


TEND YOUR FIRE

A detailed anatomical illustration of a human heart is shown engulfed in bright, intense flames. The heart is positioned centrally, with its major blood vessels clearly visible. The fire is depicted with dynamic, swirling tongues of orange and yellow, creating a sense of intense heat and passion. The background is a solid black, which makes the glowing heart and fire stand out prominently. The overall composition is dramatic and symbolic, likely representing the concept of 'tending one's fire' as mentioned in the text.

THIS IS THE GENERATION OF THOSE
WHO SEEK HIM, WHO SEEK HIS FACE

By Beau Burnham and Ash Hammack

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Note: All direct Scripture quotations in this
manual are from the NASB1995 edition.

FOREWORD

This notebook is far from a complete work in that it is not meant to provide all the answers. It's meant to stir in you a hunger to dive deeper and grow closer to the Lord. I hear many people say that they want to read the Bible, but they don't know where to start, nor can they understand what they are reading. This notebook is meant to provide that starting point and help you as you show up daily to walk with the Lord.

Much of the material in here is lists that I started compiling 15 years ago when I encountered the Lord and started walking with Him. I was so hungry and wanted to know God, and what I learned about Jesus caused me to fall more in love with Him. Along the way, Holy Spirit introduced Himself to me, and wow—**just wow!** The love of and union with Abba Father, King Jesus, and Holy Spirit is beyond words and **absolutely worth your pursuit!**

I had many sweet memories working on this project. I remember where I was when I put the list of the Names of God together, and going through the book of Acts to learn how the first followers of Jesus shared the Gospel of the Kingdom. Holy Spirit taught me my identity in Christ through the book of Ephesians. This notebook is very personal because it is birthed from different encounters with the Lord and revelations the Lord has taught me. And what I have freely received, I want to freely give.

While any follower of Jesus can benefit from this book, I had the youth—**the next generation**—in mind when I started putting the different pieces together. Even the title, *Tend Your Fire*, is from a time sitting around a fire with the youth. ***Oh, how I desire for the next generation to fall deeply in love with Jesus and burn for Him!***

So let's realign our view of what following the Way of Jesus looks like. Let's let go of, "Well... I'm not reading the Bible like I should." If you want to **tend your fire** and **burn for Him**, then learn to sit eye to eye with the One who has eyes like fire! Nothing will replace that face-to-face encounter. Ministering to the Lord through worship and praise - pouring out your love and affection on the feet of Jesus - is how you check your spiritual pulse. Show up for the walk. He will. Sit with Him. Stare deeply into His burning eyes, and you will burn for Him. Tend your fire!

A huge thank-you to you, Ash. This notebook wouldn't be readable if it weren't for you! Seriously, thank you for the many hours you spent making sense of my notes and trying to get what's in my mind on paper. Your ideas and writings added tremendous value to this notebook. Thank you. Thank you to the others who gave their time to read through and give their insights as well. This is truly a team project. Thank you all!

Now this is the generation of those who seek You, who seek Your face!

All for Him,
Beau Burnham

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Deep Dive Assignments

At different points in this notebook, you will find blue boxes like this one with Deep Dive Assignments. These assignments will not be quick to complete, because they require searching large sections of scripture. For most of these, you can expect to take weeks or months to complete them. Don't get discouraged! These treasure hunts through scripture will be fun and yield both new understanding and greater closeness with the Lord. Here's a list of where to find these assignments in this book:

The Two Kingdoms - Page 8

Identity In Christ - Page 9

The Original Audience - Page 21

Cross Referencing - Page 24

Names of God - Page 38

Jesus' Mission - Page 60

Examples to Examine - Page 74

The Gospel of the Kingdom

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The gospel in three words:

JESUS IS LORD!

The Good News

The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to establish God's rule on earth, bringing salvation: healing, wholeness, victory, and freedom over all the works of the enemy – sickness, sin, poverty, oppression and even death itself. In the Exodus story, God says He heard their cries and saw their oppression, and He came to set an oppressed people free (Exodus 3:7-8). In the same way, Jesus went to war against the powers of sin and death, and defeated both. His mission was to bring liberation to the oppressed (Luke 4:18), heal the brokenhearted, and proclaim good news to the poor. Jesus is the light (John 1:4-5) that overcomes the powers of darkness.

Victory Over Death

Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus conquered the greatest enemy — death. Humanity was enslaved by sin, and death reigned over us through sin (Romans 5). But Jesus, through His sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection to new life, took upon Himself the weight of our sins and broke the power of death. His resurrection on the third day proved His authority over the grave, making eternal life available to all who believe in Him (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). Now, those who trust in Him are no longer bound by the fear of death but have both the promise of eternal life and the opportunity to live life in the fullness God intended. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Freedom for the Oppressed

Jesus' mission wasn't just about personal salvation — it was about setting the oppressed free (Luke 4:18-19). He healed the sick, cast out demons, forgave sins, and welcomed the outcasts, demonstrating the inbreaking of God's Kingdom. His miracles were signs the Kingdom was at work, reversing the effects of sin and injustice.

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the chains of oppression — whether spiritual (sin and demonic bondage), social (injustice and exclusion), or physical (sickness and suffering). His Kingdom is one of righteousness, peace, and joy in Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17), where the last are made first and the powerless and needy are lifted up.

A New Creation In Christ

Through Jesus' victory over sin and death, those who believe in Him are not only saved but completely transformed. The Scripture declares, "If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). This means through faith in Jesus, we are no longer defined by our past failures or the powers of sin & death. Instead, we are reborn – fully a new being who has never existed before - into a new life, filled with Holy Spirit, and empowered to live in righteousness and freedom. *(See page 41 for more info on Holy Spirit.)*

This transformation is not by our own strength but by the power of Holy Spirit working in us. As we walk in Him, we grow in Christlikeness, reflecting His image and advancing His Kingdom. The new life in Christ is a life of victory, purpose, and restoration.

What Being a New Creation Means

- **Freedom from Sin's Power** – We are no longer slaves to sin but have been set free to live in obedience to God (Romans 6:6-7).
- **A Renewed Mind and Heart** – Our desires and thoughts are transformed to align with God's will (Romans 12:2).
- **Adoption as Children of God** – We are no longer outsiders but beloved sons and daughters of the King (Galatians 4:7).
- **A Mission to Bring the Kingdom** – As new creations, we are called to be ambassadors of Christ, sharing His love, truth, and justice with the world (2 Corinthians 5:20).
- **Restoration to the Image and Likeness of God** – Genesis 1 tells us humanity was made in the image and likeness of God. Through Christ's gift of new life, we are restored to that state of righteousness – which means to be in the state you ought to be. Contrary to what the old hymn might tell us, you are not a "sinner saved by grace" any longer, but a saint or holy one of God. (Ephesians 1:1)

Get renewed, then
go be revival!

BEING ONE WITH THE ONE

It's often said Christianity is not a religion — it's a relationship. And while that statement holds a measure of truth, it undersells the depth of what we've been invited into. What Jesus offers us is more than just a relationship. It's oneness. Not metaphorical, not poetic — real oneness with God Himself.

The Gospel of John makes this point repeatedly and with clarity. It starts with this powerful line:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

From the very first verse, John is telling us who Jesus is — fully God and yet distinct from the Father and Holy Spirit. And throughout the book, this theme continues, especially as Jesus speaks about His relationship with the Father:

"The Father and I are one." (John 10:30)

But Jesus doesn't just talk about **His** unity with the Father. He talks about **our** unity with Him. Through Christ, we are brought into the very oneness of God — the same divine communion that has existed forever between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This idea is known in theology as **perichoresis** — a word that describes the mutual indwelling and perfect unity of the Trinity. It's the way each Person of the Godhead — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — lives fully in the others without losing individual identity. They are in perfect unity, a complete and unbroken bond of love and life.

And the beauty of the gospel is God invites **us** into this oneness. Into the life of God. Into union — not just friendship — with Father, Son, Holy Spirit. The Christian life isn't about working **for** God; it's about living **in** Him. We aren't called to strive to be near Him — we are called to **abide in** Him.

"Abide in Me"

Another way the Scripture talks about oneness with God is using "abide" language. Jesus says it plainly in John 15:5 when He uses the metaphor of the vine and the branches.

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

The branch isn't just attached to the vine — it is part of the same living organism. The life of the vine flows into the branch. The identity, the nourishment, the fruit — it all comes from union. This is the invitation: not just to believe in Jesus, not just to imitate Him, but to live in constant dependence on Him. To dream, move, work, love, and hope with Him and from Him. **To abide in Christ means to be one with Him.** Jesus didn't come to make our existing lives a bit better — He came to give us His life. Life as God intended it.

'...I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'" (John 14:6)

When you live in Him, His life becomes your life. His thoughts become your thoughts. His desires shape your desires. And His dreams for your future are rooted not in what you can achieve, but in what He can accomplish through someone who abides in Him.

If we have His presence, we have everything. If we don't have His presence, then we have nothing.

TWO KINGDOMS COMPARED

The table on the next page is a list of traits ascribed to the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of Light in Scripture. As followers of Jesus, our desire is to walk in the light, reflecting His character and living in the freedom He provides.

This list is **not** meant to be read as a test of whether or not someone is “saved.” Many who have genuinely said yes to Jesus are still learning to walk in the light. Some may be new believers who haven’t yet had time to grow, while others may simply lack understanding — unaware that certain patterns belong to darkness or unsure how to take practical steps into freedom.

The good news is Scripture makes this very clear: **by God’s grace, we can move from darkness into light:**

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

The journey of discipleship is one of transformation, where the Spirit teaches us to leave behind the old ways of darkness and embrace the life of the Kingdom of Light.

Don't be surprised when darkness is dark, but be very surprised when light isn't being light.

KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

Kidnapping - Immorality - Impurity - Sensuality - Idolatry - Sorcery - Enmities - Strife - Jealousy - Outbursts of anger - Disputes - Dissensions - Factions - Envy - Drunkenness - Carousing - Self-seeking - Self-boasting - Division - Trickery of man - Deceitful scheming - Futility of mind - Darkened in understanding - Hard heart - Excluded from the life of God - Greediness - Lust - Bitterness - Wrath - Anger - Clamor - Slander - Murderers - Unrighteous - Fornicators - Adulterers - Effeminate - Homosexuals - Thieves - Revilers - Swindlers - Liars - Grumbling - Disputing - Perverse - Anxious - Alienated - Hostile in mind - Evil deeds - Abusive speech - Perjurers - Boastful - Pugnacious - Quarrelsome - Arrogant - Idolater - Covetous - Impure - Filthiness - Malice - Conceited - Lovers of pleasure - Reckless - Treacherous - Haters of good - Brutal - Self-ambition - Lovers of self - Lovers of money - Ungrateful - Unholy - Unloving - Irreconcilable - Gossips - No self-control - Depraved mind - Unrighteousness - Wickedness - Full of envy - Haters of God - Inventors of evil - Disobedient to parents - Without understanding - Untrustworthy - Unloving - Unmerciful - Conformed to the world - Will of Satan

[...] a selfish mind, the mind of man is the mind of Satan (Matthew 16:23, Mark 8:33)

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man. - Mark 7:21-23

KINGDOM OF LIGHT

Love - Joy - Peace - Patience - Kindness - Goodness - Faithfulness - Gentleness - Self-control - Righteousness - Humble - Holy - Unity - Oneness - Grace - Speaking truth in love - Purity - Tamed tongue - Forgiving - Tender-hearted - Imitators of God - Truth - Obedient - Sanctified - Justified - Blameless - Innocent - Thankfulness - Honor - Trustworthy - No confidence in the flesh - Rejoicing - Steadfastness - Heart of compassion - Christ in you/the hope of glory - Encourage - Sincerity of heart - Building up - Godliness - Good conscience - Sincerity - Faith - Dignity - Temperate - Respectable - Hospitable - Free from the love of money - Manages household well - Generous - Rich in good works - Ready to share - Able to teach - Patient when wronged - Kind to all - Zealous for good works - Righteousness and peace and joy in Holy Spirit - Transformed by the renewing of the mind - The mind of Christ - Will of God

Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. - Romans 13:11-14

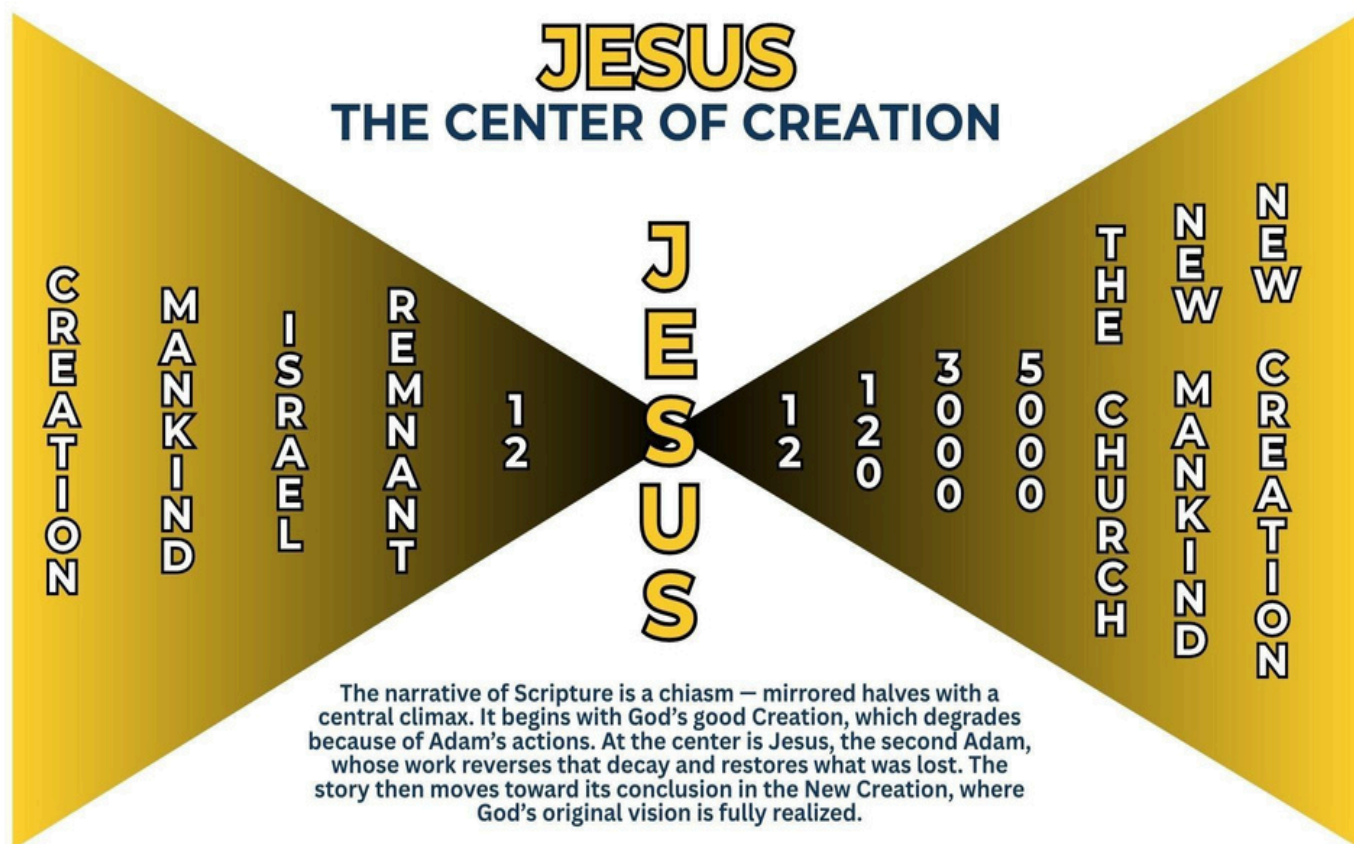
Deep Dive Assignment: As you read through the Pauline letters, highlight the attributes you see of both the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Darkness.

1 Corinthians 15:22 - “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.”

In Adam	In Christ
Sinner	Saint
Cursed	Blessed
Child of Darkness	Child of Light
Unrighteous	Righteous
Unholy	Holy
Dead	Alive
Sons of Disobedience	Sons of the Most High
Father is Satan	The Lord Father is Father
Conflict/ Strife/ Jealousy	Peace
Fear	Love
Enemy of God	Son of God
Uncircumcised Heart	Circumcised Heart
Condemned	No Condemnation
	One with The One

Deep Dive Assignment: Using a red pen, read through the New Testament, and underline all the statements that include the phrase “in Him” or “in Christ.” These passages reveal your identity as a follower of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”



God's Good Creation:

- Creation - Genesis 1:1-31
- Mankind - Genesis 1:26

Good Creation in Decline: Begins with the Fall in Genesis 3

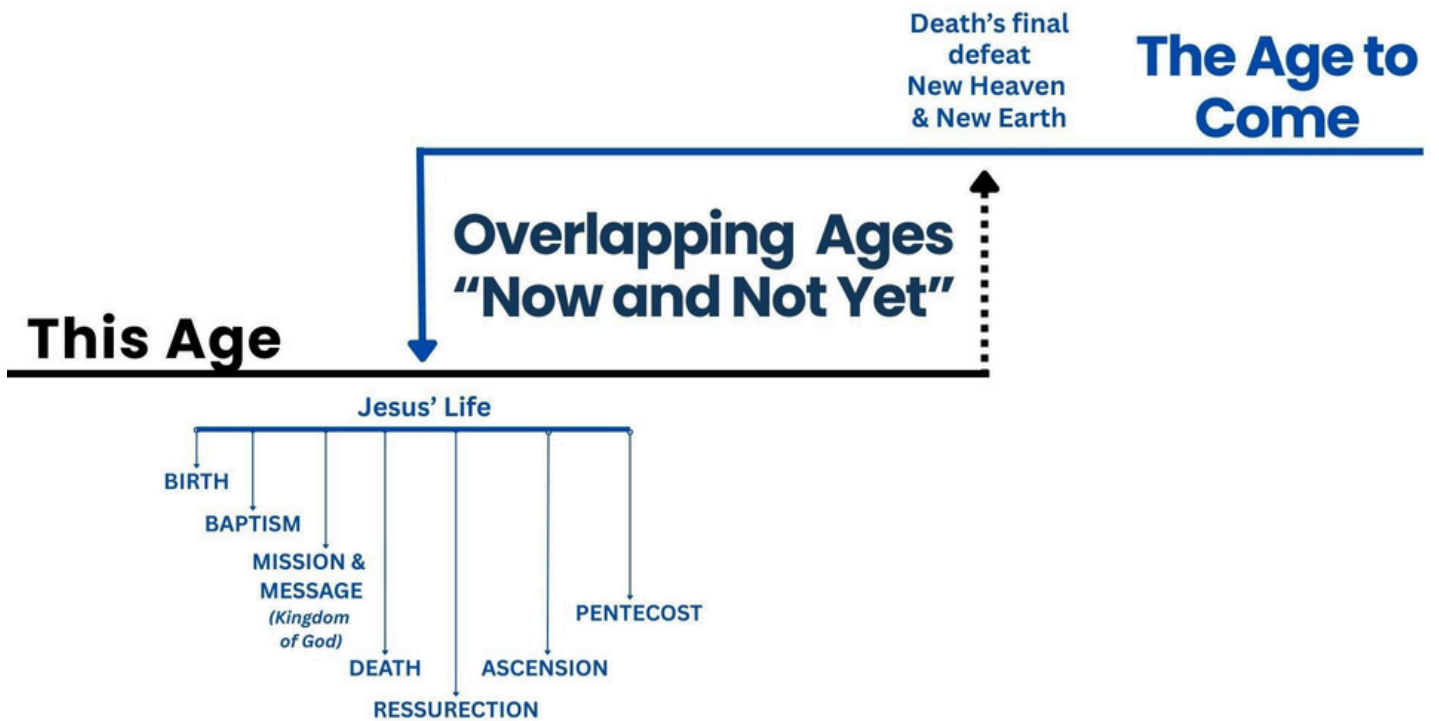
- Israel - Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 32:8-9
- Remnant - Jeremiah 44:19-29, Zephaniah 3:12
- 12 Disciples - John 6:66-69

Center Point: Jesus and only Jesus - Mark 14:44-50

- The Son of Man (representing all humanity) - Daniel
- The suffering servant of the Lord - Isaiah 53

No End to the Increase of His Kingdom: - Isaiah 9:7, Daniel 7:14, Luke 1:33

- 12 Disciples - John 20:19-22
- 120 in the upper room - Acts 1:15
- 3000 saved at Pentecost & more added daily - Acts 2:41, Acts 2:47
- 5000 & more added daily- Acts 4:4, Acts 5:14
- The Church > New Mankind > New Creation - Colossians 1 *(Note, this is NOT a retelling of Genesis one, but focuses on the New Creation beginning with Jesus as the first born from the dead.)*



Understanding Scripture

THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Our theology as a church is built on two foundational frameworks: **Kingdom Theology** and **Narrative Theology**. These two lenses shape how we read Scripture, how we understand God, and how we live out our faith in the world.

What Is Kingdom Theology?

The Big Picture

Kingdom Theology is the foundational set of beliefs through which we understand the whole scriptural narrative, from Creation in the beginning to New Creation at the end. It has been described like the frame of a house on which we build the rest of our theology.

This core belief boils down to this:

Kingdom Theology is the belief that God's Kingdom

- **Has already broken into the world through Jesus,**
- **Is advancing through His people by the power of Holy Spirit,**
- **Will one day be fully realized when all His enemies are made a footstool to His feet**
- **He will return to bring an end to the last enemy—death itself!**

At its heart, Kingdom Theology is about understanding the central message of Jesus: the Kingdom of God is breaking into the world here and now through Him. It's the good news that God's rule—His reign of love, justice, healing, and restoration—has already begun in Jesus, and there will be no end to the increase of His Kingdom here on earth. The day will come when heaven and earth are united, and He will dwell here amongst His people.

This means the Kingdom isn't just a future hope we wait for; it's a present reality we get to live in and partner with God to bring about. Kingdom Theology helps us hold these two truths in tension: the Kingdom is already here, but not yet fully realized. *(See graphic on page 11)*

The Kingdom: Already and Not Yet

This core idea is called **inaugurated eschatology**—a big phrase which simply means Jesus has already inaugurated (or started) God's Kingdom, but the kingdom of darkness is still actively opposing the Kingdom of God. Therefore, as Jesus' representatives here on Earth, we are partnering with Him in the increase of His Kingdom here and now.

When Jesus came, He didn't just announce the Kingdom—He demonstrated it. He healed the sick, cast out demons, forgave sins, and welcomed the outcasts. These weren't just good deeds—they were **signs God's Kingdom was breaking into a broken world.**

- **Already:** Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus launched the Kingdom on earth. Holy Spirit was poured out so we could live as citizens of His Kingdom now.
- **Not Yet:** Sin and death are still present in the world. Injustice still happens. People still suffer. But we know in the fullness of time, all Jesus' enemies will be made a footstool to His feet, and He will make all things new. Heaven and earth will be fully united, and God's rule will be complete.

This “already and not yet” reality is why we can both experience healing now and also groan for the day when all sickness and sorrow will end.

Signs of the Kingdom

Kingdom Theology is not just an idea to believe—it is a **way of living**. We partner with God to bring His Kingdom to earth, just like Jesus taught us to pray: *“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:10)

When the Kingdom breaks in, **things change!** Broken things get restored. People get set free.

Communities are transformed.

Here are some signs of the Kingdom at work:

- The sick are healed
- Justice is established (The oppressed are set free)
- The poor are lifted up
- Sins are forgiven
- The outcasts are welcomed home

These aren't just spiritual ideas—they are **real expressions of God's reign** invading a fallen world.

Living in the In-Between *(See graphic on page 11)*

We live between two realities—between this age and the age to come. This means:

- We pray for the sick because the Kingdom is here.
- We grieve and persevere when healing doesn't come right away, because the Kingdom is not yet fully here.
- We proclaim the good news boldly, knowing God's power is at work through us.
- We also wait with hope for the day Jesus will return and death will face its final defeat.

This is the tension of Kingdom living—**faithful presence now, perfectly manifested unfolding.**

Our Role in the Kingdom

Kingdom Theology reminds us that following Jesus isn't just about escaping this world for heaven someday. It's about joining His mission to bring heaven's rule to earth right now.

We are:

- **Ambassadors of the Kingdom** (2 Corinthians 5:20) – representing Jesus' rule in the world.
- **Carriers of the Spirit** (Acts 1:8) – empowered to do His works.
- **People of Hope** (Romans 15:13) – pointing to the coming restoration of all things.

Co-laborers with Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9) – working with Him to bring light into the darkness.

Kingdom Theology gives us a **framework for understanding God's mission** and a **calling to participate in it**.

What Is Narrative Theology?

The Story Matters

If Kingdom Theology gives us the **big picture** of God's mission and reign, Narrative Theology gives us the **right way to read and interpret the story**.

Narrative Theology is the understanding God has chosen to reveal Himself progressively over time through the unfolding story of Scripture. Each part of the Bible sits in a particular place within that story, and it's crucial to interpret it with that context in mind.

For example, the book of Job takes place very early in the biblical timeline. At that point, God has revealed very little of His nature to humanity. Because of this, Job and his friends speak about God from a **partial understanding** of who He is. What Job and his friends say is real to them—but it may not always reflect the **full truth** about God's character.

As the story moves forward, God reveals more of Himself—to Abraham, to Moses, through the prophets—and ultimately through Jesus. Colossians 1:15 tells us: *"He is the image of the invisible God."* Jesus is the clearest picture of who God truly is.

Progressive Revelation

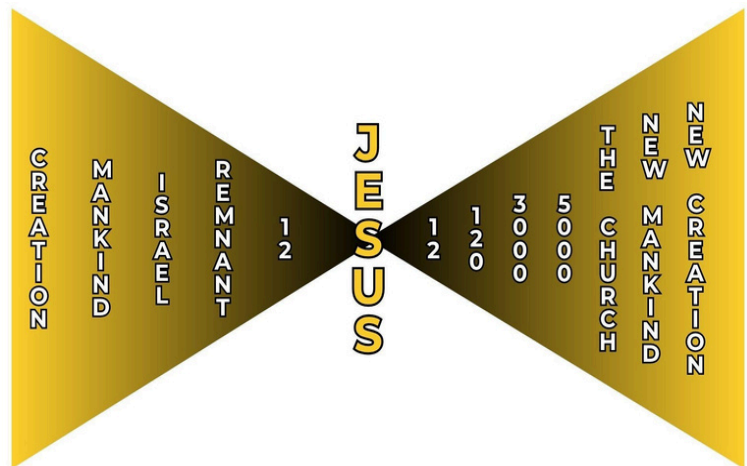
God's revelation unfolds like a story:

- **Early Revelation** – In the earliest parts of the biblical narrative, God's character is known only in part. His power, love, and mercy are visible through His actions, but many of His choices only gain their full meaning when we look back at them through the lens of later revelation.
- **Covenant Revelation** – Through Israel's story, God reveals His holiness, justice, mercy, and faithfulness. Yet the contractual nature of the Sinai covenant, combined with Israel's generational sin, often leads to divine actions that, while just, do not reflect God's ultimate desire and heart as fully as later revelation does.
- **Full Revelation** – In Jesus, we see God's heart, nature, and purposes without distortion. When there appears to be a tension between the way God is presented in the Old Testament and how He is revealed in Jesus, we interpret everything through Jesus as the clearest and fullest revelation of who God is.

This means **not every statement in Scripture carries the same weight** when it comes to revealing God's character. Some parts of the story reflect humanity's limited understanding at that time, while others—especially the words and actions of Jesus—reveal the fullness of who He is.

Jesus at the Center

Jesus isn't just another chapter in the story —He is **the climax**. Everything before Him points toward Him, and everything after flows out of Him. In fact, the story of Scripture is structured as a chiasm — with Jesus as the center. *(For more detail on this chiastic structure, see page 10.)*



When we read the Old Testament, we read **forward toward Jesus**.

When we read the New Testament, we read **through Jesus**.

This means:

- We interpret earlier passages in light of the clearer revelation found in Christ.
- We don't build our picture of God's character on incomplete glimpses but on the **perfect image of God in Jesus**.
- Scripture is understood best when we locate where we are in the narrative and read through the lens of Jesus.

Why Narrative Theology Matters

- It helps us **understand the Bible as a story**, not just a rulebook or collection of random verses.
- It reminds us **not all revelation is equal**—Jesus is the clearest and final Word.
- It prevents us from misunderstanding early, incomplete pictures of God's character.
- It invites us to **center our faith on Jesus**, the true image of God.
- It equips us to read Scripture faithfully, contextually, and with the story's flow in mind.

Kingdom & Narrative Together

When we hold **Kingdom Theology** and **Narrative Theology** together, we get a powerful, holistic framework:

- **Kingdom Theology** shows us *what God is doing*—His reign breaking in, His mission unfolding.
- **Narrative Theology** shows us *how to read the story*—understanding God's progressive revelation culminating in Jesus.

Together, these frameworks **anchor us in God's story, center us on Jesus, and send us into His mission today.**

HOW TO STUDY SCRIPTURE

Studying Scripture is more than just gaining knowledge — it's about encountering the Presence of God. Whenever you open your Bible, take a moment to quiet your heart. Ask Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to you. This is not just study — it's communion. The Bible points us to Jesus, and Jesus invites us into union with Himself. With that in mind, this guide will help you approach Scripture not just for information, but for transformation.

1. Keep the Big Picture in Mind

The Central Theme: **Presence**

All of Scripture can be summed up in one word: **Presence**. From Genesis to Revelation, the story is about **God dwelling with His people**:

- "I will be their God, and they will be My people."
- This is the heartbeat of Scripture.

It's not just about learning truths — it's about **seeking the Presence of the Lord**.

2. Understand the Framework: Kingdom & Narrative Theology

Inaugurated Eschatology - We are living in the "already but not yet." The Kingdom has come through Jesus, but its fullness is still unfolding. Jesus is the center of history, and all things are funneled toward Him.

Know Where You Are in the Story!

Always ask:

- Where am I in the biblical timeline?
- Is this before or after Jesus came?
- How does this passage point toward Jesus, or flow from Him?

It's all about who He is, what He has done, and who He says you are in Him!

3. Let Scripture Speak: Context Is Key

All Scripture Is Written **For** You, But Not All Scripture Is Written **To** You

Every passage in the Bible is for your benefit — but not every passage was written directly to you. Understanding the original audience helps you receive the message as it was intended.

Ask Better Questions: Don't ask, "What does this mean to me?"

Ask instead:

- What is the **original author** saying to the **original audience**?
- What's happening in **history and culture**?
- How does this fit into the **bigger story of Jesus**?

Read in Context:

- Learn about the **cities and cultures** (e.g., Ephesus, Corinth) before reading letters written to them.
- Before reading Scripture, know where in the **biblical/church** timeline the passage you are reading takes place. For example, the book of James is written to “the twelve tribes in the dispersion” meaning the Jewish believers who had been scattered due to persecution. This letter seems to have been written before the events with Cornelius’s household as described in Acts 10, so we know it was not written with Gentile believers in mind because there were not any Gentile believers yet. Thus, you need to read this letter with the Jewish context and culture in mind.
- Know the **issues** the early church was facing — like legalism (see Galatians) and gnosticism (see 1 John).
- The New Testament letters were written to address **real problems and questions** occurring at the time they were written.

Additional Note - Plural “You”: When reading Scripture, keep in mind most instances in the epistles where it says “you” it is referring to the group not an individual. This is more clear in Greek than in English. Example: In the letter to the Ephesians, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” is not addressed to one individual but to the entire community. Reading this passage in context is important, because the individualistic mindset of western culture is extremely foreign to the culture of the early church and can lead us to read passages directed at the whole community as if they are for us individually.

Deep Dive Assignment: With a black pen, find the passage of each Epistle and circle who it is written to. If the people are from a specific place, look for that location in the book of Acts to learn about the culture.

4. Jesus Is the Word of God

The Bible Points to a Person

- “In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God.” – John 1:1
- “The Word of God is living and active...” – Hebrews 4:12

The “Word of God” is **Jesus**, not a book. The Bible is a sacred, inspired collection of writings — but it exists to lead us into relationship with the Living Word.

Jesus told the Pharisees: “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...” – John 5:39-40
Don’t let the Bible replace His **Presence**. Let it **lead you to Him**.

5. Rely on Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit is your Teacher. In John 16, beginning in verse 7, Jesus says of Holy Spirit: “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper [Holy Spirit] will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.” and He continues in verse 13, “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.”

You’re not reading alone. Holy Spirit opens your mind and heart to understand truth:

- All wisdom and knowledge are **in Christ**.
- Christ is **in you**, and you are **in Him**.
- Expect Holy Spirit to illuminate the Scripture.

6. Develop a Healthy Study Rhythm

- Read Broad, Not Just Deep
- When possible, **read large sections** of Scripture at once — especially the New Testament letters.
- They were written to be heard as full letters, not broken into chapters.
- Set Your Heart to Study - “Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to practice it...” – Ezra 7:10

Make intentional time to love the Scripture and pursue it with joy and diligence.

7. Remember the Early Church

- The Bible as we have it wasn’t compiled until around 380 AD.
- It wasn’t widely available to people until after 1450 AD with the invention of the printing press.
- The early church flourished not because they all had Bibles, but because they had **Holy Spirit, community, the teachings of the apostles, and the Presence of Jesus**.

The goal isn’t just to have a Bible — it’s to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

8. Discernment in Reading

- “Now these Jews were more noble... they received the word with eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily...” – Acts 17:11 “Test everything; hold fast to what is good.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:21
- It’s possible to read Scripture wrongly, like the pharisees in John 5:39, with a hardened heart or a selfish lens. But it’s also possible to read it rightly, with humility, context, and dependence on Holy Spirit. “Whoever believes in Me, **as the Scripture has said**, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” John 7:38 [emphasis added]

9. The Cross: The Lens of Healing and Victory

When you read about the cross, remember it's not just about sin and forgiveness — it's also about **healing, wholeness, victory, and freedom**. The gospel is not just good news for eternity; it's good news for now.

Final Encouragement: Stay Rooted in the Why

- We don't study Scripture to check a box.
- We study to know the Person of Jesus, to be formed by His truth, and to walk in His ways.
- His Scripture leads us to **Life**, not just learning.

10. Keep Worldview In Mind

We have to read Scripture with the appropriate interpretive lens or worldview. We want to always read Scripture through a Kingdom view. *(See page 73-75 for further discussion of worldviews.)*

Recommended Study Tools

Here are a couple of recommended resources for gaining context to Scripture reading:

- **The Bible Project** - bibleproject.com - Use for book overviews, word studies, and narrative flow.
- **Blue Letter Bible** - blueletterbible.org - Use for original language tools, cross-references

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament

The Law

•Genesis • Exodus • Leviticus • Numbers • Deuteronomy

Books of History

•Joshua • Judges • Ruth • 1 Samuel • 2 Samuel • 1 Kings • 2 Kings • 1 Chronicles • 2Chronicles • Ezra • Nehemiah • Esther

Books of Wisdom

•Job • Psalms • Proverbs • Ecclesiastes • Song of Solomon

5Major Prophets

•Isaiah • Jeremiah • Lamentations • Ezekiel • Daniel

12Minor Prophets

•Hosea • Joel • Amos • Obadiah • Jonah • Micah • Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah • Haggai • Zechariah • Malachi

New Testament

Gospels

•Matthew • Mark • Luke • John

Book of History

•Acts

Paul's Letters

• Romans • 1 Corinthians • 2 Corinthians • Galatians • Ephesians • Philippians • Colossians • 1 Thessalonians • 2 Thessalonians • 1 Timothy • 2 Timothy • Titus • Philemon

Other Letters

•Hebrews • James • 1 Peter • 2 Peter • 1John • 2 John • 3 John • Jude

Apocalyptic Literature

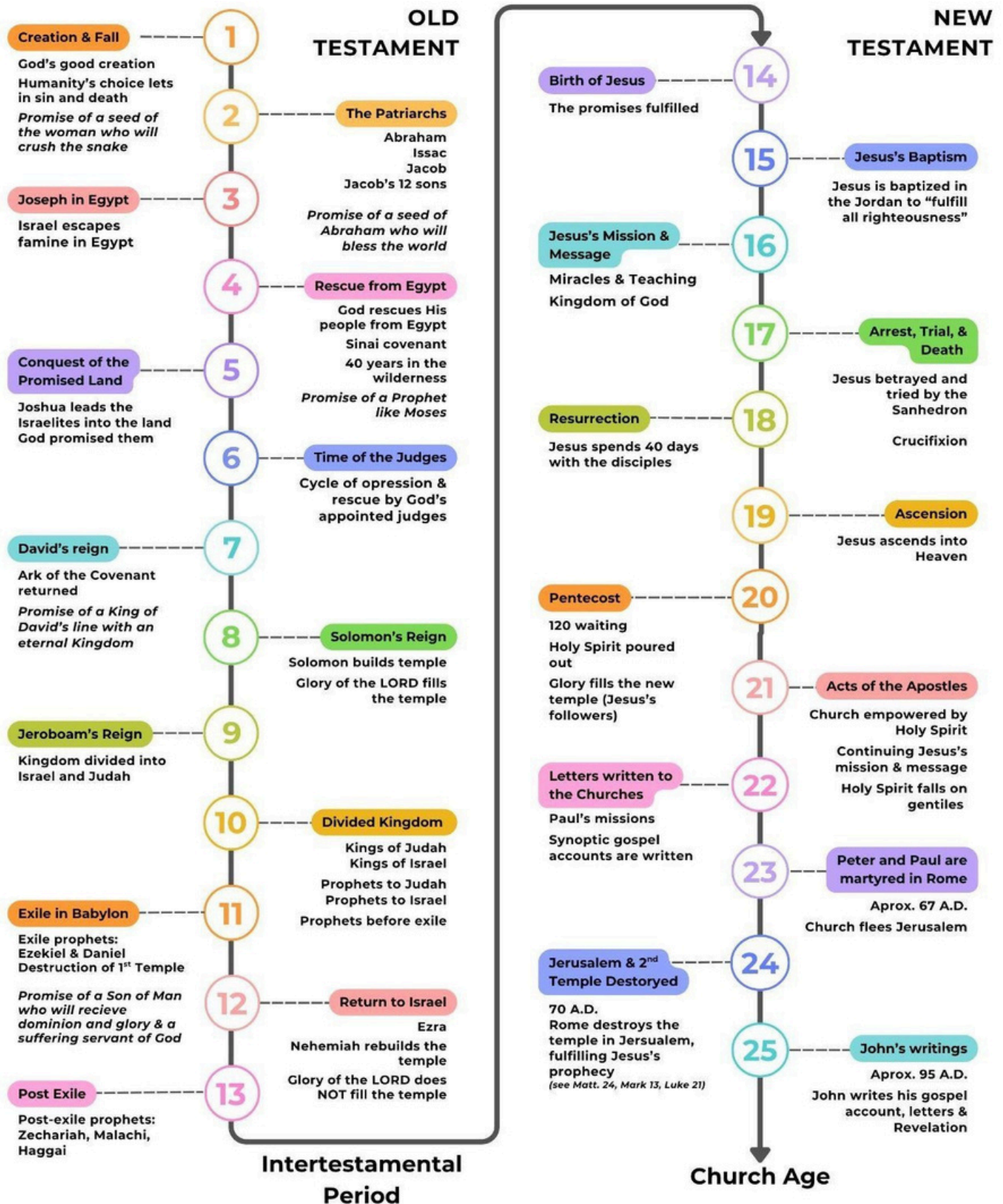
• Revelation

Deep Dive Assignment: Using a bible with footnotes or an online bible tool, choose a book/letter in the New Testament and read through it slowly. Whenever the footnotes indicate an Old Testament passage is being referenced, look up the Old Testament passage, circle it, and notate the New Testament passage in the margins.

Chronological Order - Old Testament

- Genesis
- Job
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Chronicles
- Psalms
- Song of Songs
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 2 Chronicles
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Ezra
- Esther
- Nehemiah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

BIBLE TIMELINE

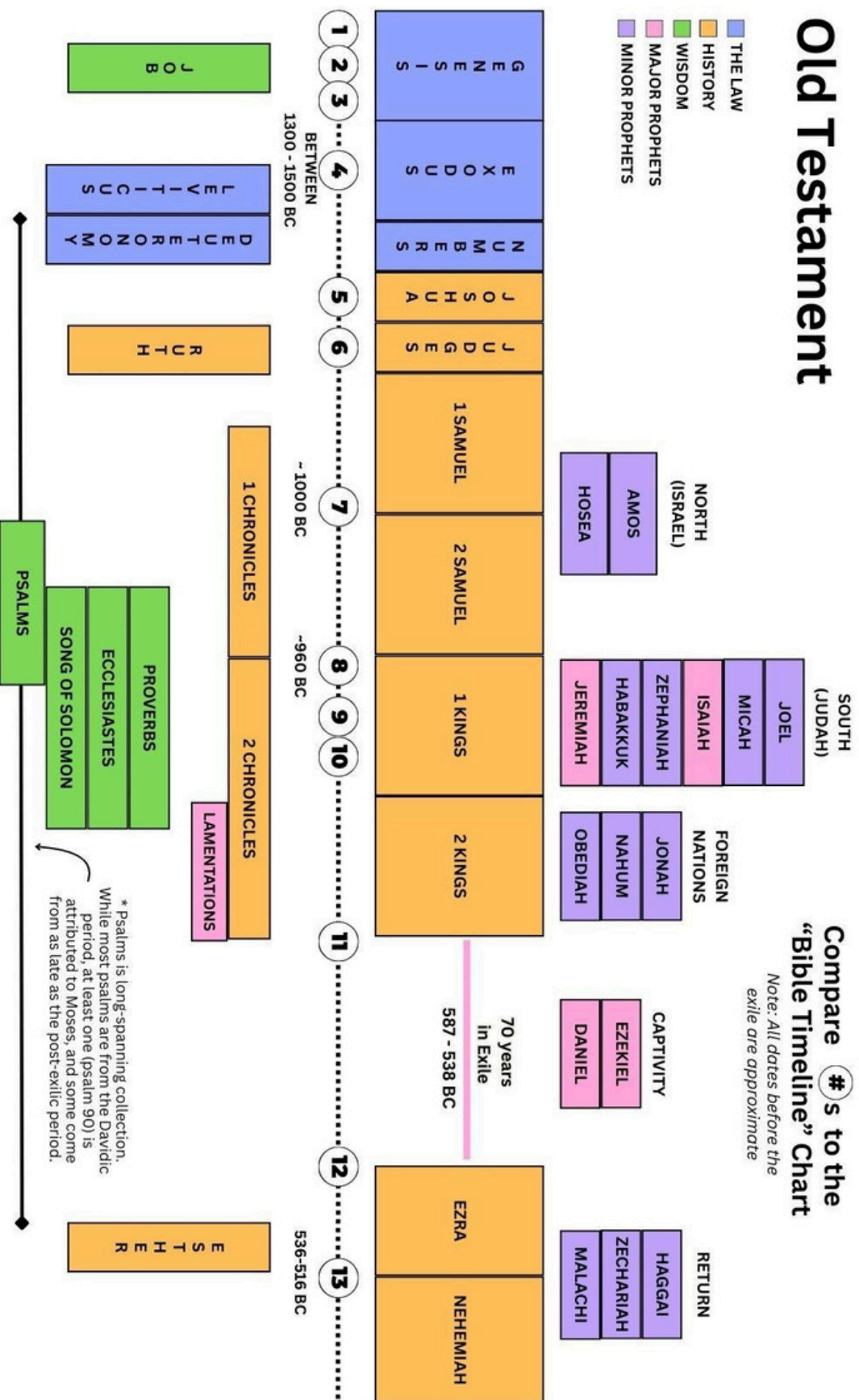


Old Testament

- THE LAW
- HISTORY
- WISDOM
- MAJOR PROPHETS
- MINOR PROPHETS

Compare #s to the "Bible Timeline" Chart

Note: All dates before the exile are approximate

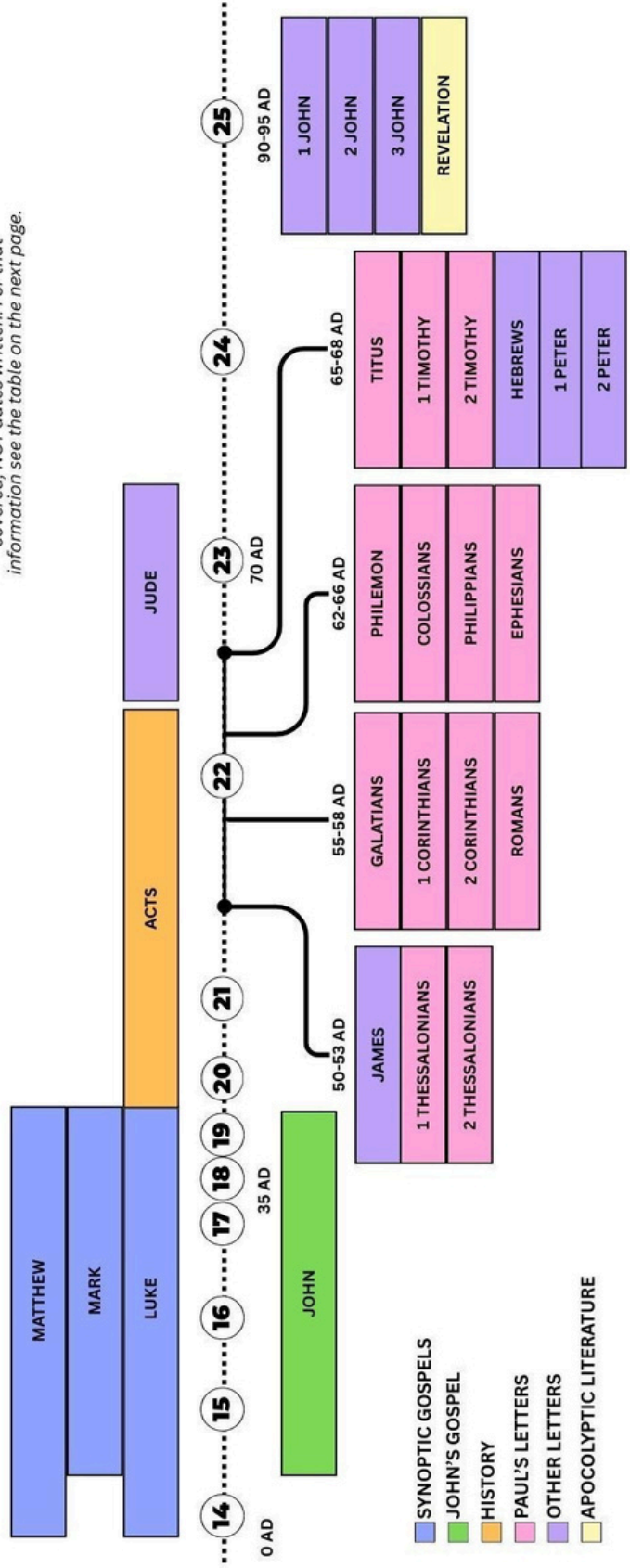


"In the Beginning..."

Between the Testaments

New Testament

Between the Testaments



Compare #s to the "Bible Timeline" Chart

Note: This chart shows the story events covered, NOT dates written. For that information see the table on the next page.

The Church Continues

New Testament Approximate Dates Written

Book/Letter	Approx. Year Written
James	50 AD
1 Thessalonians	52-53 AD
2 Thessalonians	52-53 AD
Galatians	55 AD
1 Corinthians	57 AD
2 Corinthians	57 AD
Romans	57-58 AD
Mark	60 AD
Philippians	62-63 AD
Colossians	62-63 AD
Philemon	62-63 AD
Ephesians	62-63 AD
Luke	63 AD
Acts	63 AD
1 Timothy	65 AD
Titus	65 AD
2 Timothy	66 AD
Matthew	67 AD
Hebrews	67 AD
1 Peter	67 AD
2 Peter	67 AD
Jude	68 AD
Gospel of John	90-95 AD
Letters of John	90-95 AD
Revelation	90-95 AD

BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS:

Understanding the Culture Jesus Lived In

After the Jewish people returned from exile in Babylon and rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem (around 538–516 BC), the voice of prophecy through Malachi closes out the Old Testament. What follows is roughly 400 years of history—often called the **Intertestamental Period**—before the birth of Jesus.

Though no new prophetic books were written during this time, it was a season of great **political upheaval, cultural change, and religious development** that shaped the world Jesus would later step into.

Timeline of Key Events

Date (BC)	Event	Description
538–516 BC	Return to Israel & Second Temple Rebuilt	After exile, the Jewish people return under Persian rule and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. This begins the era of Second Temple Judaism .
332 BC	Alexander the Great conquers Palestine	Hellenistic (Greek) culture begins to spread across the region, introducing new language, ideas, and ways of life.
330–198 BC	Rule of Hellenistic Ptolemies	Egypt's Greek rulers (Ptolemies) control Judea, allowing Jewish religious practice but introducing Greek culture.
198–167 BC	Seleucid Rule	Power shifts to the Seleucids, who begin to pressure Jews toward Greek customs more forcefully.
167 BC	Maccabean Revolt	Jewish revolt against Seleucid oppression and forced Hellenization, led by the Maccabees.
167–63 BC	Hasmonean Dynasty	Jewish priestly family gains independence, ruling Judea with both religious and political power.
63 BC	Roman Conquest of Judea	Roman Republic annexes Judea. Roman governors begin to rule the land.
37 BC	Herod the Great becomes king	Rome installs Herod as a client king over Judea. He renovates the Second Temple and blends Roman politics with Jewish tradition.

Second Temple Judaism and Religious Developments

The return from exile sparked deep reflection among Jewish leaders. They believed their past exile was the result of disobedience to God's law. So during the Second Temple period, religious groups and practices developed to ensure greater **obedience to the Torah**.

- **Synagogues** emerged in villages, providing places for regular teaching and reading of Scripture apart from the Temple in Jerusalem.
- **Religious sects** formed to interpret and live out the Law in different ways.
- Jewish identity became a **blend of faith, national pride, and resistance to foreign influence**, all of which set the stage for the conflicts Jesus would address.

The Influence of Hellenism

When Alexander the Great conquered Palestine in 332 BC, he brought with him **Hellenism**—a cultural movement emphasizing education, arts, athletics, and a worldview centered on human achievement.

Unlike previous conquerors, Alexander allowed local religions to remain but introduced Greek language, schools, theaters, and gyms. Many Jews accepted this cultural blending, seeing no conflict between worshiping at the temple and participating in Hellenistic life.

This mixture created **tension** within Judaism between those who wanted to stay pure to the Law and those open to Greek culture. This tension is a key backdrop for understanding the religious landscape of Jesus' ministry.

Major Jewish Groups During the Intertestamental Period

Group	Positive Characteristics	Negative Characteristics
Sadducees	Legitimate priestly line; oversaw temple worship	Became corrupt, wealthy, and politically entangled with Rome
Herodians	Culturally aware and influential	Compromised Jewish faith by mixing it with Hellenism
Essenes	Devoted to Scripture and holiness	Isolated themselves from society, withdrew into monastic communities
Zealots	Passionate for God's law and freedom	Relied on violence and revolution
Pharisees	Deep commitment to Scripture and obedience	Legalism and lack of compassion toward others

Synagogues

- The **Temple** was the central place of worship, but it was only in Jerusalem.
- **Synagogues** were built in towns and villages to allow people to **study, pray, and hear Scripture** regularly.
- By the time of Jesus, synagogue worship was a normal part of Jewish life.

The Fullness of Time

Understanding this intertestamental period helps us grasp why the Gospels unfold as they do. Jesus entered a **religiously charged, politically oppressed, and culturally divided** world.

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” — Galatians 4:4–5

Every group Jesus encountered—Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Herodians—was responding in its own way to foreign rule and their interpretation of God’s will. Jesus’ message of the Kingdom of God confronted their assumptions and offered a new way.

NAMES OF GOD

“And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.” Psalm 9:10

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” 1 John 4:16

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” 1 John 1:15

“This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all” 1 John 1:5

“God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

Note: Many of the names of God are used to refer to more than one person of the Trinity, and within a single passage the Scripture may use phrasing that could be interpreted as pointing to multiple persons of the trinity. Ex. In Genesis 16, the Angel of YHWH (Jesus) makes a promise to Hagar, and then it is later said YHWH (the Father) made that promise, equating the two. Similar occurrences happen in Genesis 22, Exodus 3, Judges 6, and Judges 16 for these two names. In the New Testament, this kind of overlap in titles is more prevalent, with many names seeming to refer to more than one person of the Trinity. This is done intentionally by the writer to point to the Triune nature of the Godhead. The list below is incomplete and may not capture that nuance, but we encourage you to read carefully and notice those places where the author seems to intentionally use a single title to refer to more than one person of the Trinity.

Names of the Father

- Abba, Father - expressive of an especially close relationship to God - Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6
- Adonai - Lord, Master - Genesis 18:27; Zechariah 4:14
- Consuming Fire - Hebrews 12:29
- Everlasting Father - Isaiah 9:6
- Father - Matthew 6:9
- Father of Compassion - 2 Corinthians 1:3
- Father of Our Lord Jesus the Messiah - Colossians 1:3
- Glory of God - Isaiah 60:1
- God - John 1:1
- God Most High - Hebrews 7:1
- God of All Comfort - 2 Corinthians 1:3
- God the Father - 2 Timothy 1:2

- God of Peace - Frequently used in benedictions. Hebrews 13:20; Romans 15:33, 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Guide - Psalm 48:14
- Heaven - this was a common Jewish substitute for the divine name to avoid misusing God's name. - Matthew 21:25
- Holy One of Israel - Isaiah 41:14
- I Am Who I Am - Exodus 3:14
- Lord Almighty - "the Lord of Hosts" - James 5:4
- Lord Almighty - 2 Corinthians 6:18
- Lord God - Acts 3:22
- Lord God of Israel - Luke 1:68
- Mighty God - Isaiah 9:6
- O Sovereign Lord - Genesis 15:1
- Potentate - 1 Timothy 6:15
- Power; Mighty One - Mark 14:62
- Refuge - Isaiah 25:4
- Rock - Deuteronomy 32:4
- The Creator - Romans 1:25
- The Divine Nature - Romans 1:20
- The Eternal Immortal Invisible King - 1 Timothy 1:17
- The Father of Glory - Ephesians 1:17
- The Father of heavenly lights - James 1:17
- The Father of Spirits - Hebrews 12:9
- The God of Glory - Acts 7:2
- The God of Israel - Matthew 15:31
- The God of Our Fathers; The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - Acts 7:32
- The Lawgiver & Judge - James 4:12
- The Living God - 2 Corinthians 3:3
- The Majestic Glory - 2 Peter 1:17
- The Majesty - Hebrews 1:3

Elohim (eh-low-heem) - God, Judge Creator; the plural form of EL, meaning "strong one". It is used of false gods, but when used of God's sovereignty, creative work, mighty work for Israel, and in relation to His sovereignty - Isa 54:5, Jer 32:27, Gen 1:1, Deut 5:23, 8:15, Ps 68:7

Compounds of EL

- **El Shaddai** (El shad-DYE) - All Sufficient One "God Almighty", the derivation is uncertain. Some think it stresses God's loving supply and comfort. Others His power as the Almighty one standing on a mountain and who corrects and chastens - Genesis 17:1, 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3; Exodus 6:3; Psalms 91:1-2; Job 5:17

- **El Elyon** (El ee-LYE-on) - The Most High God, stresses God's strength, sovereignty, and supremacy - Genesis 14:18, 19, 20, 22; Psalm 57:2, 78:35, 9:2; Daniel 7:18, 22, 25
- **El Olam** (El oh-LAHM) - The Everlasting God, The God of Eternity. Emphasizes God's unchangeableness and is connected with His inexhaustibility - Genesis 16:13, 21:33; Jeremiah 10:10; Isaiah 26:4

LORD - YHVH comes from a verb which means "to exist, be." This name of God stresses the independent and self-existent God of revelation and redemption - Genesis 2:4, 4:3, 7:16; Exodus 6:3, 3:12, 3:14-15, 6:3, 6:6; Leviticus 18:2; Deuteronomy 28:58 This name is thought to be derived from the Hebrew verb "havah" meaning "to have been, to be, or to become" encompassing past, present and future tenses, or simply "to exist." Therefore this name can be interpreted as meaning the Ever Present One.

NOTE: In most English translations of the Old Testament, "LORD" (all caps) indicates the use of the sacred name YHVH, and "Lord" (only first letter capitalized) indicates the original word is "Adonai". Check Psalm 110:1 and see both used, "The LORD (YHVH) says to my Lord (Adonai)." The gospels record Jesus using this verse to show how it points to Him.

Compounds of YHVH (Due to the stigma around saying the Name, pronunciation of YHVH is unknown. The pronunciation guides listed here are for compounded words only.)

- **YHVH Jireh** (JIH-ruh) - "The Lord will provide" stresses God's provision for His people, Genesis 22:14
- **YHVH Nissi** (nee-see)- "The Lord is my Banner" stresses that God is our rallying point and means of victory. The one who fights for His people. Exodus 17:15
- **YHVH Shalom** (shuh-lowm) - "The Lord is Peace" points to the Lord as the means of our peace and rest. Jud 6:24
- **YHVH Sabaoth** (SAB-uh-oth) - "The Lord of Hosts", "Lord Almighty", a military figure portraying the Lord as the commander of the armies of heaven. 1 Sam 1:3; 17:45
- **YHVH Maccaddeshcem** (meh-kah-dish-kem) - "The Lord your Sanctifier" portrays the Lord as our means of sanctification or as the one who sets believers apart for His purpose. Ex 31:13
- **YHVH Rói** (Roh-ee) - "The Lord my Shepherd" portrays the Lord as the Shepherd who cares for His people as a shepherd cares for the sheep of his pasture. Ps 23:1
- **YHVH Tsidkenu** (Tsid-keh-noo) - "The Lord of Righteousness" portrays the Lord as the means of our righteousness. Jeremiah 23:6
- **YHVH Shammah** (SHAM-mah) - "The Lord is there" portrays the Lord's personal presence in His kingdom. - Ezekiel 48:35

Names of Jesus

- Alpha and Omega - Revelation 1:8, 21:6, 22:13
- Almighty - Revelation 1:8, 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 16:14, 19:15, 21:22; Romans 9:29; 2 Corinthians 6:18; James 5:4
- Amen - Revelation 1:8
- Angel of the Lord - Genesis 16:7
- Anointed One - Psalm 2:2
- Apostle - Hebrews 3:1
- Beginning and the End - Revelation 21:6
- Author and Perfector of our Faith - Hebrews 12:2
- Bishop of Souls - 1 Peter 2:25
- Branch - Zechariah 3:8
- Bread of Life - John 6:35, 48
- Bridegroom - Matthew 9:15
- Carpenter - Mark 6:3
- Chief Shepherd - 1 Peter 5:4
- Christ - Matthew 1:6
- Consolation of Israel - Ephesians 2:20
- Dayspring - Luke 1:78
- Day Star - 2 Peter 1:19
- Deliverer - Romans 11:26
- Desire of Nations - Haggai 2:7
- Emmanuel - Matthew 1:23
- End - Revelation 21:6
- Faithful and True Witness - Revelation 3:14
- Friend of Sinners - Matthew 11:19
- Foundation - Zechariah 13:1
- Gate for the Sheep - John 10:7
- Gift of God - 2 Corinthians 9:15
- Good Shepherd - John 10:11
- Governor - Matthew 2:6
- Great Shepherd - Hebrews 13:20
- Head of the Church - Colossians 1:18
- High Priest - Hebrews 3:1
- Jesus (Yeshua / Rescuer) - Matthew 1:21
- King of Israel - Matthew 27:42
- King of Kings - 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16
- Lamb of God - John 1:29
- Last Adam - 1 Corinthians 15:45
- Life - John 11:25; 14:6
- Light of the World - John 8:12; 9:5

- Lion of the Tribe of Judah - Revelation 5:5
- Lord of Lords - 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16
- Master - Matthew 23:8
- Mediator - 1 Timothy 2:5
- Messiah - John 1:41
- Morning Star - Revelation 2:28; 22:16
- Nazarene - Matthew 2:23
- Omega - Revelation 1:8
- Passover Lamb - 1 Corinthians 5:7
- Physician - Matthew 9:19
- Priest - Hebrews 4:15
- Prince of Peace - Isaiah 9:6
- Prophet - Acts 3:22
- Propitiation - 1 John 2:2
- Purifier - Malachi 3:3
- Rabbi - John 1:49
- Ransom - 1 Timothy 2:6
- Redeemer - Isaiah 41:14
- Refiner - Malachi 3:2
- Resurrection - John 11:25
- Righteousness - Jeremiah 23:6
- Root of David - Revelation 22:16
- Rose of Sharon - Song of Solomon 2:1
- Ruler of God's Creation - Revelation 3:14
- Sacrifice - Ephesians 5:2
- Savior - 2 Samuel 22:47; Luke 1:47
- Second Adam - 1 Corinthians 15:47
- Seed of Abraham - Galatians 3:16
- Seed of David - 2 Timothy 2:8
- Seed of the Woman - Genesis 3:15
- Servant - Isaiah 43:1
- Shepherd - 1 Peter 2:25
- Shiloh - Genesis 49:10
- Son of David - Matthew 15:22
- Son of God - Luke 1:35
- Son of Man - Matthew 18:11
- Son of the Most High - Luke 1:32
- Stone - Isaiah 28:16
- Sun of Righteousness - Malachi 4:2
- Teacher - Matthew 26:18
- Truth - John 14:6
- Way - John 14:6

- Wonderful Counselor - Isaiah 9:6
- Word - John 1:1, Revelation 19:13
- Vine - John 15:1

Alpha and Omega / Almighty - “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty,” - Revelation 1:8

Names of Holy Spirit

- Advocate - 1 John 2:1
- Comforter - John 14:16, 14:26, 15:26, and 16:7
- Counselor - John 14:16, 14:26, and 16:7
- Eternal Spirit - Hebrews 9:14
- Helper - John 14:26
- Lord - 2 Corinthians 3:17
- Spirit of Adoption - Romans 8:15
- Spirit of Christ - Romans 8:9
- Spirit of Glory - 1 Peter 4:14
- Spirit of God - Exodus 31:2–6
- Spirit of Holiness - Romans 1:4
- Spirit of Life - John 6:63
- Spirit of Prophecy - Revelation 19:10
- Spirit of the Lord - 2 Corinthians 3:17
- Spirit of Truth - John 16:13, 14:17, 15:26

Spirit of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge, and Fear of the Lord - Isaiah 11:2

Deep Dive Assignment: Using 3 different colors of highlighter, find the various names of God in scripture and highlight them, using a different color for each person of the Trinity.

Life and Life Abundantly

(Life as God intended)

You have been redeemed by
King Jesus! Your King is Here!
Now flourish in His presence!

HOLY SPIRIT

THE GIFT OF GOD HIMSELF

It is one of the greatest errors a Christian can make to undervalue the role of Holy Spirit in our lives. It's not uncommon to hear our brothers & sisters mourn the fact that Jesus no longer walks the earth in bodily form, but Jesus Himself declared it was to our advantage He return to the Father, because then the Helper—Holy Spirit—would come (John 16:7). The coming of the Spirit is not a consolation prize; it is the fulfillment of God's promise to dwell not just among His people but *within* them.

Holy Spirit is not merely a force or influence—**He is fully God**, just as Jesus the Son and God the Father are fully God. And astonishingly, He came to us as a gift.

Take a moment to internalize that truth: Holy Spirit is God giving Himself to us as a gift to dwell with us and in us, purify and sanctify us, and empower us to live as God's temple on the earth. (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Why We Need Him

Life with Jesus Is Impossible Without Him

Our calling as believers is to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and to do what Jesus did. None of this is possible apart from Holy Spirit. He is the One who enables us to follow in Christ's footsteps and carry His presence into the world (Romans 8:11).

The Gift—Not Just the Gifts

Many of the manifestations associated with the Spirit—such as prophecy, healing, tongues, and miracles—are often called the “gifts of the Spirit.” **But these are not the Gift.** Holy Spirit is the Gift. When He manifests, the attributes and power of God's Kingdom become visible. These manifestations flow out of His presence, not apart from it (1 Corinthians 12:4–11).

What He Does in Us

Our Teacher and Revealer

Holy Spirit is our teacher. Jesus said Holy Spirit would “teach you all things” and “bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:26). He opens our minds to understand the Scriptures and reveals the things of God to us (John 16:14). Because He alone knows the mind of God, He is able to guide us in God's ways (1 Corinthians 2:10–12).

The Spirit of Holiness

We were designed to live as the image of God—holy, sanctified, and pure. This cannot be accomplished by human strength or willpower alone. “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord (Zechariah 4:6). Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out, making us into the dwelling place of God (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Fruit of the Spirit

When Holy Spirit dwells in us, He doesn’t just give us power to act—He transforms us to reflect the character of Jesus. Scripture says, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law”* (Galatians 5:22–23).

The “fruit” is not something we manufacture through self-effort. It grows naturally as we remain yielded to His leadership and abide in Him (John 15:4–5). The presence of this fruit in our lives is evidence we are being transformed into Christ’s image.

This inner work is just as essential as the outward demonstrations of power. Gifts display the Kingdom, but fruit displays the King. Holy Spirit forms in us the nature of Jesus so what we do for God flows from who we are becoming in Him.

What He Does Through Us

Power to Be Witnesses

Before His ascension, Jesus promised His followers they would “receive power when Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses” (Acts 1:8). Holy Spirit gives believers the boldness and authority to proclaim the gospel, advance the Kingdom, and live as light in the world.

How We Walk with Him

Our Guide and Shepherd

The Spirit leads us in the way we should go. Scripture says, “Your ears will hear a word behind you, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right or to the left” (Isaiah 30:21). As we learn to trust His voice, He faithfully keeps us on the path God has set before us.

In short: Holy Spirit is the indwelling presence of God—our Teacher, Guide, Empowerer, and Sanctifier. He is the One who makes the Christian life possible, not just in theory but in power, purity, and love.

“And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 13:52

THE BIG FIVE

These are the five things you need to regularly do to keep your whole self (spirit, soul, and body) healthy.

1) Spend time with Jesus

Why? Nothing is more important than this relationship with your Creator and the Lover of your soul. This time will shape your soul, life, and future. It's not a checklist. It's a real invitation to know God and yourself better. We want to practice His presence so we learn to remain in His presence always.

Ideas: Read the Bible, journal, take communion, worship, pray, listen and practice what you hear, soak up the Son!

2) Spend Time Outside

Why? Vitamin D and fresh air are natural healing agents. This is good for your spirit, mind and body. Be with the Creator in creation.

Ideas: Walk barefoot in the grass, read, play games, lie in the sun for 30 minutes, breathe deeply, admire creation, soak up the sun!

3) Serve Someone / Community

Why? We were created for each other. To be in families and groups caring for one another. This will help us be more others-focused and look for ways to make things better for everyone.

Ideas: Do a chore, organize something, pick up trash along the street, make something better than it was before, see a need - fill a need.

4) Exercise Your Mind

Why? Your brain is so powerful! The possibilities are endless unless you check out and don't use it. Don't waste your one brain!

Ideas: Read, practice writing, learn something new, draw, create, build, word puzzle, math, experiment (avoid using screens to minimize distractability).

5) Move Your Body

Why? You only get one body in this life. A body in motion stays in motion. Just like the mind, this is a one-shot deal. Furthermore, Scripture tells us the body is a temple for the Lord, so we have a responsibility to take care of it.

Ideas: Dance, stretch, walk, jog, play a game or sport, work out, jump rope, push yourself and make it FUN!

Enter His rest. Not your strength, your wisdom, your effort. His strength. His wisdom. His effort in you and through you.

DOING WHAT JESUS DID

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. — John 14:12

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of You. I pray that the eyes of our heart may be enlightened, so that we will know what is the hope of Your calling, what are the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of Your power toward us who believe.

Father, would You grant us, according to the riches of Your glory, to be strengthened with power through Your Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith; and that we, rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that we may be filled up to all the fullness of You, God. Now to You who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to You be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

What Jesus Did

Teaching & Proclaiming the Kingdom

Matthew 4:23-24 (John 14:12) — Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

Matthew 9:35 (John 14:12) — Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Mark 1:39 (John 14:12) — And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

Luke 9:11 (John 14:12) — but the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing.

Healing the Sick

Matthew 8:2,3 (John 14:12) — And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Matthew 8:13 (John 14:12) — And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very moment.

Matthew 8:14-17 (John 14:12, Isaiah 53:4) — When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases." (*see also John 20:21, "as I have been sent, I send you"*)

Matthew 9:6 (John 14:12) — "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." And he got up and went home. But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Matthew 9:22 (John 14:12) — But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

Matthew 9:28-30 (John 14:12) — When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened.

Matthew 12:13 (John 14:12) — Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other.

Matthew 12:15 (John 14:12) — Many followed Him, and He healed them all.

Matthew 14:35-36 (John 14:12) — And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent word into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; and they implored Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured.

Matthew 15:28 (John 14:12) — Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

Matthew 15:30-31 (John 14:12) — And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them. So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

Mark 7:33-35 (John 14:12) — Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva; and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly.

Mark 10:51-52 (John 14:12) — And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!" And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.

Luke 13:10-13 (John 14:12) — And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness." And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God.

Luke 14:3-4 (John 14:12) — And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But they kept silent. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away.

Luke 17:14-15 (John 14:12) — When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed. Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God.

Luke 22:51 (John 14:12) — But Jesus answered and said, "Stop! No more of this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

John 4:50-54 (John 14:12) — Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off. As he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living. So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives"; and he himself believed and his whole household. This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

John 5:6-9 (John 14:12) — When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk.

John 9:1-3,7 (John 14:12) — As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him..." "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing.

Casting Out Demons

Matthew 8:14-17 (John 14:12) — When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits

with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."

Matthew 8:31-32 (John 14:12) — The demons began to entreat Him, saying, "If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters.

Matthew 9:32-33 (John 14:12) — As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him. After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

Matthew 17:18 (John 14:12) — And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.

Mark 1:34 (John 14:12) — And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons...

Authority Over The Natural World

Matthew 8:26 (John 14:12) — He rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.

Matthew 14:25 (Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21) — And in the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea.

John 21:5-6 — So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

Raising the Dead

Matthew 9:24-25 (John 14:12) — He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him. But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

Luke 7:13-16 (John 14:12) — When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep." And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God...

John 11:4,43-44 — But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God.....When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." The man who had died came forth.

Delegating Authority & Commissioning

Matthew 10:1 (John 14:12) — Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Matthew 10:7-8 (John 14:12) — And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

Matthew 17:20 (John 14:12) — you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Matthew 28:18-20 (John 14:12) — And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark 16:17-18 (John 14:12) — These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Signs & Wonders

Acts 2:22 (John 14:12) — Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst.

John 2:5-8 — His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from...

Luke 9:14-17 (Matthew 14:15-21, Mark 6:35-44, John 6:1-14) — And He said to His disciples, "Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each." They did so, and had them all sit down. Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people. And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets full.

Matthew 15:36-39 (Mark 8:1-9) — and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven large baskets full. And those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.

WHAT HIS DISCIPLES DID (AND WHAT'S POSSIBLE FOR US)

Teaching & Proclaiming the Kingdom

Acts 4:24-31 — they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, And the peoples devise futile things? 'The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.' For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 8:12 — But when they believed Philip as he was preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were being baptised.

Acts 11:20-21 (Mark 16:20) — ...preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them...

Acts 14:3 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — Therefore, they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.

Acts 19:8 — And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, having discussions and persuading them about the kingdom of God.

Acts 28:23,31 — When they had set a day for Paul, people came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening... preaching the kingdom of God and teaching things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Healing the Sick

Acts 3:6-8 (John 14:12) — But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Acts 5:16 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — Also, the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

Acts 8:5-7 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — and many who had been paralysed and lame were healed.

Acts 9:17-18 — So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like fish scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptised.

Acts 9:34-35 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up. And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Acts 14:9 — This man was listening to Paul as he spoke. Paul looked at him intently and saw that he had faith to be made well.

Acts 19:11-12 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits went out.

Acts 28:8-9 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured.

Casting Out Demons

Mark 6:12-13 (John 14:12) — They went out and preached that men should repent. And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.

Luke 10:17 — Now the seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!"

Acts 8:5-7 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralysed and lame were healed.

Acts 16:18 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

Authority Over The Natural World

Matthew 14:28-29 — Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Acts 8:39-40 — When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 28:3-5 — But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand... However, he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.

Raising the Dead

Acts 9:40 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Acts 20:9-10 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — He was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, “Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.”

Delegated Authority & Empowerment

Acts 2:43 (John 14:12) — Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

Acts 5:12 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people

Acts 6:8 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 8:13 (John 14:12, Mark 16:20) — Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptised, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

It's time for the victorious
Bride to rise up and start
being the victorious Bride!

Signs & Wonders

Acts 4:30 (John 14:12) — while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” — *(see also Mark 16:20, “while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.”)*

Mark 16:20 (John 14:12) — And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

Acts 5:12 — All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles.

Acts 5:15-16 — to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

SOUL RESTORATION

Mental health is a big topic in modern culture, but strangely, western Christians can sometimes neglect this area of health, even though God does not. In fact, true mental health requires a person to be led by Holy Spirit and have their identity firmly rooted in Christ, and simply isn't attainable through self-help methods. Your soul — **which includes your mind, will, and emotions** — is a vital, God-designed part of who you are. Triggers, traumas, fears, and unhealthy patterns of behavior can act as barriers to living life as God intends it. **Past wounds should not give us permission to act less than Christ, because Jesus remains our standard in all things.** If the Lord reveals an unhealthy pattern, or you recognize a struggle that keeps resurfacing, this guide will help you walk with Him into healing and freedom.

Paul's letter to the Romans refers to *renewing the mind* (Romans 12:2), reminding us that transformation happens as we bring our whole self; past, present, and future before the Lord. Caring for your soul is not self-indulgence—it's surrendering all that you are and all that you have to God so He can bring healing, wholeness, victory, and freedom.

Steps in Soul Restoration with the Lord

1. Make Space to be Alone with God

Set aside some time and find a quiet place to meet with the Lord. You may want to spend some time in worship before you begin or put on some worship music. Have a pen and paper ready to take notes as you go.

2. Ask God to Identify the Issue

Sometimes we aren't even aware of the patterns or worldviews that are hindering our life. Ask the Lord to reveal worries, fears, or recurring patterns that keep surfacing. Often He will highlight a memory connected to the root of the struggle.

3. Invite God's Healing

Ask the Lord how He wants to address each issue He reveals. God may lead you to different ways of addressing the wound. While this is NOT a definitive list, some of the most common steps include:

○ Repent and Receive Forgiveness

Repentance does not mean groveling before God; it simply means to change the way you think. Out loud, pray:

"Lord, I repent of _____. I receive Your forgiveness and ask You to help me walk in freedom."

You may need to name several things. Speaking them aloud is powerful. You may want to do so with a trusted believer or minister, as this can bring even greater freedom (James 5:16).

- **Forgive as You Have Been Forgiven**
Healing often requires forgiving others — or even yourself. Forgiveness is not saying the wrong done to you was acceptable; rather, it's acknowledging it was wrong but choosing to release your desire for vengeance or recompense to God. Because Jesus forgives us, we forgive others, entrusting them to His justice and mercy. Jesus warned of the spiritual danger of unforgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15), making this step essential for soul health.
 - **See the Event Through God's Eyes**
Ask the Lord to show you His perspective. Close your eyes, revisit the memory, and ask the Lord: *Where are you in this memory? What would You say or do if You (Jesus) had been in the place of the person who failed me?* Look for where He is in the room, and listen to what He says. Allow Him to “re-parent” that memory with His compassion, truth, and presence.
 - **Replace Lies with Truth**
Trauma isn't just the event, it's the way it shaped our worldview - or changed the way we understand the world and how we fit into it. Many wounds leave us with lies we carry (“I'm not worthy,” “I'll always be rejected”). Ask God to reveal the lie you believed and then replace it with His truth.
4. **Seek Help When Needed**
Some wounds are deep and complex, and you may need guidance in working through them. Don't hesitate to invite a pastor, counselor, or trusted minister to help you process these things in a safe, Spirit-led way.

Putting a New Pattern Into Practice

When God reveals a lie and replaces it with His truth, the transformation can at times be a process rather than an instant change. At first, we may be **unaware** of the lie or unhealthy pattern altogether. As Holy Spirit brings it to light, we become **consciously aware**, recognizing it when it arises and actively choosing —sometimes with serious effort—not to fall into the old way of thinking or acting. With time and practice, the truth becomes so deeply rooted in us that it shifts into **unconscious awareness**. At this stage, God's truth shapes our habits and worldview naturally, and we are able to walk in freedom without striving. This is part of the renewing of the mind that leads us into lasting transformation (Romans 12:2).

Remember that walking with Holy Spirit is a moment-by-moment choice. If you find yourself having failed, simply repent and return to walking with Holy Spirit.

We are receiving what we
should be resisting and we are
resisting what we should be
receiving.

Biblical Examples of Soul Restoration

Scripture gives us pictures of how Jesus ministered to the soul as well as the body:

- **John 4 – The Woman at the Well:** Jesus exposed a cycle of brokenness and offered her living water.
- **John 8 – The Woman Caught in Adultery:** Jesus forgave her and called her into freedom, not shame.
- **Matthew 9:9-13 – Jesus Calls a Tax Collector:** Jesus calls Matthew, a man who would have been an outcast in his culture. Matthew later writes his gospel through the lens of Jesus reaching out to the outcasts, showing how walking with Jesus brought healing and wholeness to his life.
- **Mark 5 – The Woman with the Issue of Blood:** Jesus healed both her physical illness and the social rejection tied to it. This is an example of physical healing being intimately tied with healing on the soul level.
- **Mark 5 – The Man with a Legion of Demons:** Jesus delivered him from torment, restoring him to peace of mind and dignity.

God is holistic God. His desire for us is to be healed and whole in *spirit, soul, and body*.

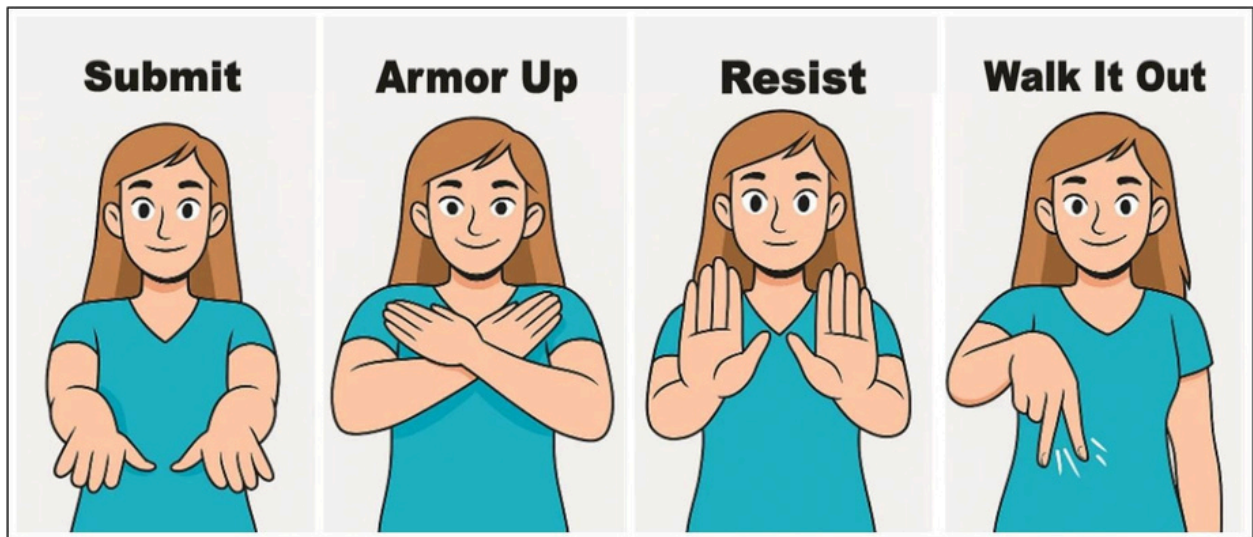
(1 Thessalonians 5:23) Soul restoration is not optional—it is part of God's design for us to walk in freedom, peace, and the fullness of life Jesus freely gives.

WALKING IN PURITY

We are called to resist the things of the world and to walk in purity, but Christians sometimes find this to be easier said than done. Thankfully Scripture provides a clear pattern on how we are to go about resisting the enemy and walking in purity:

Submit, Armor Up, Resist, and Walk It Out

Practice these hand motions to help you remember the steps:



1. Submit (James 4:7)

Submission is the foundation. Before we can stand against temptation, we must first yield to God's authority. To submit means to place ourselves under His lordship, obey His Word, and attune our hearts to His voice. Without this step, every effort at purity becomes self-driven and ultimately ineffective.

- **Key Truth:** Submission positions us under God's covering.
- **Practical Step:** Begin each day by consciously yielding your thoughts, desires, and plans to Him.

2. Armor Up (Ephesians 6:10–18)

The Christian life is a spiritual battle. God has provided armor for our protection and strength—the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. Putting on the armor is not a ritual but a reminder of our identity in Christ and the resources available to us.

- **Key Truth:** Without armor, we are vulnerable; with it, we are equipped.
- **Practical Step:** Pray through each piece of the armor daily, affirming your identity in Christ.

3. Resist (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8–9)

Once we are submitted to God and equipped with His armor, we are ready to resist. To resist means to refuse partnership with sin, temptation, and the schemes of the enemy. This order matters—resistance without submission is powerless. It is like putting on a soldier’s uniform and stepping onto the battlefield without ever enlisting, training, or joining an army. True resistance flows out of alignment with God.

- **Key Truth:** Resistance is effective only when rooted in submission.
- **Practical Step:** When temptation comes, declare God’s truth out loud and refuse agreement with the lie.

4. Walk It Out (Ephesians 4:1; Galatians 5:16)

Purity is not a one-time act but a daily journey. To “walk it out” means to live in step with the Spirit, consistently choosing obedience in both small and large decisions. Walking is steady, deliberate, and ongoing.

- **Key Truth:** Victory in purity is sustained by daily choices empowered by the Spirit.
- **Practical Step:** Develop habits of prayer, Scripture meditation, and accountability to keep you walking forward.

Setting the Mind on Purity

We must intentionally set our minds on the things of God so we will not be defiled. Purity is preserved by a deliberate focus on God’s ways and a rejection of the world’s corruption. When we resist the enemy from a posture of submission, the promise of James 4:7 holds true: *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

It's settled in Heaven. We've got to get it settled in us so that we can get it settled here.

But this is only possible when we are in union with God. The pathway to purity is not self-reliance—it is a Spirit-filled partnership beginning with submission, stands in God’s armor, resists the enemy, and walks out obedience daily.

DREAMING WITH GOD

A lot of us are taught — directly or subtly — to dream according to what seems *reasonable*. To set goals based on what we believe we can accomplish with our own resources, connections, and talents. Even in Christian spaces, we can reduce “God’s will” to just sanctified versions of our own desires. We say, “God, here’s my dream. Please bless it.” But if we truly are one with Him, we don’t want to come to Him with our dreams already formed. Instead we want to engage in the process of dreaming with Holy Spirit, letting Him define the scope of what we are aiming for. The One who created the universe, who holds all things together, and who gave His own life to bring us into union with Him — *He* gets to define the dreams. And the dreams of God are never small.

Dreaming with God doesn’t mean becoming passive, waiting for lightning bolts from heaven to tell you what to do. It means becoming so rooted in Him that your hopes, longings, and visions for the future are born from His heart.

You don’t need to be afraid to dream big. If God is the source, then He’s also the supplier. His dreams may lead you into unknown territory — but never without His presence. That’s the beauty of abiding: you never walk alone. And the goal isn’t success — it’s union.

So don’t limit your dreams to what you think is achievable. Don’t settle for the kind of life that just checks the boxes. Ask God what He sees when He looks at your future. Let Him show you what your life could look like if you truly lived from a place of oneness with Him.

Don't settle for anything less than God's best.

Because at the end of the day, dreaming with God isn’t about trying to get Him to fund your plans. It’s about being so intertwined with His Spirit that your plans *are* His plans. And when that happens — when your branch is connected to the Vine — life flows. Fruit happens. Dreams flourish. Not because you chased them. But because you abided in Him.

Knowing Your “Why”: Living with Purpose Like Jesus

One of the most striking things about Jesus’ life on earth is how clear He was about His purpose. There was never confusion, hesitation, or a drifting sense of aimlessness. From His first moments of public ministry to His final breath on the cross, Jesus moved with intention, focus, and unshakable clarity about *why* He was here.

In Luke 19:10, Jesus plainly declares,

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

That wasn’t just part of His mission — it **was** His mission. Jesus didn’t stumble into it or let others define it for Him. He knew exactly what the Father had sent Him to do: to seek and to save all that was lost in the Father’s good creation. This is the “why” that shaped everything He said and did.

We see this again in Luke 4:18, when Jesus stands in the synagogue and reads from the scroll of Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed...”

This moment wasn't just about reading Scripture — it was a **public declaration** of His mission. Jesus was essentially saying, “This is who I am. This is what I’m about.” He came to break chains, open eyes, lift burdens, and proclaim hope. Everything He did — healing, teaching, restoring, confronting — flowed out of this “why.”

Jesus' Why Was Anchored in the Heart of God

Jesus didn’t invent His mission out of personal ambition or human need. His purpose was birthed in eternity — anchored in the love, justice, and redemptive plan of the Father. He says in Matthew 5:17,

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”

His life wasn’t a disruption to God’s story — it was the fulfillment of it. Jesus came to bring the entire narrative of Scripture into its intended climax: God rescuing not only humanity, but all of creation through His Son.

In John 10:10, Jesus contrasts His mission with that of the enemy:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

His purpose was not just to save people from sin, *but to restore them to life* — real life, full life, life as God intended. His “why” was not just about dealing with death; it was about offering a new kind of existence, marked by intimacy with God and the indwelling presence of Holy Spirit.

And at the heart of it all was love — a love that stooped low and gave everything.

“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

Jesus knew His purpose would cost Him everything — and He embraced it.

Deep Dive Assignment: With a blue pen, read through the gospels and underline Jesus’s mission statements. Hint: Look for the phrase “I came for...” or “I came to...”

Finding Your Why With Him

If Jesus lived with such clarity about His purpose, shouldn’t we? In a world full of distractions, pressure, and constant messages about what we should do or be, it’s easy to drift. But as followers of Jesus, our “why” doesn’t start with our dreams, talents, or ambitions — it starts with **Him**. We are invited to live as branches connected to the Vine — drawing life, vision, and direction from the One who knew exactly why He came.

What do you desire to do while you are here? Maybe you want to cook, play baseball, play music, be a doctor, plant a church, or be a missionary. Whatever you do, I want to encourage you to dream with God. We all want to do something big. Leave our mark if you will. And we want you to know we believe that you are meant to do big things. You are meant to be a part of something bigger than yourself. Your “why” may not look like a public ministry, a pulpit, or a global platform — but it will always look like love. It will always reflect the mission of Jesus: seeking that which was lost, serving others, bringing life, fulfilling God’s promises, and pointing people to the Father.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

Assignment:

Spend some time dreaming with God, and write your “why” in the form of a personal mission statement. This is a short, clear summary of your core values, goals, and purpose in life. Here’s a basic guide:

1. **Pray for guidance** – Begin by asking Holy Spirit to lead your thoughts, give clarity, and reveal your true purpose. As you write, listen and stay in a place of collaboration with Holy Spirit.
2. **Reflect on your values** – Identify what truly matters to you (e.g. honesty, growth, helping others).
3. **Define your purpose** – Ask yourself what impact you want to have on others or the world.
4. **Set long-term goals** – Think about who you want to become and what you want to achieve.
5. **Write it clearly and concisely** – Combine your values, purpose, and goals into 1–3 sentences.
6. **Use present tense** – Phrase it as if you’re already living it.

Example: *"I live to reflect Christ's love, serve others with humility, and grow daily in wisdom and grace to fulfill God's calling on my life."*

[illegible]

[illegible]

OTHERS FOCUSED

As you learn more about God, you see the persons of the Trinity are very **others-focused**. Jesus consistently points to the Father, Holy Spirit always points to Jesus, and the Father repeatedly points people to follow and listen to His Beloved Son. As we step more into oneness with the Lord, we too are directed to take on this attitude. We are not to be selfish, nor are we to be selfless in the sense of self-deprecation, because both of these attitudes are ultimately focused on ourselves. Instead, like God, we are to be radically focused on others, and the Scripture gives several instructions on what that looks like in practice.

Directions: Go search the Scriptures for yourself! Take this list of commands, find them in Scripture, and fill in the Scripture reference of each one.

Unity. One third of the “one-another” commands deal with the unity of the church.

1. Be at peace with one another _____
2. Don't grumble among one another _____
3. Be of the same mind with one another _____, _____
4. Accept one another _____
5. Wait for one another before beginning the Eucharist _____
6. Don't bite, devour, and consume one another _____
7. Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another _____
8. Gently, patiently tolerate one another _____
9. Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another _____
10. Bear with and forgive one another _____
11. Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil _____
12. Don't complain against one another _____, _____
13. Confess sins to one another _____

Love. One third of the “one-another” commands instruct Christians to love one another.

1. Love one another (11 total times)

2. Through love, serve one another _____
3. Tolerate one another in love _____
4. Greet one another with a kiss of love _____
5. Be devoted to one another in love _____

Humility. About 15% of the commands stress an attitude of humility and deference among believers.

1. Give preference to one another in honor _____
2. Regard one another as more important than yourselves _____
3. Serve one another _____
4. Wash one another's feet _____
5. Don't be haughty: be of the same mind _____
6. Be subject to one another _____
7. Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another _____

Here's the rest of the commands which don't fit into the three categories above:

1. Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way _____
2. Greet one another with a kiss _____, _____, _____
3. Husbands and wives: don't deprive one another of physical intimacy _____
4. Bear one another's burdens _____
5. Speak truth to one another _____
6. Don't lie to one another _____
7. Comfort one another concerning the resurrection _____
8. Encourage and build up one another _____
9. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds _____
10. Pray for one another _____
11. Be hospitable to one another _____

SHOW UP!

When we look at all these commands, it becomes clear our journey of faith was never meant to be lived in isolation. God designed His people to walk in unity, to bear each other's burdens, and to practice tangible love within the community of believers. We are called to do life together with consistency, with humility, and with a willingness to invest in others. Just as the Trinity models perfect, others-focused love, we are called to embody that same pattern in our own local body. Your presence, encouragement, prayers, and service are not just nice additions—they are essential threads in the fabric of Christ's body. By choosing to lean in rather than drift away, you help create a place where unity, love, and humility can thrive, and where God Himself is glorified in the way His people live together.

IDENTITY CONFESSION

I am a child of the King. I am a co-heir with Jesus. I am a new creation in Christ. The old has passed away; all things have become new. I am in Jesus. Jesus is in me. Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world.

I am united with Jesus. I have been crucified with Christ. I died with Him. I was buried with Him. I was raised with Him. I am now seated with Him in the heavenlies far above all rule, all authority, all power, and above every name that is named. Therefore, I carry the authority of Christ. I have authority over sickness, over sin, over demons, over storms, over poverty, and over the world. I am the salt of the earth. I am the light of the world. I displace the darkness because I am the light.

I have the full armor of God. I put on the breastplate of righteousness. I put on the belt of truth. I put on the helmet of salvation. I wear the sandals of peace. I take up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. For the weapons of my warfare, they are not of the flesh; but they are divinely powerful to tear down the imagination, the lies, and the strongholds of darkness.

I can do all things in Christ who empowers me. Because I am a child of God, I am a son of the King. I am led by the Spirit. All things, all things, all things work together for my good because I love God and I am called according to His purpose. I have a destiny. I am a citizen of the age to come, but in this age, I have an assignment, and that is bringing heaven to earth. Thank God that I am His, and what He says is true about me is what I chose to believe.

It's all about who He says He is, what He has done, and who He says you are in Him!



VINEYARD JACKSON HOUSE PRAYER

Blessed are You, the LORD our God, the King of the universe. I love You Lord with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

Our Father, who is in heaven. Holy is Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom. Yours is the power. Yours is the glory forever and ever.

Behold, the Kingdom of God is here and Jesus is Lord! The Lord is a Warrior and the Lord is His name! I am a warrior in His army! And I worship and serve King Jesus only!

Come Holy Spirit! We submit to Your Lordship. Teach us, lead us, sanctify us. Empower us to be bold witnesses for You. To boldly speak Your Word and Your Truth in love. While You stretch forth Your hand in many signs and wonders and healings. All for Your namesake! All for Your glory!

Amen!

This is a house of prayer in an
atmosphere of worship.

We are people that know how to go
into His presence, host His presence,
and carry His presence out.

HOUSE PRAYER REFERENCE GUIDE

The following guide details the scriptures and traditional prayers from which the Vineyard Jackson house prayer is drawn. It is important to check all teaching against the Scripture to determine if what you are being taught is correct and biblical. Be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11 “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

Blessed are You, the LORD our God, the King of the universe.

Many traditional Jewish prayers begin this way, including the blessing of the passover meal and the blessing of the wine for passover. Jesus would have used these prayers himself (see Matthew 14:22 as an example, where it says He blessed the meal)

I love You Lord with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - The prayer known as “the Shema” was given to Israel at Sinai and was commonly recited daily by the Hebrew people.

Our Father, who is in heaven. Holy is Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom. Yours is the power. Yours is the glory forever and ever.

Matthew 6:9-13 : Commonly called “The Lord's Prayer”, this apostolic prayer is how we were instructed by Jesus to pray during His sermon on the mount.

Behold, the Kingdom of God is here...

In Luke 17:20-21, Jesus responds to the question of when the Kingdom is coming by saying the Kingdom is here in their midst.

...and Jesus is Lord!

Matthew 28:18-20 (Christus Victor!) 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 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."

Romans 10:9-11: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved".

The Lord is a Warrior and the Lord is His name!

Exodus 15:3-18 : The people of Israel proclaim this at the beginning of the "Song of the Sea" which is a song of praise to YHWH after He led them across the Red Sea and saved them from pharaoh's army.

I am a warrior in His army!

We are warriors against the powers of darkness is a truth found across the New Testament. Some references include: 2 Timothy 2:3-4, Ephesians 6:11, 1 Timothy 6:12, 2 Corinthians 10:4

And I worship and serve King Jesus only!

Luke 4:8 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'" We hereby acknowledge Jesus IS the Lord in human flesh as well as the promised King.

Come Holy Spirit!

This is the famous prayer Lonnie Frisbee prayed in the early days of the Vineyard (Mothers' Day 1980), and that itself was a reference to the Veni Sancte Spiritus prayer which is a traditional liturgy for celebrating the day of Pentecost and the outpouring of Holy Spirit.

We submit to Your Lordship.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Teach us,...

We see the Lord as teacher in various places throughout Scripture. Here are a few examples:
John 15:26, John 16:13-15, 1 Corinthians 2:10-14, 1 John 2:27, Matthew 23:10

...lead us,...

A common prayer throughout Scripture, most notably in the psalms (Psalms 5:8, Psalms 25:4-11, Psalms 31:3-5, Psalm 143:9-10, etc) and in the apostolic prayer ("lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil")

... sanctify us.

Sanctifying us or making us holy is part of the work of Holy Spirit: John 17:17, Hebrews 10:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, etc

Empower us to be a bold witness for You.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

To boldly speak Your Word and Your Truth in love.

Ephesians 4:15 "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ"

Ephesians 6:18-19 "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,"

While You stretch forth Your hand in many signs and wonders and healings.

Acts 4:30 "while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

All for Your namesake!

God is cited repeatedly throughout Scripture as doing work for His namesake and calling us to do the same: Psalm 23:3, Psalm 25:1, Psalm 31:3, Psalm 79:9, 1 John 2:12, Matthew 10:22-24 among others

All for Your glory!

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

1 Corinthians 10:31, which says, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"

Amen!

This is a traditional closing to prayers, literally meaning "truly" or "it is so." You can see it used to signify unified agreement in 1 Corinthians 14:15-16, which says, "What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?"

Tools for Making Disciples

THE THREE WORLDVIEWS

Every person processes their place in the world through a particular lens — a dominant worldview shaping how they interpret life, relationships, and spirituality. While many factors influence this lens — culture, upbringing, and experience among them — people generally fall into one of three primary worldview categories:

- 1. Right vs. Wrong**
- 2. Fear vs. Power**
- 3. Shame vs. Honor**

Each of these worldviews influences how a person perceives truth, justice, morality, and identity. While everyone has a mix of all three to some extent, most people are deeply shaped by one dominant perspective — often culturally ingrained and reinforced by the society around them.

The Gospel and the Three Worldviews

The beauty and power of the gospel lie in its ability to speak to all three worldviews. But when sharing the gospel, it's vital to recognize which worldview someone is operating from. Speaking into a worldview that isn't dominant for the person you're engaging with can result in the message failing to resonate — even if it's completely true.

- **Right vs. Wrong:** In this moral-legal framework, people are concerned primarily with guilt and innocence. The good news of Jesus is He removes our guilt and restores us to righteousness before God. His sacrificial death justifies us and restores our standing with the Father. While this is an extremely common worldview in the Western world, it is not a primary worldview for the writers of Scripture.
- **Fear vs. Power:** This worldview is centered around spiritual forces and control. People shaped by this perspective are often concerned with protection, power, and overcoming the unseen forces of darkness. The gospel speaks directly to this by demonstrating Jesus' authority over all spiritual powers and His ability to free people from fear.
- **Shame vs. Honor:** In this cultural framework, people are motivated by how they are perceived in the eyes of others. Shame is deeply painful, and honor is highly valued. Jesus not only removes our shame, He restores our dignity and status, inviting us into the family of God as honored sons and daughters.

A Biblical Example: Paul on Malta

A fascinating illustration of these worldviews in action can be seen in Acts 28, when Paul is shipwrecked on the island of Malta. After surviving the sea, Paul is bitten by a viper, and the islanders immediately interpret the event through a **right vs. wrong** lens: "Undoubtedly this man must be a murderer...Justice has not allowed him to live" (Acts 28:4). The Maltese people assume Paul is guilty and is now receiving divine punishment.

When Paul doesn't die from the snakebite, the people shift to a different interpretive lens. They are astonished when nothing happens to him and, instead, now assume he must be a god. This sudden change reflects a **fear vs. power** worldview. Unable to make sense of the event through a moral framework, they turn to a spiritual-power interpretation. This scene powerfully demonstrates how worldviews shape human understanding — and how people can move between them when one no longer explains their reality.

Why Worldview Awareness Matters

1. Understanding the Biblical Worldview

When we read Scripture, we often do so through our own cultural lens. In the Western world, for example, many believers approach the Bible with a strong **right vs. wrong** framework. This can distort or narrow our interpretation of certain texts. The book of Romans is a good example. Western readers tend to focus on legal guilt and justification. Romans is steeped in **shame vs. honor** dynamics — where Paul's emphasis is on how God restores us to a position of honor in His family and in His kingdom. In our English translations of the bible, the Greek word *δικαιόω* (*dikaioō*) is often translated as "justification," a legal term, when "righteousness" or "to be in the state one ought to be" better captures the full intent. This shift in understanding significantly enriches how we grasp Paul's message.

Recognizing the worldview behind the biblical texts helps us read Scripture more accurately and appreciate the gospel's depth and multi-dimensional truth.

2. Understanding *Your Disciples'* Worldview

When making disciples or sharing the gospel, it's essential to speak to the worldview that resonates most deeply with the person in front of you. If you present the gospel only through a right vs. wrong lens to someone operating primarily in a shame vs. honor culture, it may seem irrelevant or confusing.

Deep Dive Assignment: Read through the book of Acts and draw boxes around accounts of how the followers of Jesus shared the gospel. Underline their target audience if it is stated.

Being aware of someone's dominant worldview allows you to present the gospel in a way that speaks directly to their heart. For instance, someone struggling with shame not only needs to know that Jesus forgives, they also need to know that Jesus restores their dignity and honors them as part of His family.

3. Understanding (and Shifting) Your Own Worldview

Finally, it's helpful to understand your own primary worldview. The way you relate to God, interpret Scripture, and experience the gospel is shaped by your worldview. Recognizing this can deepen your relationship with the Lord and lead to greater spiritual freedom.

Early in your journey with the Lord, understanding how the gospel speaks to your worldview and the personal struggles that come with it — whether guilt, fear, or shame — can help you more fully experience its transformative power. And from that place of freedom, you're better equipped to minister to others in their unique worldview context.

Furthermore, as you walk with the Lord, you can learn to shift from the cultural worldview to one which better aligns with scripture. **All believers** must move from their worldview to a **Kingdom view**, which is done by immersing themselves in both the scriptures and His Presence.

DMM MODEL

The Disciple Making Movement (DMM) is a strategy for rapidly multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ, emphasizing that disciples make other disciples, leading to exponential growth and the formation of simple, reproducible churches. This approach focuses on empowering every believer to share the gospel and lead others to faith and obedience, emphasizing prayer, scripture, and simple obedience to God's Word. This is not the only tool available for making disciples, but we have used this tool and found it to be effective.

1) Go to the people with ... (Luke 10)

- Prayer
- Love
- Truth

2) Looking for a person of peace who will be... (Acts 10)

- Open to me
- Open to my message
- Willing to open their relationships to me

3) When I find them, I will gather them into a Bible Discovery Group where I will ... (Acts 10)

- Share my life
- Share the gospel
- Share bible stories

4) I will lead them to be obedient followers of Jesus through... (Acts 2)

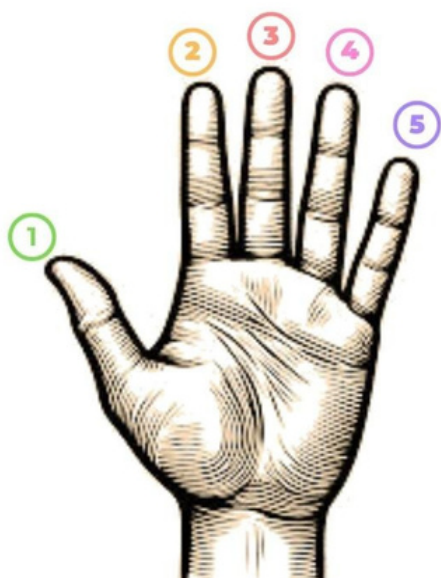
- Baptism
- Christian fellowship
- Sharing their faith

5) I will plant house churches with these believers using the handy guide... (throughout Acts)
(see next page for details)

6) As I have gone to them, I will send them to others (2 Timothy 2:2)

The time is now! The people are hungry!
And it's the Kingdom message!

THE HANDY GUIDE



1) There is one head of the church: Jesus (not the pastor)

2) There are 2 tracks of authority: Holy Spirit and the Scripture (these will never conflict with each other)

3) There are 3 things a shepherd does: teaches the church, corrects the church, and leads the church

4) There are four things a healthy church community does: teaches its own, corrects its own, supports its own, and multiplies from its own

5) There are five questions to get you started: Where? When? What? How? Who?

Visit vineyardjackson.org/bible-discovery-groups for more info on the DMM model.

GOD'S STORY - 10 STORY TRACK

When you share God's story, you can use these ten stories as an outline to guide you.

1. Creation - God makes all things good! (*Genesis 1-2*)
2. The Fall - Why things are no longer fully good as God intended — and God's promise of redemption! (*Genesis 3*)
3. Call of Abraham — God will bless the nations through Abraham (*Genesis 12*)
4. Suffering Servant — Prophecy about the Messiah (*Isaiah 53*)
5. Birth of Jesus — The promise is here! (*Matthew 1-2 / Luke 1-2*)
6. Baptism of Jesus — All righteousness fulfilled (*Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3*)
7. Miracle Story — The Kingdom of God is Jesus' Mission & Message (*choose one that speaks to the needs of your listener*)
8. Arrest, Trial & Crucifixion — Jesus fulfills the role of the Suffering Servant (*Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, John 18-19*)
9. Resurrection & Ascension — Jesus defeats death and is alive! (*Matthew 28, Luke 24, John 20-21, Acts 1*)
10. Holy Spirit Comes — Holy Spirit empowers the church to continue Jesus' mission & message (*Acts 2*)

Where does your story fit into God's story?

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

10 MinuteShare:

You can use this list as a template to share God's story in the course of a single conversation, walking a person through the whole story of God's redemptive plan. This is an amazing tool in your tool kit as a Jesus follower to engage people and begin the discipleship process.

Bible Discovery Group:

Once you have someone who wants to know more about God's story, this same set of 10 stories can provide a framework for a Bible Discovery Group to share the story of God in more depth and detail by reading and discussing each story over the course of 10 meetings.

K.I.S.S. Discussion Questions:

The "Keep It Simple Saints" or KISS Questions are designed as an easy path to discussing any bible story or passage.

1. Who was this letter/passage originally written to?
2. What can I learn about God from what we read (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
3. What can I learn about mankind?
4. What can I learn about the saints?
5. What can I learn about the Church?
6. What must I apply to my life based on what we read and discussed?

God is a giving God, when ministering to others you are helping them open up to receive.

Optional Journaling Assignments

READ THIS BEFORE YOU START!

Please do not treat these journaling prompts like a 'one-and-done' devotion book. These are not meant for you to go through once and check off your list. Each set of prompts is meant to be revisited over and over as needed. Don't be surprised if Holy Spirit brings you back to a prompt periodically over the course of many years.

Each set of prompts includes an action step asking you to set a goal. It is important to remember a **goal** is different from an **intention** in two important ways: 1) A goal has a set time frame, and 2) a goal has a clear success condition. "I will be more kind" is a great intention, but it's not a goal. How would you know for sure if you succeeded? A goal to be more kind might look like "I will do one nice thing that is not normally my responsibility for a member of my family without being asked every day for a week."

Time Frame + Success Condition = Goal

Your spiritual growth is a journey, enjoy the journey with the Lord! Don't rush through or try to do too much at once. Trying to do everything at one time is a great way to burn through your energy reserves and set yourself up for failure. Focus on one journaling section at a time. Set one goal at a time. Taking your time will give Holy Spirit space to lead you through what He wants to you see and make the changes He wants to make.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL

1. Reflect on Freedom

“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me...He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.” (Luke 4:18)

Where in your life have you experienced Jesus’ freedom? Are there areas where you still feel bound or oppressed that you want to invite Him into? Write honestly about both.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Galatians 5:1. How does this passage reinforce Jesus’ invitation to live in freedom?

2. Context / Scripture Connection – Victory Over Death

“Death has been swallowed up in victory...thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:54–57)

How does knowing Jesus has conquered death change the way you view your life right now? Write about any fears you carry, then write a prayer declaring His victory over them.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Romans 8:37–39. How does Paul’s assurance of victory and God’s inseparable love deepen your understanding of Jesus’ triumph over death?

3. Personal Response / Prayer – Identity Check

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Write two lists in your journal:

- *The old me:* lies, habits, or ways of thinking that no longer define you.
- *The new me:* truths about your identity as a child of God (free, beloved, restored, ambassador of Christ).

Pray through your “new me” list, thanking God for each identity statement.

Return to Scripture: Read Ephesians 2:4–6. How does this passage anchor your identity as alive with Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places?

4. ActionStep *“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.”* (2 Corinthians 5:20)

As an ambassador of Christ, how can you bring God’s Kingdom—His love, truth, and justice—into your relationships, community, or daily routines? Set a goal (time frame + success condition) to practice a specific action that brings the Kingdom to your community. Example: go on a prayer walk once a week for a month, and pray for your neighbors as you pick up trash. At the end of your goal period, reflect on what happened as you stepped into this role.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Matthew 5:14–16. How does Jesus’ teaching about being the light of the world affirm your role as His ambassador?

BEING ONE WITH THE ONE

1. Reflect on the Truth – Invited into Oneness

John 10:30 says: *“I and the Father are one.”* In John 17, Jesus prays that we would share in that same oneness with Him and the Father. How does the idea that you are invited into the very life and love of God challenge or expand your understanding of what it means to be a Christian? Write about what this truth stirs in you.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read 2 Peter 1:3–4. How does the promise of being a “partaker in the divine nature” expand your reflection on oneness with Him?

2. Context / Scripture Connection – Abiding in the Vine

In John 15, Jesus describes Himself as the vine and us as the branches. What does it look like in your daily life to live in dependence on Him instead of striving on your own? Write about a specific area where you tend to rely on your own strength, then imagine how it might look different if you fully abided in Him.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Galatians 2:20. How does Paul’s testimony of Christ living in him give context to abiding in the vine?

3. Personal Response / Prayer – Life of the Vine in You

If the life of the vine flows through the branch, then His thoughts, desires, and purposes shape yours. Write down ways you currently see His life flowing in you. Then, write a prayer inviting Him to more deeply shape your heart, mind, and actions.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Philippians 2:13. How does knowing God works in you to will and act according to His purpose anchor your prayer?

4. ActionStep

Set a goal(time frame + success condition) to practice intentionally abiding in Christ —such as setting aside moments of silence with Him, inviting Him into your workday, or memorizing a verse to meditate on. Write it down, and commit to practicing it. At the end of your goal period, reflect on what changed.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Psalm 16:8. How does the psalmist’s practice of setting the Lord always before him inspire your chosen action?

TWO KINGDOMS COMPARED

1. Reflect on the Truth – Transformation in Christ

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 slowly. Notice the phrase: *“And that is what some of you were.”* Write about how God has already brought you out of darkness in your own life. What patterns or mindsets has He freed you from?

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Colossians 1:13–14. How does remembering you’ve been rescued from darkness and transferred into Christ’s Kingdom deepen your reflection?

2. Context / Scripture Connection – Darkness vs. Light

Look over the two lists of attributes from the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of Light. Choose one attribute of darkness you personally wrestle with, and one attribute of light God is inviting you into. Journal about the contrast, and ask Holy Spirit to guide you from one into the other.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Ephesians 5:8–10. How does Paul’s reminder that you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord shape the way you respond?

3. Personal Response / Prayer – Identity in the Armor of Light

Romans 13:12 says: *“The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”* Imagine yourself literally putting on the armor of light. What would it look like to live today fully clothed in Christ? Write out a description of what that version of you looks like, and turn it into a prayer.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Galatians 3:27. How does the picture of being clothed with Christ reinforce this prayer?

4. ActionStep Set a goal(time frame +success condition) to intentionally practice one attribute of the Kingdom of Light. Example:Practice kindness for one month by doing something kind for a friend or family member each day without being asked. (Just saying “be more kind” is too vague, and hard to know if you succeeded.)

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Matthew 5:14–16. How does Jesus’ call to be the light of the world encourage and guide your action?

HOW TO STUDY SCRIPTURE

1. Reflect on Presence

From Genesis to Revelation, God's heart is: *"I will be their God, and they will be My people."* (Jeremiah 31:33). Write about a time when reading Scripture led you to encounter God's Presence rather than just gaining knowledge. How might it change your Bible reading if your main focus became abiding with Him instead of learning about Him?

- **Return to scripture:** Read Psalm 27:4. How does David's desire to "dwell in the house of the Lord" shape the way you think about Bible reading as a place of meeting with God?

2. Context and Story

Choose a recent passage you've read. Ask yourself: Where does this fit in the biblical story? Was it written before or after Jesus? Who was the original audience? Write down what changes in your understanding when you see the passage in its context.

- **Return to scripture:** Read Luke 24:27. How does Jesus' explanation that *all Scripture points to Him* affect the way you approach context and story in your reading?

3. Identity Check

John 5:39–40 reminds us Scripture points us to Jesus, the Living Word. Write about how you currently approach the Bible. Do you tend to treat it as a textbook, a rulebook, or a meeting place with God? Then write a prayer asking Holy Spirit to help you encounter Jesus more fully as you read.

- **Return to scripture:** Read Hebrews 4:12–13. How does the living and active nature of God's Word connect with your own experience of reading Scripture?

4. ActionStep Set a goal(time frame + success condition) to practice a new rhythm of Scripture reading:

- Before reading, pray: *"Holy Spirit, open my heart to see Jesus in these words."*
- Read a larger section (like a full letter or several chapters) in one sitting.
- After reading, write down one way you sensed God's Presence or invitation in the passage.

NAMES OF GOD

1. Reflect on God's Character

Psalm 9:10 and 1 John 4:16 remind us knowing God leads to trust and love. Pick one name of God from the list that resonates with you today (for example: Everlasting Father, Good Shepherd, Prince of Peace, Spirit of Truth). Write about what this name reveals about His character and how it impacts the way you relate to Him.

- **Return to Scripture:** Read Exodus 34:6–7. How do God's revealed attributes in this passage deepen your understanding of the name you chose?

2. Context and Connection

Consider the context of some of these names: YHWH Jireh (The Lord Will Provide), YHWH Rói (The Lord My Shepherd), or El Elyon (God Most High). How do these names reflect God's work in your life or in the world around you? Journal about a time you experienced God in one of these ways.

- **Return to Scripture:** Find one of the names in scripture and read the context in which it was used. Why was this name for God important to the people who were using it in this context? Does their experience cast new light on anything in your life?

3. Identity Check

1 John 1:5 says, "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all." As you meditate on the many names of God, write about how your identity is shaped by His character. Which names speak to you in the season you are in right now?

- **Return to Scripture:** Read the following passages: Genesis 1:26, Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, and 1 Peter 2:21. Remember, humans were originally designed to be God's image and likeness, and this destiny was restored by Jesus. How do the names of God shape the way you see yourself, knowing you are meant to reveal His nature?

4. ActionStep

Set a goal(time frame + success condition), and choose one name of God to focus on each day. Pray using thatname, write it in your journal, and reflect on how He is showing that aspect of Himself in your life. At theend of your goal period, write a short summary of what you've learned about Him and about your relationship with Him.

HOLY SPIRIT — THE GIFT OF GOD HIMSELF

1. Reflect on the Truth – God With You

Jesus said it was to our advantage that He returned to the Father so Holy Spirit could come (John 16:7). Sit with that statement and reflect. What emotions or questions surface when you consider that Holy Spirit is not just a force, but God Himself choosing to dwell within you? Write honestly about how you currently relate to Holy Spirit — distant, familiar, cautious, dependent, unsure.

Return to Scripture: Read John 16:13–15 and 1 Corinthians 2:6–16. How do these passages shape your understanding of Holy Spirit as the One who reveals the thoughts, purposes, and heart of God to you? How should that truth change the way you approach life and make decisions?

2. Context / Scripture Connection – The Gift, Not Just the Gifts

Scripture speaks of many manifestations of the Spirit, yet reminds us that Holy Spirit Himself is the Gift. Reflect on how you’ve typically understood the Holy Spirit — through His power, His gifts, or His personal presence. Which of those has shaped you the most, and which might God be inviting you to rediscover?

Return to Scripture: Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–11. How does Paul’s explanation of gifts flowing from the same Spirit deepen your understanding that these manifestations come from relationship, not performance?

3. Personal Response / Prayer – Inner Transformation

Holy Spirit’s work is not only outward power, but inward formation. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Look at the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22–23. Which fruit feels most evident in your life right now? Which feels underdeveloped or strained? Write a prayer inviting Holy Spirit to form the character of Jesus more deeply in you, surrendering control rather than striving.

Return to Scripture: Read John 15:4–5. How does Jesus’ teaching on abiding help you rest from self-effort and trust Holy Spirit’s transforming work?

4. Action Step – Walking With the Spirit

Holy Spirit is not only present within you; He actively leads and guides. Scripture promises, “This is the way, walk in it” (Isaiah 30:21). Set a goal (time frame + success condition) to intentionally acknowledge and respond to Holy Spirit’s guidance. Example: Begin each morning for two weeks by praying, “Holy Spirit, guide me today,” and write down one moment where you sensed His direction or prompting. At the end of your goal period, reflect on how practicing awareness of Holy Spirit’s presence affected your decisions, peace, or confidence.

Return to Scripture: Read Romans 8:11. How does knowing the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you strengthen your faith to walk daily with Him?

THE BIG FIVE

1. Reflect on Your Practices

The Big Five—spending time with Jesus, being outside, serving others, exercising your mind, and moving your body—are designed to keep your spirit, soul, and body healthy. Which of these five areas do you naturally prioritize, and which tends to get neglected? Write honestly about how this balance (or imbalance) affects your life.

Return to Scripture: Read 1 Corinthians 6:19–20. How does the truth that your body is a temple of Holy Spirit change the way you think about caring for yourself in these areas?

2. Context and Connection

Think about each practice in terms of your relationship with God and others. For example, how does spending time with Jesus influence how you serve your community? How does being outside or moving your body impact your ability to focus and think creatively? Journal about the connections you notice.

Return to Scripture: Meditate on John 15:4–5. How does abiding in Jesus give strength and meaning to the other practices in your life?

3. Identity Check

Psalms 139:14 says, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” How does knowing you are created with intention and purpose by God affect the way you care for your body, mind, and soul? Write about one specific change you want to make in how you treat yourself.

Return to Scripture: Read Ephesians 2:10. How does knowing you are God’s workmanship—created for good works—shape your motivation to live holistically well?

4. ActionStep

Set a goal(time frame + success condition) to intentionally focus on one area of the Big Five where you need to lean in. Some examples might include:

- Everyday, show up for the walk with Jesus.
- Take a 20-minute walk outside on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for a month.
- Set aside a day to serve someone in your family or community
- Do a brain-stretching activity (read, write, solve a puzzle) each evening before bed instead of being on a screen
- Move your body in some fun way - like dancing for 3 songs - every afternoon
- **BONUS CHALLENGE!** Find a way to do all five at once! (It takes creativity, but it’s possible.)

At the end of your goal period, journal about how this focus impacted your spirit, soul, and body.

DOING WHAT JESUS DID

1. Reflect on Jesus' Example

Read the examples of Jesus' ministry: healing the sick, casting out demons, comforting the broken, and teaching the kingdom of God. Which of these actions resonates most with your current season of life? Why? Write about how seeing His compassion and power inspires you.

Return to Scripture: Read Matthew 9:35–36. How does Jesus' compassion for the crowds shape the way you view the needs around you?

2. Faith in Action

John 14:12 reminds us that believers will do the works of Jesus, and even greater works. Journal about areas in your life where you feel called to step out in faith to serve, heal, or bring hope. What small action could you take to “do what Jesus did” in your context?

Return to Scripture: Reflect on James 2:14–17. How does this passage challenge you to put your faith into tangible action?

3. Power Through the Spirit

Reflect on the prayer from Ephesians 1:17–19 and consider how the Spirit empowers you to live like Jesus. How have you experienced the Spirit's guidance, boldness, or healing power in your life? Write about moments when God has worked through you or others to bring relief, restoration, or encouragement.

Return to Scripture: Read Acts 1:8. How does Jesus' promise of the Spirit encourage you to live with greater dependence on His power?

4. Discipleship and Authority

Jesus gave His disciples authority to heal and preach. How do you understand your authority in Christ today? Journal about what it means to operate in His name to bless, encourage, and serve others. Include any hesitations, fears, or doubts and how you might overcome them with faith.

Return to Scripture: Meditate on Luke 10:19–20. How do these verses shape your understanding of the authority and joy found in following Jesus?

5. Action Step

Choose one practical way to reflect Jesus, and set a goal (time frame + success condition) to practice it:

- Visit or pray for someone who is sick or lonely
- Speak encouragement and hope to someone struggling
- Actively share the gospel through words or deeds
- Offer help to someone in need

At the end of your goal period, journal about what happened. How did stepping out in faith, like Jesus, affect you and those around you?

ONE ANOTHER COMMANDS

1. Reflect on the Truth

As you read through the “one another” commands, notice how the Trinity models radical other-centeredness. Which of these commands stand out to you as especially challenging or especially beautiful? Write about what they reveal to you about God’s heart for His people.

Return to Scripture: Go back to John 13:34–35. How does Jesus connect our love for “one another” with being known as His disciples?

2. Context / Identity Check

How do you personally tend to relate to others — do you lean more toward selfishness (putting yourself first) or self-deprecation (putting yourself down)? How might God be inviting you into a healthier, Christlike focus on others instead?

Return to Scripture: Read Philippians 2:3–18. What part of Jesus’ mindset toward others feels most needed in your own relationships right now?

3. Personal Response / Prayer

Choose one “one another” command from the list that resonates most deeply with where you are right now. Write a prayer asking God to form this attitude in you, and confess any barriers (pride, fear, unforgiveness, insecurity) that get in the way.

Return to Scripture: Meditate on Colossians 3:12–14. How do these verses deepen your prayer and shape the way you ask God to change you?

4. ActionStep

Pick one practical way to live out a “one another” command and set a goal (time frame + success condition) to put it into practice. Examples might include: write an encouraging note to someone each day for a week, or spend 5 minutes praying for members of your church family each day for a month. At the beginning of your goal period, write down what you intend to do. At the end, return to your goal and journal about what happened. How did it affect your relationships with members of your community?

IDENTITY CONFESSION

1. Reflect on the Truth

Read through the Identity Confession slowly, paying attention to what stirs in you. Which statement felt hardest to believe today? Why do you think you are struggling? Journal about the lies, fears, or past experiences which might make that truth difficult for you.

Return to Scripture: Find the scripture listed with that identity statement. Read it in context (a few verses before and after). What does God's Word say in the passage to challenges the lie or fear you identified?

2. Context / Scripture Connection

Pick one identity statement that encouraged you the most. Write about why it resonated with your current season of life.

Return to Scripture: Look up the verse tied to that statement. How does the broader passage show God's intention for you? Does it deepen or expand your sense of identity in Him?

3. Personal Response / Prayer

Rewrite one identity statement into a prayer. For example, instead of "I am God's child," you might pray, "Father, thank You that I am Your child and You delight in me." Write and pray your version out loud.

Return to Scripture: Find a different scripture that echoes the same truth (use a cross-reference, a concordance, or just a search). How does pairing your prayer with more scripture anchor it even deeper in God's truth?

4. ActionStep

Set a goal(time period + success condition) to focus on and agree with the Lord about your identity in Christ. Each day during your goal period, choose a portion of the identity statement to read aloud over yourself. Write a short reflection on how believing it shapes your thoughts, emotions, or actions. At the end of your goal period, reread your notes to see what's shifted in your mindset.

VINEYARD JACKSON HOUSE PRAYER & GUIDE

1. Reflect on the Truth

Read through the Vineyard Jackson House Prayer slowly, pausing at each section. Which line of the prayer felt most alive or powerful for you today? Which line felt distant or harder to pray with full conviction? Write about why you think that is.

Return to Scripture: Look up the scripture connected to the line that felt most alive to you. How does the passage reinforce or expand the prayer's meaning?

2. Context / Scripture Connection

Choose one scripture reference from the guide that stood out to you (for example, Exodus 15:3 "The Lord is a warrior"). Read the passage in its original context. How does seeing the prayer rooted in Scripture deepen your understanding of that line of the prayer?

Return to Scripture: Read the verses before and after that passage. What extra insight or layer of meaning do they give you?

3. Personal Response / Prayer

Rewrite one part of the Vineyard Jackson House Prayer in your own words, as a personal prayer to God. For example, instead of "Come Holy Spirit," you might pray, "Holy Spirit, come and fill me with Your courage and peace today." Journal your rewritten version and pray it aloud.

Return to Scripture: Find a scripture verse that echoes the prayer you wrote. How does God's Word affirm and anchor your personal prayer?

4. ActionStep

Set a goal(time frame + success condition) to pray the Vineyard Jackson House Prayer aloud for a set amount of time. After praying, jot a short note about how you sensed God's presence or how your mindset shifted. At the end of your goal period, review your notes and reflect on what changed in you through this rhythm.

THE THREE WORLDVIEWS

1. Reflect on the Truth

Read through the three worldview descriptions (Right vs. Wrong, Fear vs. Power, Shame vs. Honor).

Return to Scripture: Read through one of the gospel explanations in Scripture (examples: Romans 3:23–24; Colossians 2:13–15; Luke 15:11–24). Which worldview is this written to? How does this passage speak directly to your deepest needs?

2. Context / Scripture Connection

Reread Acts 28:1–6, the story of Paul on Malta. Notice how the islanders shifted from a *right vs. wrong* judgment to a *fear vs. power* interpretation when Paul didn't die.

- How does seeing these worldviews play out in real time help you recognize them in yourself or others?
- Have you ever shifted perspectives like that when trying to make sense of an event in your own life?

Return to Scripture: Read the verses before and after (Acts 27:42–44 and Acts 28:7–10). How do they add depth to the story? What do they show about God's power and purpose beyond cultural assumptions?

3. Personal Response / Prayer

Rewrite one of the worldview-focused gospel truths in your own words as a prayer. For example:

- Right vs. Wrong: "Jesus, thank You that You took away my guilt and made me righteous in Your sight."
- Fear vs. Power: "Jesus, I trust in Your authority over every dark force that tries to intimidate me."
- Shame vs. Honor: "Jesus, thank You for lifting my shame and welcoming me as Your beloved child."

Journal your rewritten version and pray it aloud.

4. ActionStep

- Identify your **dominant worldview lens** (right/wrong, fear/power, or shame/honor).
- Ask God to show you how the gospel speaks to that area of your life in fresh ways.
- Journal short notes on what you notice — a moment of freedom, peace, or dignity restored.
- Set a goal (time frame + success condition) to revisit this idea (Example: Once every 6 months) to reflect on if/how your mindset has changed: how did the gospel meet you in your worldview lens over this time? Did you notice God shifting you closer to a *Kingdom view* that holds all three together?

SCRIPTURE READING PLAN

It takes 60–80 hours to read the entire Bible, which breaks down into 10 to 13 minutes a day. So if you **set 30 minutes aside per day**, you will have time to read Scripture, journal/pray, and read/study from the notebook. Some weeks will require more time to read the Scripture than others. On weeks with shorter readings, you will have more time to journal/pray and/or study the notebook. When you get to the Minor Prophets and NT letters - which are shorter and denser in their themes - try to read through them several times during the course of that week's reading.

Week 1 - **Job** - (1h, 45m total - **15m per day**)

Weeks 2-3 - **Genesis** - (3h, 30m total - **15m per day**)

Weeks 4-5 - **Exodus** - (3h total - **13m per day**)

Weeks 6-7 - **Leviticus** - (2h total - **9m per day**)

Weeks 8-9 - **Numbers** - (3h total - **13m per day**)

Weeks 10-11 - **Deuteronomy** - (2h, 30m total - **11m per day**)

Week 12 - **Joshua** - (1h, 45m total - **15m per day**) Week 13 - **Judges** (1h,45m) and **Ruth** (15m) - (2h total - **9m per day**)

Weeks 14-15 - **1 Samuel** (2h, 15m) and **2 Samuel** (1h, 45m) - (4h total - **17m per day**)

Weeks 16-18 - **Psalms** - (5h total - **14m per day**)

Weeks 19-20 - **1 Kings** (2h) and **2 Kings** (2h, 15m) - (4h, 15m total - **18m per day**)

Week 21 - **Proverbs** (1h, 45m), **Ecclesiastes** (30m), **Song of Solomon** (20m) - (2h, 35m total - **22m per day**)

Week 22 - **Amos** (25m), **Hosea** (30m) - (55m total - **8.5m per day**)

Week 23 - **Joel** (12m), **Micah** (20m), **Habakkuk** (9m), **Zephaniah** (10m) - (51m total - **7m per day**)

Weeks 24-25 - **1 Chronicles** (2h) and **2 Chronicles** (2h, 30m) - (4h, 30m total - **20m per day**)

Weeks 26-27 - **Isaiah** (3h, 45m total - **16m per day**)

Weeks 28-29 - **Jeremiah** (4h) and **Lamentations** (20m) - (4h, 20m total - **18.5m per day**)

Week 30 - **Jonah** (8m), **Nahum** (8m), **Obediah** (4m) - (20m total - Read whole books ~ **8m per day**)

Weeks 31-32 - **Ezekiel** (3h, 45m total - **16m per day**) Week 33 - **Daniel** (1h, 15m total - **11m per day**)

Week 34 - **Ezra** (40m) and **Esther** (30m) - (1h 10m total - **10m per day**)

Week 35 - **Nehemiah** - (1h total - **8.5m per day**)

Week 36 - **Haggai** (7m), **Zechariah** (40m), **Malachi** (11m) - (58m total - **8.5m per day**)

Week 37 - **John** (2h total - **17m per day**)

Week 38 - **Mark** (1.5h total - **13m per day**)

Week 39 - **Matthew** (2.5 total - **21.5m per day**)

Week 40 - **Luke** (2.5h total - **21.5m per day**)

Week 41 - **Acts** (2.25h total - **20 m per day**)

Week 42 - **Galatians** (20m), **Ephesians** (20m), **Philippians** (14m) - (54m total - read whole book - ~ **18m per day**)

Week 43 - **1 Thessalonians** (12m) and **2 Thessalonians** (7m) - (19m total - read whole books - ~**12m per day**)

Week 44 - **1Corinthians** (1h) and **2Corinthians** (40m) - (1h, 40m total - **15m per day**)

Week 45 - **Colossians** (13m) and **Philemon** (3m) - (16m total - read whole books - ~**13m per day**)

Week 46 - **Romans** (1h total - **8.5m per day**)

Week 47 - **1 Timothy** (16m), **2 Timothy** (11m), and **Titus** (7m) - (34m total - read whole books - ~**15m per day**)

Week 48 - **Hebrews** (45m total - **6.5m per day**)

Week 49 - **1 Peter** (16m) and **2 Peter** (10m) - (26m total - read whole books - ~**14m per day**)

Week 50 - **James** (16m) and **Jude** (4m) - (20m total - read whole books - ~**10m per day**)

Week 51 - **1 John** (16m), **2 John** (2m), **3John** (2m) - (20m total - read whole books - ~**10m per day**)

Week 52 - **Revelation** (1.25h total - **11m per day**)

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

It is our hope that your time spent with this book has helped you fall more in love with Jesus. Every practice and reflection offered here has been aimed at that single purpose, because discipleship is ultimately about knowing **Him** and letting **His** love restore every part of your life to righteousness (which simply means the way it ought to be). Our prayer is that what you've learned will grow into a deeper, daily companionship with **Him**, where obedience becomes a response to love, and spiritual growth becomes the natural overflow of being with Jesus. This journey of faith is a life-long walk made up of moment-by-moment choices to remain in Him and in His love. There will be seasons of clarity and seasons of challenge, yet in all of them, He remains faithful and close enough to touch if you reach for Him. May you walk forward with boldness, speaking His Word and His truth in love, trusting that the One who called you will sustain you, guide you, and make you more like **Him**.

All for Him,
Beau Burnham &
Ash Hammack