

# JESUS THE RABBI\*

*Jesus called and calls disciples: committed followers who learn from and mimic His words and deeds.*

## SCRIPTURE†

**Matthew 4:18-22; 8:19-22**

**Matthew 23:1-12**

Matthew 23:8-12

**Mark 1:16-22**

**Mark 8:34-37**

Luke 9:23-24

**Luke 24:13-27**

**John 1:35-51**

**John 3:1-21**

## MUSIC‡

All I Ever Want to Be

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Chosen as His Children (Born Again)

Close to Thee

I Am Thine, O Lord

I Am Resolved

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I Surrender All

I Will Praise Him

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

[Open Our Eyes, Lord]

Speak, O Lord

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (Larson) SATB**

**We Will Follow (Koerts) SATB**

**What Grace Is Mine (Getty)**



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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\* Theme fits in **Earthly Ministry** series.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## GOOD BOSS

*Explain the concept of a rabbi as combined authority and teaching: He was a boss and a teacher. The best bosses are the ones who are the teachers or trainers of their employees, because they invest in their employees and truly desire to see them succeed. As our master, Christ teaches us how to obey Him.*

## TEACHING HOW TO LIVE

*A Jewish Rabbi taught in a different way than current formal education. He used both spoken teaching and active example to communicate his point. Jesus taught His disciples how to live the Christian life, and we in turn are called to disciple others. We are to learn the truth from Jesus and also live it out. Both teaching and discipling are necessary. This is what we are trying to do in Adventure Kids. We need head knowledge of truth and an active knowledge of how to work it out.*

The Jewish rabbi taught in quite a different way than what you probably picture in your mind as you think about the role of “teacher.”

When I think about my school teachers, especially up through 8th grade (In 9th grade it was somewhat different because I joined a church school, a Christian School), but up through 8th grade I could not think of a teacher outside the classroom. I actually cannot remember seeing one of my kindergarten through 8th grade teachers in any other context than Millard Central Elementary School or Millard Central Junior High School. If I would have seen Mrs. Pribnow, my 6th grade teacher at the grocery store, I would have been shocked. I knew Mrs. Pribnow did not actually spend the night at school, she had to have a place to sleep and buy food, I assumed, but all my interaction with her as a teacher was at the school building.

But Jesus our teacher, our Rabbi, did not teach like Mrs. Pribnow taught. Jesus lived among his students.

We started a new Sunday night children’s program here last fall called Adventure Kids. The first thing we do is get outside the building. Then we hike up the hill and then we teach lessons on love. A few weeks back I had Austin Melancon, who helps me with Adventure Kids, go up to our campfire circle on the hill and throw a bunch of garbage around (It was clean garbage.). The lesson that night was “Love Cleans Up.” I taught about how cleaning up your room or cleaning up a space is the loving thing to do for the next person that uses the space. But I was not only wanting the kids to hear the lesson, I wanted the kids to ACT out the lesson. So we cleaned up the campfire circle,

picked up all of Austin's garbage and threw it in the fire. The goal was not just SAY the lesson, but DO the lesson, live out the lesson.

Jesus, the teacher, Jesus the Rabbi, spoke truth to and lived out truth among His disciples, guiding them in "real life."

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt AMONG us, (and we BEHELD his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus the Rabbi was AMONG us. He did not show up for one hour Sunday morning and preach a sermon and then disappear for 167 hours till next Sunday. No, his discipling ministry would have been quite incomplete if he only spent one hour a week with his students. He LIVED with his disciples. Yes, he spoke truth. But he also lived out truth for them to see, and guided them as they were living their lives, day in and day out. Is a one hour message on Sunday unbiblical? Of course not, but Jesus our Rabbi was and is so much more.

What a wonderful blessing we have in the gospels, seeing our rabbi's teaching ministry at work. And His Spirit continues to teach us in the daily circumstances of life.

And, a discipling lesson for us, if we are to be like Jesus, we, in turn are to speak truth and live out the truth with people, among people. Teaching like Jesus the Rabbi taught involves living out the truth with others.

May we all worship and work to be like Jesus our Rabbi. **(Pastor Mark French)**

**Promotional Post:** It's not enough just to know. We need to learn how to do. Jesus' model of teaching His disciples was both. As a typical first century Jewish rabbi, Jesus taught His disciples verbally through sermons and answering questions. But He also taught by His example how to live out that truth in daily life.

This Sunday, we worship Jesus the Rabbi. We also remember His call to discipleship for every believer. These passages can help you prepare to worship and renew your discipleship commitment this Sunday:

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]