where is it from, how can someone know if it’s from God, and what is His motivation in teaching it?

What is one of the arguments against Jesus (verses 21-23), and how does He respond to that criticism?

What is one thing that you sense God wants to say to you today through this passage?
**READ** John 7:25-36.

What have been the responses of different groups of people in this chapter?

What does Jesus say about the people in these verses?

**REFLECT:** Imagine not being able to go where Jesus is. Write a brief prayer, thanking God that He made a way for us to be with Him forever!

**LISTEN** to Hope’s ‘Song of the Week’ found in our *Life at Hope* weekly email.

Think about the responses people have had to Him so far in the chapter, then read His invitation in verses 37-38 again. What is remarkable about that?

Jesus says that if we come to Him, we can go from being thirsty to having rivers of living water flow from us by the Spirit. How have you seen this in your life? How do you want to see it more? Talk to God about that.

DIG DEEPER: Read Isaiah 55:1-3. How does Jesus’ invitation echo God the Father’s invitation here?
WEEK 3: JUNE 26-JULY 2
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 7:1-52

PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Psalm 143:8. “Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”

READ John 7:40-52.

When did Jesus become more than a name to you, or more than a mere man?

What consequences did people face for just saying something positive about Jesus (see also John 9:22)?

What consequences are you most afraid you’ll experience if you were to speak more boldly about your faith in Jesus?
WEEK 3: JUNE 26-JULY 2
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 7:1-52
**PAUSE:** Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Galatians 5:1. “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

**READ** John 8:12-30.

What does Jesus claim about Himself in these verses?

What does Jesus say about the Father?

What does He say about those who follow Him, and those who don’t?
READ John 8:31-47.

Three “fathers” are discussed in these verses. What is said about each?

What does Jesus say in these verses about those who follow Him, and those who don’t?

Jesus’ words, “The truth will set you free” are often quoted, even in the culture at large. What does it mean in context? Who will know the truth, what is the truth, and from what will they be set free?
READ John 8:48-59.
What does Jesus say about Himself in these verses?

What does Jesus say about those who follow Him, and those who don’t?

Based on what is said about these Jews in verses 30-31, and then what the rest of the chapter says, did they believe in Him or not? What do we learn about saving faith in this passage?

LISTEN to Hope’s ‘Song of the Week’ found in our Life at Hope weekly email.
WEEK 4: JULY 3-9
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 8:12-59

READ John 8:12-59.

Look back over your notes from the week. Summarize in ten words or less what Jesus said about Himself in this week’s passage.

Summarize in ten words or less what He said about those who follow Him.

PRACTICE: Write below the names of people you love who don’t know Jesus...people inside and outside your family. Cry out to God on their behalf, asking Him to save them. Ask Him for a next step He would have you take with them.
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Galatians 5:1. “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

READ John 8:12-59.

List all the promises Jesus makes about those who follow Him in this chapter. Put a star by the ones that you’re most grateful for today.

Write a brief prayer of thanks to God for these things!

PRACTICE: Text a brother or sister in Christ at Hope, encouraging them with one of those promises.
WEEK 4: JULY 3-9
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 8:12-59
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ 1 John 3:18. “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”


Why did the disciples think the man was born blind? Why do you think people are born blind? How does Jesus’ answer challenge their perspective, and yours?

What must the blind man have thought Jesus was doing when he put mud on his eyes? Why did he go and wash?

Imagine the joy of the blind man seeing for the first time! What must that have been like? What do you imagine he was happiest to see? How would his life change from that day forward? Praise God for His mercy and power!
READ John 9:1-17.

What were people’s reactions to Jesus healing the blind man? How were those responses understandable? How were they not?

What conclusion did the blind man come to about Jesus?

DIG DEEPER: Read 2 Kings 5:1-14. Why might the blind man in John 9 have thought that Jesus was a prophet?
**WEEK 5: JULY 10-16**
**OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 9:1-41**

**READ** John 9:18-34.

What do the Pharisees claim about Jesus, and what conclusion does the (formerly) blind man draw about Jesus?

Write 3-5 ways that you would complete the sentence, “I once was ______________________________, but now I _______ ________________________.” Thank God for how He has changed your life!

**PRACTICE:** Who is someone in your life who doesn’t know Jesus that might be willing to hear you share the difference Jesus has made in your life? How might you share it with them? Ask God to lead you, and write what comes to mind.

**LISTEN** to Hope’s ‘Song of the Week’ found in our *Life at Hope* weekly email.
READ John 9:35-41.

Note the amazing grace of Jesus: “You have seen him.” This man born blind has seen the promised Son of Man! Write a brief prayer of praise, thanking God for opening people’s eyes, including yours!

What does the (formerly) blind man now believe about Jesus, and how does he respond?

DIG DEEPER: Read Daniel 7:13-14 to see background on who the “Son of Man” is. How does that encourage you?
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ 1 John 3:18. “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

READ John 9:35-41.
If Jesus were merely a good teacher, how would He respond to the man's worship? What do we learn about Jesus from this?

Note the irony of who now sees, and who is blind. What does this teach us about God? About people?

PRACTICE: One of the ways we grow in talking about God with people outside the faith is to increase your talk about God with people inside the faith, making it a more natural part of our conversation. What is one thing God has done for you in the last month? Share it with a brother or sister in Christ at Hope.
WEEK 5: JULY 10-16
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 9:1-41
PAUSE: Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Romans 12:12. “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

READ John 10:1-10.
Read John 9:35-41 to remind yourself of the context. Who was he talking to last, and what was he saying?

Who do you think Jesus is referring to with each of the following word pictures, and what does He say about each?

- Thieves
- Sheep
- Shepherd
WEEK 6: JULY 17-23
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 10:1-42

READ John 10:11-21.
Shepherds in those days sometimes laid themselves across the entrance of the sheep pen, acting as a “door” to keep the sheep in and predators out. What is Jesus saying about Himself in these verses?

Who do you think Jesus was referring to when He talks about “hired hands,” and what does He say about them?

DIG DEEPER: Read Ezekiel 34 for background on Jesus’ teachings here. What does God say about Israel’s “shepherds” (spiritual leaders), His coming Messiah (“David”), and Himself?
READ John 10:22-30.

Write verses 27-28, substituting your name where Jesus says, “sheep.” (e.g. “You, your name, hear my voice, and I know you...”) If you are a follower of Jesus, let Him speak those words over you!

Text or call or write a note to a brother or sister in Christ at Hope. Encourage them with one of the truths from these verses.

LISTEN to Hope’s ‘Song of the Week’ found in our Life at Hope weekly email.
WEEK 6: JULY 17-23
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 10:1-42

READ John 10:31-42.

Why did the Jews want to stone Jesus, and how does Jesus respond? What questions do you have about that?

What did Jesus say about Himself, and why they should believe Him?

DIG DEEPER: Read Psalm 82 (8 verses), the psalm Jesus quotes in verse 34. How does this help you (or not)?
**WEEK 6: JULY 17-23**
**OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 10:1-42**

**PAUSE:** Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully reflect on our ‘Verse of the Week,’ Romans 12:12. “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

**READ** John 10:1-42.

Look back over your notes from this week. How would you summarize the claims Jesus makes about Himself in ten words or less?

How would you summarize in ten words or less the desires Jesus has for His sheep in this chapter? Write a short prayer of praise to God for these things!

Ask God, “What is one thing You want most for me to take away from this chapter? Is there anything You’re calling me to do in response?”
WEEK 6: JULY 17-23
OUR MAIN PASSAGE: JOHN 10:1-42
WEEK 1 – Matthew 17:1-13

• J.I. Packer once said, “What you picture when you think about God is the most important thing about you.” Do you agree? Disagree? Why?
• What do you think was the point of this experience?
• What difference do you imagine it would make in your life if you had a similar experience?
• Read Revelation 1:12-18. How is John’s experience similar? Different?
• What questions do you still have about this passage? Which questions feel most important?
• What do you sense God saying to you through this passage this week?

Week 2 – Matthew 18:1-35

• Have you ever gotten an award...or not gotten an award you were hoping for? Explain.
• Why do you think we want to be “great”? How does that show up in our lives?
• Why are we so tolerant of sin in our lives? What might help us change that?
• List together the four steps Jesus says we should take with a brother or sister in Christ who sins. Why is this so hard for us?
• Why is it hard for us to forgive? What help does Jesus offer here?
• What from this chapter do you most sense God wants to say to you? Do you sense Him stirring you to a next step?
Week 3 – John 7:1-52

• What was a time in your life that you struggled or refused to believe in Jesus? How did that change (if it did)?
• What does Jesus teach about Himself in this chapter?
• What qualities does Jesus exhibit in this chapter?
• What desires does Jesus express and exhibit in this chapter?
• What are the different responses to Jesus in this chapter, and why?
• What consequences did people experience for saying something good about Jesus in this chapter? What consequences are you most afraid you’ll experience if you were to speak more boldly about your faith in Jesus?

Week 4 – John 8:12-59

• Share an experience from your life related to light and/or darkness.
• Write out the claims Jesus makes about Himself in this chapter.
• List aloud the things Jesus says about the Father.
• What does He say about those who follow Him, and those who don’t?
• Jesus’ words, “The truth will set you free” are often quoted, even in the culture at large. What does it mean in context? Who will know the truth, what is the truth, and from what will they be set free?
• List all the promises Jesus makes about those who follow Him in this chapter. Which of these are you most grateful for today?
Week 5 – John 9:1-41

• List together ways that you would complete the sentence, “Before I met Jesus, I was ____., but now I ____.”

• Why did the disciples think the man was born blind? Why do you think people are born blind? How does Jesus’ answer challenge their perspective, and yours?

• Talk together about the joy of the blind man seeing for the first time! What must that have been like? What do you imagine he was happiest to see? How would his life change from that day forward?

• Go through the chapter and identify the statements the blind man makes about Jesus. How does his view of Jesus progress?

• Read Daniel 7:13-14 to see background on who the “Son of Man” is. How does that encourage you?

• Note the irony of who now sees, and who is blind. What does this teach us about God? About people?

Week 6 – John 10:1-42

• Those of you who have pets, share a favorite pet story or life lesson you’ve learned from having a pet.

• Write out the claims Jesus makes about Himself in this chapter.

• List aloud the desires for His sheep that Jesus expresses in this chapter. Which of those is the greatest encouragement to you today? In which of those desires for others would you like to have grow in your own heart?

• Read Ezekiel 34 for background on Jesus’ teachings here. What does God say about Israel’s “shepherds” (spiritual leaders), His coming Messiah (“David”), and Himself?

• What questions do you have about this passage, and which of those are most important?

• What is one thing You sense God most wants you to take away from this chapter? Is there anything you sense Him calling you to in response?