



MEET ME IN THE WORD

A 7-Day Deep-Dive Bible Study

Slow Down. Look Closer. Know Him More.



Come as you are

You don't need a beautiful color-coded Bible with aesthetically pleasing journaling in the margins. You don't need an uninterrupted hour with absolutely zero distractions or the perfect words to pray.

You simply need a willing heart and a place to begin.

For the next seven days, we're going to meet Jesus in the pages of the Gospels. We'll watch how He responds to questions, fear, weariness, need, distraction, failure, and ordinary people who simply came near.

But we're also going to slow down. We'll ask questions. We'll look at historical and cultural context. We'll notice details that are easy to read right past. And sometimes we'll stop to separate what Scripture actually tells us from assumptions we've heard repeated so often that they can begin to sound biblical.

Read slowly. Notice what stands out. Write honestly. Ask questions. Look a little deeper.

And remember: the goal isn't perfection; it's a deeper relationship, to know Him more.



THE HEART OF THIS STUDY

*Don't rush through these pages.
Slow down. Stay curious.
Keep coming back to Jesus.*



Let curiosity lead you back to the Word

01 **Open your Bible to the day's passage.**

This study uses Scripture references so you can read from your preferred translation. CSB is used by default for quoted Scripture.

02 **Read Before You Read.**

Let the scene and its central question settle your attention before you enter the passage.

03 **Read once for the story, then again slowly.**

Notice questions, reactions, repeated words, changes in tone, and details that make you wonder why.

04 **Use the questions as guides, not assignments.**

You do not have to answer everything. Follow what makes you curious. Remember, perfection is not the goal.

05 **Spend time Behind the Passage.**

Historical and cultural context can make details clearer to modern readers.

06 **Bring it back to Jesus.**

Interesting facts are not the destination. Ask what each detail helps you understand about who Jesus is.

07 **Close in prayer.**

Carry one truth with you and leave room to write what you want to remember.

A note from this ministry

This study is a companion to Scripture, never a replacement for it. Historical context can illuminate the world surrounding the biblical text, but Scripture remains our foundation. Where the Bible doesn't tell us something, we'll be careful not to pretend that it does. When something in these pages sends you back to your Bible with another question, that's exactly where we want you to be.





Come and See

John 1:35-42 CSB

BEFORE YOU READ

The first invitation is wonderfully simple: come and see.

Before Peter ever became the bold disciple we remember, Andrew encountered Jesus and brought his brother to Him. They did not yet understand everything that would unfold or fully comprehend who Jesus was and what following Him would cost.

And neither do we.

You do not have to have everything figured out before going to Jesus. You only need to draw near and give yourself room to discover who He is.



Look Closer

- Who first points Andrew and the other disciple toward Jesus?
- What is the first question Jesus asks them?
- They call Him Rabbi. What does that tell you about how they currently understand Him?
- Instead of immediately giving them a long explanation, what does Jesus invite them to do?
- What happens after Andrew spends time with Jesus?
- Before Simon says anything, what does Jesus say about who he is and who he will become?

A FEW WORDS I WANT TO REMEMBER



Behind the Passage

HISTORY / CULTURE / CONTEXT

Rabbi means teacher, and John translates the term for his readers. John also explains that Messiah means Christ. Andrew begins this passage following a teacher and, after spending time with Jesus, goes to Simon announcing that they have found the Messiah.

Jesus calls Simon Cephas, the Aramaic name John translates as Peter. The name carries the sense of rock or stone and anticipates the role Simon will eventually have.

Think about the timing. Peter had not preached at Pentecost, walked on water, made his great confession, or denied Jesus. Jesus saw the man standing before Him and a future Simon could not yet see.

Don't Read Past This

Jesus' first recorded question to these disciples is not, 'What do you know?' It is essentially, 'What are you looking for?'

Andrew's response is beautifully ordinary: he goes to get his brother. No platform. No polished testimony. He encounters Jesus and wants someone he loves to encounter Him too.



Wrestle With It

- What are you actually looking for when you open your Bible?
- Do you approach Jesus believing you need to understand everything first?
- What might it mean that Jesus saw something in Simon that Simon had not yet become?
- Who might you gently invite to come and see?

Bring It Home

Sometimes we turn spiritual growth into another place to perform: read more, understand more, highlight more, pray better, be more consistent.

But this story begins much more simply. Come. See. Stay.

Maybe today's faithful step is not figuring everything out. Maybe it is staying with Jesus long enough to know Him better.

Pray _____

Jesus, I want to know You, not simply know more about You. Show me what I am truly looking for. Give me a willing heart to come near, stay awhile, and discover more of who You are. Help me trust that You see not only who I am today, but who You are shaping me to become. Amen.



TRUTH TO CARRY

I do not have to understand everything before I come to Jesus. I just have to come.

Bring Your Questions

John 3:1-21 CSB

BEFORE YOU READ

Nicodemus is not an uninformed outsider. He is a Pharisee, a respected religious leader, and someone Jesus will call a teacher of Israel. He comes carrying knowledge, status, and questions.

And he comes at night.

Something about Jesus has unsettled what Nicodemus thought he understood enough to make him come looking for answers. Jesus does not shame him for coming. He takes him deeper.

Faith does not require us to pretend we understand everything. Sometimes spiritual growth begins when we finally bring an honest question to Jesus.



Look Closer

- What does John tell us about Nicodemus before the conversation begins?
- What does Nicodemus already believe about Jesus?
- Does Jesus simply affirm his existing understanding or challenge it?
- Where does Nicodemus seem confused?
- Notice how often Jesus speaks about birth, Spirit, light, darkness, belief, and life.
- What does John 3:16 mean when read as part of the whole conversation?

A FEW WORDS I WANT TO REMEMBER



Behind the Passage

HISTORY / CULTURE / CONTEXT

John identifies Nicodemus as a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, commonly understood as a reference to the Jewish ruling council.

John also tells us Nicodemus came at night. Why? We do not know. He may have been cautious about public association with Jesus, or nighttime may have allowed a longer private conversation. Scripture does not give his motive, so we should not pretend certainty.

John's Gospel repeatedly uses light and darkness as meaningful imagery. That makes the nighttime detail especially interesting in a conversation that turns toward loving darkness or coming into the light.

Don't Read Past This

Nicodemus knew a lot about God, and he still needed Jesus to challenge his understanding.

There is humility in allowing Scripture to tell us: you may know a lot and still have more to learn. Questions are not necessarily evidence of weak faith. Sometimes they show that we are taking God seriously enough to keep seeking.



Wrestle With It

- What question about God or Scripture have you been afraid to admit?
- Have you ever confused familiarity with Scripture for truly understanding it?
- How do you respond when God's Word challenges a long-held assumption?
- Are you willing to let Jesus teach you when His answer does not fit neatly into what you expected?

Bring It Home

You do not have to clean up your questions before bringing them to Jesus.

Bring the confusing one. The uncomfortable one. The one you have quietly carried for years.

Then open His Word and be willing not only to receive an answer, but to have your assumptions changed.

Pray _____

Father, give me humility to ask honest questions and wisdom to receive what Your Word teaches. Show me where familiarity has become assumption. Lead me into truth, even when that truth challenges me. Amen.



TRUTH TO CARRY

My questions do not scare Jesus away. I can bring them into the light.



Be Fully Known

John 4:4-30 CSB

BEFORE YOU READ

This passage becomes richer when we stop assuming we already know the woman's story.

Jesus sits beside a well in Samaria. A woman comes for water. Jesus asks her for a drink. Then He demonstrates that He knows deeply personal things about her life.

Her marital history is complicated, but Scripture does not tell us why she had five husbands, how those marriages ended, or why she currently lives as she does. We do not need to fill in her story for her.

What John does tell us is enough: Jesus knows her, speaks to her, reveals truth to her, and she leaves wanting others to meet Him.



Look Closer

- Who begins the conversation?
- Why is the woman surprised that Jesus speaks to her?
- How does the conversation move from ordinary water to living water?
- Who introduces the subject of her husbands?
- Does Jesus mock, insult, or dismiss her?
- What does Jesus reveal about true worship?
- What does she leave behind, and what does she tell the people?

A FEW WORDS I WANT TO REMEMBER



Behind the Passage

HISTORY / CULTURE / CONTEXT

The tension between Jews and Samaritans had deep historical and religious roots. Samaritans centered worship on Mount Gerizim, while Jewish worship centered on Jerusalem. Her question about where people ought to worship touches a longstanding dispute.

John highlights the social divide when the woman expresses surprise that a Jewish man would ask a Samaritan woman for a drink.

We should be cautious about claiming that her testimony would automatically have been dismissed because she was a woman, or that her public interaction necessarily marked her as an outcast. Scripture gives us plenty to marvel at without inventing details.

Don't Read Past This

She leaves her water jar. John does not explain why. Maybe she planned to return. Maybe she was simply in a hurry. We do not need to manufacture symbolism where Scripture does not give an explanation.

What we do know is wonderful enough: she came for water, encountered Jesus, and went back saying, in essence, 'You need to meet this Man.'



Wrestle With It

- Have you inherited an interpretation of a biblical person that Scripture itself does not clearly support?
- What changes when you read this woman without reducing her to her marital history?
- Is there a part of your story you try to hide from God even though He already knows it?
- How does it feel to consider that being fully known by Jesus does not make Him turn away?

Bring It Home

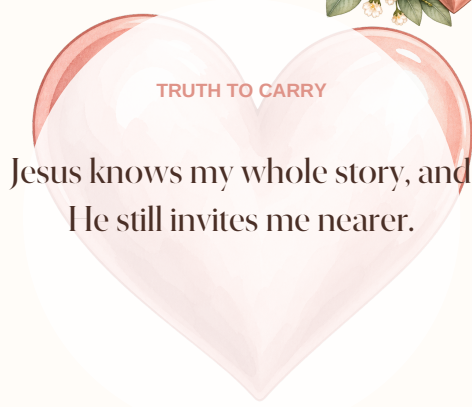
Jesus does not need the edited version of your story. He already knows.

The losses. The decisions. The regrets. The circumstances others misunderstood. The things you wish had happened differently.

Being known by Him is not something to fear. It is where grace meets truth.

Pray _____

Jesus, thank You for knowing my whole story without turning away. Help me stop hiding what You already see. Teach me to receive both Your truth and Your grace, and satisfy the places in me that search elsewhere for what only You can give. Amen.



Jesus knows my whole story, and
He still invites me nearer.



Trust Him in the Storm

Mark 4:35-41 CSB

BEFORE YOU READ

There is a detail here we cannot miss: whose idea was it to cross the lake? Jesus'.

The disciples are exactly where Jesus told them to go, and a storm still comes.

Following Jesus does not guarantee the absence of frightening circumstances. Sometimes obedience leads straight through a storm.

But the story is not ultimately asking how powerful the storm is. It is asking: Who is in the boat?



Look Closer

- Who tells the disciples to cross to the other side?
- What is Jesus doing when the storm begins?
- What are experienced fishermen unable to control?
- What do the disciples actually accuse Jesus of?
- What does Jesus address first, the storm or their fear?
- After the sea becomes calm, what are they afraid of now?
- What final question does Mark leave hanging in the air: 'Who then is this?'

A FEW WORDS I WANT TO REMEMBER



Behind the Passage

HISTORY / CULTURE / CONTEXT

The Sea of Galilee is susceptible to sudden, violent storms because of its geography and surrounding terrain. The danger Mark describes is plausible and especially striking because several disciples were experienced fishermen familiar with these waters.

Mark says waves were entering the boat until it was filling. Their fear was not necessarily irrational. Their conclusion about Jesus was the problem: 'Don't you care?'

Throughout the Old Testament, God's authority over chaotic waters belongs to the biblical picture of His sovereign power. Jesus does not merely survive the storm; He commands the wind and sea.

Don't Read Past This

The miracle answers one problem and creates a much bigger question: Who is this?

They thought their biggest problem was drowning. By the end, they are staring at Someone the wind and sea obey.



Wrestle With It

- Have you assumed that difficulty meant you missed God's direction?
- When God seems silent, do you translate silence into 'He does not care'?
- What frightens you right now that is beyond your control?
- Do you primarily want Jesus to remove the storm, or do you want to know Him within it?
- What changes if you first ask, 'Who is with me?'

Bring It Home

Sometimes the storm does not mean you are outside God's will. Sometimes you are in the boat because Jesus told you to get in it.

His presence is not a promise that nothing frightening will happen. It is a promise that the storm never gets the final word.

Pray _____

Jesus, when fear gets loud, remind me who You are. Forgive me when I interpret silence as absence or difficulty as lack of care. Help me trust Your presence before my circumstances change. Amen.





Let Him Meet You in Your Hurt

Mark 5:21-34 CSB

BEFORE YOU READ

Twelve years. Do not rush past that number.

Twelve years of bleeding. Twelve years of seeking help. Mark says she suffered under many doctors, spent everything she had, and became worse instead of better.

At the same time, Jesus is already on His way to another emergency: Jairus's little girl is dying. There is a crowd. There is urgency. There is another family waiting.

And still, Jesus stops for her.



Look Closer

- What had this woman already tried before coming to Jesus?
- What had her suffering cost her?
- What does she believe will happen if she touches His clothes?
- Why do the disciples find Jesus' question almost absurd?
- He could have let her disappear into the crowd healed. Why might He turn toward her?
- What does she do when she comes forward?
- What does Jesus call her? Daughter.

A FEW WORDS I WANT TO REMEMBER



Behind the Passage

HISTORY / CULTURE / CONTEXT

Leviticus 15 describes an ongoing discharge of blood as a condition of ritual uncleanness. This was ritual status, not a declaration that the woman was sinful or morally dirty.

Her condition would have touched far more than her physical body. Mark also tells us she had spent all she had seeking healing and had only grown worse.

She reaches for Jesus, and rather than her uncleanness overcoming Him, His healing makes her whole.

Don't Read Past This

People are pressing against Jesus everywhere, yet He distinguishes between the crowd surrounding Him and this woman's act of faith.

Then He makes her visible, not to humiliate her, but to restore her openly. He calls her Daughter and sends her away in peace. Jesus sees the person the crowd could have swallowed.



Wrestle With It

- What might twelve years of unanswered suffering do to a person's hope?
- Have you felt as though everyone else's need was more urgent than yours?
- What have you carried so long that you assume it will always be part of your story?
- What does Jesus stopping in the middle of another urgent need reveal about His attention?

Bring It Home

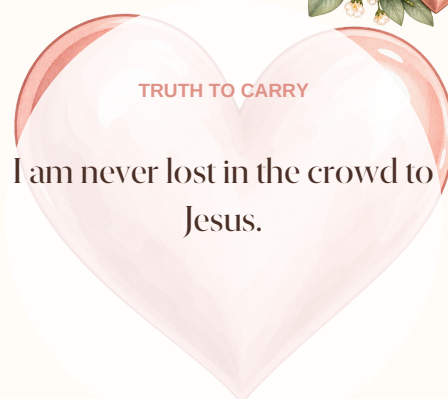
You are not an interruption to Jesus.

Your pain is not made unimportant because someone else is hurting too. You do not have to compete for His attention or prove that your need deserves to be seen.

Bring Him what hurts. Let His tenderness meet you there, even when healing does not arrive in the timing or form you hoped for.

Pray _____

Jesus, You see what hurts and what I have carried. Meet me with Your compassion. Give me courage to reach for You, honesty to bring You my whole need, and faith to trust Your care even while I wait. Amen.





Sit at His Feet

Luke 10:38-42 CSB

BEFORE YOU READ

Martha welcomes Jesus into her home. Her serving is not meaningless; hospitality is good and loving work.

But somewhere in the doing, her heart becomes distracted and troubled. Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens to His teaching.

This passage is not a condemnation of service. It is a loving reordering of what comes first.

Before we do things for Jesus, we are invited to be with Jesus.



Look Closer

- Who welcomes Jesus into the home?
- Where is Mary positioned, and what is she doing?
- What words describe Martha's inner state?
- Who does Martha speak to about Mary's choice?
- How does Jesus respond to Martha personally?
- What does He say is necessary, and what has Mary chosen?

A FEW WORDS I WANT TO REMEMBER



Behind the Passage

HISTORY / CULTURE / CONTEXT

Sitting at a teacher's feet describes the posture of a disciple. Mary is not merely resting while Martha works; she is receiving instruction from Jesus.

Jesus addresses Martha by name twice. His correction is personal and tender: He sees not only her activity but also her anxiety and distraction.

The contrast is not between responsible people and spiritual people. It is between being pulled in many directions and centering our attention on the One who is present.

Don't Read Past This

Martha's problem is not simply that she is busy. Her work has begun to shape how she sees Jesus and Mary: 'Lord, don't You care?' and 'Tell her to help me.'

Good work can still become spiritually disorienting when it makes resentment louder than love and urgency louder than Jesus.



Wrestle With It

- What good responsibilities are currently scattering your attention?
- Where has service begun to produce resentment or comparison?
- Do you find it easier to do something for Jesus than to be still with Him?
- What small, realistic rhythm could help you listen before you hurry?

Bring It Home

You do not need to abandon every responsibility to choose the better part.

Begin with a small act of attention: open the Bible before the inbox, sit quietly for five minutes, or carry one verse into the work already waiting for you.

The goal is not a perfectly still life. It is a heart that keeps returning to Jesus in the middle of a full one.

Pray _____

Jesus, reorder my attention. Quiet the noise within me and help me notice when good responsibilities pull my heart away from You. Teach me to listen before I hurry and to serve from a heart that has first spent time with You. Amen.



TRUTH TO CARRY

Being with Jesus comes before
doing for Jesus.



Receive Grace After Failure

John 21:1-19 CSB

BEFORE YOU READ

After the resurrection, Jesus meets His disciples on an ordinary shoreline.

Peter carries the memory of denying Jesus. Yet the risen Christ prepares breakfast, provides what they need, and invites them near.

Jesus does not pretend Peter's failure never happened. He meets him with a question about love, restores him with purpose, and calls him forward again.

Grace is not the denial of failure. It is Jesus meeting us there and refusing to let failure have the final word.



Look Closer

- What are the disciples doing when Jesus appears?
- What happens when they follow His instruction about the net?
- What has Jesus already prepared on shore?
- How does Peter respond when he realizes it is the Lord?
- How many times does Jesus ask Peter about his love?
- What responsibility follows each answer?
- What are Jesus' final words to Peter in this exchange?

A FEW WORDS I WANT TO REMEMBER



Behind the Passage

HISTORY / CULTURE / CONTEXT

John tells us there was a charcoal fire on the shore. The only other charcoal fire mentioned in John's Gospel is where Peter stood warming himself while denying Jesus.

We should be careful not to overstate every detail, but the echo is difficult to miss: Jesus meets Peter near the memory of his failure and creates a new conversation there.

The breakfast is already waiting. Restoration begins not with Peter earning his way back, but with Jesus providing, welcoming, and speaking.

Don't Read Past This

Jesus' questions are not separated from His commission. 'Do you love Me?' is followed by care for His people.

Grace does not merely soothe Peter's shame. It restores relationship, renews calling, and turns him outward in love.



Wrestle With It

- Where has past failure made you hesitant to move forward with Jesus?
- Do you imagine Jesus meeting your failure with distance or with truth and restoring grace?
- What might receiving forgiveness require you to stop rehearsing?
- Where could love for Jesus become faithful care for someone else?

Bring It Home

You may wish you could return to the moment before you failed. Jesus meets you in the moment after.

He is not asking you to build a defense or punish yourself into worthiness. He invites honesty, love, and another step of obedience.

The same Jesus who knows your failure can still call you, feed you, and lead you forward.

Pray _____

Jesus, thank You for meeting me with grace after failure. Help me receive Your forgiveness, answer Your love with honest devotion, and follow where You lead. Restore what shame has tried to silence and use my life to care for others. Amen.



Stay a Little Longer

Keep Following the Threads

Still curious? Stay a little longer.

These seven days were never meant to give you every answer. They were an invitation to slow down, notice what you may have read past before, ask honest questions, and keep drawing nearer to Jesus.

If a passage, person, question, or detail from this study made you want to know more, follow that curiosity back into Scripture. Choose one of the passages below - or work through them slowly over time. Read the verses around them. Notice repeated words and themes. Ask questions. Follow cross-references. Explore the historical and cultural context. Most importantly, keep asking: What does this show me about Jesus?

You do not need to complete every passage. There is no checklist to finish here. This is simply a place to keep following the threads.



Passages for Further Study

COME AND SEE

John 1:35-51
John 6:60-69
John 12:20-26

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS

John 3:1-21
John 7:45-52
John 19:38-42

BE FULLY KNOWN

Psalm 139:1-18
John 8:1-11
Luke 7:36-50

Passages for Further Study

TRUST HIM IN THE STORM

Psalm 107:23-32
Matthew 14:22-33
Mark 6:45-52

SIT AT HIS FEET

Psalm 27:4-8
John 11:17-44
John 12:1-8

LET HIM MEET YOU IN YOUR HURT

Leviticus 15:25-30
Luke 8:40-56
Hebrews 4:14-16

RECEIVE GRACE AFTER FAILURE

Luke 22:54-62
John 18:15-27
Acts 2:14-41

How to Follow a Thread

READ

What does the passage actually say? Read it more than once, and read the verses around it.

NOTICE

What words, people, places, contrasts, repeated ideas, or small details stand out?

QUESTION

What makes you stop and wonder? Write the question down rather than rushing past it.

CONNECT

Follow cross-references and related passages. Where else does Scripture speak about this person, event, phrase, or theme?

CONTEXT

What historical, cultural, geographical, or literary context helps you understand what you are reading? Be careful to distinguish what Scripture actually says from traditions, assumptions, or later interpretations.

RESPOND

What does this passage reveal about God? What does it show you about Jesus? Is there something to trust, receive, confess, remember, or live differently because of what you have read?



You are not trying to master the Bible. You are learning to meet God in His Word – to slow down, stay curious, and know Him more.

Stay a Little Longer

You finished the seven days, but this is not really an ending.

The invitation is still the same: come and see. Keep opening your Bible. Keep bringing your questions. Keep noticing who Jesus is.

A week in the Word can begin a rhythm, but relationship grows through returning. You do not need to recreate these seven days perfectly. Choose one small way to stay near.

Keep the coffee warm

Keep the Bible open

Keep coming back to Jesus



Look Back

Leave room to notice what Jesus has been showing you.

- Which encounter with Jesus stayed with you most, and why?
- What did you learn about His character?
- What did you notice about the way He receives, teaches, corrects, cares for, or restores people?
- Which assumption was challenged?
- What truth do you especially need in your current season?
- What question do you want to keep exploring in Scripture?

A FEW WORDS I WANT TO REMEMBER



Keep drawing me nearer, Jesus

Pray

Jesus, thank You for meeting me in Your Word. Keep giving me a hunger to know You, wisdom to understand what I read, and courage to live what You teach me. Let Your truth shape my thoughts, my choices, my home, and the way I love others. When I become distracted, discouraged, or inconsistent, gently draw me back again. Amen.

A rhythm to continue

Choose one Gospel. Read a short section slowly. Write down one detail you notice, one question you carry, and one truth the passage reveals about Jesus. Close by turning that truth into prayer.

WHAT I WANT TO KEEP PRACTICING

