

AN INVITATION TO MEET WITH JESUS IN GOD'S WORD





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CHARTING YOUR OWN COURSE

WHAT'S NEXT

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It was raining cats and dogs on the day Liza and I were married. On our first anniversary trip, we flew from Houston to Manchester, New Hampshire. Neither of us had ever spent any time in New England and it was early November. Oblivious to the perks and scenery of that area and timing, we had no idea that we missed the peak of the fall tree colors by only a few days. It was spectacular ineffable. We stopped unexpectedly on the side of a road, several times, to just look at a tree close up. Neither of us knew leaves could be those colors.

With a small wild streak, we made only two nights' worth of reservations out of seven. The rest we would discover and decide as we went. And that was our favorite part of the trip, the freedom of a rental car and the open road. We first bought a physical map which gave us a detailed view of multiple states.. Then we would pick a town name that looked fun or was near a lake and head off. Sometimes we came to an intersection and just picked a direction. It was absolutely marvelous. It felt like we had nowhere to be and all the time in the world. The only thing that mattered is that we were together.

With all of God's inspired Word before you, conveniently bound together and translated into a language you can understand, you have infinite potential. You can hunker down and linger in one place like the large collection of Psalms or the Gospel of John (two of my favorite places). In these places you can linger, reading and rereading for weeks or months or even years, all the while gaining more and more insight, fueling greater holiness and deeper worship. You may also choose to skip around, chasing a particular subject like grace or a specific character like David. You study and reference, jumping from one gold mine to another, collecting application and transformation on the way.

You may also want to take a year and read through the entire Bible. There are tons of approaches, options, plans and helps to do this. Each of these kinds of pursuits is valid and valuable if done with a commitment to the truths and tools learned in this study.

Remember, the explicit goal of this study is to help you develop a rhythm in God's Word that will last a lifetime. We are praying this is just the beginning of a whole new way of engaging God for you. With that in mind, we want to help you chart your own course forward. This final week of our study is completely up to you. You are at the wheel of a rental car at an intersection with nowhere to be. Which way will you go? What will you do next?

For the sake of assistance and accountability, allow us to offer some suggestions.

The Gospel of John (or another Gospel)

It is always refreshing and renewing to read the life and words of Jesus himself. Afterward, continue on with the Book of Acts.

The Book of Jonah, Esther, or Ruth

These Old Testament books are neatly contained and have rich meaning for prayer, mission, worship and holiness.

The Book of Galatians or Ephesians

These letters to local church families are short (only 6 chapters) and have powerful arguments and great applications.

The Book of Psalms

Simply start at the beginning of the collection and read one or two Psalms a day, overlapping so that you read the same Psalm multiple times. This allows for maximum impact and study.

The Life of David

Tracing the shepherd-boy-turned-King of Israel is a powerful study that will start in First Samuel and take you through Second Samuel into First Kings, First Chronicles and many of the Psalms (especially 1-41 and 51-70).

Perhaps the best way forward is for you is to spend some time praying, asking God to lead you in your study and focus. However and wherever you go next, it is important that you choose and keep the rhythm going. Pick a study or book and jump in, employing all of the methods learned throughout this study. Share your decision with a friend or your small group for accountability. Ask others what and where they are reading, then ask a friend to check in on you regularly and ask the same.

God longs to speak to you. His entire Word lays open and ready before you.

WHAT'S NEXT CHARTING YOUR OWN COURSE

MEMORY VERSE

"Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at revelation of Jesus Christ."

- 1 Peter 1:13

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.



WHAT'S NEXT / 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."

What is your plan for today and tomorrow?

God is inviting you to *Sit With Him*.

WHAT'S NEXT / 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."

What is your plan for today and tomorrow?

God is inviting you to *Sit With Him*.

WHAT'S NEXT / 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."

What is your plan for today and tomorrow?

God is inviting you to **Sit With Him**.

WHAT'S NEXT / 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."

What is your plan for today and tomorrow?

God is inviting you to Sit With Him.

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.

WHAT'S NEXT / 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."

What is your plan for today and tomorrow?

God is inviting you to **Sit With Him**.

WHAT'S NEXT / 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."

What is your plan for today and tomorrow?

God is inviting you to **Sit With Him**.

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 did you choose to study in an ongoing attempt to sit with Jesus?

What is the single greatest thing you learned or experienced over these 7 weeks?

How have the Sit With Me readings and exercises changed you?

What have been the biggest obstacles to your full enjoyment of God's Word during the study?

What have you learned about God?

What have you learned about yourself?

What did you decide to study this week? Why?

What have you learned or experienced in your study this week?

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS







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