

# EPIC DISCIPLE: Book Three - Who do you say that I AM?



EPIC DISCIPLE: WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? Part I

EPIC DISCIPLE  
BOOK THREE: WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?



## Part 1 – The I AM Statements of Jesus



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May the Lord breathe on this book so that sons become soldiers, learners become leaders, and every man leaves marked by the Spirit—maturing and multiplying for the glory of King Jesus.

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**This workbook was never meant to be done alone.**

EPIC is forged in brotherhood. If you're holding this book without a group, it's time to take action:

1. Talk to your pastor and call other men into the fight, start an EPIC Group in your church.
2. Gather a few brothers and dive in together. Don't wait, step in.
3. Join a virtual group at <https://www.epicdisciple.com/virtual> and we'll connect you as new groups launch.

EPIC is about men sharpening men, walking shoulder to shoulder, and becoming the disciples Jesus calls us to be. Don't go at this alone, **step in, rise up, and lead.**

**For More information you can reach us at:**

epicdiscipleinfo@gmail.com

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**Who we are  
Coming  
Face to Face  
With  
Who He is . . .**

**The Great  
I AM**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

EPIC Discipleship is under the spiritual covering and authority of Restoration Church in Alpharetta, Georgia. This ministry exists and flourishes because of the vision carried by our Senior Pastor, Pastor Chuck Ramsey. Pastor Chuck, thank you. Your obedience, courage, and vision have made EPIC possible.



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Dedication

To the guys from the 24/25 EPIC Group: **David, Peter, Clay, Lane, Felix, Blake, Mark, Marc, Devin, Harvey, and Paul.**

A lot of what is in these pages was forged in the fire of us walking through it together. Thank you for showing up, for leaning in, for fighting for freedom, and for refusing to let each other stay the same. I am grateful for each of you, my band of brothers.

And to **the Gr8tful: Marc, Donita, David, Jen, Keener, and Heather.**

Jennifer and I could not have been more blessed. We have shared holy moments that still feel unreal, walking the steps of Paul in Corinth and Athens, watching the sunrise over Mars Hill, and helping the Son rise higher in each other's lives. You have marked us with friendship, faith, laughter, and loyalty. We love you deeply. This book carries your fingerprints. Thank you

**To my family** My son, **Eli**: You taught me what a warrior really is. I admire the way you run toward the battle, not away from it. Brave, passionate, sharp, and fiercely loving. You remind me that courage is not a personality. It is a choice. I am proud to be your dad. My daughter, **Kylie**: You are the grace of God in human form. Sweet, kind, and wise beyond your years. You carry peace into rooms and make people feel safe just by being near. Watching you grow has been one of the purest joys of my life. My daughter-in-law, **Ariadne**, You were the fire our family needed. You have helped us all burn more brightly. I am continually amazed by your honesty, your wisdom, and your pure, wholehearted love for my son and for our family. You did not just join our family. You made us better. My wife, **Jennifer**: I often say that anything I accomplish is because you believe I can. Thank you for seeing me through Jesus' eyes, especially when I struggle to see myself that way. Your love steadies me, strengthens me, and calls out the best in me. You make me braver than I would be on my own. Thank you for letting me share your stories and for teaching me more of God's love every day. I am deeply grateful for the blessing of our family.





## Chapter 1: TWO WORDS THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING

You don't say these things out loud.  
You think them while driving to work.  
While staring at the ceiling at night.  
While sitting in church with your hands folded and your heart racing.

If you really knew me...  
This struggle is not going away...  
I don't actually hear God...  
I'm failing my kids...  
If I lost my job, everything would collapse...  
If I let go, I'd lose what little I still have...  
Maybe God had a calling on my life once... maybe I missed it.

The fear isn't loud.  
It's constant.  
It hums beneath confidence.  
It hides under responsibility.  
It wears the mask of control.

Men don't fall apart all at once.  
They learn how to manage the weight.  
Camouflage the fear.  
Hide in plain sight.

Then there is Moses.  
Not the heroic version.  
Not yet.





This is Moses after privilege and after failure.  
Raised in power he did not earn.  
Educated beyond his bloodline.  
Certain he was meant for something more.

Then rage.  
Then murder.  
Then running.

Years pass in the wilderness.  
Sand.  
Silence.  
Sheep.  
Shame.

A life small enough to survive.  
A past buried deep enough to manage.

Until one day, something interrupts the ordinary.

A bush is burning.  
In the desert, brush can catch and flare.  
Not unusual enough to stop him.  
Not at first.

Then it doesn't burn out.  
Then it speaks.

His name is called.  
Shoes come off.  
Sand presses into skin.  
And the ground beneath him suddenly feels dangerous.

And from the fire comes a voice that does not explain.  
Does not justify.  
Does not apologize.

It simply declares:  
"I AM."



Not a title.  
Not a role.  
Not a plan.

A name.

Eternal.  
Uncreated.  
Self-existent.  
Unmoved by Moses' past.  
Unthreatened by Moses' fear.  
Unhurried by Moses' hesitation.

Before Moses can ask what he should do,  
God reveals who He is.

Because God does not answer fear with advice.  
He answers it with His name.

I AM.

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## THE DIVINE ORDER



### Read Exodus 3 (NLT).

The order matters.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Put a number **1– 6** beside each line in the order it appears in Exodus 3.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Moses fears/questions; God promises “I will be with you”
- \_\_\_\_\_ God initiates: burning bush, holy ground, reveals presence
- \_\_\_\_\_ God reveals identity and Name (reshapes Moses’ frame)
- \_\_\_\_\_ God sends: “Now go... I am sending you” + “I will be with you”
- \_\_\_\_\_ Moses far into the wilderness
- \_\_\_\_\_ Moses draws near; God engages him personally

5, 2, 4, 6, 1, 3

## Exodus 3 mapping (events + verses)

### 1. Where did God find Moses?

- **Event:** Moses is shepherding “far into the wilderness” at Horeb/Sinai.
- **Verses:** Exodus 3:1

**Can you relate?**

---

## 2) Who Initiates the Encounter?

- **Event:** Angel of the LORD appears in flames; bush not consumed; holy ground; remove sandals.
- **Verses: Exodus 3:2–6** (burning bush + God speaks)
  - “Take off your sandals...” **3:5**
  - “I am the God of your father...” **3:6**
- **God initiates the encounter and reveals His presence: burning bush, holy ground.**

What has He initiated with you?

---

## 3) God waits for us to respond and draw near.

- **Event:** Moses notices and **goes over** to look; then God calls his name.
- **Verses: Exodus 3:3–4**
  - Moses: “I must go over...” **3:3**
  - God: “When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look...” **3:4**

How are you responding?

---

## 4) God reveals His identity and begins to reshape ours.

- **Event:** God identifies Himself (“God of your father... Abraham... Isaac... Jacob”) and later reveals His covenant Name (“I AM WHO I AM”).
- **Verses: Exodus 3:6** (identity as covenant God)
- **Also (strongest): Exodus 3:13–15** (the Name: “I AM WHO I AM” / “Yahweh... this is my eternal name.”)

How well do you know Him?

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**5) In response to our questions and fears, God promises He is with us.**

- **Event:** Moses questions his adequacy (“Who am I...?”). God answers with presence (“I will be with you”).
- **Verses: Exodus 3:11–12**

**Do you believe that?**

---

**6) When we cannot see it, believe it, or accept it, God reminds us He is more than enough... not in our strength.**

- **Event in Exodus 3:** God answers Moses’ insecurity and fear with **His presence** (“I will be with you”) and **His Name** (I AM). That’s the “more than enough” logic *in Exodus 3*.
- **Verses: Exodus 3:12** (presence over performance) and **3:14–15** (Name over weakness)
- **Important note:** the explicit “I can’t / they won’t believe me” objections and God’s “signs” responses are **Exodus 4:1–17**, not Exodus 3.

***“When we feel inadequate, God answers with His presence and His Name.” (3:12, 3:14–15)***

***When is the last time you truly let I AM be I AM in your life?***

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**7) Then God sends us: “Now go,” together with Him.**

- **Event:** Commission to confront Pharaoh and lead Israel out; “Now go, for I am sending you...”
- **Verses: Exodus 3:10**
- **And the “together with Him” part: Exodus 3:12** (“I will be with you”)



## THE ORDER

Moses is far into the wilderness.  
God initiates the encounter.  
God reveals His presence.  
God waits for Moses to draw near.  
Then God reveals His identity:

**“I am the God of your father...”**

**“I have seen...”**

**“I have heard...”**

**“I am aware...”**

**“I have come down...”**

The calling flows out of the revelation.

God does not say, “Here’s what I need you to do. Trust Me later.”

He says,

“Here is who I am. Now you can trust Me with what I’m asking.”



### KINGDOM PRINCIPLE

**Identity precedes obedience. Presence precedes purpose. Revelation precedes commission.**

God does not send you forward until He meets you right where you are.

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### WHY THIS IS RADICAL:

- God does not recruit you with a task. He meets you with His presence.
- God does not build your future on your strength. He builds it on His Name.
- God does not start with your résumé. He starts with His covenant.



## **SEE JESUSE: THE NAME DID NOT STAY IN THE FIRE**

That fire did not burn out.  
It followed Israel through the wilderness.  
Filled the tabernacle.  
Thundered at Sinai.  
And settled into the name no Israelite dared to speak aloud.

I AM.  
Not I was.  
Not I will be.  
The eternal present.

It did not belong only to fire and sand and a shepherd who failed  
once too badly to believe he could still be used.

And then, centuries later, the same God stands in flesh.

A carpenter from Nazareth stands before religious leaders who  
know that name by heart.  
Jesus says it plainly.  
Intentionally.  
Dangerously.

### **Read John 8:58 (NLT):**

“Before Abraham was even born, I AM!” (John 8:58)

The room goes silent.  
Then they reach for stones.

Not because He misspoke.  
Not because He was unclear.  
But because they understood exactly what He was saying.



Jesus was not borrowing God's language.  
He was claiming God's name.

The fire had stepped out of the flame and into history.



### **Depth Notes (for the hungry men, not flex)**

- John 8:58 is not a poetic moment.
- It is a collision. Jesus takes the divine Name revealed in Exodus 3:14 and speaks it over Himself.
- The leaders react because they understand: this is pre-existence talk. This is a claim to the covenant Name.
- From Genesis to Revelation, the God who is present and uncreated is the God who stands here in the flesh.

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## **THE QUESTION THAT STILL CONFRONTS US**

Before Jesus ever said what He was,  
the Bread  
the Light  
the Gate  
the Shepherd  
the Way  
the Resurrection  
the Vine  
He asked a far more dangerous question.

Jesus takes His disciples away from the noise.  
Away from the crowds.  
And He puts the question on the table:

“Who do people say I am?”

They answer safely.  
Respectfully.  
Secondhand.



Then Jesus closes the distance.

“But who do you say I am?”

Not a theology quiz.

Not a survey.

Not a report of what you’ve heard.

A confrontation.

Peter answers what the others are afraid to say:

“You are the Messiah sent from God.”

Not a teacher.

Not a prophet.

Not a moral example.

The One.

And everything hangs on it.

Because Jesus is asking the same question now.

Not who your parents say He is.

Not who your spouse says He is.

Not who your church says He is.

Not who culture allows Him to be.

But who do you say I AM?

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## RELATABILITY SCALE (0–10)

**Circle a number for each statement:**

**0 = I don’t relate at all**

**10 = This feels true of me right now**



**Men's angle:** Every man is already living under a name. The question is whose.

1. If you really knew me, you wouldn't want to be my friend.



2. This struggle with my addiction (porn, alcohol, drugs, gambling, etc.) feels permanent. I don't believe it's ever really going away.



3. If people knew how much doubt I carry, they'd distance themselves.



4. Part of me believes I've gone too far for God to fully restore.



5. No matter how hard I try, I still feel like I'm not enough.



6. I will always be defined by my failures.



7. I'm not sure I actually hear God. Most days it feels like I'm guessing.



8. I'm afraid my kids will grow up and realize I wasn't the man they needed.



9. If my wife saw how empty I feel spiritually, I'm not sure she'd still respect me.



10. I don't feel strong enough to protect the people I love.



11. I'm scared I could lose my job and fail the people who depend on me.



12. The confidence people see is mostly an act, and I'm afraid of being exposed.



13. I say I trust God, but when it comes to money, I don't really believe He'll come through.



14. Providing for my family feels like a weight I'm not sure I can keep carrying.



15. I'm scared surrendering control would cost me everything I've built.



16. My anger feels closer to the surface than I want to admit.



17. I believe God had a calling on my life once, but I think I missed it.



18. I'm afraid I don't have what it takes to lead my family well.



19. I worry that my best years are already behind me.



20. I'm scared my life won't actually matter when it's over.



Was that hard, did it stir something up? It should have.

Those aren't just feelings.

They're pressure points.

Places you've been living like you're on your own.

And here's what's about to happen in this book:

God doesn't answer those pressure points with tips.

He answers them with a Person.

Jesus doesn't just say, "Try harder."

He says, "**I AM.**"

And then He gets specific:

***I AM the Bread*** when you're empty.

***I AM the Light*** when you're stuck in darkness.

***I AM the Gate*** when you're trying to protect yourself.

***I AM the Good Shepherd*** when you feel exposed.

***I AM the Way*** when you're lost.

***I AM the Resurrection and the Life*** when something feels dead.

***I AM the True Vine*** when you're grinding but not changing.

**The goal isn't that you become a man with fewer problems.**

**The goal is that you become a man with a louder Jesus.**



## SCALE-TO-I AM KEY

Let's look a little closer at some of your responses

Step 1: Circle Your Top 3

From the Relatability Scale, circle your **top 3 highest numbers**.

## Step 2: Match Each One to an I AM Anchor

Don't overcomplicate it. Pick the **closest fit**.

### 1) I AM the **BREAD** OF LIFE (John 6:35)

**This is your anchor if your scale hits:**

- “This struggle feels permanent... it’s not going away.”
- “No matter how hard I try, I still feel like I’m not enough.”
- “I feel empty spiritually.”
- “I keep reaching for something to numb or fill the hunger.”

**What it means:** Jesus feeds the place you keep trying to fill with lesser bread.

---

### 2) I AM the **LIGHT** OF THE WORLD (John 8:12)

**This is your anchor if your scale hits:**

- “If you really knew me...”
- “I’m afraid of being exposed.”
- “I’m hiding doubt | shame | secret sin.”
- “My anger is closer than I admit.”
- “I live in confusion or darkness.”

**What it means:** Jesus doesn’t expose to shame you. He exposes to free you.

---

### 3) I AM the **GATE** (John 10:7)

**This is your anchor if your scale hits:**

- “If I lost my job, everything would collapse.”
- “If I let go, I’d lose what little I still have.”



- “Providing feels like a weight I can’t carry.”
- “I’m scared surrendering control would cost me everything.”

**What it means:** Jesus is your covering, your boundary, your access point—your safety.

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4) I AM the **GOOD SHEPHERD** (John 10:11)

**This is your anchor if your scale hits:**

- “I don’t feel strong enough to protect the people I love.”
- “I’m afraid I don’t have what it takes to lead my family well.”
- “I’m afraid my kids will realize I wasn’t the man they needed.”
- “I feel alone in the pressure.”

**What it means:** You are not self-led. You are known, guarded, and guided.

---

5) I AM the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, and the **LIFE** (John 14:6)

**This is your anchor if your scale hits:**

- “I’m not sure I actually hear God.”
- “Most days it feels like I’m guessing.”
- “If people knew how much doubt I carry...”
- “I’m double-minded, lost, uncertain, stuck.”

**What it means:** Jesus doesn’t hand you a map. He becomes your path and your clarity.

---

6) I AM the **RESURRECTION** and the **LIFE** (John 11:25)

**This is your anchor if your scale hits:**



- “Part of me believes I’ve gone too far for God to restore.”
- “I will always be defined by my failures.”
- “Maybe I missed my calling.”
- “I worry my best years are behind me.”
- “I’m scared my life won’t matter.”

**What it means:** Jesus doesn’t avoid dead places. He enters them, speaks, and brings life out.

---

7) I AM the **TRUE VINE** (John 15:1)

**This is your anchor if your scale hits:**

- “The confidence people see is mostly an act.”
- “I’m carrying this weight, but I’m running dry.”
- “I’m functioning without fire.”
- “I’m producing, but I’m not becoming.”

**What it means:** Fruit doesn't come from pressure. It comes from connection.

Your 3 Anchors (Write them)

**My top 3 scale statements are:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**My 3 "I AM" anchors are:**

1. Jesus, You are my \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus, You are my \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus, You are my \_\_\_\_\_

### Anchor Prayer

Jesus, I bring You my top three pressures.  
Be who You are in those places.  
Feed me. Light me. Cover me. Lead me.  
Guide me. Raise what's dead. Keep me connected.  
I trust Your Name over my life.



***(Circle the ones that speak to you right now)***

1. When I feel empty, driven, or reaching for counterfeit comfort

→ **I AM the Bread of Life** (John 6:35)  
*He feeds what cravings can't.*



2. When I'm hiding, stuck in secret sin, confusion, shame, or darkness  
→ **I AM the Light of the World** (John 8:12)  
*He exposes to heal, not to humiliate.*
3. When I'm living in fear, control, self-protection, or constant vigilance  
→ **I AM the Gate** (John 10:7)  
*He covers you. He filters voices. He keeps the wolves out.*
4. When I feel vulnerable, alone, under attack, or unsure who to trust  
→ **I AM the Good Shepherd** (John 10:11)  
*He knows you. He leads you. He stands between you and the wolf.*
5. When I feel lost, unsure, double-minded, or like I can't hear God  
→ **I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life** (John 14:6)  
*He doesn't hand you directions. He becomes your direction.*
6. When something feels dead or too far gone (marriage, calling, purity, hope)  
→ **I AM the Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25)  
*He enters graves and calls things out.*
7. When I'm producing but not becoming, busy but not abiding, grinding but not changing  
→ **I AM the True Vine** (John 15:1)  
*Fruit comes from connection, not pressure.*

---

***Your scale scores tell you where you've been trying to survive.***

***The seven "I AM" statements tell you who is meeting you there.***



Because when **I AM** is with you, you are not on your own.

Shame says your past defines you.

Fear says the future will expose you.

Control says everything depends on you holding it together.

Hopelessness whispers that it is already too late.

And into that spiral, God does not step in with advice.

He does not offer a strategy.

He does not hand Moses a plan, a checklist, or a self-improvement path.

He answers with a name.

“I AM.”

Not I will be, if you get your act together.

Not I was, before you failed.

But I AM.

Present.

Sufficient.

Unshaken.

Unthreatened by your fear.

Before Moses could ask how, God revealed who.

Before any command, a declaration.

Before fear was answered, identity was settled.

God does not answer fear with advice.

He answers it with His name.

Who do you say I AM?

Pray: I AM, meet me here. Name me again. Lead me.





## CHAPTER 2

### I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

**Key Text:** John 6:32–35,  
48–51 (NLT)

**Memory Verse:** John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, '**I am the bread of life**. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

**Big Idea:** Jesus is the Bread of Life, the only feast that ends the ache beneath our hunger and the sin it drives.

He alone satisfies the soul, sustains the heart, and keeps us alive.

---

## How Deep May I Drink?



The boy had survived WWII by learning one rule above all others.

Never take more than your share.

For years, food had been counted, measured, rationed.

Crumbs mattered.

Drops mattered.

Hunger was constant.

Hope was dangerous.

One day, after the war, after the camps, after the hiding, an adult knelt in front of him. A relief worker. Someone safe. Someone kind.

In his hands was a simple gift.

A glass of milk.

The boy stared at it. White. Full. Untouched.

He did not reach for it.

Instead, he lifted his eyes, searching the adult's face, trying to understand the rules of this new world.

Then he asked a question that shattered the room.

“How deep may I drink?”

Not because he was ungrateful.

Not because he was disobedient.

But because starvation had trained his heart to believe there was always a limit.

Somewhere in the glass, he assumed, there was an invisible line.

A boundary he was not allowed to cross.

A point where taking more would be selfish.

Dangerous.

Wrong.

He could not imagine abundance without punishment.

He could not imagine fullness without guilt.

He had learned to survive by holding back.

That is what hunger does.

And that is exactly the moment Jesus steps into when He says,

“I am the Bread of Life.”

Not bread you sample carefully.

Not bread you ration just in case tomorrow is worse.

Not bread you take in polite sips, afraid of crossing some unseen line.

Living bread.

Bread that does not run out.

Bread that does not need to be shared with fear.

Bread that does not punish you for being filled.



Jesus is speaking to people who had learned how to survive on scraps.

People who chased miracles but still lived afraid of empty tomorrow.

People who wanted provision without trusting the Provider.

And He says something shocking.

Eat.

Drink.

Come to Me.

And never hunger again.

The question is no longer, “How deep may I drink?”

The question is, “Why are you still holding back?”

Because the Bread of Life was never meant to be tasted.

He was meant to be received. Fully.



**KINGDOM PRINCIPLE:** Jesus does not satisfy your hunger by giving you bread that fills the stomach for a day, but **Himself** as the true Bread that sustains life forever.

## 20-Second Breath Prayer

Put your feet on the floor. Unclench your jaw. One honest breath.

**Renounce:** Jesus, I renounce feeding on what cannot satisfy.

**Receive:** I receive You as the Bread of Life for me today.

**Ask:** Holy Spirit, expose my real hunger and lead me to Jesus.

Amen.



**WORD** Read **John 6:1–15** (NLT).

1. What miracle did Jesus perform right before He called Himself the Bread of Life?

**Audience:** A crowd seeking Him after being fed miraculously

**Setting:** In Capernaum, in the synagogue (John 6:59), after the miraculous feeding and Jesus walking on water.

The people had chased Jesus across the Sea of Galilee not because they understood the miracle, but because they wanted more food. Jesus challenges their motives and redirects their hunger toward something eternal. He shifts the conversation from physical bread to spiritual nourishment, revealing Himself as the true bread sent from heaven.

The dialogue escalates as Jesus calls them to believe in Him—not merely as a miracle-worker, but as the essential source of eternal life. The crowd struggles to grasp the metaphor. This chapter contains one of the most difficult teachings in Jesus' ministry, resulting in many disciples turning away (John 6:66).



Now read **John 6:32–35** and **John 6:48–51**

What did the crowd want from Jesus, and what did Jesus want for them?

The crowd wanted:

Jesus wanted:

2. Fill in the blanks (John 6:35, NLT):

“I am the\_\_\_\_\_.

Whoever\_\_\_\_\_

will never be  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Whoever\_\_\_\_\_

will never be  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

Jesus is positioning Himself as the ultimate source of satisfaction for humanity's deepest hunger: intimacy with God.

### Observations

1. Jesus does not point to a thing. He points to **Himself**.
2. "Come" and "believe" are the pathway to being fed.
3. The hunger underneath your habits is a hunger for God.
4. Jesus is not a supplement. He is the source.

### Why this was radical:

They wanted more bread for their stomachs. Jesus offered Himself for their souls.

---

## EXODUS REPLAY: WHY JESUS DID THIS ON PURPOSE

Jesus repeats Exodus 16 to expose what's really driving your hunger, and to offer Himself as the only satisfaction that lasts.

### SEE THE PATTERN

Read **Exodus 16:4–5, 13–18** Fill in the blanks (keep it simple)

1. In Exodus, God fed Israel with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In John 6, Jesus fed the crowd with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The crowd chased Him again because they wanted \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus corrected them: "You want Me because you ate your fill, not because you understood the \_\_\_\_\_."
5. Then Jesus revealed the point: "I AM the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."



Jesus is replaying Exodus 16 to show me (one sentence):

---

**Circle the pattern you see:**

- Hungry people in a wilderness
- God provides bread they did not earn
- People want more bread
- God is after more than full stomachs
- The real issue is trust and dependence

**Write One sentence:** What is the point:

**Similarities:** Manna and Jesus both:

- Come from God, not human effort
- Meet real hunger in a real wilderness
- Require receiving, not achieving
- Train daily dependence
- Expose what's in the heart (complaining, control, fear)

**Put a star by the one that hits you most today.** ☆

Why:

---

**Jesus is greater because:**

- Manna sustains for a day, Jesus gives **life that lasts**
- Manna is a gift, Jesus is the **Giver and the gift**
- Manna can't change your heart, Jesus gives you a **new heart**
- Manna was for Israel, Jesus is for **anyone** who comes
- Manna was a shadow, Jesus is the **fulfillment**



**One sentence that lands it:**

Manna fed their bodies. Jesus feeds the \_\_\_\_\_.

The manna sustained them for a day. Jesus sustains forever.



**SEE JESUS**

Jesus is not a vending machine.

He is the Feast.

He looks at a crowd obsessed with bread and speaks to the hunger underneath it.

He does not shame them for being hungry.  
He exposes what their hunger is doing to them.  
Then He offers Himself.

**What Jesus is confronting in you:**

**Men do not only sin because they love darkness.**

**Men sin because they are hungry.**

And hungry men grab whatever is closest:

- lust
- control
- achievement
- food
- alcohol
- scrolling
- anger
- approval
- money
- ministry as a substitute for intimacy

Jesus is not just here to correct you.

He is here to feed the part of you that keeps reaching.

Jesus is saying: **You keep eating things that cannot keep you alive. Come to Me.**

Honesty prompt: **Where are you treating a lesser bread like it can save you?**



### **REFLECT (Let the Holy Spirit make it personal)**

Take a breath. No performing. No pretending.

1. **What “bread” have you been eating that leaves you hungry again?** Circle any that apply:  
comfort | success | porn | control | food | alcohol |  
attention | work | entertainment | anger | isolation |  
other: \_\_\_\_\_
2. **When do you reach for that bread most?**  
Tired | stressed | lonely | rejected | bored | anxious | angry  
| tempted | after conflict  
other: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do you feel empty right now? Name the real hunger.
4. “Jesus, I feel hungry for \_\_\_\_\_.”
5. If Jesus truly fed you there, what would change?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **NEW SECTION ALERT**

Every chapter has a **Wolf Watch**.



In John 10, Jesus does not only talk about comfort and belonging. He talks about **wolves**. Real threats. Real devourers. Real voices that scatter men, isolate them, and quietly eat them alive. Wolves do not announce themselves. They circle, they wait, and they attack when you are tired, alone, offended, stressed, or slipping into secrecy.

That is why we call it **Wolf Watch**.

Because discipleship is not only about learning truth. It is about staying awake to what is trying to pull you out of the life of God.

### **What a “Wolf” Means in This Workbook**

A wolf is anything that:

- drives you away from Jesus (instead of leading you to Him)
- feeds on your fear, shame, lust, pride, or pain
- isolates you so you stop receiving help, truth, and covering

Some wolves are obvious (porn, addiction, rage).

Some seem respectable (control, hustle, performance, self-reliance).

But all wolves have the same goal. Separate the sheep from the Shepherd.

## Why This Matters for Men

Most men do not collapse in one dramatic moment. We drift. We numb. We cope. We self-protect. Wolves thrive in that slow drift, especially when a man is tired, alone, stressed, tempted, ashamed, or unseen.

**Wolf Watch** helps you name the pattern before it devours what the Holy Spirit is doing in you.

How to Use Wolf Watch (Simple and Practical)

Each Wolf Watch is built for speed. Wolves do not wait for you to journal for an hour.

1. **Circle the wolf you sense on the prowl around you.** Do not overthink it. The one that stings is usually the one.
2. **Name your “wolf moment.”** When does it hit (late night, conflict, loneliness, money pressure, stress)?
3. **Take the next step.** Every Wolf Watch points to a simple action that shuts a door and turns you back toward Jesus.

The Goal Is Not Paranoia. It Is Protection.

**Wolf Watch** is not about being scared of sin. It is about being awake to how you get pulled. It is not shame. It is strategy.

Jesus is not trying to expose you to condemn you. He is exposing the wolf so He can protect you, heal you, and lead you.



**You do not fight wolves by willpower. You fight wolves by staying close to the Shepherd, together with the flock.**

## WOLF WATCH (Bread of Life | John 6:35)



Circle the one that hits you hardest right now.

### Wolf of Self-Reliance

“I do not need anyone. I will handle it.”

- **Looks like:** white-knuckling, refusing help, prayerless grind, isolating when stressed.
- **Produces:** pride, burnout, secret battles, loneliness.
- **Next step:** ask for help from one brother today.

### The Wolf of Numbing

“I cannot feel this, so I will feed it.”

- **Looks like:** scrolling, porn, alcohol, food, binge entertainment, constant noise.
- **Produces:** numbness, shame, and a dull spirit.
- **Next step:** cut one numbing outlet and feast instead.

### The Wolf of Performance

“If I produce enough, I will feel secure.”

- **Looks like:** hustle as identity, spiritual checkboxing, living for approval, never resting.
- **Produces:** anxiety, anger, and a life that never feels finished.
- **Next step:** obey one thing Jesus asks, then stop. Rest on purpose.

My loudest wolf lately is: \_\_\_\_\_

Where it shows up most: \_\_\_\_\_

My next step is: \_\_\_\_\_



## **BOLD BRAVE STEP: THE “LESSER BREAD” FAST AND THE FEAST**

This is not a religious stunt. This is warfare for your hunger.

### **Step 1: Identify your “lesser bread”**

My lesser bread is:

---

It shows up most when:

---

### **Step 2: Choose a real fast**

Pick one:

- ☐ 24 hours from \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ One meal per day for 3 days
- ☐ One full day
- ☐ One week from a specific comfort habit (TV, scrolling, etc.)

My fast is:

---

**Step 3: Replace the fast with a feast** During the craving moment, do this exact sequence:

1. Read John 6:35 out loud.
2. Put your hand on your chest.
3. Pray:

*Jesus, You are my Bread of Life.  
I stop feeding on what cannot satisfy.  
I come to You again.  
Feed my soul where I am hungry.  
Strengthen me to obey.*



*Fill me with Your life today.*

*Amen.*

4. Sit in silence for 60 seconds.
5. Write a one sentence about what you heard or experienced:

---

---

#### **Step 4: Reaching for what won't leave you hungry:**

Ask: "Holy Spirit, what is one action that matches being fed by Jesus?"

Possible answers: apologize, confess, delete, set a boundary, ask for help, pray for someone, read Scripture with your child, make the call.

My obedience step is:

---

Here is what happened when I did it:

---



**(Keep it honest. Keep it short.)**

1. What is your "lesser bread" right now, honestly?
2. When does it hit hardest?
3. What is your fast, and what is your feast replacement?
4. What obedience bite are you taking this week?

#### **Brother text (copy|paste):**

"Brother, my lesser bread is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm fasting  
\_\_\_\_\_. My obedience step is  
\_\_\_\_\_. Check on me by \_\_\_\_\_."





## BREAD CARD | “I AM the Bread of Life” (John 6:35)

### Memory Verse (NLT):

“Jesus replied, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” (John 6:35)

### Breath Prayer (20 seconds):

Jesus, Bread of Life, feed what is empty in me.

I stop striving. I stop numbing. I come to You again.

Fill me with Your Spirit. Amen.

### Wolf Watch (3): I reject

- Self-Reliance (I will handle it)
- Numbing (I will feed the pain)
- Performance (I will earn peace)

### 3-Step Daily Practice (2 minutes):

1. **Read** John 6:35 Hand open. Whisper: “Jesus, I come to You.”  
Name the hunger: \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Receive** Pray: “Feed me with Your presence and Your Word.  
One line of truth I receive today:  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Respond** One small action that in response to what you received.

**Declaration (Say it out loud):** Jesus, You are my Bread. I will not be driven by hunger. You satisfy me. You strengthen me. You lead me.





## Chapter 3: I AM the Light of the World (John 8:12)

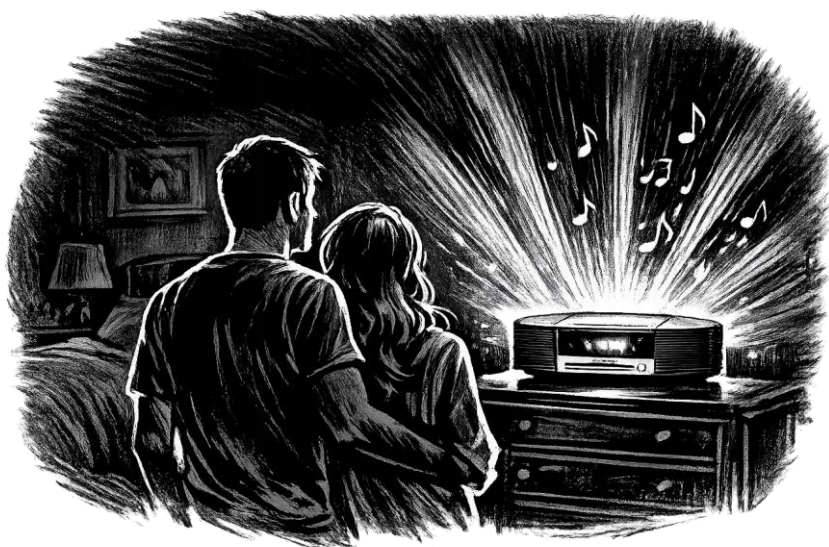
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**Memory Verse: John 8:12** Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'

**Big Idea:** He is not just a night light that leaves us squinting and stumbling in a dark night. He becomes our sight, driving out darkness and guiding our whole life.

---

## Every little thing is gonna be alright



Jennifer and I had dinner alone in our dining room.

As we stepped into a new year, we decided to do something simple, but serious. It has been a difficult several years and we wanted to walk differently into this new one.

Before we ate, we invited God to dine with us. Not as a poetic thought, but as a real invitation. We lifted a quiet toast to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And it felt like we were saying, “You are not on the sidelines of our life. You are welcome at the table. You are Lord here.”

We were not just having dinner.

We were hosting Presence.

Dinner was peaceful. Honest. Tender. The kind of quiet that does not feel empty, it feels inhabited. The kind of quiet where your soul exhales because something deeper than atmosphere is in the room.

Afterward, we went upstairs and started getting ready for bed.

And right before we climbed in, we turned out the lights.

That moment you know, the day is over. The house is quiet. The dark settles in. The mind starts trying to rehearse tomorrow. The body is tired, but the heart can still feel the weight of what is coming.

The room went black as we turned off the lamps.

And then heaven interrupted.

In our room we have a Bose Radio and CD player that we have not turned on in over five years. It does not “accidentally” come on. It has no buttons on it. The only way it turns on is with a remote, and we did not even know where the remote was.

But in the dark, it turned on.

Not softly.

Loud enough to jolt us both still.

Sound filled the room like someone had flipped a switch on reality.

I looked at Jennifer and said, “Who turned that on?”

And in the exact next moment, the first thing we heard was not random.

It was an answer.

It was the end of a song, and the words landed like a gavel.

*“God did. God did.”* (by Sons of Sunday)

Not whispered.



Declared.

Like the Lord was saying, I am not distant. I am not subtle. I am not guessing. I am here.

Then, without warning, it rolled into a second song. And what came next was love, mercy, hope. It was the Father putting His hand on our future before fear could.

The Song was Every Little Thing by Hillsong. Opening Lyrics:

*Your favor waits within the future.  
My dreams are small compared to Yours.  
Why should I worry 'bout tomorrow when I know  
That all I gotta do is trust You, Lord.  
Every little thing is gonna be alright.  
Every little thing is gonna be just fine*

That is not just comfort. That is alignment.

That is not just reassurance. That is leadership.

We just stood there for a second, unmoving. speechless, because what do you do when you Father makes Himself that obvious?

When He speaks in the dark, on purpose, and the words fit your life like a key?

We were overwhelmed with His goodness.

Not because a radio turned on.

Because of what it meant.

We had welcomed Him at the table, and then, when the lights went out, He reminded us He does not leave the room when life goes dark.



Eventually we started searching drawers to find the remote. We actually found it. We turned the music off, but we did not turn the moment off.

A gift from heaven.

A promise delivered in the language of worship.

And I am sharing this with you because this is what the Light does.

Light is not decoration.

Light is direction.

A night light leaves you squinting. You still stumble. You still guess.

But Jesus is not a night light.

He becomes your sight.

He drives out darkness. Not just around you, but in you.

He exposes what fear tries to plant in secret.

He guides your whole life with clarity that does not depend on circumstances.

That is what Jesus is claiming when He says:

“I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

If God can reach into a room, right after the lights go out, flip on something that has been silent for five years, and speak with precision, then He is not absent from your story either.



He is involved.

He is speaking.

And He is already ahead of you.

***Every little thing is gonna be alright.***

God does not raise sons to stumble in fear and darkness.

Light is how creation began.

Light is how redemption moved through the wilderness.

Light is how the story ends, with no more night.

“I AM the Light of the world.”

Not a flashlight for emergencies.

Not a night light for your comfort.

He is:

A new way to see. A new way to walk. A new way to live.



## WORD



**John 1:4-5** *In him was life, and that life was the **light** of all mankind. The **light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

**Audience:** The Pharisees and people in the temple courts

**Setting:** During the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), in the temple treasury (John 8:20)

The Feast of Tabernacles included a powerful ceremony called the “**Illumination of the Temple**”, where massive golden lampstands were lit in the Court of Women, casting light over Jerusalem as a symbol of God's guidance in the wilderness (pillar of fire). It was in the midst of this celebration that Jesus declares, “**I am the light of the world.**” He is essentially saying: *I am the fulfillment of that fire. I am the divine presence among you. Follow Me, and you’ll never walk in darkness again.*

This is a bold confrontation to the religious elite, asserting that He—not their traditions—is the way to walk in God’s truth.



**Ephesians 5:8–14** *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

**John 8:12** *Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, ‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.*



## **FULL EPIC Discipleship arc of light:**

**1. IDENTITY: Jesus is the Light (John 1:4–5)** Reread the verse from the previous page.

Why is this important:

**2. INVITATION: Follow the Light (John 8:12)**

What is the invitation: \_\_\_\_\_

What does that mean for you:

**3. TRANSFORMATION: You become light and expose darkness (Ephesians 5:8–14)**

This is the shocker:

You were not just *in* this. You *were* \_\_\_\_\_.

But in him we become \_\_\_\_\_

What does that mean:

And then the war-cry line:

*“Wake up, sleeper... and Christ will shine on you.”*

**In this Chapter we want to allow Jesus to deal with the things that have kept us in sleep. Brothers, it is time to wake up!**



# **LIGHT is how God starts, saves, and finishes His story.**

1) *CREATION* | *God speaks light into chaos (Genesis 1:3)*

**Key line:** God does not negotiate with darkness. He commands light.

**In your own words, what does that tell you about God and your situation?**

---

**Where do you need God's order and life right now (not theory, specific)?**

---

2) *REDEMPTION* | *God leads with fire in the night (Exodus 13:21)*

**Key line:** Light is direction when you cannot see the whole road.

**What "next step" might God be lighting up for you right now?**  
(One step. One obedience. One boundary.)

---

**What is trying to pull you back into the dark?**

---

3) *RESTORATION* | *No more night (Revelation 22:5)*

**Key line:** The end of the story is not darkness. It is Presence.



**What does “no more night” do to your fear about the future?**

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**NOW CONNECT IT TO JOHN 8:12**

(Identity | Revelation | Direction) (Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you in this.)

Jesus does not say, “I have light.”  
He says, **“I AM the Light of the world.”**

***IDENTITY***

**When you follow the Light, who are you becoming?**

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(Son, not slave. Free, not fake. Whole, not hidden.)

**REVELATION**

**What is the Light exposing or clarifying in you right now?**

---

---

(A lie, a pattern, a compromise, a wound.)



## ***DIRECTION***

**Write your next faithful step in one sentence:**

“I will \_\_\_\_\_ today.”

When will I do it (time|date)? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will know? \_\_\_\_\_



Jesus is not a night light. He is the Light. He creates, He leads, and He finishes what He starts.



**WOLF WATCH (Light of the World | John 8:12)** Circle the one that is most active right now.

### **The Wolf of Hiding**

1. “I cannot let anyone see this.”  
Looks like: secrecy, double life, private sin, silent shame, covering instead of confessing.

### **The Wolf of Counterfeit Light**

“I have light, I just do not have Jesus.”  
Looks like: self-help without surrender, information without transformation, podcasts without obedience, theology without intimacy.

### **The Wolf of Numbing Darkness**

“I will stay in the dark because feeling is too costly.”  
Looks like: anger as armor, scrolling, isolation, substances, porn, distraction, avoidance.

**How has the wolf you circled above been howling:**

---

**What has been the cost:**

---

**What do you want:**

---

**SEE JESUS:**



**I am the LIGHT of the WORLD.** This statement was made during the Feast of Tabernacles, when giant lamps lit the temple courts as a memorial of God's wilderness fire.

Jesus stands in that moment and says, in effect:  
"You have celebrated the symbol. Now meet the Source."

**Insights from the Scriptures:**

- Psalm 27:1: The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid?

**React:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Psalm 119:105: Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

**Respond:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 John 1:5 - 7: This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

**Rejoice:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Isaiah 9:2: The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

**Remember:** \_\_\_\_\_

What do we learn about Jesus from the verses above:

- He confronts darkness, not with disgust, but with authority and mercy.
- He leads. He does not just inform.
- He invites following, not merely agreeing.

**Many men, however, manage darkness instead of surrendering it.**

We keep a private corner:

- lust,
- secrets,
- resentment,
- hidden spending,
- pride,
- addiction,
- anger,
- passivity,
- double life.

We fear exposure. But we want freedom. The truth is even more than we want to receive, He wants to give:



1 John 1:9 (NIV) ***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***



**(Answer in ink. No safe answers.)**

Let the Holy Spirit be gentle and direct.

1. Where am I walking in darkness right now?  
Not “big picture.” Specific. (Secret sin, confusion, numbness, bitterness, compromise.)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the cost of staying in that darkness?  
How is it affecting your:

a. Joy \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Marriage\_\_\_\_\_
- c. leadership\_\_\_\_\_
- d. prayer life\_\_\_\_\_
- e. confidence\_\_\_\_\_
- f. courage\_\_\_\_\_

3. What would following Jesus look like in that one area?  
Not feelings. Actions. Boundaries. Confession. A new  
rhythm. *(Holy Spirit make this clear, and give us strength to  
move in your light)*

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4. Ask Jesus directly:  
“Light of the World, what lie have I been believing in this  
darkness?” Write what you sense. Test it by Scripture.

---

---



### The “Bring One Thing Into the Light” Step (Today)

This is where men change, or stay stuck.

#### Part 1: Physical prophetic act (5 minutes tonight)

- Go into a dark room or maybe a closet. Sit in silence for 60 seconds.
- Say out loud: “Jesus, You are the Light of the World, and You are the Light of my world.”



- Light a candle (or turn on the light.)
- Pray:

*Jesus, I come into Your light.*

*You are shining brighter through me.*

*Thank You for loving me enough to expose what I tried to hide.*

*Right now, I name it: \_\_\_\_\_.*

*(What He brought to you in the Reflect Section above)*

*No excuses. No cover. No double life.*

*I confess it to You.*

*I surrender it completely.*

*I bring it into the light on purpose.*

*Your Word says: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

*So I receive what You promise.*

*Forgive me, Lord Jesus.*

*Wash me clean.*

*Break the power of shame.*

*Silence the accuser.*

*I reject the lie I believed in this darkness:*

\_\_\_\_\_.

*And I choose Your truth instead:*

\_\_\_\_\_.

*Holy Spirit, fill me.*

*Give me courage to walk as a son, not a slave.*

*Lead my next step into the light.*

*Make obedience normal.*



*Jesus, You are the Light of my world.*

*I will not manage darkness.*

*I will follow You into freedom.*

*Amen.*

**Part 2: One safe confession** Ask the Holy Spirit: “Do You want me to bring this into the light with a trusted brother?”

If He highlights something:

- Text a brother today and schedule a 15-minute call or coffee within 72 hours.
- Share the thing plainly. No drama. No speeches.
- Let him pray.
- Take one concrete next step together.

Name of brother: \_\_\_\_\_

What I will say in one sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Part 3: ARMOR UP TO WALK IT OUT (Freedom After Exposure)**

*(Pray this based on Ephesians 6 out loud right after the candle|light moment. **Book mark this page** and come back and pray this for the next 7 days.)*

### **Check-ins:**

Day 1	→	Day 2	→	Day 3	→	Day 4	→	Day 5	→	Day 6	→	Day 7
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>

***In the Lord's strength:***

*Jesus, You brought me into your light.  
Now teach me to **stay** in your light.  
I stand strong in You and in the power of Your might.  
I put on the full armor of God, not to look spiritual,  
but to live free.  
Today I do not return to hiding. I walk forward as a son.*

***Belt of Truth (Live one life):***

*Jesus, I fasten the belt of Truth around me.  
You exposed the darkness. I will not rename it.  
I will not minimize it.  
I will tell the truth quickly when I drift.  
Truth is my lifestyle now.  
Make me a man with no double life.*

***Breastplate of Righteousness (No more shame cycles):***

*Thank You, Jesus, that I am forgiven and cleansed.  
Guard my heart from shame,  
self-punishment, and condemnation.  
I will not pay for what You already paid for.  
I am not dirty. I am cleansed.  
My fight is not for acceptance. It is from acceptance.*

***Shoes of Peace (Choose the clean next step):***

*Holy Spirit, strap my feet with the gospel of peace.  
When old patterns call my name,  
May I no longer recognize their voice.  
May it be your voice I hear instead, leading me into your  
strength, continued covering, and protection.  
Lead me into peace that stays with me and moves me.*

***Shield of Faith (Hold the line when pressure hits):***

*I lift high the shield of faith.  
When temptation rises, when anxiety spikes, when accusation  
whispers, I do not agree.  
I trust in your power to extinguish every flaming arrow of lust,  
anger, fear, despair, and distraction.  
I trust You, Jesus, more than I trust my*



EPIC DISCIPLE: WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? Part I  
*feelings. You are my deliverer.*

***Helmet of Salvation (Guard the mind  
and imagination):***

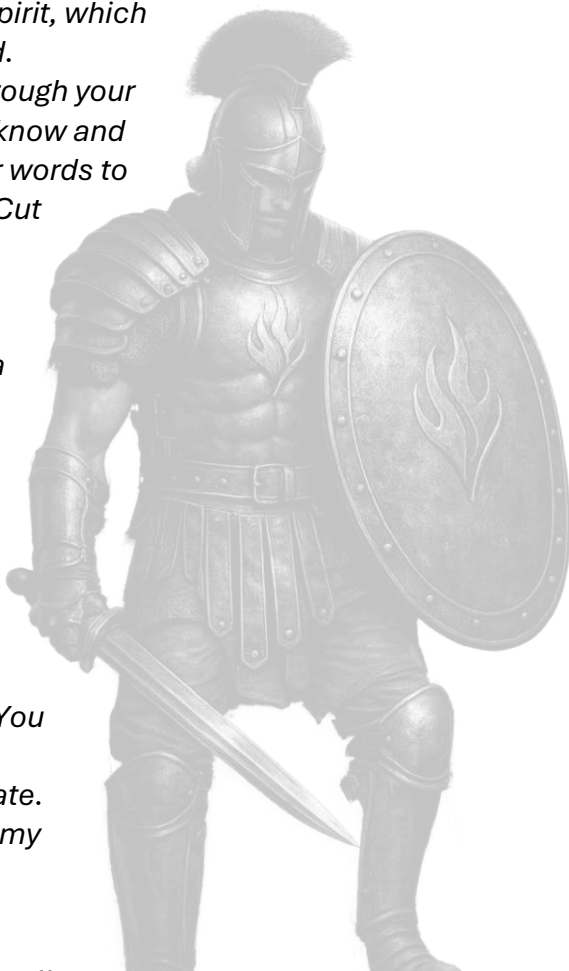
*I put on the helmet of salvation.  
Cover my mind with the victory of the cross  
and the hope of my salvation.  
Protect my thoughts. Protect my eyes. Protect my imagination.  
When my mind tries to replay darkness,  
pull me back into the light.  
I have the mind of Christ.*

***Sword of the Spirit (Fight with the Word, not willpower):***

*I take up the sword of the Spirit, which  
is the Word of God.  
Speak to me, Holy Spirit, through your  
voice that I have come to know and  
through Scripture. Bring your words to  
mind when I need it most. Cut  
through rationalizations.  
Expose the lie before it  
becomes a loop.  
Establish truth and give me a  
clear next step.*

***Praying in the Spirit (Stay  
connected, stay alert):***

*Holy Spirit, fill me and lead  
me today.  
Make me alert to drift. Quick  
to repent. Quick to obey.  
Teach me to check in with You  
before I open the app,  
before I react, before I isolate.  
Make prayer my reflex, not my  
emergency button.*



**Stand & Commission (Freedom is my new normal):**

*I am clothed in Christ.*

*I stand my ground. I resist the enemy. I walk in the light.*

*And if I stumble, I will not hide. I will confess fast and return to  
Jesus fast.*

*My life is in the open now.*

*I am learning to live free.*

*Thank you, Jesus, for being my Light, my world.*

*In your mighty name, Thank you.*



**SHARE (Group or GroupMe. Short. Bold. Honest.)**

1. "Jesus as Light is showing me: \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "The darkness I am stepping out of is:  
\_\_\_\_\_."
3. "My next step of following is: \_\_\_\_\_."
4. "Pray for me tonight or tomorrow as I do this:  
\_\_\_\_\_."

## LIGHT CARD | “I AM the Light of the World” (John 8:12)

**Memory Verse (NLT):** Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, ‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.’” (John 8:12)

### Breath Prayer (20 seconds):

Jesus, Light of the World, shine on me. Expose what is hidden. Heal what is wounded. Lead me out of darkness and into life.  
Holy Spirit, make courage normal. Amen.

### Wolf Watch (3): I will no longer partner with

- Hiding (secrecy, shame, double life)
- Counterfeit light (knowledge without following)
- Numbing (avoidance, distraction, anger armor)

### 3-Step Daily Practice (2 minutes):

#### 1. Name the Darkness

One specific area I am hiding or stuck: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Turn Toward the Light

Pray out loud: “Jesus, shine here.”

The lie I am tempted to believe: \_\_\_\_\_

The truth I choose (one sentence): \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Take One Step in the Light

Choose one action today: confess | set a boundary | delete an app | make a call | tell the truth | ask for prayer | other:

My one step: \_\_\_\_\_

When: \_\_\_\_\_ Who knows: \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration (Say it out loud):** Jesus, You are the Light of my world.  
I will not manage darkness. I will follow You into freedom





## CHAPTER 4

### “I AM the Gate for the Sheep” (John 10:7)

**Key Text:** John 10:1–  
10

**Memory Verse:** John 10:7 Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.'

**Big Idea:** Jesus is the only entrance into salvation and the only doorway into a life that is protected, free, and truly full.



The first thing you learn in a rehab facility is that pain has a sound.

It's not always cries, sobbing, or groans.

Sometimes it's a man staring at nothing tapping a foot like it is the only steady thing he has left to hold on to.

Sometimes it is laughter that is too loud and awkward, because silence would expose what is really underneath.

Sometimes it is a chair scraping back too fast and placed down too hard as you enter group, making it clear that is all he is saying about his own story.

I was in college when I worked at Greenleaf in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. It was not a Christian facility. Just a place where men showed up carrying wreckage behind their eyes and a plastic key fob clipped to their pants as proof they had been admitted.

The fluorescent lights never felt warm. The coffee never tasted right. The schedules were clean, and the souls were not.



Days were signatures, rules, checklists. Nights were the real battlefield.

I ran discussion groups for men fighting addiction. You can call it counseling. You can call it a program. Most days it felt like standing in a storm with a paper umbrella, trying to convince men their life was not over.

That is where I met Eric.

Eric had the look of a man who had already said goodbye to himself.

Third time in rehab. Third time walking through those doors with a bag of clothes and eyes trained to hide. Third time promising, to whoever would still listen, that this time would be different.

But this time had losses attached to it. Real losses.

He lost his wife.

His parents would not speak to him.

And when he talked about his kids, he did not talk like a father who missed them. He talked like a man reading his own sentence.

“They are done with me.”

He said it with a finality that felt like a door locking from the outside.

In group, Eric did not perform. He did not posture. He did not tell the “I got this” speech. He sat there like a man who had run out of lies that work.

And something in me knew, this is a hinge moment. This is where a man either finds a new path, or slowly disappears.



Here was the tension.

Greenleaf was not a Christian facility. I was not hired to preach. I was supposed to stay inside the lines. Stay professional. Stay neutral.

But neutrality is not an option when somebody is bleeding out in front of you. And you know how they can be healed.

When you have tasted real freedom, not behavior modification, not grit and grind, not a clean week held together by clenched teeth, but resurrection freedom, what are you supposed to do?

What do you do when a man is drowning, and you know where the air is?

So I talked about Jesus.

Not like a sermon. Not like a sales pitch.

Like a lifeline.

I talked with Eric about the difference between sobriety and freedom. About how a man can white knuckle it to stop drinking and still be chained to shame. About how you can change the fruit and never touch the root. About how you can change behavior and never touch the wound underneath. About the voice that says, "You are too far gone," and how that voice is a liar.

And I told him about Jesus. Not the Jesus people use as decoration or a mask. The real Jesus. The Jesus who is not afraid of the disasters we create. The Jesus who steps into darkness and does not manage it, He drives it out. The Jesus who does not stand at a distance and offer advice, He comes close and offers Himself.

I told him permanent freedom is real.



I told him there is a Gate.

And if you keep trying to climb over fences and crawl under walls, you are going to keep bleeding on the same barbed wire.

Not coping. Not slogans. Hope.

Real hope.

I did get called on the carpet about sharing Jesus so freely in a non-Christian facility. Eventually we agreed I could talk about Jesus, but it had to be “optional.”

My groups were now listed on the daily agenda with an asterisk beside them.

Prayer. Christian. Optional.

But everybody knew the truth.

It was only “optional” for the men who still wanted to pretend their chains were normal.

It was not optional for the men who were finally ready to live. And most of them did.

I had talked with Eric almost every day of his stay. And he came close to saying yes to Jesus many times., but something always held him back . . . shame . . . unworthiness . . . pain . . .

I knew we were getting toward the end of his stay. I prayed something would break for him as I drove in. When I arrived, Eric was waiting for me. He was standing there holding a letter. The moment he saw me, something broke loose in him.

Not quiet tears either. The kind of weeping that comes from the deep place, the place that has been locked behind anger, jokes, and denial. The kind that shakes your chest because you have been carrying it for years.



He looked at me like a man standing at the edge of a cliff, exhausted from trying not to fall. And he said, “How do I get this Jesus you keep talking about?”

There are moments that feel like heaven leans in close.

That was one of them.

I did not give him a speech.

I did not perform.

I did not try to make it impressive.

I just stepped toward him and hugged him like a brother that had finally come home.

Then I led him in a simple prayer of repentance. Not fancy words. Honest words.

The kind a desperate man says when he is done defending himself. And I am telling you, something happened that you cannot reduce to psychology. It was like somebody turned the lights on inside him.

His face softened. His shoulders dropped like a man taking off a backpack full of bricks. His eyes looked clear. Not because his problems vanished, but because his soul had finally found oxygen.

He started smiling again, like he remembered what it felt like to be human. He laughed, and it was not the forced laugh of a man trying to keep it together. It was the laugh of a man who had just realized his story was not finished.

Hope did not visit him. Hope moved in.

Eric did not become perfect overnight. But he was instantly transformed. Instantly a new creature. I have never seen a more dramatic and real transformation.

He got out about a week later, but we stayed in touch for a while.

Every now and then I would get a letter. Not long. Not



polished. Just real updates from a man walking in a new direction.

Then Christmas came.

And a card showed up in the mail.

I remember holding it before I opened it, I never found out what was in the letter Eric was holding the day Jesus broke through for him, but everything I needed to know was in this one.

Inside was a picture of Eric.

With his wife.

With his kids.

All of them together.

All of them smiling.

Not staged smiling.

Family smiling.

The kind that looks like forgiveness happened. The kind that looks like a table got rebuilt. The kind that looks like a home found its foundation again. Inside the card just said, "Thank you."

And I just sat there staring at it.

Because I had met the version of Eric who was sure his kids would never want him again. I had heard the verdict in his voice. I had seen the hollow look that says, "This is who I am, and this is how it ends."

But it did not end.

Because Jesus is not a self-improvement plan.

He is a Gate.



Eric tried to find freedom in multiple ways. That is why it was his third time in rehab. He was not lazy. He was not indifferent. He was desperate.

But it was only when he stopped trying to climb and crawl and perform, and he entered through the real Gate, that he found the kind of freedom that reaches the roots and changes everything.

Not just a clean streak.

Not just a certificate.

Not just a coping strategy.

Real freedom.

The kind that restores what addiction stole.

The kind that puts laughter back in a man's throat and tenderness back in a father's hands.

This is why John 10:7 is not poetic.

It is warfare.

It is rescue.

Jesus looks straight into a world full of wolves, thieves, shame, and false exits, and He says:

"I am the Gate."

Not one option among many.

Not a helpful add on.

The way into safety.

The way into pasture.

The way into life.

And I watched a man walk through that Gate.

I watched his world change.



So as we step into this chapter, hear it clearly:

You are not being invited to try harder.

You are being invited to enter.

You do not have to climb your way back to God.

You do not have to bleed on the fence one more time.

The Gate is not a concept.

The Gate is a Person.

And His name is Jesus.

## KINGDOM PRINCIPLE



**There is only one Gate. It is not restriction; the Gate is rescue, protection, freedom. You don't enter by effort. You enter by surrender.**

**And once you're in, you don't just get forgiveness for a moment. You get a Shepherd for life.**

## 20-SECOND BREATH PRAYER

Jesus, I renounce fear and the need to control.

I receive Your covering and Your leadership.

Shut every door I keep leaving open.

Holy Spirit, tune my ears to the Shepherd's voice.

Amen.



## WORD

Read **John 10:1–10** (NLT). Then write the key line in your own handwriting:

**Audience:** The Pharisees, in response to their spiritual blindness

**Setting:** Likely still in or near the temple complex in Jerusalem, following the healing of the man born blind (John 9)

After healing a blind man, Jesus confronts the Pharisees' hypocrisy and blindness. In chapter 10, He contrasts Himself with the religious leaders of Israel, whom He calls "thieves and robbers." Shepherd imagery was familiar to His Jewish audience—it evoked David, Moses, and most importantly, God Himself.

In first-century sheepfolds, shepherds would often lay across the opening of the pen at night, literally becoming the "gate." No sheep could leave, and no predator could enter without going through the shepherd. This is the background behind Jesus' statement.



"I am the \_\_\_\_\_ for the sheep." (John 10:7)

**Track Jesus' promises in this passage (write 3 to 5).**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



### The Gate (fill in the blanks)

1. **John 10:9 (NLT):** “I am the \_\_\_\_\_; those who come in through me will be \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. **John 14:6 (NLT):** “No one can come to the Father \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. **Acts 4:12 (NLT):** “There is salvation in \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. **1 John 5:11 (NLT):** “God has given us \_\_\_\_\_, and this life is in His Son...”

### What did Jesus mean by calling Himself “the Gate”? (2–3 sentences)

Write it like you would explain it to a brother who is tired and skeptical.

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### 2–4 insights from the text (no fluff):

- Insight 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Insight 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Insight 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Insight 4: \_\_\_\_\_

### Why this was radical (1–2 lines):

Jesus is not offering a safer lifestyle. He is claiming **exclusive access** to the Father and **exclusive authority** over your security.

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## WOLF WATCH



Circle your main wolf

### The Wolf of CONTROL

You call it responsibility, but it is fear trying to be God.

**Produces:** exhaustion, anger, distance, and a house that feels like pressure.

**Next step:** surrender one area today. Name it out loud.

### The Wolf of COUNTERFEIT COMFORT

Porn, scrolling, drinking, work, food, fantasy, rage. Anything that numbs you instead of leading you.

**Produces:** numbness, secrecy, and a shrinking soul.

**Next step:** close one access point.

### The Wolf of STRANGER VOICES

Shame scripts, comparison, cultural noise, old father wounds. Voices that drive you, accuse you, rush you, or isolate you.

**Produces:** panic, isolation, and decisions made under pressure, not love.

**Next step:** identify one lie and replace it with Jesus' truth.

### My wolf shows up most when I feel:

disrespected | overwhelmed | lonely | tempted | unseen | behind  
| anxious

**My loudest wolf is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My next step is:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SEE JESUS



One of the most beautiful benefits of entering through the Gate is this: you do not just get access for a moment. You get **abiding**.

Jesus did not become the Gate so you could rush in, grab forgiveness, and run back out to live alone again.

He opened the Gate so you could **remain** with God. Live with Him. Walk with Him. Reason with Him. Hear Him. Receive from Him. Let His presence become your home.

### 1) The Invitation to Come Close

**Isaiah 1:18 (RSV):** “Come now, let us reason together”, says the Lord . . .

What is this an invitation to:

\_\_\_\_\_

God is not shouting from a distance. He is inviting conversation. He is inviting return. He is inviting relationship.

### 2) The Question every man feels

How can I, with my sin, my failures, my double life, my shame, come near a perfect, holy, righteous God?

Look at the second half of **Isaiah 1:18** What is promised?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

That is cleansing language. That is God providing a way.

### 3) The Gate That Makes the Invitation Real

**John 10:7:** “Truly, I tell you, I am the \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Meaning:** You do not access God by performance, knowledge, or spiritual confidence. You access God by entering through Jesus.

Not self-improvement. Not religious hustle. Not perfect words.  
A Person. A Gate.

### 4) The Blood and the Doorway

**Read Hebrews 10:19–20:** What is the price that opened the Gate for you?

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Did you catch that? You are not just allowed into the outer courts. In Christ, the curtain is opened. You are invited into the most Holy place. The place where His glory dwells. Access is granted.

The Gate is not unlocked by anything we do. It is opened by

His \_\_\_\_\_.



**5) Come Boldly, Not Brashly** Read Hebrews 4:16

What kind of confidence should you have in what Jesus has accomplished?

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You are coming in through Christ, covered, cleansed, and welcomed.

**6) The Door is not closed to you:**

**Revelation 3:8:** “See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”

What is the promise here?

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Shame is lying when it says, “You cannot come in.”  
The Gate is open, and no accusation, no past, no failure, no regret, nor demon from Hell has any power over what Jesus opened.

**7) A conversation to remember**

Because Jesus is the Gate, prayer is not a performance. Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_.

As you seek His heart, He listens to yours. The infinite God of all creation, all-powerful, all-knowing, omniscient, omnipotent, the great I AM, has done everything necessary to make a way for



you to come near and speak with Him. Not as a stranger trying to earn a hearing, but as a son welcomed into His presence. Not as a servant begging for scraps, but as a friend invited to stay.

Scripture proves it again and again. God responds to people who come. Who ask. Who intercede. Who plead. He is personal, present, and willing. He opens the door, and He listens.

What happens in these stories:

1. **Moses** (Exodus 32:14) \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Abraham** (Genesis 18:22–33)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Hezekiah** (2 Kings 20:1–6)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Nineveh** (Jonah 3:10)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hard question:** Malachi 3:6 says God doesn't change. How would you respond?

**Anchor:** God does not change in His character, holiness, or covenant faithfulness. He is consistently merciful and relational, and He responds to repentance and intercession the way He has always responded. He was, is, and always will be merciful, relational, responsive . . . willing to Listen.



Jesus is not a teacher pointing to the door. He is the door. The Gate is not a concept. The Gate is a Savior. And because the Gate is open, you can reason, you can ask, you can intercede, and you can abide.

*In a Wild at Heart article, John Eldredge put it this way “The developed world with all its comforts, armies, resources, and technologies has lulled us into thinking that our safety is found in where we live, in various public services, in our savings. And yet, I think many people are now feeling the intensity of the hour and the need for a true place of emotional, mental, and spiritual refuge.*

*So allow me to say this as clearly as I can: Jesus Christ is the only safe place in the world. In him, that is. In Christ is the refuge we seek. There is no other. If you read through the “refuge” Psalms, they speak over and over of the act of “running” to him.*

*The presence of God—Father, Son, Holy Spirit—and the vast resources of his Kingdom are always nearby. But we do need to make conscious choices to take our refuge in God and his Kingdom. Otherwise, we are taking refuge somewhere else.*

John Eldredge, “Refuge,” *Wild at Heart*, accessed February 7, 2026, <https://wildatheart.org/blogs/john/refuge/>





If we're honest, the threat is not that Jesus won't open the Gate. The threat is that we'll keep choosing a side entrance. Control. Secrecy. Porn. Alcohol. Work. Rage. Isolation. False doors that promise relief and deliver chains.

**One-line honesty:** The door I keep trying to walk through besides Jesus is:

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1. Where are you trying to be your own gate right now? What are you guarding, controlling, or managing because you do not trust Jesus there?

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2. Finish the sentence: "If I let go, then \_\_\_\_\_."

3. What counterfeit comfort have you been entering when you feel pressure? Be specific. Name it.

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4. If Jesus really is your Gate, what boundary needs to change this week? What door needs to close?

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### Activation 1: Stranger Voice Audit

Write three thoughts that trigger fear, shame, or panic. Then ask: “Jesus, is this Your voice or a stranger’s voice?”

Cross out every lie. Write His truth next to it.

Lie: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus says: \_\_\_\_\_

Lie: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus says: \_\_\_\_\_

Lie: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus says: \_\_\_\_\_

### Activation 2: Two-Minute Listening Drill

Sit still. Breathe. Pray: “Lord, I am listening.”  
Write what you receive, even if it is one word:

\_\_\_\_\_

Speak to Him, ask Him about something you’ve been wondering about? What did you ask:

\_\_\_\_\_

What did He say:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer of Surrender (Say it out loud)

Jesus, You are my Gate.

You are the only true entrance to safety, salvation, and belonging.  
I reject false doors and counterfeit voices. I renounce every stranger voice.

You, Jesus, my Shepherd-Gate, protect me and lead me at the same time.

Bring me in. Lead me out. Keep me under Your covering.

Abundant life and communion with You began when I stopped living as my own gate and entered through the door You purchased with Your blood.

Today, I come through You and meet You fully.



### **SHARE (Keep it short. Bold. Honest. No speeches.)**

1. What stranger voice did you identify, and what truth did Jesus speak? (one sentence)
2. What door are you closing? (name it)
3. What did you ask Him about, and what did He say?

## **GATE CARD | I AM the Gate for the Sheep (John 10:7)**

### **MEMORY VERSE**

John 10:9 (NLT)

“I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.”

**Breath Prayer (20 seconds):**, Jesus, You are my Gate.

I renounce fear and control. I receive Your covering.

Tune my ear to Your voice. I choose to commune with you. Thank you for making it possible.

### **Wolf Watch (3): These Lies are Broken**

- Control: fear pretending to be responsibility
- Counterfeit comfort: porn, scrolling, drinking, work, rage, fantasy
- Stranger voices: shame, comparison, panic, isolation

### **3-Step Daily Practice**

1. ENTER: “Jesus, I come through You today.”
2. FILTER: “Is this Your voice or a stranger?” Cross out one lie. Write one truth.
3. ABIDE: Today Jesus lets talk about : \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration (Say it out loud):** Jesus is my access. Jesus is my safety. Jesus is my way home. I will trust in what He has accomplished for me.





## CHAPTER 5

**“I AM the  
GOOD  
SHEPHERD.”**

**(John 10:11)**

**Key Text:** John 10:11–18  
(NLT)

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**Memory Verse:** John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**Big Idea:** You’re not a project Jesus manages. You are His. He knows YOU by name, protects YOU fiercely, and laid His life down for YOU.

He is for YOU.

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We were at **Lake Allatoona**, a bright Georgia day that felt safe, familiar, and full of laughter.

It was supposed to be simple.

A family ski day.

A first time on a kneeboard.

Sun on the water. Wind in our faces. Joy in the boat.

We did what good parents do.

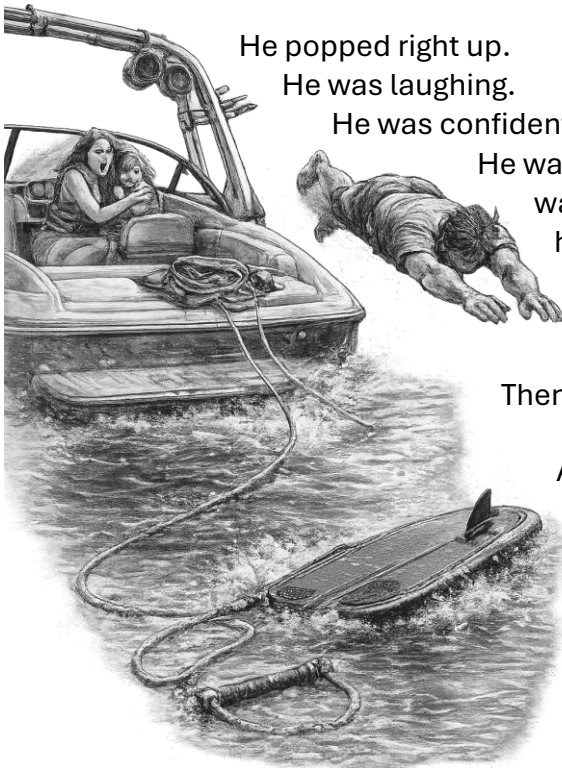
We talked through how to kneeboard.

Where to put his

knees. How to balance.

How to hold on.

And he crushed it.



He popped right up.

He was laughing.

He was confident.

He was flying across the water like he had done it his whole life.

Pride filled the boat.

Then he fell.

At first, it looked normal.

A splash.

A flip.

No big deal.

But then seconds passed.

And he did not come back up.

I remember the exact moment my heart dropped into my stomach.

The way joy vanished and terror rushed in like a wave.

He was upside down.

Strapped in.

Wearing a Scooby-Doo life vest that suddenly felt like a cruel lie.

Not enough buoyancy.

Not enough lift.

My son was not floating.

He was sinking.

On the boat were the people I love most.

My wife.

My daughter.

They were safe.

But the one.

The one who needed help.

The one who could not save himself.

Was alone in the water.

I slammed the engine into neutral and jumped before my brain could catch up with my body.

As I hit the water, I heard my wife scream,

“You can’t swim!”

She was right.

It did not matter.

It was my son.



Fear did not get a vote.  
Logic did not get a vote.  
Only love did.

I swam with everything I had.  
Heart pounding.  
Lungs burning.  
Eyes locked on him.

I reached him.  
Got my hands on the straps.  
Fumbled.  
Pulled.  
Unlatched his knees from the board.

And the moment the board released him, he came shooting  
back up to the surface.

Air.  
Life.  
Breath.

I held him there, both of us gasping, water dripping from our  
faces, the world suddenly loud again.

Later that day, after the shock wore off, I asked him quietly,  
“Were you scared?”

He thought for a second and said,  
“A little.”

Then he looked at me and said something I will never forget.

“But I knew you’d come help me.”

That is the Gospel. That is the Good Shepherd.



Jesus does not manage sheep from a distance.  
He does not shout instructions and hope you figure it out.  
He does not wait to see if you can swim well enough.

When one is trapped. When one is upside down.  
When one is sinking. When one is lost.

He goes in.

Even when it looks dangerous.  
Even when others say, "You can't."  
Even when it costs Him everything.

He does not hesitate.

The Good Shepherd leaves the ninety-nine.  
He dives into the water.  
He reaches for the one.  
He unstraps what has you bound.  
And He brings you back to the surface.

Alive.

No matter where you are or what you are going through the  
Shepherd is closer than you think. And if you allow Him to, He  
will unstrap you from the kneeboard that is holding you under.

And if He ask you later, "Were you scared?"

As we get to know Him for fully we will say, "A little. But I knew  
you would come."

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### **KINGDOM PRINCIPLE (Box line)**

**The Shepherd's leadership is not control. It is covenant love  
with a voice.**







**WORD:** Read **John 10:11–18** (NLT). Then do the work below.

**Audience:** Pharisees and the gathered crowd

**Setting:** Still in or near the temple complex, continuing His shepherd discourse from John 10:1–10 Jesus has just contrasted Himself with “thieves and robbers”—a reference to false teachers and corrupt leaders. He introduced Himself as the Gate, the only entrance to safety and pasture. Now, He adds another layer: **He is the Shepherd** who not only leads and protects, but lays down His life for the sheep.

This teaching would have struck a deep chord with His Jewish audience, familiar with shepherd imagery as a sign of godly kingship and divine care. But the boldness of Jesus' claim—to **give His life**—would've sounded scandalous. Shepherds defend. **This one will die.**

It is a prophetic foreshadowing of the cross.



### Fill in the blanks

“I am the \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. The good  
shepherd \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ life for the  
sheep.” (John 10:11)

### Why this was radical:

Psalms 23 and Ezekiel 34 call the LORD the Shepherd of Israel.

When Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, He is claiming the role and authority of God Himself.

How has Jesus been your shepherd?

## B) Good Shepherd vs. Hired Hand

Who are the hired hands (John 10:12–13), and how do they operate differently than Jesus?

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### Hired hands tend to:

- protect \_\_\_\_\_ first
- stay only while it benefits \_\_\_\_\_
- avoid wolves, conflict, and costly love
- use \_\_\_\_\_ for status, money, control, or validation
- lead with fear, pressure, performance

### Jesus the Good Shepherd:

- moves \_\_\_\_\_ danger, not away from it
- stands between you and what would devour you
- leads by voice and presence
- loves at personal cost
- does not abandon in crisis

### Prophetic picture:

- leaders who care more about power and position than God's people
- false shepherds (money, success, control) that fail in crisis
- your own self-preservation instead of trusting Jesus

### CHECK-IN (circle what shows up in you):

avoid | perform | control | withdraw | numb | rage | impress |  
blame



**C) “I know my sheep and my sheep know Me”**

Compare: John 14:7 & John 17:3

What’s the point?

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Knowing Jesus is not religious info. It is relational intimacy.  
Rooted in the same kind of real knowing that exists between the  
Father and the Son.

Write one sentence that hits you about this:

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**D) “I lay down My life” (the love that anchors everything)**

**Underline what sticks out to you in these verses:** John 10:

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his  
life for the sheep.

15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I  
sacrifice my life for the sheep.

17 “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take  
it back again. 18No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it  
voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to  
and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has  
commanded.”

Tie it together:



- John 15:13 - There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.
- Romans 5:8 - But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
- 1 John 3:16 - We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.
- Ephesians 5:2 - Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

**What is revealed about Jesus in these verses:**

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**E) "I have other sheep"**

A) Why is this here? What was Jesus pointing out?

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B) What did Jesus ask Peter to do in John 21:15–17?

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C) Is this part of our calling as disciples? How?



**Lock it in:** Jesus shepherds through shepherds.

**20-SECOND BREATH PRAYER**

Jesus, Good Shepherd, call me by name again.

I renounce every hired-hand voice.

Lead me out of fear and into trust.

Holy Spirit, make Your voice clear today.

**60-Second Recap (declare it):**

- Jesus is not a hired hand who stays while it's convenient.
- He is God the Shepherd in the flesh.
- He knows me, leads me, and stands between me and the wolf.
- His love is not talk. It is blood.
- And His voice is not vague. It is my safety, my direction, my home.



### The Wolf of The Hired-Hand Voice

The voice that leads only while you are producing, performing, or paying.

Examples: approval, image, hustle, people-pleasing, spiritual performance.

### The Wolf of The False Shepherd of Control

The lie: “If I control everything, I will be safe.”

Control feels like strength, but it quietly strangles love and peace.

### The Wolf of The Numbing Escape

The wolf that does not bite loudly. It sedates.

Examples: porn, scrolling, drinking, overeating, gaming, constant busyness, isolation.

### CHECK-IN (circle):

Right now my loudest wolf is: 1 | 2 | 3

The moment it attacks most is: morning | late night | stress | conflict | loneliness | money pressure

Why:

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## SEE JESUS – Read John 10:11–18

Jesus is not a brand, an idea, or a motivational quote. He is a Shepherd.

This passage reveals five heart realities:

1. He is personally involved. He knows. He names. He leads.
2. He is not surprised by wolves. He stands between you and danger.
3. He refuses transactional love. Hired hands stay if it benefits them. Jesus stays when it costs Him.
4. He chooses the cross. Love is voluntary and extravagant.
5. He has a bigger flock. His heart is wider than your circle.

**Give an example of where he has revealed each of these for you:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Circle what you tend to trust instead of the Shepherd:**

money | success | control | porn | approval | sarcasm | work |  
isolation | anger | comfort

One-line honesty: The hired-hand voice I have been following  
most lately is:

---

**I AM SUMMARY PAGE**

**What “Good Shepherd” means (Make it personal)**

Jesus is the Good Shepherd means:

- I am not a project. I am \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am not abandoned. I am \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am not driven by shame. I am led by \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am not purchased with hype. I am purchased with  
\_\_\_\_\_.





**Promises to Claim (write the main phrase)**

John 10:11:

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John 10:14–15:

---

Psalms 23:1–3:

---

Ezekiel 34:11–16:

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1 Peter 5:7:

---

**Declaration (Say it out loud)**

Jesus, You are my Shepherd. I will not be driven. I will be led.  
I renounce hired-hand shepherds. I belong to You.  
Your voice is my safety. Your love is my home.





**REFLECT (Answer in ink. No safe answers.)**

1. Who or what have you trusted that abandoned you? Name it. What did it promise? What did it cost? How is Jesus different?

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2. Where do you feel most vulnerable right now?  
Where are the wolves at the edge of the pen?  
home | mind | phone | money | marriage | anger | loneliness |  
calling | addiction. What is your most exposed area and why?

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3. What part of Jesus' love do you struggle to receive?  
Examples: forgiveness, tenderness, protection, guidance,  
patience, delight. Be specific. What do you fear will happen if  
you let Him love you there?

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4. If Jesus truly knows you and calls you by name, what would  
change about the way you lead at home? What tone  
changes? What habit breaks? What courage shows up?

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## **ACTIVATE (Bold Brave Step)**

### **Activation 1: Quiet Time**

Read John 10:11–18 out loud.

Then ask: “Jesus, what do You want me to know about You as my Shepherd?”

Write what you sense, even if it is one word::

### **Activation 2: Receiving Love Audit (clean and direct)**

Men often struggle to receive love, so we substitute control.

Ask: “What part of Your love do I struggle to receive?”

Write the doubts or fears that surface:

1.

2.

3.

### **Activation 3: Ice and Heart Exchange (prophetic act)**

Take one ice cube per fear. Name each fear out loud.

Read Ezekiel 36:26

*And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart, a heart of flesh.*

As the ice melts, pray:



“Jesus, I choose to receive the love You freely give over

\_\_\_\_\_.

Just as this ice has melted, my heart of stone is melting.  
I receive the new heart You offer and a deeper fullness of Your  
Spirit. Holy Spirit, make me safe enough to be fully led. Amen.”

#### **Activation 4: Who are the “Other Sheep”?**

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one person you can help bring  
closer to the flock.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What will you do:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **DAILY 20-SECOND PRAYER**

Jesus, Good Shepherd, call me by name again.  
I renounce hired-hand voices.  
I come under Your covering.  
Lead me out. Bring me in.  
Holy Spirit, make Your direction clear.

\_\_\_\_\_





**SHARE (Keep it heart-level. Short. Honest. No speeches.)**

1. What hired-hand voice have you been following lately?
2. What did you sense Jesus say in quiet time?
3. What fear did you name, and what love did you receive?
4. Who is your “other sheep” name, and what is one next step?



## **SHEPHERD CARD | I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)**

### **MEMORY VERSE**

John 10:11: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.”

**Breath Prayer (20 seconds):**, Jesus, Good Shepherd, call me by name again. I renounce every hired-hand voice.

Lead me out of fear and into trust. Holy Spirit, make His voice clear today.

### **Wolf Watch (3): I will no longer give in to**

1. The Hired-Hand Voice  
Leads you only while you perform, produce, or impress.  
Signs: spiritual performance, approval addiction, image management, overwork.
2. The False Shepherd of Control The lie: “If I control everything, I will be safe.” Signs: tension, micromanaging, impatience, criticism, inability to rest.
3. The Numbing Escape Does not bite loudly. It sedates.  
Signs: porn, scrolling, drinking, food, gaming, constant busyness, isolation.

### **THE 3-STEP DAILY PRACTICE .**

1. COME TO THE SHEPHERD Hand on chest. Breathe. Say: “Jesus, You are my Good Shepherd. Call me by name. Lead me today.”
2. RENOUNCE THE WOLF Name it out loud: “I renounce \_\_\_\_\_. I refuse the hired-hand voice of \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. OBEY ONE SMALL NUDGE Ask: “What is one step of trust right now?” Then do it immediately. Choose one:

**Declaration (Say it out loud):** Jesus is my access. Jesus is my safety. Jesus is my way home. I will trust in what He has accomplished for me.





## CHAPTER 6

### I AM the RESURRECTION and the LIFE” (John 11:25)

**Memory Verse: John 11:25** Jesus said to her, **‘I am the resurrection and the life.’** The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.

**Big Idea:** Jesus does not avoid death. He enters it. He weeps. Then He speaks. And what was dead comes alive.

**Key Text:** John 11:25–26 (NLT) *(Read John 11:17–44 for the full story)*

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Eli loved animals like they were people. Maybe more so.

Not in a cute, passing way. In the way that tells you his heart was built to protect what is small, and notice what most people miss.

He loved every creature that moved, every creature that breathed, even the ones that did not do much of anything at all.

Especially the goldfish.

It was tiny. Ordinary. Just a flicker of orange in a glass world.

But to Eli, it was not “a fish.” It was Stevie.

He named it like you name a friend. Like you name something you intend to keep. Like you are making a quiet promise to care for.

And then one day, he walked up to the tank expecting normal.

Expecting Stevie to glide in circles, to dart toward the surface, to be alive.

Instead, he saw it. Floating. Upside down. Still.



There are moments where a child's innocence does not slowly fade, it snaps. The room stays the same, the tank stays the same, the water stays the same, but something inside them breaks because the world just showed them it can take things away without warning.

Eli froze. He stared like his eyes could change the story.

His throat tightened. His face fell. The grief came fast, clean, pure, the kind only kids feel, because they have not learned to pretend they are fine.

He turned toward his mom with that look that is not a question, it is a plea.

And his voice came out small.

“Can we pray?”

Jennifer did not lecture him about biology. She did not rush to soften it with platitudes. She did not say, “It is just a fish.”

She honored his heart. “Sure,” she said.

Right there. In the everyday place where kids lose things and moms comfort them. In the space where grief shows up uninvited. In a moment that felt too small to matter.

It was there Eli prayed.

Not a cute prayer.

Not a religious prayer.

An Ernest prayer.

The kind that does not perform for adults. The kind that is not managing expectations. The kind that is not negotiating with disappointment.

He prayed with sincere, unfiltered faith that God would bring Stevie back to life.



He did not say, “If You want to.”

He did not add a little disclaimer to protect himself.

He asked like a son asks his Father, because in his world, God was real and close and kind and powerful.

And when the prayer ended, they looked back at the tank.

And Stevie was alive.

Not drifting.

Not upside down.

Alive.

Moving.

Swimming.

Breathing.

Back.

Eli’s heartbreak turned into shock, then joy, then something deeper than joy, that holy trembling kids get when they realize Heaven is not far away.

His tears changed flavor.

Grief became wonder.

And in that little glass tank, in that little living room moment, God quietly preached a sermon without a microphone:

I hear children.

I honor sincere faith.

I am near.



I can do what no one else can do.

And Eli, standing there with his wide eyes and his revived goldfish, learned something most grown men are still trying to learn:

The Father is not offended by bold requests.

He is moved by them.

He is not distant.

He is present.

That day Eli learned something many adults spend their whole lives unlearning and relearning again. Death is not the final authority.

God is.

This chapter is not about goldfish. (I wish I had a better resurrection story.)

It is about the question every man eventually faces.

What do you do when something you love is dead?

When hope feels sealed in a tomb?

When grief becomes unavoidable and irreversible?

Because Jesus does not step into John 11 to offer comfort words.

He steps into a cemetery and says something staggering.

“I am the resurrection and the life.”

Not “I bring resurrection.”

Not “I point to resurrection.”

Not “I will someday fix this.”

I AM.

Which means resurrection is not an event.

It is a Person.



And where He stands, death does not get the last word.

This chapter is an invitation to bring your graves, your losses, your sealed-off places, and your disappointments to the One who still speaks life.

Even when it feels too late.

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## **KINGDOM PRINCIPLE**

Resurrection is not an event you wait for.

Resurrection is a Person you trust.

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## **20-SECOND BREATH PRAYER**

Jesus, Resurrection and Life, come to my dead places.

I renounce numbness and unbelief.

I bring You my grief, my losses, and my disappointments.

Speak my name. Call me out.

Holy Spirit, breathe life into me again.

Amen.



## WORD

Read **John 11:17–27**, then **John 11:32–44** (NLT).

**Audience:** Martha, the sister of Lazarus

**Setting:** Outside Bethany, days after Lazarus’ death, just before Jesus raises him from the grave

Martha and Mary had called for Jesus when Lazarus was sick. But Jesus delayed, and Lazarus died. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has been in the tomb four days. Martha expresses deep grief, mixed with faint hope. In this emotionally charged moment, Jesus declares His identity as the resurrection—and not only promises future life but offers present **resurrecting power**.

This sets the stage for one of the most dramatic miracles in the Gospels: the raising of Lazarus. But before He performs the sign, Jesus **reveals the reality behind the sign**—*He is resurrection life embodied*.

“I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.”  
(John 11:25)

What is happening in the story?

1. Lazarus has been dead for \_\_\_\_\_ days when Jesus arrives. (John 11:17)
2. What does Martha say to Jesus when He arrives? (one sentence) (John 11:21–22)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Jesus do before He raises Lazarus? (one sentence) (John 11:35)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What command does Jesus speak into the tomb? (write the phrase) (John 11:43)

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What is the first instruction after Lazarus comes out? (write the phrase) (John 11:44)

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### **Why this was radical**

Martha already believed in resurrection... someday. “At the last day.” (John 11:24)

Jesus does not correct her theology with a lecture.

He corrects her timeline with His Person.

Resurrection is standing in front of her, breathing, weeping, and about to speak.

### **Resurrection has layers (three dimensions)**

#### **Dimension One: Resurrection NOW (spiritual new life)**

1. Ephesians 2:4–5 (NLT)

“But God is so rich in mercy... that even though we were dead because of our \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_ us life when he raised Christ from the \_\_\_\_\_.”

Blanks: **sins** | **gave** | **dead**

2. Colossians 2:13 (NLT)

“You were dead because of your \_\_\_\_\_ and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ...”

Blanks: **sins** | **alive**



3. Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who \_\_\_\_\_, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son of God...”

Blanks: **live** | **trusting**

4. Romans 6:4 (NLT)

“We were buried in baptism as Christ was buried in \_\_\_\_\_. As Christ was raised from the dead by the great \_\_\_\_\_ of God, so we will have new \_\_\_\_\_ also.”

Blanks: **death** | **power** | **life**

5. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new \_\_\_\_\_. The old life is \_\_\_\_\_; a new life has \_\_\_\_\_!”

Blanks: **person** | **gone** | **begun**

6. Romans 8:11 (NLT)

“The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you... he will give life to your \_\_\_\_\_ bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”

Blank: **mortal**

Reflection: What kind of resurrection is available in Christ right now? (2–3 lines)

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## **Dimension Two: Resurrection THEN (future bodily resurrection)**

Read **John 5:28–29** and **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17**.

**Reflection:** What is coming, and when?

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## **Dimension Three: Resurrection THROUGH YOU (Kingdom authority in action)**

**Framing line (lock it in):** Jesus is the authority. We obey. Outcomes are His. Read these passages:

**John 11:43–44** Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

**Luke 7:14–15** Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. “Young man,” he said, “I tell you, get up.” Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

**Mark 5:41–42** Holding her hand, he said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means “Little girl, get up!” And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! They were overwhelmed and totally amazed.

**Reflection:** What do these teach about Jesus’ authority over death? (2–3 lines)

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## Deep dive

### Matthew 10:7–8 (NLT)

**Key excerpt (NLT):** “The Kingdom of Heaven is near... Heal the sick, raise the dead...”

**Summary:** Jesus sends His disciples to **announce the Kingdom** and to **demonstrate the Kingdom:** healing, cleansing, deliverance. He ties it to grace: *you received freely, so give freely.*

**What to notice:** Jesus doesn’t treat power as a “special class” thing. He gives **real assignment** to real disciples.

Thoughts:

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### John 14:12 (NLT)

**Key excerpt (NLT):** “Anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works...”

**Summary:** Jesus says believers will continue His works, and the impact will extend further because He is going to the Father and sending help (keep reading John 14).

**What to notice:** This is not ego. It’s **mission**. The goal is Jesus being seen as real.

Thoughts:

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**Acts 9:36–42 (NLT) — Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas)**

**Key excerpt (NLT):** “Peter... said, ‘Tabitha, get up!’ And she opened her eyes!”

**Summary:** A beloved disciple dies. The believers call for Peter. Peter sends everyone out, kneels and prays, then speaks to her—and she rises. The result is not hype: it turns into **witness**, and “many believed in the Lord.”

**What to notice:** The pattern is simple: **need → prayer → command → God moves → Jesus gets glory.**

Thoughts:

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**Acts 20:9–12 (NLT) — Paul and Eutychus**

**Key excerpt (NLT):** “Paul went down, bent over him, and took him into his arms... ‘Don’t worry,’ he said, ‘he’s alive!’”

**Summary:** A young man falls from a window and is taken up dead. Paul goes down, embraces him, and life returns. The church is “greatly relieved.”

**What to notice:** This is messy, real life. Resurrection power shows up in **ordinary ministry moments**, not staged ones.

Thoughts:

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## What the Scriptures are showing you

What the Scriptures are showing you (do not rush)

1. Jesus gives real authority, not religious talk. (Matthew 10:7–8)
  - He does not only announce the Kingdom. He demonstrates it.
  - And He sends His disciples to do the same.
2. “Works like these” is not hype. It is Jesus’ expectation. (John 14:12)
  - This is not about ego. This is about witness.
  - The point is not “look at me.”
  - The point is “look at Him.”
3. The early church didn’t treat resurrection power as a museum story. (Acts 9, Acts 20)
  - They prayed. They acted. They expected God to move.
  - And when He did, Jesus got the glory and people got turned toward God.

## Lock-in truths (keep faith clean)

- **Jesus is the authority. We obey. Outcomes are His.**
- We don’t manufacture miracles. We **ask**.
- We don’t chase power. We **follow the Person**.
- We don’t force results. We stay faithful in **prayer + obedience**.
- We test everything by **Scripture** and by the **fruit it produces**.

**“Through you” does not mean “by you”**



God uses ordinary men.

But the power is not your personality, volume, or intensity.

The power is Jesus Himself, by His Spirit.

Your role is: **believe, ask, obey, and give Him the glory.**

### **Practice (2 minutes, right now)**

Put your hand on your chest. Breathe once.

Pray this out loud:

“Jesus, You are Resurrection and Life.

I believe You are the same today.

Make me faithful and fearless.

If You want to work through me, I say yes.

Teach me to pray with faith, love with courage, and obey without hesitation.

Holy Spirit, lead me. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

### **Question (one paragraph max)**

**Do you believe this is possible today? Why or why not?**

(If your answer is “I want to, but I’m not there,” write that.

Honesty is a doorway.)

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**One activation line (simple, measurable)**

praying for healing with a brother

asking Jesus for a miracle in a specific situation

obeying a clear Spirit nudge I usually ignore

sharing one testimony of God's power

reading these passages again and writing what I learn

My step:

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When: \_\_\_\_\_ Who knows: \_\_\_\_\_



**SEE JESUS (John 11:17–27, then John 11:32–44)**

Jesus is not rushing Martha. He is revealing Himself.

This passage shows five things about His heart:

1. He enters grief instead of avoiding it. He is not afraid of your pain.

React:

2. He weeps, then He moves. Tears are not a lack of power. They are love.

Respond:

3. He calls belief out of disappointment. “Do you believe this?” is a rescue line.

How:

4. He confronts the stone. He does not work around what is sealed shut.

What does that mean for you:

5. He speaks a name. Resurrection is personal, not generic.

What has He called back to life in you:

**The two things Jesus does in Bethany (circle the one you avoid):**

He weeps | He commands

One-line honesty: the part of Jesus I struggle to trust is:

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**Men’s angle (gut-punch):** If you stay numb, you stay stuck. Jesus is not here to medicate you. He is here to raise you.

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**REFLECT (Answer in ink. No church answers.)**

1. Where have you gone numb?  
What topic, relationship, or pain have you stopped feeling because it felt safer|easier?
  
2. What is your “Lazarus”?  
What feels dead or too far gone (marriage, calling, prayer life, purity, joy, hope, confidence)?
  
3. What is the stone?  
What is blocking Jesus’ access: control, secrecy, shame, unforgiveness, hidden sin, disappointment?
  
4. What grave clothes are still on you?  
Old labels, old vows, old identity statements you keep wearing. Write them as quotes.  
Example: “I will always be like this.” “Nothing changes.” “I’m alone.”



## ACTIVATE (Bold Brave Step)

Do this within 24 hours. Simple. Not comfortable.  
Resurrection practice.

### Bold Brave Step: The “COME OUT” Call

You will bring one dead place into the light, and you will let Jesus speak into it through your mouth and a brother’s agreement.

**Step 1: Name it** Ask the Holy Spirit: “Where am I still in a tomb?”  
Write 1–3 dead places and 1–3 grave-clothes statements.

#### Dead place(s):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Grave clothes statements (Put a check by and complete all that apply):

Here are **examples of “grave clothes statements”** (old identity lines, vows, and lies you keep wearing). These are written the way men actually think and talk.

Identity lies (who you think you are)

- “This is just who I am.”
- “I’m broken beyond repair.”
- “I’m not the kind of man God uses.”
- “I’m too far gone.”
- “I’ll always be a disappointment.”
- “I’m unlovable.”





- “I’m a fraud.”
- “I’m the problem in every room.”

#### Finality + hopelessness (death language)

- “Nothing ever changes.”
- “It’s over.”
- “It’s too late.”
- “This is the best it’s going to get.”
- “God moved back then, not now.”
- “Resurrection isn’t for me.”
- “My story ends here.”

#### Shame scripts (what you silently believe God thinks)

- “God is tired of me.”
- “God is disappointed in me.”
- “God won’t come close to this part.”
- “I have to clean up first.”
- “If people really knew me, they’d leave.”
- “I can’t bring this into the light.”

#### Control vows (promises you made in pain)

- “I won’t need anyone.”
- “I’ll handle it myself.”
- “I won’t feel that again.”
- “I won’t trust anyone with my heart.”
- “I’ll stay in control so I don’t get hurt.”
- “I’ll never be weak in front of anyone.”

#### Numbness + coping (how you survive)

- “I’m fine.”
- “It doesn’t matter.”
- “Just keep moving.”
- “I don’t feel anything.”
- “I can’t stop or I’ll fall apart.”
- “I’ll deal with it later.” (Translation: never.)



## Marriage | relationships (love and connection)

- “She’ll never respect me.”
- “I’m too much... or not enough.”
- “I always ruin good things.”
- “People leave. That’s what they do.”
- “I don’t know how to love well, so I won’t try.”
- “It’s safer to stay distant.”

## Purity | addiction | secret battles

- “I’ll always struggle with this.”
- “I can’t stop.”
- “This is the only thing that helps.”
- “I need this to get through the day.”
- “I can’t be free.”
- “If I confess, I’ll lose everything.”

## Calling | purpose | leadership

- “I missed my window.”
- “I’m disqualified.”
- “I don’t have what it takes.”
- “Other men can lead. Not me.”
- “My best days are behind me.”
- “I’m not a finisher.”

## Father wounds | son wounds

- “I’ll never be a good dad.”
- “I’m destined to repeat what I hated.”
- “No one protects me.”
- “I’m on my own.”
- “I have to earn love.”
- “I’m not worth fighting for.”

## A simple way to write your own (fast)



Finish these stems:

- “I will always \_\_\_\_.”
- “Nothing will ever \_\_\_\_.”
- “God can’t|won’t \_\_\_\_.”
- “If I’m honest, then \_\_\_\_.”
- “I have to \_\_\_\_ to be safe.”

## **Step 2: Roll the stone (10 minutes)**

**Call** one trusted brother (*phone call, not text*).

Say this (word-for-word if you want):

“I want to practice resurrection. I’m naming a dead place and asking you to agree with me in prayer.

Here’s the tomb: \_\_\_\_\_.

Here are the grave clothes I’ve been wearing:

\_\_\_\_\_.

I’m asking Jesus to call me out.”

## **Step 3: Speak life (2 minutes)**

Out loud, declare John 11:25 over yourself:

“Jesus, You are the Resurrection and the Life. I believe in You.

I will live. Even here. Even now.

I come out of this tomb: \_\_\_\_\_.

I take off these grave clothes: \_\_\_\_\_.

Holy Spirit, breathe life into me.”

## **Step 4: Tear it up (prophetic act)**

Tear up the paper with the grave clothes statements.

Not dramatic. Decisive.



## **Optional (if grief is the dead place)**

If your “Lazarus” is a real loss, do not rush healing. Practice truth:

- Tell Jesus what you miss.
- Tell Him what you fear.
- Ask Him what He wants to give you in the middle of it.

Write what you sense, even if it is one word:

## **DAILY 20-SECOND PRAYER (7 days)**

Jesus, Resurrection and Life, meet me at the grave.

I renounce numbness and unbelief.

Help me roll the stone.

Call me out by name.

Help me take off the grave clothes.

Holy Spirit, breathe life into me again.

Amen.

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## **60-Second Recap (Declare it)**

Jesus meets me at graves. He does not shame grief. He weeps with me. Then He speaks.

Resurrection is not only a future promise. It is a present Person.

My dead places are not disqualifying. They are invitations.

Roll the stone. Let Him call me out. Then take off the grave clothes.

**Stone-moving practice (today):** Name one stone, text one brother, make the call.



## WOLF WATCH (Box)



Circle your main wolf.

### The Wolf of Numbness

**Looks like:** quiet shutdown, constant distraction, joking past pain, refusing to feel.

**Produces:** disconnection, anger leaks, dead prayer life, “fine” that is not fine.

**Next step:** name one feeling to Jesus today and write one honest sentence.

### The Wolf of Unprocessed Grief

**Looks like:** sealed loss, “being strong” as avoidance, pain leaking as lust, rage, or distance.

**Produces:** hardness, irritability, isolation, numb cycles.

**Next step:** tell Jesus what you miss in one paragraph, then share one line with a brother.

### The Wolf of The Lie of Finality

**Looks like:** “Nothing changes.” “Too far gone.” “This is just who I am.”

**Produces:** hopelessness, passivity, compromise, quitting before the fight.

**Next step:** cross out one “finality” statement and replace it with John 11:25 truth.

My wolf pattern shows up most when I feel: rejected | overwhelmed | lonely | ashamed | out of control | disappointed

My loudest wolf is: 1 | 2 | 3

My next step is:



**SHARE (Keep it short. Keep it real. No sermons.)**

1. What dead place did you name?
  2. What stone is Jesus asking you to roll away (secrecy, control, shame, unforgiveness)?
  3. What grave-clothes statement are you taking off this week?
  4. What happened when you made the “Come Out of the Grave” call? (If nothing happened yet, say that. Faith is obedience, not fireworks.)
-

## **RESURRECTION CARD | “I AM the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25)**

### **Memory Verse (NLT):**

“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.” (John 11:25)

**Breath Prayer (20 seconds):** Jesus, Resurrection and Life, come to my dead places. I renounce numbness and unbelief. Call me out by name. Help me take off grave clothes. Holy Spirit, breathe life into me again.

### **Wolf Watch (3): I am no longer stuck in the grave of**

- Numbness (shutdown heart)
- Unprocessed grief (sealed tomb)
- Lie of finality (“too far gone”)

### **THE 3-STEP DAILY PRACTICE .**

#### **1. NAME THE TOMB (1 min)**

Jesus, what feels dead in me today?

#### **2. ROLL THE STONE (1–2 min)**

Tell Jesus the truth without fixing it:

“Jesus, I feel \_\_\_\_\_. I miss \_\_\_\_\_.  
I’m afraid \_\_\_\_\_.”

Then: “I let You into this place.”

#### **3. COME OUT (1–3 min)**

Say out loud: “Jesus, You are Resurrection and Life.

I come out of \_\_\_\_\_. I take off these grave  
clothes: \_\_\_\_\_. Holy Spirit, breathe fresh life  
into me today.”

**Declaration (Say it out loud):** Resurrection is not an idea. It is a Person. Jesus is in this with me. What was dead can live again.





## CHAPTER 7

**“I AM the Way,  
the Truth, and  
the Life” (John  
14:6)**

**Memory Verse: John 14:6** Jesus answered, **‘I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

### Big Idea

Jesus is not just the entrance into God. He is the path you walk, the truth that breaks your lies, and the life that powers your freedom. If you want the Father, you do not need a map. You need a Person.

**Key Text:** John 14:1–14 (NLT)

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To some (me) this may feel a bit like a repeat of the John 10:7 I Am where Jesus says He is the **Gate**. That is access. That is protection. That is “you get in through Me.”

John 14 goes further. This is not just how you enter. This is how you **walk**. How you **see**. How you **live**. The Gate gets you into the house. The Way gets you to the Father’s heart.





Kylie was only three years old.

Three.

She was sitting in the child seat of a grocery cart, feet swinging, eyes wide, taking in the world the way only a toddler can, when she saw her.

She tugged on Jennifer's sleeve and said, with complete sincerity,  
"Mommy... she's so beautiful. Could she be our babysitter?"

We had just moved to Georgia.

Everything was new.

We knew almost no one.

Our kids were three and five, and we were quietly praying for something simple but important... someone we could trust so we could have an occasional date night.

Kylie had no idea she was answering a prayer.

Jennifer smiled and did what moms do. She struck up a conversation.

She asked the young woman if she knew anyone who babysat.

The answer was no.

But instead of walking away, the girl stayed.

She helped unload groceries.

She lingered.

She listened.

And somewhere between bags of produce and polite small talk, a thought crossed her mind.

“Well... when would you need a babysitter?”

That question changed everything.

Her name was Alicia.

She became our babysitter, but very quickly she became more than that.

Our kids adored her.

Our family loved her.

She was kind, patient, present.

But she didn't know Jesus.

And Alicia was carrying a quiet ache.

Her family life was unstable.

Her boyfriend was the one place she felt safe... and even that relationship was a cycle of breaking up and getting back together. Every reunion gave her hope. Every breakup shattered her.

That relationship had become her anchor.

And anchors sink when they are tied to things that cannot hold.



Jennifer began sharing with her the most important thing in our lives.

Not religion.

Not rules.

A relationship.

A love that does not leave.

A love that does not fluctuate.

A love that does not break up, walk away, or keep score.

One night, after Alicia had finished babysitting, Jennifer drove her home. The car was quiet. The kind of quiet where truth can finally surface.

Alicia stared out the window and said the words that had been forming in her heart for a long time.

“How do I get that kind of love?”

And right there, in a parked car, with no stage, no spotlight, no perfect script, Jennifer gently led Alicia to Jesus.

Not to an idea.

Not to a moral upgrade.

To a Person.

Alicia met the One who said,

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

And everything began to change.

She went home and told her family. They accepted Christ.

She shared with her boyfriend. He accepted Christ.

Her mother later returned to her home country and shared Jesus with relatives there.

The love spread. Quietly. Powerfully. Generationally.



And that boyfriend?  
We did their premarital counseling.  
I officiated their wedding.

They have three children now.

They found a love in Jesus that finally made it possible to love  
each other the right way.

And it all started with a three-year-old in a grocery store who  
saw someone beautiful and asked an innocent question.

Jesus really is the way.  
Not just to heaven, but to healing.  
The truth.  
Not just information, but clarity when life feels unstable.  
And the life.  
Not just existence, but a love that never goes away.

Sometimes the road to salvation looks like an altar call.

And sometimes it looks like a grocery cart, a little girl's voice,  
and a babysitter who didn't know she was about to meet the  
love she had been searching for her whole life.

The house is quiet, but your mind is loud.  
You replay conversations.  
Second-guess decisions.  
Run scenarios like a courtroom.

You are trying to find the way.

And here is what nobody says out loud:  
Most men are not afraid of failure.  
They are afraid of being exposed as lost.

Then Thomas asks the question every man has asked in some  
form:



“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” (John 14:5, NLT)

Jesus does not give directions.  
He gives Himself.

I AM the Way.  
I AM the Truth.  
I AM the Life.

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## KINGDOM PRINCIPLE



The Gate answers how you enter.  
The Way answers how you walk.  
The Truth answers what voice you trust.  
The Life answers what source you live from.

Jesus is not a one-time decision. He is a daily dependence.

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## 20-SECOND BREATH PRAYER

Jesus, be my Way when I feel unsure.  
Be my Truth when I feel pulled by lies.  
Be my Life when I feel dry inside.  
Holy Spirit, lead me into what Jesus already purchased.  
Amen.



## WORD

Read John 14:1–14 (NLT). Then write the key line in your own handwriting:

**Audience:** His disciples, particularly in response to Thomas

**Setting:** The Upper Room, during the Last Supper (John 13–17)

As Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure, their hearts are troubled. They don't understand where He is going or how they can follow. Thomas voices what others are probably thinking: *“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”* (John 14:5)

Jesus responds not with a map, but with Himself: *“I am the Way.”*

He is preparing them for His death, resurrection, and the outpouring of the Spirit. The entire farewell discourse (John 13–17) is about **abiding, Spirit-empowered living, and union with the Father through the Son.**



“I am the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_. No one can come to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

Jesus sets before he says this:

John 14:1: 1 “Don’t let your hearts be \_\_\_\_\_. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

In this room, Jesus gives you **comfort without compromise.** **“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”**

John 14 isn’t Jesus teaching in a classroom. It’s the upper room. The air is heavy. Hearts are shaking. And Jesus doesn’t offer hype or escape. He offers Himself. **Follow Me. Believe Me. Receive My life.** So when your soul starts reaching for shortcuts,

He brings you back to three words: **Way. Truth. Life.**

## NOTICE (Way | Truth | Life)

1. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus doesn't give you directions. He gives you **Himself**. He is the path you walk, step by step.

**Meaning:** You're not following a map, a plan, or a list. You're following a **Person**. Discipleship is **movement with Jesus**: obedience, surrender, next step.

2. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus doesn't just tell the truth. He **is** the truth.  
He defines reality and exposes every lie trying to lead you.

**Meaning:** Truth is the **operating system** for the walk. It's how you don't drift, compromise, or get played by deception. Jesus' truth corrects your thinking, heals identity lies, and keeps your steps clean.

3. \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus doesn't just help you try harder. He gives you **His life**. His Spirit in you is the power and reward that keeps you walking.

**Meaning:** The Christian life can't be sustained by willpower. Life is **union and indwelling**: Christ in you by the Spirit. That life becomes power over sin, endurance in suffering, courage in obedience — and the joy of fellowship with God.

## Quick Discernment (Circle the True statement)

**WAY**                    "Show me the route."  
                              "Stay with Me. Follow Me."

**TRUTH**                "Truth is information I agree with."  
                              "Truth is authority I submit to."

**LIFE**                    "Try harder and white-knuckle it."  
                              "Abide. Receive. Walk in the Spirit."



If **the Gate** is entry and access, then **John 14:6** is **exclusive mediation** in three dimensions: **path, reality, vitality**.

I AM THE \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

**1) “I AM the WAY”** (Not just the doorway. The ongoing path of discipleship.)

*READ & RESPOND*

- **John 14:6** (NLT) Jesus is the way to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- **John 10:9** (NLT) “Anyone who \_\_\_\_\_ through me will be saved... will find good pastures.”

**Did you catch that, what do you find after your enter (gate) what is the Way you find?**

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- **1 Peter 2:21** (NLT) “Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_.”
- **Colossians 2:6** (NLT) “Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ him.”

**What are some things about the Way that the verse above reveal:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_





3. \_\_\_\_\_

**You did not just come through Him. You now walk with Him.**

**NOTICE**

1. The Way is not a map. It is a **Person** you follow.  
Think apprenticeship, obedience, daily surrender.
2. “Follow Me” is formation, not a one-time decision.
3. The Way confronts shortcuts: manipulation, control, hidden sin, double life.

**DEFINE** (*One sentence, in your words*)

**The Way:**

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**Say this Out Loud:** *“Jesus is the only path into the Father’s presence and the One I follow step by step in daily obedience.”*

**Consider:** The early church called themselves followers of “the \_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 9:2; 19:9; 24:14)

Why do you think they used that name? (one sentence)

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## INK (no safe answers)

- Where are you trying to lead yourself instead of letting Jesus lead you?
- Name one shortcut you have used lately.
- One measurable “follow Him” step in the next 24 hours:

**2) “I AM the TRUTH”** (Not just the right door. The final authority that exposes every lie.)

### *READ & RESPOND*

- **John 14:6** (NLT) Jesus is “the \_\_\_\_\_.”
- **John 1:14, 17** (NLT) Jesus is full of grace and \_\_\_\_\_; grace and truth came through Him.
- **John 8:31–32** (NLT) “You will know the truth, and the truth will \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_.”
- **John 17:17** (NLT) “Make them \_\_\_\_\_ by your truth; teach them your \_\_\_\_\_, which is truth.”
- **Colossians 2:3** (NLT) In Christ “are hidden all the \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom and knowledge.”

### **Colossians 1:13 (NLT)**

“For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.

**”The Gate gets you out of Egypt. The Truth gets Egypt out of you.**



## Gate or Truth

- \_\_\_\_\_ highlights false entrances and stranger voices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ highlights false realities and false narrative.
- \_\_\_\_\_ calls you to enter so you can be saved.
- \_\_\_\_\_ calls you to abide so you can be free.
- \_\_\_\_\_ exposes the wrong door you tried to enter through.
- \_\_\_\_\_ exposes the wrong story you tried to live by.

(GTGTGT)

## NOTICE

1. Jesus is the decisive revelation of the Father. Truth is relational and revelatory, not just informational.
2. This becomes warfare against deception: shame-lies, identity-lies, cultural-lies, counterfeit gospels, counterfeit Jesuses.
3. Truth is not negotiated. Truth is submitted to.

## John 16:12–13 quick study (write short answers)

Who brings truth: \_\_\_\_\_

What He guides you into: \_\_\_\_\_

Where He gets it: \_\_\_\_\_

What He tells you: \_\_\_\_\_

**What does “There is so much more I want to tell you” (John 16:12, NLT) mean for today? (2–3 lines)**

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**DEFINE** (One sentence, in your words)

**The Truth:**

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**The Truth:** Jesus is the final authority over reality, exposing every lie and setting me free by what God says is true.

Fill it in:

### 3) “I AM the LIFE”

(Not just safe pasture. Supernatural participation in God’s own life.)

*READ& RESPOND – Underline Life (lives)*

- **John 14:6** (NLT) Jesus is “the life.”
- **John 1:4** (NLT) “The Word gave life to everything that was created.”
- **John 10:10** (NLT) “My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”
- **John 11:25–26** (NLT) “I am the resurrection and the life...”
- **1 John 5:11–12** (NLT) “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son...”
- **Galatians 2:20** (NLT) “Christ lives in me.”

**You do not manage sin with willpower. You overcome it with a new life-source.**

You don’t beat sin by grinding harder. You beat sin **by**:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:13; Gal. 5:16)

Willpower can’t crucify the flesh.



\_\_\_\_\_ can.” (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:6)

Sin breaks when you stop feeding it and start

\_\_\_\_\_. (John 15:4–5)

Jesus is not only a giver of life, He is \_\_\_\_\_ himself. (John 14:6)

### **NOTICE**

1. “Life” is stronger than improved circumstances. It is new birth, resurrection power, and the Spirit’s indwelling presence producing fruit and power.
2. This is not self-improvement. It is new creation life.
3. Life spills into mission, holiness, courage, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

### **Jesus is the Life**

1. Eternal \_\_\_\_\_ is in Him (John 11:25–26)
2. Abundant \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (John 10:10)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ comes through the Spirit (Romans 8:11)
4. Dead in sin, \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Ephesians 2:4–5)

WRITE HERE (one line): What kind of life do you need Jesus to breathe into you right now?

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**DEFINE** (One sentence, in your words)

**The Life:**



**The Life:** Jesus is the source of eternal life and resurrection power, living in me now and carrying me all the way home.

**Acts 4:12 (NLT) — There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”**



### SEE JESUS

This passage shows Jesus doing two things at once:

He comforts them, and He confronts them.

He says, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled,” and then He draws a boundary: No one comes to the Father except through Me.

What this reveals about Jesus:

- He does not give vague encouragement. He gives access to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- He is not only the messenger. He is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- He is not just a truth-teller. He is \_\_\_\_\_ embodied.
- He does not just energize your life. He becomes your \_\_\_\_\_.
- He makes the Father knowable. If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the \_\_\_\_\_.

**What do you tend to chase instead of Jesus as your Way:  
(circle all that apply)**

money	control	approval	status	escape
power	winning	comparison	validation	bitterness
respect	alcohol	porn	fantasy	comfort
anger	isolation	perfection	certainty	work
achievement	people- pleasing	being right	control through criticism	sexual attention
image (how I look to others)	performance (earning love)	Distraction  (scrolling, gaming)	being needed  (savior complex)	success

For **two** things you circled, fill this out:

Old Way: \_\_\_\_\_

What it promises: \_\_\_\_\_

What it produces: \_\_\_\_\_

New Way: **JESUS**

One next step of following Him: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Way: \_\_\_\_\_

What it promises: \_\_\_\_\_

What it produces: \_\_\_\_\_

New Way: **JESUS**

One next step of following Him: \_\_\_\_\_





**REFLECT (Answer in ink. No safe answers.)**

**Choose four.**

1. Where do you feel most unsure about the way forward right now? What are you afraid will happen if you choose wrong?
2. What lie is currently shaping your decisions? Finish it: "I have to \_\_\_\_\_ or I will \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Where have you been treating Jesus like a guide instead of the Way? Name the area. Be specific.
4. What truth do you resist because it threatens your control?
5. Where are you trying to get life without Jesus? What is your go-to source of escape, buzz, or validation?
6. If seeing Jesus is seeing the Father, what does that do to your view of God? Was He harsh, distant, impatient, disappointed? Write what shifts.
7. Jesus says believers will do greater works (John 14:12). What have you quietly decided is not possible for you?



## **ACTIVATE (Bold Brave Step)**



### **Activation: “More He Had to Say” Truth Encounter**

1. Find a quiet place. Phone face down. Sit still. Breathe slowly.
2. Pray: “Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth, guide me into what Jesus wants to say.”
3. Ask Jesus these three questions and write what you receive:

**Way:** “Jesus, what is one next step You want me to take?”

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**Truth:** “Jesus, what lie are You exposing in me right now?”

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**Life:** “Jesus, what do You want to breathe back to life in me?”

---

\*Test what you heard: Does it align with Scripture and the fruit of the Spirit?

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### **Prayer (Say it out loud)**

Jesus, You are my Way, my Truth, and my Life.

Lead me when I feel unsure.

Expose what is false.

Fill what is empty.

I come to the Father through You, and I will follow You.

Amen.

## 60-second recap:

When you feel lost, Jesus does not hand you a map. He offers Himself.

He is the Way to the Father, not one option among many.

He is the Truth that exposes lies and stabilizes your soul.

He is the Life that replaces spiritual numbness with power through the Spirit.

Walking with Jesus is not religious effort. It is daily union that produces clarity, freedom, and courage.



## WOLF WATCH

### The Wolf of Self-Rule

You want Jesus as consultant, not Lord. You call it freedom. It is distance.

**Looks like:** selective obedience, secret exceptions, “I got this,” delayed surrender.

**Produces:** drift, double life, anxiety, loneliness, fog.

**Next step:** surrender one area out loud to Jesus and tell a brother.

### The Wolf of Counterfeit Truth

Opinions, algorithms, trauma scripts, rage, ideology, lust. Anything that reshapes reality without Jesus.

**Looks like:** being disciplined by feeds, living reactive, rehearsing narratives that poison you.

**Produces:** confusion, compromise, anger, cynicism.

**Next step:** cut one input and replace it with John 14 and prayer.

### The Wolf of Spiritual Numbness

You settle for functioning without fire. You stop expecting life.

**Looks like:** prayerless routines, low expectation, “fine,” quiet unbelief.

**Produces:** dryness, temptation cycles, loss of courage.

**Next step:** ask for fresh filling of the Spirit and obey one nudge today.

**My wolf shows up most when I feel:**

disrespected | overwhelmed | ashamed | uncertain | lonely |  
behind | tired

My loudest wolf is: 1 | 2 | 3

My next step is:

---



**SHARE (Keep it honest, not impressive)**

**PICK TWO**

1. What area feels most unclear right now, and what one step did Jesus give you?
  2. What lie did you identify, and what truth replaces it?
  3. Where are you seeking life apart from Jesus, and what boundary will you set?
  4. What is one “greater work” you are willing to risk obedience toward this week?
-

## THE WAY CARD | “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6)

### Memory Verse (NLT):

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

### BREATH PRAYER

Jesus, be my Way today. Jesus, be my Truth today.

Jesus, be my Life today. Holy Spirit, guide me into what Jesus is saying.

### Wolf Watch (3): I no longer follow the path of

- Self-rule: refusing surrender
- Counterfeit truth: opinions and scripts over Scripture
- Numbness: functioning without life

### 3-STEP DAILY PRACTICE (3 minutes)

1. **SURRENDER:** “Jesus, I come to the Father through You. Lead me.”
2. **REPLACE:** One lie I reject today: \_\_\_\_\_. One truth I declare: \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **OBEY:** One next step I will take today: \_\_\_\_\_

### Quick Declaration

I will not walk in fog.

I will not live on lies.

I belong to Jesus, and His Spirit lives in me.





## CHAPTER 8

### “I AM the True Vine” (John 15:1)

**Memory Verse:** John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

**Big Idea:** Your fruitfulness is not produced by striving, it is grown by abiding, because the life of Jesus must flow through you to bear anything that lasts.

**Key Text:** John 15:1–17 (NLT)

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## **CINEMATIC OPENING (Read slow)**

Your calendar is full.  
Your head is loud.  
Your phone keeps calling.

You are producing.  
You are leading.  
You are showing up.

And still, there is that quiet fear:  
What if I am doing a lot... but becoming less?

Jesus does not diagnose you with shame.  
He invites you into connection.

Not hustle.  
Not hype.  
Not religious performance.

Union.

I AM the True Vine.  
My Father is the Gardener.  
Remain in Me.

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### **KINGDOM PRINCIPLE**



The goal is not fruit.  
The goal is staying connected to the Source.  
Fruit matters. But you do not chase fruit. You protect connection.

---



## WORD

Read John 15:1–17 (NLT). Then write the key line in your own handwriting:

**Audience:** His closest disciples

**Setting:** The Upper Room (or in route to Gethsemane), just before His arrest

After comforting His disciples in John 14 and promising the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus shifts to a powerful metaphor: the vine and the branches. This teaching likely occurred during or just after the Last Supper, possibly as they were walking past grapevines on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus is preparing His followers for a future without His physical presence—but **not without His life**. He wants them to understand that **fruitfulness, power, and identity** will only come from *remaining in Him* through the Spirit.



“I am the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and my Father is  
the \_\_\_\_\_.” (John  
15:1)

Remain in me, and I will  
remain in you. For a branch  
cannot produce **fruit** if it is  
severed from the vine, and  
you cannot be **fruitful**  
unless you remain in me.  
(:4)

Yes, I am the vine; you are  
the branches. Those who  
remain in me, and I in them,  
will produce much **fruit**. For  
apart from me you can do  
nothing. (:5)

But **if you remain in me** and  
my words remain in you,  
you may **ask for anything**  
**you want**, and it will be  
granted! (:7)

I have loved you even as the  
Father has loved me.  
Remain in my love. (:9)

## Jesus as the True Vine (John 15:1)

In the Old Testament, Israel is called God's vine (Psalm 80:8–9, Isaiah 5:1–7), but they failed to produce lasting fruit.

Jesus says He is the True Vine. He fulfills what Israel could not.

One sentence insight: Why does it matter that Jesus is the TRUE vine? (*one sentence*)

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## Apart from Jesus, we can do what? (John 15:4–5)

“Apart from me you can do \_\_\_\_\_.” (John 15:5)

Yes, you can still produce activity without Jesus. What do you think Jesus means by “nothing”?

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To do anything that counts, we must \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

What does it mean to remain in Jesus? (*one sentence*)

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**Abiding is staying connected to Jesus on purpose, through Word, prayer, obedience, and constant return.**





**Abiding picture (roots by water) Circle the ROOT actions in these two passages:**

Psalm 1:2–3

*But they delight in the law of the Lord,  
meditating on it day and night.  
They are like trees planted along the riverbank,  
bearing fruit each season.  
Their leaves never wither,  
and they prosper in all they do.*

Jeremiah 17:7–8

*But blessed are those who trust in the Lord  
and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.  
They are like trees planted along a riverbank,  
with roots that reach deep into the water.  
Such trees are not bothered by the heat  
or worried by long months of drought.  
Their leaves stay green,  
and they never stop producing fruit.*

**Psalm 1:** delight | meditate day and night | planted  
**Jeremiah 17:** trust | hope | confidence | roots reach deep



Write 5 phrases that jump out (copy exact words):

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

What are the *results* promised to the rooted (Pick 4)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

---

**INTERPRET (What is this teaching about abiding?)**

Fill in the sentence:

Abiding is not striving to produce fruit.



Abiding is staying \_\_\_\_\_ to the Source.

**Psalms 1** says the rooted man *delights* and *meditates*.

In your own words, what does “meditating day and night” look like in real life? (Keep it practical, not religious.)

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**Jeremiah 17** says the rooted man *trusts* and makes the Lord his *hope and confidence*.

What does it look like to make the Lord your confidence when you feel pressure?

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**PRESSURE TEST** (Heat + drought reveal your source)

Jeremiah says the tree is not bothered by the **heat** and not worried by **drought**.

Define the terms in your life:

**My “heat” right now is:** (pressure, conflict, temptation, intensity)

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**My “drought” right now is:** (dry season, unanswered prayer, fatigue, loneliness)

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When heat hits, I tend to

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Honest line (no safe answers):

When I’m stressed, I attach to \_\_\_\_\_ instead of  
Jesus because it promises \_\_\_\_\_.

## NOTICE

- If you live disconnected, you will live driven.
- Remaining is choosing presence over performance.
- The branch does not strain. The branch stays attached.

## INK

What is one “return” you will practice today? (specific)

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## **ROOTS CHECK** (Where are you drawing life from?)

Jeremiah says the rooted man has “roots that reach deep into the water.”

Fill in the blanks:

My roots reach deepest into \_\_\_\_\_.

That source produces \_\_\_\_\_ in me.

If my roots reached deeper into Jesus, it would produce \_\_\_\_\_ in me.

Fruit diagnostic:

When I’m disconnected, the first fruit that withers is usually:  
(circle one)

<b>joy</b>	<b>peace</b>	<b>patience</b>	<b>self-control</b>
<b>gentleness</b>	<b>love</b>	<b>courage</b>	<b>kindness</b>

What does that missing fruit reveal about your connection lately?

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## **PRUNE** (The Father loves you enough to cut)

READ

**John 15:2 (NLT)** He \_\_\_\_\_ off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce \_\_\_\_\_, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.



**Hebrews 12:10–11 (NLT)** For our earthly fathers \_\_\_\_\_ us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But \_\_\_\_\_ is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But \_\_\_\_\_ there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

**James 1:2–4 (NLT)** Dear brothers and sisters, when \_\_\_\_\_ of any kind come your way, consider it an \_\_\_\_\_ for great \_\_\_\_\_. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

**John 15:8** When you produce much \_\_\_\_\_, you are my true disciples. This brings great \_\_\_\_\_ to my Father.

## RESPOND

Pruning is not punishment. It is love with a purpose.

Pruning usually feels like subtraction:

- time
- habits
- inputs
- pride
- control

Look back again Hebrews 12:10-11 and James 1:2-4 again.

In 2–3 lines: what do these teach about pruning?

---

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### **PRUNING MAP (Choose one)**

The Father is pruning me by cutting (in the blank be specific):

- ☐ a habit \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ an input \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a relationship \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a schedule \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a secret compromise \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ my need to control \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Roots go deeper when distractions get cut.

### **NOTICE**

- The Gardener is involved. You are not alone in the cut.
- What God removes is never random. It is rescue.
- What God prunes, He intends to grow.

### **INK (No vague answers)**

What is one thing you keep grabbing back that God is trying to remove?

---

---

One small obedience cut within 24 hours:

---



## PRUNING CONNECTION

### The Process of Pruning (John 15:2)

God removes what does not bear fruit.  
He prunes what is fruitful to produce more.

**Pruning Map:** Pruning usually shows up as subtraction: time, habits, inputs, pride.

Read Hebrews 12:10–11 and James 1:2–4.  
What do these teach about pruning? (*2–3 lines*)

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**Heat doesn't decide the tree. Roots do.  
Drought reveals your source.  
Fruit grows where roots stay.  
If you're drying out, don't try harder. Go deeper.**

**The Fruit of Remaining in Jesus (Underline what stands out to you.)**

**John 15:8** When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

**John 15:11** I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!





**John 15:12** This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

**John 15:15–16** I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

RESPOND (Fruit that lasts)

How do we show we are His disciples? (one sentence, from John 15:8)

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---

He shared this so our \_\_\_\_\_ may be complete. (John 15:11)

Jesus now calls us \_\_\_\_\_. (John 15:15)

Perhaps the greatest blessing of abiding with Jesus is what He now calls us. What does it mean to be called His friend? (2–3 lines)

---

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Fruit includes character transformation (Galatians 5:22–23).



**Fruit Check: Order these from strongest to weakest**

Number each fruit **1–9**:

- **9 = strongest fruit right now**
- **1 = weakest fruit right now**

Use each number **only once**.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Love**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Joy**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Peace**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Patience**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Kindness**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Goodness**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Faithfulness**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Gentleness**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Self-control**

What Difference does this make to the people around you:

With your Top Fruit:

---

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With your Bottom Fruit

---



What can you do? (Remember John 15:4-5)

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---

Right in the middle of this lesson on abiding and fruit appears  
**The Greatest Command (John 15:12)**

“Love each other as I have loved you.”

Why is this included here?



### SEE JESUS

Jesus is not inviting you to try harder. He is inviting you to stay closer.

This passage shows five heart realities:

1. Jesus is the **Source**. Not your discipline. Not your gifting. Not your intensity.
2. The Father is involved. His pruning is not punishment. It is **love with a purpose**.

3. **Fruit is inevitable** when connection is real. You do not force fruit. You protect connection.
4. **Love** is the goal. Remaining is not a quiet time label. It is staying in His love **all day**.
5. **Friendship** is offered. Jesus is not treating you like an employee. He calls you friend.

**Which of these resonates the most with you today?**

---

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**If you live disconnected, you will live driven.  
Fruit won't fix it. Connection will.**

---



**REFLECT (Answer in ink. No safe answers.)**

Choose **FOUR**.

1. Where do you feel disconnected from Jesus right now? Where do you drift first?
2. What has the Father been pruning in you that you keep grabbing back?
3. "Apart from me you can do nothing." What are you producing that looks fruitful but feels empty?
4. What fruit is missing lately? (joy, peace, self-control, love, patience, gentleness)  
What is that missing fruit telling you about connection?
5. Jesus calls you friend. What part of that feels hard to believe?

6. Who is one person God is calling you to love like Jesus loves? What would it cost you?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How would your wife|kids know you were remaining this week?** What would change in your tone, time, attention, and presence?

---



### The Wolf of Hustle and Hurry

You measure your worth by output. You call it responsibility. It is disconnection.

**Looks like:** rushing prayer, constant noise, no margin, living reactive, always behind.

**Produces:** anxiety, irritability, numbness, shallow love, hollow wins.

**Next step:** 10 minutes today with phone face down, John 15 open, one honest sentence to Jesus.

### The Wolf of Private Compromise

Porn, secret scrolling, emotional affairs, hidden habits. They cut the flow of life, then you wonder why you feel numb.

**Looks like:** secrecy, rationalizing, late-night drift, private “just this once.”

**Produces:** shame, isolation, weakened will, spiritual dullness.

**Next step:** confess to one safe brother and close one access point

### The Wolf of Control and Self-Reliance

You refuse pruning. You hold tight to what God is trying to remove.

**Looks like:** micromanaging, resisting correction, defending, refusing rest.

**Produces:** tension, conflict, burnout, fruit that does not last.

**Next step:** pray “Father, prune me” and obey one specific cut today.

My wolf shows up most when I feel:  
tired | rejected | stressed | bored | behind | lonely |  
unappreciated

My loudest wolf is: 1 | 2 | 3

My next step is:

---

### **60-second recap**

Jesus is not a tool to help your life work. He is the Source of your life.

When you stay connected, His life produces fruit in you: character, courage, purity, love, and lasting impact.

The Father is not distant. He is a Gardener: cutting what kills life, pruning what can grow, shaping you for more.

Apart from Jesus you can still produce activity, but not lasting fruit.

Remaining is choosing connection over control, presence over performance, obedience over drift.

### **Declaration option**

Jesus, You are my Source. I will not live disconnected.

Father, prune what kills life in me. I trust Your hands.

I will remain in Jesus on purpose, not by accident.

I reject hustle as my identity. I choose union.

Real fruit will grow in me because Your life is flowing through me.

I will love like Jesus, and my fruit will last.

---





## **ACTIVATE (Bold Brave Step)**

Do this within 24 hours. Keep it real. Keep it stretching.

### **Activation 1: The Abide and Ask Challenge (3 Moves)**

**Verse:** John 15:7 (NLT)

“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!”

Jesus ties **asking with authority** to two conditions:

1. **Remain in Me** (connection)
2. **My words remain in you** (alignment)

So this activation trains both, then has you ask.

#### **Step 1: Plug In (3 minutes)**

Sit still. Phone away. Hand on chest.

Say out loud:

“Jesus, I remain in You. I am not performing. I am abiding.”

Then breathe slow and whisper:

“Here I am.”

(Stay in this, listening, receiving for 60 seconds.)

Write one word that describes what you sense right now:

#### **Step 2: Load the Word (5 minutes)**

Read John 15:1–8. Imagine you are there walking with Jesus, after the upper room and on the way to Gethsemane.





As your listening (reading), **there is one phrase** that grabs you.

Write it exactly:

Now write it again as a personal declaration:

Example: "I remain in You, Jesus. Your life flows in me."

My declaration:

### **Step 3: Ask Like a Son**

Now you get specific. Jesus said "ask."

Write **three asks** in three categories:

A) One ask for your inner life (heart, mind, purity, courage, healing)

Ask:

B) One ask for your relationships (marriage, kids, forgiveness, unity, restoration)

Ask:

C) One ask for Kingdom impact (work, ministry, provision, open doors, bold witness)

Ask:

Now circle the one that feels most "alive."

Pray it out loud with faith, not hype:

"Father, in Jesus' name, because I remain in Christ and His words remain in me, I ask for \_\_\_\_\_. Let it be granted."



Seal it with obedience (The Proof of Abiding)

Write one step you will take in the next 24 hours that matches what you asked.

My step:

**Text one brother:**

*“I did the Abide and Ask Challenge. Here’s what I asked. Hold me to the step.”*

**Activation 2: Friend Practice (Hourly OR 3 checkpoints)**

Choose one:

**Option A (hourly, out loud):** For one day, once an hour, pause and say:

“Jesus, what are You doing right now?”

Invite Him into the moment. Note any nudge, peace, conviction, or joy.

**Option B (3 checkpoints):** morning | midday | night

At each checkpoint, say: “Jesus, keep me connected. What are You doing right now?”

Most awkward moment:

---

How I handled it:

---

Share one takeaway in the group chat.



## Optional Bonus Activation : Pruning Permission

Find a quiet place. Pray: “Father, You are the Gardener. Prune what is killing life in me.”

Ask three questions and write what you sense:

- What is unfruitful that You want removed?
- What is fruitful that You want refined?
- What is one small obedience step today?

Then do one concrete cut within 24 hours (choose one):

- delete one app or block one site for 7 days
- end one private habit loop
- remove one relationship or input that poisons your soul
- set one boundary that protects time with Jesus

My cut is: \_\_\_\_\_ When I will do it: \_\_\_\_\_



### SHARE (Keep it honest, not impressive)

1. What counterfeit vine have you been attached to?
2. What do you sense the Father pruning right now?
3. What cut are you making this week?
4. Who did Jesus highlight for love, and what did you do?

Father, Gardener, prune what is killing life in me.

Jesus, True Vine, keep me connected.

Holy Spirit, flow through me with love and power.

Make my fruit real, lasting, and loud in the places that matter.

## TRUE VINE CARD | “I AM the True Vine” (John 15:1)

### Card Memory Verse (NLT — John 15:1)

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.” (John 15:1)

**20-SECOND BREATH PRAYER** Jesus, True Vine, keep me connected. Father, Gardener, prune what kills life. Holy Spirit, flow through me with love and power. Make my life fruitful in what lasts..

### WOLF WATCH (3) I am laying down:

- Hurry and hustle
- Private compromise
- Control and self-reliance

### 3-STEP DAILY PRACTICE (3 minutes)

1. CONNECT: “Jesus, I remain in You right now.” (slow breath x3)
2. CUT: “Father, show me one thing to prune today.” (write one word)
3. FRUIT: “Holy Spirit, love someone through me today.” (name one person)

**QUICK DECLARATION** I will not strive for fruit.

I will stay connected to the Source.

The Father is pruning me for more.

The life of Jesus is flowing through me.

I’m remaining in Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_, and the fruit I’m believing for is \_\_\_\_\_.”





## CHAPTER 9: “THE I AM”

“Before Abraham was  
born, I AM!” (John  
8:58)

**Big Idea:** Jesus is not a helper inside your timeline. He is the Eternal One who holds your timeline.

**Key Text:** John 8:54–59 (NLT)

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Before Jesus ever took a breath in Bethlehem, God started leaving fingerprints.

Not vague spiritual hints. Not generic “could mean anything” poetry. Real promises, real patterns, real prophecies written into history in a way no human could script, control, or retrofit.

And that is what makes John 8:58 so explosive.

Long before Jesus ever touched a leper, preached a sermon, or hung on a cross, God started writing His name into history.

Not in one place.

Not in one era.

Not in one author.

Across **over 1,000 years** of Scripture, through kings and shepherds, prophets and poets, through war, exile, and empire, the Old Testament kept dropping markers. Like heaven was leaving a trail no man could fake, no religion could manufacture, no storyteller could control.

He does not even say, “I am sent by God.”

He says, “Before Abraham was born, I AM.”

And the reason that sentence lands like a hammer is because Scripture has been building the case for centuries.

And the odds do not soften the blow. They intensify it.

A famous probability illustration by Peter Stoner estimates that fulfilling just **8** specific messianic prophecies by chance would be about **1 in  $10^{17}$** . Using a larger set, Stoner's book gives an illustration for **48** prophecies at about **1 in  $10^{157}$** . (for sources see appendix 1)

I want you to see the number, the percent chance that one person could have coincidentally fulfilled all of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled:

[illegible]

I get that some of you make take the path of Loyd Christmas from Dumb and dumber here and be thinking, “So you’re



telling me there's a chance!" **Let me be clear.** The odds of one man accidentally fitting that prophetic profile are effectively zero.

That is not "interesting."

That is crushing.

Because these are not prophecies you can game.

A man cannot pick his ancestry.

He cannot choose his birthplace.

He cannot schedule the geopolitical event that forces travel at the exact moment.

He cannot control the betrayal price his enemy decides on.

He cannot choreograph soldiers gambling for his clothing.

He cannot dictate the method of his execution.

He cannot arrange his burial after he is dead.

And he cannot raise himself from the grave and then turn terrified, hiding men into bold witnesses who would rather be killed than deny what they saw. (\*See Appendix 1: Prophecy Evidence Wall for more detail.)

That is the part that grabs your heart if you let it.

The Scriptures are not just predicting "a Messiah."

God designed the evidence so that rejecting Jesus is not an intellectual accident. It becomes a heart choice..

The Old Testament builds a case so strong that unbelief is no longer neutral, it is resistance.

Because when enough independent lines converge, you are no longer dealing with coincidence. You are dealing with identity. And what emerges is not simply "Jesus the most likely candidate."

What emerges is Jesus as the only possible conclusion.





This is why the evidence feels different than every other claim in human history.

A political leader leaves documents.

A military victory leaves monuments.

A philosopher leaves ideas.

A religion leaves teachings.

But Jesus has something no other figure has: **a multi-century paper trail written before He arrived, describing Him in advance**, then a public life that collides with that trail in ways that are measurable, checkable, and outside His control.

That is why the evidence is overwhelming.

In fact, there is **no other event, no other person in human history** with this kind of layered, long-range, pre-written prophetic framework that then meets history in one life the way it does in Jesus.

So when Jesus says, “Before Abraham was born, I AM,” He is not tossing out a mystical line.

He is forcing a verdict.

Because if a thousand years of Scripture kept calling shots that converge in one life, then Jesus is not a historical accessory you can add to your lifestyle. He is not a mascot for your morals. He is not a therapist for your stress. He is not one option on a shelf of spiritual products.

He is the I AM.

Which means this is not information. It is confrontation.

You are not standing in front of an idea. You are standing in front of a Person who has been walking toward you since Genesis, who stepped into time on purpose, who took the cross on purpose, and who rose again on purpose.



So here is the gut-check:

If Jesus is the I AM, then your distance is not “being thoughtful.”  
It is resistance.

Your neutrality is not “being reasonable.”  
It is a decision.

Your delay is not “waiting for clarity.”  
It is refusing the light you already have.

Because the I AM does not show up to be evaluated.

He shows up to be worshiped.

And there are only two responses that make sense when God  
steps into your world and speaks His own Name.

You either bow, or you harden.

So do not read this like a man browsing.

Read it like a man who just realized the One who has been  
writing history is now standing in front of him, looking him in the  
eyes, and saying:

“I AM.”

And if He is, then you do not need one more sign.

You need surrender. You need worship.

---

## KINGDOM PRINCIPLE



When Jesus is I AM, your fear loses its future, your shame loses its past, and your identity stops being negotiable.

**20-SECOND BREATH PRAYER** Jesus, Eternal I AM, open my eyes.

I release my need to control time, outcomes, and perception. Speak Your name over my life again.

Holy Spirit, anchor me in what is true.



### WORD

Read John 8:54–59 (NLT). *Jesus answered, “If I want glory for myself, it doesn’t count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, ‘He is our God,’ but you don’t even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know him and obey him. Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.”*

*The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?”*



A spiritually tense dialogue between Jesus and the religious leaders (Pharisees). They challenge His authority, question His identity, and reject His message. The entire chapter is filled with escalating tension, culminating in this verse. The setting is the temple courts during the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:2, 37). Jesus has already proclaimed Himself the light of the world (v.12) and has implied His unique relationship with the Father. As the leaders accuse Him of being demon-possessed and illegitimate (v.41, 48), Jesus declares not only that Abraham rejoiced to see His day—but that He existed before Abraham.

In that moment, Jesus isn’t merely claiming antiquity—He’s claiming eternity and divinity. And His audience knew it. That’s why, in the next verse, they pick up stones to kill Him (v.59).

*Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!” At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.*

This verse is not a theological footnote. it is a fiery altar moment. Jesus didn't just say "I AM", He **embodied** it.



Sit with the for a minute, “**before Abraham was even born, I Am!**”

What does it stir in you? Worship? Stillness? Awe? Joyful surrender? ?

Write Down what The Holy Spirit is doing in you or saying to you as your reflect on this.

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This verse is a thunderclap in the spiritual realm. Jesus doesn't just reveal something about His age. He unveils His divine identity. He is **not created**, but **Creator**. Not just the Son of God, but **God the Son**. This matters because it confronts every believer with a choice:

***Will we treat Jesus as a wise teacher, or bow before Him as Yahweh in the flesh?***

If Jesus is the “I AM,” then:

- He is not distant. He is eternally present.
- He is not limited. He is all-sufficient.
- He is not unsure. He is the Truth Himself.

The God of the burning bush stood in human form and invited His people to believe in Him. In your wilderness, in your questions, in your fears—He still says, “**I AM.**”



## SUPPORT FIRE

Each of the following passage adds a different layer of fire: Name, Preexistence, Supremacy, Unchanging Presence, Total Authority, Exclusive Savior.

### **1) Exodus 3:14 — The Name**

**Why it matters:** This is ground zero. God reveals His covenant Name to Moses: “**I AM WHO I AM.**”

**How does it build John 8:58:**

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When Jesus says “I AM,” He is echoing the burning bush. He isn’t saying, “I existed.” He’s saying, “**I bear the Name.**”

### **2) John 1:1–3 — The Word is God, Creator**

**Why it matters:** It anchors Jesus as **fully divine** and **active in creation**, not merely present before Abraham.

**How does it build John 8:58:**



“Before Abraham” becomes bigger than age. It becomes **Origin**.  
Not just “I was there.”

More like: **“Everything that exists exists through Me.”**

### *3) Colossians 1:15–17 — Supreme, Before All, Holds All Together*

**Why it matters:** This turns “I AM” into **total authority**.

Jesus is not only before Abraham. He is **before everything** and **holding everything together** right now.

If He holds all things together, you can stop acting like your family, money, and future rest on your shoulders.

#### **Interaction prompt (ink):**

What are you trying to hold together that you need to hand back to the One who holds all things?

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### *4) Hebrews 13:8 — Same Yesterday, Today, Forever*

**Why it matters:** This makes “I AM” personal and present. The Jesus who confronted the Pharisees is the same Jesus confronting you. Same power. Same holiness. Same mercy. Same authority.

**Interaction prompt (one sentence):**

Where do you act like Jesus has changed, weakened, or gone silent?

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**5) Revelation 1:8 — Alpha and Omega, Almighty**

**Why it matters:** This is throne-room language.

John 8:58 is the temple courts moment. Revelation 1:8 is the cosmic reveal: He is the Lord over **beginning, end, and everything between.**

**Interaction prompt (circle + write):**

What's takes up most of your thought life right now?

Circle: past | present | future

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Write one sentence of surrender to the Alpha and Omega:

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**6) Isaiah 43:10–11 — No other God, No other Savior**

**Why it matters:** It draws a line in the sand. Yahweh alone saves.

If Isaiah says Yahweh is the only Savior, and Jesus claims Yahweh's Name and identity, then Jesus is not one option among many. He is **the only Savior.**



**Interaction prompt (badge crossover):**

What “other savior” do you run to when you’re stressed?

---

Write the replacement: “Jesus, You are my Savior. I don’t need

\_\_\_\_\_.”

**SEE JESUS**



Jesus is not making a “big claim” to win a debate. He is revealing reality.

Five heart realities in this passage:

- Jesus is **eternal**. He does not begin. He simply is.
- Jesus is **personal**. He speaks in first person, not theory.
- Jesus is confrontational **love**. He will not let you shrink Him.
- Jesus is worthy of **worship**. This is not “take it or leave it” language.
- Jesus is **Lord** over time. Your story is not bigger than His name.

**Framing line (supernatural expectation, clean):**

When God reveals His Name, He’s not giving information. He’s giving authority to trust and obey.

**Men’s gut-punch:**

If Jesus is I AM, then your excuses die. You don’t negotiate. You kneel.

One sentence: If Jesus is I AM, then in my life right now He is also the I AM of:

fear | provision | purity | calling | marriage | fatherhood | healing |  
courage | peace | other . . .



Write it: Jesus, You are the I AM of my \_\_\_\_\_.

That Means:

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### Depth Notes

The God who was “in the beginning” is the same Lord who stands in front of you now. Jesus is not merely the Messiah inside time. He is the Eternal One who rules time.

Why does that matter:

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How does it offer Hope:

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### REFLECT (No safe answers.)

1. Where are you most tempted to live like Jesus is “optional” instead of Lord?

2. What is one fear that keeps pulling you into control?

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3. What does that fear make you do? Circle one and explain (2–3 lines):

withdraw | perform | numb out | lash out | hide | hustle |  
compromise | Other

---

4. If Jesus truly holds your timeline, what do you need to stop carrying alone?

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## 60-Second Recap

- Jesus claims the divine name of God, not just pre-existence.
- The leaders understand it and reach for stones.
- This forces a decision: worship or rejection.
- If Jesus is I AM, then He is Lord over your past, present, and future.
- You do not manage Him. You surrender to Him.

## Declaration

Jesus, You are I AM. You do not change.

My past does not name me. Your name does.

My future is not my master. You are.

I renounce timeline fear. I receive eternal steadiness.

I will not negotiate with You. I will obey You.

I surrender my story to the One who holds my story.





## WOLF WATCH (3 common wolves for men here)

Circle the one that bites you most right now.

### The Wolf of Self-Made Identity

"I decide who I am. I answer to no one."

**Looks like:** pride, independence, image-management, refusing help, dodging surrender.

**Produces:** loneliness, hardness, defensiveness, spiritual distance.

**Next step:** confess one place you've resisted surrender and ask Jesus to name you there.

### The Wolf of Timeline Fear

"What if it does not work out? What if I lose it? What if I fail?"

**Looks like:** anxiety, control, workaholism, overthinking, sleeplessness.

**Produces:** exhaustion, irritability, numbness, compromise.

**Next step:** surrender one "what if" out loud and take one obedient next step anyway.

### The Wolf of Religious Performance

"I am fine because I know things about God."

**Looks like:** hard heart, judgment, hypocrisy, obeying rules without intimacy.

**Produces:** pride, hidden sin, lack of love, no power, no joy.

**Next step:** trade impressing for intimacy: 10 minutes alone with Jesus, no performance.



## **ACTIVATE (Bold Brave Step)**

. Simple. Honest. Undeniable.

### **Activation 1: The “I AM” Encounter**

Sit still. Hand open. Breathe slow.  
Say out loud: “Jesus, You are I AM.”

Ask: “Holy Spirit, where do I need to let you be I AM for me right now?”

Write what you sense:

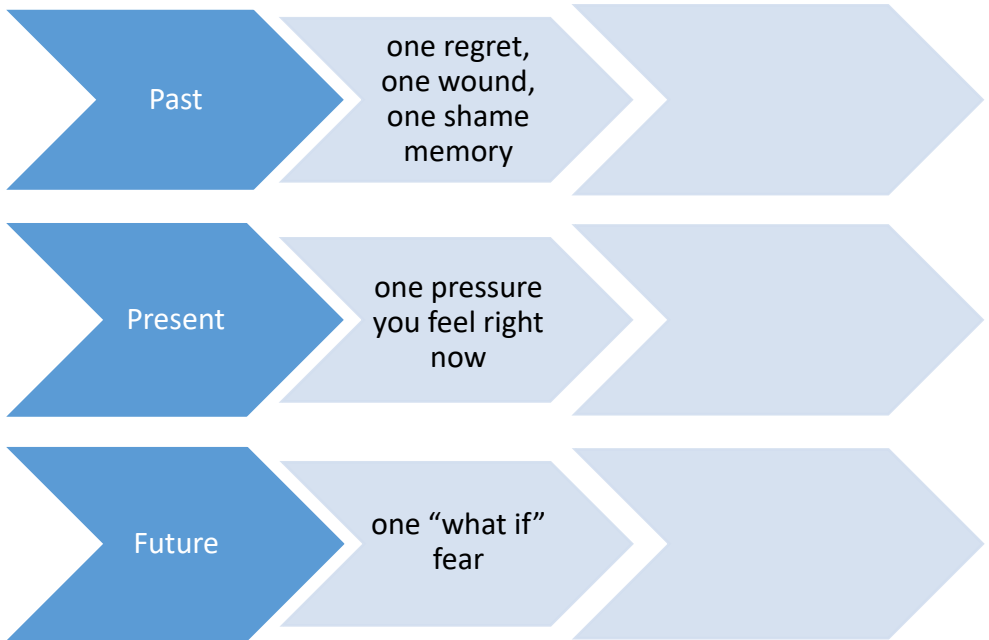
---

**Test it:** Does it align with Scripture, the character of Jesus, and the fruit of the Spirit?

Yes | Not sure yet (circle one)

---

## Activation 2: Timeline Surrender (paper, not phone):



Write each briefly, then pray:

***"Jesus, Eternal I AM, I release my timeline to You. I trust You with what was, what is, and what will be."***

## Activation 3: One Costly Obedience

Ask: "Jesus, what is one act of obedience I have been delaying?"  
Do it within 24 hours. *(If safe and wise, involve a trusted brother.)*

The act is: \_\_\_\_\_

When I will do it: \_\_\_\_\_



### **SHARE (Short. Real. No preaching.)**

1. What did you sense Jesus say in the "I AM" encounter?
2. What did you surrender in your timeline boxes?

PAST: PRESENT: FUTURE:

3. What is your one obedience step, and did you do it?



## **I AM CARD | “Before Abraham was born, I AM!” (John 8:58)**

### **Memory Verse (NLT):**

“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!’” (John 8:58)

### **Breath Prayer (20 seconds):**

Jesus, Eternal I AM, anchor me in what is true.

I release control.

I receive Your name over my life.

Holy Spirit, keep me steady..

### **Wolf Watch (3): I Am is I Am over**

- Self-made identity
- Timeline fear
- Religious performance

### **3-Step Daily Practice (2 minutes):**

1. NAME HIM: “Jesus, You are I AM.”
2. SURRENDER ONE THING: “I release control of \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. OBEY ONE NUDGE: Do the next right thing He highlights.

### **Quick Declaration:**

Jesus is I AM over my past, my present, and my future.

I will not negotiate. I will obey.





## Chapter 10

### OTHER “I AM” MOMENTS ACROSS THE NEW TESTAMENT

#### **Memory Verse (NLT):**

“And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

**Big Idea:** The seven “I AM” statements feed your discipleship. These other “I AM” moments expose your deepest needs, your current season, and the voices you have been following.



#### **KINGDOM PRINCIPLE**

The Holy Spirit often highlights the Jesus you need before you realize you need Him.

#### **20-SECOND BREATH PRAYER**

Jesus, open my eyes to who You are.  
Holy Spirit, make this personal, not academic.  
Expose what is false in me.  
Strengthen what is faith in me.  
I choose to come to You as You really are.



## WORD

### THE RANKING EXERCISE: “What do I need from Jesus right now?”

**What you are about to do:** You are not ranking verses. You are revealing where you are bleeding.

#### **Instructions (do not overthink):**

- Rank the significance of these ten “I AM” identity anchors for your life in this current season.
- **1 = most significant** (this is hitting me right now)
- **10 = least significant** (still true, just not as pressing right now)
- Important: you are not taking a Bible test. You are exposing your current battlefield.



Rank the anchors

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I AM he.”** (John 18:5–6)

“Jesus said, ‘I AM he.’ ... And they all drew back and fell to the ground.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am among you as one who serves.”** (Luke 22:27)

“I am here among you as one who serves.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am the Living One.”** (Revelation 1:18)

“I am the Living One. I died, but look, I am alive forever and ever. And I hold the keys of death and the grave.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am the Alpha and the Omega...”** (Revelation 22:13)

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am the First and the Last.”** (Revelation 1:17)

“Don’t be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am coming soon.”** (Revelation 22:20)

“Yes, I am coming soon.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am humble and gentle at heart.”** (Matthew 11:29)

“For I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am from above... I am not of this world.”** (John 8:23)

“You are from below. I am from above... I am not of this world.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am with you always...”** (Matthew 28:20)

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am sending you.”** (John 20:21)

“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”

Quick Reference (for your eyes and your heart)

#	I AM Statement	Reference	Revelation
1	"I AM he"	John 18:5–6	Divine identity and power
2	"I am among you as one who serves"	Luke 22:27	Servant-King authority
3	"I am the Living One"	Revelation 1:18	Risen King, eternal life
4	"I am the Alpha and the Omega"	Revelation 22:13	Lord of time and creation
5	"I am the First and the Last"	Revelation 1:17	Timeless One
6	"I am coming soon"	Revelation 22:20	Bridegroom returning
7	"I am gentle and humble"	Matthew 11:29	His heart revealed
8	"I am not of this world"	John 8:23	Holy, set-apart Lord
9	"I am with you always"	Matthew 28:20	Abiding presence
10	"I am sending you"	John 20:21	Missional identity

## TOP 3 = YOUR FOCUS

Circle your top 3 ranked statements. **Those are your Jesus anchors for this season.**

Your top 3 are not your personality. **They are your current battlefield.**

**My Top 3 are:**

#1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_



**One line each (two lines max):**

1. **Because:**

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2. **Because:**

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3. **Because:**

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## MIRROR MOMENT

Sit still. Hands open. Breathe slow.

Ask out loud: **“Jesus, what part of You have I been resisting?”**

Write the first honest answer. Do not solve it yet. Just name it.

Then write this line under it:

**“I don’t argue with You. I receive You.”**

Test what you sense:

- Does it align with Scripture
- Does it lead you toward repentance, faith, humility, love
- Does it feel like Jesus, not ego

**WRITE HERE:**





## SEE JESUS

# WHAT THESE “I AM” ANCHORS REVEAL ABOUT HIS HEART

Read the anchors again. Ask one question: **What is Jesus revealing about Himself?**

Keep each answer to two lines max.

1. **WITH YOU ALWAYS (Matthew 28:20)**

What does this reveal about Jesus’ presence in your fear, weakness, and pressure?

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2. **SENDING YOU (John 20:21)**

What does this reveal about your identity and purpose right now?

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3. **SERVANT-KING (Luke 22:27)**

What does this reveal about leadership in the Kingdom?

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4. **GENTLE AND HUMBLE (Matthew 11:29)**

What does this reveal about His heart toward you when you are tired and ashamed?

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5. **NOT OF THIS WORLD (John 8:23)**

What does this reveal about holiness, boundaries, and being set apart?

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6. **“I AM he” (John 18:5–6)**

What does this reveal about His authority over darkness and intimidation?

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7. **THE LIVING ONE (Revelation 1:18)**

What does this reveal about your dead places and His power to revive?

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8. **COMING SOON (Revelation 22:20)**

What does this reveal about hope, readiness, and how you spend your life?

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9. **ALPHA AND OMEGA (Revelation 22:13)**

What does this reveal about time, control, and surrendering outcomes?

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10. **FIRST AND LAST (Revelation 1:17)**

What does this reveal about what cannot be shaken when everything shifts?

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## RESISTANCE REVEAL

**The Jesus you rank low is usually the Jesus you are resisting.**

Write your lowest-ranked one (your #10):

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Ask Jesus: **“What are You trying to impart to me that I have been resisting?”**

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### **The Wolf of Identity without surrender**

“Looks like: self-made swagger, refusing correction, “I decide who I am.”

Produces: pride, isolation, fragile masculinity, quiet fear of exposure.

Next step: Kneel fast. Whisper: “Jesus, name me again.” Obey one nudge today.

### **The Wolf of Knowledge without intimacy**

Looks like: Bible facts, church activity, no abiding, no confession, no listening.

Produces: dryness, hypocrisy, cynicism, spiritual numbness

Next step: Two minutes with Jesus, no phone. Ask: “What are You saying to me?”

### **The Wolf of Power without love**

“Looks like: trying to “bless” people to feel important; spiritual flexing.

Produces: manipulation, weirdness, wounded trust.

Next step: Love first. Stay simple. Test by Scripture and fruit.



## **REFLECT (answer in ink, no safe answers)**

1. If I'm honest, the Jesus I avoid most is:  
**Lordship | holiness | authority | intimacy | correction | mission**
  
2. Why do I avoid that part of Him?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Altar question (no performing):  
What do I need to stop pretending is fine?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What is one area where I say I believe, but I'm not living like it is true?  
Be specific. Name the behavior.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. If I really let Jesus be I AM in all of my life, what changes in my tone at home this week?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_



## **ACTIVATE (Bold Brave Step)**

### **SPEAKING “I AM” OVER OTHERS (Blessing Activation)**

Ask the Holy Spirit for an anchor for three people. Then text each one:

“I was praying for you. I feel like Jesus wants you to know He is your \_\_\_\_\_ in this season.”

#### **Guardrails (read this):**

- No hype. No manipulation. Keep it simple.
- Test impressions by Scripture and love.
- Jesus has authority. We obey. Outcomes are His.
- If they respond with pain or pushback, do not argue. Ask: **“How can I pray for you right now?”**

#### **Person 1 response:**

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#### **Person 2 response:**

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#### **Person 3 response:**

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## **SHARE (heart-level, short, honest)**

1. What was your #1 “I AM” anchor and what did it expose?
2. Which anchor did you rank low but still need to submit to? Why?
3. What happened when you texted the three people? Any surprise, encouragement, resistance, open door?





## **Chapter 11: WRAP-UP**

### **WHO HE IS, WHO YOU ARE**

Over the last few weeks you have been focused on who Jesus says He is across the four Gospels, with special attention to the “I AM” statements.

The hope is simple: you leave this season with deeper love, awe, and relationship with Jesus, and a clearer sense of who you are because of who He is.

### **1) THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION**

“Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15)

Key Thought: Not “What do you know?” but “Who do you say?” It demands a personal response, not borrowed language.

**Takeaway (one paragraph max):**

Who do you say that Jesus is?

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**What changed since Lesson 1? (one paragraph max):**

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**Piercing question:** What would obedience look like if you stopped negotiating with Jesus?

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**THE “I AM” IMPACTING WHO I AM**

Key Thought: Jesus’ “I AM” statements are identity revelations. They are not slogans.

On the following page write a short, personal summary of what each means for you right now. (One line each.)

Bread of Life	
Light of the World	



EPIC DISCIPLE: WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? Part I

The Gate	
Good Shepherd	
Resurrection and Life	
Way, Truth, and Life	
True Vine	



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## THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWER OF KNOWING JESUS

Key Thought: Knowing Jesus is not information. It is relationship.

How are you currently abiding with Jesus? (One paragraph max)

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## THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP (simple and real)

**Discipleship includes:**

1. Abiding in Christ (John 15:5)
2. Loving others (John 15:12–13)
3. Making disciples (Matthew 28:19–20)

Where are you strong? Where are you avoiding?

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## FINAL HEART CHECKS (do not dodge)

Where do you need resurrection right now?



Name one lie you are done agreeing with, and the truth you will replace it with:

Lie:

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Truth:

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Where do you most need the Spirit's help right now?

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What needs pruning in your life right now?

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Where has fear of people made you quiet about Jesus?

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Are you listening? What is He saying to you right now?

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## ACTIVATION



### THE “I AM” EXPERIENCE: EMBODIED PRAYER WALK

This is not a cute wrap-up. This is a memorial stone and a line in the sand.

#### Non-negotiables (this is what makes it EPIC):

- **60 minutes minimum.** If you do not have 90, reschedule.
- **No phone.** Airplane mode. If you are using worship, set it first, then lock it and leave it.
- **Go alone.** Unless your leader assigns a 2-man version at the end.
- **Do not perform.** Do not narrate. Do not rush.
- **Bring your book and a pen.** Write what you hear. Obey what you receive.
- **One act of obedience before you sleep.** No delaying.

#### The posture:

“Jesus, I am not here to learn about You. I am here to meet You. Holy Spirit, make the real Jesus unavoidable to me.”

## STATION 1: BREAD OF LIFE

**Object:** bread, toast, cracker

**Act:** Hold it. Smell it. Break it slowly. Eat in silence.

#### Pray (out loud if you can):

“Jesus, You are my sustainer. I stop feeding on stress, approval, lust, control, and noise. I come to You.”

#### Stretch (this is where it gets real):

Ask the Holy Spirit: **“What have I been eating that is not You?”**  
Write the first honest answer.



Now do this: **fast one thing for 24 hours** that has been feeding your flesh (social media, porn, alcohol, gaming, constant news, junk food, dopamine scrolling). Name it. Commit it.

**Obedience line:**

“Jesus, I will not run back to counterfeit bread.”

Notes:

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## STATION 2: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**Object:** darkness, then a light

**Act:** Sit in a dark room for 2 full minutes. Then turn on one light.

**Pray:**

“Jesus, shine on my life. I refuse the comfort of darkness. I choose truth.”

**Stretch:**

Ask: **“Holy Spirit, what am I hiding, minimizing, or excusing?”**

Then ask: **“Who do I need to tell the truth to?”**

Write:

- The hidden thing (be specific)
- The person (name)
- The first step (text, call, appointment, confession)

**Prophetic move:**

Turn the light on and say:

“I break agreement with secrecy. I step into the light.”



Notes:

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## STATION 3: THE GATE

**Object:** a doorway

**Act:** Stand on one side of the door. Do not go through yet.

**Pray:**

“Jesus, You alone are the entrance. I reject every other doorway.”

**Stretch:**

Ask: **“What doorway have I been using besides Jesus?”**

Examples: flirting, fantasy, money, rage, performance, control, numbness, religious image.

Write it. Then **renounce it out loud:**

“In Jesus’ name, I renounce the doorway of \_\_\_\_\_. It will not shepherd me.”

**Cross the threshold:**

Walk through the doorway slowly and say:

“Jesus, I come through You. Guard my life. Guard my eyes. Guard my mouth. Guard my time.”

**Hard obedience:**

Choose **one boundary** you will install today (not someday).

Example: content filters, delete an app, device curfew, accountability text, ending a relationship, canceling a subscription, honest conversation.





Notes:

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## STATION 4: GOOD SHEPHERD

**Object:** peaceful worship or silence outdoors

**Act:** Sit. Breathe. Put one hand on your chest.

**Pray:**

“Jesus, You are my Shepherd. I renounce every other voice.”

**Stretch:**

Ask: **“What voice has been leading me lately?”**

List them: fear, porn, pride, anger, insecurity, comparison, money, comfort, people-pleasing, shame, the crowd.

Now ask: **“Jesus, what is Your voice saying to me right now?”**

Do not force it. Wait. Write what you sense. (You can use, “Jesus do you love me?” to get the conversation going.)

**Shepherding test:**

If you cannot hear anything, do not panic. Obey the last clear thing God told you that you have delayed.

Notes:

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## STATION 5: RESURRECTION AND LIFE

**Object:** earth, tree, grass, soil

**Act:** Put your hand on the ground. Stay there.

**Pray:**

“Jesus, breathe life into what is dead in me.”

**Stretch:**

Ask: **“What part of my life feels dead or shut down?”**

Marriage. Joy. Desire for God. Integrity. Courage. Calling. Purity. Hope.

Write one sentence: “This feels dead: \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Prophetic act:**

Pick up a small stone or a handful of dirt. Hold it and say:

“I refuse death as my normal. Jesus, speak resurrection into \_\_\_\_\_.”

Then ask: **“What is one resurrection step You want from me in the next 24 hours?”**

It must be specific and costly.

Notes:

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## STATION 6: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

**Object:** a short walk

**Act:** Walk slowly, eyes open, shoulders relaxed.

**Pray:**

“Jesus, be my way today. Make truth louder than my excuses.”

**Stretch:**

Ask these three questions while walking. Write answers when you stop.

1. **Way:** “Where am I drifting off the path?”
2. **Truth:** “What lie have I been agreeing with?”
3. **Life:** “Where have I been living dead when You offer life?”

**Courage move:**

Ask: “**Who needs to hear truth from me in love?**”

Then commit to that conversation within 48 hours.

Notes:

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## STATION 7: TRUE VINE

**Object:** living branch still connected, plus a dead branch if possible

**Act:** Hold the living branch first. Feel connection. Then hold the dead one.

**Ask (do not rush):**

“Holy Spirit, am I attached or drifting?”

**Stretch:**

Ask: **“What is cutting off my life with God?”**

Not theoretically. Practically.

Now ask the dangerous prayer:

**“Jesus, what needs to be pruned?”**

Write what comes. Most men already know. They just do not want to obey.

**Seal it:**

Place your hand on the living branch and pray:

“Jesus, I choose abiding. I reject independence. I surrender control. Produce fruit in me.”

## THE FINAL MOVE: PROPHETIC OBEDIENCE

This is where the activation becomes a turning point.

**1) Write your “I AM” sentence.**

One line, personal, direct, present tense:

“Jesus, right now You are my \_\_\_\_\_, and I will  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

Examples:

- “Jesus, You are my Light, and I will confess what I have hidden.”
- “Jesus, You are my Gate, and I will shut the doorway of compromise.”
- “Jesus, You are my Shepherd, and I will obey Your voice over my fear.”

**2) Send ONE message immediately.**

To a brother, leader, or your wife (as appropriate), with this exact format:

- “My obedience step in 24 hours: \_\_\_\_\_.”
- “Hold me to it. If I do not do it, call me.”

**3) Bless someone today.**

A Spirit-led act of love that costs you something: time, money, humility, apology, service.

Ask: “Holy Spirit, who?” Then do it.

Notes:

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***OPTIONAL “EPIC MODE” (for the men who want fire)***

Do this within 7 days:

- **Half-day solitude (4 hours).** Bible, journal, water. No phone.
- **Confession with a trusted brother.** Not vague. Specific.



- **One public act of courage.** Share a testimony, pray for someone's healing, initiate reconciliation, or lead your family spiritually in a way you have avoided.



Share in your group: one moment you experienced.  
Keep it simple. Keep it real.

## COMMISSION (final send-out)

You are not leaving with information. You are leaving with a Person.

Jesus is not a concept you manage.  
He is the Lord you receive.  
The Shepherd you follow.  
The Vine you cling to.  
The King you obey.

So do not drift.  
Do not negotiate.  
Do not go quiet.

Abide. Obey. Love. Speak.

## FINAL THOUGHT

Consider the days we have spent discovering I AM: an invitation, not to know about Jesus, but to know Jesus.

Not performance, but relationship.  
Not just good information we file away, but living encounter through the Holy Spirit.

The “I AM” statements are not just concepts. They are invitations to experience life in Jesus.

Close in prayer (write your own):

Jesus, after these days spent with You, I choose to

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Help me abide. Help me obey. Help me love. Help me speak.  
I want You, not just Your benefits.  
Amen.

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## Appendix 1: Prophecy Evidence Wall (not exhaustive)

OT Text	Fulfillment	Why it is outside human control (or hard to fake)
Isaiah 7:14 (virgin birth)	Matthew 1:22–23	No one chooses the circumstances of their conception.
Micah 5:2 (Bethlehem)	Matthew 2:1, 5–6	You cannot choose your birthplace or Rome’s census timing.
2 Samuel 7:12–13; Jeremiah 23:5 (Davidic line)	Luke 1:32–33; Romans 1:3	Lineage is inherited, not engineered.
Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1 (forerunner)	Matthew 3:1–3; Mark 1:2–4	Requires an independent “messenger” preceding Him.
Isaiah 53:3 (rejected)	John 1:11; John 12:37–38	Rejection by His own people is not controllable.
Zechariah 11:12–13 (30 pieces of silver)	Matthew 26:14–15; 27:3–10	Betrayal amount and aftermath are not self-directed.
Isaiah 53:7 (silent)	Matthew 27:12–14	Counterintuitive in a trial. Not a strategic “win.”
Psalms 22:16–18 (pierced, mocked, lots for clothing)	John 19:23–24, 34–37; Matthew 27:39–43	Execution details and soldiers’ actions are outside control.
Psalms 22; Isaiah 53 (suffering servant imagery)	Passion narratives	The pattern is too specific and humiliating to invent for clout.
Isaiah 53:9 (buried with the rich)	Matthew 27:57–60	Burial decisions belong to others after death.
Psalms 16:10; Isaiah 53:10–11 (resurrection)	Acts 2:25–32; 1 Corinthians 15:3–8	Resurrection is the ultimate “cannot fake” claim.



<b>OT Text</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>	<b>Why it is outside human control (or hard to fake)</b>
Genesis 3:15 (seed of the woman crushes serpent)	Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8	A meta-prophecy: the arc of Scripture culminates in one decisive victory over evil.
Genesis 12:3; 22:18 (blessing to all nations through Abraham's seed)	Galatians 3:8, 16	Global spread across languages and peoples is not humanly scalable by one crucified man.
Genesis 49:10 (scepter from Judah)	Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5	Tribal lineage is fixed; messianic expectation anchored in Judah.
Deuteronomy 18:15–19 (prophet like Moses)	Acts 3:19–23; John 6:14	Requires Moses-level authority and covenant mediation.
Hosea 11:1 (called out of Egypt)	Matthew 2:14–15	Requires geopolitical movement of a family under threat.
Isaiah 61:1–2 (good news, freedom, restoration)	Luke 4:16–21	Jesus publicly claims the text and embodies its mission.
Isaiah 35:5–6 (blind see, lame walk)	Matthew 11:4–5	Public miracles are witnessed, contested, and still cannot be explained away easily.
Isaiah 9:1–2 (light in Galilee)	Matthew 4:13–16	Ministry geography not chosen for prestige, yet prophetically marked.

<b>OT Text</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>	<b>Why it is outside human control (or hard to fake)</b>
Psalm 78:2 (teach in parables)	Matthew 13:34–35	Teaching style fulfills a textual pattern, not a marketing strategy.
Psalm 69:9 (zeal for God’s house)	John 2:13–17	Public confrontation with religious powers increases risk, not popularity.
Isaiah 8:14 (stone of stumbling)	Romans 9:32–33; 1 Peter 2:7–8	Israel’s mixed response becomes predicted outcome, not accident.
Psalm 118:22 (rejected stone becomes cornerstone)	Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:6–7	Rejection by builders (leaders) then exaltation is not controllable.
Zechariah 9:9 (king enters on a donkey)	Matthew 21:4–9; John 12:14–15	Public, checkable event tied to Scripture expectation.
Isaiah 49:6 (light to the Gentiles)	Luke 2:30–32; Acts 13:47	Gentile inclusion explodes beyond Jewish borders despite intense opposition.
Isaiah 42:1–4 (gentle servant brings justice)	Matthew 12:17–21	His demeanor matches prophecy; power without crushing.
Psalm 35:19; Psalm 69:4 (hated without cause)	John 15:24–25	Hatred from those He healed and served is not “useful” to fake.
Zechariah 13:7 (strike shepherd, sheep scatter)	Matthew 26:31, 56	Followers’ panic and failure are embarrassing details, not hero-story edits.

<b>OT Text</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>	<b>Why it is outside human control (or hard to fake)</b>
Psalms 69:21 (gall and vinegar)	Matthew 27:34; John 19:28–30	Execution scene details are carried out by others.
Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20 (no bones broken)	John 19:33–36	Roman execution logistics are not a controllable detail.
Isaiah 53:12 (numbered with transgressors)	Mark 15:27–28; Luke 22:37	Crucified between criminals: not a chosen honor.
Isaiah 53:12 (intercedes for sinners)	Luke 23:34; Hebrews 7:25	Mercy under torture is a mark of divine character, not self-preservation.
Hosea 6:2 (third-day restoration pattern)	1 Corinthians 15:4 (third day); resonance with resurrection	Pattern of “third-day” reversal woven through Scripture, fulfilled climactically in Jesus.
Jonah 1:17 (three days motif)	Matthew 12:40	Jesus ties His resurrection sign to Jonah’s pattern.
Psalms 68:18 (ascension motif)	Ephesians 4:8	The “victorious ascent” theme is applied to the risen Christ.
Psalms 110:1 (enthroned at God’s right hand)	Acts 2:34–35; Hebrews 1:13	A carpenter-crucified becomes enthroned in apostolic proclamation.
Psalms 110:4 (priest forever, Melchizedek)	Hebrews 5:6; 7:17	Priestly role without Levite lineage requires a new order.
Jeremiah 31:31–34 (new covenant,	Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6–13	A covenant that changes hearts is

<b>OT Text</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>	<b>Why it is outside human control (or hard to fake)</b>
forgiven, changed hearts)		beyond human reform; it is spiritual rebirth.
Zechariah 12:10 (look on the one they pierced, mourning)	John 19:34–37; Revelation 1:7	Piercing detail plus future turning of hearts is beyond staging.
Malachi 3:1 (Lord comes to His temple)	Luke 2:22–32; Mark 11:15–17	Temple appearances are public, recorded, and politically dangerous.
Malachi 4:5–6 (Elijah-type forerunner)	Luke 1:17; Matthew 11:13–14	Independent prophetic figure prepares hearts, not a hired promoter.
Zechariah 6:12–13; Jeremiah 23:5–6 (the Branch, righteous king)	Luke 1:32–33; 1 Corinthians 1:30	Righteousness and kingship converge in one person, not a system.
Isaiah 9:6–7 (divine child, eternal rule)	John 1:1–14; Luke 1:32–33	Claims of deity and eternal kingdom exceed normal messianic expectations.
Isaiah 35:4; Isaiah 40:10–11 (God comes to save, shepherd theme)	Luke 19:10; John 10:11	OT says God Himself comes; NT presents Jesus as Savior-Shepherd.
Isaiah 45:23 (every knee bows to the LORD)	Philippians 2:10–11	Early church applies a Yahweh-exclusive text to Jesus. Massive theological claim.
Zechariah 9:10 (rule to the nations)	Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8	Worldwide kingdom expansion from a

<b>OT Text</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>	<b>Why it is outside human control (or hard to fake)</b>
		crucifixion is not humanly probable.
Psalm 22 (whole righteous sufferer psalm)	Matthew 27; Mark 15	Not just one line. The whole emotional and narrative shape fits.
Leviticus 16 (Day of Atonement, sin-bearing, outside the camp)	Hebrews 9:11–14; 13:11–12	The sacrificial system patterns converge in Jesus’ death “outside.”
Numbers 21:8–9 (bronze serpent lifted up)	John 3:14–15	Jesus interprets the OT event as a prophetic sign of His cross.
Exodus 16 (manna pattern)	John 6:31–35	The wilderness provision becomes a direct pointer to Christ.
Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:11 (rock gives water)	1 Corinthians 10:4; John 7:37–39	OT provision becomes a Christ-centered pattern of living water.

## Endnotes

1. Got Questions, “How many prophecies did Jesus fulfill?” (accessed February 2026).
2. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, “Jesus in the Old Testament” (accessed February 2026).
3. Summit Church (NV), Advent devotional entry referencing Edersheim and Payne prophecy counts (accessed February 2026).
4. Equip the Called (Southwestern Journal of Theology), article noting Old Testament composition over about 1,000 years (accessed February 2026).



5. BibleGateway, “When Was the Bible Written?” overview of biblical book dating and composition span (accessed February 2026).
6. Peter W. Stoner, *Science Speaks* (Moody Press), probability illustration for 8 messianic prophecies (commonly cited as 1 in  $10^{17}$ ).
7. Don Stoner, “Science Speaks” online excerpts of Peter W. Stoner, “The Christ of Prophecy,” citing the 8 prophecy illustration (accessed February 2026).
8. Nick Cady, “The Statistical Probability of Jesus Fulfilling the Messianic Prophecies,” summarizing Stoner’s 48 prophecy illustration (commonly cited as 1 in  $10^{157}$ ) (accessed February 2026).
9. “The Odds of Eight Messianic Prophecies Coming True,” handout summarizing Stoner’s *Science Speaks* illustrations (accessed February 2026).