

# THE SUMMER OF JOHN

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READING PLAN

# DAY 1

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## READ

JOHN 1:1 - 5

## REFLECT

JOHN'S BIOGRAPHY OF JESUS DOESN'T BEGIN WITH JESUS' BIRTH, BUT THE BEGINNING OF TIME. JESUS IS INTRODUCED AS "THE WORD," MEANING TRUTH PERSONIFIED. HE'S NOT A WISE LIFE COACH, BUT THE SOURCE OF LIFE ITSELF. JOHN WANTS TO MAKE IT CLEAR; HE BELIEVES JESUS TO BE GOD. AND LIKE IN GENESIS, WHEN GOD ENTERS OUR STORY, HE INTERRUPTS CHAOS WITH ORDER, CLARITY AND A SENSE OF CALM.

## ASK

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT JESUS, WHAT COMES TO MIND?  
WHAT CHAOTIC AREAS DO YOU NEED CHRIST'S CLARITY AND CALM?  
WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO INVITE JESUS INTO THAT PLACE?

## ACT

TAKE TEN MINUTES TO SIT QUIETLY AND IDENTIFY ONE AREA OF YOUR LIFE THAT FEELS UNCERTAIN, HEAVY, OR UNCLEAR. THEN PRAY: "JESUS, BRING YOUR ORDER TO THE DISORDERED, AND CALM TO MY CHAOS."

# DAY 2

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## READ

JOHN 1:6–17

## REFLECT

WE CAN THINK LIFE WOULD BE EASIER IF WE COULD HAVE FACE-TO-FACE CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS. BUT WHEN GOD CAME TO EARTH IN HUMAN FORM, MOST PEOPLE DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HIM. JOHN THE BAPTIST BELIEVED HIS JOB WAS TO LOOK FOR JESUS AND POINT PEOPLE TO HIM. INSTEAD OF TRYING TO DO IT ALL HIMSELF, PROVE HIS WORTH, FIX OR CORRECT OTHERS, HE SIMPLY WANTED TO INTRODUCE THEM TO JESUS — THE GOD WHO BECAME LIKE US TO IDENTIFY WITH AND LOVE US UP CLOSE. IS THAT WHAT YOU DO?

## ASK

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD EXPECTS FROM YOU?  
WHERE HAVE YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF GOD PREVENTED YOU FROM SEEING THE SURPRISING THINGS HE'S UP TO?  
DO YOU FIND IT EASY TO POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS? WHY OR WHY NOT?

## ACT

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT GOD MIGHT BE UP TO AROUND YOU — BRINGING LOVE, RESCUE, AND REDEMPTION TO UNEXPECTED PLACES IN UNEXPECTED WAYS. POINT OUT WHAT YOU'RE SEEING TO OTHERS.

# DAY 3

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## READ

JOHN 1:18–28

## REFLECT

THERE'S SOMETHING REFRESHING ABOUT SOMEONE WHO KNOWS EXACTLY WHO THEY ARE (AND AREN'T). AS JOHN THE BAPTIST'S INFLUENCE GROWS, PEOPLE RALLY AROUND HIM AND EVEN ASSUME HE'S THE MESSIAH. BUT HE RESISTS THE ALLURE OF PRAISE AND POPULARITY. HE HUMBLER HIMSELF AND POINTS TO JESUS. THAT FEELS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSIVE IN A WORLD TELLING US TO BUILD OUR BRAND, SELF-PROMOTE, AND GRAB ALL WE CAN.

## ASK

WHERE ARE YOU TEMPTED TO MAKE LIFE MORE ABOUT YOU THAN WHAT GOD IS UP TO?

IN WHAT AREAS IS IT MOST TEMPTING TO WANT TO HOG THE GLORY OR ACCOLADES FOR YOURSELF?

HOW DO YOU FEEL LIKE GOD HAS UNIQUELY DESIGNED YOU TO POINT TO HIM?

## ACT

TAKE A FEW QUIET MINUTES TO PRAY: GOD, HELP ME TO SEE WHO YOU'VE MADE ME TO BE, AND HELP ME TO USE MY GIFTS AND ABILITIES TO POINT TO YOU INSTEAD OF MAKING A NAME FOR ME.

# DAY 4

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## READ

JOHN 1:29–34

## REFLECT

JOHN INTRODUCES JESUS AS, “THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD.” FOR THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE, THAT PHRASE CARRIED DEEP MEANING BECAUSE LAMBS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH SACRIFICE AND FORGIVENESS. JESUS DIDN’T JUST COME TO TEACH US LIFE SKILLS BUT TO ERADICATE OUR SIN PROBLEM. THE WORLD’S. THAT MEANS EVERYONE. NOT THOSE WHO HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER. RIGHTNESS WITH GOD IS A RESULT OF WHAT HE DID FOR US, NOT WHAT WE DO FOR HIM.

## ASK

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT GOD, DO YOU THINK MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU NEED TO DO OR WHAT JESUS DID FOR YOU?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS CAME FOR THE WORLD AND NOT JUST A SELECT FEW?

IS IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO RECEIVE GRACE WITHOUT FEELING LIKE YOU NEED TO EARN IT?

## ACT

REFLECT ON WHERE YOU CARRY GUILT, SHAME, OR THE PRESSURE TO FIX YOURSELF. THEN PRAY: “JESUS, THANK YOU FOR COMING TOWARD WHAT IS BROKEN IN ME INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR ME TO FIX IT FIRST.”

# DAY 5

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## READ

JOHN 1:35–50

## REFLECT

JESUS' FIRST RECORDED WORDS IN THIS GOSPEL ARE: *"WHAT DO YOU WANT?"* WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU THOUGHT DEEPLY ABOUT THAT QUESTION? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? PEACE? MEANING? DIRECTION? THEN, INSTEAD OF GIVING AN INTELLECTUAL ANSWER, JESUS INVITES THE GUY INTO AN EXPERIENCE: *"COME AND SEE."* THIS IS ALL A REMINDER THAT SKEPTICISM DOESN'T SCARE GOD. YOU CAN FOLLOW AND STILL HAVE QUESTIONS.

## ASK

WHAT DO YOU WANT MOST IN THIS SEASON OF YOUR LIFE?  
DO YOU TEND TO SEE QUESTIONS AS BARRIERS TO FAITH OR INVITATIONS TO EXPLORE?  
WHAT MIGHT IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO TAKE ONE STEP CLOSER TO JESUS?

## ACT

BE HONEST ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE TRULY SEARCHING FOR. THEN BRING THAT TO JESUS IN PRAYER. MAYBE START WITH: *"JESUS, I'M WILLING TO COME AND SEE."*

# DAY 6

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## READ

JOHN 2:1–12

## REFLECT

JESUS' FIRST RECORDED MIRACLE DOESN'T HAPPEN IN A RELIGIOUS ENVIRONMENT, BUT AT A WEDDING. IT'S A REMINDER THAT JESUS CARES ABOUT AND STEPS INTO THE ORDINARY PARTS OF OUR LIVES. WHEN THE WINE RUNS OUT, THE HOST IS EMBARRASSED, AND JESUS INTERVENES BY TURNING WATER INTO WINE. REALLY GOOD WINE. THIS IS WHAT JESUS DOES: HE TAKES ORDINARY THINGS AND TURNS IT INTO SOMETHING UNEXPECTED. HE DID IT WAY BACK THEN AND IT STILL DOES IT TODAY.

## ASK

- WHAT "ORDINARY" PART OF YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU ASSUMED GOD ISN'T INTERESTED IN?
- IS THERE AN AREA WHERE YOU NEED TRANSFORMATION BUT HAVE STOPPED EXPECTING IT?
- WHAT DOES THIS STORY REVEAL TO YOU ABOUT JESUS' CHARACTER?

## ACT

THINK ABOUT ONE AREA OF YOUR LIFE THAT FEELS ORDINARY, FRUSTRATING, OR LACKING RIGHT NOW. BRING THAT SPECIFIC SITUATION TO JESUS IN PRAYER AND SAY: "JESUS, I INVITE YOU INTO THIS PART OF MY LIFE."

# DAY 7

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## READ

JOHN 2:13–22

## REFLECT

JESUS WALKS INTO THE TEMPLE'S OUTER COURTS, A PLACE WHERE ANYONE COULD GATHER AND EXPLORE FAITH (INCLUDING UNBELIEVERS), ONLY TO FIND IT'D BEEN OVERTAKEN BY CORRUPTION AND EXPLOITATION. THE VULNERABLE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR GOD WERE INSTEAD BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF. JESUS FLIPS OUT AND FLIPS TABLES. THIS REMINDS US THAT SOMETIMES LOVE IS CONFRONTATIONAL. WHICH MEANS: YOU SHOULD EXPECT FOR THERE TO BE MOMENTS WHEN JESUS, IN LOVE, CONFRONTS THINGS THAT ARE BROKEN IN YOU. WHERE HAVE YOUR MOTIVES, ATTITUDES, OR ACTIONS BECOME CLUTTERED, DISTRACTED, OR MISALIGNED? MIGHT JESUS BE CALLING YOU OUT AND CALLING YOU UP IN THOSE AREAS, IN LOVE?

## ASK

ARE THERE AREAS YOU FEEL LIKE GOD MIGHT BE LOVINGLY CONFRONTING IN YOU? HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN JESUS DISRUPTS YOUR COMFORT WITH CONVICTION?

WHAT MIGHT JESUS WANT TO RESTORE RATHER THAN SIMPLY REMOVE IN YOUR LIFE?

## ACT

ASK YOURSELF: "IS THERE ANYTHING IN MY LIFE THAT'S CROWDING OUT WHAT MATTERS MOST?" THEN INVITE JESUS TO REVEAL WHAT NEEDS TO BE CLEARED OUT OF YOUR HEART TO HELP YOU BECOME MORE LIKE HIM.

# DAY 8

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## READ

JOHN 2:23–3:21

## REFLECT

NICODEMUS COMES TO JESUS A CURIOUS SKEPTIC. HE'S SMART, SUCCESSFUL, AND RESPECTABLE, BUT STILL FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING. HE UNDERSTANDS ACHIEVEMENT. GRACE IS A FOREIGN CONCEPT. JESUS TELLS HIM HE MUST BE "BORN AGAIN." IN OTHER WORDS — SALVATION ISN'T ABOUT SLIGHT SELF-IMPROVEMENT; IT'S ABOUT BECOMING A NEW CREATION. YOU CAN TRY HARDER AND BECOME A BIT MORE MORAL, BUT WHAT JESUS OFFERS IS COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION THROUGH FULL SURRENDER AND SUBMISSION TO HIM AS LORD.

## ASK

DO YOU TEND TO THINK OF FAITH AS SELF-IMPROVEMENT OR TRANSFORMATION? IS THERE ANYTHING MAKING YOU FEEL LIKE YOU NEED TO "FIX YOURSELF" BEFORE COMING TO GOD? WHAT DOES THE IDEA OF STARTING OVER SPIRITUALLY STIR IN YOU?

## ACT

SPEND TIME NAMING WHERE YOU LONG FOR A FRESH START. THEN PRAY: "GOD, I DON'T JUST NEED BETTER HABITS. I NEED YOUR TRANSFORMING WORK IN ME. HELP!"

# DAY 9

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## READ

JOHN 3:22–36

## REFLECT

OTHERS' SUCCESS CAN STIR COMPARISON, INSECURITY, AND FEAR IN US. THAT TENSION SHOWS UP WHEN JOHN THE BAPTIST'S FOLLOWERS NOTICE JESUS GAINING POPULARITY. BUT INSTEAD OF BECOMING DEFENSIVE, JOHN RESPONDS WITH HUMILITY. HE SAYS, "[CHRIST] MUST BECOME GREATER, AND I MUST BECOME LESS." THIS ISN'T SELF-PITY, IT'S CLARITY. HE HASN'T GIVEN UP. HE'S BEEN SET FREE. LESS EGO. LESS STRIVING. LESS TO PROVE. JOHN HAS NO NEED TO BE THE MAIN CHARACTER. AND LIFE BECOMES LIGHTER WHEN EVERYTHING DOESN'T HAVE TO REVOLVE AROUND INSULATING YOUR OWN IMPORTANCE.

## ASK

- WHERE DOES COMPARISON SHOW UP MOST OFTEN IN YOUR LIFE?
- WHAT DOES "LESS OF ME, MORE OF JESUS" FEEL LIKE EMOTIONALLY?
- IS THERE AN AREA WHERE YOUR IDENTITY HAS BECOME TOO TIED TO RECOGNITION OR SUCCESS?

## ACT

PAY ATTENTION TO MOMENTS WHEN COMPARISON OR INSECURITY SURFACES IN YOU. INSTEAD OF LEANING INTO THOSE FEELINGS, PRAY: "JESUS, HELP ME TO RELY MORE ON YOU AND LESS ON NEEDING TO PROVE MYSELF."

# DAY 10

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**READ**

JOHN 4:1–42

## REFLECT

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE GOSPEL. JESUS INTENTIONALLY ENGAGES A SAMARITAN WOMAN, CROSSING SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BOUNDARIES TO DO SO. WHAT BEGINS AS A CONVERSATION ABOUT WATER BECOMES A METAPHOR FOR THE DEEPER LONGINGS OF HER SOUL. LIKE HER, WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SEARCH FOR FULFILLMENT IN PLACES THAT ULTIMATELY LEAVE US EMPTY. JESUS OFFERS SOMETHING DIFFERENT: LIVING WATER, A KIND OF INNER RENEWAL THAT GOD GRACEFULLY GIVES. JESUS FULLY SEES HER STORY (EVEN THE WORST BITS) AND STILL MOVES TOWARD HER RATHER THAN AWAY FROM HER. THIS IS WHO GOD IS!

## ASK

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR FULFILLMENT THAT LEAVES YOU FEELING THIRSTY?

IS IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO BELIEVE GOD CAN FULLY KNOW YOU AND STILL MOVE TOWARD YOU?

WHAT STANDS OUT MOST TO YOU ABOUT HOW JESUS TREATS THIS WOMAN?

## ACT

TAKE A MOMENT TO HONESTLY ASK YOURSELF: "WHAT AM I HOPING WILL SATISFY ME RIGHT NOW?" BRING THAT ANSWER TO JESUS IN PRAYER AND ASK HIM TO MEET THE DEEPER THIRST BENEATH IT.

# DAY 11

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## READ

JOHN 4:43–54

## REFLECT

A DESPERATE FATHER COMES TO ASK JESUS TO HEAL HIS SON, ANTICIPATING THAT JESUS WOULD DROP EVERYTHING AND IMMEDIATELY COME WITH HIM. INSTEAD, JESUS TELLS HIM TO GO HOME AND THAT HIS BOY WILL LIVE. CURVE BALL. NOW THE MAN HAS A CHOICE TO: TRUST WITHOUT SEEING OR DEMAND MORE PROOF. FAITH OFTEN ASKS US TO MOVE BEFORE EVERYTHING MAKES SENSE. THIS FATHER MAKES THIS CHOICE. AND MORE TIMES THAN NOT, FAITH LOOKS LESS LIKE HAVING ALL THE ANSWERS AND MORE LIKE TAKING THE NEXT STEP OF OBEDIENCE ANYWAY.

## ASK

WHAT ARE THE MOST DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES FOR YOU TO TRUST GOD IN?  
WHERE NOW IS GOD INVITING YOU TO TRUST WITHOUT CERTAINTY?  
DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS IS STILL TRUSTWORTHY EVEN WHEN THE TIMELINE FEELS UNCLEAR?

## ACT

IDENTIFY ONE AREA WHERE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR CERTAINTY BEFORE TAKING STEP. BRING THAT TO GOD AND PRAY: "LORD, HELP ME TRUST YOUR WORD, EVEN WHEN I CAN'T YET SEE THE OUTCOME."

# DAY 12

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## READ

JOHN 5:1–15

## REFLECT

“WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET WELL?” SERIOUSLY? OF COURSE HE DOES. BUT WHAT JESUS IS REALLY ASKING IS: “DO YOU WANT TO DO WHAT’S NECESSARY TO GET WELL? ARE YOU WILLING TO WALK THROUGH THE CHANGES THAT WILL REQUIRE?” THAT’S A MUCH MORE COMPLICATED QUESTION. WE CAN GET SO USED TO OUR PAIN, PATTERNS OR WAYS OF THINKING, THAT WE DON’T WANT TO LET GO OF THE FAMILIAR TO MOVE FORWARD. THIS GUY DOESN’T ANSWER JESUS’ QUESTIONS. INSTEAD, HE JUSTIFIES HOW HE GOT TO WHERE HE’S AT. JESUS IS CHALLENGING THIS MAN TO HOPE AGAIN, AND TO ATTACH ACTION TO THAT HOPE. JESUS ALWAYS INVITES US TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR OWN HEALING—THROUGH BELIEF AND BEHAVIOR.

## ASK

ARE THERE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU’VE QUIETLY STOPPED EXPECTING CHANGE?

DO YOU TEND TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU’RE STUCK MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT HEALING COULD LOOK LIKE?

WHAT MIGHT IT LOOK LIKE TO RESPOND HONESTLY TO JESUS’ QUESTION?

## ACT

ASK YOURSELF: “WHERE HAVE I LOST HOPE?” BRING THAT PLACE TO JESUS HONESTLY AND PRAY: “HELP ME BELIEVE HEALING AND CHANGE ARE STILL POSSIBLE.”

# DAY 13

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**READ**

JOHN 5:16–30

## REFLECT

AFTER HEALING A MAN, JESUS CLAIMS TO HAVE A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THAT RILES UP THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS AROUND HIM. THEY HEAR HIM CLAIMING TO BE ONE WITH GOD. THAT'S HERESY (UNLESS IT'S TRUE). JESUS DIDN'T SEE HIMSELF AS JUST ANOTHER WISE TEACHER WITH A FEW HELPFUL IDEAS, BUT AS GOD IN HUMAN FORM. AND THAT FORCES US TO WRESTLE WITH WHO HE IS TO US.

## ASK

WHO DO YOU PERSONALLY BELIEVE JESUS IS?

HAVE YOU REDUCED JESUS TO SOMEONE ADMIRABLE WITHOUT ALLOWING HIM TO BE AUTHORITATIVE?

WHAT FEELS CHALLENGING ABOUT JESUS' CLAIMS IN THIS PASSAGE?

## ACT

SPEND A FEW MOMENTS TODAY WRESTLING WITH WHO YOU BELIEVE JESUS TO BE. THEN BRING YOUR HONEST ANSWER — NOT YOUR IDEAL ANSWER — TO GOD IN PRAYER. INVITE HIM INTO THE CONVERSATION.

# DAY 14

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## READ

JOHN 5:31–47

## REFLECT

JESUS CONFRONTS SOME RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO KNOW A LOT ABOUT SCRIPTURE BUT MISS THE POINT OF IT. IT'S A REMINDER THAT FAITH ISN'T ABOUT MEMORIZING INFORMATION, MASTERING RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE, OR MIMICKING THE RIGHT DISCIPLINES. THE BIBLE IS MEANT TO INTIMATELY CONNECT US TO GOD, NOT BECOME A SUBSTITUTE FOR HIM. AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS. YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING FIGURED OUT OR ACHIEVE SOME SPECIAL SPIRITUAL STATUS TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. YOU SIMPLY TAKE SMALL STEPS TOWARD JESUS.

## ASK

DO YOU TEND TO APPROACH FAITH MORE AS INFORMATION OR RELATIONAL CONNECTION?

HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN SO FAMILIAR WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL ROUTINE THAT FAITH BEGINS FEELING BLAND?

## ACT

THE NEXT TIME YOU OPEN SCRIPTURE, PAUSE BEFORE READING AND PRAY: "GOD, HELP ME TO NOT JUST LEARN INFORMATION TODAY BUT TO ENCOUNTER YOU PERSONALLY."

# DAY 15

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**READ**

JOHN 6:1–15

## **REFLECT**

THOUSANDS OF HUNGRY PEOPLE ARE STANDING BY, AND THE DISCIPLES CAN ONLY SEE WHAT THEY DON'T HAVE AND CAN'T DO. HOW INCREDIBLY HUMAN. WHEN WE'RE OVERWHELMED, OUR TENDENCY IS TO TAKE INVENTORY OF OUR INSUFFICIENCY. "I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH (FILL IN THE BLANK)." JESUS DOES THE OPPOSITE. "WHAT DO YOU HAVE? START THERE." THIS STORY IS JUST AS MUCH ABOUT PERSPECTIVE AS IT IS PROVISION. HE WANTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO THINK DIFFERENTLY. AND WHEN THEY PLACE WHAT LITTLE THEY HAVE IN HIS HANDS, IT MIRACULOUSLY EXPANDS TO FILL THE NEED. ARE YOU WILLING TO DO THE SAME?

## **ASK**

WHERE IN YOUR LIFE DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH?  
DO YOU TEND TO FOCUS MORE ON SCARCITY OR POSSIBILITY?  
WHAT SMALL THING MIGHT GOD BE ASKING YOU TO TRUST HIM WITH?

## **ACT**

THINK OF ONE AREA WHERE YOU FEEL INSUFFICIENT RIGHT NOW, AND PRAY: "GOD, WHAT I HAVE AVAILABLE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE ENOUGH, BUT I PLACE IT IN YOUR HANDS WITH A SENSE OF HOPE. SURPRISE ME."

# DAY 16

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## READ

JOHN 6:16–21

## REFLECT

SOME STORMS ARRIVE WITHOUT WARNING. THAT'S THIS SCENE. AND FEAR QUICKLY TAKES ROOT. THEN JESUS APPEARS. BUT IN A WAY THEY NEVER EXPECTED. THAT SCARES THEM TOO. BEEN THERE? SOMETIMES THE HELP WE NEED ARRIVES IN A WAY WE DIDN'T ANTICIPATE OR EVEN RECOGNIZE. AND IN THAT MOMENT, JESUS SAYS: "DON'T BE AFRAID. I AM HERE." AND THIS STILLNESS SETTLES THEIR SOULS. HE DOESN'T PROMISE TO ERADICATE THE STORM. HE PROMISES HIS PRESENCE. IT'S NOT ALWAYS WHAT WE'RE AFTER, BUT IT IS BETTER. PEACE ISN'T THE ABSENCE OF CHAOS. IT'S AN AWARENESS THAT SOMETHING GREATER IS WITH YOU.

## ASK

WHAT FEELS STORM-LIKE IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?

HAVE YOU EVER STRUGGLED TO RECOGNIZE HELP BECAUSE IT ARRIVED DIFFERENTLY THAN EXPECTED?

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO TRUST JESUS' PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE OF UNCERTAINTY?

## ACT

TAKE A MOMENT TO NAME THE STORM YOU'RE FACING — WHETHER EXTERNAL PRESSURE OR INTERNAL ANXIETY — AND PRAY: "JESUS, I MAY NOT CONTROL THIS, BUT HELP ME TRUST THAT YOU ARE WITH ME IN IT."

# DAY 17

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## READ

JOHN 6:22–27

## REFLECT

THE CROWD GOES LOOKING FOR JESUS, BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE EXTRA HOLY. THEY JUST WANT WHAT THEY THINK JESUS CAN DO FOR THEM. WE SOMETIMES DO THE SAME. IT'S TEMPTING TO GO TO GOD PRIMARILY FOR WHAT WE HOPE HE'LL FIX, IMPROVE, OR PROVIDE. AND GOD DOES CARE ABOUT EVERY ONE OF OUR NEEDS. BUT GOD IS AFTER A DEEP CONNECTION, NOT A TRANSACTIONAL INTERACTION. AND EVEN THOUGH WE AREN'T ALWAYS AWARE OF IT, WE ARE TOO. JESUS ISN'T A GENIE. HE'S A CLOSE, CARING FRIEND.

## ASK

WHAT DO YOU MOST OFTEN LOOK TO FOR SATISFACTION OR SECURITY?  
HAVE YOU EVER APPROACHED GOD MORE FOR OUTCOMES THAN RELATIONSHIP?  
WHAT DEEPER HUNGER MIGHT EXIST BENEATH YOUR VISIBLE NEEDS?

## ACT

ASK YOURSELF: "WHAT AM I REALLY CHASING RIGHT NOW?" THEN BRING THAT ANSWER BEFORE GOD AND PRAY: "HELP ME TO DESIRE A DEEP CONNECTION WITH YOU, NOT JUST WHAT I THINK YOU CAN DO."

# DAY 18

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## READ

JOHN 6:28–40

## REFLECT

JUST LIKE THOSE IN THE STORY, WE'RE ALWAYS ASKING: "WHAT SHOULD WE DO?" BUT WE OFTEN WANT MORE THAN DIRECTION. WE WANT A FORMULA, A CHECKLIST, A FOOL-PROOF PLAN. WE WANT A GUARANTEE, AN INSURANCE POLICY. BUT GOD OPERATES IN THE REALM OF FAITH. AND IN THIS STORY, JESUS SIMPLY SAYS: "BELIEVE IN THE ONE HE HAS SENT." SO, NOTHING TO DO, EARN, OR ACHIEVE, JUST SOMEONE TO CONNECT WITH AND RELATE TO. THAT CAN BE TOUGH FOR SOME OF US. BUT JESUS IS ALWAYS REMINDING US THAT WHAT THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH IS TRUSTING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

## ASK

DO YOU TEND TO APPROACH FAITH AS A TO-DO LIST OR A TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP?

WHERE DO YOU FEEL A DEEP HUNGER OR LONGING IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT GOD OFFERS RELATIONSHIP AS A GIFT RATHER THAN A REWARD?

## ACT

WHEN YOU CATCH YOURSELF STRIVING SPIRITUALLY, PAUSE AND PRAY: "GOD, HELP ME TRUST YOU MORE THAN I TRUST MY OWN EFFORT."

# DAY 19

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## READ

JOHN 6:41–51

## REFLECT

SOMETIMES WHAT JESUS SAID INSPIRED PEOPLE, AND OTHER TIMES IT CHALLENGED AND EVEN OFFENDED PEOPLE. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES. THE CROWD IS SURPRISED AND CONFUSED BY HIS CLAIMS. THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD HIM PEGGED, BUT IT TURNS OUT, THEIR VIEW OF HIM WAS, AT THE VERY LEAST, LIMITED, AND AT MOST, TOTALLY INCORRECT. SOMETIMES OUR ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT JESUS MAKE IT HARDER TO HEAR WHAT HE'S REALLY SAYING. THE QUESTION IS: AS YOU GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, ARE YOU WILLING TO BE SURPRISED BY HIM, OR HAVE YOU BOXED HIM IN SO NARROWLY THAT WE MISS WHAT HE'S UP TO?

## ASK

HAVE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT JESUS EVER MADE IT HARDER TO HEAR HIM?  
WHAT AREAS IS IT MOST DIFFICULT TO ALLOW JESUS TO CHALLENGE YOU IN?  
HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN GOD CORRECTS YOU INSTEAD OF JUST COMFORTING YOU?

## ACT

BRING ONE HONEST QUESTION OR STRUGGLE TO GOD TODAY INSTEAD OF HIDING IT, AND PRAY: "JESUS, HELP ME STAY OPEN TO YOU, EVEN WHEN YOU SAY, DO, OR ASK SOMETHING OF ME THAT IS OUT OF THE BOX."

# DAY 20

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## READ

JOHN 6:52–59

## REFLECT

EAT HIS FLESH AND DRINK HIS BLOOD? WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? BUT JESUS IS USING A METAPHOR TO DIG AT SOMETHING DEEPER. FOOD AND DRINK ARE ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE. AND JESUS BELIEVES A CONNECTION WITH OUR CREATOR IS EVEN MORE SO. IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE DISTANT, CASUAL, OR OCCASIONAL. IT'S MEANT TO BE ONE OF CONSTANT DEPENDENCE. THAT'S A CHALLENGING THOUGHT. IN FACT, JESUS' WORDS SHOULD FREQUENTLY STRETCH, CHALLENGE, AND PUSH US TO SURRENDER MORE OF OURSELVES TO HIM. DAILY.

## ASK

HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN SOMETHING ABOUT FAITH FEELS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND?

DO YOU SEE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS AS AN OCCASIONAL NICE-TO-HAVE OR AN ESSENTIAL MUST-HAVE?

## ACT

CONSIDER WHERE YOU'VE BEEN TREATING YOUR CONNECTION WITH GOD AS OPTIONAL OR OCCASIONAL. ASK HONESTLY: "WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO DEPEND ON JESUS MORE INTENTIONALLY THIS WEEK?"

# DAY 21

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## READ

JOHN 6:60–71

## REFLECT

THIS PASSAGE CAPTURES A TURNING POINT WHERE MANY WHO HAD BEEN FOLLOWING JESUS WALKED AWAY. HIS TEACHINGS STARTED FEELING TOO CONFRONTATIONAL, TOO CHALLENGING, TOO CONFUSING. IT GOT HARD. EVEN THOSE CLOSE TO HIM WRESTLED WITH WHETHER IT WAS REALLY WORTH IT TO FOLLOW HIM. IN THIS STORY, PETER SPEAKS UP, BUT HE DOESN'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND OR ENJOY EVERYTHING JESUS SAYS, DOES, OR ASKS OF HIM. BUT HE KNOWS HIS CONNECTION TO JESUS IS WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING. THAT'S MATURITY.

## ASK

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED DISAPPOINTMENT OR CONFUSION IN YOUR FAITH JOURNEY?

WHAT DO YOU TEND TO DO WHEN FOLLOWING JESUS FEELS DIFFICULT?

RIGHT NOW, DO YOU RELATE MORE TO PETER'S FAITH IN UNCERTAINTY, OR TO THOSE FRUSTRATEDLY WALKED?

## ACT

IF THERE'S AN AREA WHERE FAITH FEELS DIFFICULT OR UNCLEAR RIGHT NOW, BRING IT UP TO GOD AND PRAY: "JESUS, I MAY NOT UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING, BUT HELP ME TO KEEP MOVING IN YOUR DIRECTION."

# DAY 22

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## READ

JOHN 7:1–24

## REFLECT

FEW THINGS ARE HARDER THAN WAITING. ONCE WE FIGURE OUT WHAT WE WANT, WE WANT IT NOW. JESUS' OWN BROTHERS ARE FRUSTRATED BY HIS TIMING. IF JESUS IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS, WHY DOESN'T HE EMBRACE HIS CALLING MORE PUBLICLY. HE SHOULD SAY MORE, DO MORE, TEACH MORE OPENLY. BUT JESUS ISN'T STALLING. HE'S STRATEGIC. HE OPERATES ACCORDING TO A DIFFERENT TIMETABLE — ONE SHAPED BY GOD'S PURPOSES, NOT HUMAN PRESSURE. THIS PASSAGE REMINDS US THAT DELAY IS NOT ALWAYS DENIAL. SOMETIMES WHAT FEELS LIKE INACTION IS INTENTIONAL TIMING. BUT THAT CAN BE HARD FOR US TO ACCEPT.

## ASK

WHERE ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH GOD'S TIMING RIGHT NOW?

HAVE YOU EVER MISTAKEN DELAY FOR GOD'S ABSENCE, REJECTION, OR LACK OF CARE?

HOW QUICK ARE YOU TO FORM CONCLUSIONS BASED ON HOW THINGS LOOK AND FEEL IN THE MOMENT?

## ACT

WHERE DO YOU FEEL IMPATIENT OR UNCLEAR? BRING THAT TO GOD AND PRAY: "LORD, HELP ME TRUST YOUR TIMING, EVEN WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DOING."

# DAY 23

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## READ

JOHN 7:25–36

## REFLECT

THE TEMPLE CROWD STRUGGLES TO BELIEVE JESUS COULD BE ALL THAT HE CLAIMS TO BE BECAUSE THEY'VE SEEN HIM AROUND AND THINK THEY KNOW WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF. IT CAN BE HARD TO ACCEPT THAT PEOPLE ARE SOMETHING MORE THAN WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED THEY ARE. BUT THESE PEOPLE'S NARROW ASSUMPTIONS HAVE PREVENTED THEM FROM PERCEIVING WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM. FAMILIARITY CAN BREED BLINDNESS. COULD YOU BE MISSING WHAT GOD IS DOING OR WHO HE'S DOING IT THROUGH BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU HOW HE WORKS? IS IT POSSIBLE GOD STILL INTENDS TO SURPRISE YOU?

## ASK

WHERE HAVE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT JESUS SHAPED WHAT YOU THINK HE'S CAPABLE OF?

WHERE MIGHT FAMILIARITY BE LIMITING YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT GOD'S UP TO AROUND YOU?

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO OPEN YOURSELF TO NEW AND UNEXPECTED WAYS GOD IS MOVING?

## ACT

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT GOD OR FAITH, AND PRAY: "HELP ME SEE YOU CLEARLY AND COMPLETELY, NOT JUST THROUGH THE LENS OF MY CURRENT ASSUMPTIONS."

# DAY 24

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## READ

JOHN 7:37-53

## REFLECT

JESUS SILENCES A CROWD DURING A MAJOR RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL AND MAKES A BOLD INVITATION: "ANYONE WHO IS THIRSTY MAY COME TO ME." THE METAPHOR ISN'T HARD TO DECODE. WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE THIRSTY; TO LONG FOR SOMETHING WE NEED BUT DON'T HAVE. SPIRITUALLY, THAT THIRST SHOWS UP AS RESTLESSNESS, LONELINESS, EMPTINESS, ANXIETY, OR THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING'S MISSING. WE TRY TO SILENCE IT IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS, NONE OF WHICH WORK WELL OR LAST LONG. BUT JESUS OFFERS 'LIVING WATER', A SENSE OF FULFILLMENT TIED TO A PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH HIM, NOT PERFECT CIRCUMSTANCES.

## ASK

WHERE DO YOU FEEL THE MOST SPIRITUAL THIRST RIGHT NOW?

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN TURNING TO ADDRESS THE LONGINGS IN YOU?

DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS CAN MEET YOUR DEEPEST NEEDS, OR DOES THAT FEEL TOO FAR FETCHED TO TRUST?

## ACT

ASK YOURSELF: "WHAT AM I THIRSTY FOR?" BRING YOUR ANSWER TO JESUS IN  
ASK HIM TO MEET THE DEEPER NEED THAT'S DRIVING IT.

# DAY 25

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## READ

JOHN 8:1–11

## REFLECT

A WOMAN IS DRAGGED NAKED AND THROWN AT JESUS' FEET. SHE'S PUBLICLY SHAMED SO SOMEONE ELSE CAN MAKE A POINT. TO THEM, SHE'S NOT A PERSON, SHE'S JUST A PROP. JESUS DOESN'T RESPOND IMMEDIATELY. HE PAUSES. JESUS SLOWS THE SCENE DOWN. HE REFUSES TO BE MANIPULATED INTO A REACTION. THEN HE SAYS: "LET THE ONE WHOSE WITHOUT THROW THE FIRST STONE." ONE BY ONE, THEY ALL LEAVE. NOW IT'S JUST HER AND JESUS, WHO DOESN'T MINIMIZE SIN OR WEAPONIZE SHAME. HE PATIENTLY GIVES GRACE, SHOWS FORGIVENESS, AND INVITES HER INTO A NEW LIFE. IT'S WHAT HE ALWAYS DOES.

## ASK

DO YOU RELATE MORE TO THE WOMAN'S SHAME OR THE CROWD DEMANDING SHE BE DEALT WITH?

HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN YOUR OWN FAILURES ARE EXPOSED?

WHAT DOES THIS STORY TEACH YOU ABOUT THE WAY JESUS HANDLES BROKENNESS?

## ACT

IF THERE'S AN AREA OF SHAME OR REGRET YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING? BRING IT TO JESUS AND PRAY: "GOD, THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING TO ME WITH TRUTH WITH GRACE. HELP ME TO SEE AND RECEIVE BOTH."

# DAY 26

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## READ

JOHN 8:12–20

## REFLECT

DARKNESS CHANGES EVERYTHING. VISIBILITY EVAPORATES. MOVEMENT SLOWS. CONFIDENCE DISAPPEARS. WE CAN EXPERIENCE IT PHYSICALLY AND EXISTENTIALLY. YOU'VE STUMBLERED THROUGH A SEASON OF UNCERTAINTY, CONFUSION, AND THE FEAR OF THE FUTURE. IT'S INTO THIS REALITY THAT JESUS SPEAKS: "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." HE'S SAYING, "IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S REAL, LOOK TO ME. I'LL GIVE YOU THE SOBERING TRUTH, AND HOPEFUL GUIDANCE YOU'RE AFTER. IN OTHER WORDS — THE CLOSER WE GET TO HIM, THE CLEARER WE SEE EVERYTHING — INCLUDING OURSELVES, OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE BEST WAY FORWARD.

## ASK

WHERE DO YOU FEEL UNCERTAIN OR UNCLEAR RIGHT NOW?  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO LET JESUS GUIDE YOUR LIFE (IN A PRACTICAL SENSE)?  
ARE THERE AREAS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN RELYING MORE ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE THAN HIS?

## ACT

ASK YOURSELF: "WHERE DO I MOST NEED CLARITY?" BRING YOUR ANSWER TO JESUS AND PRAY: "IF YOU ARE THE LIGHT, HELP ME SEE WHAT I NEED TO SEE RIGHT NOW."

# DAY 27

.....  
**READ**

JOHN 8:21–30

## REFLECT

THE ONLY PEOPLE INTERESTED IN RESCUE ARE THOSE WHO REALIZE THEY'RE STUCK. THAT'S PART OF THE POINT JESUS IS MAKING HERE. IF GOD DOESN'T ALLOW US TO SEE THE DEPTH OF OUR BROKENNESS, WE WON'T KNOW TO ASK FOR HEALING. IT'S JUST NOT FUN TO SWAN DIVE INTO OUR OWN DARK SIDE. WE TEND TO PRETEND WE'RE MORE PUT TOGETHER AND IN CONTROL THAN WE ARE. BUT DENIAL PREVENTS US FROM EVER BECOMING WHOLE. NO ONE GETS BETTER BY ACTING AS IF THEY ALREADY ARE. CONVICTION IS A COMPONENT OF GRACE.

## ASK

HOW DO YOU FEEL IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT YOUR OWN SIN OR BROKENNESS?  
IS IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO SEE YOUR NEED FOR GOD'S GRACE?  
WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO TREAT CONFRONTATION AS AN INVITATION RATHER THAN AN ATTACK?

## ACT

ASK GOD TODAY FOR HONEST CLARITY ABOUT YOUR OWN LIFE — NOT TO SHAME YOU, BUT TO HELP YOU SEE WHERE HEALING AND FREEDOM ARE NEEDED.

# DAY 28

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## READ

JOHN 8:31–59

## REFLECT

WE ALL LOVE THE IDEA OF FREEDOM, NOT THAT WE AGREE ON WHAT IT MEANS. SOME OF US DEFINE IT AS DOING WHATEVER YOU WANT HOWEVER AND WHENEVER YOU WANT. BUT JESUS OFFERS A DIFFERENT DEFINITION. HE TAUGHT UN-BOUNDRIED INDEPENDENCE CREATES MORE BONDAGE THAN FREEDOM. OFTEN WHAT'S HOLDING US CAPTIVE IS SOMETHING WE DON'T EVEN SEE AS A PROBLEM — UNHEALTHY PATTERNS, ATTITUDES, ATTACHMENTS, APPROACHES. ALL THESE THINGS OFFER US A FALSE SENSE OF CONTROL AND TEMPORARY ESCAPISM, BUT NOT TRUE TRANSFORMATION. THE QUESTION IS: WILL YOU EMBRACE HIS BOUNDARIES?

## ASK

WHAT DOES FREEDOM MEAN TO YOU?

WHAT PATTERNS, HABITS, OR MINDSETS FEEL HARDER TO WALK AWAY FROM THAN YOU'D LIKE TO ADMIT?

WHERE MIGHT JESUS BE INVITING YOU INTO A DEEPER FORM OF TRUE FREEDOM?

## ACT

PINPOINT ONE PATTERN OR MINDSET THAT FEELS LIMITING. BRING IT TO JESUS AND PRAY: "SHOW ME WHAT FREEDOM COULD LOOK LIKE HERE. WHAT MIGHT I NEED TO DO DIFFERENTLY?"

# DAY 29

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## READ

JOHN 9:1–41

## REFLECT

WHEN THE DISCIPLES COME ACROSS A BLIND MAN, THEIR IMPULSE IS TO ASSIGN BLAME. WHOSE FAULT IS HIS CONDITION? DON'T WE DO THE SAME WHEN WE STUMBLE ONTO SUFFERING THOUGH? WE WANT TO KNOW WHY. BUT JESUS SHIFTS THE CONVERSATION FROM, "HOW'D WE GET HERE?" TO "WHERE WE GO FROM HERE?" AND THE IRONY IS: THE BLIND MAN REGAINS HIS PHYSICAL SIGHT, BUT THE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE AROUND HIM REMAIN SPIRITUALLY BLIND. WHAT MIGHT GOD BE TRYING TO GET YOU TO SEE FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE?

## ASK

WHEN HARDSHIP SHOWS UP, DO YOU TEND TO SEARCH FOR BLAME, MEANING, OR SOMETHING ELSE?

ARE THERE AREAS WHERE YOU MAY BE RESISTING WHAT GOD WANTS TO SHOW YOU?  
WHAT WOULD SPIRITUAL CLARITY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

## ACT

ASK GOD: "WHAT AM I NOT SEEING CLEARLY?" AND REMAIN OPEN TO INSIGHT THAT MAY CHALLENGE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS.

# DAY 30

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## READ

JOHN 10:1–21

## REFLECT

THERE ARE SO MANY VOICES COMPETING FOR OUR ATTENTION, ALL PULLING US IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. PRIDE, SHAME, AMBITION, ANXIETY — THEY ALL CALL TO US. AND AMIDST ALL THAT NOISE, JESUS PAINTS A PICTURE OF HIMSELF AS A SHEPHERD WHOSE SHEEP KNOW HIS VOICE. HE'S NOT SOME UNINVOLVED AUTHORITY GIVING ORDERS FROM A DISTANCE, BUT A COMPASSIONATE PRESENCE ACTIVELY LEADING, GUIDING, AND PROTECTING. UNLIKE SO MANY OF THE VOICES THAT CALL TO US, HIS IS TRUSTWORTHY. IS IT THE ONE YOU'RE FOCUSED ON?

## ASK

WHAT VOICES ARE HAVING THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON HOW YOU THINK RIGHT NOW?

HOW HARD IS IT FOR YOU TO THINK OF JESUS AS PERSONALLY CARING FOR YOU?

HOW CAN YOU BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH HIS VOICE?

## ACT

MAKE A LIST OF THE VOICES YOU LISTEN TO AND RELY ON MOST. THEN ASK GOD: "ARE ANY OF THESE OUT OF ALIGNMENT WITH YOU? ARE THERE ANY I NEED TO RELEGATE TO THE BACKGROUND TO HEAR YOU BETTER?"

# DAY 31

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## READ

JOHN 10:22–42

## REFLECT

JESUS GETS ASKED A POINTED QUESTION ABOUT HIS IDENTITY. BUT THE ASKER ISN'T LOOKING TO LEARN, BUT TO ACCUSE. MOTIVE MATTERS. WHERE SOMETHING'S COMING FROM IMPACTS HOW IT'S RECEIVED. GOD IS NEVER INTIMIDATED OR ANGERED BY OUR QUESTIONS. BUT IF WE'RE HONEST, SOMETIMES WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR ANSWERS AS MUCH AS EXCUSES. JESUS TELLS THE CROWD THAT IF THEY WATCH WHAT HE DOES, THEY CAN CLEARLY SEE WHO HE IS. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE LIFE OF JESUS, DO YOU SEE SOMEONE WORTH FOLLOWING? WHEN YOU THROW QUESTIONS AT HIM, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CLARITY, OR JUST LOOKING TO AVOID DIFFICULTY?

## ASK

WHAT ROLE DO QUESTIONS OR DOUBT CURRENTLY PLAY IN YOUR FAITH JOURNEY?  
DO YOUR QUESTIONS TEND TO MOVE YOU TOWARD JESUS OR AWAY FROM HIM?  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO FEEL SECURE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

## ACT

WRITE DOWN THE FAITH QUESTIONS CURRENTLY STANDING BETWEEN YOU AND FULLY RELYING ON GOD AND THEN PRAY: "GOD, HELP MY QUESTIONS BECOME A PATH TOWARD DEEPER TRUST, NOT RELATIONAL DISTANCE."

# DAY 32

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## READ

JOHN 11:1–44

## REFLECT

LAZARUS WAS ABOUT TO DIE. JESUS WAS TOLD IN PLENTY OF TIME TO INTERVENE. BUT HE DIDN'T ACT QUICKLY. AND HIS FRIEND DIED. THE FAMILY IS INFURIATED THAT JESUS WAS LATE. EVER BEEN THERE? YOU BEGGED GOD TO ACT IMMEDIATELY ON YOUR BEHALF AND HE TOOK HIS SWEET TIME, AND NOW ALL IS LOST? WHEN JESUS ARRIVES, EVERYONE'S GRIEVING. AND HE WEEPS WITH THEM. BECAUSE HE CARES. WITH GOD, A DELAY DOESN'T MEAN INDIFFERENCE. GOD OPERATES ON HIS TIMELINE, NOT OURS. AND ANYTIME HE'S INVOLVED, THE STORY ISN'T YET OVER.

## ASK

EVER FELT LIKE GOD WAS LATE IN RESPONDING TO SOMETHING IMPORTANT?  
HOW DO YOU USUALLY INTERPRET DELAY — ABSENCE, INDIFFERENCE, OR SOMETHING ELSE?  
WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT JESUS' EMOTIONAL RESPONSE IN THIS STORY?

## ACT

ADMIT A RECENT DISAPPOINTMENT TO GOD AND PRAY: "LORD, EVEN WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR TIMING, HELP ME TO TRUST YOUR THAT YOU CARE AND HAVE A PLAN."

# DAY 33

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## READ

JOHN 11:45–57

## REFLECT

SOMETIMES WE RESIST SOMETHING, NOT BECAUSE IT'S CONFUSING, BUT BECAUSE IT'S THREATENING. THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE. AFTER PEOPLE WITNESS JESUS DO THE IMPOSSIBLE, SOME RECEIVE IT, OTHERS REBEL AGAINST IT — NOT BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE IS WEAK, BUT BECAUSE THE IMPLICATIONS ARE UNSETTLING. IF JESUS IS WHO HE APPEARS TO BE, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME? THAT'D BE A DISRUPTION TO MY ENTIRE REALITY. AND I'M PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE TO REORIENT SOME THINGS. WHEN TRUTH REQUIRES US TO CHANGE, SOMETIMES WE'D RATHER JUST CONTINUE LIVING IN DENIAL. IT'S LESS WORK.

## ASK

WHERE DOES WHAT GOD IS SHOWING YOU FEEL THREATENING RIGHT NOW?  
DO YOU TEND TO RESIST THINGS THAT CHALLENGE YOUR SENSE OF CONTROL?  
COULD EMBRACING DISCOMFORT SOMETIMES BE EXACTLY THE PATH GOD HAS YOU ON?

## ACT

PRAY: "GOD, WHERE I'M RESISTING YOU BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE? HELP ME TO SEE IT AND BE OPEN TO RECONSIDERING IT."

# DAY 34

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**READ**

JOHN 12:1–11

## REFLECT

SOME REACTIONS DON'T MAKE SENSE IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE RELATIONSHIP. WHEN MARY POURS PERFUME ON JESUS, IT LOOKS CRAZY, EMOTIONAL, WASTEFUL, IMPRACTICAL. BUT IT'S AN ACT OF OVERWHELMING GRATITUDE. LOVE ISN'T ALWAYS CONCERNED WITH PRACTICALITY AND EFFICIENCY. EVER TRY TO RATIONALIZE YOUR WAY OUT OF DEMONSTRATING YOUR DEVOTION TO GOD? WHAT HE'S ASKING YOU TO DO JUST FEELS LIKE TOO MUCH FOR YOU. "I'LL DO ANYTHING... JUST NOT THAT. I CAN'T GIVE THAT MUCH, OR MAKE THAT THAT, OR WALK AWAY FROM THIS OTHER THING." WHERE HAVE YOU LET PRACTICALITY SUBTLY REPLACE YOUR PASSION?

## ASK

WHAT DOES WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION TO JESUS LOOK LIKE IN YOUR LIFE?  
ARE THERE PLACES WHERE PRACTICALITY HAS REPLACED PASSION?  
WHAT FEELS TOO COSTLY WHEN IT COMES TO FOLLOWING JESUS?

## ACT

THIS WEEK, STRETCH YOUR FAITH BY DOING ONE THING TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR DEVOTION TO GOD THAT YOU WOULD TYPICALLY CONVINCE YOURSELF JUST ISN'T NECESSARY.

# DAY 35

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## READ

JOHN 12:12–19

## REFLECT

JESUS IS CHEERED ON AS HE ENTERS JERUSALEM. THEY'RE EXCITED TO SEE HIM, BUT MANY ARE HARBORING EXPECTATIONS THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HE CAME TO DO. THEY'RE HOPING FOR A POLITICAL ACTIVIST WHO WILL SEIZE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT, PUSH THE PEOPLE THEY DON'T LIKE OUT OF POWER, AND ARRANGE LEGISLATION TO PREFER THEM. JESUS HAS NO PLANS TO DO ANY OF THAT. AND THAT FRUSTRATES THEM. WHY CAN'T JESUS JUST BE WHO WE WANT HIM TO BE AND DO WHAT WE WANT HIM TO DO? BUT JESUS DOESN'T ALWAYS ALIGN WITH OUR PERSONAL AGENDAS. WHERE DO HIS WAYS FRUSTRATE YOU?

## ASK

WHAT EXPECTATIONS DO YOU HAVE OF GOD RIGHT NOW?  
HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN GOD DOES THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU HOPED?

## ACT

SPEND TIME MEDITATING ON THIS: "AM I FOLLOWING JESUS FOR WHO HE IS, OR FOR WHO I WANT HIM TO BE?"

# DAY 36

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## READ

JOHN 12:20–36

## REFLECT

WE ALL WANT TO GROW UNTIL WE REALIZE WHAT IT COSTS. AS MOMENTUM BUILDS AROUND JESUS, HE TALKS MORE AND MORE ABOUT THIS IDEA. HE SAYS A SEED MUST DIE AND BE BURIED BEFORE IT CAN PRODUCE. HE WANTS HIS AUDIENCE TO IMAGINE THE SEED AS A METAPHOR FOR THEIR DESIRE TO CONTROL THEIR LIVES. NO ONE WAS EXCITED ABOUT THAT. BUT THAT'S HOW IT WORKS. HEALING REQUIRES SURRENDER. NEW BEGINNINGS REQUIRE ENDINGS. CHANGE REQUIRES LOSS. JESUS IS ALWAYS INVITING US TO ASK OURSELVES: AM I WILLING TO LET GO OF WHAT I'M ATTACHED TO IN ORDER TO GRAB HOLD OF SOMETHING BETTER?

## ASK

IS THERE SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE YOU KNOW YOU NEED TO RELEASE OR SURRENDER?

WHY DO ENDINGS OR LOSS FEEL SO DIFFICULT FOR YOU?

WHERE MIGHT GOD BE TRYING TO GROW SOMETHING NEW THROUGH SURRENDER?

## ACT

CONFESS TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST WHAT GOD IS INVITING YOU TO LET GO OF, WALK AWAY FROM, OR SET A BOUNDARY WITH IN ORDER TO GROW. INVITE THEM TO PRAY FOR YOU TO FOLLOW THROUGH.

# DAY 37

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## READ

JOHN 12:37–50

## REFLECT

WE CAN KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT AND STILL REJECT IT. BECAUSE WE'RE AFRAID. AT THIS POINT IN THE STORY, SOME BELIEVE IN JESUS PRIVATELY, BUT DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT PUBLICLY BECAUSE THEY'D RATHER FIT IN THAN LIVE BY FAITH. AND WE SOMETIMES DO THE SAME. OUR NERVOUSNESS OVER WHAT OTHERS MIGHT THINK OR DO IN RESPONSE TO US TAKING OUR FAITH SERIOUSLY IS A STRONGER FORCE THAN MOST OF US REALIZE. AND YET, JESUS KEEPS CALLING US TO STEP INTO THE LIGHT AND BRAVELY FOLLOW HIM BECAUSE THE RISK IS WORTH THE REWARD.

## ASK

HAVE YOU EVER HELD BACK SPIRITUALLY BECAUSE OF FEAR OF OTHERS' OPINIONS? IS THERE AN AREA WHERE YOU KNOW WHAT'S TRUE BUT HAVE RESISTED ACTING ON IT? WHAT DOES LIVING MORE FULLY IN THE LIGHT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

## ACT

TAKE ONE COURAGEOUS ACTION TODAY THAT PRIORITIZES YOUR CONNECTION TO CHRIST ABOVE ALL ELSE.

# DAY 38

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## READ

JOHN 13:1–17

## REFLECT

POWER OFTEN CREATES DISTANCE. THE MORE INFLUENCE SOMEONE HAS, THE LESS WE EXPECT THEM TO SERVE IN HUMBLE WAYS. THAT'S WHAT MAKES THIS MOMENT STAND OUT. JESUS, THE LEADER, KNEELS DOWN, AND DOES WHAT TYPICALLY ONLY LOW-LEVEL SERVANTS SO. TO HIM, LOVE ISN'T A FEELING OR A PHRASE, IT'S A TANGIBLE, SELF-GIVING ACTION. HE BELIEVES GREATNESS IS DEFINED BY HUMILITY AND SERVICE, NOT FORCE. AND IT'S ONE THING TO ADMIRE THIS IN JESUS. IT'S ANOTHER TO EMBODY IT OURSELVES.

## ASK

HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY DEFINE GREATNESS OR SUCCESS?

IS THERE A PRACTICAL ACT OF HUMBLE SERVICE YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING?

WHY IS HUMILITY OFTEN HARDER TO PRACTICE THAN TO ADMIRE?

## ACT

LOOK FOR ONE SIMPLE, PRACTICAL WAY TO SERVE SOMEONE TODAY WITHOUT NEEDING RECOGNITION, ATTENTION, OR CREDIT. LET LOVE TAKE VISIBLE FORM.

# DAY 39

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## READ

JOHN 13:18–30

## REFLECT

NOTHING HURTS WORSE THAN A CLOSE FRIEND BETRAYING YOUR TRUST. JESUS IS SHARING A MEAL WITH HIS FOLLOWERS, KNOWING ONE OF THEM IS PLOTTING AGAINST HIM. AND HIS REACTION IS ASTOUNDING. HE DOESN'T ACT ANXIOUS OR ANGRY OR VENGEFUL. HE REMAINS CALM AND TREATS EVERYONE IN THE ROOM WITH KINDNESS. MOST OF US WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SHARE A BREADBASKET WITH SOMEONE ABOUT TO ASSASSINATE US. AND IT'S NOT THAT JESUS ISN'T HURT. HE IS. BUT HE REFUSES TO ALLOW SOMEONE ELSE'S MISGUIDED ACTIONS TO HARDEN HIS HEART. AND ALL THROUGH HIS TEACHINGS, HE INVITED US TO DO THE SAME. WHAT IF WE DID?

## ASK

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED BETRAYAL OR DISAPPOINTMENT FROM SOMEONE CLOSE?  
HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN YOUR TRUST IS BROKEN?  
DOES IT HELP YOU TO KNOW THAT JESUS UNDERSTANDS RELATIONAL PAIN PERSONALLY?

## ACT

ADMIT TO GOD WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HURT BY ANOTHER. ASK HIM TO BRING HEALING TO THOSE PLACES.

# DAY 40

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**READ**

JOHN 13:31–38

## REFLECT

CONFIDENCE CAN BE MISPLACED. PETER'S WORDS SOUND BOLD AND WHOLEHEARTED HERE. HE GENUINELY BELIEVES HE'LL BE FAITHFUL NO MATTER WHAT. BUT JESUS KNOWS DIFFERENT. BEFORE THE NIGHT'S UP, PETER STUMBLES EXACTLY WHERE HE FELT STRONGEST. MANY OF US DO THE SAME THING. WE HAVE THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, BUT WHEN WE'RE THROWN INTO THE THICK OF IT, WE CAN'T HANG ON. BUT EVEN THOUGH JESUS KNOWS PETER'S GOING TO MESS UP DOESN'T CHANGE HIS LOVE FOR HIM. THE SAME IS TRUE OF YOU.

## ASK

IN WHAT AREAS DO YOU TEND TO OVERESTIMATE YOUR OWN STRENGTH OR RESOLVE?  
HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN YOU DISAPPOINT YOURSELF?  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS SEES WEAKNESS CLEARLY AND STILL REMAINS COMMITTED?

## ACT

SINCERELY INVITE GOD TO HELP YOU DEPEND ON HIS STRENGTH MORE THAN YOUR OWN RESOLVE.

# DAY 41

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## READ

JOHN 14:1–31

## REFLECT

SOME WORDS HIT DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON WHEN THEY'RE SPOKEN. JESUS SAYS, "DON'T LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED", IN THE MIDST OF SOME PRETTY TROUBLING CIRCUMSTANCES. HE KNOWS HIS FOLLOWERS ARE FEELING CONFUSED, ANXIOUS, AND UNSETTLED. BUT HE'S NOT CONDEMNING THEM. HE'S ENCOURAGING THEM. HE'S INSISTING THEY CAN EXPERIENCE PEACE WHEN NOTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN BECAUSE THEY CAN TRUST IN HIS ULTIMATE PLAN. HE SHOWS US THE WAY, REVEALS THE TRUTH, AND GIVES US NEW LIFE.

## ASK

WHAT CURRENTLY FEELS UNSETTLING OR UNCERTAIN IN YOUR LIFE?

DO YOU TEND TO PURSUE PEACE THROUGH CONTROL OR TRUST?

WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT JESUS' PROMISE TO REMAIN PRESENT WITH YOU?

## ACT

SIT IN SILENCE FOR TEN MINUTES TODAY AND ASK GOD'S PRESENCE TO FILL YOU WITH PEACE.

# DAY 42

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## READ

JOHN 15:1—JOHN 16:15

## REFLECT

WE OFTEN ASSUME GROWTH IS THE RESULT OF STRIVING HARDER. BUT JESUS SAYS THE OPPOSITE. HE TELLS US TO THINK OF HIM AS A VINE AND OURSELVES AS BRANCHES. BRANCHES PRODUCE FRUIT SIMPLY BY STAYING CONNECTED TO THEIR SOURCE. THE SAME IS TRUE OF US. INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON HOW TO PERFORM BETTER, HE WANTS US TO BECOME PREOCCUPIED WITH BEING PRESENT WITH HIM. IS THAT YOUR MAIN FOCUS?

## ASK

DO YOU TEND TO APPROACH SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH STRIVING OR CONNECTION?

WHAT HELPS YOU FEEL GENUINELY CONNECTED TO GOD?

ARE THERE AREAS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO PRODUCE RESULTS APART FROM RELATIONSHIP?

## ACT

ASK YOURSELF: "AM I STAYING CONNECTED, OR JUST STAYING BUSY?" THEN TAKE TEN MINUTES JUST TO SIT WITH GOD AND REFLECT ON HIS UNENDING LOVE FOR YOU, NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

# DAY 43

.....  
**READ**

JOHN 16:16–33

## REFLECT

WHEN THINGS ARE BLEAK, IT'S EASY TO IMAGINE IT LASTING FOREVER. JESUS IS PREPARING HIS FOLLOWERS FOR THE GRIEF, CONFUSION, AND LOSS COMING THEIR WAY. HE WANTS THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE THINGS ARE UNAVOIDABLE IN THIS LIFE. HE USES THIS IMAGE OF CHILDBIRTH: A PAIN THAT'S INTENSE, BUT INTENTIONAL. IT'S NOT POINTLESS. IT'S PRODUCING SOMETHING. JESUS ISN'T MINIMIZING PAIN, HE'S REFRAMING IT. HE GUARANTEES WE'LL EXPERIENCE LOSS. BUT HE INVITES US TO TAKE HEART BECAUSE HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING WE FACE. AND HE NEVER LEAVES US IN A VALLEY. HE LEADS US THROUGH THEM.

## ASK

IS THERE AN AREA OF SORROW OR DISAPPOINTMENT YOU'RE CARRYING RIGHT NOW?  
HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY MAKE SENSE OF SUFFERING?  
WHAT DOES HOPE LOOK LIKE WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES HAVEN'T CHANGED YET?

## ACT

BRING YOUR PAIN TO GOD AND PRAY: "HELP ME TRUST THAT SORROW IS NOT THE END OF MY STORY."

# DAY 44

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## READ

JOHN 17:1–26

## REFLECT

WHAT SOMEONE PRIVATELY PRAYS ABOUT REVEALS A LOT ABOUT WHAT THEY CARE MOST ABOUT. THE SAME IS TRUE OF JESUS. IN THIS PASSAGE HE PRAYS FOR: UNITY, TRUTH, PROTECTION, CONNECTION, AND CLOSENESS WITH GOD. IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT MOST OF US IMPULSIVELY PRAY FOR: COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, EASIER CIRCUMSTANCES. HIS REQUESTS REVOLVE AROUND RELATIONAL HEALTH. HOW CLOSELY TO YOUR PRIMARY CONCERNS REFLECT CHRIST'S. WHAT DOES THE CONTENT OF YOUR PRAYER LIFE REVEAL ABOUT YOU?

## ASK

WHAT STANDS OUT MOST TO YOU ABOUT WHAT JESUS PRAYS FOR?  
DO YOUR PRIORITIES ALIGN WITH THE THINGS JESUS EMPHASIZES HERE?  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU THAT JESUS' PRAYS CONSIDER PEOPLE BEYOND HIS IMMEDIATE CIRCLE?

## ACT

ASK GOD: "JESUS, AIM THE THINGS I THINK AND PRAY ABOUT AT WHAT YOU CARE MOST ABOUT."

# DAY 45

.....  
**READ**

JOHN 18:1–11

## **REFLECT**

JESUS IS CORNERED, BETRAYED AND ARRESTED, BUT REMAINS COMPOSED. HE DOESN'T PANIC, DEFEND, SCRAMBLE, OR GRASP FOR REGAIN CONTROL. PETER, ON THE OTHER HAND, GRABS A SWORD. HE IMPULSIVELY TRIES TO FORCE THE RESULT HE WANTS. WHICH IS WHAT MOST OF US DO. WHEN WE FEEL THREATENED, OUR INSTINCT IS TO FIGHT OR FIX. BUT JESUS IS DIFFERENT. HIS QUIET SURRENDER REVEALS HIS STRENGTH. HE'S NOT LOUD OR AGGRESSIVE. HE'S SIMPLY CALM IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS. THAT'S REAL STRENGTH.

## **ASK**

HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN LIFE FEELS THREATENING OR OUT OF CONTROL?

DO YOU ASSOCIATE SURRENDER WITH WEAKNESS OR TRUST? WHY?

WHAT PRESSURE ARE YOU CURRENTLY TEMPTED TO TRY AND CONTROL RATHER THAN GIVE TO GOD?

## **ACT**

THINK ABOUT ONE STRESSFUL SITUATION YOU'RE TRYING TO CONTROL RIGHT NOW AND PRAY: "GOD, TEACH ME THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FEARFUL CONTROL AND TRUSTING SURRENDER."

# DAY 46

.....  
**READ**

JOHN 18:12–18

## REFLECT

MERE HOURS AFTER HIS BOLD PROCLAMATIONS OF LOYALTY, PETER IS SLINKING AROUND IN DISGUISE, FOLLOWING JESUS FROM A DISTANCE. HE HASN'T ABANDONED HIM COMPLETELY, BUT SOMETHING HAS CLEARLY SHIFTED. FEAR HAS CHANGED HIS POSTURE. IT DOES THE SAME THING TO US TODAY. MOST OF US DON'T IMPULSIVELY DENY GOD, WE DRIFT. ANXIETY, SHAME, AND DISTRACTION QUIETLY CREATE SPACE BETWEEN US AND JESUS. AND OUR SOUL SUFFERS. BUT BEING IN PROXIMITY TO SPIRITUAL THINGS IS NOT THE SAME AS BEING CLOSE TO JESUS.

## ASK

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED SPIRITUAL DISTANCE WITHOUT FULLY REALIZING HOW IT HAPPENED?

WHAT EMOTIONS TEND TO CREATE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND GOD?

WHAT WOULD MOVING CLOSER LOOK LIKE IN THIS SEASON?

## ACT

ASK YOURSELF: "AM I FOLLOWING JESUS CLOSELY, OR FROM A DISTANCE?" BRING WHATEVER ANSWER SURFACES TO GOD WITHOUT SHAME.

# DAY 47

.....  
**READ**

JOHN 18:19–27

## REFLECT

THERE ARE FEW FEELINGS HEAVIER THAN FEELING LIKE YOU BLEW IT. PETER EXPERIENCES THAT IN REAL TIME. UNDER PRESSURE, FEAR WINS. THE SAME PERSON WHO CONFIDENTLY PROMISED UNWAVERING LOYALTY NOW DENIES EVEN KNOWING JESUS. EVER FALLEN FLAT ON YOUR FACE IN AN AREA YOU WERE CONFIDENT YOU'D ALREADY CONQUERED? IT'S DEVASTATING. AND THE SHAME WE FEEL AFTER MAKES THAT FAILURE FEEL FINAL. BUT PETER'S WORST MOMENT ISN'T HOW HIS STORY ENDS. BECAUSE OUR CONNECTION TO GOD ISN'T CONTINGENT ON OUR PERFECT PERFORMANCE. IT IS BUILT ON GOD'S GRACE FOR IMPERFECT PEOPLE WHO FAIL. FAILURE IS PAINFUL, BUT IT DOESN'T GET ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OVER YOUR STORY. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?

## ASK

HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN YOU MESS UP AND LET YOURSELF DOWN? IS THERE AN AREA WHERE SHAME HAS CONVINCED YOU THAT YOUR FAILURE GETS THE FINAL SAY?

## ACT

PICTURE THE REGRETS OR DISAPPOINTMENTS YOU'RE CARRYING AND ASK GOD: "HELP ME TRULY BELIEVE MY WORST MOMENT IS NOT THE END OF MY STORY."

# DAY 48

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## READ

JOHN 18:28–40

## REFLECT

“WHAT IS TRUTH?” BIG QUESTION. IT’S ONE WE’RE ALL ASKING, ESPECIALLY IN AN INTERNET AGE OF COMPETING NARRATIVES, CONFLICTING OPINIONS, AND CUSTOM INTERPRETATIONS. THE IRONY OF THIS CONVERSATION IS: PILATE, THE MAN ASKING THE QUESTION, IS STARING TRUTH IN THE FACE. JESUS IS THE EMBODIMENT OF TRUTH. BUT PILATE CAN’T ACCEPT IT. AND HE CERTAINLY WON’T BOW TO IT. SOMETIMES WE DO THE SAME. WE ARE COMPELLED TO CONSIDER THE WAY OF JESUS, BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE US TO HUMBLE OURSELVES, AND THAT DOESN’T FEEL LIKE AN OPTION. WE’RE FINE WITH JESUS BEING RIGHT AS LONG AS WE’RE NEVER WRONG.

## ASK

IS IT HARD FOR YOU TO THINK OF TRUTH AS A PERSON AND NOT A SET OF CONCEPTS? ARE THERE PLACES WHERE WHAT’S TRUE FEELS INCONVENIENT OR UNCOMFORTABLE? WHERE MIGHT JESUS BE CHALLENGING YOU TO LAY YOUR IDEAS DOWN AND EMBRACE HIS?

## ACT

CHOOSE ONE OF JESUS’S PROCLAMATIONS THAT’S HARD FOR YOU TO SWALLOW AND ASK FOR HIS HELP SEEING IT THROUGH HIS EYES IN A TRULY TRANSFORMATIVE WAY.

# DAY 49

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## READ

JOHN 19:1–16

## REFLECT

JESUS STANDS BEATEN, MOCKED, AND UNJUSTLY ACCUSED. BUT ONCE AGAIN, HIS REACTION IS SURPRISING. NO FRANTIC DEFENSE. NO DESPERATE SELF-JUSTIFICATION. HE JUST STANDS THERE, CALM AND QUIET. WHILE SILENCE ISN'T ALWAYS THE RIGHT RESPONSE, SOMETIMES IT IS. JESUS UNDERSTOOD THAT CONFIDENCE AND CORRECTNESS MEAN NOT ALWAYS NEEDING THE LAST WORD. SOMETIMES REAL STRENGTH LOOKS LIKE GROUNDED RESTRAINT WHEN EVERYTHING IN YOU (AND EVERYONE AROUND YOU) WANTS YOU TO REACT.

## ASK

HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN YOU FEEL MISUNDERSTOOD OR UNFAIRLY TREATED?

DO YOU ASSOCIATE STRENGTH MORE WITH SEIZING CONTROL OR QUIET RESTRAINT?

WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT JESUS' POSTURE IN THIS MOMENT?

## ACT

IF YOU'RE CARRYING FRUSTRATION OVER BEING MISUNDERSTOOD OR WRONGED, BRING IT TO JESUS. ASK HIM FOR WISDOM TO RESPOND WELL INSTEAD OF DEFENSIVELY OR REACTIONARY.

# DAY 50

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## READ

JOHN 19:17–37

## REFLECT

SOMETIMES THE MORE WE HEAR A STORY, THE LESS IT IMPACTS US. IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, THIS CAN HAPPEN TO THE WAY WE VIEW THE CROSS. JESUS ENDURES SUFFERING, HUMILIATION, ABANDONMENT, AND AGONY, REVEALING THE LENGTHS GOD'S WILLING TO GO TO RECONCILE HUMANITY TO HIMSELF. THIS IS NOT LOVE IN THEORY. IT IS LOVE IN ACTION. JESUS KNOWINGLY SUFFERED TO SAVE YOU. MAY THIS REALITY NEVER FEEL INSIGNIFICANT. JESUS DIDN'T JUST COME TO GIVE GOOD ADVICE, BUT TO MODEL WHAT REAL LOVE LOOKS LIKE.

## ASK

WHAT EMOTIONS SURFACE WHEN YOU REFLECT ON THE CRUCIFIXION?  
HAS FAMILIARITY WITH THE CROSS EVER MADE IT FEEL LESS PERSONAL OR POWERFUL?  
WHAT DOES THE CROSS REVEAL TO YOU ABOUT THE NATURE OF GOD'S LOVE?

## ACT

TAKE A FEW QUIET MOMENTS TO REFLECT ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST. ALLOW YOURSELF TO FEEL THE WEIGHT AND FILL WITH GRATITUDE. AND KNOW THIS: YOU ARE DEEPLY LOVED, UNCONDITIONALLY.

# DAY 51

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## READ

JOHN 19:38–20:10

## REFLECT

AT THIS POINT, JESUS IS DEAD, BURIED, AND HIS ONCE-HOPEFUL MOVEMENT FEELS OVER. HIS FOLLOWERS, WHO'D BET EVERYTHING ON HIM, WERE OVERWHELMED WITH DEVASTATION AND CONFUSION. THEN SOMETHING SHIFTS SUPERNATURALLY. BUT EVERYTHING DOESN'T IMPROVE IMMEDIATELY. THAT'S NOT REALITY. CONFUSION COMES FIRST. THEN QUESTIONS. THEY WALLOW IN THE UNKNOWN. THAT'S HOW FAITH UNFOLDS. WE WANT TO BELIEVE THAT WHEN GOD IS DOING SOMETHING MIRACULOUS, WE'LL INSTANTLY FEEL INVIGORATED. BUT HOPE OFTEN BEGINS QUIETLY AND MYSTERIOUSLY. IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT WHAT FEELS OVER MAY BE GETTING RESURRECTED SLOWLY AND SILENTLY OUT OF VIEW.

## ASK

IS THERE AN AREA OF YOUR LIFE THAT FEELS FINAL, BURIED, OR BEYOND HOPE?  
HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND WHEN LIFE FEELS UNCERTAIN OR CONFUSING?  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT HOPE CAN BEGIN BEFORE YOU UNDERSTANDING HOW?

## ACT

BRING ONE AREA THAT FEELS HOPELESS OR UNRESOLVED TO GOD AND PRAY: "EVEN WHEN I CANNOT YET SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, HELP ME REMAIN OPEN TO HOPE."

# DAY 52

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## READ

JOHN 20:11–18

## REFLECT

GRIEF HAS A WAY OF NARROWING OUR VISION. MARY STANDS OUTSIDE THE TOMB, OVERWHELMED BY SORROW. SHE'S SO CONSUMED WITH LOSS THAT SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THE ONE SHE'S MOURNING STANDING IN FRONT OF HER. PAIN CAN BLIND US TO ANYTHING GOOD AROUND US. BUT WHAT SHAKES HER OUT OF IT IS JESUS SOFTLY SAYING HER NAME. THAT'S IT. NOT A SERMON, PROOF, OR EXPLANATION, A PERSONAL COMPASSIONATE CONNECTION. THIS IS THE HEART OF FAITH. IT'S NOT JUST A SET OF IDEAS OR MORAL CODE. IT'S A DEEPLY PERSONAL EXCHANGE. SOMETIMES WE DON'T NEED THE SITUATION FIXED, WE JUST NEED TO FEEL SEEN.

## ASK

EVER FELT SO OVERWHELMED BY GRIEF, STRESS, OR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT YOU LOST SIGHT OF HOPE?

WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT JESUS CALLING MARY BY NAME?

IS IT EASY OR DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO BELIEVE GOD SEES YOU PERSONALLY?

## ACT

IMAGINE JESUS WALKING INTO YOUR HOME AND SITTING WITH YOU IN YOUR CURRENT REALITY. NO CONDEMNATION. FULL OF COMPASSION. SIT WITH THIS TRUTH: YOU ARE KNOWN, SEEN, AND NOT FORGOTTEN.

# DAY 53

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## READ

JOHN 20:19–29

## REFLECT

DOUBT IS OFTEN TREATED AS THE ENEMY OF FAITH, BUT GOD DOESN'T SEEM TO AGREE. THOMAS IS HONEST ABOUT HIS UNCERTAINTY. HE DOESN'T PRETEND HE THINKS AND FEELS ANYTHING HE DOESN'T. AND JESUS DOESN'T NEED HIM TO. INSTEAD, HIS QUESTIONS ARE MET WITH COMPASSION. EVERYONE HAS UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, UNCERTAINTY, OR DIFFICULTY BELIEVING WHAT THEY CANNOT SEE. IT'D BE WEIRD NOT TO. DOUBT ISN'T FAILURE. WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT WE DO WITH IT. THOMAS BRINGS HIS TO JESUS. AND BECAUSE OF THIS, HIS STORY DOESN'T END IN SKEPTICISM — IT ENDS IN CONNECTION, COMPASSION & DEVOTION.

## ASK

HOW COMFORTABLE ARE YOU BEING HONEST ABOUT YOUR DOUBTS?  
HAVE YOU EVER ASSUMED DOUBT MADE YOU A WEAKER PERSON SPIRITUALLY?  
WHERE MIGHT YOUR QUESTIONS BE INVITING DEEPER EXPLORATION RATHER THAN DISTANCE?

## ACT

BRING ONE HONEST QUESTION TO GOD WITHOUT TRYING TO CLEAN IT UP FIRST AND PRAY: "GOD, MEET ME RELATIONALLY EVEN IN THE MIDST OF MY UNCERTAINTY."

# DAY 54

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**READ**

JOHN 20:30–21:25

## REFLECT

AFTER HIS RESURRECTION, JESUS MEETS HIS DISCIPLES IN AN ORDINARY SETTING, MAKES THEM BREAKFAST, AND RESTORES PETER THROUGH CONVERSATION NOT CONDEMNATION. BEFORE CORRECTION, THERE IS PRESENCE. BEFORE RESTORATION, THERE IS PROVISION. THE REPEATED QUESTIONS ABOUT LOVE ARE NOT MEANT TO SHAME HIM, BUT TO HEAL WHAT FAILURE HURT. PETER'S STORY REMINDS US THAT GRACE DOES NOT IGNORE OUR FAILURES, NOR DOES IT ALLOW THEM TO DEFINE US. THIS GOSPEL CLOSES NOT WITH POLISHED PERFECTION, BUT WITH RESTORATION, INVITATION, AND THE REMINDER THAT FAILURE DOES NOT GET THE FINAL WORD.

## ASK

IS THERE AN AREA WHERE FAILURE HAS SHAPED HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF?  
WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT THE WAY JESUS RESTORES PETER?  
WHERE MIGHT GRACE BE INVITING YOU TO MOVE FORWARD INSTEAD OF STAYING STUCK?

## ACT

PRAY: "GOD, THANK YOU THAT FAILURE DOESN'T GET THE FINAL WORD. HELP ME RECEIVE YOUR RESTORATION AND CONFIDENTLY MOVE FORWARD TOWARD WHAT YOU HAVE FOR ME NEXT."