

JESUS

THE
REAL

DEVOTIONAL

A 4 WEEK DEVOTIONAL TO
DISCOVER WHO JESUS REALLY IS

VISION
CHURCH

THE
JOURNEY
RESOURCE

BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

This devotional was created with one goal in mind- to help you see Jesus more clearly. In a world filled with opinions and assumptions about Him, it's easy to form a version of Christ that feels familiar but incomplete.

Over the next four weeks, you'll slow down and return to Scripture. Not to gather information alone, but to anchor your faith in who Jesus truly is- His authority, His compassion, His power, and His finished work.

My prayer is simple: that as you encounter Him through God's Word, your confidence in Christ will grow, your love for Him will deepen, and your life will reflect Him more fully.

Walking with you,

MATT VANDERBILT
LEAD PASTOR



WEEK 1

SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN

Day 1 – The Word Became Flesh

Primary Scripture: John 1:1–14

Additional Readings: Colossians 1:15–20, Hebrews 1:1–3

Devotional Thought:

Jesus was not created. He was with God in the beginning, and He was God. Yet He stepped into human history and took on flesh. The eternal entered time. The Creator walked among us. When we look at Jesus, we are not guessing what God is like. We are seeing God revealed clearly and personally.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus existed before creation?
2. How does this shape your understanding of God's power?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for revealing the Father to us. Help me trust who You truly are. Amen.

WEEK 1

SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN

Day 2 – Fully Man

Primary Scripture: Luke 2:40–52

Additional Readings: Hebrews 4:14–16, James 4:8

Devotional Thought:

Jesus grew, learned, felt hunger, and experienced fatigue. He was tempted yet without sin. He understands weakness because He lived in it. Our Savior is not distant from struggle. He knows what it feels like to walk through real life. His humanity assures us that He truly understands.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you need to remember that Jesus understands your struggle?
2. How does His humanity bring comfort to you?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for understanding my weakness. Help me draw near with confidence. Amen.

WEEK 1

SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN

Day 3 – Authority and Compassion

Primary Scripture: Mark 4:35–41

Additional Readings: Matthew 8:1–3, Psalm 89:9

Devotional Thought:

Jesus calmed storms with a word, yet He also touched lepers and wept with the grieving. His power was never harsh, and His compassion was never weak. He is strong enough to command creation and gentle enough to carry burdens. The real Jesus holds authority and tenderness together.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you struggle more to trust His power or His compassion?
2. What storm in your life needs to be surrendered to Him?

Prayer:

Jesus, help me trust both Your strength and Your heart. Speak peace over my life. Amen.

WEEK 1

SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN

Day 4 – Name Above Every Name

Primary Scripture: Philippians 2:5–11

Additional Readings: John 5:19–23, Isaiah 45:22–23

Devotional Thought:

Though equal with God, Jesus humbled Himself and chose obedience. He did not cling to status but embraced sacrifice. His divinity did not make Him distant. It revealed His humility. True greatness is not grasping for power but trusting the Father's will completely.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Jesus' humility teach you about strength?
2. Where is God calling you to obedience today?

Prayer:

Father, shape my heart to reflect the humility of Christ. Help me walk faithfully. Amen.

WEEK 1

SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN

Day 5 – Son of the Living God

Primary Scripture: Matthew 16:13–17

Additional Readings: Romans 10:9–11, John 20:31

Devotional Thought:

Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?” This question still confronts us. If He is only a teacher, we admire Him. If He is the Son of the living God, we surrender to Him.

Recognizing Jesus as fully God and fully man changes how we live, trust, and follow.

Reflection Questions:

1. How would you answer Jesus’ question today?
2. What area of your life needs to reflect that belief?

Prayer:

Jesus, You are the Son of the living God. Strengthen my faith and my surrender. Amen.

HOW TO BE SAVED

1. ADMIT YOU'RE A SINNER

Every one of us has sinned and fallen short of God's standard. Salvation begins when we honestly admit our need and turn to Him for forgiveness and grace.

Romans 3:23
1 John 1:9

2. BELIEVE IN JESUS

Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for your sins and rose again. Trust that His sacrifice is enough to forgive you and give you new life.

John 3:16
Romans 10:9

3. CHOOSE TO FOLLOW HIM

Choose to follow Jesus as Lord. Surrender your life to Him and begin walking daily in obedience and relationship with Him.

Reach out to our team so we can celebrate with you!



WEEK 2

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 1 – Zeal for His House

Primary Scripture: John 2:13–17

Additional Readings: Psalm 69:9, Malachi 3:1–3

Devotional Thought:

Jesus overturned tables in the temple, not out of rage but righteous zeal. He defended what was sacred. His strength was purposeful, not reckless. The real Jesus is not passive about injustice or hypocrisy. His love for the Father and for people fueled His boldness.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does this moment reveal about Jesus' character?
2. Where might righteous courage be needed in your life?

Prayer:

Lord, give me courage rooted in love, not anger. Shape my strength to reflect Yours. Amen.

WEEK 2

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 2 – Moved with Compassion

Primary Scripture: Matthew 9:35–38

Additional Readings: Luke 7:13-15, Mark 6:34

Devotional Thought:

Jesus saw the crowds and was moved with compassion. His strength did not distance Him from the weak. It drew Him toward them. He healed, touched, and restored. Power in His hands became mercy in action. The Tender Warrior fights for people, not against them.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you move toward or away from others' pain?
2. How can compassion shape your strength?

Prayer:

Jesus, make my heart tender and my actions strong. Teach me to love like You. Amen.

WEEK 2

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 3 – Gentle and Lowly

Primary Scripture: Matthew 11:28–30

Additional Readings: Isaiah 42:1–3, Psalm 23:1-6

Devotional Thought:

Jesus described Himself as gentle and lowly in heart. Gentleness is not weakness. It is strength restrained. He invites the weary to rest, not because He lacks authority, but because He holds it securely. True meekness is power under control.

Reflection Questions:

1. How do you define gentleness?
2. Where do you need to trust Jesus with your burdens?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You that Your strength is safe. Help me rest in who You are. Amen.

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

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WEEK 2

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 4 – Rebuked the Wind

Primary Scripture: Mark 4:35–41

Additional Readings: Luke 4:31-37, Psalm 107:28–29

Devotional Thought:

Jesus commanded storms and silenced demons. His authority was undeniable. Yet He used that power to protect and restore. He did not dominate people. He defended them. The Tender Warrior stands firm against darkness while remaining full of grace.

Reflection Questions:

1. What fears need to be surrendered to Christ's authority?
2. How does His power bring you peace?

Prayer:

Jesus, speak peace into my storms. I trust Your authority and Your care. Amen.

WEEK 2

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 5 – Our Advocate

Primary Scripture: Hebrews 7:23–25

Additional Readings: Romans 8:31–34, 1 John 2:1

Devotional Thought:

Jesus does not only display strength in dramatic moments. He uses it on your behalf. Scripture says He intercedes for us. That means He stands in our defense. He speaks for us. The Tender Warrior does not accuse; He advocates. His power is not turned against you but toward your protection and salvation.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does it change your confidence knowing Jesus defends you?
2. Where do you need to trust Him as your advocate today?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for standing for me. Strengthen my confidence in Your defense and Your grace. Amen.

Don't go through life alone...

JOIN A SMALL GROUP TODAY!

Faith was never meant to be lived alone. Real growth happens in real relationships where you can be known, encouraged, and challenged.



Men, women, young adults, students, and couples all have spaces designed to help you grow stronger in Christ together.

Scan the QR code to join a small group and start building the kind of faith and friendships that last!



WEEK 3

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 1 – The Promised Lamb

Primary Scripture: Isaiah 53:5–7

Additional Readings: John 1:29, 1 Peter 1:18–19

Devotional Thought:

Long before the cross, Isaiah described a suffering servant led like a lamb to the slaughter. Jesus did not become the Lamb by accident. He fulfilled prophecy. Every stripe, every wound, every rejection was foretold. The Lion stepped into history as the Lamb, willingly bearing our sin.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does prophecy strengthen your confidence in Jesus?
2. What does it mean that His suffering was intentional?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for fulfilling every promise. Help me trust Your plan completely. Amen.

VISION
C H U R C H

By His Wounds We Are Healed!
Isaiah 53:5

WEEK 3

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 2 – The Lamb of God

Primary Scripture: John 1:29

Additional Readings: Exodus 12:1–13, Hebrews 12:28

Devotional Thought:

When John saw Jesus, he declared, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” Every Passover lamb pointed forward to Him. The blood that covered doorposts in Egypt foreshadowed the blood that would cover our sin. The Lion of Judah chose to become our substitute so judgment would pass over us.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is your substitute?
2. How should gratitude shape your worship?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for taking my place. Teach me to live in grateful surrender. Amen.

WEEK 3

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 3 – Silent Before His Accusers

Primary Scripture: Matthew 27:11–14

Additional Readings: 1 Peter 2:23-25, Psalm 37:11

Devotional Thought:

The Lion could have called down armies of angels. Instead, He stood silent. Strength restrained is true meekness. He was not powerless. He was purposeful. The Lamb endured injustice so we could receive mercy. His silence was not weakness. It was love under control.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where are you tempted to defend yourself instead of trusting God?
2. What does Jesus' restraint teach you about strength?

Prayer:

Jesus, help me trust Your justice. Teach me strength that is surrendered. Amen.

WEEK 3

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 4 – The Lion of Judah

Primary Scripture: Revelation 5:5–6

Additional Readings: Genesis 49:9–10, Hosea 11:10

Devotional Thought:

He is not only the Lamb who was slain. He is the Lion of Judah. In Revelation, heaven trembles at His authority. He is worthy of honor and power. The Lamb who died now reigns. His sacrifice did not end in defeat. It led to eternal victory.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you see Jesus more as Lamb or Lion?
2. How does His victory give you confidence today?

Prayer:

Jesus, You are worthy of all praise. Help me live boldly under Your reign. Amen.

WEEK 3

TENDER WARRIOR

Day 5 – Worthy Is the Lamb

Primary Scripture: Revelation 5:9-14

Additional Readings: Philippians 2:9–11, Hebrews 12:28

Devotional Thought:

He laid down His life as a Lamb, and now every knee will bow before Him as King. Heaven sings, “Worthy is the Lamb.” His humility led to exaltation. His sacrifice secured redemption. The Lion and the Lamb are one. Power and mercy meet perfectly in Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. How should worship shape your daily life?
2. What area of your life needs to bow to Him?

Prayer:

Jesus, You are worthy. May my life reflect Your greatness and Your grace. Amen.

WATCH ANYTIME

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**NEVER MISS A
SERMON**



WEEK 4

VISIONARY LEADER

Day 1 – Go and Make Disciples

Primary Scripture: Matthew 28:18–20

Additional Readings: Mark 16:15, 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Devotional Thought:

After the resurrection, Jesus did not tell His followers to stay comfortable. He gave them a commission. All authority was His, and He sent them out to make disciples of all nations. The risen King turned fearful followers into sent ones. The mission was clear: reach the lost and multiply faith.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are you living sent or settled?
2. Who is one person God may be asking you to disciple?

Prayer:

Jesus, align my life with Your mission. Make me bold in sharing You. Amen.

WEEK 4

VISIONARY LEADER

Day 2 – Wait for the Promise

Primary Scripture: Luke 24:49

Additional Readings: Acts 1:1-5, Zechariah 4:6

Devotional Thought:

Before sending them out, Jesus told them to wait. They were called, but they were not yet empowered. Vision without power leads to burnout. Obedience sometimes means staying when you want to go. The Spirit would come, and with Him, courage, clarity, and supernatural strength.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are you rushing ahead of God?
2. Where might He be asking you to wait?

Prayer:

Lord, teach me to trust Your timing. Prepare me for what You have called me to do. Amen.

WEEK 4

VISIONARY LEADER

Day 3 – Witnesses to the World

Primary Scripture: Acts 1:6-8

Additional Readings: John 20:19-21, Romans 1:16

Devotional Thought:

Jesus promised power for a purpose. Not for platform. Not for status. Power to be witnesses. From Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, their lives would point to Him. The Spirit would fuel boldness, miracles, and transformed hearts. The mission was always about reaching people far from God.

Reflection Questions:

1. Does your life point others to Jesus?
2. Where is your “Jerusalem” right now?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, empower me to represent Jesus faithfully wherever I am. Amen.

BAPTISM

Baptism is a public declaration that your life belongs to Jesus. It represents surrender, new life, and obedience to Him. If you have trusted Christ and want to publicly profess your faith, this is your next step.

Scan the QR code to learn what to expect, download the baptism brochure, and complete the form to share your testimony and sign up.



LEARN MORE!



WEEK 4

VISIONARY LEADER

Day 4 – Signs and Suffering

Primary Scripture: Mark 16:17–18

Additional Readings: John 15:18-25, 2 Timothy 3:10-16

Devotional Thought:

Jesus spoke honestly. There would be miracles. There would also be persecution. Following Him would bring power and pressure. The early church would heal the sick and endure suffering. Visionary leadership includes truth. The mission is worth both the glory and the cost.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are you prepared for both blessing and resistance?
2. How do you respond when obedience is costly?

Prayer:

Jesus, give me courage to follow You in both victory and hardship. Amen.

VISION
C H U R C H

In This World You Will Have Trouble
John 16:33

WEEK 4

VISIONARY LEADER

Day 5 – Lifted Up Before Their Eyes

Primary Scripture: Acts 1:9–11

Additional Readings: Daniel 7:13–14, Hebrews 9:28

Devotional Thought:

As Jesus ascended, the disciples stood watching. The mission now rested in their hands. The same Jesus who rose would return. Until then, they were called to move. The risen King entrusted His vision to ordinary people filled with extraordinary power. The time was now.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are you standing still or stepping forward?
2. What step of obedience is in front of you today?

Prayer:

Jesus, help me live with urgency and hope as I carry Your mission forward. Amen.

LIVE WITH VISION BE A VISIONARY

Vision Church
143 Church Street
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Sunday Worship @10am

View previous devotionals at
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