

# A 6-Week Journey with Jesus

Here is a comprehensive 6-week daily Bible study designed to help you grow closer to Jesus by examining His life and teachings.

The goal of this study is to move beyond simply reading the stories to deeply understanding how Jesus interacted with people and handled real-life situations. Each day, you will find a scripture reading, a reflection on what it reveals about Jesus, a practical application for your life today, and a specific action to challenge yourself.

May this journey bring you a richer, more profound understanding of Him.

## Week 1: The Foundation - How Jesus Saw People

This week focuses on Jesus' core principle of seeing the inherent value and potential in every person, regardless of their background, reputation, or social standing.

### Day 1: Seeing Past Social Barriers

- **Scripture:** John 4:4-26 (Jesus and the Samaritan Woman)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus intentionally broke several major social and religious rules. He, a Jewish man, spoke to a Samaritan woman who was alone and had a questionable reputation. He engaged her in a deep, respectful theological conversation, looking past her gender, ethnicity, and personal history to see her spiritual thirst.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - What social or cultural barriers do I unconsciously put up between myself and others?
  - Who is the "Samaritan woman" in my world—someone I might avoid or look down on?
  - How did Jesus's respect and willingness to listen open the door for a spiritual conversation?
- **Today's Application:** We all have biases that create barriers. Jesus shows us that to truly connect with people, we must be willing to ignore these man-made divisions and see the person God created.
- **Daily Challenge:** Start a conversation with someone you normally wouldn't interact with. Make your goal simply to learn something about them as a person.

### Day 2: Seeing Potential for Change

- **Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus the Tax Collector)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, widely despised. While the crowd grumbled, Jesus singled him out and invited himself to his home. This act of personal acceptance and love, *before* Zacchaeus had promised to change, is what prompted his radical transformation.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - When I see someone with a bad reputation, is my first instinct to judge or to hope for their redemption?
  - How might an act of unexpected kindness from me change someone's trajectory?
  - Have I ever experienced the transformative power of being accepted before I felt I deserved it?
- **Today's Application:** It's easy to write people off. Jesus, however, sees people not for who they are, but for who they can become through His grace. He looks for the flicker of desire for change and fans it into flame.
- **Daily Challenge:** Think of one person in your life you may have judged harshly. Pray for them by name, asking God to help you see them the way He sees them—with love and potential.

### Day 3: Speaking Truth with Love

- **Scripture:** Mark 10:17-22 (The Rich Young Ruler)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** The Bible says that Jesus looked at the young man and "loved him." Out of that love, Jesus spoke a hard truth—the man's wealth was his idol. He didn't soften the message, but He delivered it with compassion, inviting the man into something better.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - What possessions or securities in my life would be hardest for me to let go of if Jesus asked me to?
  - When I have to speak a hard truth, do I do it out of love and concern, or out of a need to be right?
  - How can I balance grace and truth in my relationships, like Jesus did?
- **Today's Application:** Sometimes, the most loving thing we can do is speak a difficult truth. However, our motivation must be love and a genuine desire for their well-being, not a desire to be right.
- **Daily Challenge:** Is there a difficult conversation you need to have? Before you speak, spend time in prayer, asking God to fill your heart with love for that person. Plan to speak with humility and grace.

### Day 4: Valuing the Powerless

- **Scripture:** Mark 10:13-16 (Jesus and the Children)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** The disciples saw the children as an interruption. Jesus was indignant. He stopped everything to welcome and bless them, declaring that the Kingdom of God belongs to those with a child-like faith.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Who are the "unimportant" people in my daily life that I tend to overlook or rush past?
  - In what ways has my faith become complicated? How can I recapture a more child-like trust in God?
  - What does it mean for the Kingdom of God to "belong to such as these"?
- **Today's Application:** Our world often values people based on their power and influence. Jesus pays special attention to the weak, the voiceless, and the seemingly insignificant.
- **Daily Challenge:** Go out of your way today to show value and give your full attention to someone who might feel overlooked—a child, an elderly person, a junior employee, or a service worker.

### Day 5: Offering Grace Over Condemnation

- **Scripture:** John 8:1-11 (The Woman Caught in Adultery)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Faced with a mob, Jesus masterfully defused the situation. He didn't ignore her sin, but He refused to condemn her. He protected her and then offered both forgiveness ("Neither do I condemn you") and a call to a new life ("Go and sin no more").
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Am I quicker to pick up a stone of condemnation or to offer a hand of grace?
  - How does Jesus's response challenge the way I view public shaming or "cancel culture"?
  - In what areas of my own life do I need to hear Jesus say, "Neither do I condemn you"?
- **Today's Application:** It is easy to join the chorus of outrage. Jesus models a better way: to stand with the broken, shield them from judgment, and offer them a path to restoration.
- **Daily Challenge:** When you see someone being publicly shamed or criticized today (online or in person), resist the urge to join in. Instead, say a silent prayer for them, asking for God's grace and restoration in their life.

### Day 6: Redefining "Neighbor"

- **Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** When asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus told a story where the hero was a despised Samaritan. His point was that our neighbor is anyone in our path who is in need, and love is shown through action.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Who do I define as my "neighbor"? Does my definition match Jesus's?
  - What "roads" do I travel where I might be tempted to pass by someone in need?
  - Are there times when being inconvenienced is the most loving thing to do?
- **Today's Application:** Our "neighbor" is not just the person who lives next door or thinks like us. It is the person in need that God has placed in our path. Love requires us to get involved.
- **Daily Challenge:** Be intentionally aware of the needs around you today. Actively look for a chance to be a neighbor, whether it's giving a few dollars, buying a coffee for someone, or offering a helping hand.

## Day 7: Rest and Reflection

- Review the lessons from the past week. Which one challenged you the most? How did seeing people through Jesus' eyes change your perspective or actions this week? Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for what He has shown you.
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## Week 2: The Invitation - How Jesus Called People

This week explores how Jesus invited people not to a religion of rules, but into a transformative relationship and a new way of life.

### Day 1: A Simple and Direct Call

- **Scripture:** Matthew 4:18-22 (Calling the First Disciples)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus' call was remarkably simple: "Follow me." He didn't give them a five-year plan. He offered them Himself. The power of the invitation was in the one who was calling.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - What is Jesus's "Follow Me" invitation asking of me in this season of my life?
  - What might I need to "leave behind" to follow Him more closely?
  - Do I trust the Caller enough to follow without knowing all the details of the journey?
- **Today's Application:** Following Jesus starts with the same simple, personal call. It's not about mastering a complex set of rules, but about responding to the person of Jesus and walking with Him daily.
- **Daily Challenge:** Simplify your faith today. Instead of a long to-do list, focus on one question throughout the day: "Jesus, what does it look like to follow you in *this* moment?"

### Day 2: The Call to the Unlikely

- **Scripture:** Matthew 9:9-13 (The Calling of Matthew)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus again issued a simple "Follow me," this time to a tax collector. When criticized, Jesus defined his mission: "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Do I believe Jesus's invitation extends to people I consider "too far gone"?
  - Do I ever act like a Pharisee, judging who Jesus associates with?
  - How can I better reflect Jesus's heart for those who know they are spiritually sick?

- **Today's Application:** We often feel we need to "clean up our act" before we can come to God. Jesus shows that His invitation is for everyone, especially those who are aware of their brokenness.
- **Daily Challenge:** Identify a personal flaw or sin that makes you feel distant from God. Instead of hiding it, confess it to Him openly and thank Him that He came for you in your imperfection.

### Day 3: The Call to a Different Way of Life

- **Scripture:** Matthew 5:1-16 (The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus described the character of the people who belong to His Kingdom. It's a completely counter-cultural list: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Which of the Beatitudes feels most challenging or counter-intuitive to me?
  - How does my definition of a "blessed" or "successful" life compare to Jesus's?
  - In what tangible ways can I be "salt and light" in my community and workplace?
- **Today's Application:** Following Jesus means embracing a new set of values. Success isn't defined by power or wealth, but by humility, compassion, and dependence on God.
- **Daily Challenge:** Pick one of the Beatitudes (e.g., "Blessed are the merciful"). Make it your goal to actively live out that quality today. For mercy, you could forgive a debt or show compassion to someone who is struggling.

### Day 4: The Call to Rest

- **Scripture:** Matthew 11:28-30
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus saw people weighed down by life and religious legalism. His invitation was one of profound relief: "Come to me... and I will give you rest."
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - What are the specific burdens—internal or external—that are making me weary?
  - Do I truly believe Jesus offers rest, or do I secretly feel I have to keep striving and earning?
  - What does it mean to take His "yoke," which is easy, in exchange for my own, which is heavy?
- **Today's Application:** Many of us are exhausted from trying to earn God's approval or manage life on our own. Jesus' invitation to rest is still open. It's a call to cease striving and to trust Him.
- **Daily Challenge:** Intentionally schedule 15 minutes of rest today. No phones, no TV, no lists. Simply sit quietly and, in prayer, hand over your biggest worry to Jesus.

### Day 5: The Call to Total Commitment

- **Scripture:** Luke 14:25-33 (The Cost of Discipleship)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus was always honest about the demands of following Him, telling the crowds to "count the cost." Following Him had to be the absolute first priority, above all else.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Have I truly "counted the cost" of following Jesus?
  - Is He the first priority in my life, or just one important part of it?
  - What area of my life (finances, relationships, career) is the most difficult to fully surrender to His lordship?
- **Today's Application:** While the invitation to follow Jesus is free, it costs us everything. It requires us to surrender our own plans, ambitions, and desires to Him.
- **Daily Challenge:** Honestly evaluate your priorities. Is there one area of your life that you are holding back from God? Today, take a concrete step to surrender that area to Him in prayer and action.

### Day 6: The Call to Join His Mission

- **Scripture:** Matthew 28:16-20 (The Great Commission)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus' final words were a commission. He invited his followers to participate in His global mission of making disciples, empowering them with His own presence.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Do I see myself as a participant in Jesus's mission, or as a spectator?
  - What fears or insecurities hold me back from sharing my faith in word and action?
  - How does the promise "I am with you always" empower me for this mission?
- **Today's Application:** Following Jesus isn't just about our personal salvation; it's about being invited into His mission to redeem the world. We are all called to be witnesses where God has placed us.
- **Daily Challenge:** Pray for an opportunity to share something of God's love today. It could be as simple as telling someone you're praying for them, sharing how God helped you, or inviting someone to church.

## Day 7: Rest and Reflection

- Consider the invitations of Jesus this week. Which one resonates most with you right now? The call to rest? The call to mission? The call to a different way of life? Thank Him for inviting you into a relationship with Him.
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## Week 3: The Healer - How Jesus Responded to Suffering

This week focuses on Jesus' compassionate and powerful response to the physical, emotional, and spiritual pain He encountered.

### Day 1: Touching the Untouchable

- **Scripture:** Mark 1:40-45 (Healing a Man with Leprosy)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** A leper was a complete outcast. But Jesus, moved with compassion, reached out and *touched* him. This physical contact communicated total acceptance and dignity before the healing even occurred.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Who are the modern-day "lepers" (the isolated, shamed, or addicted) I am afraid to "touch" with compassion?
  - What does Jesus's compassion in this story teach me about the heart of God toward the broken?
  - Have I ever underestimated the power of a simple, human touch to communicate love and acceptance?
- **Today's Application:** Following Jesus means being willing to move toward people in their pain with compassion and acceptance, not judgment.
- **Daily Challenge:** Reach out to someone you know who is going through a difficult time and might feel isolated. Send them a text, give them a call, or meet them for coffee. Let them know they are not alone.

### Day 2: Responding to Desperate Faith

- **Scripture:** Mark 5:25-34 (The Woman with the Issue of Blood)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** In a crowd, a desperate woman touched Jesus' cloak. He didn't get angry at the interruption. He stopped everything to find her, affirm her faith, and give her peace and personal connection.

- **Reflection Questions:**
  - What issue have I been hiding, thinking it's too insignificant or shameful to bring to Jesus?
  - Do I have the courage to "reach out and touch" Him in faith, even if it feels risky?
  - Why was it important for Jesus to stop and have a personal conversation with her instead of just letting her slip away healed?
- **Today's Application:** Jesus is never too busy for our desperate faith. He feels our touch, even in a crowd, and wants to meet us personally.
- **Daily Challenge:** What is the "issue" you have been dealing with for a long time? Bring it to Jesus with bold, expectant faith today. Specifically ask for His intervention and healing.

### Day 3: Hope in the Face of Death

- **Scripture:** Mark 5:35-43 (Raising Jairus's Daughter)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** When news came that the girl had died, Jesus calmly dismissed the chaos and fear, saying, "Don't be afraid; just believe." He then entered the place of death and brought life.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - In what situation do I need to hear Jesus say, "Don't be afraid; just believe"?
  - How do I typically react when circumstances seem hopeless? With fear and despair, or with faith in Jesus's power?
  - What does this story teach me about Jesus's authority over things we consider final, like death?
- **Today's Application:** We all face situations that seem utterly hopeless. In these moments, Jesus' words to Jairus are for us. He is the resurrection and the life.
- **Daily Challenge:** Identify a "hopeless" situation in your life or the life of someone you know. Instead of dwelling on the negative, speak Jesus' words over it: "Do not be afraid; just believe."

### Day 4: Weeping with Those Who Weep

- **Scripture:** John 11:28-36 (Jesus and the Death of Lazarus)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Even though Jesus knew He was about to raise Lazarus, He entered fully into Mary and Martha's sorrow. His first response to their suffering was not a miracle, but empathy. "Jesus wept."
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Am I comfortable just sitting with people in their pain, or do I feel a need to immediately fix it or offer platitudes?
  - How does the fact that "Jesus wept" impact my view of God? Does it comfort me to know He grieves with me?
  - How can I be more present and empathetic to those who are hurting around me?
- **Today's Application:** When people are hurting, they often don't need our solutions first. They need our presence and our empathy. We are called to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15).
- **Daily Challenge:** Someone you know is grieving or hurting. Resist the urge to offer advice. Instead, just listen to their story, and let your presence communicate care and compassion.

### Day 5: Healing with Privacy and Process

- **Scripture:** Mark 8:22-26 (Healing the Blind Man at Bethsaida)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus took the man away from the crowd, ministering to him privately. And the healing happened in stages—first blurry vision, then full clarity.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Am I patient with God's process of healing and growth in my life and in others?

- Why might Jesus have chosen to heal this man privately and in stages? What does this teach me about His personal approach?
- Do I recognize and celebrate partial, in-process healing, or do I only look for instantaneous miracles?
- **Today's Application:** Not all healing is instantaneous or public. Sometimes, God works in our lives through a private, gradual process. Healing is a journey, and Jesus is with us step-by-step.
- **Daily Challenge:** Are you frustrated with a lack of progress in an area of your life? Thank Jesus that He is with you for the whole journey, not just the destination. Acknowledge one small step of progress you've made.

## Day 6: Responding to Gratitude

- **Scripture:** Luke 17:11-19 (The Ten Lepers)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus healed ten lepers, but only one—a Samaritan—came back to thank Him. Jesus declared to the one who returned that his faith had made him "well" or "whole," implying a deeper restoration.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Am I quick to move on after receiving a blessing, or do I return to God to give thanks?
  - How does gratitude change my perspective on what I've been given?
  - What is the difference between being healed (a physical change) and being made "whole" (a spiritual restoration)?
- **Today's Application:** It is easy to receive God's blessings and simply move on. But gratitude deepens our relationship with the Giver. It completes the circle of healing and shifts our focus from the gift to Him.
- **Daily Challenge:** Make a list of ten things you are thankful for today that you often take for granted. Go beyond just listing them—spend a moment offering a specific prayer of thanks to God for each one.

## Day 7: Rest and Reflection

- Reflect on Jesus the Healer. What aspect of His compassion stood out to you most? How does knowing He responds to suffering in these ways give you more confidence to approach Him with your own pain and the pain of others?

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*The study continues for Weeks 4, 5, and 6 in the same format. Due to length, I will provide the rest in a separate response if you'd like to continue.*

Here is the remainder of the Bible study.

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## Week 4: The Teacher - How Jesus Handled Conflict & Questions

This week examines Jesus' wisdom in navigating temptation, trick questions, and outright opposition, revealing how to stand for truth with grace and integrity.

### Day 1: Responding to Temptation with Scripture

- **Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11 (The Temptation in the Wilderness)

- **How Jesus Handled It:** At His most vulnerable, Jesus was tempted by Satan. In each instance, He responded with the authority of God's Word, saying, "It is written..." He showed that Scripture is the ultimate weapon against deception.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - What are the primary "lies" Satan whispers to me in my moments of weakness (e.g., about my identity, God's goodness, or my future)?
  - Am I equipping myself with God's truth to fight back, or am I trying to resist temptation in my own strength?
  - How does Jesus's example show the importance of knowing Scripture before the moment of temptation arrives?
- **Today's Application:** We all face temptations. Our best defense is to know what God has said. Being grounded in the truth of Scripture equips us to recognize and refute the lies that lead us astray.
- **Daily Challenge:** Identify one area where you are consistently tempted. Find a specific Bible verse that speaks truth into that situation. Write it down, memorize it, and repeat it to yourself the next time you face that temptation.

## Day 2: Prioritizing People Over Rules

- **Scripture:** Mark 3:1-6 (Healing on the Sabbath)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** The Pharisees waited to trap Jesus. He cut to the heart of the matter: "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil?" He showed that God's laws are meant to bring life, and people are always more important than religious traditions.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Are there any "rules" in my life (religious or personal) that have become more important than people?
  - How can I ensure my principles lead to compassion, not to judgment of others?
  - Am I more concerned with being "right" or with being loving?
- **Today's Application:** It's possible to be so focused on "doing the right thing" that we miss the point and fail to love the person in front of us. Jesus teaches us that the ultimate rule is love.
- **Daily Challenge:** Is there a rule or tradition that is preventing you from showing love to someone? Ask God how you can prioritize loving the person while maintaining your integrity.

## Day 3: Answering Traps with Wisdom

- **Scripture:** Matthew 22:15-22 (Paying Taxes to Caesar)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus was asked a no-win question. He brilliantly sidestepped the trap by pointing to Caesar's image on a coin, showing that we have obligations to both earthly authorities and to God.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Where in my life do I face polarizing "either/or" choices (e.g., in politics, work, or family)?
  - How can I seek Jesus's wisdom to find a higher, third way instead of getting trapped in the argument?
  - What does it mean to give to God what is God's? What parts of my life bear His "image"?
- **Today's Application:** We often face divisive issues where we are pressured to take a side. Jesus models a way to rise above the false dilemma, reframe the question, and respond with higher wisdom.
- **Daily Challenge:** The next time you are in a conversation that is becoming a heated "either/or" debate, pause. Instead of adding to the argument, ask a question that seeks to find common ground or elevates the conversation.

## Day 4: Defeating Ego with Humility



- **Scripture:** John 13:1-17 (Washing the Disciples' Feet)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** In a stunning act of humility, Jesus, their Lord and Teacher, took the role of the lowest servant and washed their dirty feet. He showed that true leadership in His Kingdom is servant leadership.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Do I see service as a pathway to greatness or as a lowly task to be avoided?
  - Who in my life could I serve by metaphorically "washing their feet"?
  - What does my reaction to performing humble, unseen tasks reveal about my heart?
- **Today's Application:** Our world is driven by ambition and status. Jesus completely inverts this. Greatness is found in serving others, especially when it's a task that no one else wants to do.
- **Daily Challenge:** Do something for someone today that you won't get credit for. Choose a task that is "beneath" you—take out the office trash, clean a common area at home, or let someone else take the credit for a good idea. Serve in secret.

## Day 5: Expressing Righteous Anger

- **Scripture:** Mark 11:15-18 (Cleansing the Temple)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus' anger was not a selfish outburst. It was a holy anger directed at injustice—the exploitation of the poor and the dishonoring of God's house. His anger was driven by love.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - What makes me angry? Is my anger more often selfish (about my rights and preferences) or righteous (about injustice and things that dishonor God)?
  - How can I channel my anger over injustice into constructive action rather than destructive rage or hopeless cynicism?
  - What would it look like to "cleanse the temple" of my own heart from things that hinder true worship?
- **Today's Application:** Not all anger is sinful. Indifference to injustice is not a virtue. We are called to have a righteous anger that motivates us to act for positive change.
- **Daily Challenge:** What injustice in the world makes you righteously angry? Take one small, constructive action today. Sign a petition, donate to a reputable charity working on the issue, or educate yourself more deeply about it.

## Day 6: Simplifying the Complex

- **Scripture:** Matthew 22:34-40 (The Greatest Commandment)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** When tested, Jesus distilled all 613 commandments down to their essence: Love God with everything you are, and love your neighbor as yourself.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - If I were to honestly assess my life, what do my time, money, and energy reveal that I love the most?
  - How can I better align my daily actions with these two greatest commandments?
  - In what ways do I over-complicate my faith when Jesus has made the heart of it so simple?
- **Today's Application:** It's easy to get lost in the complexities of theology and Christian living. Jesus constantly brings us back to the simple, profound center: love.
- **Daily Challenge:** Evaluate your main motivation for your activities today. For each task, ask: "Am I doing this out of love for God? Am I doing this out of love for others?" Let love be the filter for your actions.

## Day 7: Rest and Reflection

- Jesus was the master teacher. Which of His responses to conflict or questions this week taught you the most? How can you apply His wisdom to a difficult situation or conversation you are facing?
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## Week 5: The Friend - Jesus in Personal Relationships

This week looks at Jesus' interactions with His close friends and family, revealing His humanity, His loyalty, and His care for those He loved.

### Day 1: Celebrating with Others

- **Scripture:** John 2:1-11 (The Wedding at Cana)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus' first public miracle was to save a wedding host from social embarrassment. He participated in the ordinary celebration of life, showing that He cares about our joy, not just our sorrows.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Do I invite Jesus into my celebrations as well as my crises?
  - How does this miracle show God's concern for our social and emotional well-being, not just our "spiritual" lives?
  - Am I a person who adds to the joy of a celebration, or do I stand on the sidelines?
- **Today's Application:** Following Jesus isn't a somber, joyless affair. God delights in our delight. We can honor Him by being fully present in moments of celebration.
- **Daily Challenge:** Find a way to celebrate with someone today. Congratulate a coworker on a success, take your family for a treat "just because," or send a note to a friend celebrating a milestone.

### Day 2: Balancing Service and Devotion

- **Scripture:** Luke 10:38-42 (Mary and Martha)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus gently corrected Martha, not for serving, but for being "worried and upset about many things." He affirmed that the "one thing" most necessary is sitting with and learning from Him.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Am I more of a "Mary" (a listener) or a "Martha" (a doer) by nature?
  - What practical steps can I take to balance my service for God with my time spent *with* God?
  - What "distractions" keep me from choosing the "one thing" that is needed?
- **Today's Application:** It's easy to get so busy "serving God" that we forget to spend time *with* God. Our service must flow from our devotion.
- **Daily Challenge:** Schedule a "Mary" moment today. Find 10-15 minutes to put away your to-do list and simply sit at Jesus' feet in quiet prayer or Scripture reading.

### Day 3: Reassuring His Fearful Friends

- **Scripture:** Mark 4:35-41 (Calming the Storm)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** The disciples, terrified, accused Jesus of not caring. After calming the storm, His question was personal: "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" He taught them that His presence is more powerful than their circumstances.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - When a storm hits in my life, is my first reaction fear and accusation ("God, don't you care?"), or faith in the One who is with me?

- What does "faith" look like in the middle of a crisis?
- How can the truth of Jesus's authority over nature bring peace to the storms in my heart?
- **Today's Application:** We all face storms. It can feel like Jesus is "asleep." He is teaching us to trust His presence and authority even in the midst of the storm.
- **Daily Challenge:** What is the biggest "storm" in your life right now? Picture Jesus in the boat with you. Speak this truth out loud: "Jesus is with me in this storm, and He has authority over it."

#### Day 4: Forgiving and Restoring a Friend

- **Scripture:** John 21:15-19 (Jesus and Peter After the Resurrection)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Peter was crushed by guilt. Jesus didn't shame him. He shared a meal with him and, with three questions, restored him to ministry. He met Peter's failure with grace and a renewed purpose.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - How do I typically respond to my own failures? Do I accept Jesus's grace and renewed purpose, or do I remain in guilt?
  - Who in my life needs to be offered this same kind of restorative grace instead of judgment?
  - Why was it important for Jesus to restore Peter publicly, in front of the other disciples?
- **Today's Application:** Failure does not have to be final. Jesus is a master at restoring broken people. When we fail, He wants us to return to Him and allow Him to restore our purpose.
- **Daily Challenge:** Is there a past failure that still brings you shame? Spend time in prayer, confessing it again to Jesus. Then, listen for His words of grace and restoration.

#### Day 5: Caring for Family in Crisis

- **Scripture:** John 19:25-27 (Jesus and His Mother at the Cross)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** In the midst of unimaginable agony, Jesus's concern was for his mother's care. He entrusted her to his disciple, John. Even in his final moments, he was thinking of others.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - In my own moments of pain or pressure, am I still mindful of the needs of those around me?
  - How does Jesus's action model true love and responsibility that goes beyond feelings?
  - What practical responsibilities of care has God entrusted to me?
- **Today's Application:** Love and responsibility don't stop in times of personal crisis. Jesus shows that even in our own suffering, we can look beyond ourselves to care for those we love.
- **Daily Challenge:** Think of a family member or close friend. What is one practical thing you can do today to show your care and honor your responsibility to them? Make the call, send the text, or do the favor.

#### Day 6: Creating Lasting Memories

- **Scripture:** Luke 22:14-20 (The Last Supper)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Knowing his time was short, Jesus gathered his friends for an intimate, final meal. He used bread and wine to give them a powerful, tangible way to remember him and his sacrifice.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - What traditions or intentional moments am I creating with my loved ones to build strong relationships and point them toward Jesus?
  - How can I be more present and intentional during routine moments, like meals?
  - What do I want my friends and family to remember most about me?

- **Today's Application:** The people in our lives are precious. We should be intentional about creating meaningful moments and traditions that strengthen our bonds and point us toward what is most important.
- **Daily Challenge:** Be intentional about creating a positive memory with your family or friends today. Put phones away during a meal, share stories, or establish a small, new tradition together.

## Day 7: Rest and Reflection

- Reflecting on Jesus as a friend, what quality do you most admire? His loyalty, His celebratory spirit, His willingness to forgive? How can you be a better friend to others this week by following His example?
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## Week 6: The Redeemer - The Ultimate Example

This final week focuses on the events of Jesus' passion and resurrection, where His character and love were displayed in their most powerful forms.

### Day 1: Submission in Agony

- **Scripture:** Matthew 26:36-46 (The Garden of Gethsemane)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus was honest with God about what He wanted ("let this cup pass from me"), but He ultimately submitted His will to the Father's ("yet not as I will, but as you will").
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - How do I handle moments when my will is in conflict with God's?
  - Am I honest with God about my struggles and pain, or do I put on a brave face?
  - What does it practically look like to surrender my will to God's in a situation I'm facing right now?
- **Today's Application:** It is not unspiritual to be honest with God about our pain. But true faith is shown when, after being honest, we can still surrender the outcome to His wisdom and love.
- **Daily Challenge:** Is there a situation where your will is in conflict with what you believe is God's will? Be completely honest with God in prayer. Then, practice surrender by praying, "Not my will, but yours be done."

### Day 2: Strength in Silence

- **Scripture:** Mark 15:1-5 (Jesus Before Pilate)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** As false accusations were hurled at him, Jesus remained remarkably silent. His silence was not weakness, but profound strength and control. He rested in the Father's ultimate vindication.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - When I am misunderstood or falsely accused, is my main concern my own reputation or God's glory?
  - When is silence more powerful than words? When is it better to defend myself?
  - Where does my sense of identity and security come from? The opinions of others, or my relationship with God?
- **Today's Application:** Our instinct when accused is to defend ourselves. Sometimes, however, the most powerful response is dignified silence, showing that our identity is secure in God.
- **Daily Challenge:** If you face criticism today, resist the immediate urge to defend yourself. Pause. Ask God if this is a time for a gentle answer or a time for quiet strength. Entrust your reputation to Him.

### Day 3: Radical Forgiveness

- **Scripture:** Luke 23:32-34 ("Father, Forgive Them")
- **How Jesus Handled It:** While being nailed to a cross, Jesus' first words were a prayer for his executioners: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." It is the most radical act of forgiveness in history.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Is there unforgiveness in my heart that is holding me captive?
  - What does Jesus's example on the cross teach me about the cost and power of forgiveness?
  - Do I believe forgiveness is a feeling, or a choice I make in obedience to God?
- **Today's Application:** Jesus' example challenges our conditional model of forgiveness. We are called to forgive even when people aren't sorry and when the pain is still fresh. This is a supernatural act, possible only through His power.
- **Daily Challenge:** Who do you need to forgive? Write their name on a piece of paper. In prayer, speak the words, "Father, I choose to forgive [name]." You may not *feel* it yet, but forgiveness is a choice. You can destroy the paper as a symbol of releasing the debt.

#### Day 4: Offering Hope to the End

- **Scripture:** Luke 23:39-43 (The Thief on the Cross)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** Even while dying, Jesus was focused on His mission. When a dying criminal next to him expressed a flicker of faith, Jesus immediately responded with a promise of paradise.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Does this story change my perspective on anyone I've written off as a lost cause?
  - How does this encounter demonstrate the sheer, unmerited grace of salvation?
  - Am I always ready to offer the hope of Jesus, no matter the circumstances?
- **Today's Application:** No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. Our job is not to judge, but to continually offer the hope of Jesus, knowing that even a last-minute cry for mercy is heard.
- **Daily Challenge:** Pray for someone you consider to be "far from God." Pray that their heart would be softened and that they would have an opportunity to see their need for Jesus and cry out to Him.

#### Day 5: Victory Over Death

- **Scripture:** John 20:1-18 (The Resurrection)
- **How Jesus Handled It:** The resurrection is the ultimate demonstration of Jesus' power. He defeated sin and death. He first appeared not to the powerful, but to Mary Magdalene, a devoted female follower.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Do I live my daily life with the hope and power of the resurrection, or do I live as if Jesus is still in the tomb?
  - How does the resurrection change everything about how I view my past sins, my present struggles, and my future death?
  - What does it mean that Jesus honored Mary by appearing to her first?
- **Today's Application:** Because of the resurrection, we do not have to live in fear. We serve a living Savior who has secured our victory. This reality should fill us with profound and unshakable hope.
- **Daily Challenge:** Live in the reality of the resurrection today. When you feel discouraged, remind yourself: "Jesus is alive." When you feel defeated by sin, remind yourself: "Sin's power is broken." Let hope be your defining characteristic.

#### Day 6: A New Beginning

- **Scripture:** John 21:1-14 (Breakfast on the Beach)

- **How Jesus Handled It:** Jesus met his disciples in the normalcy of their daily lives. He cooked them breakfast. This simple, intimate act showed that He would be present with them not just in miracles, but in the ordinary routines of life.
- **Reflection Questions:**
  - Where in the "ordinary" parts of my life do I need to be more aware of Jesus's presence?
  - How does this simple act of service from the risen Lord shape my view of greatness?
  - Do I look for Jesus in the mundane, or only in the spectacular?
- **Today's Application:** The Christian life is about walking with the risen Jesus every single day, in our work, our homes, and our relationships. He meets us in the ordinary.
- **Daily Challenge:** Invite Jesus into the most ordinary parts of your day. As you drive, as you work, as you do chores, talk to Him. Practice recognizing His presence with you in the mundane.

## **Day 7: Final Reflection**

- Look back over the past six weeks. What is the most significant thing you have learned about how Jesus treated people and handled situations? How has this study changed the way you want to live your life and interact with others? Write down one or two key commitments you want to carry forward to continue growing closer to Jesus.