

When Jesus is Unconventional, Dec. 4 to 7, 2025

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger "iron sharpening iron" relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

LEARNING COMMUNITIES SCHEDULE

Week of Dec. 1 and 8 – YES.

Weeks of Dec. 15, 22, 29 – NO

Week of Jan. 5 – will RESUME

Sermon Series' purpose is to discover more ABOUT God and to KNOW Him more intimately and aligned through Jesus' interactions with people. John 9 highlights several of Jesus' characteristics.

*God is pre-emptively, proactively working on our behalf far more in breadth and depth – **ESPECIALLY** when it appears that He is not. It is a long slog to believe this because pain without explanation is required to **build trust** that leads to soul-deep satisfaction.*

Jesus still offers to give spiritual sight to those who know they are blind and still reveals spiritual blindness to those who think they can see

Cooperating with Jesus' unconventional ways – HUMILITY IS THE KEY!!

1. Are we humble enough and confident enough in God to lay our beliefs before God for scrutiny?

John 9:1-5 (ESV) (pew Bible page 895)

APPLICATION: HAVE YOU ever had to exchange beliefs you were convinced were correct?

2. Are we humble enough and confident enough in God to obey unorthodox instructions?

John 9:6-7 (ESV) (pew Bible page 895)

Brainstorm: Bible stories of people who did so...

APPLICATION: HAVE YOU ever been told to do something unorthodox?

3. Are we surrendered enough to trust God to leave us in unwanted circumstances longer than we think necessary, enduring the pain with confidence in God's Presence and promises?

Brainstorm: Bible stories of people who did so...

APPLICATION: HAVE YOU ever had to endure circumstances a long time?

4. Are we humble enough and loyal enough to Jesus to go all in, to stand strong alone if necessary?

John 9:8-13 (ESV) (pew Bible page 895)

* with friends and neighbors – those who **should** celebrate with

* with Jewish leaders – who **should represent God**

* with parents (and family) – those who **should** stand with – FEAR!

* with **angry** Jewish leaders – accusers who could harm

5. Are we alert and ready to recognize, worship and SLO Jesus when He shows Himself?

John 9:35-41 (ESV) (pew Bible page 895)

† Jesus pursues those who cling to Him. ALWAYS!

† Jesus will always show up in His time. ALWAYS!

† THE response is to worship in awe, gratitude, total surrender

† Jesus usually connects the dots **after** obedience.

Current Study: Knowing God by Jesus' Interactions

The focus is to know ABOUT God and to KNOW God better through Jesus' dealings with people

- ➔ Jesus is the Word of God – Logos and Rhema, all-powerful, all-loving, Jesus came for true relationship and partnership by experiencing being fully human and came to reconcile us through His death, resurrection, ascension, and sending the Holy Spirit. Jesus is now with us through the Spirit within, praying for us, and working for us.
- ➔ Jesus is King – announcing it, interacting with followers by saying His Kingdom is within us; with powerful people by saying His Kingdom is not of this world; with the dark powers by defeating them.
- ➔ Jesus' interaction with Peter shows us that His primary instruction is to "Follow Me." We are to do so with a new identity in Him through many training times (walk on water, pray in Gethsemane, persevere when we fail, return to be redeemed by Jesus) and then be deployed in His power within us.
- ➔ Jesus with inner circle transfigured, with father of demon-possessed son, with 9 powerless disciples – some things only happen through prayer and fasting.
- ➔ Jesus with lame man, 4 friends, Jewish leaders, and crowds.
- ➔ Jesus with blind man.

