

# LifeGroup Sermon Series Study

2019-2020

*Series Four*



## **“Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery”**

### **Article**



One of my favorite old television detective shows was “Cold Case.” It fascinated me how detective Lilly Rush could solve cases that were decades old. She would dig up clues and follow them to the killer who, up to then, had gotten away with the crime.

There is another cold case that has fascinated me almost all my life. The crime was committed soon after the first couple, Adam and Eve, were created. Eve and Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which they had been commanded not to do. In this case we know the crime, and who committed it, but what was missed are the clues pointing to how God planned to reconcile the violation.

We see all through the Old Testament that God was providing clues about the Messiah and his plan of reconciliation. But for thousands of years mankind missed or misunderstood the clues. God gave the Jews, His promised people, the law to show them how much they needed a savior because they were a fallible people. God sent prophets to try to help them understand; but they were stubborn, and their hearts grew stone cold. God sent difficulties into their lives, but it seemed like nothing worked. Finally, God let the stubborn, prideful, rebellious people go.

For more than 400 years God was silent - no prophets, no messages, no visions. The mystery of the Messiah went cold. Then something truly amazing happened. God incarnate, in human form, came to Earth. Born of a virgin, He lived for 33 years and the people didn’t recognize Him. The people could not figure out the Messiah mystery – not even with his death and resurrection.

Mankind was only able to piece together the mystery of the Messiah after Jesus explained the meaning of the clues to all the disciples. Today, some are still blind to God’s clues regarding the mystery.

As we head to Easter and celebrate God’s amazing gifts of grace and mercy, I want us to reflect (in your 5-5-5, and in your Bible study, reflection, and prayer time) on six clues that God gave us. May these clues be inspiring and encouraging as we review the case of the Mystery of the Messiah.

Pastor Doug

**LIFEGROUP ROSTER**

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# “Cold Case - Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Failure in the Garden”

## Genesis 3:15

### Lesson 1

#### I. **Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand that God had a plan for mankind’s failure.
- B. To help us know the roles of Satan and Jesus.
- C. To help us see how the story’s been written and God wins.

#### II. **Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. What is the next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### III. **Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
  
- B. Sermon outline: “Cold Case - Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Failure in the Garden.” Genesis 3:15
  
- C. Three keys to the Case of the Messiah Mystery and the first clue:
  - 1. The (command).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 2. The (collapse).

## Lesson 1 cont.

3. The (conviction).

4. The first (clue): “Crush the (head) and strike the (heel).”

D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

E. Additional scriptures to look at: Romans 16:20;  
Colossians 2:14-15; Hebrews 2:14-15.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

A. Were God’s expectations of Adam and Eve clear? Why or why not?

B. Do you think God knew that Adam and Eve were going to sin? Why or why not?

C. What were some of the mistakes that Adam and Eve made?

## Lesson 1 cont.

- D. What are some of the mistakes we make when we sin?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- E. What did God mean when He said that God would put enmity between Satan and the woman?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- F. What did God mean when He said He would put enmity between Satan's offspring and her offspring?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- G. What was the first clue?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- H. What did God mean when He said that Satan will strike his heel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- I. What did God mean when He said that He would crush Satan's head?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- J. What does it mean to you that God will allow Satan to strike our heel, but Jesus will crush Satan's head?

## Lesson 1 cont.

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about their next steps.
- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next steps that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

### VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Genesis 22:1-14.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

### **Notes:**

# “Cold Case - Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Appropriate Sacrifice”

## Genesis 22:1-14

### Lesson 2

#### I. **Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand how the story of Abraham links to the story of the Messiah.
- B. To help us know how God supplied the appropriate sacrifice – a male sheep.
- C. To help us see that God did this (supplied Jesus as the appropriate sacrifice for our sins) for us.

#### II. **Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. What is the next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### III. **Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Appropriate Sacrifice.” Genesis 22:1-14
- C. Four keys to the appropriate sacrifice clue:
  - 1. The (command).



## Lesson 2 cont.

2. The (clear) timeline.
  
3. The (crisis) of a one and only son.
  
4. The (complete) provision.

D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

E. Additional scriptures to look at: Hebrews 10:1-24.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

A. Why do you think God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac?

B. What did it take for Abraham to be willing to do this?

## Lesson 2 cont.

- C. Do you think that Isaac knew what was happening? Why or why not?
  
- D. Was it significant that there was a ram caught in a thicket after God told Abraham to not kill Isaac? What was God saying?
  
- E. Why was it significant that the animal was a ram?
  
- F. How are you impacted by knowing that God provided Jesus, the Lamb of God, to be your sacrifice for sins?

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about their next steps.
  
- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

## Lesson 2 cont.

- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next steps that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

### VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Exodus 12:12-13.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

### **Notes:**

# **“Cold Case - Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Bloody Doorposts”**

## **Exodus 12:12-13**

### **Lesson 3**

#### **I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand how the Passover week links to Jesus’ death and resurrection.
- B. To help us know the significance of the blood of a perfect male lamb on the doorposts.
- C. To help us see how God supplied an escape from His judgment.

#### **II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. What is the next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### **III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Bloody Doorposts.” Exodus 12:12-13
- C. Three keys to the bloody door post clue:
  - 1. The (plagues).

### Lesson 3 cont.

2. The (plan).

3. The (Passover).

D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

E. Additional scriptures to look at: Exodus 23:15; Leviticus 23:4-8; Joshua 5:10; Luke 22:15; John 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 5:7.

#### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

A. Why didn't the Egyptians believe in the God of Moses?

B. Why did it take ten plagues before the Pharaoh was willing to let the Israelites go free?

C. Is it significant that the tenth plague was the death of the first-born son of every family? Why or why not?

### Lesson 3 cont.

- D. Why did God make a way out for His people?
  
- E. Why was the blood of a lamb on a doorpost significant to God?
  
- F. How can the penalty of sin, spiritual death, pass over us today?
  
- G. What does it mean to you knowing that the penalty of your sins can be passed over you?

#### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

#### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about their next steps.
  
- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?
  
- C. Take new prayer requests.

### **Lesson 3 cont.**

- D. Pray as a group for the next steps that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

#### **VII. Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are John 8:12, 6:35; 1 Timothy 2:5.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

#### **Notes:**

# **“Cold Case - Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Light, The Bread, and The Incense”**

**John 8:12, 6:35; 1 Timothy 2:5**

## **Lesson 4**

### **I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand the historical Jewish tabernacle.
- B. To help us know the significance of the light, the bread, and the incense in the Holy room of the tabernacle.
- C. To help us see the role Jesus played in being the light, the bread, and the incense.

### **II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. What is the next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

### **III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery: the light, the bread, the Incense.”
- C. Pieces of furniture in the fourth clue:
  - 1. An oil lamp(stand). John 8:12



## Lesson 4 cont.

2. A table with 12 loaves of (special) bread. John 6:35

3. An altar for burning (sweet) incense. 1 Timothy 2:5

D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

E. Additional scriptures to look at: Exodus 29:44-46, 30:1-10, 34-38; Leviticus 10:1-3.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

A. What was the purpose of the lampstand in the Holy place?

B. What was the purpose of the bread in the Holy place?

C. What was the purpose of the incense in the Holy place?

## Lesson 4 cont.

D. How did Jesus fulfill what the lampstand did?

E. How did Jesus fulfill what the bread did?

F. How did Jesus fulfill what the incense did?

G. Why was this significant?

H. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the light, bread, and incense for us?

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about their next steps.

## **Lesson 4 cont.**

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next steps that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

### **VII. Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 53:5; 53:7.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

### **Notes:**

# “Cold Case - Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Prophecies”

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 53:5, 53:7

## Lesson 5

### I. **Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand how specific the prophecies were about the Messiah.
- B. To help us know how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies.
- C. To help us see that the prophecies were too specific to be fulfilled by chance or luck.

### II. **Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. What is the next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

### III. **Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Prophecies.”
- C. Four prophecies of Isaiah that point to the fifth clue:
  - 1. The virgin who gives birth to a (son). Isaiah 7:14

## Lesson 5 cont.

2. The government will be on his (shoulders) because He will be called God. Isaiah 9:6

3. He will be pierced, crushed, and heal our (sin). Isaiah 53:5

4. He will be silent in his (slaughter). Isaiah 53:7

D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

E. Additional scriptures to look at: Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Psalm 16:8-11, 22:1-31, 118:22-24; Jeremiah 31:31; Isaiah 61:1-2.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

A. When you hear these prophecies what is your reaction?

## Lesson 5 cont.

- B. Some of these prophecies were written hundreds of years before Christ. Does that make them any more significant? Why or why not?
  
- C. Which prophesy convinces you the most that Jesus was the Messiah?
  
- D. What causes people to doubt that Jesus was the Messiah?
  
- E. What would you say to doubters?
  
- F. What does it mean to you that these prophecies were written about the Messiah?

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about their next steps.

## Lesson 5 cont.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next steps that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

### VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scripture next week is Zechariah 9:9.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

### **Notes:**

# **“Cold Case - Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Donkey”**

## **Zechariah 9:9**

### **Lesson 6**

#### **I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand what was really happening on Palm Sunday.
- B. To help us know the significance of Jesus riding on the donkey.
- C. To help us see how Jesus was being treated and why.

#### **II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. What is the next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### **III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Sermon outline: “Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery: The Donkey.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Four events on Palm Sunday that lead to the sixth clue:
  - 1. His (righteousness) was evident. Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:37-40



## Lesson 6 cont.

2. His victory was (realized). Zechariah 9:9; John 12:19

3. His humility was (real). Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:41-44

4. The donkey he was (riding). Zechariah 9:9; John 12:15

D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

E. Additional scriptures to look at: Genesis 49:10-11; Judges 5:10, Judges 10:4, 12:13-14; 1 Samuel 10:1-16, 16:1-2; Matthew 21:1-11.

### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

A. Why did the people spread their cloaks on the ground?

## Lesson 6 cont.

- B. Why did the crowd shout “blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord”?
  
- C. Why did the Pharisees rebuke Jesus for what the crowd was doing?
  
- D. What was Jesus saying when he said “If they keep quiet the rocks will cry out”?
  
- E. Why was it significant that Jesus was riding on a donkey?
  
- F. Why do you think the whole crowd was excited about Jesus? What were they hoping?
  
- G. Why were the Pharisees threatened?
  
- H. What does this mean to you that the first Palm Sunday happened this way?

### V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

## Lesson 6 cont.

### VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about their next steps.
- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next steps that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

### VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Luke 24:13-27.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

### **Notes:**

# “Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery: Celebration Sunday”

## Luke 24:13-27

### Lesson 7

#### I. **Purpose:**

- A. To celebrate what we learned in the last six weeks.
- B. To celebrate how God spoke to us in this series.
- C. To give God the honor and glory due Him.

#### II. **Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**

- A. What is the next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### III. **Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**

- A. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you the most in this series?
- B. What is one thing you learned, relearned, or were reminded of as we looked at the last six weeks of scriptures?
- C. Additional scriptures to look at: 2 Samuel 7:14; Psalm 2:7; Proverbs 30:4; Daniel 3:25; Hosea 11:1; Micah 5:1-3.

#### IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

- A. Before this series did you know the prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament?

## **Lesson 7 cont.**

- B. Which prophesy amazed you the most? Why?
  
- C. What was the most important concept you learned about God's plan to redeem mankind?
  
- D. What did you learn about the tremendous love that God has for mankind?
  
- E. How has this series helped you understand why Jesus had to come, die, and rise again?
  
- F. What is one concept that you learned in this series that will help you talk to friends, family, and your children about Jesus?

### **V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

### **VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

## **Lesson 7 cont.**

- B. Take new prayer requests.
  
- C. Share your answer to the accountability question with the group and then pray for the person on your right.

### **VII. Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scripture next week is Hebrews 5:14.
  
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
  
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

### **Notes:**

## Notes

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## “Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery”

### Prayer Requests

DATE	PRAYER REQUEST	ANSWER

**“Cold Case – Clues to the Messiah Mystery”**

**Prayer Requests**

DATE	PRAYER REQUEST	ANSWER





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