

Greatest Of All Time

S1

GOAT

JANUARY 2021

WILDLIFE CREW NOTES



Greatest Of All Time

Hey YxYA!

**Welcome to our first drop of Crew Notes for 2021!
Whether you're reading in any of our Locations across
the UK, its great kicking off the new year together as
YxYA across all locations.**

**2020 was a roller-coaster of a year as we entered
lockdown and for many of us, we spent the majority of
lockdown craving the long-awaited return to the way
things were, but as the Church we are called to pioneer
a brighter and more Christ centred future for society
and ourselves. 2020 taught us to look back and thank
God, to look forward and trust God, look around and
serve God but most importantly to look up and seek
God.**

**We've themed this month "THE GREATEST OF ALL
TIME" (The G.O.A.T)**

**As followers of Christ we believe that Jesus is the
G.O.A.T.**

**This month in crews we want to focus on the truth that
is found in following Jesus. As Christians, our purpose
is to share the hope of Jesus; Jesus is our message.
We are Jesus people, not religious people.**

**Methods will come and go, yet our message will remain
the same.**

**Hoping you have a great month filled with encouraging,
life-changing conversations!**

Thank you for all you do,

Dan & Jo Watson

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ONE

WHO IS JESUS?

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INTRO

The Bible is the greatest resource we have that helps us understand who the person of Jesus Christ is and this is what we will be unpacking this week in order to begin our year having a better understanding of who Jesus is. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah and through Him we are able to be forgiven for our sins and entering into a relationship with God.

In our current society, books, movies and many more places we tend to hear the name of Jesus being mentioned in different ways and forms, where we don't capture the understanding of who Jesus truly is . We often speak and mention the name of Jesus yet don't fully understand the power there is in his name. Some use it as a swear word, others as an expression of frustration.

Throughout the decades in history we see so many different cultures and generations argue about the person of Jesus. (For example) The Islamic faith believes that Jesus is a prophet and not the son of the living God. Judaism doesn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah and they are still waiting for the Messiah to come.

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 16:13-20

13. When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, Who do people say the Son of Man is? 14. They replied, Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. 15. But what about you? he asked. Who do you say I am? 16. Simon Peter answered, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. 17. Jesus replied, Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 20. Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

THOUGHT

The struggle to comprehend who exactly Jesus is has been long debated in theology. The very nature of his birth calls for questions. However, the gospels are very important books which are filled with parables, teachings and accounts of who Christ is. Jesus was sent to earth so that humanity could have a visible image of the invisible God and so we could evidence (testify) the great extents of the father's love for us - sacrificing his one and only son on the cross. Jesus was also a miracle worker, a proof that God truly is omnipresent, omnibenevolent and omnipotent. He came to clarify(purify) and establish. For (take this for) example, imagine a perfect person, we would all picture something completely different (from each other). Jesus came to clarify and solidify what the core ideas (aspects) that make up who the father is, in a way that allows society to closely identify and better relate with.

QUESTIONS

ONE

Who do people say Jesus is?

TWO

Who do you say Jesus is to you personally?

THREE

How do we keep Jesus relevant in our everyday life?

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TWO
LOYALTY

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INTRO

The Bible teaches us, how Jesus is the visible images and human form of an invisible, spiritual God. In scripture we read Jesus telling the parable of the lost sheep in **Matthew 18**, about a shepherd being loyal to the one sheep and risking all other 99 for the sake of the one. We see a definition and example of loyalty, devotion and zeal to never giving up on the one.

SCRIPTURES

Romans 8:31-39 (ESV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died "more than that, who was raised" who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 18:10-14 (ESV)

10 See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Romans 5:6-8 (ESV)

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person "though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die" 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

Colossians 1:15 (NIV)

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

THOUGHT

It sometimes feels like people will only be loyal to others as long as it benefits them or they can profit from the situation but in this parable Jesus, shows us the very opposite. In fact it is in our shortcomings that we feel his loyalty the most. The bible promises that God will never leave or forsake us. Think about Christ on the cross, he was fully man yet fully God. Jesus could have easily stopped his execution but chose to stay on the cross in order to forgive us for our sins in order for us to have a personal relationship with the father. Do you know anyone who is more loyal? Christ showed the greatest commitment to us before we ever committed to him. The bible explains that God is faithful even when we are not faithful because he cannot deny himself. This means that even when we are disloyal to Jesus, he won't stop being loyal. Peter experienced Jesus loyalty in an unforgettable way. Jesus told Peter in advance that he knew Peter would betray him. Peter didn't think he could betray Jesus, but he did, three times like Christ predicted. However, after his resurrection instead of hating Peter, Jesus showed loyalty to Peter forgave him and they ate together.

QUESTIONS

ONE

Why Is Loyalty Important?

TWO

Who is the most loyal person you know and why?

THREE

Do you have an experience of God's loyalty?

FOUR

How do you think we should response to God's loyalty for us?

CONCLUSION

Romans 8:31-39 Reminds us that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of God. God is so loyal that nothing can stand between us and him. The bible affirms that, "God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord, we have the blessing of seeing his loyalty for the rest of our lives. Let's give loyalty back to the one who deserves it the most.

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THREE
DEFENDER

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INTRO

Last week we spoke about the loyalty of Jesus and how he never gives up on us. We spoke about “ if God is for us, who could possibly be against us.” There’s a tension there at times when deep down we realise that none of us are perfect. Whether it’s a conversation we had and shouldn’t have been having behind someone else’s back or the stuff you’ve been watching online (that no one else knows about). This guilt can often hold us back from experiencing the fullness of Jesus in our lives and the life in abundance.

SCRIPTURES

1 John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 3:20

Whenever our hearts make us feel guilty and remind us of our failures, we know that God is much greater and more merciful than our conscience, and he knows everything there is to know about us.

Romans 8:34

Who then will condemn us? No one for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us.

1 John 1:5-10 (ESV)

5. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

THOUGHT

Wouldn't you be honest with your lawyer? Lawyers can almost always tell when their client is guilty or not. It's in our best interest to tell them the whole truth so that we can be properly defended. Then by that logic, why aren't we always honest with God ? The very first step to being honest with God is admitting your guilt, whether it's a long list or not, we were all born sinners and need to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and saviour in order to be saved from condemnation.

1 John 1:8 says, "if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." The following verse says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Therefore when we acknowledge our sin and accept the truth, Jesus Christ will live in us, both guiding and defending us.

QUESTIONS

ONE

Name a time when someone defended you, how did it make you feel/ what did it mean to you?

TWO

What don't you talk to God about?

THREE

What should you do when you feel undefendable?

CONCLUSION

The bible teaches that there is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. In order to be in Christ Jesus you need to turn away from your sin and acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. The day you put your faith in Jesus, is the first day of forever that he will continually defend you. You will never again have to be your own defender.

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FOUR
CLOSE FRIEND



INTRO

David was said to have a heart after God's own heart, as a result David was loved by God. They were remarkably close in their relationship. When God spoke to him, he was quick to listen and act as he wanted to remain close to God. In **Psalm 51** when he messed up big time his prayer was to have a clean heart of flesh that would respond to God rather than a heart of stone that could not respond.

SCRIPTURES

Scriptures

1 Samuel 13:14 (ESV)

14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.

Luke 10:38-42 (ESV)

38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me. 41 But the Lord answered her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.

John 11:28-37 (ESV)

28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, The Teacher is here and is calling for you. 29 And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, "Where have you laid him? They said to him, Lord, come and see. 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, See how he loved him 37 But some of them said, Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?

John 12:1-8 (ESV)

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the money bag he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 Jesus said, Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

THOUGHT

There are several people in the new testament that wanted to draw closer to God. Examples such as the woman with the issue of blood wanting to be healed or of woman that wept over Jesus' feet, dried his feet with her hair and anointing him with oil or perfume to show her love for him. John was also known as the disciple that Jesus loved, he had a special relationship with the master which was closer than the other disciples.

If we focus on Mary's story in **Luke 10**, we see Mary at Jesus' feet whilst her sister, Martha, is busy in the kitchen despite complaining about her to come and help but Jesus said she has chosen, the right place which will not be taken away from her. When Lazarus had died and Jesus delayed in coming **John 11**, once Mary heard Jesus was arriving, she ran out from where she was grieving and fell at his feet saying if you had been here, he wouldn't have died, her question and posture caused Jesus to weep because he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. Later Martha was found at the feet of Jesus again **John 12** after her brother had been raised from the dead and just before Jesus' death when she anointed his feet with expensive ointment, despite the protests Jesus again says, "leave her alone". What we see in all these stories is that no matter in which desperate situation these people were, the power of Jesus never changed and they were able to experience it due to the intimate close relationship they decided to have with Jesus.

QUESTIONS

ONE

Why is intimacy important?

TWO

What's the bravest thing you could do to get to know someone you really liked?

THREE

Name one thing you could start doing to get closer to Jesus?
Name one thing you could do.

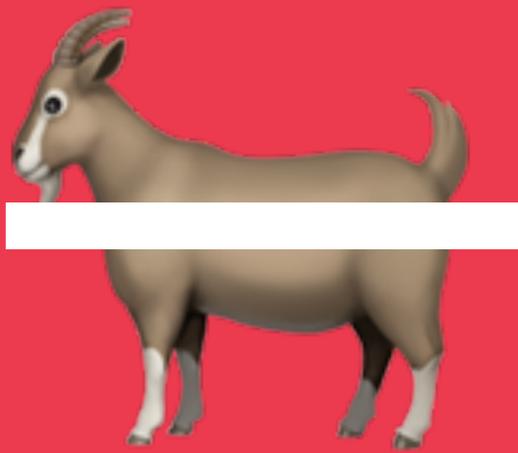
FOUR

How does intimacy with God change our everyday lives?

CONCLUSION

There is something special being close to Jesus and knowing him intimately, whatever your situation run to him first and stay close to him.

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