



FOLLOWING HIS PATH:  
A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

# INTRODUCTION

We know the words and works of Jesus, but do we truly embody His way? This booklet invites you to step onto that path, because living it reveals its wisdom far deeper than mere understanding. So, this Lent, let's walk the Way of Jesus together and witness the incredible transformation it works within us!



## Week 1: Rooted in Reliance: The Way of Dependence

The cornerstone of Jesus' being was His absolute dependence on the Father. This Way of Dependence underpins all His other practices. We see it woven through His life, from constant prayer to aligning His every word and action with the Father's will. It shines brightest in moments like the temptations in Matthew 4 and the Garden of Gethsemane's agonizing plea, *"Father, not My will, but Yours be done!"* (Matthew 26:39).

The Way of Jesus, the Way of Dependence, is about surrendering yourself, your burdens, and your aspirations to the Heavenly Father's loving hands.

 **Key Text: Matthew 4:1-17**

### Stepping into Dependence:

#### ***Open Hand:***

- Grab a sheet of paper. List all your relationships, responsibilities, and anxieties.
- Clench the paper, mimicking the control we often crave.
- Now, unclench your hand, relinquishing everything to God, trusting in His divine grasp.

#### ***Prayer of Dependence:***

- Set a daily reminder for a prayer like this: "Heavenly Father, my very being, everything I have and do, rests on Your foundation. Help me depend on You in these specific areas (list them)."

#### ***Try Dependence:***

- Are there aspects of your life where you overthink or overprepare? This week, step into the unknown, leaning on God for the words and actions that emerge in those moments.

**Reflect:** How did this week's practices feel? What did you learn about God or yourself on this journey of dependence?

## Week 2: The Open-Arm Embrace: The Way of Hospitality

### The Heartbeat of Connection:

Have you ever noticed how some people just draw others in? In Jesus' life, this magnetism drew crowds near, eager to connect. His secret? The beautiful Way of Hospitality – not about fancy houses, but about open hearts.

 **Key Text: Matthew 9:9-13**

### Becoming a Welcoming Soul:

**Inspiring Models:** Who's a hospitality master you know? What specifically makes them good at hosting/hospitality? Can you adapt their touch for your own?

**Imperfect Beauty:** Forget the pressure of a spotless space! Messy homes tell real stories, and guests often feel more at ease in the lived-in chaos. Embrace imperfection, open your doors, and watch connections bloom.

**Present Power:** True hospitality thrives anywhere, not just within four walls. It's about presence, about making someone feel seen and known. Ditch distractions, hold eye contact, listen deeply, and be curious.

**Reflect:** Did this week's practice feel like an embrace? What did you discover about God or yourself in the act of opening up?

## Week 3: The Breath of Life: The Way of Prayer

For Jesus, prayer wasn't just a routine; it was the rhythm of His being. Like air filling His lungs, it sustained Him. No wonder His disciples, captivated by His connection with the Father, begged Him to reveal His secret. And so, Jesus graciously unveiled the path to communion – The Way of Prayer.

### **Key Text: Matthew 6:9-15**

**Connecting with Our Father:** The Way of Prayer is a simple, sacred exchange with our Heavenly Father. It is the place where we are reminded of who God is and who we are to Him. It prepares us for all the Father has in store for us.

### **Journeying through Prayer:**

**Morning:** Start your day with the Lord's Prayer, uniting your voice with countless others seeking His presence. After you pray the whole prayer, focus on one petition. For example, "*Our Father who art in heaven...*" notice the communal nature of the petition and pray for your family and church.

**Afternoon:** Pray a Psalm each day this week:

Day 1: Psalm 143

Day 2: Psalm 144

Day 3: Psalm 145

Day 4: Psalm 146

Day 5: Psalm 147

Day 6: Psalm 148

Day 7: Psalm 149 - 150

**Evening:** As the day settles, embrace the **P.R.A.Y.** practice. Begin with **praise**. Then, **repent**, confessing your sins and receiving forgiveness. Now, **ask**, pouring out your needs and the needs of others, trusting them to His perfect will. Finally, **yield** yourself and requests to your Heavenly Father.

Reflect: How did it go? What did you learn about God and yourself?

## Week 4: The Gut Punch: The Way of Compassion

### A Tug on Your Soul:

Have you ever felt that gut-wrenching tug when you stumble upon someone's pain? The word for compassion in the Bible is similar to our idiom "punch in the gut." In Jesus' life, these weren't passing pangs. The Way of Compassion compelled Him to action. From feeding the hungry (Matthew 14:13-21) to healing the broken (Matthew 8:1-3), His heart led His hands. The Way of Compassion isn't just seeing need; it's the movement within that drives you to respond with love and care.

 **Key Text: Matthew 14:13-21/Matthew 8:1-3**

### Tuning into Your Compassion:

**Reflect:** Is there a need around you that tugs at your heart? An injustice that ignites your righteous anger? These might be God's whispers, inviting you to walk with Jesus on the path of compassion.

**Be Moved to Action:** Is there someone nearby caught in the grip of hardship? Look past the surface. Maybe your neighbor or colleague could use a post-surgery meal, or perhaps your elderly neighbor craves company and a helping hand.

**Join Others:** Consider signing up to cook a meal or volunteer at **La Mesa (lamesaministries.org)** on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Immerse yourself in a community where compassion finds tangible expression.

**Reflect:** How did it go? What did you discover about God's love and yourself?

## Week 5: Unburdened: The Way of Mercy

### Beyond a Kind Hand:

While compassion shines in alleviating physical needs, mercy delves deeper. It's the heart of Jesus' Way, the thread woven through His teachings and actions. Remember His name – Jesus, the one who saves His people from sin. And how does He accomplish this? Through the divine embrace of forgiveness.

 **Key Text: Matthew 12:6-8**

### Unwrapping the Gift:

**Reflection:** Dive inward. Where does your soul need mercy? How have you strayed from God's path, leaving wounds on yourself and others? Conversely, who holds space in your heart that requires your own act of forgiveness?

**Receiving Jesus' Embrace:** Remember Martin Luther's profound words: *"All of life is confession and forgiveness."* As followers of Jesus, confession is central, but more importantly, embracing His boundless mercy. So, take a sheet of paper. List your transgressions, then, boldly, in a fiery red, write **"FORGIVEN"** across them. Let this symbolize Jesus' sacrifice, washing your sins away, as far as the east is from the west. Burn or discard the list, a tangible release of the burdens Jesus has lifted.

**Passing on the Gift:** Who requires your own act of mercy? Someone who has hurt you, perhaps deeply. Close your eyes and picture them. Now, imagine yourself standing at the foot of the cross, Jesus drawing you near to the well of His infinite mercy. With a heart softened by His grace, reach into that well and draw forth forgiveness. Extend it to this person, whether through spoken words or in the quiet of your heart.

**Reflect:** How did this week's journey feel? What did you discover about God's unyielding love and your own capacity for forgiveness?

## Week 6: The Servant King: Redefining Royalty

Forget Caesar's crown, for the Way of the King in Jesus' hands is unlike anything the world has known. His reign is not built on swords, but on service, selflessness, and sacrifice for His people. Remember His triumphant entry into Jerusalem? Riding high, embraced by cheers, yet His eyes already glimpsed the road to Golgotha, the throne of the cross. It was this same Way of the King that found Him kneeling, washing the feet of His disciples on Maundy Thursday, a king with a towel around His waist. And on Good Friday, when sacrifice became the ultimate act of love, Jesus bore the weight of our sins, willingly laying down His life for sinners like us. He rose triumphant, yes, but not unscathed. The pierced hands and side remain, whispers of a love so profound it chose not to erase the marks of pain. This, my friends, is the Way of the King – a crown woven not of jewels, but of service, humility, and an unyielding love that bleeds for its people.

 **Key Text: Matthew 21:1-11**

### Embracing the Paradox:

***Servant Leadership:*** Look around. Who are you leading in your life – family, work, friends? How can you become a servant leader, anticipating their needs and stepping in with practical support?

***Strengths for Others:*** We all possess unique strengths. Which of yours can light up someone else's life? Are you tech-savvy? Offer to help a neighbor navigate their new phone. A DIY whiz? Lend a hand with that overdue home project.

***The Divine "Yes":*** Remember Jesus, rushing to heal a girl, yet stopping for a woman who desperately needed Him. This week, be open to those unforeseen detours, God's nudges to say "no" to your plans and "yes" to someone yearning for your presence.

**Reflect:** Did these practices feel like wearing a crown woven from humility? What did you discover about God's boundless love and your own capacity to serve as his hands and feet?



# CONCLUSION

This journey through *The Way* has touched upon the revolutionary and revelatory light of Jesus. We've walked the path of dependence, embraced hospitality, bathed in prayer, felt the tug of compassion, received and extended mercy, and discovered a King unlike any other. But this is just the beginning. The road before you stretches long and vibrant, brimming with countless opportunities to embody Christ's teachings in your own life.

So, keep walking. Keep listening. Keep your heart open to the whispers of grace and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Remember, you are not alone on this path. Jesus walks beside you, His hand stretched out in unwavering support. Lean on Him, trust Him, and let His love illuminate your way.

## Stay Connected

This booklet might close, but the journey continues. For further exploration and fellowship, explore these resources:

**Website:** [christgreenfield.church](http://christgreenfield.church)

**Email:** [info@cglchurch.org](mailto:info@cglchurch.org)

**Social Media:** Find us on Facebook @ChristGreenfieldChurch and Instagram @christgreenfield

**Events:** Join us for upcoming events and gatherings at one of our campuses. See our website for details.

*Remember, the Christ Greenfield community welcomes you with open arms, ready to share the joy, support your growth, and walk the Way of Jesus together.*

## Celebrate the Journey With Us: Holy Week Services

*As we conclude this exploration of The Way, let's continue the journey together during Holy Week, remembering the profound sacrifice and triumphant resurrection of our Lord. Join us for special services filled with reflection, worship, and community:*



### **Palm Sunday:**

Traditional Services at Gilbert Campus:  
Sunday, March 24 | 7:30 AM & 9:00 AM

Contemporary Service at the Park:  
Sunday, March 24 | 10:00 AM  
Cadence Community Center (both campuses)  
Enjoy a contemporary service followed by an Easter egg hunt!



### **Maundy Thursday:**

Thursday, March 28  
12:00 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM  
Gilbert Campus



### **Good Friday:**

Friday, March 29  
12:00 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM  
Gilbert Campus



### **Easter Sunday:**

East Mesa Campus: 10:00 AM

Gilbert Campus:  
Sunrise Service: 6:00 AM  
Classic Easter Service: 7:15 AM & 8:30 AM  
Contemporary Services: 9:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Experience the power of these special services as we commemorate Christ's sacrifice and celebrate His glorious resurrection. Together, let's embrace the joy and renewed hope this season brings.



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