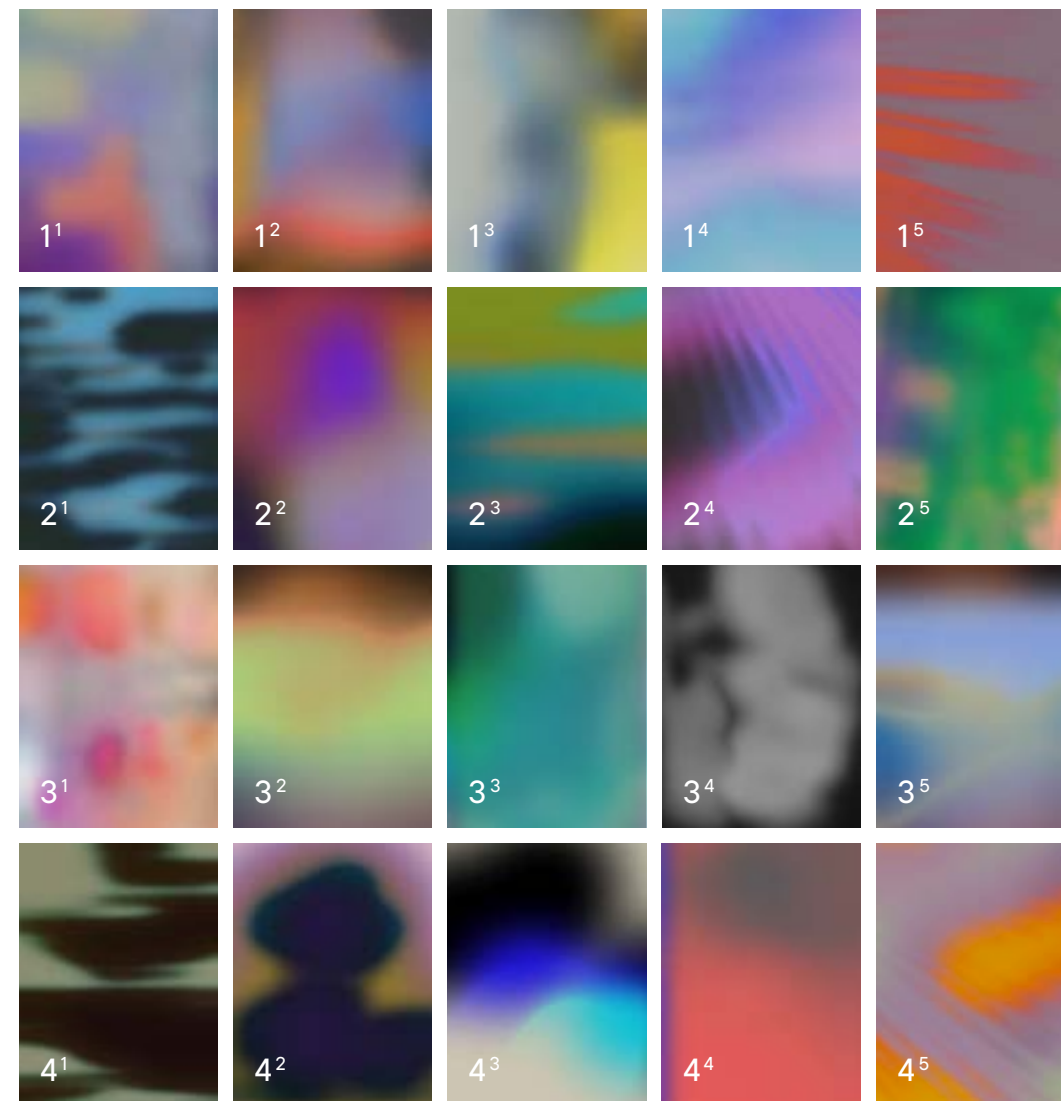
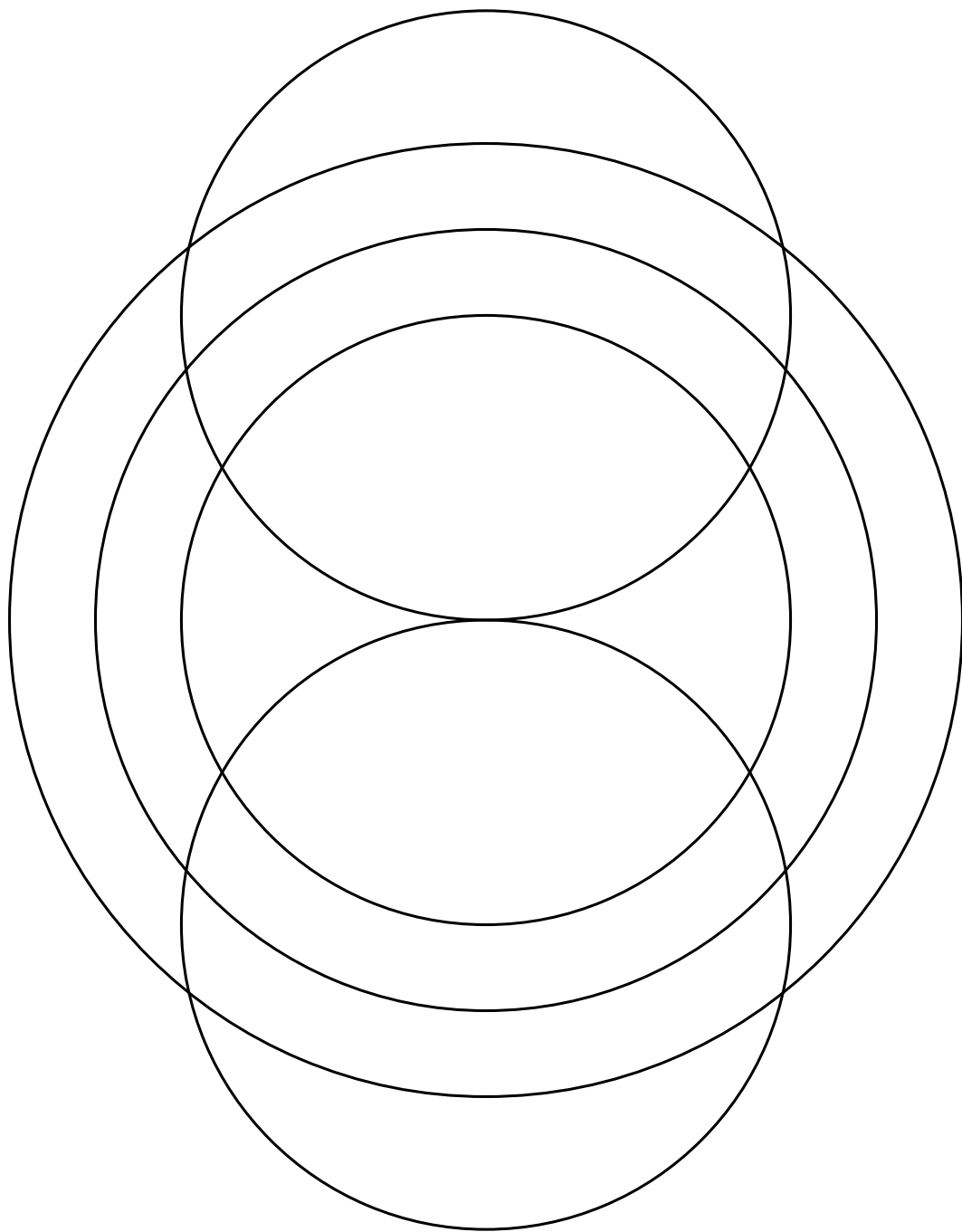
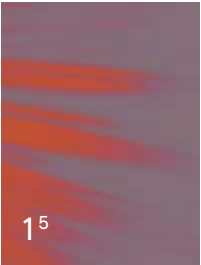
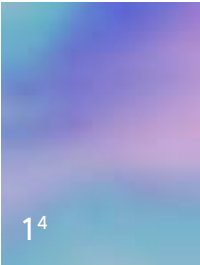
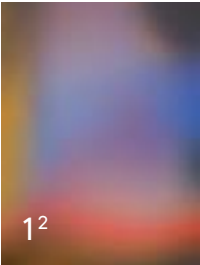
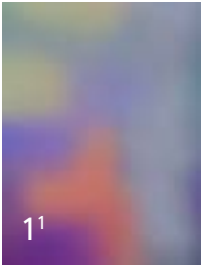




Part 1

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.