



THE ACTIVE DIMENSION

(Note: please read chapters 3 & 4 in Jesus Brand Spirituality for background on this class session.)

[THE ACTIVE DIMENSION OF SPIRITUALITY]



Jesus has an agenda that inspires \_\_\_\_\_  
to the problems of the world.

[READY, AIM, FIRE...?]

Jesus invited his first followers to help him \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, long before they had a very clear  
understanding of who, exactly, he was.

We often learn best by \_\_\_\_\_.

[JESUS' MISSION: THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS ]

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.*

*He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

(Luke 4:14-19, TNIV)

Jesus talked relatively little about leading us to heaven when we die; he talked much more about wanting to bring \_\_\_\_\_ down to \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is about \_\_\_\_\_ the world, starting now, and moving us toward its ultimate renewal.

### [REPAIRING THE WORLD]

What's wrong with the world that it needs repair? Space provided below for thoughts, observations...

[A NEW LIFE – A NEW CREATION]

Jesus had a "B\_\_\_\_\_ H\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_\_":  
*to renew human life and the world as we know it.*

Christianity is rooted in the faith that in his \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus mysteriously took on all the powers of evil.

The resurrection of Jesus is a kind of first \_\_\_\_\_ of coming attractions.

Without the resurrection, there is no ultimate \_\_\_\_\_.

The primary context for learning about Jesus is an active \_\_\_\_\_ with a world in need of repair.

Jesus is also about mending our \_\_\_\_\_ along the way.

[DISCUSSION GROUND-RULES]

1. What's shared in the group stays in the group.
2. No one is expected to share on any given topic; it's fine to pass.
3. No unsolicited advice giving.
4. Take your fair share of the time.
5. Be respectful of the viewpoints of others.

[QUESTIONS TO GUIDE DISCUSSION]

1. The author depicts contempt as incompatible with Jesus Brand Spirituality (see pp. 41-44). What are some experiences you've had on the giving and the receiving side of contempt over matters of spirituality or religion?
2. What do you think of the author's view that a concern for justice is at the heart of Jesus' message? Does this differ from your impression or understanding of the Christian message?
3. Why do you think care for the environment is consistent or inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus?
4. The author describes coming to a point of eagerness to follow Jesus without understanding or accepting doctrinal formulations that many would consider essential for authentic faith (see pp. 61-66). What do you think of this? Is it possible to be a disciple of Jesus while remaining unsettled about what many consider core issues of faith?
5. The author describes an experience of awakening to a sense of God's nearness as a father (see pp. 68-73). Have you ever felt a sense of God's nearness, and if so, what was it like?
6. If you or someone you know has experienced help from a twelve step recovery program and wish to share about it, how did it affect your/their understanding of spirituality?