



MADE NEW

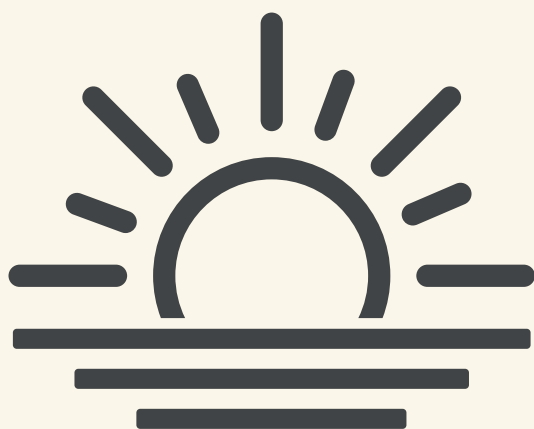
*How do I start my
new life with Jesus?*



FOUNTAIN CITY
CHURCH



MADE NEW



What's in This Book?

Introduction	5
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Week 1: Starting to Follow Jesus

What Does It Mean to Say Yes to Jesus?	6
What Happens After I Say Yes to Jesus?	8
Who Is God?	10
How Does God Guide Us?	12
What Is Baptism?	14
How Do I Get to Know God?.....	16
What Am I Learning?	18

Week 2: Living Like Jesus Lived

Who Am I Becoming?	20
How Do I Read the Bible?	22
How Do I Pray?	24
How Do I Make Friends?.....	26
What Is Worship?	28
How Do I Stop Doing What's Bad for Me?	30
Why Does Jesus Rest?	32

Week 3: Loving Like Jesus Loved

How Do I Love Like Jesus Loved?	34
Welcoming Others	36
Becoming a Generous Person	38
Noticing and Meeting Needs	40
Forgiving Others	42
Telling People About Jesus	44
What Happens Next?	46

Next Steps	48
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Introduction

You said yes to Jesus. Now what's next?

Inside this little book, you'll discover more about what your decision to follow Jesus means.

Each day will include daily thoughts from the Bible and ideas to try for yourself.

Together, we'll answer questions like "what does this mean," "what should I do," and "what does this change?" Our hope is that this tool can provide guidance as you begin your journey of following Jesus.

This book is organized into 21 days, but feel free to go at the pace that best helps you grow. You might finish this book in 100 days, 21 days, or a week. You might even keep reading it over and over. Finishing the book is less important than finding direction, growing in confidence, and starting conversations with others about what you're learning.

Following Jesus is a process of taking next steps, one day at a time. We're thrilled to join you!

Day 01

What Does It Mean to Be Made New?

You said yes to Jesus—and we’re celebrating with you.

You might hear it said a bunch of different ways—“gave your life to Christ,” “got saved,” “trusted Jesus,” or “became a Christian.” But here’s the real question: what actually happens when you say yes to Jesus? What’s different? What’s not? Why does it matter?

That’s exactly what this 21-day journey is here to unpack.

So let’s start with this: what does it mean to be made new?

It means you’ve decided to follow Him—to walk in His ways, trust His words, and let Him lead your life. But to follow Jesus, you’ve got to know who He is and why He’s worth it.

So we go back to the very beginning. Genesis tells us that God made the world—everything in it—and He called it good. He made humanity in His image and gave us a role to play: to enjoy and steward His creation. But instead of trusting God, we chose our own way. That choice—called sin—broke our relationship with God and each other. It put distance between us and the life we were made for.

But God didn’t leave us there.

He sent His Son—Jesus. Fully God, fully man. He entered our story, lived perfectly, loved boldly, and showed us what real life looks like: ***loving God and loving people***. Then, in the greatest act of love the world has ever seen, He laid down His life to heal the distance between us and God. And three days later, He rose again to make a way for us to walk with God forever.

Before that moment on the cross, Jesus had a nighttime conversation with a man named Nicodemus—someone trying to figure it all out. And Jesus said this::



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:16-17 ESV

That’s the kind of love we say yes to. A love that moves toward us, dies for us, and invites us into God’s family.

Tomorrow, we’ll talk about what happens after that yes—but for today, take a moment and let Jesus’ words sink in. Talk with Him.

Pray with your own words, or try these:



God, I believe that Jesus is Your Son—the Savior You sent to rescue the world, including me. I don’t have it all figured out yet, but I want to follow Him and learn His way. Thank You for loving me enough to send Jesus. Thank You for welcoming me into Your family. Amen.

Day 02

What Happens After I Say Yes to Jesus?

Yesterday we ended with prayer, and today we'll start with it. God likes hearing from us anytime.

Pray with your own words, or try these:



God, thank You for the gift of salvation: saving me from myself and bringing me into a healing relationship with You. Use Your love to shape me today, in the coming weeks, and for the rest of my life. I'm trusting You to make me new. In Jesus' name, amen.

We end our prayers in Jesus' name because that's what Jesus told us to do. And it's not just a tagline—it's a reminder. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we have access to God. Full access. First-name-basis access. And we need that kind of connection if we're going to live the life He's called us to.

Jesus didn't just live—He lived well. He was the real deal. He loved His enemies. He stood against injustice. He welcomed the forgotten. And now, when we say yes to Him, we begin a lifelong journey of becoming more like Him.

Jesus said the greatest commandments were to love God with everything and love our neighbors as ourselves. That's

what the Christian life looks like. But how does that actually happen? Is it automatic? Or is there something we do?

Yes. It's both. God is the one who transforms hearts, but He invites us to partner with Him in that process.



"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ... By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."—1 John 2:2, 5–6

Becoming more like Jesus is a process. It's not a sprint—it's a step-by-step, grace-fueled journey. God does the work in us, but we're invited to rest with Him, grow with Him, walk with Him.

Over the next few weeks, we're going to look at three ways we can join Him in that journey:

Learning who Jesus is.

Who is God? How do we talk with Him? What are some simple next steps that actually help? That's what this week is about.

Living the way Jesus lived.

Jesus modeled a life connected to the Father. He prayed, rested, served, and obeyed. These habits—called spiritual practices—can shape our lives too. We'll look at those next week.

Loving like Jesus loved.

Nothing grows us more than love in action. In week three, we'll talk about what it means to actually live out the love Jesus showed us.



Pause to consider:

Which parts of my life do I hope God will make new? How do I want to partner with God to care for others and the world around me?

Day 03

Who Is God?

Is God...

God the Father? Jesus the Son?

The Holy Spirit? All three in one?

The answer is... yes!

Choosing to follow Jesus is a three-in-one decision: You are accepting the invitation through **Jesus** (the Son of God) to become a child of God the **Father**, filled with the **Holy Spirit**, and empowered to live as a daughter or son of God. **God is three in one.**

We can see God revealed as Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—all throughout the Bible. This isn't some later theological invention. It's right there from the jump.

Check this out: the very first two verses of the Bible show us God the Father and the Spirit working in unity.



"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." —Genesis 1:1–2 (ESV)

Then, fast forward to the Gospel of John. He retells the creation story—but this time, with a clear lens on Jesus. He calls Jesus "the Word," showing us that the Son was there from the beginning too.



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

—John 1:1–2 (ESV)

Jesus didn't just show up on the scene in a manger—He has always existed with the Father and the Spirit, fully God. John goes on to say:

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." —John 1:12 (ESV)

"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." —John 1:14 (ESV)

"No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." —John 1:18 (ESV)

"He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." —John 1:33–34 (ESV)

That's a lot of verses, but don't miss the big picture: **God is One in three persons—Father, Son, and Spirit.** Jesus came not only to reveal who God is, but to give us access to the Father forever, by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in us.

This is the God we get to know. The One who has always been, and who invites us into life with Him now.

Pray with your own words, or try these:



God, help me to know You as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Father, You are my Provider. Jesus, You are my Savior. Holy Spirit, You are my Guide. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 04

How Does God Guide Us?

Yesterday, we prayed: God, help me get to know You as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, You are my Guide.

So... who is Holy Spirit? And how exactly does He guide us?

Do we need to get extra “spiritual” to catch His attention? Do we have to level up in our faith before He’ll show up?

Not at all. Jesus promised something entirely different.

He described Holy Spirit as a Comforter, an Advocate, a Helper—a real Friend. Think about someone like that in your life—a mentor, a parent, a wise friend who just gets you and always shows up when you need them most. That’s a glimpse of how Jesus wants us to think about the Spirit.



*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. **You know him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.**” —John 14:16–17 (ESV)*

Jesus spoke these words right before He went to the cross. He was preparing His disciples for His physical absence—but also promising an even deeper presence.



“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” —John 16:7 (ESV)

That had to sound strange. How could Jesus leaving possibly be a good thing? But He wasn't abandoning them. He was coming closer.



"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." —John 14:18–20 (ESV)

Through Holy Spirit, Jesus wouldn't just walk beside His followers—He would live inside them. And that same Spirit is still filling believers today with the very comfort, power, and love of Jesus Himself.

When you said yes to Jesus, you invited Holy Spirit to do exactly what Jesus said He would—help you, comfort you, teach you, and advocate for you.



"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." —John 14:26 (ESV)

God doesn't just want to be close—He wants to dwell in you. Over the next few weeks, we'll talk about how to create space in your life for His presence to grow.

Pray with your own words, or try these:



God, thank You for the Holy Spirit. Will You continue to help me know You as Comforter, Helper, Advocate, and Friend? I trust You to guide me as I follow the way of Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 05

What Is Baptism?

Over the past few days, we've explored who God is. Today, we're looking at a powerful moment in Scripture where all three Persons of the Trinity show up in one beautiful scene. We're talking about baptism.

Baptism is a public declaration of your decision to follow Jesus. It's symbolic, but it's also deeply spiritual. A pastor or trusted friend will stand with you—often in a pool, lake, or baptism— and help you lower back into the water, then raise you back up.

But why go underwater? It's a symbol representing Jesus' death, resurrection, and new life through Him.

- Going under represents death—your old life and sin buried with Christ.
- Coming up out of the water symbolizes resurrection—your new life raised with Jesus.

It's a bold, public “yes” to following Him. And here's what's wild—Jesus Himself was baptized. Not because He had sin, but to show us what obedience looks like. And when He did, we got this powerful glimpse of the Trinity in action:



“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus

answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented.

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" —Matthew 3:13–17 (ESV)

Now pause. Re-read that slowly, but imagine you're the one stepping into that water. Feel it surround you. Hear the voice of the Father speaking love over you. See the Spirit's presence with you.

That same Spirit that rested on Jesus now lives in you.

Before Jesus returned to the Father, He gave His followers this charge:



"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." —Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

If you've said yes to following Jesus, baptism is one of the first steps He invites you to take. It's not about perfection—it's about declaration. It's your way of saying to the world:

"I have decided to follow Jesus, and I'm not turning back."



Pause to consider:

Have you been baptized? What would it be like for you to take this next step of following Jesus? What questions do you still have about baptism?

Scan this code to get started!



Day 06

How Do I Get to Know God?

How do you really get to know someone?

Usually, it starts with a conversation. Maybe over tacos. You ask questions, you tell stories, you laugh, you listen. Over time, trust is built and friendship grows.

Getting to know God is a little different—but not as different as you might think.

So how do we grow in relationship with God?

1. We spend time with God through prayer.

Prayer isn't a religious performance—it's a real conversation. You can talk to God like a friend. Thank Him. Ask Him for help. Sit quietly with Him. You don't need fancy words or spiritual credentials.

The Holy Spirit—the very presence of God—is with you, even in the silence. So pay attention to the ways He might be stirring your heart, prompting a thought, or simply drawing you closer.

Be honest with God. If it matters to you, it matters to Him.

2. We read the Bible.

The Bible might seem like an old book (and technically it is), but it's also a living one. Through its pages, you'll see who

God is and how people like us have experienced Him across generations.

We'll unpack more about Scripture later, but here's what you need to know now: the Bible helps you understand God's heart. You'll read stories of kindness, justice, mercy, and grace—and see all of it lived out in Jesus.

It's not just information. It's an invitation.

3. We gather with other Jesus followers.

This isn't just "Jesus and me." It's "Jesus and we." Following Jesus happens in community.



"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." —Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)

When we gather—whether at church, in a small group, or just over coffee—we remind each other of what's true. We hear stories of God's faithfulness. We worship together. We grow together.

A simple, powerful next step? Make a plan to be at church this week. Invite someone to come with you—a friend, a family member, a neighbor. You never know what God might do in their story (or yours).

Day 07

What Am I Learning?

Congratulations! Taking these first intentional steps toward Jesus is a big deal. You've said yes to a new way of life, and with that yes probably came some new thoughts, questions... maybe even a few doubts. That's normal. In fact, it's good. It means you're thinking, wrestling, growing.

Following Jesus isn't a one-week sprint—it's a lifelong walk. You're not expected to have it all figured out yet. None of us do. But you've started, and that's what matters most.

Right below this, there's space for you to write two or three words or phrases that describe how you're feeling in your faith right now. Maybe it's hopeful. Maybe it's nervous but curious. Maybe it's a mix of things that are hard to name. That's okay too.

This isn't a test. You don't need to say the "right" thing. The honest thing is the best thing.

This is just for you—a moment to pause, take inventory, and reflect on where you are as you journey with Jesus.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

This week, we've seen that God doesn't just save us—He invites us to become more like Jesus, step by step. He's given us ways to connect with Him through prayer, Scripture, and community. And this? It's just the beginning. We've only scratched the surface, and we're excited to keep going. Before you move into Week Two, try this:

Write down one or two questions you have—about God, faith, the Bible, or something you're just not sure about. Then sometime this week, bring those questions to someone you trust. A pastor. A small group leader. A friend who follows Jesus. Asking questions is one of the best ways to grow. Don't hold back.

Now, take a minute to read this verse slowly. Let it speak to your heart. Then talk with God about what you've written and what you're carrying.



"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."
—Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

God's not finished with you. In fact, He's just getting started.

Day 08

Who Am I Becoming?

Welcome to Week Two of our journey together!

(Or maybe it's Week Four. Or Five. No pressure—we're not on a stopwatch here.)

Last week, you discovered that following Jesus starts with a yes to His forgiveness—and continues with a lifetime of becoming more like Him. Which raises a fair question:

***What does it actually look like to become more like Jesus?
Is that even possible?***

After all, Jesus is God. Perfect. Eternal. Sinless. Creator of all things. So how in the world are we supposed to become like Him?

Well, how does someone become a concert violinist? A pro athlete? A master chef?

You start.

You say yes to a new way of life. That “yes” doesn't make you a master—it makes you a learner. And learners grow.

They ask questions. They build habits. They make mistakes. They fail, get back up, and try again. That's what Jesus meant when He invited people to become His disciples. Not experts. Disciples.

When you said yes to Jesus, you stepped into that process.

Over the next two weeks, we're going to dig into what being a disciple looks like. This week, we'll explore the spiritual practices

that shaped Jesus' life—habits that can help you stay connected to God. And next week, we'll talk about what it means to love others like Jesus did—sacrificially, consistently, and with purpose.

At one point during Jesus' ministry, people were trying to pin Him down with a question: "What's the most important commandment?"

Here's how He answered:



"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." —Matthew 22:37–40 (ESV)

According to Jesus, becoming more like Him boils down to this:

Love God. Love people.

And that takes a lifetime.

There will be moments you get it right. And moments you don't. Maybe even this week—you fell into an old habit, lost your temper, said something you regret. Don't let shame shut you down.

Jesus isn't looking for perfection. He's offering transformation.

And He's patient.

So let's keep walking. Let's keep learning. Let's keep becoming.

Pray with your own words, or try these:



God, You see the mistakes I make. Thank You for forgiving me and guiding me as I become more like Jesus. Holy Spirit, will You help me see one step I can take to grow in love for You, myself, and others today? In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 09

How Do I Read the Bible?

To Jesus, the Bible wasn't just ink on a scroll—it was life. It was truth. It was the heartbeat of God written across generations. So how do we approach it?

The Bible is big. It's ancient. It has poetry, history, prophecy, songs, laws, and letters. And yet, God has shaped it to help everyday followers of Jesus live and love in real-time—just like He always has.

The Bible is split into two main sections: the Old Testament (what Jesus read and quoted often) and the New Testament (written after His resurrection). Even though Jesus never read the New Testament, the way He used the Old shows us how to approach the whole thing.

Let's look at two ways Jesus used Scripture—and how they can shape the way we read today.

1. Jesus used the Bible to show God's love for people.

One time, someone asked Jesus, "What's the most important commandment?" His answer wasn't a list of rules. It was a vision of love.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments



depend all the Law and the Prophets.” —Matthew 22:37–40 (ESV)

Jesus quoted Scripture to bring clarity, not confusion. He used it to remind people of who God is and how we’re meant to live in response: ***love God, love people.***

That’s a great question to ask anytime you read your Bible: “How does this help me love God and love others?”

2. Jesus used the Bible in context.

In Matthew 4, Jesus is tempted by the enemy. Satan actually quotes Scripture—but twists it out of context to make a lie sound spiritual. Jesus didn’t fall for it.

He knew the Bible. He understood not just what it said, but why it said it. And He used Scripture correctly to push back the lies.

When we read the Bible, context matters. Ask things like: Who wrote this? Who were they writing to? What kind of writing is this—history, poetry, a letter? What’s happening in this part of the story?

If we skip context, we risk missing the message—or worse, misusing the truth. When in doubt, go back to that question:

“How do this help me love God and love my neighbor?”

The Bible is more than a book—it’s a gift. It shapes us. Convicts us. Heals us. Grows us. And like anything that forms us, it takes time.

That’s why we don’t just read the Bible—we study it. We come back to it again and again. We ask questions. We sit with it. We let it read us.

Because it’s not about mastering the Bible—it’s about letting the Word of God transform your life.

Day 10

How Do I Pray?

Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer. The Gospels tell us He would sometimes stay up all night praying. Which raises a question: Why would Jesus need to pray? Isn't He God?

Yes—and that's what makes it even more meaningful.

While Jesus was fully God, He also lived fully human. And as a human, He needed rhythms that kept Him connected to His Father. Prayer wasn't just a religious routine. For Jesus, it was a source of direction, strength, and relationship. Take this moment, for example:



"In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles." —Luke 6:12–13 (ESV)

Before making a huge decision—choosing the twelve disciples who would help build the Church—Jesus didn't hold a strategy meeting. He prayed. He leaned in close to the Father.

Jesus didn't only pray in major moments. He prayed in the quiet and the chaos. He prayed before miracles and in the face of suffering. And He prayed just to be close to the Father. So how can we pray like that? Let's start with how Jesus didn't pray:

- He didn't use complicated, churchy language.
- He didn't pray to impress people.
- He didn't treat God like a vending machine.

Prayer for Jesus wasn't a performance—it was personal. Like talking with a trusted friend, a good father, or a wise mentor. That's what it can be for us, too. Here's what Jesus did do:

- He prioritized prayer—He made space for it.
- He prayed with others and on His own.
- He even asked others to pray for Him.

Jesus didn't treat prayer as a backup plan—He made it the first move. We have a saying to help remind us to do the same: *prayer is our **first response**, not our **last resort**.*

You don't have to pray perfectly. You just have to pray honestly. Whether you're thanking God, asking for help, or sitting in silence, prayer is how we stay connected to the One who loves us most.



So today—try it. Talk to God like Jesus did. Today, let's start a habit of prayer. Simply take a few minutes on your way home from work or before going to bed to talk with God. Tell Him what you're thankful for, ask Him for what you need, and listen to His voice. As you do, you'll discover a closer relationship with Jesus every day.

Day 11

How Do I Make Friends?

Throughout His ministry, Jesus was rarely alone. Yes, He pulled away to pray. Yes, He spent time in solitude. But He also made it a point to surround Himself with a small group of people who walked with Him, supported Him, and prayed for Him.

And here's the thing—He didn't just call them disciples. He called them friends.



"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."
—John 15:15 (ESV)

Jesus—Savior, King, Creator—invited people into friendship.

If He prioritized deep, meaningful relationships, you better believe we should too.

We were never meant to follow Jesus alone.

There will be days when life is hard. Really hard. And in those moments, you need someone who'll pray for you, speak truth over you, and remind you you're not alone.

There will also be moments of joy—breakthroughs, healing, growth—and celebrating those wins is always better when you've got people in your corner.

Why is this so important? Because God Himself is relational. He exists as Father, Son, and Spirit—one God in perfect community. And He created us to reflect that same relational design.

So here's the question:

Do you have those kinds of people in your life?

Do you have friends who know you, encourage you, and point you to Jesus—especially when things are tough?

If not, don't panic. But do take a step.

Start by looking at the relationships you already have. Is there someone you could be more intentional with? Or maybe it's time to step into something new—like a small group at church?

Yes, it might feel awkward at first. But it's worth it.

We all need people who will walk with us, challenge us, pray with us, and celebrate every small step forward. That's how discipleship grows best—in circles, not just rows.

*Scan here to get started
finding a Small Group!*



Day 12

What Is Worship?

What happens when you gather with other believers, read Scripture, pray, and build real, life-giving relationships?

You worship.

Worship isn't just something we do—it's the natural response of a heart that's being changed by Jesus.

When you hear the word worship, what comes to mind? Music? Singing? A band with guitars and lights?

That's fair—Jesus Himself sang in worship.

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus shared a final meal with His disciples. It was the Passover—one of the most sacred celebrations in Jewish culture. And at the end of that meal, Jesus and His friends sang together.

In Jewish tradition, they would've likely sung Psalms 113–118, which are full of praise, remembrance, and worship. Here are a couple examples:



"Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people."

—Psalm 113:5–8 (ESV)

"Then I called on the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!' Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is



merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.” —Psalm 116:4–7 (ESV)

Jesus sang words like these just hours before the cross.

That’s worship.

But worship isn’t limited to music or moments in church.

Worship is any moment where we acknowledge who God is and respond with awe, love, or gratitude.

It can be as loud as singing with your whole heart on a Sunday—or as quiet as whispering thanks while watching the sun rise.

Worship happens when we see God’s character and goodness—and respond.

So yes, this weekend, you’ll have the chance to worship with other Jesus followers at church through singing. But you don’t have to wait for a stage or a service.

You can worship in the car, at the dinner table, in the middle of a conversation, or sitting in silence with God.

Here’s a simple way to start:

Take a few minutes and ask yourself—

What am I thankful for today?

Is it God’s creation? A restored relationship? His forgiveness? A quiet moment of peace?

Whatever it is—thank Him for it.

That’s worship.

Day 13

How Do I Stop Doing What's Bad For Me?

Ever wanted to do something—even though you knew it was wrong? Welcome to humanity.

Temptation is real. It's subtle. It promises shortcuts to what we want—without the cost of doing it God's way. And if you've felt it, Jesus has too.

For three years, everything about Jesus' life was uncomfortable. He spoke hard truths to powerful people. He was misunderstood, accused, hunted. But early on—before the miracles, before the cross—He was offered an easier way.

Right after His baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness alone. No food. No comfort. No people. For 40 days, He fasted and prayed. And that's when the enemy showed up.

Satan tempted Him with shortcuts: food without faith, glory without obedience, power without the cross.

Jesus didn't cave. Why? Because He knew who He was, whose He was, and what He was here to do. Temptation isn't sin—but giving in can derail who you're becoming. It compromises your integrity and keeps you stuck in cycles of regret. Jesus shows us the better way.

Jesus didn't overcome temptation by willpower. He fought with Scripture. He fought with purpose. He fought with clarity. He

knew God's Word, and He knew what was at stake.

And you can fight like that too. Here's what the Bible says about facing temptation:



"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." —1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

There's always a way out. God promises it. But preparation is key. You don't train for battle in the fight—you train before it. You prepare by:

Reading and living out God's Word

Talking to God in prayer

Being honest with trusted people

Surrendering your thoughts to God

Sometimes that escape looks like accountability. Or a recovery group. Or counseling. Or a friend who picks up the phone and prays with you instead of letting you spiral.

Whatever it looks like, remember this: **God doesn't shame you in temptation. He helps you.**

Pray with your own words, or try these:



Dear God, thank You for always offering me another chance. Help me to recognize and resist temptation when it comes. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 14

Why Does Jesus Rest?

Do you ever feel like the week is already winning by Monday morning?

The schedule's full. The emails are piling up. You're behind before you begin. And if you've ever wished you had more time for your people—or just a moment to breathe—you're not alone. But Jesus offers us a better way.

Check out this surprising moment from His life:



“But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.” —Luke 5:15–16 (ESV)

Crowds were chasing Jesus down. People were desperate to hear Him speak, to be healed, to be near Him. And what did He do?

He stepped away.

Jesus walked toward rest—even when it meant walking away from opportunities to do good.

That's not laziness. That's leadership. Because you can only be as helpful as you are healthy.

Jesus, fully God and fully human, needed rest. So do we. **And when we choose rest, we're not just recharging—we're worshipping.**

Remember how the Bible begins? Six days of creation, and on the seventh day, God rested. Humanity was created on the sixth day, so their first full day was a day of rest—not hustle.

That seventh day became known as the Sabbath—a day set aside for rest and worship. And that’s the heart of Sabbath: declaring that God is in control, not our calendars.

When we rest, we’re saying:

My worth isn’t tied to my productivity.

God’s plan doesn’t collapse if I don’t finish my list.

The universe still spins even when I’m napping.

That’s why Sabbath is worship.

Now, maybe you’re thinking, “I can’t take a full day off. I’ve got people counting on me. I’ve got responsibilities.” And that’s okay.

Jesus had that too. And yet, He still found moments of rest—a quiet place to pray, a seat by a well, a nap in a boat.

You may not have 24 hours, but what about 10 minutes? A walk without your phone? A moment of silence in the car? Rest doesn’t have to be big to be holy.

So what about you?

Where in your week can you carve out space to rest and reconnect with God?

Where in your day can you breathe, slow down, and remember He’s in control?

Even five minutes of surrender can reset your soul.

Day 15

How Do I Love Like Jesus Loved?

Welcome to the final week of our journey!

Last week, we leaned into the way Jesus lived—His rhythms, His habits, His connection with the Father. This week, we shift focus to how Jesus loved.

Because Jesus didn't just live on mission—He loved on purpose. So here are the questions:

How did Jesus relate to people? How did He treat them, speak to them, lead them? What kind of presence did He carry into a room?

Let's start with a moment when things got tense among Jesus' closest friends:



"An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side and said to them, 'Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.'" —Luke 9:46–48 (ESV)

The disciples were chasing greatness—but they had the wrong version in mind.

Maybe they thought greatness meant performing miracles, being in Jesus' inner circle, or having the best answers. But Jesus flips their idea of greatness on its head.

He pulls a child close and says, "This. This is the picture of greatness." Why? Because true greatness doesn't seek attention—it seeks to serve. It lifts others up. It doesn't need applause. It needs compassion.

Jesus—God in the flesh—came not with pomp or power, but with humility. Born in a stable. Raised in a small town. And when He grew up, He didn't bark orders—He washed feet.

If we want to love like Jesus, we have to chase His version of greatness. That means:

Welcoming the overlooked

Serving without being seen

Laying down status to lift others up

Living generously, forgiving freely, and pointing people to the love of God

That's the kind of love that changes the world. So here's your invitation as we start this final stretch. Ask yourself:

What kind of "greatness" am I chasing?

Am I trying to be impressive—or impactful?

Am I seeking comfort—or the kind of life that makes others feel seen and loved?

Jesus is inviting you to a better way. A way of humility, joy, and sacrificial love. This week, we're going to explore five specific ways Jesus loved others—through hospitality, service, forgiveness, generosity, and sharing the good news.

Let's go after that kind of greatness.

Day 16

Welcoming Others

Have you ever felt “at home” in a place that wasn’t technically your home?

Maybe it was a coffee shop, a church lobby, or a friend’s kitchen. Or maybe it wasn’t a place at all—but a person. Someone who made you feel safe, seen, and accepted, just as you are.

That feeling—that deep sigh of “I belong here”—is what hospitality creates.

We all crave that kind of space. And Jesus embodied it.

Everywhere He went, people felt welcomed. He listened. He noticed. He gave people permission to be honest. He wasn’t building a fan base—He was building a family.

And that’s what we see in Luke 8:



“Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.” —Luke 8:1–3 (ESV)

Jesus welcomed people who, on paper, didn't belong together.

The Twelve? Different backgrounds, temperaments, and social classes.

Mary Magdalene? Delivered from deep spiritual oppression.

Joanna? Married to the manager of Herod's house—the king who had John the Baptist killed.

You couldn't find a more unlikely group. And yet, Jesus welcomed them all. That's hospitality.

It's not just offering someone a seat at the table—it's inviting them into your life. It's choosing curiosity over criticism, compassion over comparison. It's saying, "You matter. You're welcome here. And I'm glad you came."

Hospitality breaks down social walls. It builds unexpected friendships. It helps people see themselves through God's eyes—valuable, loved, and full of potential.

And here's the best part: You don't need a perfect home, a Pinterest-worthy meal, or a giant personality to be hospitable.

You just need a heart that reflects Jesus.

Open. Listening. Ready to make others feel at home.



Pause to consider:

How do we show hospitality? **You can start by thinking about a time someone made you feel seen, cared for, and included.** How did their hospitality change you? Then, consider how you might create the same feeling and impact for someone else by partnering with God to become hospitable.

Day 17

Becoming a Generous Person

In the months before Jesus began His public ministry, the people were buzzing with anticipation. Word had spread that the long-awaited Savior was near, and they were eager to know: How do we get ready for Him?

So they went to His cousin, John the Baptist, for answers. Here's what he told them:



“Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” —Luke 3:11 (ESV)

Simple. Direct. Powerful. According to John, generosity is how we make room for Jesus.

Generosity means sharing what you have to bless someone else. That includes money, sure—but it also includes time, skills, encouragement, presence, and prayer.

So how do you become a generous person?

It's not complicated, but it does require intention. Here are three questions that can help:

1. What do I really need?

God isn't against enjoyment—He gives us good things to enjoy. But those gifts don't belong to us. They're His. We're stewards, not owners. So ask yourself: What do I actually need? That answer creates space for generosity to grow.

2. What do I have to share?

Do you have some extra time? A specific skill? A financial resource? A listening ear? If you've got anything, you've got something to give.

3. What does my community need?

Your neighbor. Your local food pantry. A friend going through a hard season. Your church. Needs are everywhere, and your generosity might be the answer to someone's prayer.

Giving doesn't have to be flashy. It just has to be faithful.

Many Jesus-followers give consistently to their local church—because the church is how God reaches and restores communities. Every gift becomes a tool in the hands of a Savior who multiplies impact far beyond what we can see.

Jesus lived generously. He gave time to the overlooked, healing to the broken, compassion to the outcast, and His very life to the world.

And now He invites us to do the same. You don't have to wait until you have more. *You don't have to be rich to be generous, you just have to be generous to be generous.*

Start by asking:

What do I need?

What do I have to share?

What needs around me can I help meet?

Day 18

Noticing and Meeting Needs

Today, let's talk about something that may seem small, but it's one of the most powerful ways to love like Jesus:

Noticing.

Jesus was a master at it.

Over and over again in the Gospels, we find Jesus walking somewhere—on His way to teach, or heal, or spend time with friends—and then He sees someone. Not just with His eyes, but with His heart.

Sometimes the need was obvious—hunger, sickness, isolation. Other times, it was hidden—shame, fear, spiritual confusion. But either way, Jesus noticed.

And when He did, He responded. With healing. With a word of hope. With time, presence, compassion. And often, with supernatural help through the power of the Spirit.

That's what serving others looks like:

Seeing the need. Using what you have. Trusting God to do the rest.

Serving starts with being others-focused. It's not about having all the answers or unlimited resources—it's about having eyes open to the people around you, and a heart ready to respond.

And here's the beauty: even when a need is bigger than you, you're not alone. You have the Holy Spirit living in you—the same Spirit that empowered Jesus is available to you.

One of the most radical acts of service Jesus ever did happened the night before He went to the cross. With the weight of the world on His shoulders, He knelt down and washed His disciples' feet.

A task reserved for the lowest servant.

Done by the King of Kings.

Then He said this:



"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." —John 13:15–17 (ESV)

That's the heart of service.

It's not about position. It's about posture.

So today, follow Jesus' example. Keep your eyes open.

Who might need help with something simple?

Who could use an encouraging word, a prayer, or just someone to listen?

Sometimes serving looks like doing the dishes.

Sometimes it looks like offering to pray.

Sometimes it's as simple as noticing the person who usually gets overlooked.

Jesus served with His whole life. And when we serve like Him, we draw closer to the One we're following.

Day 19

Forgiving Others

Forgiveness is a big deal to God.

It's not a side note. It's the heartbeat of the Gospel.

All throughout Scripture, we see God offering second chances, new starts, and grace upon grace—not because people deserved it, but because God loves to forgive.

If you've said yes to Jesus, you know what that feels like. You've experienced forgiveness firsthand. You know what it's like to be given a clean slate—not because you earned it, but because Jesus paid for it.

And Jesus didn't just talk about forgiveness—He lived it. Even in His final moments, beaten, humiliated, and hanging on a cross, Jesus looked at the ones who nailed Him there and said:



"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." — Luke 23:34 (ESV)

That's the heart of our Savior. He sees the pain—but chooses mercy. He sees the sin—but chooses grace. He sees the person—but doesn't reduce them to their worst moment.

So what does that mean for us?

It means followers of Jesus are people who forgive others. Peter once asked Jesus a very honest question:



“Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” —Matthew 18:21–22 (ESV)

Jesus wasn’t giving Peter a number to track—He was giving him a mindset. One that doesn’t keep score. One that doesn’t let bitterness win.

Forgiveness doesn’t mean forgetting what happened.

It doesn’t mean pretending nothing was wrong.

It doesn’t mean you have to stay close to someone who isn’t safe or healthy.

Forgiveness means you’re choosing freedom over revenge.

You’re releasing the need to get even. You’re declaring, “This wound will not define me. This pain will not control me.”

Sometimes, forgiveness means setting boundaries. Loving someone from a distance. That’s not weakness—it’s wisdom.

But whatever it looks like, we forgive—because we’ve been forgiven.

Forgiveness isn’t always easy. Honestly, sometimes it feels impossible.

That’s why we need the Holy Spirit.

That’s why we need reminders of the cross.

That’s why we go back to Jesus—again and again—and say, “Help me forgive the way You do.”

Pray with your own words, or try these:



Dear God, thank You for forgiving me, even when I don’t deserve it. Will You show me someone I need to forgive and give me the strength to forgive like You? In Jesus’ name, amen.

Day 20

Tell People About Jesus

On the final day of His earthly ministry, Jesus gave His followers a clear mission—a kind of marching order for how to live moving forward. Here's what He said:



“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” —Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

Let's walk through it together.

“All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me.”

Jesus is the King. Not just over church stuff—but over everything. Heaven. Earth. Past, present, future. And His Kingdom doesn't look like the kingdoms of this world. His is built on love, grace, truth, and humility. We get to be part of it.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

Not everyone has experienced Jesus' forgiveness and love yet. That's why He sends us—not just across oceans, but across the street, across the office, across the lunch table.

He calls us to go—to love like Him, speak about Him, and help others know they're invited into this Kingdom too.

“...baptizing them... and teaching them...”

Discipleship isn't just about decisions—it's about growth. Jesus wants people to follow Him, not just hear about Him. And that happens when we walk alongside others, helping them obey and trust Jesus day by day.

“And behold, I am with you always...”

Here's the best part: We're not doing this alone.

Jesus goes with us—through the Holy Spirit—every step of the way. He gives us courage when we feel awkward, words when we feel unsure, and strength when we feel weak.

So how do we live this out?

Christians often refer to this calling as missions—living with intention so that others can experience the love and truth of Jesus.

That starts *locally*—right where you are.

Get to know your neighbors. Look for ways to meet needs. Share your story. Listen well. Live with love.

And it expands *globally*.

There are full-time missionaries and organizations serving all over the world—translating the Bible, fighting injustice, feeding the hungry, and telling people about Jesus in every language and culture.

You can support their work through **praying, giving, or even going.**

Jesus gave us a mission. And He gave us His presence to carry it out... *from our neighbors to the nations.*

Day 21

What Happens Next?

You're almost finished reading this guide—but your story is just getting started.

We're so proud of you for walking through this journey. You've taken time to know Jesus, learn His ways, and take your first steps as His disciple. And even though this is Day 21, it's only the beginning of the lifelong adventure of following Him.

Let's end with these words from the apostle Paul—written to a group of new believers, just like you, in the ancient city of Philippi:



"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."
—Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

God isn't finished with you. Not even close.

Paul wrote those words to a group of imperfect people—people learning to follow Jesus day by day. They didn't have it all together. But they were making progress. And so are you.

We don't know your whole story—where you were when you said yes to Jesus, or what you've faced in the past few weeks. But here's what we do know: God started something good in you, and He promises to keep working in you, with you, and through you.

Here's another prayer Paul shared with that same group of Jesus followers:



"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment." —Philippians 1:9 (ESV)

That's our prayer for you too.

You said yes. Now keep saying yes. One step at a time. One day at a time. Progress, not perfection.

God isn't going to walk away when things get hard or when you mess up. He's not measuring your performance—He's after your heart. And when you live with that kind of trust, you'll start to see Him everywhere.

So what's next?

Your journey from here will be uniquely yours, but here are a few ways to keep growing:

Join a small group and build real friendships.

Jump on a volunteer team.

Share your story with a friend or family member.

Keep reading Scripture, praying, and living like Jesus.

And here's a small step with big impact:

Let a pastor or group leader know you finished this guide.

They'd love to celebrate with you and help you find your next step.

This is just the beginning. And we can't wait to see what God will do through your life.



Next Steps

Congratulations on finishing the book! We hope it gave you some clarity, confidence, and direction as a Jesus follower.

So, what now?

The best thing you can do now is continue taking the daily steps you've been reading about in this book. There isn't one cookie-cutter path for following Jesus, but we've noticed some common steps.

We hope you'll read through these common steps and talk with a pastor about what's next for you:

Getting baptized

Finding a mentor

Joining a small group

Sharing your decision to follow Jesus with a friend or family member

Starting to serve

Seeking counseling

Inviting someone to church

Giving back to your church and community

Or some other step God's Spirit is leading you to take.

Once again, congratulations on finishing this book! It's yours to keep or give to someone who might find it valuable.

Notes

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