

# Life Small Groups – Big Impact Connections

## *THE LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER*

*STOP LIVING FOR JESUS  
SO JESUS CAN  
LIVE THROUGH YOU*

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: WEEK 2

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WEEK 2

*ABIDE*

# DAY 1

## A JESUS FOLLOWER *IS LOVED BY GOD*

### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

1 John 3:1  
1 John 4:8-10  
John 15:9  
Romans 5:8  
Romans 8:35-39

### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

*What does the Bible say?*

*What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?*

## APPLY

***Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.***

The Bible says much about the love of God towards His children. His love for us is great, never-ending, unchanging, beyond knowledge and understanding. Because God's love for us is unchanging, He can't love us any more or any less than He does right now. On good days, bad days, and every day in between—at every moment in time—God loves you exactly as much as He does today because His love for you isn't rooted in your performance for Him but in your position in Christ.

As followers of Jesus, you share in the perfect, eternal, unchanging love that has existed between the Father and Son for eternity (John 15:9). You are loved and accepted as a child of the Father, and there's nothing you can do to change it because God's love comes to you through grace—the unmerited favor of God. The cross is a public demonstration of God's immense love for you.

On the cross, while you were a sinner, Jesus died for you. His sacrifice on your behalf satisfied God's judgment against your sin and extended God's love and mercy to you. What's more, if you know and follow Jesus, you've been invited into a loving relationship with the Father that lasts forever. To abide in God's love is to remain in and enjoy God's love at all times. No matter what happens, nothing can change God's love for you.

*Would you say that you're abiding in God's love right now? If not, why not?*

*When are you most tempted to doubt God's love for you?*

## DO

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

*Pick one verse from **READ**, and use that verse to spend a few minutes praying and thanking God for His love for you.*

# DAY 2

## A JESUS FOLLOWER *HAS BEEN CHANGED BY GOD*

### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 2:4-10

### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

*What does the Bible say?*

*What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?*

### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

The moment people become aware of God's love for them and surrender by turning from their sin and placing their faith in Christ (becoming Jesus followers) those people are changed forever. The Bible often speaks of the spiritual blessings God lavished upon us.

*In the space below, write down some of those blessings God gives Christians based on the verses in **READ**.*

## **DO**

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

People who follow Jesus are blessed, chosen, holy, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, filled with the Holy Spirit, created for good works, and given access to Him to name a few of the benefits described in these verses. The trouble is many of these things are “spiritual” truths that can’t be seen. The Christian life is learning to live out here on earth what is already true about you before God. Even though these blessings are internal, nothing you do can add to or take away from these blessings. They’re finished works in the Father’s eyes. It’s all a work of God through His wonderful grace.

*Consider how you think about yourself. What needs to change for you to see yourself the way God sees you?*

# DAY 3

## A JESUS FOLLOWER *PURSUES GOD*

### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

Exodus 33:13-18

Psalm 63:1-3

Philippians 3:7-14

### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

*What does the Bible say?*

*What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?*

### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

*What did Moses, David, and Paul all have in common?*

People come to know God personally the moment they surrender to Him by faith and receive Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their life. But salvation is only the beginning.

Because God is infinite, we'll never exhaust the riches of who He is. Even though we'll never know God fully, we can know Him truly. To do this, we must pursue a relationship with the Father, which is a life-long pursuit.

## DO

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

*Deep in the soul of a Jesus follower is a hunger to know God more. The more you come to know God, the more you'll desire Him. He invites you to know Him. He desires you to know Him. There's no higher pursuit in life than to pursue God through Jesus Christ.*

*Do you hunger and desire to know God like that? Why or why not? What distracts you from Him?*

*Was there a time in your life when you hungered for God more than you do now? If so, what changed, and what steps do you need to take today to begin to pursue God like that again?*



# DAY 4

## A JESUS FOLLOWER *MEETS WITH GOD*

### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

John 15:1-5  
Luke 10:38-42

### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

*What does the Bible say?*

*What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?*

### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

*Based on the passages under **READ**, is God more interested in what we can do for Him or in the time we spend with Him?*

The Christian life isn't about what we can do for God. It's not about how many church services we attend, how much we give, or how many people we help. It's about an intimate, growing relationship that involves spending time with Jesus.

The word "abide" isn't likely a word you use very regularly. Another word to translate the same word is "remain." Jesus is inviting you to remain with Him—to stick with Him. This isn't an invitation to do something for Him but to be with Him. Jesus commended Mary

for wanting to simply sit at His feet and spend time with Him. When you busy yourself like Martha, you miss the joy Mary found in remaining at Jesus' feet. When you remain in Jesus, you're allowing Him to fill you up, so the rest of your life comes out of the overflow of the time you spent meeting with Jesus.

The God of the universe wants to spend time with you. It's a daily invitation to be with Him. There's no more important aspect of the Christian life than regular time set apart to simply be with Him. Everything in your life will flow out of this. Remember, God has called you to a loving relationship before anything else.

*Is your Christian life characterized by activity or intimacy? Explain.*

**DO**

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

*How is working through this study increasing your desire to have regular, unhurried time alone with God?*

*What goals will you set so that your life is characterized by intimacy?*

# DAY 5

## A JESUS FOLLOWER *TALKS TO GOD*

### READ

*Read the following passages slowly and carefully.*

Luke 18:1-8  
John 14:13-14  
John 15:7

### EXAMINE

*Answer the following questions:*

What does the Bible say?

What does the passage teach me about following Jesus?

### APPLY

*Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.*

You can't be close to someone you never speak to. Your relationship with God is the same way. You can't be close to God and never talk to Him. We hear from God in the Bible, and we converse with God in prayer.

Prayer is a relationship, not a religious exercise; it's a two-way conversation. The ear of God hears the prayers of His children; He listens and uses our prayers to conform us to His character. This is why we pray in Jesus' name. To pray in Jesus' name simply means to pray consistently with His character and according to His will. And we know His character and will through the Bible. In John 15:7, Jesus says, "If ... my Words abide in you, ask." The Bible and prayer go hand in hand.

*Is your prayer life characterized by communion with God or merely a religious exercise? What's the difference between those two approaches?*

*Do you spend more time listening or talking in prayer?*

*Are your prayers a demonstration of following Jesus or of wanting Him to follow you?*

**DO**

***Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.***

If you find that you struggle in prayer, consider praying with a Bible open in front of you. The Bible is God talking to you, but it can also serve as your guide in what to say to Him. When we pray the words of Scripture, we know we're praying according to His will. The Psalms are a great place to start. Many of the 150 Psalms are prayers David and others offered to God. They contain a variety of prayers for every imaginable occasion and will provide a much-needed boost to your prayer life.

*How has your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus changed as you studied Scripture this week?*

*Where do you see the greatest opportunity for Jesus to work in your life through this study?*