

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
JANUARY 7-8, 2012
JESUS THE BOSS



1. What were your highlights from Christmas and New Year's?
2. Read Matthew 4:17. How would you describe what it means to "repent" to someone who isn't a Christian? What are the benefits of repentance?
3. Jesus says the "kingdom of heaven is near." One way theologians describe what this means is that God's reign is both "now and not yet." (God is really in charge here and now and yet that reality is also still to come when Jesus returns.) In what ways do you see the kingdom of heaven already present? In what ways do you see the kingdom not already here? What would be different about the world if God's will was completely being done all the time? What would be different about your life if God's will was always being done in and through you?
4. Read Matthew 4:18-22. Why do you think the first disciples were so willing to leave everything and follow Jesus? What is it about Jesus that makes you want to follow him?
5. What does Jesus say he will make these first disciples if they follow him? What does it mean to be "fishers of men"? Why is drawing others to God a natural outcome of following Jesus? What opportunities has God given you to draw others to Him?
6. Jesus invites these first disciples to follow him so that they can learn what it means to live under his reign. What are some ways you could follow Jesus this year to learn more about how to live with him in charge? Regular weekend worship? Daily prayer? Tithing? Inviting a friend to worship or serve with you?
7. In your group prayer, dedicate 2012 to the Lord. Ask Him to help you live this year with Him in charge.

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THE STORY CONTINUES...

Who is Jesus...really? We all have images of Jesus in our head and ideas of what he means for our lives in the 21st century. As we look at the “Story of Jesus” these next several weeks, you are invited to take a second look at Jesus. What does the New Testament actually say about this one who claimed to be fully man and fully divine? What implications might He have for your life here, now, today? Might Jesus be more dangerous, more wonderful, more intriguing than you ever imagined?

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