

SIT
WITH
ME

AN INVITATION TO
MEET WITH JESUS
IN GOD'S WORD



A FAITHPATH RESOURCE



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READING
WORSHIPFULLY

WEEK FOUR

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READING WORSHIPFULLY

I grew up in a small town south of San Antonio, Texas, to which we often fled for some high-class shopping and restaurants. On a trip there with a family friend, I was sitting next to her in the second seat of our Chevy Suburban and thought I would be cheeky and steal her glasses, which she had taken off and set on the seat to rub her eyes. I popped the rather feminine glasses on and failed to land a dumb joke. Before I returned them, I happened to glance out the window at the South Texas scenery whizzing by. I was struck dumb by what I saw. The trees actually had individual leaves on them, instead of just being big green blobs. I could make out the barbed wire fences along the highway. Wait just a second. What is going on? What have I been missing?

My mother, the driver, asked why I suddenly became so silent and I responded by trying to explain the new world I was witnessed through the stolen spectacles. I could barely find the words. It was only days before I visited an eye doctor and had a pair of glasses of my own. Fortunately, mine were much more masculine.

Have you ever noticed something that has sat right under your nose for years and been flabbergasted by the discovery? This situation reminds us that even a veteran baseball slugger can get better at seeing a pitch. Even a well-experienced surgeon can learn new techniques.

The second chapter of the Book of Acts is life-changing to say the least. The birth of the church as we know it is recorded there. Describing the first church, Luke, the author, says *"they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles."* **(Acts 2:42-43)**

Did you know that this early church did not have a New Testament? They did have a complete Old Testament, but no book or letter of the New Testament had been written down yet. Yet they were "devoted" to teaching. My favorite part is the reaction, "Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe."

If there is any biblical element missing in many church gatherings today, it is a sense of awe. If there is anything missing in the average Christian's daily experience, it is likely a sense of awe and wonder of God. The first and irreplaceable step to recapturing this sense of awe is sitting with Jesus in God's Word, reading it worshipfully. It is really about learning how to see again. God is revealed in every word and line of the Bible. Believe me, He is wonderful, awe-some and way bigger than you ever imagined.

Isaiah, the wild-eyed prophet of God (I am convinced he had crazy-cool, sky-blue eyes), actually caught a glimpse of God's glory. He records for us, *"I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Burning angels stood above Him, each having six wings... one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of armies, the whole earth is full of His glory.'"* (**Isaiah 6:1-3**)

Wow. While I cannot prove this, I think it was a very long time before Isaiah was able to tell anyone about this experience. I think he was completely overwhelmed and fumbled over every attempt to describe it. I think it was even longer before he could write it down. However, there is one thing I know for sure: Isaiah was never the same.

The same wonder is available to you today. Just as God revealed Himself to Isaiah that magnificent day, He longs to reveal Himself to you. Whether or not you believe it, you can be just as powerfully changed as Isaiah was by what God reveals to you. It begins by sitting down with Jesus and reading God's Word worshipfully. That is, with a new set of glasses.

This is opposite from what I call the "yearbook" approach. Do you remember your high school or college yearbook? What was the first thing you did when you got it? You frantically searched the pages looking for yourself. That is what you did. That is what everybody does. Many people have the same approach to Scripture. But, this approach is a drastic limitation. It's not all about you. It's all about God, therefore it is all for you.

God loves and pursues you. Instead of pursuing yourself, pursue a bigger view of God and you will find that as you do, God graciously includes you.

Reading this way, you are less interested in your issues or questions and more enamored with an expanding view of God. With this attitude, you read God's Word looking for God instead of looking for yourself. You set aside your problems for a moment, and seek the kind of solutions found only in a bigger view of God Himself.

WEEK FOUR

READING WORSHIPFULLY

MEMORY VERSE

“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.”

- Ephesians 1:17

Commit this scripture to memory. This is a powerful way to constantly engage God's Word and write it on your heart.

Consider writing it on a post-it or note-card and putting it in a prominent place like your bathroom mirror or car dashboard. Work on it each day. This simple practice reminds you to dwell on God's Word constantly.



WEEK FOUR / DAY ONE

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Word."

Read **Exodus 3:1-15**.

Moses was, at this point, an orphaned Hebrew, adopted Egyptian, fugitive murderer and new husband. His life was complicated.

How did God reveal Himself to Moses?

What did God say? What did Moses say?

How does this passage expand your view of God?

Close in prayer by telling God how wonderful He is to you.

WEEK FOUR / DAY TWO

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

"Make me walk in the path of Your word, for that is where my happiness is found."

Read **Exodus 34:2-9**.

This encounter with God is a response to Moses' request to see God's glory (**33:18**).

What did God reveal? What did He say?

How is this different from yesterday's reading in **Exodus 3**?

What was Moses' response?

Close in prayer by telling God how great He is.

WEEK FOUR / DAY THREE

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

*"The unfolding of Your word gives light.
Let your Word be a lamp to my feet, a
light to my path."*

Read **Luke 2:1-20**.

This is a familiar text about the birth of Jesus.

Picture yourself as a shepherd or bystander in Bethlehem. What might your response be to this scene of wonder and humility?

Now read **Hebrews 1:1-4**. Read it through several times. How does this text inform worship of Jesus?

Close in prayer by thanking Jesus for how He pursued you with grace.

WEEK FOUR / DAY FOUR

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

*"Your Word, O God, revives me.
It comforts me in all of my troubles."*

Read **John 1:1-18**.

This is the poetic "first word" of John's gospel.

What does it reveal about Jesus' personality and character? What about His mission?

How could you translate this text into a prayer or time of personal worship with Jesus?

Close in prayer by using the language of John 1 as you thank Jesus for all He has done for you.

BE FREE

If at any point you fall behind in your daily readings, do not give way to guilt, despair or resignation. Never let yesterday's failure keep you from the beauty God wants to reveal today. His mercies are ever new. His grace is abundant. Just skip ahead and jump right back in. God wants to speak to you right now.

WEEK FOUR / DAY FIVE

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

"You are my hiding place and shield, O God. I wait for Your word. Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live."

Read **Matthew 16:21- 17:13**.

This is the story of Jesus' transfiguration" and the events just before and afterward.

What does Jesus reveal to His disciples in this episode? How do they respond?

What does this text reveal about Jesus and how might it affect your worship of Him?

Read the passage again and close in prayer.

WEEK FOUR / DAY SIX

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

"Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let sin have any dominion over me."

Read **John 2:13-23**.

How did Jesus explain His actions and how do the disciples respond?

Read **Matthew 28:13-23**.

What do you find most interesting about this account of Jesus' resurrection?

Read it again.

How might you have responded if you saw the resurrected Jesus?

Close in prayer by thanking Jesus for the gift, promise, and power in His resurrection from the dead.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Share with your group how you engaged the reading and study this week. Did you sit with Jesus regularly?

How did this study help you explore God's Word more deeply and inspire you to sit with Jesus more consistently?

What is worship? How would you define the word or practice to someone who is not familiar with church, the Bible or Christian practices?

Why does God desire to be worshipped?
Is that arrogant of God? Why or why not?

The two Exodus passages revealed truths about God's character. How could these ideas fuel your worship in new ways?

Where do you see worship in the account of the birth of Jesus?

Why do you think angels appeared to shepherds first?
What does the angelic message to the shepherds teach you about worship?

In the introduction of John's Gospel, what is revealed about Jesus that would inspire your worship of Him?
What language did you find most powerful there?

In the transfiguration of Jesus, where and how do you see people responding in worship?
What does this story reveal about the nature of worship?

In the cleansing of the temple, Jesus' resurrection, and the final commission to His disciples, where do you see worship?
What do these stories reveal about the nature of worship?

How has this week of readings and prayer affected your worship of Jesus?

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