

# LWML *Texas* District

November 2023

Bible Study

## **In and Through**

Jesus knew the value of God's work in Him before the work could happen through Him. Read Mark 1:33–35. Not only do we know that Jesus is the Savior of the world, as both God and man, but we also know God prepared Him along the way for His journey to the cross.

Let's look at the life of Jesus. Where does His journey begin? Read Luke 2:22–23, 27–28. What happens in the temple right off the bat?

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Read Luke 2:41–51. What does Jesus do as a preteen?

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Read Luke 3:21–22. What happens at the beginning of His ministry?

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Read Luke 4:1–12. What happens after His baptism?

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We know that Jesus was faithful in worship attendance and Scripture study because of Luke 4:16. What does that verse say?

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Numerous times Jesus went to pray. Interestingly enough, Middle Eastern culture means you don't really do things alone (according to Dr. Kenneth Bailey). You almost always have other people with you, even if you are doing slightly different things. Find an example of this in Luke 9:18.

What can we learn from the daily life of Jesus? What are things He did that we could imitate? After all, "Christian" means Christ follower or Christ imitator. Where does our journey as Christians begin and grow? Where are we in need of Him to work before we can share the Gospel? Where does God work in you before He works through you to share the Gospel?

One of the major agricultural examples in the Bible is the seed that falls on the various types of soil. Read Matthew 13:3–8 and the explanation in Matthew 13:18–23.

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Another great parable from Matthew 13 is the parable of the weeds. Read Matthew 13:24–30 and the explanation in 13:36–43. What makes for good soil? Do we have anything to do with it?

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When you think about a garden, what are the necessary elements for it to grow healthy and prosperous?

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A recent blogger commented on how a garden needs to be tended daily. You need to be looking at it and checking it for pests, rot, and new growth daily, because an infestation can happen overnight. Many gardeners also test the soil with various test strips or electronic meters to determine the composition of the soil and what is missing. What relationship does daily maintenance and soil testers have to do with us being fertile soil for growth in the Word?

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One necessary element for a healthy garden is light. What does Psalm 119: 105, 130, say about light?

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When we think about the functions of light, what does it do for us? Light allows us to see and helps us to keep from falling. Light also keeps us from the dangers that loom in the dark. Light helps us to see what is real and what isn't real. Specifically, the sun allows plants to grow, and even humans need sunlight. We need vitamin D from the sun. Without vitamin D we cannot absorb other critical vitamins allowing our bodies to work properly. Sunlight helps our bodies sleep and have a healthy rhythm. The sunrise and sunset allow for order of our days. People who live in parts of the world where there are days full of sun and days full of darkness often have to supplement themselves with sunlamps and heavy curtains to give the illusion of day and night. Can you come up with any additional things light or the sun does for us?

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When we think of God's Word as light, and us as soil planted by Him, what comes to mind?

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Read John 15:2 and Hebrews 12:5–11. How does God cultivate us?

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What ways does God cultivate you, personally? Where have you seen new growth because of pruning? Are there places in your life where you are clinging to dead branches? What steps might you take to let go of those, and cling to the arbor God is preparing for you?

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We can genuinely praise God for His providence, and His forgiveness when we fall short. He knows us. He loves us. He calls all those who believe in Jesus as their Savior His children, heirs to the kingdom of God! May you find peace in discipline, knowing it is coming from a loving God who seeks to grow you in faith and productivity for His kingdom.

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