



RESONATE CHURCH



A 90 Day Journey

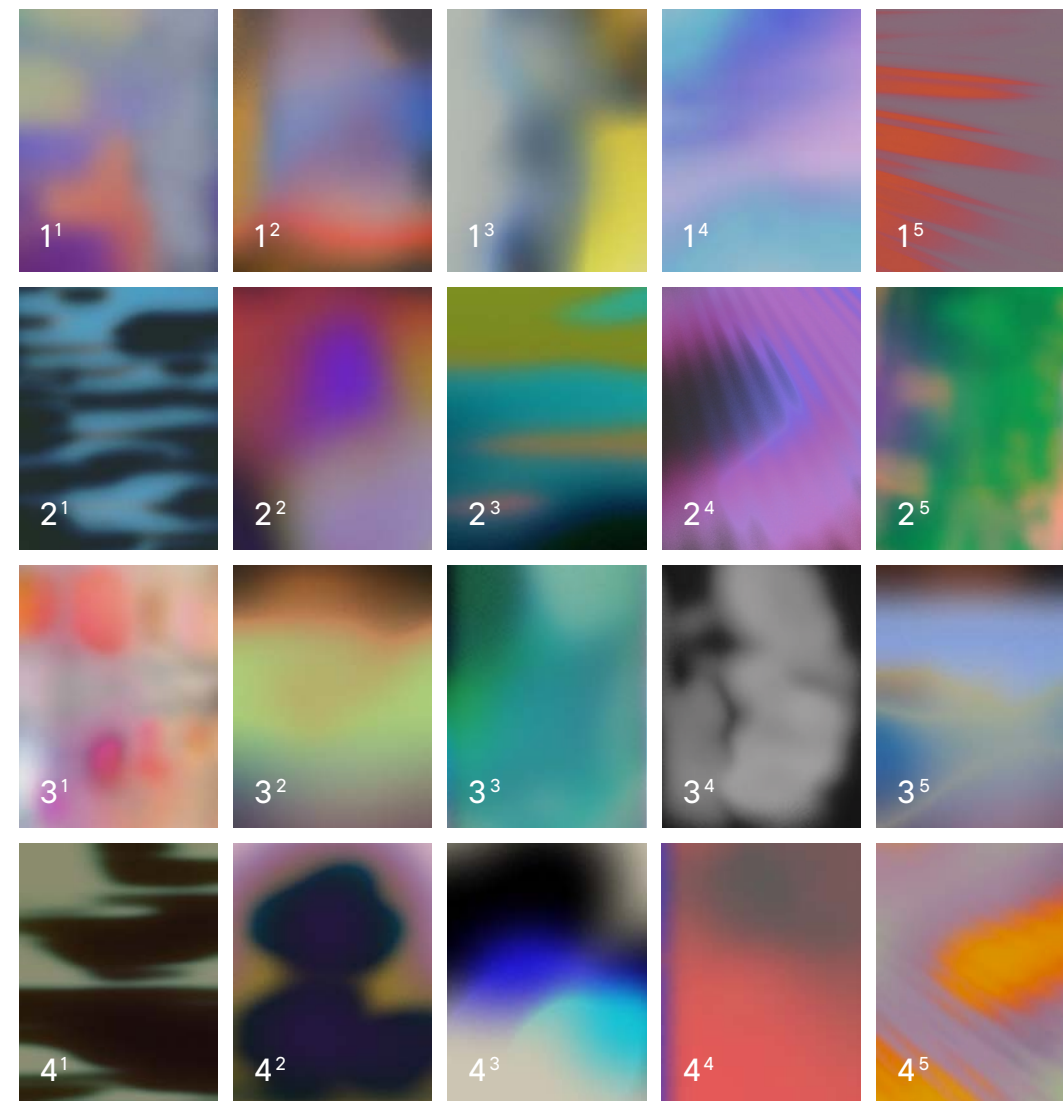
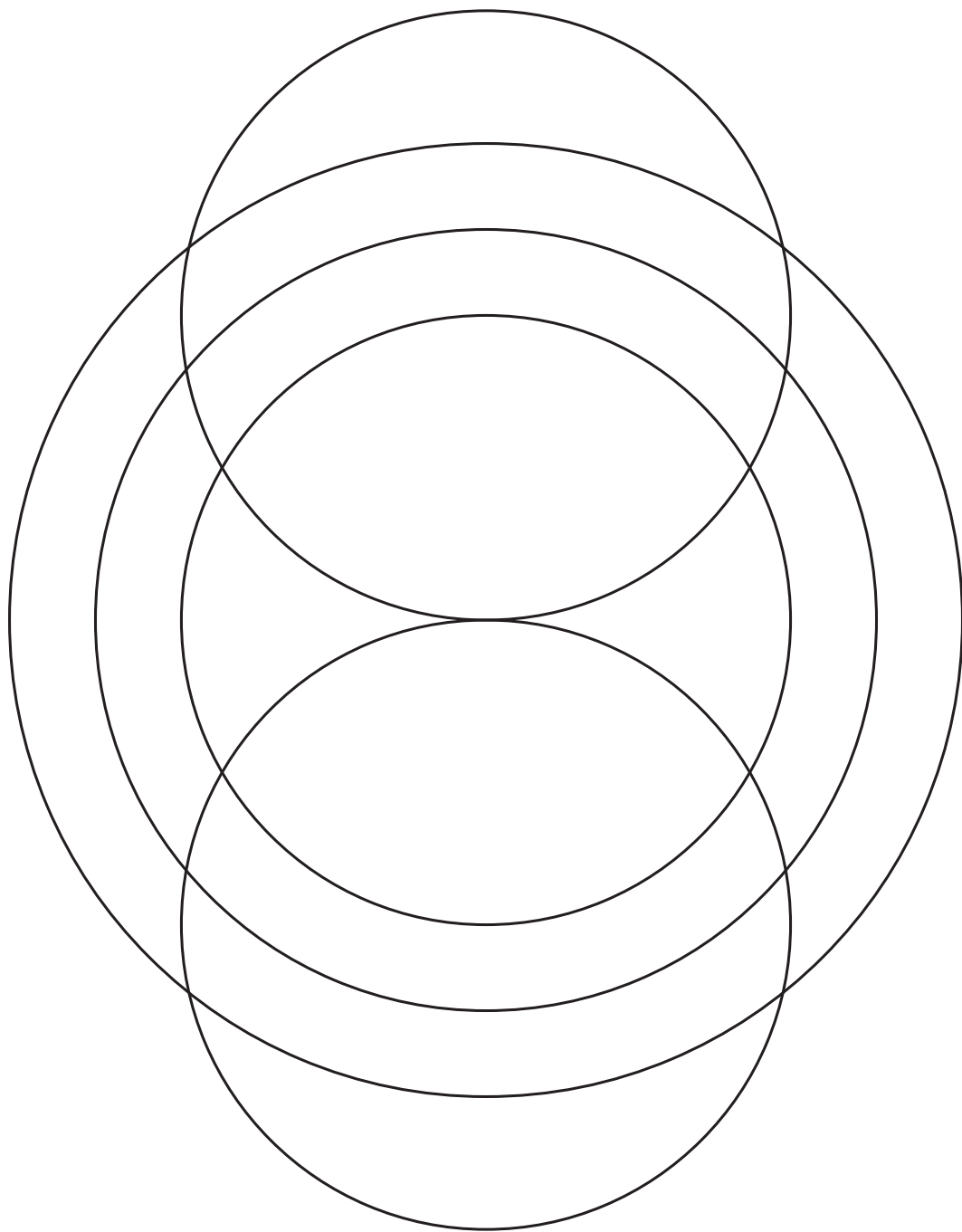
Book 1

New Life

Some of life's greatest accomplishments and discoveries happen when discipline meets curiosity. Welcome to the 90-day Journey of exploring the life and ways of Jesus. We have no doubt that the next 90 days will invite you into some of the most exciting, contemplative, revealing moments of your life so far. This isn't just a devotional or a reading guide, it's a chance to walk with someone who has gone before you and discover the boldest, most transformational invitation you'll ever receive, an invitation to **live**.

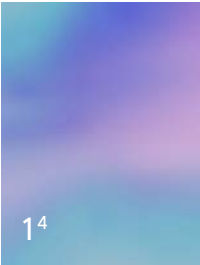
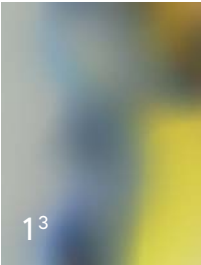
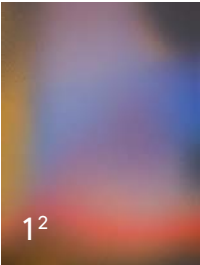
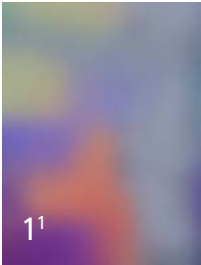
Instructions

1. Each day takes about 15 minutes. Consider finding a time to read that works each day.
2. Use the prompts at the bottom of each page to document your journey.
3. Connect with someone and process what you are learning each week.



Part 1

Discovering Jesus



Week 1

God With Us

The God Who Sees You and Knows You

Is there anyone in your life who knows you completely? Do they know what makes you excited? Do they know what makes you scared? Do they know all your secrets and all of your thoughts? Do they know all your passions, gifts and hopes? Before we begin getting to know Jesus, take a moment to consider this: **God already knows you.** Every part of you. And, He cares deeply for you. Whether or not you've been searching for him, He has been drawing near to you since long before you were born. Today, let's read about the God who sees, knows, and pursues us.

Read Psalm 139

How does the truth that God knows and cares for every part of you invite you to trust Him?

What does Psalm 139 reveal about God's nature and His desire for a relationship with you?

Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

³ You search out my path and my lying down

and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light about me be night,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them,

the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.

¹⁹ Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!

O men of blood, depart from me!

²⁰ They speak against you with malicious intent;

your enemies take your name in vain.

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?

And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

²² I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting!

God With Us

God is much closer than you might imagine. Two thousand years ago, God became human—not as a mighty king, but as a tiny baby, born in a stable, wrapped in simple cloths. His birth isn’t just a moment in history, it’s God’s daring promise to walk beside you, to know you, and to save you. Jesus left heaven because of God’s great commitment to be WITH his people. Today, let’s consider the mystery of a God who comes so near.

Read Luke 2:1-20

Have you ever felt distant from God?

What does this story reveal about God’s heart for humanity?

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

What is God like?

One of the most important questions you could ask is, “What is God like?” Is he angry and judgmental? Is he an affirming fan who never challenges you? Jesus is the very Word of God in human form. He’s the passions and purposes of God embodied. For anyone wondering, “What is God like?” start by looking to Jesus. You might find that He surprises you.

Read John 1:1-18

What comes to mind when you think about God?

How does this story reshape your idea of God’s passions and purposes in the world?

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Follow Me

Follow me. Two words that can change your life. Jesus didn’t give anyone a “morality test.” He didn’t force his beliefs on anyone, or invite anyone to a spiritual event. He just looked at ordinary people—fishermen, outcasts, nobodies—and invited them into something extraordinary. He was inviting them into a relationship, a new way of living, and on a journey that would reshape their identity and purpose. A journey towards a life of purpose, transformation, and hope. And He still invites us into that today.

Read Matthew 4:18-22

How does Jesus’ invitation to “follow me” challenge or encourage you to step into something extraordinary with Him?

What does Jesus’ choice to call everyday fishermen, without prerequisites or tests, reveal about His heart and the kind of relationship He desires with you?

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

The Mission of Jesus

Imagine the most famous person you can think of. When you think of a highly esteemed leader or a really famous person, they're usually not the ones out among the people. They're often out of reach—surrounded by bodyguards, separated by fame, or too busy to notice the needs of ordinary people. But Jesus was completely different. His ministry was radically countercultural. Instead of placing Himself above others, He stepped right into the middle of their pain. He went to the sick, the hurting, and the overlooked—and He healed them. Today let's read about what exactly Jesus came to earth to do.

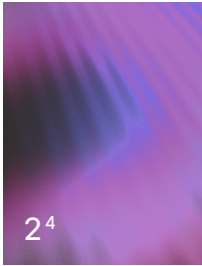
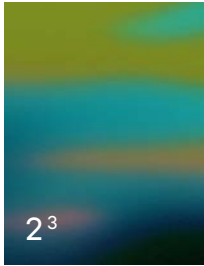
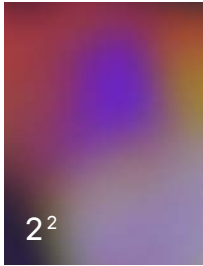
Read Matthew 4:23-25

What are you discovering about how Jesus cares about you?

How do these verses shape your understanding of Jesus' mission and what He came to do for humanity?

Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds

²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.



Week 2

Jesus Brings Life

Peace to the Storm

Life can feel like a storm sometimes. Unexpected, overwhelming, and out of your control. Maybe it’s fear about the future, a loss you didn’t see coming, or a situation that feels too big to fix. In today’s story, Jesus’ friends are caught in a real storm. Waves were crashing, the boat was sinking, and panic was rising. And yet, with just a word, Jesus brings calm. Not only does He have authority over the wind and waves, but over the chaos in our lives too.

Read Mark 4:35-41

How do you typically respond when you face storms—times of fear, uncertainty, or struggle—in your own life?

What does this passage reveal about Jesus’ power and His presence with us in difficult moments?

Jesus Calms a Storm

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Healing the Broken

Usually, we think we know exactly what we need. When something’s not right, we search for a quick fix. But what if the real need is something deeper? Something we can’t even recognize? We often think healing is just about fixing what’s on the outside. But what if there’s more to it than that? Jesus sees all that we need before we do. Let’s read about how He steps into a situation where the answer isn’t what everyone expected.

Read Matthew 9:1-8

How does this story challenge how you think about what you truly need from Jesus?

What does Jesus’ ability to forgive sins and heal the paralyzed man reveal about who He is?

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

¹And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. ²And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” ³And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” ⁷And he rose and went home. ⁸When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Living Water to the Thirsty

What’s the deepest thirst you’ve ever felt? Have you ever had a longing that nothing seemed to quench? Jesus sees every hidden corner of your heart, every ache, every unspoken need. He doesn’t turn away from your past; He draws near with a gift that satisfies forever. In this story, Jesus meets a woman whose life was marked by shame and searching, and offers her living water. He offers true satisfaction and fulfillment. Today, let’s discover how Jesus knows you completely and still invites you to drink deeply of His life.

Read John 4:7-15

How does Jesus’ interaction with the woman challenge how you think about who He came to reach?

What do you think Jesus meant when He offered “living water,” and how does that apply to your life?

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”
⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)
¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?” ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”
¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

Freedom to the Condemned

Eye for an eye. Tooth for a tooth. The punishment must fit the crime. Our society loves the idea of “fair.” We binge-watch murder mysteries and courtroom dramas. We’re all about justice. That is, until we’re the ones on trial. Suddenly, justice doesn’t feel so great. It feels heavy, harsh, and we start wishing for mercy. Today, we’ll read about Jesus’ take on justice and mercy. As you read, think about how Jesus might treat you if you were the one on trial.

Read John 8:2-11

Do you ever feel like you’re too far gone for Jesus to save?

What does this passage teach about how Jesus sees us in our failures?

² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ And

as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”



Salvation to the Lost

Do you ever feel like you’re faking it? Like you’re holding it together on the outside, but inside, you’re desperate for something more? Zacchaeus had money, status, and power, but none of it could quiet the ache in his soul. So when he hears that Jesus is coming, he climbs a tree just to catch a glimpse. What happens next is unexpected. As you read, step into Zacchaeus’ shoes. If Jesus looked at you in that tree, hidden but hoping, how would He respond?

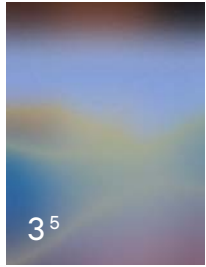
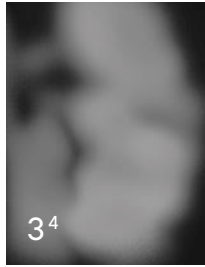
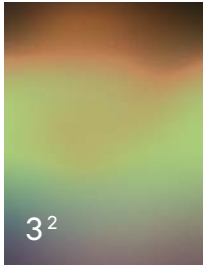
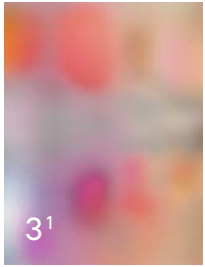
Read Luke 19:1-10

In what ways have you been searching for meaning, hope, or connection, and how might Jesus be inviting you to stop striving and receive something real?

What does Jesus’ response to Zacchaeus reveal about God’s heart toward those who feel unseen, unworthy, or far from Him?

Jesus and Zacchaeus

¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



Week 3

The Great I Am

I am the Bread of Life

Have you ever been so hungry you couldn't seem to get full? No matter how much you ate, that emptiness just wouldn't go away. To be human is to be hungry. Not only for food, but for something much deeper. We try to fill that hunger with all kinds of things, but nothing quite satisfies. Today, let's explore a hunger that only Jesus can truly satisfy.

Read John 6:32-51

How does this passage challenge how you seek fulfillment in your life?

What does it mean for Jesus to be the "Bread of Life?"

³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

⁴¹ So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

I am the Light of the World

There’s a reason children are afraid of the dark. Darkness brings uncertainty, blindness, and even danger. But there’s nothing like the relief of turning on a light in a dark room. Or like sitting around a bright campfire in the middle of a dark forest. What if that’s exactly what Jesus offers us? In a world full of confusion and uncertainty, Jesus claims to be the light that not only guides us out of darkness but also illuminates the heart of God the Father.

Read John 8:12-20

What areas of your life feel lost or uncertain?

What does it mean for Jesus to be the “Light of the World?”

I Am the Light of the World

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

I am the Good Shepherd

Have you ever had a mentor you truly admired? What made them stand out? Was it their wisdom, integrity, or kindness? Great leaders sacrifice for those they lead. A great coach pours time and energy into their team. An amazing parent puts their children’s needs before their own. That’s precisely what Jesus is showing us in this passage. He isn’t just a good leader who invests in His people; He’s the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep.

Read John 10:1-18

What does this passage reveal about the depth of Jesus’ care and commitment to you personally?

What does it mean for Jesus to be the “Good Shepherd?”

I Am the Good Shepherd

¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

I am the Resurrection of Life

Our bodies are slowly marching toward death. It’s inevitable, and it’s a reality we all must face. Death is terrifying because it feels final. There’s a sense that nothing can reverse it. But what if death isn’t the end? Jesus spent His time on earth bringing life where there was death. He spent his time healing the sick, restoring broken relationships, and even raising the dead. Today, we’ll read about the story of Lazarus, a powerful reminder that Jesus doesn’t just give life; He is the resurrection and the life.

Read John 11:1-15, 38-44

How does this story challenge how you think about life and death?

What does it mean for Jesus to be the “Resurrection and the Life?”

The Death of Lazarus

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

Jesus Raises Lazarus

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Sometimes life feels like a maze. Do you ever feel lost? Like you need a map or a guide to help you find the right direction? We make thousands of choices daily, wondering if we’re headed the right way. In Jesus, we don’t just have a map to heaven someday; we have a person to follow, One who leads us to know God today. He doesn’t just show us the way—He is the way. And when we follow Him, we begin to experience life as it was intended.

Read John 14:1-14

Where do you feel uncertain, directionless, or unsure of what’s true, and what might it look like to trust Jesus as your way forward?

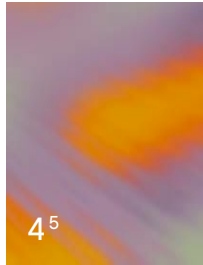
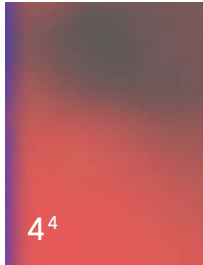
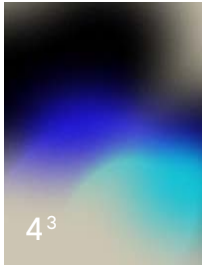
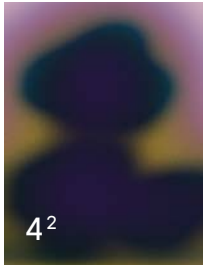
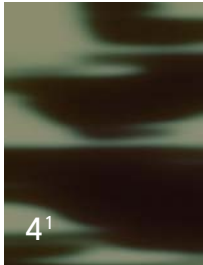
What does it mean for Jesus to be the “Way, the Truth, and the Life?”

I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.



Week 4

Hope is Alive

The Source of Life

Have you ever had your phone die when you needed it most? It’s crazy how something so useful can become completely useless when it’s not connected to power. We’re not much different. We were created to stay connected to something, too. Without the right power source, we feel drained, depressed, and directionless. Jesus tells us exactly where to stay if we want to thrive. Let’s read what He says about remaining connected to Him.

Read John 15:1-11

What does it look like for you to “abide” in Jesus, and how does that affect your daily life?

What does it mean for Jesus to be the “True Vine?”

I Am the True Vine

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Coming Home

Sometimes we act recklessly. We buy things we don’t need, say things we regret, and make choices without considering the consequences. Some of these decisions are small, but others can have lasting effects. Today, we’ll meet two brothers: one who recklessly runs away from his home and family, and the other who grows angry and jealous when his brother returns. Jesus tells this story to reveal God’s heart toward both the reckless and the resentful. Whether you’ve wandered far or stayed close but grown hard, Jesus shows us a Father who responds with forgiveness, love, and an invitation to come home.

Read Luke 15:11-31

How does this story challenge your understanding of God’s grace and forgiveness?

What does this parable reveal about God’s love and willingness to restore those who return to Him?

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the

son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

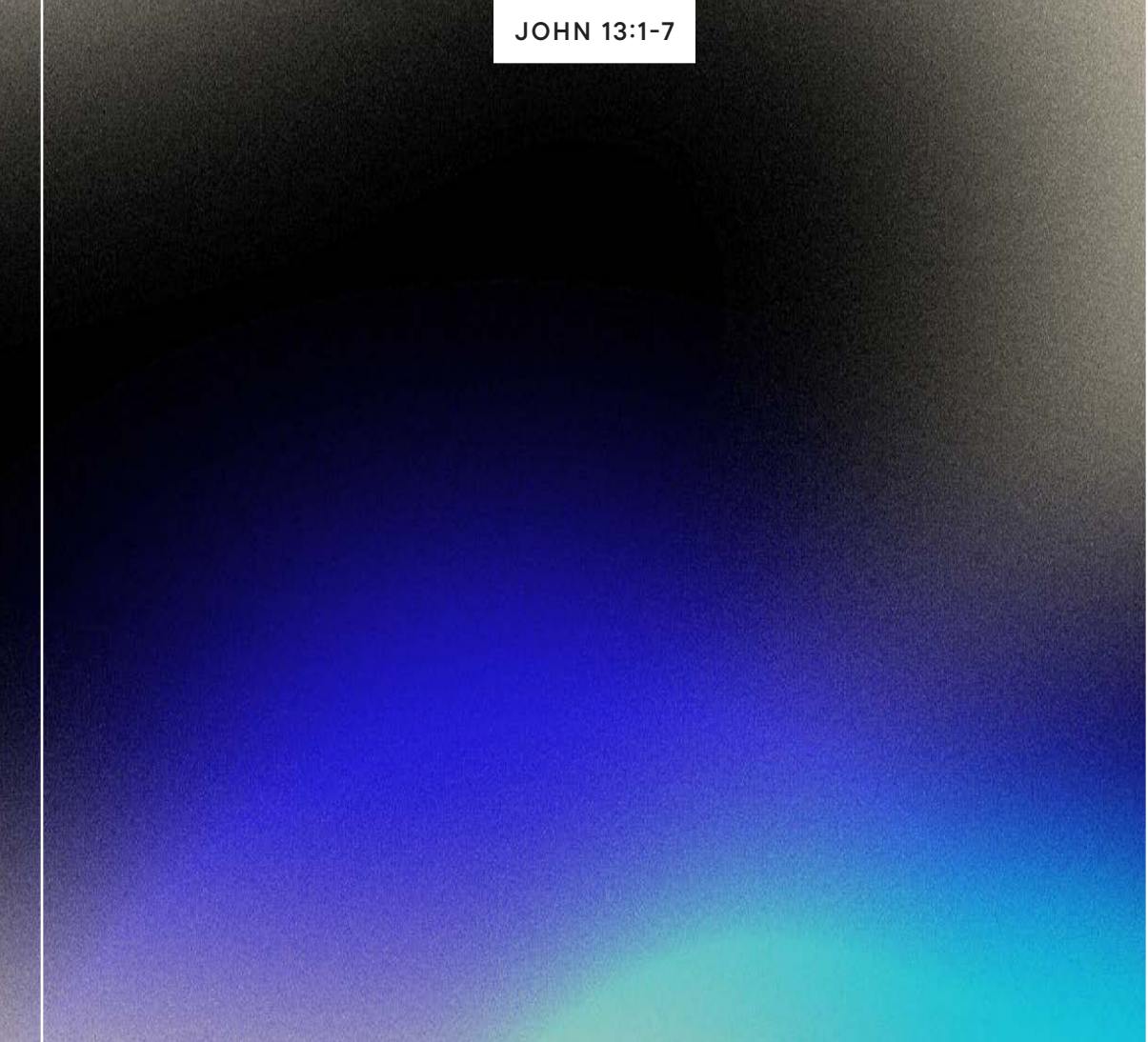
The Servant King

What would you do for power? Most people climb, fight, or manipulate to get to the top. But not Jesus. Jesus didn't come to take power; He came to give it away. He didn't demand service, He served those around him. The King of the universe humbled Himself in a way that completely redefined greatness. Today, let's read about a powerful moment where Jesus shows us what true leadership looks like.

Read John 13:1-7

In what areas of your life do you tend to seek power or recognition? How might Jesus' example of serving others instead of demanding service challenge your approach?

What does Jesus' act of humility in washing His disciples' feet reveal about His character and the kind of leader He is?



Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God

and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."

Love Poured Out

There are moments in history that shift everything. Moments that divide time, reshape culture, and leave a lasting mark. But no event has ever carried the weight of what happened on the cross. At the cross, love was tested like never before, and the grace of God was lavished upon his people. In an instant, the weight of all past, present, and future sin was borne and paid for. Today, let’s pause and reflect on Jesus’ profound sacrifice and how it changes everything for us.

Read Luke 23:39-49

How does the crucifixion reveal the depth of God’s love for you?

What does Jesus’ willingness to endure such suffering teach you about the nature of His mission and the cost of forgiveness?

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Living Hope

Just when everything seemed lost, when hope was crushed and darkness had the final word, something unexpected happened. Death couldn't hold Jesus, and the grave couldn't contain him. What appeared to be the end was only the beginning. Today, we celebrate the moment that changed everything. The empty tomb proves that Jesus is who he said He was and that He truly has power over sin and death. As you read today, think about what it means for your life if Jesus really is alive.

Read Luke 24:1-12, 36-43

How does the resurrection of Jesus impact your understanding of life, death, and hope?

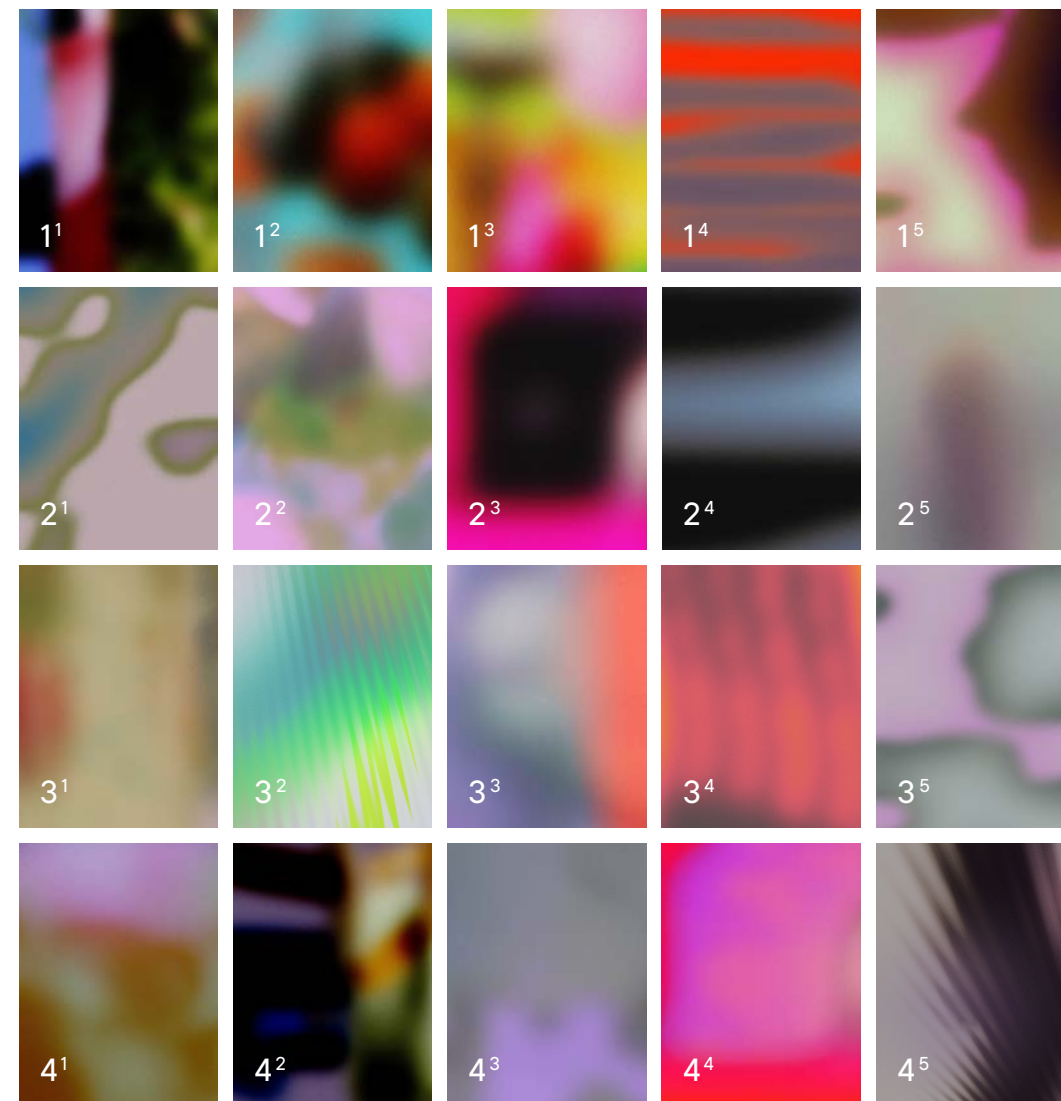
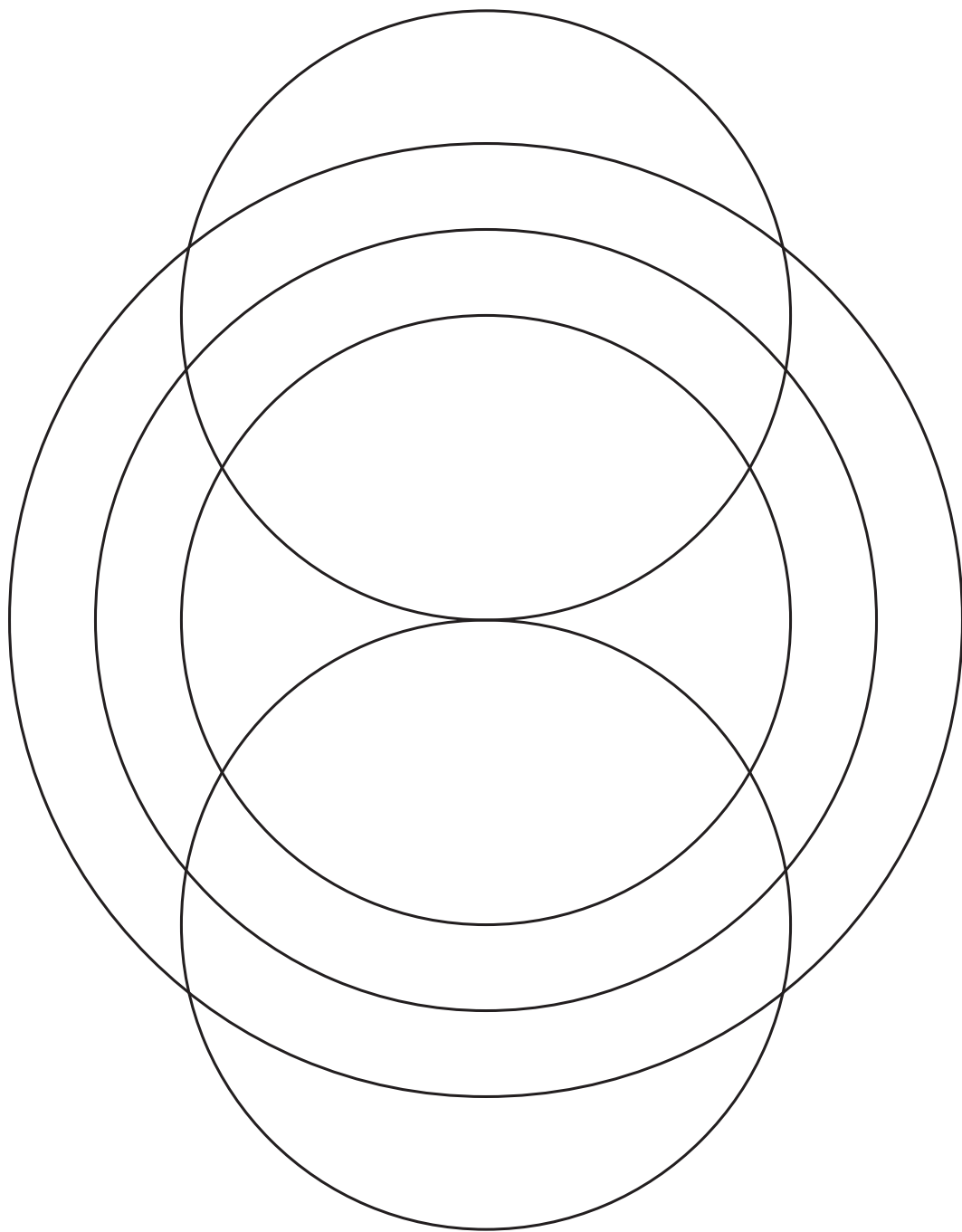
What does the resurrection of Jesus teach you about God's power?

The Resurrection

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

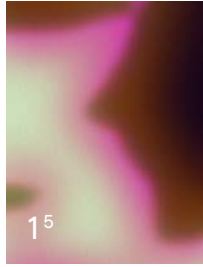
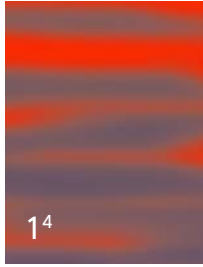
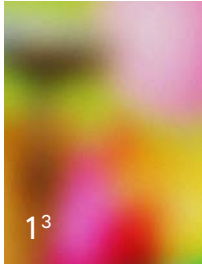
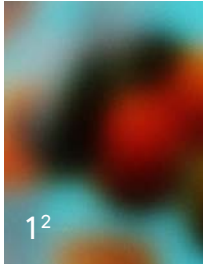
Jesus Appears to His Disciples

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.



Part 2

The Kingdom of God



Week 1

The Nature of the Kingdom

An Eternal Home in the Kingdom

One of the most daring and heavy things to ask yourself in this life is, “What happens when I die?” There is a reason we constantly avoid sitting in our thoughts and contemplations of a life outside of this earth – It’s scary! For the believer who has placed their trust and faith in Jesus, the bible gives us relief and hope, allowing anxiety and fear to fade away. The passage today allows us to truly understand our eternal home.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

How does considering eternal life make you think about your priorities?

What does this verse reveal about God’s promise for His people?

Our Heavenly Dwelling

¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

The Higher Ways of the Kingdom

Life is complex. Things don't totally go the way we plan. Whether it's rain on a day we hoped to be sunny, or a tragic death where we hoped to share life with someone for much longer. It's full of small and massive life-changing moments that we may never get an answer to in this life. For the Christian, we put our hope in the good news that there is someone in control with much more power and knowledge over the outcomes we face each day. Someone wiser than you can comprehend, and more loving than you could ever imagine.

Read Isaiah 55:9-11

How would your life change if you trusted God's ways even when you don't understand them?

What does this verse reveal about God's wisdom and sovereignty?

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return without watering the earth, making it bud and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, ¹¹ so My word that proceeds from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and it will prosper where I send it.

Storing Treasures in Heaven

It’s so easy to put all your hope into what you can see. There is much to achieve, build, experience, and chase after in this world! Every day is a new opportunity to build the life you want. We are told things like... “You only live once,” and “I’m not here for a long time, but I am here for a good time.” And while those things have some truth, they also reflect a narrative much smaller than the bible’s vision. Let’s see what the bible says about how citizens of heaven should think about their lives on earth.

Read Matthew 6:19-20

Where do you invest most of your time and resources?

Why does God call us to store up treasures in heaven?

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Seeking First the Kingdom

As life evolves and seasons change, our priorities change. From being a kid, to being in school, and one day starting a family, ... our goals and pursuits change significantly. We get locked into a routine and habits to achieve goals and pursue dreams. There is a moment with Jesus in the bible where he invites us to consider our priorities in a whole new order. Let's see what God says about our ambitions and pursuits.

Read Matthew 6:25-33

What is your highest priority in life?

How does God say he will provide when we seek His Kingdom above all?

Do Not Be Anxious

²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? Consider how the lilies of the field grow: They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles strive after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.

The Kingdom is Received with Childlike Faith

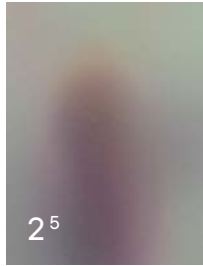
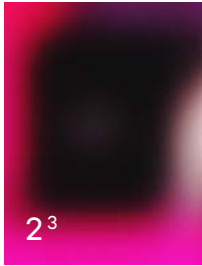
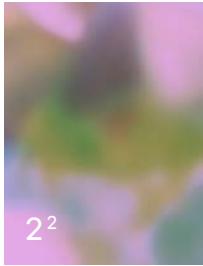
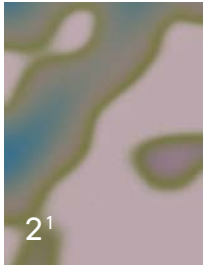
It seems counterintuitive or irresponsible to take on something like a child when you are an adult. When you are young, you drift into things, trust blindly, and leap into your parents’ arms. You play without regard and dream without limits. This is the kind of person that Jesus says will be able to receive the Kingdom of God.

Read Luke 18:16-17

What would it take for you to trust God with the simplicity and faith of a child?

Why does God value childlike faith in His Kingdom?

¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”



Week 2

The Upside Down Kingdom

The King that Serves

‘The Upside Down Kingdom’ is a term used to describe the difference between the way the world sees success and God’s view of success. While it’s so easy to chase a life and actions that serve ourselves in pursuit of a dream or goals, the bible points to a totally different definition of what it means to be great.

Read Mark 9:35

How could you serve others more selflessly?

Why does God value servanthood over status?

³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Peace That Doesn't Make Sense

When Jesus promised His disciples the Holy Spirit, He wasn't just talking about power or knowledge He was talking about presence. God's **presence**. With them. In them. Always.

And right in the middle of that promise, He gives a gift the world desperately wants but can never truly offer: **peace**. Not the kind of peace that comes from a quiet room or an easy life. But a deep, soul-level calm rooted in the unshakable truth that **God is with us**, even in the chaos.

The Holy Spirit doesn't just teach or remind us; He **settles us**. He whispers truth when lies get loud. He brings Jesus' words to mind when we forget. He anchors us when fear tries to take over.

Heaven touches earth through **the peace of God in the people of God**. That kind of peace stands out in a noisy, anxious world. It's not manufactured, it's received.

Read John 14:25–27

Where in my life do I need to receive the peace Jesus offers through the Holy Spirit?

What does it say about God that He gives us peace through His presence, not our circumstances?

²⁵ These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Loving Enemies and Forgiving Others

In a world of war, backstabbing, lies, hate, and pain from all of the above. Jesus invites us, again, to join an upside-down kingdom. When it feels like retaliation is the only way out, mockery and gossip. Jesus invites us to do something unthinkable. The bible says that because of sin, we were enemies of God, disconnected from him and his way. But even while we were enemies. He sent His Son to die for us. That would be like doing the nicest thing you've ever done for anyone to the person who deserves it the least, whom you despise the most. Let's discover what exists on the other side of an unthinkable response.

Read Luke 6:27-35

Is there someone you need to forgive today?

Why does God call us to love and forgive even when it's difficult?

Love Your Enemies

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

Finding Strength in Weakness

In the world, strength looks like power, control, success, and having it all together. But in the Kingdom of God, strength often shows up in the form of dependence, humility, and even weakness. God’s power isn’t reserved for the strong; it’s made perfect in weakness. God is just getting started when we’re at the end of ourselves. In the upside-down Kingdom, surrender leads to strength.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Where in your life do you feel weak, and how might God want to show up there?

Why does God reveal His power through our weakness?

⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Losing to Gain

Everything in life tells us to protect ourselves, build our brand, get ahead, and make life about me. But Jesus says the opposite: if you want to gain your life, you must lose it. That sounds crazy – until you realize He’s talking about eternal life, deep joy, and true purpose. In the upside-down Kingdom, dying to self is the only way to really live.

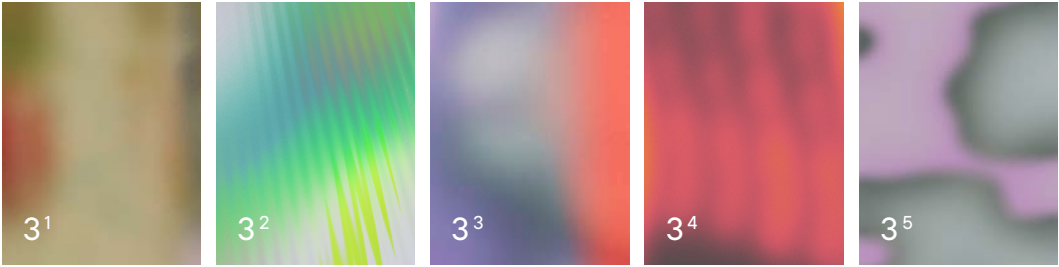
Read Matthew 16:24-26

What’s one area of your life where Jesus might call you to surrender or “lose” something?

Why does following Jesus often require sacrifice?

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”



Week 3

The Kingdom of Old

A Garden With a Purpose

Can you imagine the most amazing place you have ever been? It's likely a place that is special to you. When God made the earth, he knew it would have value and beauty for us to enjoy! But when he made people, he gave us an even deeper beauty. He creates man and woman in HIS image, giving us value that cannot be stripped. A perfect relationship in a perfect garden.

But things fell apart when people chose their own way over God's. The story of the Bible is about how God is working to restore that world again, and it starts with a garden, where Heaven and Earth are united.

Read Genesis 1:26-28

What kind of world do you wish existed?

What does this story say about the kind of world God wants?

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

A Promise to Bless the World

Ever feel too old, too young, too ordinary to be used by God? Meet Abraham. In Genesis 12, God calls this 75-year-old man with no children and no status to leave everything familiar, because God had a plan.

God promises to make Abraham a great nation, to bless him, and through him, bless the entire world. But this wasn't just about one man or one family. God was beginning a people who would reflect His heart, His justice, mercy, love, and live in a way that pointed others to Him.

And here's the wild part: if you belong to Jesus, you're part of that same promise. You carry that same calling to live in a way that reveals who God is and brings blessing wherever you go.

Abraham just said yes. And that, yes, changed everything.

Read Genesis 12:1-3

How could a life of purpose extend beyond just me?

What does it say about God that His promise was always meant to include the whole world?

The Call of Abram

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

A Different Kind of King

As God promised, Abraham’s lineage grew and grew into a people called the Israelites. A people who truly reflected his heart and kept his ways. They were also like us; they failed, made mistakes, and disobeyed God.

They begged for a king who would protect them and make them powerful. So God gave them Saul, but it didn’t go well. Then God sent them King David—a flawed but faithful man after His own heart. God walked closely with David, guiding him through some of the most difficult moments of his life. He displayed his power and glory throughout his life. And through David, God made a new promise: One day, a greater King would come. One who would rule with justice and heal what’s broken, forever.

Read 2 Samuel 7:9-14

What kind of leader or ruler would you actually want to follow?

What does it mean that God promises a King who will reign forever?

⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.”

A People Set Apart

As Abraham’s lineage grew into the nation of Israel, God gave them something unique: His law. When God gave Israel His law, it wasn’t just about rules; it was about relationships. At the heart of everything He asked of them was one simple, powerful command: love. Not the shallow kind we toss around casually, but a deep, all-in kind of love directed toward the God who created them, rescued them, and called them into something greater.

This kind of love wasn’t meant to stay private. It was meant to shape how they lived, how they treated people, how they built their communities, and how they made decisions. A society shaped by love would look different. And that was the point.

Read Deuteronomy 6:5

What would need to change to build your life around love for something bigger than just yourself or your life?

Why would God make love the foundation of His Kingdom?

The Greatest Commandment

¹ “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

A Kingdom for All Nations

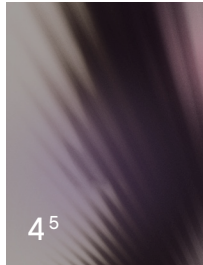
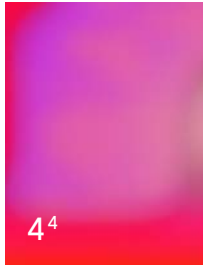
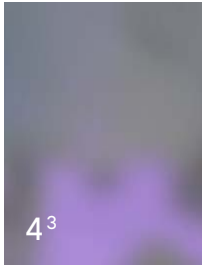
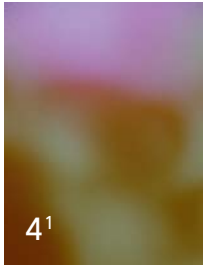
We were all born into a world divided. Divided by opinion, policy, country, tradition, preference, hate, but Paul gives us a picture of a world together by showing us what God’s plan is to unite people no matter their background, race, status, and it happens not through power but humility. Paul explains how our submission and perspective of Jesus as King over all actually unites all of us together. Our unitedness has nothing to do with what we have done, but what has been done for us.

Read Philippians 2:9-11

Where do I see people divided, and what would unity actually look like?

What does this vision from Paul tell you about God?

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Week 4

Heaven on Earth

Kingdom Light

The story of Jesus paints a picture of a world made right: where injustice is replaced with justice, where broken things are restored, and where people live with purpose and peace. And here’s the wild part – He invites regular people like us to be part of it. To live lives that bring light into dark places. Not by being perfect, but by being changed by something real. Something bigger.

Read Matthew 5:14-16

What kind of impact do I want my life to have on the people around me?

How does God use his people to shine light into the world?

¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

A Glimpse of Glory

In the early days of the Church, something breathtaking happened. Ordinary people began living extraordinarily—sharing meals, praying together, giving sacrificially, and worshiping joyfully. And what happened as a result? Heaven brushed up against earth. The Spirit of God wove their lives together into something whole and holy.

This wasn’t just community, it was communion. A light-filled, reconciled people living under the reign of Jesus, showing the world what it looks like when heaven comes near. No one was left out. No one was unseen. Needs were met, hearts were softened, and the love of God was so tangible that people couldn’t stay away. It was a preview of the future, a kingdom coming, even now, wherever Christ is King.

Read Acts 2:42–47

Where in your daily life, your home, church, or neighborhood, could you more intentionally live out the Kingdom values of shared life, generosity, and joy?

What does this passage show you about God’s heart for His people and His desire to bring heaven near through His Church?

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A Royal Priesthood

What if you weren't just saved from something, but also saved for something? Peter describes followers of Jesus as a royal priesthood, a group set apart not only to belong to God but to represent Him to the world. In the Old Testament, priests stood in the gap between God and people. Now, every believer carries that priestly calling.

This isn't about rituals or robes, it's about being a living link between heaven and earth, a walking invitation to experience God's goodness, mercy, and beauty. Our lives, words, and presence are meant to proclaim His excellencies. We shine light by living in His light.

Being a "royal priesthood" means we carry both authority and humility: the authority of God's Spirit in us, and the humility of those who once walked in darkness but now reflect His marvelous light. Heaven touches earth when God's people live out who they really are.

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10

How can I more intentionally live as someone who reflects God's goodness to those around me?

What does it say about God that He chooses ordinary people to be His royal priests?

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Ambassadors of Reconciliation

In Christ, the world is being made new. As believers, we’re not simply waiting for God’s Kingdom to come; we’re invited to live as part of its breaking in. God has already reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and now we carry the message of that reconciliation. He’s made us ambassadors not just bearers of news, but active participants in God’s restoration plan. The old has passed away, and the new has already come. We live in that “in-between” moment, where the Kingdom is here and not yet fully realized.

The beauty of the Gospel isn’t just that we are reconciled to God and are now agents of reconciliation in a broken world. Wherever we go, whatever we do, we carry this mission: to point others toward Christ and His transforming love, as we wait for the day when God’s Kingdom is fully restored.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17–20

What does this passage reveal about God’s heart for restoration and His desire to make us part of His redemptive work?

In what areas of your life can you actively live into reconciliation both with God and others?

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.

God’s Kingdom Fully Restored

What if the world isn’t meant to stay the way it is – filled with pain, injustice, and heartbreak? What if there’s a bigger story being told? One where things are being made right, where healing is possible, and love has the final word?

The story of the Bible begins with a world full of beauty, purpose, and connection. It ends with a renewed world—where heaven and earth come together, where God lives with people, and where all the brokenness is undone. That might sound like a dream, but what if it’s actually the future?

Those who follow Jesus believe they’re meant to live in a way that gives the world a preview of that better future through love, justice, compassion, and hope.

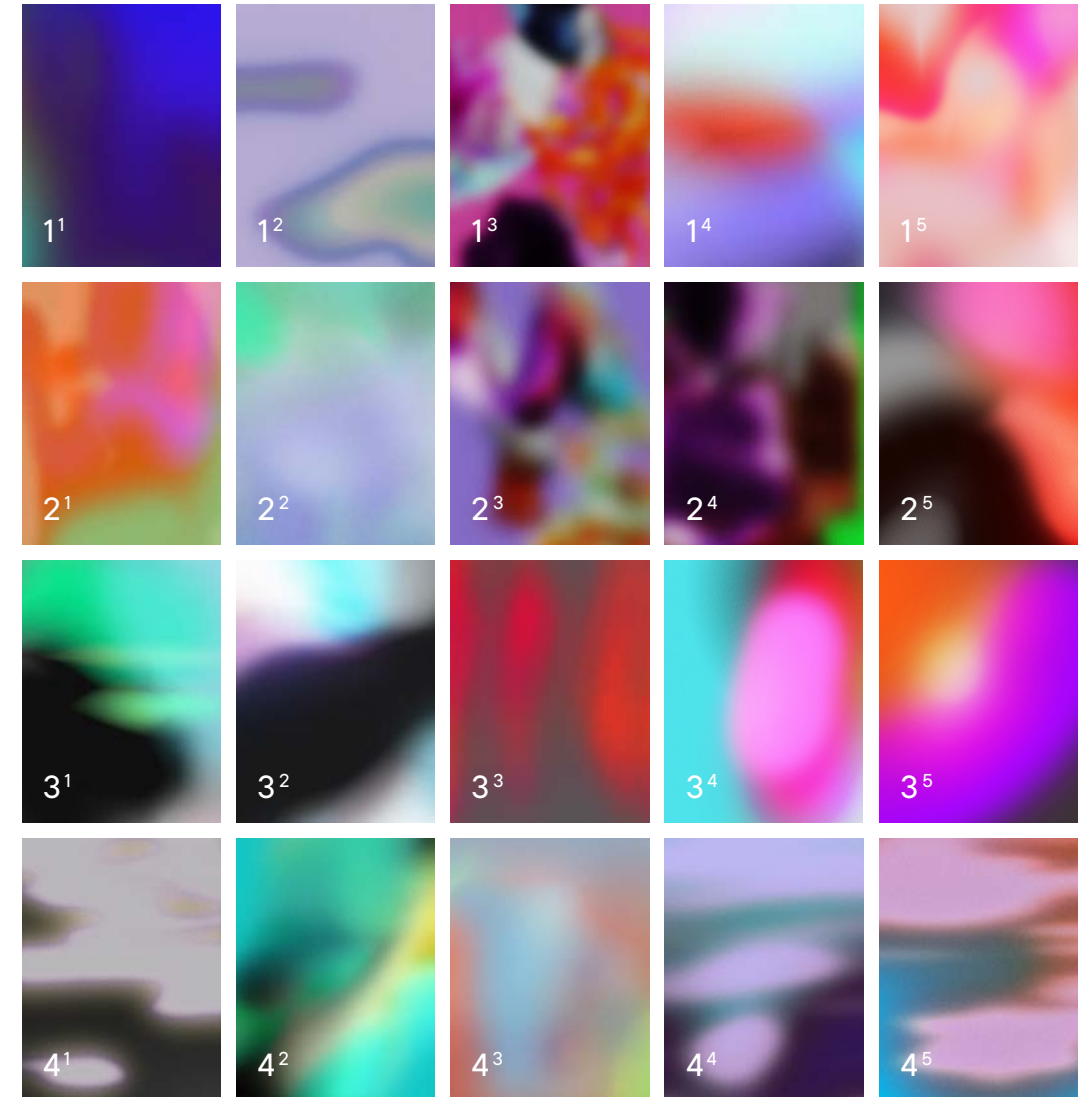
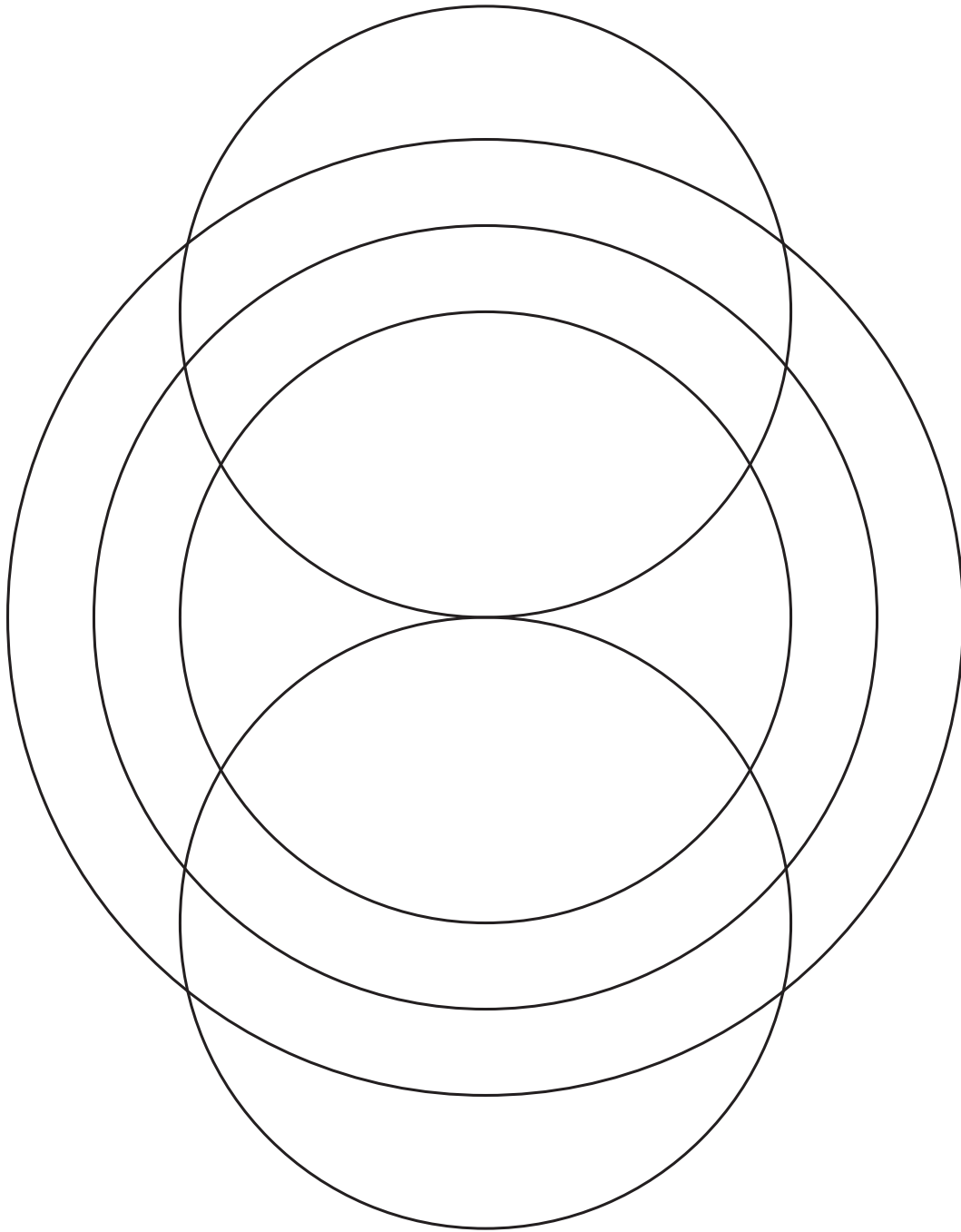
This is the Hope that anchors the Christian.

Read Revelation 21:3-5

Where in the world, or in my life, do I long to see things made new?

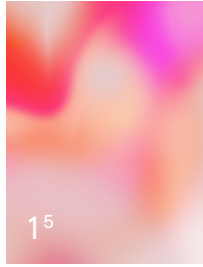
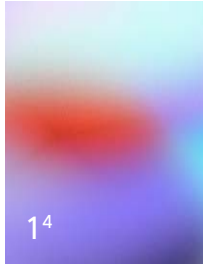
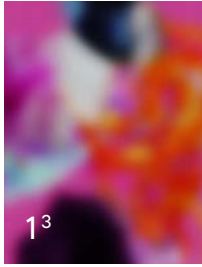
How does this passage help you to understand who God is and what he wants?

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.



Part 3

Sin, Salvation + being a disciple



Week 1

The Romans Road

The Reality of Sin

We often think of “sin” as just doing something bad, but the Bible describes it as our tendency to live apart from the way God designed life to work. Romans 3:23 says that everyone falls short of God’s standard. Not just some people, but all of us. Whether or not you have put your faith in Christ, you’ve probably felt the weight of brokenness in the world or even within yourself. This verse invites us to be honest about that. Before we can truly understand what grace and hope look like, we have to be willing to admit that we need them.

Read Romans 3:23

In what ways have I personally seen the effects of sin in my life and the world around me?

If God is loving, why does He allow sin to exist?

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The Consequence of Sin

Every action comes with consequences, and sin is no different. Today’s reading reminds us that sin leads to death, which is spiritual separation from God. That’s a heavy truth, but it also sets the stage for the incredible hope we have in Christ. As we reflect today, let’s think about how the consequences of sin show just how much we need God’s grace in our lives.

Read Romans 6:23

How do I see the consequences of sin playing out in my thoughts, actions, and relationships?

Why does sin deserve such a severe consequence as death?

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God’s Response to Sin

Even though we were far from perfect, God didn’t abandon us. Instead, He showed His incredible love by sending Jesus to take our place. Today’s reading reminds us that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. We didn’t do anything to deserve it, but it was all a gift of love and grace. So today, let’s take some time to think about the depth of God’s mercy and what Christ’s sacrifice truly means for us.

Read Romans 5:8

How does knowing Christ died for me while I was still a sinner change the way I see my relationship with Him?

What does Jesus’ death on the cross reveal about God’s justice and mercy?

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Salvation Through Faith

The gospel is simple, but it changes everything: salvation isn't about what we do, but about believing in what Christ has already done for us. Today's reading reminds us that anyone who confesses Jesus as Lord and believes in His resurrection will be saved. So, let's take a moment to dig into what it really means to put our trust in Jesus wholeheartedly.

Read Romans 10:9-10

Have I personally placed my faith in Jesus, and if so, how has that changed my life?

What does it mean to truly believe in Jesus, not just intellectually, but with my whole heart?

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

New Life in Christ

For those of us who belong to Christ, there’s no condemnation. We’re free! Today’s reading reminds us that in Jesus, we’re no longer held captive by sin or guilt. As we wrap up this week, let’s take a moment to reflect on how this freedom changes everything. How does it shape the way we think, live, and interact with God and others? This truth isn’t just something we believe; it’s something that should transform every part of us.

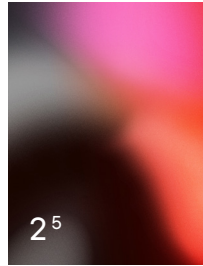
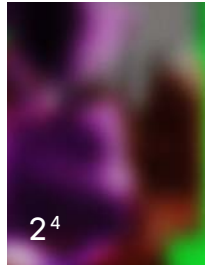
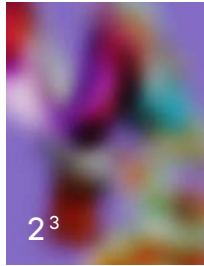
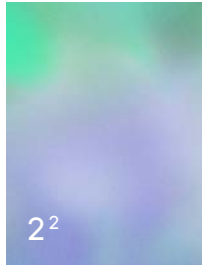
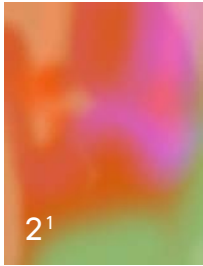
Read Romans 8:1

How does living without condemnation affect the way I view myself and others?

What does it mean to walk in freedom as someone who is “in Christ Jesus”?

Life in the Spirit

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.



Week 2

Transformation

A New Heart

The message of Jesus is one of transformation, not just on the surface, but deep within. The Bible talks about becoming a “new creation,” not through self-improvement, but through a heart made new by God. It’s not about quick fixes or perfect behavior. It’s about being open to change that starts from the inside out. This kind of change doesn’t usually happen all at once. It takes time. We must learn to trust, to grow, and to let go of what’s weighing us down. No matter where you are in your journey, God wants to start something new in your heart. Are you open to it?

Read Ezekiel 36:26

What areas of your life need God’s touch today?

How does God’s gift of a new heart change the way I approach life and relationships today?

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Renewing Your Mind

We live in a world that constantly tells us how to think, what to value, and who we should be. But Paul reminds us that transformation starts with our minds. It’s about choosing God’s truth over the world’s lies and letting His Word shape how we see ourselves and others. The process of renewing our minds isn’t instant; it’s daily.

Read Romans 12:2

How can you align your thoughts more closely with God’s? What lies do you need to replace with His truth?

How does God’s Word challenge the way I think about myself and my purpose in life?

²³ Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

God’s Not Finished Yet

Have you ever started something with good intentions, maybe a goal, a habit, or a fresh start, only to lose steam along the way? We all know what it’s like to begin with hope and then face setbacks, doubts, or distractions. That’s why this verse is so powerful. It reminds us that when God starts something in us, He doesn’t give up. Even if you’re not sure what you believe yet, just the fact that you’re curious, asking questions, or searching for something more might be the beginning of His work in you. And the good news? God finishes what He starts. You don’t have to have it all figured out. You just need to be open.

Read Philippians 1:6

What is holding you back from opening your heart to God?

What if God is more patient and committed to your growth than you’ve ever imagined?

⁸ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

The Power of the Spirit

Life can sometimes feel like a tug-of-war between who we are and who we want to be. This passage in Galatians talks about that inner struggle, the tension between our natural impulses and the life God offers through His Spirit. It’s honest about the mess but also full of hope. The “fruit of the Spirit” isn’t about forcing ourselves to be better people. It’s about what starts to grow in us when we begin to walk with God (things like love, joy, peace, and patience). It’s not instant or perfect, but it’s real. The idea here isn’t about trying harder, but being open to a different way, one led by the Spirit, not by pressure or shame.

Read Galatians 5:16-24

What qualities do you want to see growing in your life?

If God’s Spirit really does lead to things like peace and joy, would you want to know Him more?

Keep in Step with the Spirit

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

New Creation

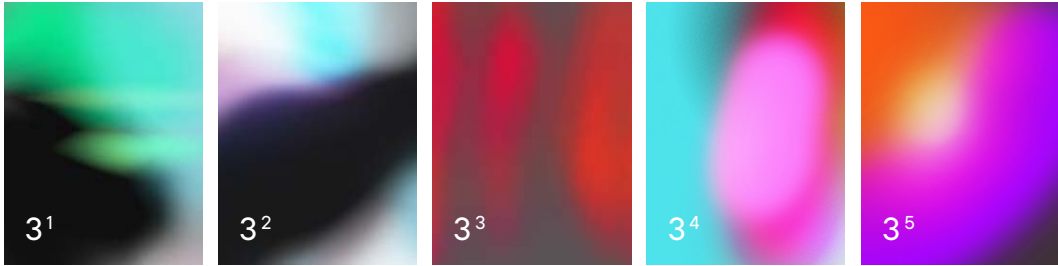
Becoming a Christian isn't just about following a bunch of rules; it's about receiving a new identity. Today's reading says that if we are in Christ, we are a new creation. That means the old ways, the shame, the patterns we couldn't break on our own, Jesus doesn't hold those things over us. He gives us a fresh start, and He begins a lifelong work of transformation in us. Even if you're still figuring out what you believe, know this: God isn't asking you to clean yourself up before coming to Him. He's offering you something new, something only He can do in you.

Read *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Do I truly believe that the old is gone? What does it look like to live as the new creation I am in Christ?

How does God's promise of making me a new creation change the way I live and view my past?

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!



Week 3

The Cost of Following Jesus

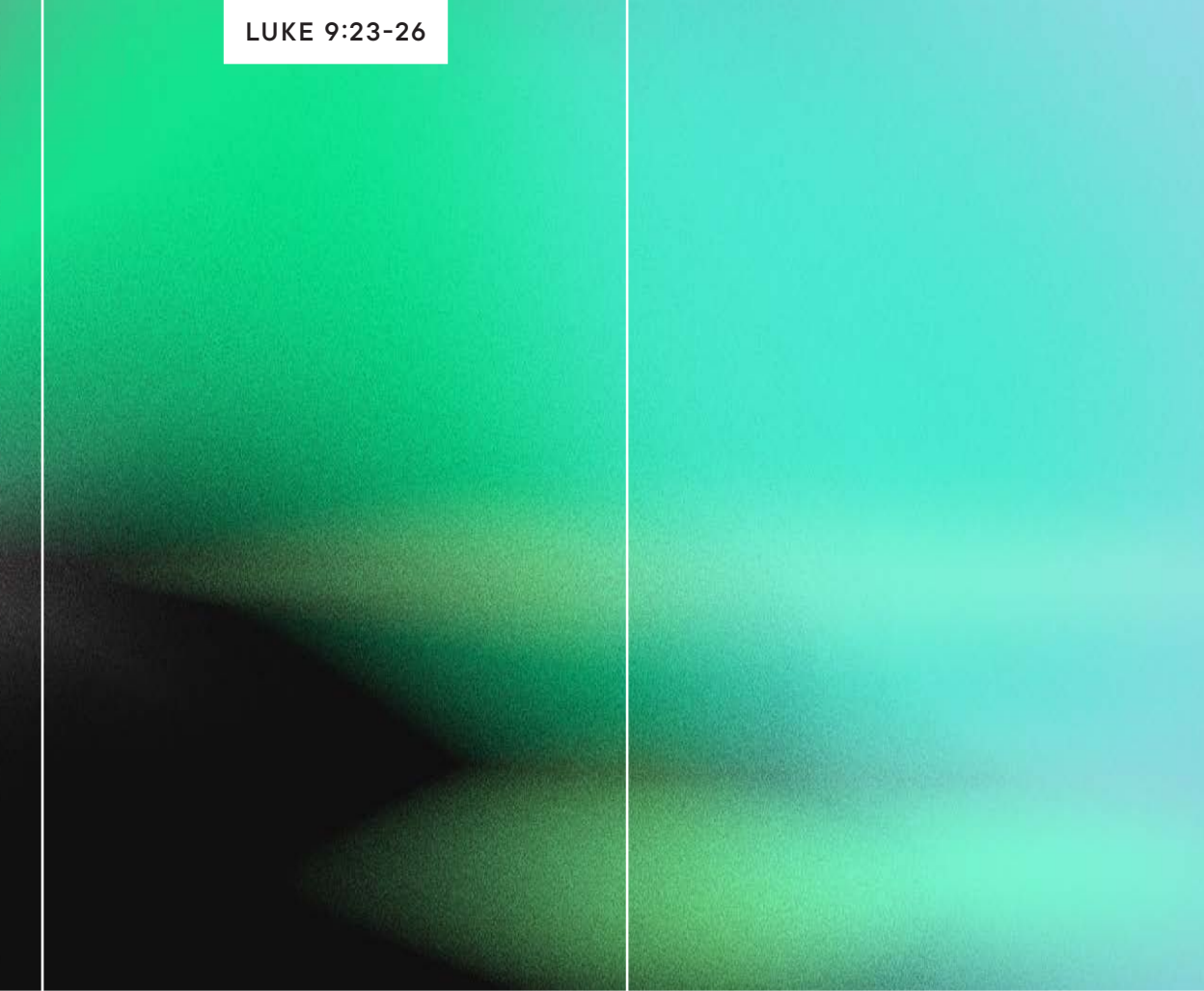
Denying Yourself

Following Jesus means choosing the better way, a life of purpose, joy, and freedom that begins with surrender. In today’s reading, Jesus invites us to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him, not as a heavy burden, but as the path to true life. We once lived for ourselves, trapped by sin and chasing satisfaction that never lasted. But in Christ, we’re offered something so much greater. Denying ourselves isn’t about missing out; it’s about gaining everything. Today’s passage reminds us that laying down our lives for Jesus is not a loss, but the beginning of living fully and freely for the One who gave everything for us.

Read Luke 9:23-26

What are some areas in my life where I struggle to deny myself and follow Jesus?

Why does Jesus call His followers to take up their cross daily?



Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²⁶ And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

The Narrow Road

Jesus doesn't shy away from telling us the truth. He says the road that leads to life is narrow and hard, and not a lot of people find it. Meanwhile, the road that leads to destruction is wide, comfortable, and crowded. That's a big challenge to the idea we often hear today: that all roads somehow lead to God. According to Jesus, they don't. Choosing to follow Him means stepping off the easy path and onto one that's more challenging, but ultimately worth it. Today, let's think about what it really looks like to walk that narrow road, not perfectly, but with hearts set on Him, one step at a time.

Read Matthew 7:13-14

How have I experienced the difficulty of the narrow road in my own life?

Why is following Jesus described as a difficult path?

¹³ Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Counting the Cost

Jesus warns that following Him isn’t something to take lightly; He asks us to give Him our whole lives. In Today’s reading, He is refreshingly honest about what it means to be His disciple. He says we need to count the cost, like someone planning to build a tower or a king getting ready for battle. You wouldn’t start building a house without creating a budget and a plan. In the same way, Jesus asks us to consider what we’re really saying yes to. Following Him might mean that we sometimes have to choose the more difficult path, but when we remember that God is our Father who loves us, we can trust that His ways are better. It’s not about perfection, but it is about surrender.

Read Luke 14:25-33

What might I need to surrender to follow Jesus more fully?

Why does Jesus emphasize counting the cost before following Him?

The Cost of Discipleship

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Loving Jesus Above All

Jesus makes a bold and uncomfortable statement in today’s reading. He says that if we love anyone more than Him, even our own family, we’re not worthy of Him. That’s a hard thing to hear, especially when we deeply love the people in our lives. But Jesus isn’t asking us to love others less; He’s inviting us to love Him more. More than comfort. More than our plans or dreams. He knows that when He’s our first love, everything else in our lives finds its right place.

Read Matthew 10:37-39

Are there things in my life that compete with my love for Jesus?

How does prioritizing Jesus reshape the rest of our lives?

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Losing Everything for Christ

In today’s reading, Paul says that everything he once thought was important, he now considers a loss compared to the joy of knowing Jesus. All the things that used to define him (his achievements, his reputation, his comfort) didn’t hold the same weight anymore. Why? Because knowing Jesus changed everything.

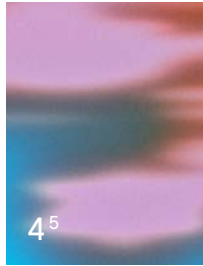
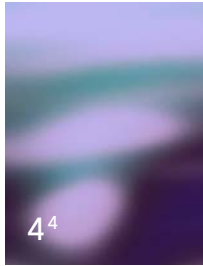
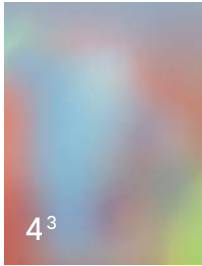
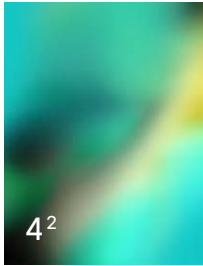
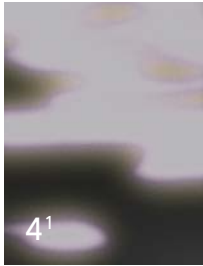
Paul’s words gently invite us to reflect: Are there things in my life that quietly pull my heart away from Jesus? We all have them. But this passage isn’t about guilt, it’s about perspective. It’s a reminder that the more we come to know Jesus, the more we realize just how worthy He is. He’s not asking us to give things up to be cruel; He’s inviting us into something better: into deeper joy, deeper freedom, and a love that lasts.

Read *Philippians 3:7-11*

What does it look like to truly value Christ above all worldly things?

Why is knowing Jesus more valuable than anything else?

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



Week 4

Living as a Disciple

Putting Off the Old Self

Salvation isn't just about checking a box or believing the right things; it's about becoming a whole new person. In Today's reading, Paul reminds us that if we're in Christ, we've been raised to new life, and that means letting go of our old habits, mindsets, and ways of living. It's not always easy (sometimes we slip back into old patterns), but the invitation is to keep setting our hearts and minds on things above. Today, let's take a moment to think about the ways Jesus is reshaping who we are.

Read Colossians 3:1-10

What old habits, attitudes, or mindsets do I need to leave behind?

How does God empower us to live as a new creation?

Put On the New Self

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

A Living Sacrifice

Worship isn’t just something we do on Sundays or when a song moves us; it’s how we live. In Today’s reading, Paul urges us to offer our whole selves to God. Not just our voices but our decisions, our time, our priorities, and our everyday lives. That’s what true worship looks like: living in a way that says, “God, I’m Yours.” It means choosing to let Him shape the way we think, instead of just going along with what the world says is normal.

Read Romans 12:1-2

In what ways do I need to renew my mind to align more with Christ?

Why does God desire our whole lives as worship?

A Living Sacrifice

¹ I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that by testing, you may discern what the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Serving One Master

In today’s reading, Jesus reminds us that our hearts weren’t made to be pulled in two directions. He says we can’t serve two masters, because eventually, one will take priority. Whether it’s money, approval, success, or comfort, these things can slowly start to compete for our attention and affection.

But Jesus doesn’t say this to shame us. He says it because He knows what our hearts truly need. He invites us to trust Him fully. Not because He wants control, but because He wants us. Our loyalty, our devotion, our trust. They’re safest and most whole when placed in Him. Today is a gentle invitation to pause and ask: Is there anything quietly taking first place in my heart? Jesus is always ready to meet us there (with grace, not guilt) and lead us back to Himself.

Read Matthew 6:24

Is there anything quietly taking first place in my heart?

Why does Jesus want our undivided loyalty?

²⁵ No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Serving Others Like Jesus

The One who had every right to be served, the King of Kings, chose instead to serve. He didn't lead with power or pride. He led with love. Whether He was healing the sick, feeding the hungry, or welcoming those the world had pushed away, Jesus spent His life lifting others up.

His example gently shifts how we think about greatness. It's not about status or being the most impressive. In the kingdom of God, greatness looks like humility, kindness, and quiet faithfulness. It looks like loving people well, even when no one's watching.

Read Mark 10:45

How can you serve others with the heart of Jesus?

What does Jesus' example teach us about true greatness?

³⁷ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many

Uncommon People

When you picture someone God might use to change the world, do you think of yourself? Most of us don't. We disqualify ourselves before we even begin: not smart enough, not holy enough, not outgoing enough. But throughout Scripture, and all of history, God has always worked through uncommon people. Not the powerful, not the polished, not the perfect. But the available.

God's Kingdom is not built by celebrities. It's built by the faithful. The ones who quietly serve, who love deeply, who show up again and again even when it's hard. You might feel ordinary, but in God's hands, ordinary becomes sacred.

Maybe that's the invitation for you today, not to become someone else, but to believe that who you are is exactly who God can use. If you've ever felt overlooked, unqualified, or too broken, hear this: you are seen, called, and included. Not because you've earned it, but because He delights in using uncommon people to do eternal things.

This story is not about superstars. It's about surrendered hearts. Let Him write something beautiful through yours.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Where have you believed the lie that God can't use someone like you? What might change if you started believing that He already is?

What does it say about God's character that He chooses the unlikely to carry out His Kingdom work?

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.



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