



**FOLLOW**



## Living WITH Jesus

A 43-day devotional journey, exploring and growing in the values of being a follower of Jesus, who lives on mission WITH Jesus.

# WELCOME TO FOLLOW

Thank you for joining with other Jesus followers in this devotional journey! We designed FOLLOW to help you experience God daily, get to know Him in new and deeper ways, and join Him in the good He is doing.

As you walk WITH Jesus in the coming days, this devotional journal will guide you in interacting with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – inviting Him to open your imagination to His will, bring understanding through His Word, and empower you by His Spirit to live differently.\*\*

Starting simply with the desire to hear God, this journey will move through the values that help us live as disciples of Jesus. Each week will be centered around a particular value, and each day will focus in on elements that will help us have that value come alive in our walk WITH Jesus.

As you begin, pace yourself. The first two weeks are simple by design, to give space to find a daily rhythm, absorb the meaning of the scripture, to pray, and be thoughtful about responding to the reflection questions. Later on, there may be more reading to help examine a value more fully, or you may want to take more time to process how you can begin to live it out – so again, start slow and let this time be sacred and life changing.

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\*\*A Note about God:

God is one being, completely unified. We pray to one God, with recognition of the three distinct co-equal persons He revealed are part of Him – not personalities, but whole persons (much like an egg has three distinct parts, but is still one egg). The Father is the originator who puts things in motion. The Son takes the will of the Father and brings it into being – including physical reality. The Holy Spirit brings life, empowers, and weaves everything together according to purpose. We address the Son as Jesus – the name He was given when He was born miraculously through Mary, taking on human form. The Holy Spirit’s proper name is “Holy Spirit” or “Spirit of God” so as appropriate we drop the “the,” to properly speak of a person.

## The Values - A Lifestyle of Discipleship:

Jesus invites us to be WITH Him, to be His disciples (followers) who live and move and have our being in Him. As disciples we become citizens of His Kingdom which stands eternal and unshakeable against the rise and fall of worldly systems and circumstances. He commands us to help discover, develop, and deploy others as His disciples, because all creatures find their greatest purpose and meaning in Him.

Each week has a value we will review before each section. They are listed here so you can see them all together. The words “Discover, Develop, and Deploy” are just words that help us remember how to BE and MAKE disciples. The “I will...” values under each word are what we see Jesus and the early Church teaching others, as they followed Jesus in the Great Commission (Matthew 28) – to be and go make disciples.

**Discover:** I will see and hear the potential God sees

1. I will listen to the voice of God
2. I will adjust to what He reveals.

**Develop:**

3. I will model Jesus through life-on-life relationships
4. I will prepare people to follow, be changed by, and love like Jesus.

**Deploy:**

5. I will release disciple-makers to God’s calling in EVERY domain of culture.
6. I will invest in their Kingdom impact according to God’s design.

As we learn to FOLLOW Jesus, as citizens of His Kingdom, His power and presence will overflow into every moment. We trust Him to shift the nature of our present existence toward our eternal destiny, shaking off the things that have had us stuck, transforming us from the inside out, teaching us to live in His love, and expanding His Kingdom as we help others learn to FOLLOW and live WITH Jesus.

## Instructions:

1. Choose a place where you can be undistracted.
2. Be comfortable enough to pray and listen to God with an alert mind and spirit.
3. Have your Bible/Bible app available.
4. Be able to write/type into the journal directly if possible.
5. Start with a prayer asking the Father to make you aware of His will, and helping you to imagine His plans beyond your expectations/circumstances.
6. Read the Devotional Thought to give you some insights into the scripture for the day.
7. Read the scripture of the day (more than once if you have time) and make note of what gets your attention as you read.
8. Pray and ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, what He wants you to focus on, and how he wants to grow you.
9. Take time to reflect on the three questions, and let Jesus guide how you answer them.
10. For the question, “what are you going to do about it?” – keep the focus on how Jesus is calling you to grow and respond to the scripture of the day and the value of the week – think of it as a step toward a goal. What is that step that can become a habit or a reminder of a way of seeing things?
11. Ask Holy Spirit to empower you to take that step and continue to grow you in the value that is the focus for the week.
12. If you want to continue journaling beyond the space/time for the devotional, please do. Let these daily moments resonate with you constantly as you work, play, go to school, and relax with friends.

# **Discover – To See and Hear the Potential God Sees**

**Week 1 – Value in Focus:**

**I will listen to the voice of God.**

Proverbs 9:10 tells us, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” The value of listening to God’s voice as we read scripture and as we pray is the first and most important value in our relationship with Him. We must hear His Word, in order to know Him, understand His heart, and live fully alive in the design He gave us.

Mark 4:21-25 Jesus says, “Consider carefully what you hear.” A more literal translation is “LOOK AT what you hear.” To us that sounds odd, but in Jesus’ culture word pictures (parables) were often used to help people see how to live out a teaching. Have you ever tried to visualize what you read in scripture? Has God ever given you a picture when you are listening in prayer? Letting God use our imagination to create pictures, to “look at” what we hear, helps us grasp what He is saying in tangible ways.

This week you will be invited to pause, be still, get to know God’s voice, and really see and hear what God is saying.

## **DAY 1: STOP – Matthew 6:5-18**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Maybe you took a deep breath before trying to start today. Its ok. Take another one. Tune out the distractions for this moment, let the awkwardness fall away.

In today's reading, Jesus is speaking to his followers, inviting them to STOP and have private conversation with God. Notice the contrasts He makes. The "professionals" here are not the example Jesus had in mind (No one can be hired to do our part of our relationship with God). Instead every focus is about being satisfied completely by living dependent on God.

Reflect on the prayer model Jesus shares, and what He includes as part of prayer. Listen for encouragement about your conversations with God, and let Him invite you deeper into the conversation through His example. (READ Matthew 6:5-18.)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 2: Be Still – Acts 9:1-9

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Do you find it easy to be still? Most of us likely identify with Saul in today's passage. He was so focused on what He was trying to do FOR God, that he didn't realize he wasn't WITH God. In fact, he was going AGAINST God, as he hunted down followers of Jesus, tried them, and gave approval for their execution. Saul had to be knocked off his horse and blinded before he would sit still, fast, pray, and wait for God to reveal what was next for him.

Today, sit in this moment with Saul. Notice where his passion to do stuff FOR God lead him. Reflect on who was hurt when he thought he was doing good, and the amount of grace it took for God to get his attention – rather than just judge him. Listen for what God might say to you if he interrupted what you're doing FOR Him, instead of WITH Him. (READ Acts 9:1-9)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### Prompts:

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

### **DAY 3: Be Available – Acts 9:10-19**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Have you ever had to put your life on the line? God invited Ananias to go to Saul, pray for him, and be part of restoring him to a mission WITH God. Ananias was concerned enough to talk back to God, because he knew who Saul was, and what he had come to do.

Pay attention to the conversation between Ananias and God. Notice how God communicated, and the specifics He shared. Reflect on the attitude both Ananias and Saul needed to be available and to hear God. Celebrate what happens as a result of Ananias going to Paul. Listen for how God may invite you to greater availability, and who (outside your comfort zone) He may want you to serve. (READ Acts 9:10-19)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

#### **Prompts:**

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What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 4: Surrender – Romans 8:6-17**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** If you were asked to mow your lawn with no gas in your mower, would you even try? The difference between living in our own strength by the flesh, and living empowered by God's Holy Spirit is similar. Life will be hard regardless of which way we live, but if we surrender our desires and our abilities to God, He can accomplish way more through us than we can on our own.

Notice how Paul teaches the Roman followers of Jesus the difference between a living for the flesh and living by the Holy Spirit. Reflect on the promises, the freedom, and courage we have if we are adopted into God's family. Listen for what God may ask you to surrender, and where He wants to empower the life He designed for you to live WITH Him. (READ Romans 8:6-17)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

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**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 5: Tune In – Luke 10:38-42

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Do you engage life with “one ear-bud in?” Maybe you're always listening to the playlist of things you are not getting done, or maybe the person's story in front of you causes you to forget the other people who are important in your life. Whether you are task oriented or people oriented, tuning-in to the most important conversations is a challenge.

Notice the contrast of the two sisters. Reflect on the choice Martha had AFTER hearing Jesus' response to her request. Listen for what God might say to you about your priorities and what gets your full attention. (READ Luke 10:38-42)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 6: Clarify – John 16:13-15**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** How do I know I am hearing God, and not my own thoughts? For some people over analyzing whether they heard God can be paralyzing to their faith. For others, making sure what they think they heard lines up with the rest of God's Word can be disappointing, and even dangerous.

Notice how Jesus explains the work of Holy Spirit and why we should trust Him? Reflect on the relationship between what Holy Spirit makes known to us, and where that truth and power comes from. Listen for the consistent way God speaks and how to clarify what we hear from Him. (READ John 16:13-15)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

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What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 7: Let it Sink In – Matthew 13:1-23

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Two Jewish concepts are important for today's reading. The first is, "Like a basket without handles, is Truth without a parable." Parables were meant to be "word pictures" of what was being taught – to illustrate and help people "get it" in a practical way. The second concept is, "see and SEE, hear and HEAR." The initial "see" and "hear" would mean simply that you saw something with your eyes and heard something with your ears. The next "SEE" and "HEAR" mean what you saw caused you to respond (SEE) because you understood (HEAR).

Notice how Jesus uses these concepts to respond to the Disciples' question in verse 10. Reflect on what Jesus wanted His hearers (and the disciples) to have "SEE/HEAR." Listen for what God may be trying to help you and others understand. (READ Matt 13:1-23)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### Prompts:

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

# **Discover – To See and Hear the Potential God Sees**

**Week 2 – Value in Focus:**

**I will adjust to what God has revealed.**

**Matthew 7:24-27** Jesus gives us a word picture to help us understand the importance of “putting into practice” what we hear from God. In the desert of Israel, there are narrow valleys, called “Wadis” that have flash floods. When it rains hard in the north, the desert may be clear and sunny, yet massive flood waters will suddenly come down through those valleys. All that water grinds away at the rocks, and leaves a fine silica sand in the low areas of the valley. That’s key to understanding the picture Jesus gives. “Building a house on the sand” is a word picture for when we do NOT live by God’s Word – its like building our house in the middle of a Wadi. But when we seek to live daily by God’s Word, its like “building our house on the rock,” above the Wadi and safe during seasons of flooding.

**This week you will be invited to adjust to what you are discovering from God’s Word and through His Holy Spirit in prayer. As He reveals more of Himself, His plans, and the potential He sees in you (AND those around you), how will you change your priorities and habits to make Him the foundation of your life? How will you live fully into the potential He sees in you? How will you help others discover the potential He sees in them?**

## **DAY 8: Sacrifice – Luke 12:16-21**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** What do we do with what we receive from God? It is so easy to view God like a vending machine or like a spiritual internet search engine. Our attention toward God, and other people, usually sits in second place behind whatever we need/want each day. Our perspective is often guided by making sure we are taken care of in the future, more so than being generous toward others in the present. It's more rare for us to consider whatever God wants BEFORE we think about ourself – even if He just blessed us.

Notice how Jesus uses the parable to reveal our usual way of thinking. Reflect on a different thought process that the farmer could have had - for potential ways to use the blessing that He overlooked. Listen for where God may have revealed different potential use for what He has blessed you with, and how He may want to change your plans. (READ Luke 12:16-21)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

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**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 9: Re-Align – Ephesians 2:9-10

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** You are a unique work of art, a poem, a song! In verse 10 the word translated 'workmanship' is the Greek word "Poema" – like our English word "poem". It takes time and creativity to write something that has a lot of meaning in few words. The deepest meaning of a poem or a song, is usually heard when they are performed by the artist who designed them.

Notice the context verse 9 brings – our design or our work doesn't gain us salvation – it's a gift received in relationship to our maker - the artist. Reflect on the unique ways God has made you – skills, abilities, sense of humor, interests, struggles, faults, flaws, etc. Listen for where God wants to re-align your design to His purposes and plans. Let Him show you how He can use all of you, even the rough stuff, as you adjust to His ways. (READ Ephesians 2:9-10)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### Prompts:

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 10: Obey – Romans 2:1-13

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Once I know what I should do, do I do it? We learned yesterday about “poema” and being willing to live out our God given design, in the ways God prepared for us to live. In verse 13 of today's reading, the Greek word “poema” is translated as “obey” or “doers.” This is important because the particular way the word “poema” is used, it is emphasizing that those who “perform” or “live out” their design according to God's plans are righteous – or living rightly before God.

Notice the correction from Paul (the writer of Romans) about evaluating others' performance, and persevere in living God's way. Reflect on grace and patience it has taken for God to handle you – and consider that He does the same for those around you. Listen for where God may be calling you to turn-around (repent) so you can live your design fully in His ways. (READ Romans 2:1-13)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### Prompts:

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**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 11: Move – James 1:19-25**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Does my lifestyle, demonstrate the mission and purposes of God? To be sure, the way we go through our day demonstrates what we believe. The real question is whether that is representing God's values and mission, or simply our own selection of moral behaviors. In verses 22-25 when you see the word "doer" or "doing" (depending on your translation) it is again the Greek word "poema" - and is emphasizing the importance of living out our design daily, fully aligned to God's mission.

Notice the connection between hearing and doing that James makes – how it leads to a constant way of living that is blessed by God. Reflect on your identity (who Jesus says you are) and what it means to "accept humbly the word planted in you..." Listen for where God is helping you live, move, and have your being in Him – in every moment and encounter of the day. (READ James 1:19-25)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

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**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 12: Serve – I Peter 1:3-12**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** It's for someone else?? Faith is deeply personal, because of God's desire for RELATIONSHIP with EACH of us. In that regard, His love is all about ME as an individual. Because of that, we tend to think the whole religious/faith life is about us – once we “get saved” its supposed to be “our best life, now...” But there is a Jewish proverb, “He who saves one, saves the world...in time.” When I hear God's heart, I understand that He loves others as deeply as He loves me – and that means His work in me and for me is meant to serve others coming to know Him, through me.

Notice how Peter connects faith, salvation, and serving others. Reflect on the mystery that the Prophets who served God before Jesus, played a part in you hearing about and knowing Jesus. Listen for where God may give you a part to play in the lives of people around you. (READ I Peter 1:3-12)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

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**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 13: Focus – Acts 4:7-31**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Hardship, push-back, opposition, and misunderstanding will happen. Staying humble and focused is essential to keeping us on track in our journey with God. In today's reading the disciples were thrown in jail and threatened not to talk about Jesus, after miraculously healing a person. Verses 19-25 the disciples reveal who they serve, the attitude of how they serve, and the key to avoiding distraction – even with opposition.

Notice how the disciples put the threats in God's hands, and how they focused their prayer. Reflect on what they ask God for in their prayer. Listen for where God may want to help you let go of distractions that distract from being on mission with Him. (READ Acts 4:27-31)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

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What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 14: Stay Available – Matthew 15:21-28**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Not what I had planned?!? We move through our days, sometimes at break-neck speed because of a full-schedule. Even people-oriented people can get caught up in the rush, and see other people as obstacles to our agenda for the day. Jesus seemingly has this with a Canaanite woman who approaches him, and begs for her daughter to be healed. Jesus' work was still within Israel, it wasn't yet time for the rest of the world to be part of the mission, but He is impressed by her faith and humility.

Notice how Jesus takes the time for the unexpected person. Reflect on how He listens and responds to her. Listen for God to expose the reasons why you pass by people, and help you begin to see EVERY person and be available to those He wants you to connect with or care about. (READ Matthew 15:21-28)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

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# **Develop – Engage and Cultivate Toward Whole Life Maturity in Jesus**

**Week 3 – Value in Focus:**

**I will model Jesus through life-on-life relationships.**

**I Corinthians 2 reminds us that Jesus is fully seen through God’s Word, but also with God’s power through Holy Spirit. We need Holy Spirit to truly model Jesus. Followers of Jesus make the things of God visible and obvious, but people who are tuned into the world cannot see them. We help people see spiritual realities through Spirit-taught words, so by the grace of God they can grasp them. It is God’s power that makes this possible, and validates what is True. If we are mature disciples, we have the mind of Jesus through the Holy Spirit and are able to model him in all of our relationships.**

**This week you will be equipped for [and invited to be] modeling Jesus as you share life with others.**

## **DAY 15: Gospel – Mark 1:14-17 & 8:34**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** What exactly is the Gospel? The best news we can share with people, would be something that frees us to live to our fullest potential for eternal purposes. That is the message of the Gospel, and it has 4 specific statements that require 3 specific responses. Statements: 1. God's Kingdom is here/available. 2. There is a King – Jesus. 3. He died to pay the penalty for our sins. 4. He rose again to live forever as our advocate before God. Responses: 1. Repent/turn-around from our ways and choose God's ways. 2. Believe the Gospel. 3. Follow Jesus with our whole life.

Notice the simplicity of how Jesus presents the Gospel and each element. Reflect on what it means to be citizens of His Kingdom, on mission in a kingdom that is not our home. Listen for God to speak to you as your King, the Lord of your life. (READ Mark 1:14-17 & 8:34)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

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**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 16: Love – I Corinthians 13

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Is His love, your trademark? Jesus told the disciples that they would be recognized as His disciples by one specific thing – their LOVE for one another (John 13:35). Paul would later write an amazing summary of what God's love looks like among us, as he penned a letter to the Church at Corinth. We read it at weddings, and on other occasions, and it is great to hear it when we think about it being done TO us. What about when we are the ones trying to BE and DO what it means to love?

Notice the proactive and protective elements of Love, as well as the “always” statements. Reflect on where these have been shown to you, and how you might live this out with and for others. Listen for where God may want to challenge you to go deeper in loving those around you, or maturing in some aspects of His Love. (READ I Corinthians 13)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

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## DAY 17: Up Close/Personal – Philippians 3:10-21

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Ready for a close-up? We rub-off on one another. It's part of God's design. WE were created to reflect Him to the world, and as relational beings we also mirror one another. When Paul writes to the Philippians he says he wants to "know" Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Paul uses the Greek word "ginosko" which is usually used for sexual intercourse. The context makes clear he doesn't mean it sexually, but as a comparison for how deeply close he wants to be with Jesus. Our most valuable lessons often happen in close relationships where we share daily life.

Notice in verse 17 - Paul asks us to follow his example. Reflect on how you are pursuing closeness with Jesus like Paul, and where you are sharing life with others. Listen for where God may call you closer, and/or is bringing others to walk close to you. (READ Philippians 3:10-21)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### Prompts:

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 18: Humility – Ephesians 4:1-16; I Peter 5:1-11**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Without humility, we cannot follow Jesus. If I am TRYING to be humble, I am probably too focused on myself to ever truly be humble. True humility is having the same attitude toward others that we have toward Jesus as our Lord – more specifically, that we live every moment oriented toward Jesus' priorities and what He has prepared for those around us. Not personal irresponsibility, but rather orienting our personal disciplines/responsibilities toward God's greatest good in all circumstances.

Notice in both passages where we are challenged to keep our focus/attention oriented. Reflect on what we need to surrender, the responsibilities we need to keep in focus, and the benefits Jesus promises for each of us together. Listen for where God may ask you to re-orient your focus and priorities to represent Him in every circumstance. (READ Ephesians 4:1-16; I Peter 5:1-11)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 19: Teach-ability – Romans 12

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Jesus created an atmosphere of experiential learning with the disciples. He would walk beside them toward understanding, as they were ready. Their minds had to be renewed to see things differently, so they could be transformed toward the mission God planned for them. Jesus helped them see the will of God for themselves and for those around them. By His example, they learned to walk with others in hands on, life-on-life, living and learning.

Notice the attitude emphasized through the passage, and how it is punctuated in verse 16. Reflect on what a hands on, life on life learning relationships look like, and how you could model that for others. Listen for who God would have you learn from, and/or who you might share this kind of learning with – whether its momentary encounters, or walking together for a season. (READ Romans 12)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### Prompts:

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 20: Power – Acts 1:8; 2:1-47; 19:11-20**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Jesus told His disciples they would do what He did, and ever greater things. He healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out demons, communicated with people beyond all barriers, etc. and by HIS power through Holy Spirit, WE are given the same responsibility and ability. WE often accept less of Holy Spirit's presence and less of His empowerment than He is willing to give.

Notice how God communicates to everyone through the Holy Spirit, how the "curse" of Babylon is undone, and how those who believed changed the way they lived. Reflect on why the Jews in Acts 19 can't do what Paul did, even though they used the same words. Listen for where God wants you to surrender control, and allow His power to work supernaturally through you. (READ Acts 1:8; 2:1-47; 19:11-20)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 21: Redeem/Restore – Galatians 6:1-10**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** “There, except for the grace of God, go I.” Its an old expression that says ANY of us can be drawn into the darkest/vilest evil. It also provokes compassion for anyone wrestling or falling into sin. Jesus somehow was able to see our sin, love us in our rebellion, patiently endure our self-gratifying, and still call us to a more satisfying life. Based on the letter Paul wrote to the Galatian people, they were really stuck in fleshly desires.

Notice how Paul emphasizes gentleness in restoring from sin and carrying one another's hardships, yet remembering we each are responsible for “pulling our own weight.” Reflect on how each encounter we have with people is to bring about God's greatest good toward them. Listen for who God may want you play a part in restoring gently, or do good toward in a way that demonstrates His Spirit. (READ Galatians 6:1-10)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

# **Develop – Engage and Cultivate Toward Whole Life Maturity in Jesus**

**Week 4 – Value in Focus:**

**I will prepare others to follow, be changed by, and love like Jesus.**

**I Corinthians 3 reminds us that PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT spiritually and personally is the work of a follower of Jesus – and its called “discipleship.” Helping people mature in who they are, and how to live according to the Gospel is our work of “watering, planting, tending, etc” and its JESUS who brings the growth/change/transformation.**

**Human leaders and their legacies are not the focus. Anything built with human or worldly motives in mind will not last and will not survive being tested by God. When we model Jesus as our only reward desired, we make Him the focal point and people can see him more clearly. We point people to Jesus and make ourselves available to develop them, and He brings the transformation and eternal rewards in their lives.**

**This week you will be equipped for [and invited to be] preparing people for living WITH Jesus.**

## DAY 22: Exchanged Life – Romans 6:1-14

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Is Jesus just an “add-on” to my life? Am I living like he is an APP downloaded to run whenever I want Him to? Following Jesus isn't a bits-and-pieces process where I keep the things I want and add in sprinkles of Jesus to make me good enough for Heaven. It's a total exchange of our life for His life, we join Him in His death by dying to our self-willed life, and join Him in being fully alive and supernaturally empowered.

Notice that there are things we are responsible for and things Jesus alone is able to do. Reflect on whether you have added Jesus to your life, or made a total swap of your life for His. Listen for where God may be asking for you surrender more control, or more of your way of doing things, in order to learn Jesus' ways. (READ Romans 6:1-14)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 23: Tend/Contend – Colossians 1:9-29**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** A healthy, mature relationship with God is a movement from spiritual infancy, to spiritual parenthood. It requires that we tend and care for our faith by holding firmly to the hope of the Gospel and standing firm in the Truth of what we believe. As we mature, we also contend for the faith and maturity of those around us - sharing life, wisdom, and God's Word. This tending and contending positions us for God to do His transforming work on us, in us, and through us. He will mature us, and make us a true reflection of His character – to make us holy like Him.

Notice in verses 15-18 Jesus is the example of maturity, and the keystone for all things finding purpose. Reflect on where you are between spiritual infant and spiritual parent. Listen for how God may be leading toward maturity and being more like Jesus. (READ Colossians 1:9-29)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

**DAY 24: Pace – James 1:1-18; Hebrews 12:1-13; Revelation 2:2-4**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Life happens, and we persist, but sometimes our pace in trying to survive leads us to empty places and short lived victories. Hardship, challenges, pain, suffering, loss, resisting temptation, all of it can seem overwhelming, and the busier we are, the easier it is to feel like we are drowning. Perspective, attitude, focus, endurance, and the state of our heart are all the tools that can help us thrive – more than just survive.

Notice that all three passages deal with trials, hardship, endurance and perseverance. Reflect on the examples and corrections shared in each passage. Listen for where God may be wanting to adjust your pace, and develop His tools for you to thrive. (READ James 1:1-18; Hebrews 12:1-13; Revelation 2:2-4)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

**Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 25: Refocus Continually – 2Timothy 2:2; 3:1-17**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Paul shared with Timothy that we are to live an ongoing mission of discipleship through our lifetime. It started with Jesus, and is passed along to every follower of Jesus – disciples who make disciples, who make disciples. No matter what else happens in our journey, we are always on mission WITH Jesus. From the smallest word of encouragement for a stranger to the intentional development of a spiritual infant toward maturity, our lifestyle should help others mature as humans – in the direction of Jesus.

Notice how much Paul emphasizes being an example for one another, and the importance of God's Word. Reflect on how you have been discipled, who poured into your life, where Holy Spirit taught you directly, etc. Listen for how God will prompt you, moment by moment, to help others see their potential in Jesus. (READ 2 Timothy 2:2; 3:1-17)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 26: Be Safe – I Peter 5:8-11

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** People are messy, we just are. Pride and independence lead us to all kinds of messes and stresses, as we get tunnel vision on what we think needs to happen. We get lost or get ahead of God and find ourselves in risky situations – usually when we are trying to do things FOR Jesus, instead of WITH Jesus. When Peter writes in verse 8 to “be alert and of sober mind” he is literally saying “be awake, and stay rational” because the enemy loves to prowl around waiting to bring chaos and destruction.

Notice what Peter tells the elders, the young, and the anxious and how it relates to being “awake and rational” to resist the enemy. Reflect on verse 10 and how it helps put the earlier verses in perspective. Listen for how God will help you sort out the messes and stresses WITH Jesus. (READ I Peter 5:8-11)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### Prompts:

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

**DAY 27: Encourage** – 2 Corinthians 3:16-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** So much is beyond our control, even though we try not to admit it. There are many things that only God can do, and transforming our hearts and minds to be like Jesus is definitely one of them. Whether it is our life or the life of someone we are pouring into, the deep changes that shift us away from the shadows this world worships and bring us into our full identity and design in Jesus, those changes come from the Lord.

Notice what both scriptures point out as God's work – what He alone can do, and how He does it. Reflect on where you have given Him permission, or where you are still trying to make things happen on your own. Listen for what God wants you to do, or stop doing – where He invites you to surrender to His transforming grace. (READ 2 Corinthians 3:16-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

**Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

**DAY 28: Depend on Him** – John 14:6; John 15:1-11; Philippians 4:12-13

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Jesus passionately loves us, and in that love He is deeply honest with us. His words in today's readings make it very clear, HE is the ONLY good way. So much so, that He says we cannot DO anything good apart from Him. That Greek word "poema" that we encountered on Day 9, returns here in John 15:5, meaning our very design is emptied of any power to do good. Then in verse 7 Jesus turns it over by telling us that being WITH Him, having His words well up within us, will provoke desires for what is good – and as we cry out, HE will CAUSE good to happen!

Notice the power and ability we are promised by being WITH Jesus. Reflect on every aspect of life where you consciously depend on Jesus and apply His word. Listen for God's heart and His Joy as you surrender each area you are still holding onto. (READ John 14:6; John 15:1-11; Philippians 4:12-13)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

**Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

# Deploy – Send and Resource the Mission God Prepared

Week 5 – Value in Focus:

I will release disciple-makers  
into God’s calling in EVERY domain of culture.

Acts 16:6-40 reminds us that disciples serve EVERYWHERE God has called them. Lydia, the other women, the jailor and others who listened to Paul and Silas, continued in their professions AFTER coming to faith in Jesus. Being a disciple doesn’t mean going into “professional” church ministry – in fact all disciples should be in the world and not of it. It has been a mistake to emphasize “professional pastoral” ministry for followers of Jesus. The Church has slipped into institutional training programs to maintain the organizational roles and methods, and in many ways has pulled out of the world. This is the opposite of what Paul, Silas, and the other Apostles did.

Lydia continued to run her business and provide for the local body of believers, as well as the mission of the Kingdom. The Jailor continued as a jailor as far as we know. Paul and Silas did not hold any assumptions about where people should serve Jesus, they developed them and then deployed them where GOD prepared them to go. Sometimes that was a new direction, but most of the time it was right where they already were. We need to release our expectations of what ministry, church, and discipleship look like and see how God deploys HIS Church everywhere people are.

This week you will be invited to release your expectations of what it means to be a disciple following Jesus, and challenged to release others into their God calling.

## **DAY 29: All Believers – I Peter 2:4-12**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Who does God exclude from His invitation to be a disciple? Anyone? EVERYONE is invited to walk WITH him and live out their God given purpose to display His awesomeness and saturate this world with His gospel (good news). A cornerstone is the perfectly level/square stone from which every part of a building is lined up. As believers, we bring that alignment WITH Jesus to any situation. It's not always obvious or "religious," it may be hard or painful, but if we are listening we help align things to His plans/timing.

Notice in verses 9-12, EVERYONE is expected to display God and minister to those far from Him. Reflect on the assumptions you have had about who does ministry and where it should happen. Listen for how God may be calling you to minister to others, or how He may ask you to release your expectations about who, when, and where ministry happens. (READ I Peter 2:4-12)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

**DAY 30: By Design** – Ephesians 2:10; I Corinthians 12:1-31

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Every believer is part of the Body of Jesus, and has an area of ministry. There are no “hired hands” who do all the work. There are no parts more important than others. There is only ONE head, and that is Jesus. In verse 28 when Paul lists those God appointed, the word translated “first/first of all” simply means in order of appearance, NOT importance. Paul punctuates this by saying the MOST EXCELLENT way is LOVE (see chapter 13). The ministry of the Gospel is limitless in style, location, and method – and it requires every part of the Body to be engaged.

Notice the comparison of the Church to your own body. Reflect on how your body would function if the parts were separated, competing, expecting others to do their work, or limited to one time/place to work? Listen for God to clarify His design for the Church. (READ Ephesians 2:10; I Corinthians 12:1-31)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

**Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 31: Gospel Saturation – Matthew 28:18-20**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** When Jesus said, "GO and make disciples..." the Greek word He used was "poreuomai" and it means "to move from one place to another with continuity and distance" – in other words "as you are going anytime, anywhere." The command we are given to "GO" isn't a one-time thing, or a limited time, but an ongoing, daily, everywhere and every moment call to be disciples who make disciples. Every moment can be a discipleship moment – people are all around us and the mission of the Gospel is everywhere people are.

Notice the connection between Jesus' authority and where we are commanded to make disciples. Reflect on the places where the Gospel needs to be, and your part in saturating your community with the example of Jesus. Listen for God to show you the people He wants you to bless, love, and disciple. (READ Matthew 28:18-20)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 32: GO! – Luke 9:1-20

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** Wait, didn't we just talk about "GO" yesterday? Yes, but Jesus doesn't call us to "go" without being prepared. He sent them out totally dependent on God to provide for their needs. After their solo practice mission, they come back Jesus gives them another task they couldn't do in their own strength. "GO"-ing involves a partnership with Jesus where we bring what we have, but operate in His authority, power, and strength.

Notice how Jesus teaches the disciples how to operate under His authority, power and strength in each encounter. Reflect on whether you know the difference between operating in your own strength or in His power. Listen for God to remind you of the authority and power He has given you, and how to apply it to the situations you walk through daily. (READ Luke 9:1-20)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

**DAY 33: Beyond the Camp** – John 4:1-42; Luke 8:26-39; Acts 9:15

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** The Church is uniquely the only organism that exists for its non-members. In the middle of His 3-year ministry to Israel, Jesus regularly planted seeds in the places that would be impacted by His death, resurrection, and bringing of God's Kingdom on earth. The mission we have as disciples includes caring for other disciples and worshipping together, but that is NOT the primary focus of the mission.

Notice how Jesus reached the outcasts, the demon possessed of foreign nations, and then sent Paul to reach the entire Gentile (non-Jewish) world. Reflect on where you have been stuck in the borders of religious services, or where your community is stuck in the borders of religious activities. Listen for where God is calling you beyond the "camp" to plant the seeds of His Kingdom. (READ John 4:1-42; Luke 8:26-39; Acts 9:15)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

**Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 34: Embrace Kingdom – Galatians 2:1-10**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** The Galatian Church was stuck in the flesh. They started well, but got distracted by legalistic concerns about whether male believers were physically circumcised or not. Jesus expanded the ministry of God's Kingdom to ALL people, and citizenship going beyond physical religious action, to deeper unshakeable spiritual commitments that have more impact on the way people live. This is sometimes called circumcision of the heart – training every pursuit toward God, and trimming out every distracting desire.

Notice the leaders remained focused on Jesus, citizenship in the Kingdom, and the mission of the Gospel, not external religious symbols. Reflect on where you may have been stuck in religious perspectives focused on human efforts, instead of God's Kingdom. Listen for what God says are Kingdom priorities, and how we stay on mission together. (READ Galatians 2:1-10)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 35: Trust the Spirit – Galatians 3:1-14**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** On day 4, we were challenged to let the Holy Spirit empower us – “mowing grass with gas in the mower.” Its often easier to try and do things, or figure things out, in our own strength. Instead of trusting the Spirit and living by faith, we often try to keep God's law and live the mission of the Gospel by our own efforts. Paul makes it clear, it is impossible to keep the law if we are not living by faith and trusting the Spirit.

Notice how Paul connects faith, the power of the Spirit, and being righteous. Reflect on where you have used reason, intellect, and hard work to try and accomplish something good for God. Listen for God to reveal where that good was limited by what you were trying to do, compared to what He could have done if you trusted Him and allowed Him to empower you by His Spirit. (READ Galatians 3:1-14)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

# **Deploy – Send and Resource the Mission God Prepared**

**Week 6 – Value in Focus:**

**I will invest in their Kingdom impact, according to God’s design.**

**2 Corinthians 9 reminds us that maturity as a disciple brings generosity toward every occasion, as well as Thanksgiving to God. The Corinthians who were mature were eager to help, and their example excited others to be generous. But they still needed help and encouragement to prepare to give cheerfully. Sowing generously into those who are being deployed as disciples takes preparation and intentionality. It also requires trust in God’s power to bring the results He intends.**

**We are expected to invest in others, with a “no strings attached” mindset. That investment is more than just finances. It may involve empowering, interceding, coaching, encouraging, and more. It may also be outside our comfort zone, take risks, or be very sacrificial. When we are stretched by generosity, we are tempted to take control.**

**We need to remember, putting conditions on giving or the use of the gift, expresses a lack of trust in God and His work through those we are deploying. We may also miss the bigger picture of how that generosity encourages the rest of the Body, brings thanks and praise to God, and opens the eyes of those who do not yet believe.**

**This week you will be invited to invest in the Kingdom impact you are designed for, and challenged to generously invest in the impact of others you are called to help deploy.**

**DAY 36: Empower** – Acts 2:1-33; Acts 19:1-22

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** We cannot give what we have not received, and we cannot empower with strength we do not trust. Acts 19 reveals it can be dangerous to imitate something we do not understand. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit is essential to being able to live your design and calling, as a follower of Jesus. This comes from a deep trusting relationship WITH Jesus, desiring to know Him and His ways for every moment we live. Then, instead of just talking ABOUT Jesus, we can empower others WITH Jesus.

Notice the reaction by others to the pouring out of the Spirit, and how Peter helps them understand. Reflect on the power that healed in Acts 19:11-12, and why the Jews who tried to use Jesus' name failed. Listen for how God wants to empower you, and to empower others through you by HIS Spirit – and what you may need to surrender to become closer to Him. (READ Acts 2:1-33; Acts 19:1-22)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

**Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 37: Stand in the Gap – Philemon**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** All of us will have or have had someone stand-in-the-gap for us, at a time that was critical to our growth and maturity. Its essential that we not only prepare and release people into whatever calling God has for them, but that we also invest and intercede for THEIR success in ministry. As we help others be deployed, we must be open handed for where God wants them (likely well beyond the church walls), and sacrificially invested in supporting the impact God will have through them.

Notice how Paul stands-in-the-gap for Onesimus, and sacrificially supports his return to Philemon as a brother in Christ. Reflect on who interceded for you, gave you a chance, and helped bring up out of you the potential God had put there. Listen for who God would have you invest in, and what roadblocks you help clear for their Kingdom impact. (READ Philemon)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 38: Coach** – Luke 10:1-20

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** On day 33, we reflected on how Jesus spent time preparing the disciples for the mission they would have WITH Him. That preparation was more than a one-and-done thing. There were many teachable moments, where Jesus LISTENED to what the disciples were learning or focusing on. AFTER He listened, THEN He coached them. Sometimes the coaching was on physical things, provision, or miracles, and other times He would give them insight into spiritual things and dealing with the enemy.

Notice in verses 17-18, how Jesus listens and then gives insight to adjust the focus of the disciples. Reflect on why it was so important for Jesus to address this specific comment the disciples made. Listen for what God may need to coach you on. Listen also for who He may need you to hear, and with His guidance, coach. (READ Luke 10:1-20)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 39: Troubleshoot – Titus 2 & 3

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** We ALL have messes in our life, because people are messy, and maturing is messy. Maturity requires that we grow up and grow through a lot of situations and seasons, learning to navigate relationships with everyone around us with respect and TOWARD God's greatest good. It is God's GRACE that saves us. Our FAITH in Him is the "vehicle" that brings us to grace, and it is His MERCY that passionately gives us room to navigate the mess.

Notice in the specific things Paul addresses to the old, the young, those serving to pay off a debt (slaves), attitude towards rulers, and our selfish tendencies. Reflect on how grace and mercy allow us to troubleshoot/work through our own messes and help others work through theirs. Listen for what God may correct or encourage you about your maturity, or how to use His mercy and grace in working through life's issues with others. (READ Titus 2-3)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### Prompts:

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## **DAY 40: Catalyze – 2 Timothy 2:1-13**

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** A catalyst is added to a chemical reaction to accelerate it, without changing the outcome. There are two catalysts that help our journey WITH Jesus, intentionality and endurance. I have to intentionally BECOME a disciple, understanding that "following Jesus" means being His disciple. I also have to intentionally MAKE disciples, since that is the mission Jesus has for His disciples. That requires endurance to continue to grow and mature, to stay focused on Jesus above all else, and walk daily WITH Jesus to do all that He prepared for me.

Notice how Paul shows Timothy four generations of disciples (verse 2), and encourages his focus. Reflect on how you can start (or stay) intentional and endure in the mission to make disciples. Listen for where God may want to catalyze you, or help you be a catalyst for others. (READ 2 Timothy 2:1-13)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

**DAY 41: Resist Division** - Galatians 2:11-21; 1 Corinthians 3; 2 Tim 2:14-26

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** If we disagree, we can seek God's direction and work toward a solution He has in mind. If we are divided, we work against being one body, one family, with one head – Jesus. We can be diverse and different, while still being united under one King and one Kingdom. Issues around race, nationality, experience, politics, personalities, rumors, wrong teaching, or any other divisive perspective must be brought into alignment WITH Jesus – because in Him every dividing wall is removed and we share in His peace and unity.

Notice the specific issues Paul deals with in all three passages. Reflect on how we are instructed to see ourselves and handle these kinds of issues. Listen for where God may need you to be humble and surrender your position, or to help others surrender theirs to stand together WITH Jesus. (READ Galatians 2:11-21; 1 Corinthians 3; 2 Tim 2:14-26)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

**Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

## DAY 42: All In – Romans 12

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** When we are willing to say, “Whatever you want, wherever you want, with/to whomever you want, whenever you want – I am available,” then we are becoming a mature follower of Jesus - a disciple. The patterns and ways of this world are replaced by Jesus' ways and community that demonstrates citizenship in His Kingdom as our first identity. Jesus gave everything for us, and the only appropriate response is for us to do the same for Him – whether its in our daily life, or for someone else's Kingdom impact.

Notice Paul starts with finding God's good and perfect will, and ends overcoming evil with good. Reflect on the connection between mercy, sacrifice, worship, being transformed, discovering God's will, and overcoming evil. Listen for where God may be inviting you to be ALL-IN in your life, or in the life of someone you are discipling. (READ Romans 12)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

### **Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

**DAY 43: Bringing it All Together** – Philippians 2:1 through 4:20

**Prayer of Preparation:** Take a few moments acknowledging God the Father, as the one who created all things, who made you, and by His will can make anything out of nothing. Invite Him to speak His will to you today.

**Today's Devotional Thought:** The journey WITH Jesus, as His disciple, requires that we take on His perspective and attitude, join His mission to make disciples, press-on toward His goals, humbly live as citizens of His Kingdom, developing and loving one another in community, sending and supporting one another in saturating the world with the Gospel in whatever ways He calls us to, doing it all in His power through Holy Spirit, and giving all the glory to God. Make the most of every opportunity to see God's potential in others, teach them to be WITH Jesus, and release them to be the Church everywhere they go.

Notice Jesus' attitude in verses 5-11 - the position He took and what God did. Reflect on the examples of Jesus' attitude that Paul challenges us to live in the rest of the verses. Listen for how God is inviting you to live differently as you follow Jesus, and help others do the same. (READ Philippians 2:1-4:20)

**Prayer of Reflection:** Take a moment, pause. Ask Jesus to help you understand what you just read, and what is important for you to focus on.

**Prompts:**

What did you see? What jumped out at you?

What is Jesus trying to tell you?

What are going to do about it?

**Prayer of Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to carry out what you have learned and reflected on today.

# The Road Ahead

Value in Focus:

I will be a disciple, who makes disciples.... who make disciples.

As this part of the journey comes to a close, the road still stretches on ahead WITH Jesus. The values we explored these last 43 days together are meant to be lived constantly and repeatedly. Jesus' command to the disciples in Matthew 28, was "...as you are going, make disciples, teach them to put into practice everything I have taught you, and surely I am WITH you always..."

Paul shares this same thought in 2 Timothy 2:2, as he encourages his young disciple to, "...entrust these things I have taught you to trustworthy people, who will in turn teach it to others..." In that verse there are 4 generations of disciples – Paul to Timothy, Timothy to others, and others to others.

As followers of Jesus, we are those "others" and Jesus wants us to have a lifestyle of being a disciple who knows how to disciple others, who then know how to disciple others. That's more than just a process, or a program – it has to be a lifestyle of modeling Jesus in ways that others can learn, adapt to their unique design/calling, and help others do the same. This takes time, interpersonal relationships that are transparent and life-giving, and a willingness to be directly involved in someone else's journey.

When we learn to walk in the values of discipleship continuously, we will start to notice the discipleship opportunities all around us. Every encounter we have may have an element of discipleship - from the short conversation with the person who gives us our morning coffee or sits beside us at the laundromat, to the lunch conversations with friends/colleagues, to our family conversations, and to the person whose life we are deeply pouring into. Jesus saw people, loved them, invested in developing them, and deployed them as seed planted – citizens of His Kingdom living out their greatest purpose. He has empowered and commanded us to do the same – WITH Him.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers..." - Jesus

# Appendix – Small Group Questions

**Leader Note:** The questions below use the word “you” for ease of understanding in reading. In small group discussion, using the first person – e.g. “How do I hear...” – helps with personal reflection and specific application. Try stating them in the first person, or having individuals repeat it in the first person as part of their answer.

## Week 1:

- How do you hear the voice of God? Share an example.
- How do you know the difference between God’s voice and your own thoughts?
- What habits or settings help you be able to listen better for God’s voice?

## Week 2:

- Share an adjustment you had to make, because God revealed something to you.
- How has God helped you see potential in the people around you?
- What are the barriers to seeing potential in yourself and others? What adjustments do you still need to make to engage your own potential or the potential of those around you?

## Week 3:

- Why is it important to model Jesus in close relationship with others? (go beyond the Sunday School answer of “to be saved,” etc.)
- Why do we need the Bible AND the Holy Spirit to model Jesus?
- What does it mean to have a lifestyle of modelling Jesus? Share an example of how that plays out daily for you.

#### **Week 4:**

- Why is people development – both spiritually and personally - important? What happens if someone is personally mature, but spiritually immature – or vice versa?
- What can Jesus do in the development of people, that none of us can? Share an example of when you experienced/saw this clearly.
- How do you keep a healthy separation between the work we are supposed to do in “watering, planting, tending, etc.” the potential of others, and the work Jesus does in growth/change/transformation?

#### **Week 5:**

- 1 Pet 2 – says we are the priesthood of all believers, and that we are destined for the message of the Gospel. What assumptions have we made about who does the work of ministry, or where ministry of the Gospel happens?
- In Acts 16 – how does it inspire you to realize that Lydia and the Jailor both stayed in their jobs, and fulfilled their mission WITH Jesus in making disciples of others?
- How do we release and empower others to live their God given design in every situation and location they find themselves in? Share an example that you have experienced/seen?

#### **Week 6:**

- What is the goal of deploying people as disciples of Jesus, who will make disciples of Jesus?
- Why is it essential that we have a “no strings attached” mindset, as we intentionally invest in deploying others in their ministry WITH Jesus?
- Share an example you have experienced/seen where someone was developed as a disciple and deployed to do ministry beyond the walls of the church building?
- What can you invest in deploying others toward their impact in expanding the Kingdom of God?

## Acknowledgments

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