



## Group Leader Guide “Relentless Conviction” - Storyline February 21, 2021

### Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

### // Message Summary

Before we can really start to live out our compelling vision for our lives, we need to learn how to overcome the obstacles that are sure to come. Teaching pastor **Ben Foote** shows us this week how Jesus modeled how to effectively do this when He was faced with temptation in the wilderness. By identifying lies and replacing them with truth, we can overcome the obstacles that try to keep us from our vision.

### // Biblical Context: Baptism

**Baptism Before Christianity:** Many people understandably assume that baptism began with Christianity because the two are closely associated today. It is how we announce to the world that we have become a Christian. But there was baptism before Christianity. Ceremonial washings are all over the Law in the Old Testament, and there were many ritual pools in Jerusalem and throughout Israel. But the type of baptism that John the Baptist was doing was the type when a non-Jew converted to Judaism. Like becoming a Christian, a ceremonial washing took place to mark this in a person’s life. John the Baptist, however, takes it a step further and demands that the people who were born Jews need to be baptized as well as an act of repentance and to mark a personal decision to follow God.

**Why did Jesus need to be baptized?** Jesus obviously didn’t need to be baptized in order to be saved or even to repent of His sins. He

was perfect and never sinned. So why did He get baptized? Jesus says in **Matthew 3:15** that the reason is “to fulfill all righteousness,” meaning that it needed to be done to live a life that would be seen as righteous before God. In other words, He was being obedient and submitting to the commands of His Father. Second, it was a way to announce the beginning of His ministry by symbolically demonstrating the end: His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. Third, it set an example for His followers to be baptized themselves and gives an example of how to baptize others, which He later commands His followers to do (**Matthew 28:19**).

### // Biblical Background: Jesus’ Temptation

**Rabbinic Tradition:** Ben mentioned a non-Biblical, rabbinic tradition that stated that the



Wilderness of Judea where Jesus was tempted



Messiah would appear on the top of the Temple. It said, “When King Messiah comes, he will stand upon the roof of the holy place. Then he will announce to Israel, ‘Ye poor, the time of your redemption draws nigh.’”

**Psalm 91:** Satan quotes **Psalm 91:11-12** in trying to convince Jesus to jump off the Temple as a publicity stunt. However, Satan takes this way out of context. **Psalm 91:10** makes it clear that what these verses are promising protection from is harmful or dangerous events that befall God’s servant, and is not meant to be an excuse to go seeking out unnecessary dangers.

### // References

Currid, John D., and David W. Chapman. *ESV Archaeology Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway Books, 2017.

Green, M. (2000). *The message of Matthew*. IVP Academic

Keener, Craig S Ph.d. (2014). *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. InterVarsity Press.

<https://www.bibleplaces.com/judeanwilderness/>



## Group Discussion Questions “Relentless Conviction” - Storyline February 21, 2021

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### // Bible References

Matthew 3:13-15; Mark 1:10-13; Matthew 4:2-10 (Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:13-14, 16)

### // Message Screenshots

- Your life is telling a story, but is it a great story?
- Immediate Obstacles
- “*IF* you are the Son of God...”
- Relentless Conviction: I know what God says about me, and I refuse to let go of that truth.
  1. Identify lies
  2. Replace them with truth
- The Holy Spirit is always LOVING and ACCURATE. Everything else is a lie.

### // Community Question

1. What is the Vision Statement you came up with last week?
2. What is something unique that you do that others might find challenging?

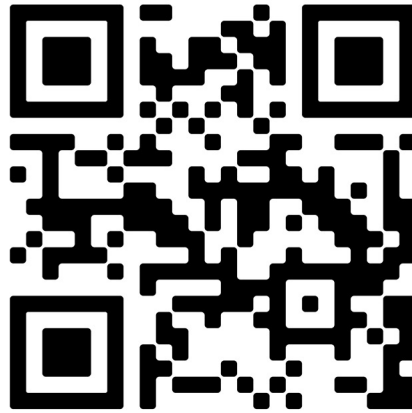
### // Discussion Questions

1. When was a time in your life where you pushed through the “immediate obstacles” to accomplish something you wanted to do?
2. When was a time in your life where you let the “immediate obstacles” keep you from accomplishing something?
3. What obstacles did you experience this week when trying to live out your Vision Statement?
4. Ben taught that the first step to having “relentless conviction” is having the ability to identify lies. What lies do you hear in your head that make you question what God thinks about you or whether you are good enough for the purpose He has for you?
5. Jesus was tempted 3 times to take “shortcuts.” Where in your life do you take, or are at least tempted to take, “shortcuts”?
6. Read **Matthew 4:1** and **Mark 1:12-13**. What do you think about it being the Spirit who actually led Jesus into the wilderness so He could be tempted? Does it disturb you? Does it confuse you?
7. Read **1 Corinthians 10:13** and **James 1:12-14**. Though God does not personally tempt us, it is clear that He allows us to be tempted. What might the benefit of this be to us?
8. **1 Corinthians 10:13** tells us that God will always provide a way out of temptation. Jesus

showed us in the wilderness that this way out is the truth found in His Word. Whether you have been following God for years or are new to this whole thing, there is always more to dig into with Scripture. What is one way that you can stretch yourself to dig into Scripture and better ingrain the Truth of God into your life?

### // Challenge

This challenge piggy-backs off that last question. Ben gave us one way in which we can do just that: text “Storyline” to 720-807-2450, or just scan this and hit send:



You will be sent daily Scriptures that will give you truth to replace the lies and help you to fight off temptation. But this will only last for a week. But it doesn't have to be the end of getting to know Scripture better! So, as I said in question 8, what is a way you can stretch yourself? That may be scanning that QR code and receiving those texts every morning. But what about after the week is done? How can you keep the momentum going? Or maybe you know the Bible forward and backward and use the truth found there to fight off lies and temptation every day. How can you serve someone around you that may not know Scripture as well as you? Is there something you can do this week to pour into someone else the truth that you have learned or help them understand it better? Come back next week ready to share what you did, plan to do, and/or learned!