

THE FORGOTTEN JESUS PODCAST

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Season 5, Episode 1

God's Six-Fold Formula for Testing

Matthew 3:13-21

Discussion Questions

1. How does the six-step paradigm of chaos, water, Spirit over water, God's voice, God's order, and testing appear in the story of Jesus' baptism?
2. What does Jesus' baptism reveal about His identity and mission?
3. Compare the role of water in Jesus' baptism with other biblical events (e.g., Noah's flood or the Red Sea crossing). What parallels stand out?
4. What does the Spirit descending "like a dove" signify in the context of Jesus' baptism?
5. Why is it significant that God speaks during Jesus' baptism, affirming Him as His beloved Son?
6. Discuss the connection between Jesus' baptism and the Old Testament references in Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1.
7. How does the testing of Jesus in the wilderness immediately after His baptism fit into the sixfold paradigm?
8. Why do you think water is a recurring symbol of chaos and renewal in the Bible?
9. What can we learn about God's character from His consistency in bringing order out of chaos?
10. In what ways does understanding Jesus' baptism through this paradigm deepen your understanding of His ministry?

Application Questions

1. How do you recognize moments of testing in your own life?
2. Have you ever experienced God bringing order out of chaos in your life? Share your story.

3. How can the knowledge of God's voice bringing order encourage you in times of uncertainty?
4. What steps can you take this week to better hear and follow God's voice?
5. How can you remind yourself of your identity in Christ during seasons of testing?
6. What practical ways can you model Jesus' humility as seen in His baptism?
7. How can the image of the Spirit descending on Jesus influence how you view the Holy Spirit's role in your life?
8. What does it mean for you to live as someone who brings God's order into a chaotic world?
9. In what areas of life might God be calling you to trust His process, even if it involves testing?
10. How can your small group support one another in identifying and passing spiritual tests?

Prayer Prompt

Invite the group to reflect on areas where they feel chaos or testing in their lives. Pray together, asking God to speak His order into those situations, affirm His presence, and empower each person to remain faithful during times of testing.

Additional Resources

- **Books:**
 - *The Forgotten Jesus* by Robby Gallaty
 - *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* by Lois Tverberg
- **Podcasts:**
 - *BEMA Discipleship Podcast* (www.bemadiscipleship.com)
- **Scripture Cross-References:**
 - Genesis 1:1–2 (Creation)
 - Genesis 7–9 (Noah and the flood)
 - Exodus 14 (Crossing the Red Sea)
 - Joshua 3 (Crossing the Jordan)
 - Matthew 4:1–11 (Temptation of Jesus)
- **Video Resources:**
 - Long Hollow Church YouTube channel: [Baptism of Jesus series](#).

Feel free to adapt this guide for your small group's unique needs!

This guide is designed to help your small group explore and apply the rich truths of this episode, fostering a deeper love and understanding of Jesus in His cultural and biblical context.