

30 Days with Jesus

EXPERIENCING HIS PRESENCE THROUGHOUT
THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

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and

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 HarperChristian
Resources

30 Days with Jesus

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Although you will find each day's teaching assigned to either Lysa or Joel, both authors contributed to every teaching. The choice of author was to assign the personal story shared.

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I was in a season where I'd been doing church for a long time. But I kept having this suspicion that other Christians had a more direct line to God than I had. Things just seemed to work out for them. They kept gratitude journals and shared incredible revelations they'd had in their personal time with God.

I would hear their confidence and silently wonder what was I missing?

I didn't want to say it. I didn't want to feel it. I didn't want to be struggling with it. But the real response in my heart said, "I'm not sure the Lord is really with me."

Sometimes I would feel a rush of assurance when standing in worship or when something big happened and I could declare, "Wow, look what the Lord did!" But most days I just kept quiet and faked like I had the same unwavering spiritual confidence that everyone else had.

All the while, internally, I couldn't shake this nagging thought that if Jesus really cared about me and wanted a relationship with me, why couldn't I see Him, hear Him, and get to know Him? I mean, if a human relationship was this mysterious, I'd assume the person was ghosting me and giving me the not-so-subtle hint to move on.

Then I remembered some relationship advice I'd heard: If you want to improve your connections with friends and family, you need to communicate your desires more clearly.

**SO I WROTE IN MY JOURNAL THREE DESIRES
I HAD FOR MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS:**

- 1. I want to see You.**
- 2. I want to hear You.**
- 3. I want to know You.**

My heart was crying out to see evidence of God's reality in my life. I truly wanted to experience His presence and walk in the assurance that He saw me, heard me, and wanted to know me. So one day I decided to turn that journal list into a prayer I would pray each day. And eventually I added, "I want to follow hard after You every day so before my feet hit the floor, I say 'yes' to You."

After praying that prayer each day, I started looking for God with greater intentionality throughout my day and start living with expectation of this prayer being answered.

It's now been over 20 years since I started praying this prayer. And every part of my life has been positively impacted as I live with expectation of experiencing Him daily.

I can't say that doubt doesn't ever creep back in my mind. There have been some times in the past few years where doubt has shown back up, and I wondered: Jesus, where are You?

During a particularly difficult time, I asked God to help me know with greater assurance, confidence and courage that He was with me. And He did, in such an unexpected way. As I was reading the first two chapters of Genesis, God showed me that Jesus is very much mentioned in the creation story. And I realized that if Jesus was never absent in Scripture from beginning to end, He wasn't absent from my life either.

And that is when I went searching for Jesus throughout the entire Bible, to confirm and reassure me of His presence in unexpected ways in my life today.

Jesus has never been one to hide. And He's certainly not hiding from us now. We just have to know how He presents Himself all throughout Scripture so that we can see how present He is in every aspect of our lives today.

If you've been through some tough realities in your life lately, or if you want to better prepare for seasons of hardship with more comfort, confidence, and courage, then you're in the right place.

AND IF YOU'VE BEEN LONGING FOR:

Greater comfort that Jesus is near ...

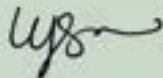
Greater confidence that Jesus cares ...

Greater courage that you aren't fighting alone ...

Then, welcome, friend, to this special study about Jesus.

Joel and I thought about you through our writing, and we can't wait to share all we've learned with you, together.

Love,





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As we begin our study of Jesus throughout Scripture, it may be surprising to learn that Jesus didn't first appear in Matthew.

Jesus has been present from the very beginning. John 1:1 declares that Jesus was present in the Genesis 1–2 creation story: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* Verse 14 clarifies even further that *“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”* (emphasis added).

Nothing was created without Jesus (John 1:1–14) and everything is perfected by Jesus. We can see Jesus as the one who perfects what humans can only do in part. In the Old Testament, there were three offices of leadership that led the people of God: prophet, priest, and king. However, everyone in the Old Testament who held these offices did so imperfectly. The reality of these imperfections created an even deeper anticipation for the promised Messiah who would eventually hold all three offices, but in complete perfection.

It's the truth of Jesus as the Greater Prophet (Matthew 13:57; Luke 7:16), Priest (Matthew 1:21–23; 1 Timothy 2:5,¹ and King (Matthew 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22) that gives meaning and understanding to every word, sentence, paragraph and page of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. **Without the presence of the promised Messiah in the Old Testament, we cannot fully understand or grasp the brilliant truth and glory of Jesus on display in the New Testament.**

Jesus is never absent in God's story, and He's certainly not absent in any part of our story either. Jesus is our guide, our context, and our example. Not just through the Bible but throughout our lives.

In fact, the entire Bible testifies to the promise, presence, protection and proclamation of the peace that Jesus provides. And aren't we most desperate for this kind of assurance when our future seems unclear, our prayers seem to go unanswered, and more unexpected heartbreaks make us want to doubt?

Is Jesus actually there?

Yes, He is.

Does He actually care?

Yes, He does.

WEEK ONE

Portraits

We see glimpses of Jesus through people in the Bible, as they partially fulfilled what He would later completely fulfill.

OVER THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS WE'LL LOOK FOR AND DISCOVER JESUS IN SCRIPTURE USING SIX DIFFERENT LENSES. EACH ONE WILL SHOW US SOMETHING SURPRISING AND ENCOURAGING, AND CONFIRM GOD'S GOOD PLAN FOR US.

WEEK TWO

Prophecies

We see Jesus through the prophecies that tell of His coming in the flesh.

WEEK THREE

Patterns

We see Jesus in alternating patterns in the Bible like famine and rain, or wilderness and promised land that help us connect to the consistent reality of the presence of Jesus.

WEEK FOUR

Provisions

We see Jesus in God's physical, emotional, and spiritual provision for the people of the Old Testament as Jesus is our perfect provision for all our needs.

WEEK FIVE

Protections

We see Jesus through God's protection of His people, as we start to discover the ultimate protection we have in Him.

WEEK SIX

Presence

We see God's desire to be near His people since creation, and the ultimate invitation to be with Him is in Jesus.

Connecting Genesis 1 and John 1

**In the beginning, God created
the heavens and the earth.**

GENESIS 1:1

**The earth was without form and
void, and darkness was over the
face of the deep. And the Spirit of
God was hovering over the face of
the waters.**

GENESIS 1:2

**And God said, "Let there
be light," and there was light.**


GENESIS 1:3

**And God saw that the light was
good. And God separated the light
from the darkness.**

GENESIS 1:4

**God called the light Day, and the
darkness he called Night. And
there was evening and there was
morning, the first day.**

GENESIS 1:5




**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the Word was God.**

JOHN 1:1




He was in the beginning with God.

JOHN 1:2




**All things were made through him,
and without him was not any thing
made that was made.**

JOHN 1:3



**In him was life, and the life
was the light of men.**

JOHN 1:4



**The light shines in the darkness, and
the darkness has not overcome it.**

JOHN 1:5

WEEK ONE

Portraits

Have you ever stared at a piece of art and wondered what message the artist was trying to convey?

In a painting there can be hints of a bigger picture or message. The same is true with God's Word. Throughout Scripture we find shadows revealing the presence of Jesus in the word-portraits created by the Master Artist Himself.

Physically speaking, shadows prove the sun is shining. The sun shines and creates a shadow confirming someone or something is standing in the light. So, the shadow is evidence of light and the physical presence of a person or object. But shadows aren't as detailed as the real person or object. Shadows give us a shape but not a complete picture.

Spiritually speaking, the portrait-shadows we find in the Old Testament reflect versions and variations of Jesus. But just like physical shadows, these "shadows of Jesus" only partially reflect Jesus.

Bible scholars call this typology. Essentially, each of these portraits paints an image or characteristic of Jesus, and understanding these "types" helps us see the purpose and work of Jesus in clarity and fulfillment in the New Testament.

Tracing the history of God's people throughout the Old Testament, we'll find that Adam, Eve, Moses, Joshua, David and Esther are all portraits that point to Jesus. Though they were imperfect with human flaws and frailties, each of these figures in Scripture, at times, did good works in their assignments. In that good, we find glimpses of a greater good that Jesus would eventually bring and complete.

It is our prayer that through each glimpse you see how Jesus will eventually right the wrongs and reveal His radiance as the light behind every shadow because He is the Son of God.

Adam and Eve

GENESIS 1–2; LUKE 3:21–38

*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God
he created them; male and female he created them.*

GENESIS 1:27 NIV

To begin to see Jesus in the Bible, the first place to look is Adam.

The Bible reveals important details about Adam. First, Adam and his wife, Eve, were created in the likeness and image of God and put in a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 1–3, we read the following key moments in Adam and Eve’s lives. Together, they were . . .

- given “*dominion*” over creation (Genesis 1:26).
- told to “*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*” (Genesis 1:28b).
- told to “*subdue*” the land (Genesis 1:28b).
- told to “*keep*” the land (Genesis 2:15).
- told not to eat the fruit (Genesis 2:17).
- tempted by the serpent; they ate the fruit, and sin entered the world (Genesis 3:1–13).

All of the details surrounding the roles and responsibilities of Adam and Eve tell us God created humanity with dignity (being made in the image of God). That dignity came with a destiny (multiply, be fruitful, subdue, have dominion, keep/guard). This may be one of the most important things for us to remember not just as we look at the lives of Adam and Eve—but also as we wake up each morning and step into our day . . . Our dignity precedes our destiny.

- 01 How does knowing you’re made in the likeness and image of God reassure you in a situation you’re facing right now?

To be made in the likeness and image of God also had royal connotations. The language of the Ancient Near East would describe Adam and Eve as *viceregents*, meaning they were living as actual representatives of God Himself on earth. To be a viceregent is to reflect God's Kingship on earth.² This means Adam and Eve, and therefore all of humanity, were freely given the gift of dignity, wrapped up in royal privilege that came with royal expectations.

- 02 Read 1 Peter 2:9. What connection do you see between Adam and Eve having a royal identity and God calling us as believers “*a royal priesthood*”?

The expectations for Adam and Eve are seen clearly in Genesis 2:15 where God takes man and woman and places them in the Garden of Eden to “*work it and keep it*” (emphasis added). The English word “keep” is a translation of the Hebrew word “*shamar*,” which can be, and often is, translated as “guard or protect.”³

The implication of this word used for Adam and Eve in Eden meant that they were not just to be gardeners working the fields. No, they were also priests who had guarding and protecting duties. Sadly, this is also what is unfulfilled in their actions. Adam and Eve fail to “*shamar*,” or guard and protect, Eden from the serpent, and they themselves are led into deception.

- 03 Read Genesis 3 and record what stands out to you about Adam and Eve’s conversation and overall interaction with the serpent.

A consistent theme we will turn to in this study is that Jesus is *better*. Jesus is the better Adam and Eve because Jesus faces the situations of temptation, but He is found as the faithful Son of God. Sadly, Adam and Eve fall short in their faith. However, Jesus will never fall short. Jesus will never get distracted by sin. He will never betray or abandon you. He will never stop guarding and protecting you.

- 04 How does this truth about Jesus' faithfulness encourage you in what you're walking through right now?

Let's return to that list of key moments in the lives of Adam and Eve and look for a connection with Jesus:

Adam and Eve were given dominion over creation, but Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all things.

All things were made through Christ and for Christ (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16), and it is through Christ that all things are sustained (Colossians 1:15–17). This should give us such immense confidence. Jesus not only cares for creation but is very present in creation: He was there in Genesis 1, and He is here now.

You may be facing some situations now where Jesus seems absent. There is chaos and confusion. Hurt and heartbreak. Divorce and disease. These are awful circumstances, but they are not evidence that Jesus doesn't care. These are all realities in a world where sin exists.

Jesus is not a distracted king letting the world fall apart while He stands as an inactive bystander. He is the solution to the sin that's destroying people. Jesus wants us to see Him as the solution and to experience His presence and His kindness even in the middle of all that we're experiencing right now.

Adam and Eve were told to "*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*" (Genesis 1:28b).

This assignment from God is for image bearers (people made in the image of God) to fill the earth with evidence of God's goodness and God's faithfulness. Sin disrupted perfection, but sin did not destroy this God-given assignment.

We see a connection here to the same instruction Jesus gives us in the New Testament found in Matthew 28:19. Some of Jesus' last instructions were to go and "*make disciples of all nations.*" Isn't this fascinating? Adam and Eve received a similar command as the disciples received from Jesus . . . and those same instructions still apply to us today.

05 Can you think of ways you can obey Jesus' command to "make disciples of all nations"?

Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent and ate the fruit, which ushered in sin. But Jesus conquered the power of the serpent and provided freedom from sin.

If there is one thing the enemy capitalizes upon, it's tempting us when we least expect it. It's something he's been working on since Genesis 3 where he successfully tempted Adam and Eve, which led to a rupture in relationship with God, creation, and God's people.

In the Gospels, we find Jesus in a similar predicament where He is tempted by Satan. But just before Jesus is tempted, we find Him in what may have been the most epic moment of His earthly life and ministry (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22).

After Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, God the Father says to Jesus, "*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased*" (Luke 3:22). Let's not skip this moment or overlook its significance. Right before Jesus is led in the wilderness to be tempted by Satan (the same serpent in Genesis 3), God the Father publicly affirms and confirms Him.

Not many would go to the wilderness willingly. The wilderness, for the Israelites, and even for us today, represents isolation and hardship. For Jesus, going into the wilderness of a physical desert meant treacherous dangers like wild animals and no guarantees of water supply. Yet Jesus was led into the wilderness where He would prove Himself to be the better and greater Adam.

Jesus was tempted, but unlike Adam and Eve, He was not deceived. Jesus used the words of Scripture and showed us how powerful Truth is against the enemy's schemes. Adam and Eve knew God's words but lacked the trust to follow His instructions when their own desires seemed more appealing.

Because of Jesus, everything changed. The ruptured relationship between God and His people, caused by sin, was repaired in Christ. And as we have learned today, Jesus isn't just the better and greater Adam; He is the Savior King.

Moses

EXODUS 1–2; MATTHEW 1:18–2:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

COLOSSIANS 1:15–16

When you think about the Old Testament and the “founding fathers” of our faith, who comes to mind for you? I still remember being a little girl watching Charlton Heston, dressed in a red robe, with wild gray hair, hold up his arms and part the Red Sea. I was even more mesmerized when I found out this account of Moses was a true story.

I think many of us would say that Moses is one of the most important biblical figures in the Old Testament (possibly tied with David, whom we will also look at this week).

Historically, Moses is believed to be the author of the first five books of the Old Testament. He’s a unique prophet of God who actually meets with the Lord face to face. When reading about the life of Moses, we find important similarities in the life of Jesus as well. Let’s take a look at some of those:

First, both the mother of Jesus and the mother of Moses acted in courageous and selfless ways to ensure the safety and security of their sons. Jesus and Moses had such unusual beginnings to their lives.

01 Read Exodus 1–2. What stands out to you about the birth and early life of Moses?

- 02 Read Matthew 1:18–2:15. What similarities do you see in the birth of Jesus after reading about the birth of Moses?

Second, Moses and Jesus both had assignments to lead people out of enslavement. Moses led the Israelites out of the bondage of Pharaoh and Egypt. But Jesus would eventually lead all of those who place their faith in Him out of a bondage worse than that of Pharaoh—the grip of sin and death.

What Moses begins for the people of God, Jesus fulfills forever for the family of God.

At the end of Exodus 3 and the beginning of Exodus 4, God called Moses to represent Him to Pharaoh in order to release and free the Israelites. But Moses had to convince more than Pharaoh. First, Moses had to convince the Israelites that it was time to leave their bondage and captivity.

Moses responded by saying, *“But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice . . .”* (Exodus 4:1).

It’s important to note that earlier, in Exodus 2:15, Moses had already tried to help the Israelites, but they essentially turned on him. So what’s the key difference between Exodus 2 and Exodus 4?

In Exodus 2, Moses was trying to achieve something for his people out of his own might and work. However, now in Exodus 4, Moses was no longer working in his own strength and wisdom. He was being appointed and led by God.

When we look deeper into Exodus 4:1–17, we find Moses so focused on his weaknesses that he forgets God’s power.

- 03 Look at the words of Moses in Exodus 4:1; 4:10; and 4:13. Why do you think Moses responded in this way?

Where Moses says “*but . . . they will . . .*” (v. 1) and “*I am not . . .*” (v. 10), God responds with “*I will be*” (vv. 12, 15). Moses disqualified himself, but God reminded Moses not of what disqualified him but of who was mighty with him: God Himself. God was the one who equipped Moses with the signs necessary to gain the trust of the Israelites. Though Moses angered God by asking Him to send someone else, God also provided Aaron to comfort and ease the anxiety of Moses.

In spite of the fact that God called Moses, Moses let his doubts and insecurities feed a distrust of God. And so often the same is true for us. Whether our trust issues are rooted in internal insecurities and insufficiencies or external obstacles that make us afraid, God reveals Himself as “*I will be.*” This is our promise to hang on to in the middle of our own trust issues.

- 04 What assignment has God put before you today where you’re struggling to trust in Him fully?

As we consider Moses’ assignment, we see God never told him to bring the power. Moses was simply told to bring the words and be obedient. God’s job was everything else: the power, the strategy, the plans, and certainly the victory. The same is true for you and me. We can be encouraged, knowing He will lead us with what to say, what to do, and how to move forward.

We all have some trust issues, thankfully Jesus models the better way for us to handle our doubt when we are faced with a difficult assignment or even suffering in circumstances we didn’t cause. We see this so beautifully lived out in Matthew 26:36–39 in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus displayed the perfect example of crying out to God in complete distress in His humanity, but He immediately backed it up with “*. . . nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will*” (Matthew 26:39).

THE AUTHOR OF HEBREWS SAYS THAT JESUS

“learned obedience through what he suffered.”

(HEBREWS 5:8)

05 What surprises you about this verse? What encourages you about it?

WEEK 1 | DAY 2 | LISA

The obedience of Moses created greater trust in God, and the outcome was the liberation of God’s people. This paints a beautiful shadow portrait of expectation for the greater Moses: Jesus. Jesus’ life of obedience ultimately led Him to the cross for the liberation of humanity from sin and death. What a gift God gave us in knowing the story of Moses so we could see in an earthly sense what Jesus accomplished in an eternal sense.

He was “I Am” for Moses, and He was “I Am” through Jesus. And He will be “I Am” in whatever you’re facing right now, too.

Joshua

JOSHUA 1; MATTHEW 11:28–30

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

JOHN 10:11

WEEK 1 | DAY 3 | LISA

Yesterday we talked a lot about trust and obedience. I've found in my own life that the more I trust God, the more I will choose to do things His way. But it's also true that the more we obey, the more we learn to trust Him. Trust and obedience go hand in hand.

God promised to care for His people, but they must trust and obey Him. Today, we'll take a look at Joshua, a man known for his extraordinary trust and obedience.

Because of that trust, God appointed Joshua to lead the Israelites into the promised land and God's promised rest. And as we'll see today, Joshua's leadership and obedience to God provide a portrait of Jesus who through His perfect obedience, leads us into perfect rest.

There are many similarities between Joshua and Jesus, starting with their names. In English, their names are different. But "Jesus" and "Joshua" come from the same root name. One scholar has said, "Jesus was named after Joshua."⁴ This becomes important in the book of Hebrews as the connection between Joshua and Jesus is established.

But let's take a closer look at Joshua and his responsibility.

Tragically, Moses was unable to enter the promised land because of his disobedience and lack of faith. Knowing the Israelites would need a leader, Moses asked the Lord to appoint a shepherd in his place. Moses worried, "*who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd*" (Numbers 27:17).

A shepherd's responsibility was to lead the sheep to green pastures so they could rest. Joshua, as the "shepherd" of the Israelites, was tasked with the important responsibility to lead them into the green pastures and rest of the promised land.

Joshua was appointed to be a type of "shepherd," but John 10:11 tells us that, even more so, Jesus embodies this for us: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

While Joshua led the people to physical rest, Jesus' presence offers us rest for our souls: "*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls*" (Matthew 11:28–29).

- 01 Thinking about your current needs and circumstances, how might you begin to see more of Jesus as your Good Shepherd leading you to rest?

Joshua did lead the Israelites into the promised land where they expected rest. But when they arrived in Canaan (their promised land), all was not as they hoped. We can all relate to the Israelites in being surprised by problems that come with our version of “promised lands.”

- 02 Have you ever hoped for something, but when it finally arrived, it was different than what you expected? How did this affect you?

Joshua

NAME

Yehoshua

Joshua comes from the Hebrew name "Yehoshua," meaning "Yahweh is deliverance," "God is deliverance."

APPOINTMENT

Joshua, as the "shepherd" of the Israelites, was tasked with the important responsibility to lead them into the green pastures and rest of the promised land.

ACTION

Joshua led the people to promised physical rest in their earthly inheritance of Canaan.

STRUGGLE

Led people who disobeyed.
Could not deliver people from sin.

Jesus

NAME

Yeshua/Y'shua

The name Jesus is derived from the Hebrew name, which is based on the Semitic root *y-sh-'* (Hebrew: ישע), meaning "to deliver; to rescue."

APPOINTMENT

*"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down
his life for the sheep."*

John 10:11

ACTION

*"Come to me, all who labor
and are heavy laden, and
I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28

STRUGGLE

Loved people in their disobedience. Gave His life for their sins.

Joshua led the people faithfully into their earthly inheritance of Canaan, but they never ultimately experienced the rest they hoped for, due to their disobedience to God. They worshipped and followed after false gods, bringing the consequences upon themselves. (See Deuteronomy 11:26–29.)

So, though God kept His promise and honored the people, the people didn't honor Him in return. And sadly, we do this very same thing. We long for peace and rest but often don't do what God says . . . or we suffer because others around us don't do what God says. In both cases, the result is unrest.

Another connection between Joshua and Jesus is they were both faithful but led people with a propensity toward disobedience. And though Joshua was obedient in his assignment, he could not deliver the people from sin. Thankfully, Jesus provides what Joshua never could: forgiveness of our sins and rest for our souls *even in* hard circumstances and pain.

Joshua only did in part what Jesus would later do in full. Joshua was a good shepherd, but Jesus is the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20), leading His people into eternal security and peace with Him, through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into heaven.

But how is Jesus our Great Shepherd today if He's no longer physically present with us? The Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of Jesus, is inside of us as believers. When Jesus was here on earth, His physical presence with people was limited to whoever He was with at that moment. But when Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised the gift of His Spirit would be with all believers all the time.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REFERRED TO IN DIFFERENT
WAYS THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE.

The Spirit of God

EPHESIANS 4:30

The Holy Spirit

EPHESIANS 1:13

The Spirit of Christ

ROMANS 8:9

- 03 Jesus is present and within us through the Spirit. Read Philippians 1:19; Acts 16:7; and Galatians 4:6 and reflect upon their meaning. Write some of the truths contained within these Scripture verses that stand out to you.

The journey to the promised land was not an easy one. Nor was Jesus' road to the cross and our salvation easy. They were both difficult roads paved with tragedy and turmoil. They were filled with obstacles that seemed to shout, "Your God is not for you. Just look around you! This sure doesn't look like the road to fulfilled promises to me."

Maybe you're in a place like that right now. You're trying to cling to the promises of God and move forward in faith, but difficult circumstances seem to be shouting loudly in opposition. Perhaps your difficult situation is daring you to doubt the goodness of God . . . inviting you to label Him forgetful or even unfair . . . tempting you to panic and give up hope.

We've all walked through seasons where our circumstances don't seem to line up with God's promises. But just because they don't line up doesn't mean God isn't going to show up.

Because of Jesus, we can have peace and rest right where we are today. He is our peace. He is our rest. Peace and rest for our souls isn't a physical journey we must take but rather they are a spiritual practice of trust we get to participate in today.

04 Read Matthew 11:28–30. How do these words provide comfort during difficult times?

Oh, friend, our God is a God of completion. He makes promises, and then He fulfills them (Hebrews 10:23). Yes, the journey may be harder than we expected. The road to our promise may not look anything like we thought it would. But we can rest assured there is never a question of whether or not our God will be faithful.

Jesus is evidence of His faithfulness to us! We can trust Him. Even when life takes unexpected twists and turns. Our God is a promise-keeping God.