

From the makers of THE FORGE and WAR ROOM

DEVOTED TO JESUS

From FIRST STEPS *to*
FULLY SURRENDERED



Presented To

From

Date

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 NIV



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FULLY SURRENDERED

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and ALEX KENDRICK
with Lawrence Kimbrough

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INTRODUCTION



Jesus Christ has not only changed millions of lives over thousands of years but our own personal lives and families as well, radically for the good. After growing up in multiple churches, serving for decades in ministry, and meeting incredible followers of Christ around the world, we can testify that God is powerfully at work in this generation and is never confined to any one church tradition or denomination. His grace is still amazing and overwhelming.

We've watched Him set drug addicts free, resurrect dead marriages, heal deep emotional wounds, deliver relatives from depression, and transform students during a revival. He can do anything and save anyone who is willing to humble themselves and trust Him with their lives. Watching God's Spirit turn the light on in someone's heart and see their faith in Christ awaken is one of the most amazing experiences on earth. Then to see them grow and learn to walk intimately with Jesus and lovingly pour their lives into others is incredible.

That's what this book is about: following Christ, loving Christ, and becoming a wholehearted disciple of Christ.

Devoted to Jesus

True devotion is holistic and involves everything we are. When we find something worthy of our whole heart and then fully devote ourselves to it, then it will fuel our focus, passion, and lifelong pursuits. Jesus alone is worthy of our whole heart.

We hope that's exactly what happens in your spiritual life as you journey through these pages. Don't feel like we are piling on more religious rules or increasing your already busy schedule. Let it help you slow down and sit at the feet of Jesus. Learn how to walk intimately with Him. Allow Him to love you and change you deeply and then greatly use you.

The Content. This book contains fifty-two chapters, presenting some of the most important teachings of Jesus and the Bible in short, practical segments aimed at deepening your spiritual life and powering your growth. It addresses dozens of vital topics: the gospel, assurance of salvation, identity in Christ, studying Scripture, praying effectively, overcoming adversity, pursuing community, walking in love, and much more. We hope it proves to be an encouraging and enriching experience for you. Our goal is not religious education, taught to you by people, but true spiritual transformation that comes by walking with God!

The Challenge. Keep an open heart before the Lord. Whether you read a chapter a day or one a week, we encourage you to PRAY before reading, asking God to speak to you personally, draw you closer, and make you more like Him.

We challenge you to READ the Bible every day along with this book. Consider starting in the book of Matthew and slowly reading through the Gospels, which focus on the eyewitness accounts and teachings of Jesus. He is the key to everything else in Scripture.

Finally, DISCUSS what you've read with someone else and share what you're learning in the process. The best way

Introduction

to grow is through relationships. Let God use this book as an opportunity for you to establish a new mentoring relationship grounded in life-changing conversations. We've written this book in a conversational style, like two friends talking by the fire. So there will be incomplete sentences. Intentional fragments. As if Paul is pouring into Timothy, someone he loves and is discipling.

The Hope. We are praying that Christian growth in this generation will go far beyond Sunday experiences and include life-on-life mentoring relationships during the week that fuel spiritual maturity and the spread of the gospel around the world. Though Jesus taught large crowds, He spent most of His time walking closely with a select few. The masses heard His words, but His disciples saw His life. They knew Him personally, felt His love, and watched Him behind the scenes.

Contrast that experience with today's digital generation, being physically disconnected from others and desperately needing meaningful relationships. They can find solid teaching online but can't share their private struggles or spiritual questions with a video screen. They deeply need someone who knows and loves Jesus to take the time to know and love them, to walk with them consistently while modeling a sincere devotion to Jesus.

Whether you are a seasoned believer or a new believer, this book is for you. As a discipling tool, every chapter is a discussion starter you can read beforehand or out loud during your times together. Personalize it. Mark it up. Make it your own. Test everything with Scripture. But don't give up and don't keep it to yourself. Ask God to show you who He wants you to share it with.

You can do nothing more important with your life than to surrender it fully to Jesus Christ, walk with Him in an abiding,

Devoted to Jesus

daily relationship, and devote yourself to serving Him. Then you can walk alongside others so they can know and follow Christ too.

May God mightily bless you as you seek to know Him more and more each day. And may we all become authentic examples of Jesus to the nations and to future generations. We hope you take this journey seriously and that you enjoy it fully!

Let's begin.

PART I

FOUNDATIONS

Who Is Jesus Christ?



1

THE INVITATION OF JESUS

WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ME?

*Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty,
let him come to me and drink." John 7:37*



Jesus Christ has given all of us an invitation we should sincerely and thoughtfully consider. He invites us into a living, loving relationship with God through faith in Him.

This relationship He offers is not common or casual. He has opened the door for us to know Him and walk with Him more intimately than we ever imagined. It's not a relationship that always promises comfort or ease. Some aspects of this faith journey may prove extremely difficult, harder than anything you've ever done. But the results

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of developing a genuine devotion to Him will bring about an amazing life of growth, maturity, fruitfulness, and joy.

This book is intended to help you learn more about Christ's invitation and ultimately to embrace the narrow path of being His disciple. As we begin this journey, we encourage you to take some time to sincerely pray and ask God to open your eyes, speak to your heart, and draw you to Himself through this experience, guiding you into everything He desires for you, into everything discipleship means. May the Lord be with you as you seek after Him.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus repeatedly invited people to come to Him with their greatest burdens. Those who suffered physically found healing. Those tormented by evil found deliverance. Those hungering for answers found direction. Regardless of their problem, Jesus proved to be *the* solution. As He met their immediate needs, they would often realize they could trust Him for their bigger long-term needs and their lives.

Jesus consistently offered a new kind of life. A life where grace abounds. Where ordinary people experience the presence of God daily and find lasting purpose and peace, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Once on the last day of a great feast, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37). He knew they were living with thirsty souls, always longing but never satisfied, and that He alone provided the lasting refreshment they needed. He was constantly inviting people to let go of their empty lives and freely receive what they could never earn: God's gift of life and love. Once when He spoke to a woman who'd come to a well to draw water, He told her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never

The Invitation of Jesus

thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life” (John 4:13–14 NASB). This woman’s life was forever changed when she realized who Jesus was and that He was telling her the truth.

On another occasion, Jesus spoke to a generation worn down by legalism and regulations. They were exhausted from following performance-based religion. Empty rituals had become like a yoke of slavery to them (see Lev. 26:13; Matt. 23:4; Acts 15:10).

But consider the invitation Jesus gave. He said, “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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28–30 ESV).

He recognized they were weary and overloaded from trying to work their way through life and to God. Always trying but always failing. Jesus knew He would completely bear the weight of their sin through His death on the cross and that they didn’t need to try earning their salvation any longer. They could find spiritual rest through simple faith in Him.

But beyond salvation, Jesus also invited them to start living differently, to submit to Him and become His follower and disciple. He knew those who trusted His leadership could have a much better path ahead. His imagery of taking up a “yoke” was familiar to His audience. When two animals, like oxen or horses, were yoked together as a pair to pull a plow or cart, they could handle significantly more and could endure much longer by working together.

This is where believing faith becomes a fulfilling life of service and discipleship. Where peace with God also becomes a

Devoted to Jesus

fruitful walk with God. Where our souls can find rest in Christ, even in the midst of the work.

Jesus is inviting us to let Him be the strong one yoked with us. Walking alongside us. Helping us carry every load in life. We can accomplish anything He asks with less effort if we lean on His strength. With the Lord next to us, we will see ourselves doing things we never thought possible.

What a loving offer He makes. A permanent relationship with Him. And inside of this relationship, the daily power to follow Him, know Him, and become like Him. To live a life that gives God glory. That's discipleship.

Not just deliverance from sin but a life of devotion to Jesus.

We don't know what you've brought with you to this journey. But the Bible tells us God predetermines *where* and *when* each of us will live so that we might "seek" Him and "find" Him, because "he is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:26–27). Let that sink in. Wherever you are living and whatever you are carrying right now is for the purpose of helping you *seek* God and *find* Him. To personally hear the call of Jesus to follow Him. To be in a relationship with Him.

Let today be the day when you lift your eyes, give your burdens to Jesus, and let Him lead. To find rest in Him and start learning from Him.

As we begin this journey, we invite you to do something you may never have done before: to call on the name of Jesus and ask Him to meet you where you are. To help you in every area of your life. To help you stop trying to do life, work, family, and ministry on your own. To ask Him to open your eyes to who He is and draw you closer to Himself. To meet you in some special way that is very personal to you.

The Invitation of Jesus

He's inviting. It's time to get in, learn from Him, and follow Him.

Dear God, I call upon You in this season of my life because I need You. Take my burdens, strengthen my faith, and open my eyes to who You are. Help me to trust You and follow You with my life. Change my heart and teach me what it means to walk daily with Jesus and find rest in Him. Use my life for Your glory. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Going Deeper

Deuteronomy 4:7 • John 4:7–10 • John 14:23

2

THE LIFE OF JESUS

HOW DID HE REVEAL HE WAS THE SON OF GOD?

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6



As you begin, please pray and ask God to speak to you and show you who Jesus is.

There is no other spiritual leader or historic figure like Jesus Christ. He is considered the greatest person and example to walk the earth. Billions know His name. Millions follow Him. The entire life of Jesus sets Him apart as holy and special. Unlike anyone else. Worthy of our trust and devotion.

When Jesus said He was *the* way to God the Father, He was not being hateful or prideful. He was being truthful. The Bible says Jesus is the only Son of God, God's perfect solution to save us from our sins and provide eternal life (see Acts 4:12;

The Life of Jesus

1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 5:11–12). God doesn't owe us many ways to heaven, and humanity does not deserve or need more than one.

Almost all religions begin with one person rising up and claiming divine revelation. But if you lined up every spiritual leader throughout millennia who claimed to offer the way to God, no one else comes close to Jesus. What separates Jesus from everyone else?

Jesus alone fulfilled all the prophecies of the Messiah. Old Testament prophets stated centuries in advance that God's Savior, the Messiah, would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2) of a virgin mother (Isa. 7:14) and would live in Galilee (Isa. 9:1). He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12–13) and His hands and feet would be pierced (Ps. 22:16). After He was buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9), He would physically rise from the grave (Acts 2:22–32).

This is only a sample of more than three hundred prophecies Jesus perfectly fulfilled. Like His disciple Peter said, "We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place" (2 Pet. 1:19 NKJV). All the prophecies point to Jesus. Many were fulfilled at His birth or by His enemies, so He could not have manipulated them.

Jesus lived a sinless life. No one is righteous or can rightfully claim to be "without sin"—except for Jesus (Heb. 4:15). His virgin birth was required for His sinless life (Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:35). Jesus had the power to overcome every temptation (Luke 4:1–13) and He stands alone as "the Holy and Righteous One" (Acts 3:14). His sinlessness is what made Him the perfect sacrifice—not needing to die for His own sin but for everyone else. "[God] made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21).

Jesus performed countless miracles. He didn't do just one or two miracles in the shadows, without witnesses, but daily for three years in multiple cities. He said, "If I am not doing my Father's works, don't believe me. But if I am doing them and you don't believe me, believe the works. This way you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I in the Father" (John 10:37–38). Humble and tenderhearted, Jesus demonstrated great compassion over human suffering and willingly healed anyone in need, whether rich or poor, prominent or unknown, including government officials and blind beggars (Matt 9:18–31).

Fulfilling Messianic prophecy, Jesus released the "captives," gave sight to the "blind," and liberated the "oppressed" (Luke 4:18). His miracles were "signs" revealing He was no ordinary man (John 3:2). Each type of miracle revealed a different realm of authority Jesus controlled. Turning water into wine, healing diseases, walking on water, and calming storms revealed His power over nature. Forgiving sin and casting out demons revealed His spiritual authority over evil. Raising the dead and coming back to life Himself proved He was Lord over death. He is "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

Jesus died a sacrificial death to pay for sin. He was introduced at His birth as the "Savior" (Luke 2:11) and He repeatedly said it was "necessary" for Him to suffer as His mission (Luke 9:22). John the Baptist identified Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

All four Gospels describe Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion to pay for sin with His own blood, "as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Centuries in advance, Isaiah 53 explained the meaning of His sufferings. And Psalm 22, though written a thousand years beforehand, reads as someone standing at the foot of the

The Life of Jesus

cross, watching Jesus die. His death is further verified outside of Scripture in the historical writings of Tacitus, Lucian, and Josephus, saying that Jesus the Christ was tried by Pontius Pilate and crucified on a Roman cross.

Jesus physically rose again from the dead. Christ's resurrection fulfilled prophecy and proved He was the Son of God. The testimonies in all four Gospels agree. Jesus was seen alive by more than five hundred people after He rose from the dead (1 Cor. 15:6). His fearful followers became bold preachers after His resurrection. They traveled the world to tell everyone, wrote the New Testament, and willingly suffered for testifying to His resurrection. "For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life" (Rom. 5:10). One of the greatest demonstrations of this truth is when those who believe in Christ today come alive spiritually.

All of these are not just facts. They require a response—to believe in Him and follow Him. We need a God who loves sinners because we are sinners (Rom. 5:8). We need a God with the power to transform and cleanse because our hearts need to be transformed and our consciences cleansed (Heb. 9:13–14). We need a God who has power over death because we're all going to die one day (v. 27). Jesus alone provides everything we need.

Anyone who comes to Him in faith can be saved, regardless of their religious background or what they've done wrong. His love can reach all. His blood was shed for all, for the sins "of the whole world!" (1 John 2:2). "Everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

There is one God and one way to God. Jesus Christ is the way. His entire life sets Him apart as uniquely from God.

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Absolutely everything. What sins and needs in our lives can we lay before His feet? Absolutely everything.

Heavenly Father, I pray You would magnify Christ in my mind and heart. Open my eyes more completely to who He is, and teach me to fully trust Him with each area of my life. Transform me with Your truth, love, and resurrection power. Heal my life and deliver me from all evil. Make me an example of Your love and a witness to the truth of Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Going Deeper

John 21:24–25 • 1 Timothy 2:3–6 • Hebrews 1

JESUS STARTED HIS MINISTRY SAYING,
“COME, FOLLOW ME,”
AND FINISHED IT BY SAYING,
“GO, MAKE DISCIPLES.”

BETWEEN THESE TWO CHALLENGES,
HIS FOLLOWERS LEARNED
THEY COULD TRUST HIM COMPLETELY
WITH EVERY AREA OF THEIR LIVES.

From the writing team behind *The Love Dare* and *The Battle Plan for Prayer*, and the movie producers of *The Forge* and *War Room*, comes an exciting new resource for anyone who desires to grow spiritually and become an on-fire, all-in follower of Jesus.

Have you ever been personally discipled? Do you desire to walk closer to Jesus but wish someone would show you how? How can your faith become a thriving relationship instead of a religious duty? What are the keys to assurance of salvation, abiding in Christ, praying effectively, overcoming trials, and deeply loving others?

Packed with fifty-two topical chapters—ideal for reading daily or weekly—and presented with refreshing clarity, *Devoted to Jesus* is designed to help both new and mature believers grow together. This is a journey you'll first want to experience yourself and then utilize to invest into others.

THEY FIRST LEARNED TO BE
HIS DISCIPLES, THEN HELPED OTHERS
AS DISCIPLE-MAKERS

... AND SO CAN YOU.

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