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NAME



## RESET

A JOURNEY

### THIS BOOK IS FOR YOU:

It's a storyboard for tracking your Jesus experience. Consider it a note-holder, sketchbook and archive for your creative, complex mind.

Your journey begins with the next 6 weeks.

In this book, you'll find pages divided into weekly sections. Each week has 4 prompts—prompts designed to take 5-15 minutes (or more if you choose). Do one each day or all in a row. It's up to you.

You'll also uncover empty pages, because this journey is about your own discoveries. It's open-ended, but still guided. So fill the empty space with whatever builds into your discovery of the person of Jesus over the next 6 weeks and beyond. Maybe that means including photographs, receipts, conversation recalls, timelines. So whether you're an artist, electrician or busboy, your pages won't look like anyone else's.

This space is yours. Go ahead and start filling.

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# A STARTLING GROUNDSWELL, A STREET-LEVEL FREEDOM FIGHTER, A CONTROVERSIAL REBEL: **JESUS.**



Let's hit the reset button, or begin for the first time to discover our own beliefs about the most influential person in history. Let's unclutter our assumptions of Jesus, go deeper than pop spirituality and push through the stained-glass sound bytes. Let's meet—or re-meet—the God who got dirty with the world. The man people ran to, and ran from. The man who captained boats, ate meals with crooks and call girls, threw hillside parties, made kings panic. The man who brought the world an outlandish message and then said,



**"Follow me."**

**WELCOME TO A 1,008-HOUR JESUS EXPERIENCE.**  
DON'T EXPECT TO FINISH.

## RHYTHM

Ideally, your weekly Reset journey “rhythm” will look like this: **go to the weekend service, bring along this guide and take any notes in the space provided. Then spend some time alone during the week completing the four thought prompts in this guide.** Do whatever it takes to find a balance for the next six weeks that allows you to commit fully to your small group and this community-wide journey. Whether you’re just testing the Jesus waters or you’ve been following him for years, each week should challenge you to look your assumptions boldly in the eye and decide what really sticks. The more you engage with this journey, the more you’ll get out of it.

## THOUGHT PROMPTS

In the guide, each week includes four thought prompts, designed to help you explore where you are—and what Jesus has to say—regarding several themes we’ll talk about and “reset” during the journey. (Note: Week One includes only two thought prompts, because you’ve also got a separate reading assignment.) You won’t be reading your answers to these prompts out loud, so don’t self-edit. Sometimes during group meetings you’ll be asked to refer to a prompt, but you’ll never have to give specifics unless that’s what you want.

**Spend 5-15 minutes on each prompt.** No one-word answers, unless you’ve thought about that word for 10 minutes and it’s really your answer. You can do one prompt per day, or all four in one sitting. No one’s looking over your shoulder, but doing the prompts while you drive to your group meeting probably won’t get your full attention. (And if they do, that’s kind of stupid. Watch the road.)

## CHALLENGES

Each week you’ll be given one action-oriented challenge. **None of these challenges will take much time, coordination or physical effort—but you will have to get engaged and apply what you’re learning.** The payoff will be rewarding, and maybe even fun. The first week’s challenge is presented a little differently: it’s included in this guide. But after that, you’ll get the challenges during your small group meetings.

## SAMPLE RHYTHM FOR RESET

SUN	attend church service
MON	do 1 prompt
TUE	do 2 prompts
WED	EMPTY
THU	do last prompt / SMALL GROUP
FRI	EMPTY
SAT	complete the small group challenge

SUN
MON
TUE
WED
THU
FRI
SAT

## PROMPT TIME



START  
TIME \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
SPEND **10MIN** ON THIS PROMPT

Look for this graphic at the top of each prompt. If it helps, jot down the time that you begin your prompt. 30-second answers are a sign you need to dig a little deeper.

## ENGLISH BIBLE VERSIONS

AMP	Amplified Bible
CEV	Contemporary English Version
ESV	English Standard Version
GW	God's Word
GNT	Good News Translation
HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Bible
ISV	International Standard Version
NAB	New American Bible
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NCV	New Century Version
NET	New English Translation
NIV	New International Version
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible
NLT	New Living Translation
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
REB	Revised English Bible
TNIV	Today's New International Version
MES	The Message

EACH WEEK  
SHOULD  
CHALLENGE YOU  
TO LOOK YOUR  
ASSUMPTIONS  
BOLDLY IN  
THE EYE AND  
DECIDE WHAT  
REALLY STICKS.  
THE MORE YOU  
ENGAGE WITH  
THIS JOURNEY,  
THE MORE  
YOU'LL GET  
OUT OF IT.

## READING

You'll need a Bible to read over the next six weeks. If you don't already have one, check out used bookstores, hotel nightstands or even free online versions. The Bible has a ton of translations, and while they all communicate the same things, some versions use more natural, conversational language than others. Many people like the NIV (New International Version) or TNIV (Today's New International Version), but **whatever you can find and will actually read is just fine**. However, if you're stumbling over all the "thy" and "thou" stuff in a dusty King James, go pick up something else.

This guide draws from multiple Bible translations, including TNIV, the Amplified Bible and The Message (a paraphrase in contemporary language). That's not because we're all P.C. Sometimes it just helps to see words in different lights.

## SMALL GROUPS

Small groups really center the journey. They're gatherings of 6-12 friends (or complete strangers) who've committed to meeting weekly to process together the journeys they're on as individuals. **Small groups are set up to be a fun, safe and informal place for you to grow in the context of community**. So now's not the time to bury your head or take a sabbatical. The small group thing is worth it, and your fellow small groupers might become your favorite new friends. (If you haven't already signed up for one, check out [www.resetjourney.com](http://www.resetjourney.com) to find a group to join.)

### P.S.

Your small group "host" is simply a fellow learner who was willing to organize your group. Hosts aren't expected to be Bible experts, therapists or Betty Crocker. While your host can be a contact for finding more information, the responsibility for learning and discussion in your group lies with everyone. So be nice.

### P.P.S.

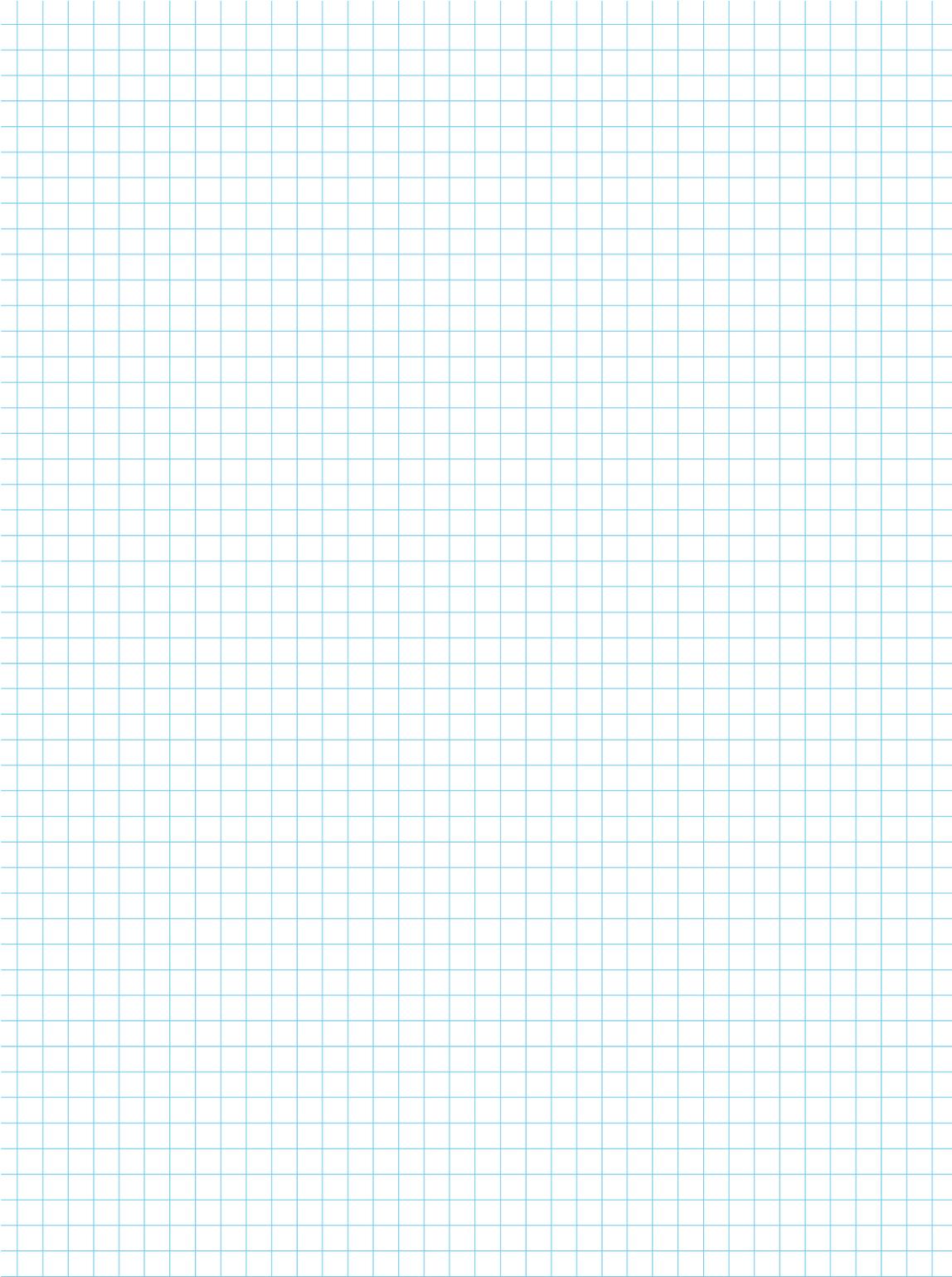
When your group meets for the first time, you'll be asked to commit to the Small Group Ground Rules listed in the appendix to this guide. If you don't like surprises, you might want to take a minute to flip to the back and get familiar with them before your first meeting.

**JESUS WASN'T A CHRISTIAN.**

W

W 01

WEEKEND MESSAGE NOTES



JESUS WAS JUST A  
GOOD TEACHER  
JESUS WAS A  
PACIFIST  
JESUS WAS A  
REPUBLICAN  
JESUS ALWAYS  
KEPT THE PEACE  
JESUS WAS CHE  
GUEVARA  
JESUS WAS NICE  
JESUS SAID DO  
WHAT FEELS RIGHT  
JESUS WANTS MY  
MONEY  
JESUS NEEDS ME  
JESUS WANTS ME  
TO BE LIKE HIM  
JESUS WAS A  
DEMOCRAT  
JESUS WAS A  
MYSTICAL FORCE  
JESUS WASN'T  
HUMAN  
JESUS WAS JUST A  
MAN  
JESUS WAS WELL  
LIKED BY ALL  
JESUS HAS YOUR  
COMFORT IN MIND  
JESUS WAS JUST



JESUS RESET  
ASSUMPTIONS

Parents and professors, movies and musicians, religious-types and naysayers—they've all influenced our perceptions of Jesus (even if we pretended not to listen). Regardless of the amount of "church" we've had, or what we claim to believe, it's likely that our opinions about God—and specifically, this man called Jesus—have been shaped by sound bytes, half-truths, and some faulty (if well-intentioned) ideas.

Many of us—including those of us who identify ourselves as Christians—have formed our opinions about Jesus based only on what other people have said about him. Others might have read Jesus' own words hundreds of times, but become numb to their implications. Either way, we've picked up assumptions that we've probably never re-examined. That ends today.

**It's time to uncover and reset our assumptions, and meet the real Jesus.**

w 01

CHALLENGE



YOUR CHALLENGE THIS  
WEEK IS BIG, BUT SIMPLE.  
READ THE BOOK OF LUKE  
FROM START TO FINISH.

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	1 Timothy
Mark	2 Timothy
LUKE	Titus
John	Philemon
Acts	Hebrews
Romans	James
1 Corinthians	1 Peter
2 Corinthians	2 Peter
Galatians	1 John
Ephesians	2 John
Philippians	3 John
Colossians	Jude
1 Thessalonians	Revelation
2 Thessalonians	

Luke is a record of Jesus' actual words, relationships and what he did all day. It was written just years after Jesus' life on earth by a detail-obsessed doctor who thoroughly investigated the firsthand, eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life and ministry.

The doctor started his investigation like this:

LUKE 001:01-04 TNIV

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus (Greek for "beloved friend of God"), so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

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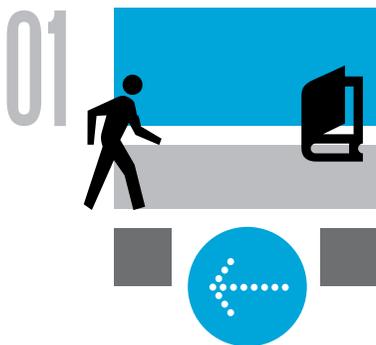
The way you read the book of Luke is up to you. Here are a couple of options:

## 01 READ THE WHOLE BOOK THIS WEEK.

You could read a few chapters a day, or the whole thing in one sitting. Just read it like a story. (A few readers—including one ADHD Guitar Hero—reported that reading the whole book took them about two hours.) This option's like ripping off a bandage quickly, only a lot less painful and considerably more interesting. C'mon, you can do it!

## 02 READ LUKE OVER THE NEXT SIX WEEKS.

What, you're wimping out already? Seriously, if you want to spread out the read and really savor it (or, you're just a really slow reader or copious note-taker), we've provided a couple of reading plans for the next six weeks in the appendix to this guide (on page 111). If you're considering this option, keep in mind that you'll also be asked to read and do other things in the coming weeks.



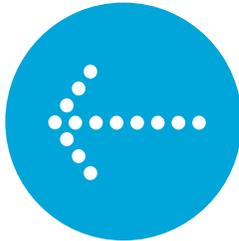
Either way, even if you've read Luke before or heard some of it during Christmas pageants, DON'T sit this one out, and DO finish the challenge. You'll be sure to discover something you've never read or considered before.

So, dive in. You'll be surprised at what you find.

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## TALK TO GOD THIS WEEK



Prayer—talking with and listening to God—was a critical part of Jesus' life. (See Luke 5:16, 6:12 & 9:28 for examples.) Whether you believe in the power of prayer or not, commit to trying it over the course of this journey, and just see what happens.

**This week, place one of the blue stickers located in the appendix to this guide somewhere you'll see it every day,** as a reminder of being on a journey to RESET any notions of Jesus that you've held that aren't accurate. When you see that sticker, pray.

Your prayer could be as simple as:

**God, I don't want make assumptions about you. Reveal yourself to me through the person of Jesus, and help me to see you more clearly. Show me the assumptions I'm making that you want to reset.**







Here are some Jesus quotes that seem a little at odds with that smiley Sunday school portrait you might have seen (you know, that dreamy, fair-haired Jesus with the lamb on his lap?):

LUKE 012:51 TNIV

Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.

LUKE 014:26-27 MES

Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple. Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple.

LUKE 017:33 TNIV

Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.

LUKE 018:25 TNIV

Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God.

**Whether you believe this stuff or not, what about statements like these (and others you're reading in the book of Luke) seems dangerous to you?**

**Does anything you've read so far conflict with your understanding of Jesus, how you see the world working, or how you live your life right now?**

### NOT HAVING TROUBLE WITH ANY OF THESE JESUS QUOTES? (Really?)

Try reading **Luke 11:37-54**. Then, consider any areas in your life where you're feeling a little self-righteous or superior to others in some way. (That's your inner Pharisee. Write about that.)

### FACTS ABOUT FRED ROGERS

Rogers was born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He spent much of his free time as a child with his maternal grandfather, Fred McFeely, and had an interest in puppetry and music. He would often sing along as his mother would play the piano. He was red-green colorblind. His parents also acted as foster parents to an African-American teenager named George, whose mother had died. Rogers eventually came to consider George his older brother.\*

These are just a few of the things that distinguish Fred Rogers from Jesus Christ.

Rogers did have two sons named James and John. Jesus had friends named James and John, so that's loosely related. They were also both men who loved children.

\*SOURCE: en.wikipedia.org



**JESUS IS UNFAIR.**

W

W 02

WEEKEND MESSAGE NOTES



# TALK TO GOD THIS WEEK

WEEKLY RESET PRAYER CHALLENGE

W 02

Put this week's sticker on something good in your life that you're thankful for. (Pets, spouses and plaster are not recommended.) Each time you see the sticker, say a quick prayer to God and thank him for what you have in your life. It could be something as simple as:

"God, thanks so much for the things in my life—big and small—that give me pleasure. Help me to notice all of the ways that you've blessed me."

SHE HAD IT  
COMING  
YOU GET OUT WHAT  
YOU PUT IN  
GOD HELPS  
THOSE WHO HELP  
THEMSELVES  
HE GOT WHAT HE  
DESERVED  
INSTANT KARMA'S  
GONNA GET YA  
I GOT THE SHORT  
END OF THE STICK  
YOU ARE WHAT  
YOU EAT  
YOU'RE WORTH  
WHAT YOU MAKE  
YOU DESERVE  
MORE RESPECT  
IT SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN ME  
GIVE A LITTLE, GET  
A LITTLE  
AN EYE FOR AN  
EYE  
NO PAIN, NO GAIN  
YOU SHOULD BE  
MAKING MORE  
WORK YOUR WAY  
UP THE LADDER  
DON'T GET WHAT



JESUS RESET  
FAIRNESS

Jesus wasn't fair.

He never claimed to be. He's not interested in giving us what we deserve. In fact, it's the opposite. **Jesus came announcing that God would deal with people not according to what they deserved, but according to grace.** He said abundant life is something that's given, not earned, and that there's an endless supply of grace for anyone who's willing to receive it.

Jesus is profoundly unfair.  
(And thank God for that.)











**When was a time you were let off the hook for something?** (And almost everyone has dodged a speeding ticket or two. Think bigger.)

How did it make you feel then, and now?

Did this experience change you in any way? How?

NOT FAIR





As soon as you finish this prompt, you'll destroy it. No one will see or hear about it. So first, find an open flame, toilet or crosscut shredder. Then continue:

LUKE 005:29-32 TNIV

Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

In Jesus' culture, having a meal with someone was basically a way of saying, "I love you deeply and I want to be involved in your life." Jesus wants you to join him at the table. Are you willing to sit down?

The Pharisees weren't. They were too busy judging the "sinners" already at the party. They couldn't get over their own pride, and they were unwilling to reset their own views of themselves—that in reality, they were just as broken as anyone at the table.

The others were simply enjoying being in Jesus' presence. He had a way of attracting the outcasts—the prostitutes, the gamblers, the drunkards and the tax collectors (in his day, big cheaters). They knew their shortcomings were known by everyone in the room (including Jesus), but they realized they were accepted, and they sat down.



Make a list of the stuff in your life you wouldn't want anyone to know about. Write down your choices that have hurt you, hurt others or made you feel separated from God.

Maybe you've already dealt with some things, and that's great. This can be an exercise in gratitude for what God's done. But chances are, there are also some things in your life right now that you wouldn't want others to know about. Jesus knows about these things and offers forgiveness for them (all of them). And he wants you to sit down and join the party.

**When you're finished—really finished—tear out this page and burn it, flush it or shred it.** That's what happens to our junk when we bring it into Jesus' presence. It burns away. It's not about us working all this out before we come to Him (in fact, that's pretty useless). It all burns away because of God's power, not ours. The only problem is when we refuse to bring ourselves into Jesus' presence at all.

Finished? Then take a seat and enjoy the community of those at the table with Jesus.

**YOU NEVER HAVE TO GET UP, SO RECEIVE YOUR PLACE. IT IS A PLACE OF LOVE.**





A large writing area consisting of horizontal lines, divided into two columns by a vertical dashed line.

NONE OF THIS STUFF SURPRISES GOD OR MAKES HIM DESIRE YOU ANY LESS. REMEMBER: JESUS SITS DOWN WITH LIARS, CHEATERS, GOSSIPS, ADULTERERS, MURDERERS, PEDOPHILES, PORN ADDICTS AND TELEMARKETERS, TO NAME JUST A FEW. **NOW, TEAR OUT AND BURN**





WORD OF CAUTION  
FOR PYROMANIACS

HEY, WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT YOU BURNING THIS SHEET OF PAPER. WE'RE ALSO CONCERNED WITH YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY.

TRY BURNING THIS OVER A SINK OR TOILET BOWL. THAT WAY IF THINGS GET OUT OF CONTROL YOU CAN DROP IT IN AN AREA OF WATER.

YOU PROBABLY SHOULD **NOT** BURN IT WHILE STANDING OVER YOUR NEW CARPET, YOUR KID'S ORIGAMI PROJECT, A PILE OF DRY LEAVES, A SHALLOW POOL OF GASOLINE, A BOX OF ANCIENT UNSTABLE T.N.T.... I THINK YOU GET THE IDEA.

IF ALL GOES WRONG AND THE HOUSE BURNS DOWN, WELL, DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU, HEY, AT LEAST YOU WENT DOWN REPENTING.



# THIS IS UNFAIR:

ROMANS 003:23-26 MES

Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. **Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift.** He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.

God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear...

**GOD SETS THINGS RIGHT.**





**TAPE YOUR CHALLENGE HERE**  
YOU'LL GET THIS IN YOUR SMALL GROUP



**JESUS WANTS YOU TO GIVE UP.**



# W 03

## WEEKEND MESSAGE NOTES



## TALK TO GOD THIS WEEK

WEEKLY RESET PRAYER CHALLENGE

W 03

Put this week's sticker in a place that you'll see it each day. When you do, ask God to show you areas of your life where you're reluctant to trust—either yourself or others. It could be something like:

“God, show me places in my life where I don't trust. Are there ways I'm holding out or holding back because I don't trust you? Are there areas of my life where I'm not trusting others but should be?”

LEAD, OR GET OUT  
OF THE WAY  
GROW UP STRONG  
& INDEPENDENT  
WHAT A BUNCH OF  
SHEEP  
BE THE HAMMER  
MONEY IS POWER  
PULL YOURSELF  
UP BY THE  
BOOTSTRAPS  
MY WAY OR THE  
HIGHWAY  
YOU CAN DO  
ANYTHING YOU SET  
YOUR MIND TO  
NEVER  
RETREAT, NEVER  
SURRENDER!  
ONLY THE STRONG  
SURVIVE  
STOP WHINING &  
BE A MAN  
LOOK OUT FOR  
NUMBER ONE  
MAKE YOUR OWN  
LUCK  
VICTORY IS ITS  
OWN REWARD  
GIVE IT SOME  
GREASE



JESUS RESET  
SURRENDER

It's revolutionary: a man claims he's The Only Answer to Life, but he doesn't drop bombs, lobby with politicians or pander to crowds to create blind allegiance. Instead, this radical overthrows the old system with a new one made up of some shocking realities: to conquer you must submit; to live you must die; to find power you must relent. It is a new world of opposites—and the old world is rocked.

“What do we have to do?” the crowds ask.

They stumble over each other trying to get closer. They've already formed cliques and assumptions. They rule their own little empires—carefully constructed palaces, built by tight and controlling hands.

Jesus' answer? **Surrender.**

**List your fears.**

Consider the things that keep you up at night or put a knot in your stomach when you think of them. (Keep in mind that 98% of people are afraid of heights and spiders, so not that kind of stuff.)

BEING ALONE  
 ENDING UP POOR  
 LOOKING STUPID IN  
 FRONT OF PEERS  
 TERRORISM  
 NOT BEING  
 REMEMBERED  
 DISAPPOINTING  
 PARENTS  
 GETTING SICK  
 DYING YOUNG (OR  
 OLD)  
 BEING REJECTED BY  
 FRIENDS  
 NOT GETTING THAT  
 PROMOTION  
 ECONOMIC COLLAPSE  
 LOSING A CHILD  
 NOT HAVING A CHILD  
 GETTING FIRED  
 GLOBAL WARMING  
 NOT BEING ABLE TO  
 RETIRE  
 NEVER GETTING  
 MARRIED  
 DIVORCE  
 LOSING A HOME  
 GETTING FOUND OUT

FOR MORE PERSPECTIVE, SEE:  
 Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 6:25-34, Luke 12:22-34,  
 Philipians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 3:13-14

**STRANGE FEARS (A-Z)**

Arachibutyrophobia	Fear of peanut butter sticking to roof of mouth
Bromidrosiphobia	Fear of body smells
Consecotaleophobia	Fear of chopsticks
Dutchphobia	Fear of the Dutch
Ereuthophobia	Fear of the color red
Francophobia	Fear of France or French culture
Genuphobia	Fear of knees
Hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia	Fear of long words
Ichthyophobia	Fear of fish
Japanophobia	Fear of the Japanese
Kathisophobia	Fear of sitting down
Lachanophobia	Fear of vegetables
Mottephobia	Fear of moths
Nebulaphobia	Fear of fog
Ophthalmophobia	Fear of opening one's eyes
Papyrophobia	Fear of paper
Qtipophobia*	Fear of Q-tips
Ranidaphobia	Fear of frogs
Selenophobia	Fear of the moon
Triskadekaphobia	Fear of the number 13
Urophobia	Fear of urine
Verbophobia	Fear of words
Wicaphobia	Fear of witches
Xylophobia	Fear of wooden objects
Yawnophobia*	Fear of contagious yawns
Zemmiphobia	Fear of the great mole rat

\*we invented these, but the rest are real. Seriously.





**Make a list of what you try to control or protect in your life.**

(It might help to think through your typical day, from start to finish.)

Once you've completed that list, consider whether or not there's an underlying fear of some kind that's associated with that desire for control. (It might help to look back to your list from Prompt 1.)



- MY APPEARANCE
- MY RETIREMENT SAVINGS
- MY FRIENDS' OPINIONS OF ME
- MY SPOUSE'S TIME
- MY SPOUSE'S LOVE
- MY CAREER
- MY BODY
- MY FREE TIME
- MY ADDICTION
- MY EDUCATION
- MY KIDS' SAFETY
- MY KIDS' LOVE
- MY LAWN
- MY CAR
- MY REPUTATION
- MY BICEPS
- MY REMOTE CONTROL



**THINGS THAT WOULD BE COOL TO CONTROL**

- The weather
- Traffic lights on the way to work
- Lotto numbers
- Personal pheromone levels
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average
- Amount of mayonnaise the Subway guy puts on our Cold Cut Combo
- The ability to accept someone as a friend on Facebook so as to appear congenial but through some technical glitch that person actually has no privileges to see our profile.



WHAT I CONTROL / PROTECT

UNDERLYING FEAR







Jesus wants to be in control. He's more than willing to lead, if we're willing to follow. And surrendering control isn't easy, or a passive, one-time act. Following Jesus is a journey that isn't for the faint of heart. His own words can be pretty tough to swallow:

MATTHEW 005:38-39; 43-45 TNIV

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also..."

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

**But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

JOHN 014:06 TNIV

**"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

LUKE 014:26-27 MES

"Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple. Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple."



What, if anything, about statements like these—or any perceptions you have of Jesus—make you hesitant to surrender yourself to him more fully, or at all?

Write down whatever comes into your head. Don't censor yourself, even if you think your responses aren't the "right" things to say. (Jesus can take it.)

RESET: SURRENDER



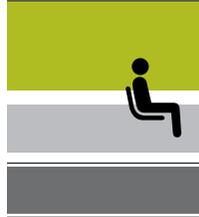
START  
TIME \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_  
SPEND 10MIN ON THIS PROMPT

Jesus reset surrender. It's not passive, or a sign of weakness, or an act of last resort. Surrender is the bold first step in receiving Him, and an action that's required again and again to follow him.

Surrendering control to Jesus requires taking him at his word, and doing what he says. In one of the first examples of Jesus' public ministry recorded in the book of Luke, he turned conventional wisdom upside-down, revealing the shockingly unconventional methods of the kingdom he came to establish.

If you haven't already, read Luke 6:17-49. (If you've already read this section of Luke, try reading Matthew 5-7. It's a more detailed account of many of the same teachings.)

**Then, try doing what He said.**





TAPE YOUR CHALLENGE HERE



**JESUS' LOVE IS ABSURD.**



W 04

WEEKEND MESSAGE NOTES



# TALK TO GOD THIS WEEK

WEEKLY RESET PRAYER CHALLENGE

W 04

Put this week's sticker in a place you'll see it each day. When you do, pray and ask God to show himself to you in your relationships, conversations and circumstances. Here's a sample prayer:

"God, help me see all of the ways that you're trying to speak to me through people and situations in my life. Help me to be open to hearing you. Is there anything you're trying to say to me through others right now?"

WHAT IS LOVE?  
BABY DON'T HURT  
ME  
STOP IN THE NAME  
OF LOVE  
LOVE IS A  
BATTLEFIELD  
LOVE HURTS  
CAN YOU FEEL THE  
LOVE TONIGHT?  
ALL YOU NEED IS  
LOVE  
LOVE WILL LIFT  
US UP WHERE WE  
BELONG  
CAN'T BUY ME  
LOVE  
WHAT'S LOVE GOT  
TO DO WITH IT?  
I'M GONNA KEEP  
ON LOVIN' YOU  
IN THE NAME OF  
LOVE  
WHAT IS THIS  
THING CALLED  
LOVE?  
POUR SOME SUGAR  
ON ME  
LOVE ME DO  
LOVE IS ALL THAT I  
HAVE TO GIVE TO YOU



JESUS RESET  
LOVE

Jesus didn't come with a measuring stick, or gold stickers and a red pen. Although discovering that we can't work our way onto God's honor roll can be hard to swallow (especially for those of us who are fairly proud of our day-to-day actions), we can't earn his love, or our place in his kingdom. Seriously, we can't.

There's nothing you can do to make God love you any more than he already does.

That's big news to all us "scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" humans. Jesus isn't looking for dancing bears; he came for a relationship that can be deeper and richer than anything you've ever experienced. He also knows that his kind of love will be hard for us to understand and receive. So Jesus explains this absurd love relationship by using simple comparisons that can break through to our weary, jaded hearts.

Receive. Then remain in God's love.



Ever try to grow a garden? It's all about the soil.

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable:

LUKE 008:04-08; 11-15 TNIV

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown..."

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. **Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.**"

One of the ways God expresses his love for us is through the words of the Bible. How open are you to receiving them?

Life's "worries, riches and pleasures" can be distracting, and rocky times have hardened the softest of hearts. And this parable is about much more than a one-time, take-Jesus-or-leave-him decision. Even if you decided to follow Jesus years ago, consider how you're receiving his words and persevering today.



What in your life right now is enhancing or preventing you from receiving from God more fully?

Consider this for a moment, then describe the condition of your own soil, or draw a picture.

RESET: LOVE



START  
TIME \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
SPEND **10MIN** ON THIS PROMPT

**Children. They're good for nothing, really.**

Two-year-olds, in particular, are useless. They really can't DO anything. And yet, parents all over the place just love the heck out of their two-year-olds.

You're not two (unless you're some kind of super genius), but God loves you in the same way parents love their two-year-olds—with absolutely NO expectations.

**Nothing you DO changes how He loves you.**

LUKE 018:15-17 TNIV

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

**Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."**

JOHN 001:12 TNIV

**Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...**

Children are who they are by birth, not effort. And the Kingdom of God must be received, not earned.

**IF YOU'RE WILLING TO RECEIVE HIM,  
GOD SAYS YOU ARE:**

**HIS TREASURED POSSESSION**

DEUTERONOMY 7:6

**THE APPLE OF HIS EYE**

PSALM 17

**WONDERFULLY MADE**

PSALM 139:14

**HIS CHILD**

JOHN 1:12; ROMANS 8:16

**HIS FRIEND**

JOHN 15:15

**CHOSEN BY HIM**

JOHN 15:16

**FREE FROM CONDEMNATION**

ROMANS 8:1

**ACCEPTED**

ROMANS 15:7

**CHOSEN, HOLY AND  
DEARLY LOVED**

COLOSSIANS 3:12



WHERE IN YOUR LIFE DO YOU WORK FOR APPROVAL?

DO YOU EVER DO THIS WITH GOD? HOW?



Guess what happens to branches that don't stay connected to their source? They die.

JOHN 015:01-17 TNIV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. **You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you.** No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

"You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because servants do not know their master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other."

A love relationship with Jesus requires a constant, ongoing connection. Abiding in God's love means following his commands, receiving from him, and trusting in his promises in good times and bad. It's not easy, but it's simple.

JOHN 015:04 AMP

Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me.

Jesus often used plant metaphors with regards to people "bearing fruit." The funny thing is, it's plants that bear fruit. That's what they do. They don't TRY—they just hang out in the light, drink some water, and bear fruit.

**They ABIDE.**

---

**ABIDING =**  
**FOLLOWING GOD'S COMMANDS +**  
**RECEIVING CONTINUOUSLY FROM**  
**GOD +**  
**TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROMISES**  
(IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD)

**Which of these is (or would be) most difficult for you? Why?**

---



**THINGS RICK ASTLEY AND  
JESUS WILL NEVER DO**

Give you up

Let you down

Run around and desert you

Make you cry\*

Say goodbye

Tell a lie and hurt you

\*in a bad way



# YOU CAN'T FORCE THESE:

**GALATIANS 005:22** TNIV  
 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**LOVE**

**JOY**

**PEACE**

**PATIENCE**

**KINDNESS**

**GOODNESS**

**FAITHFULNESS**

**GENTLENESS**

**SELF-CONTROL**

This is spiritual fruit—this is the good stuff. And producing it shouldn't feel like a burden. As we receive and remain in Jesus' love, this stuff happens naturally.

(And choosing to follow Jesus doesn't mean we'll experience all of these "fruits" fully all of the time, but if you're not experiencing any of them, that's a sign of disconnection from the love God has for you.)



Jesus illustrated how his love and kingdom are received with a story about two sons:

LUKE 015:11-32 TNIV

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them.

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." So he got up and went to his father.

**But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.**

The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

The same great stuff was available to both sons. All that was required of either of them was simply to receive their inheritance from their father, to remain with him, to abide in his home.

Your inheritance in the Kingdom is waiting. It's yours to enjoy. All you need to do is receive it, and then remain with your Father.

**Where do you see yourself in this story? Do you feel far from God, that you're returning to him, or like you've remained in his care all along? How can you identify with the sons in this story?**

**If you feel like the younger son, is anything keeping you from going home?**

**If you feel like the older son, is anything keeping you from really partying with your brothers and sisters who've returned?**







TAPE YOUR CHALLENGE HERE



**JESUS ISN'T QUIET.**

W

A large, bold, orange letter 'W' is the central focus of the image. The letter is composed of thick, solid orange strokes. It features a wide top bar, a vertical stem on the left, and a large, rounded bowl on the right. A small, lowercase 'w' is positioned to the left of the main letter, near its base.





# TALK TO GOD THIS WEEK

WEEKLY RESET PRAYER CHALLENGE

W 05

This week, your challenge is to talk to God each day following the P-R-A-Y model (more on that in a few pages). This framework can help if you're having difficulty getting started praying, or if you simply want to put some structure behind your conversation with God.

Put your RESET sticker in a place where you'll see it each day to remind you to carve out 20 minutes or so to pray through the P-R-A-Y prompts in this guide.

OH MAJESTORIOUS  
AND EXALTED  
BEAMING  
ONE, WHOSE  
PROTRUSIONS  
SPRING FORTH INTO  
NEBULOUS SPACES  
FINDING WRIT AND  
RIOT AMONGST ALL  
THY PERSONHOOD,  
FIT ME TO  
CELEBRATIZE THY  
BIDDING BY GIRDING  
MY PRESENCE WITH  
GOODITUDE AND  
GRACIOUSNESSITY.  
SHALL I COMPARE  
THEE TO A  
SUMMER'S DAY?  
NAY, THOU ART IN  
THY MAGNIFICATUDE  
MORE ILLUSTRIOUS  
THAN A SHINING  
SPHERE AND MORE  
PROSPEROUS THAN  
A FLASH OF LIGHT  
RIDING ON THE  
SILVER LINING OF  
THE MOST EXALTED  
OF CLOUDS. SHALL  
I NOT HEAR MY



JESUS RESET  
PRAYER

Getting close to Jesus doesn't mean having to count beads, transcend your inner-consciousness or find someone else to communicate with him on your behalf. But intimacy with Jesus also doesn't mean just talking your head off and then flipping the switch because you're finished listing what you need, or making all your "If you do this, I'll do that" promises.

Sometime between togas and jean jackets, prayer got bogged down with rules, formalities and mantras.

**It's simple: prayer is about relationship.** And a good relationship happens when people spend the time to know each other, listen, get real and respond. Relationships don't stay in our heads. They give and receive. They move. They grow. That's prayer.

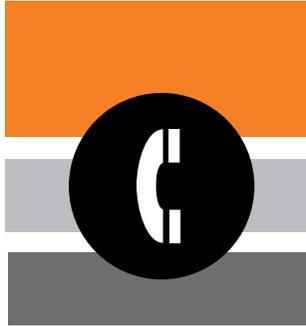


Praying doesn't require a formula. But for many of us, staying focused is a big discipline (thanks, Red Bull), or we just don't know where or how to start. That's why acronyms are big savers—because kids and piano teachers aren't the only ones who need a little prompt.

When Jesus' friends asked him how to pray, he didn't say wait until you've got a pot roast to bless, or practice makes perfect, or turn to the East. He gave his friends a framework based on his own conversations with his Father—he was the example of how it's done.

# 05

LUKE 011:01-04



P · R · A · Y

**JESUS GAVE US  
A MODEL, NOT  
A MANTRA. THE  
POINT ISN'T TO  
RECITE EXACTLY  
WHAT JESUS SAID,  
BUT TO PATTERN  
OUR OWN PRAYER  
LIVES AFTER HIS  
EXAMPLE. TALK  
TO GOD AS YOU  
WOULD A FRIEND,  
AND USE YOUR  
OWN WORDS.**

## PRAISE

LUKE 011:02 TNIV

**Father, hallowed be your name...**

In Jesus' time, a person's name was key to understanding their identity. He's saying, "God, you are my father, and I recognize that you are holy." Holy means "set apart" from the world. Jesus is calling out an aspect of God's character—that's praise.

## REPENT

LUKE 011:04 TNIV

**Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.**

To repent simply means to turn away from something. Here, Jesus is modeling the importance of not only asking for forgiveness for the choices we've made that separate us from God, but also in turning and moving away from those patterns altogether.

## ASK

LUKE 011:03 TNIV

**Give us each day our daily bread.**

Jesus simply asked his father to provide the things he needed (even the ordinary things like daily meals). We can do the same. And even if we're not worried about where the next meal is coming from, asking God for even the simple things is a way of recognizing that all good things come from him.

## YIELD

LUKE 011:02 TNIV

**...your kingdom come.**

Jesus modeled yielding his own plans and desires to whatever God wanted. Here, he's inviting God's kingdom—God's own plans, purposes and desires—to rule on earth, and in his own heart.





If you've ever been coached, you know how good it feels to be praised. Of course, better than just "Good job, kid" is when you get "Sweet jump shot, Pete. Your follow-through was perfect." The more specific praise gets, the more it encourages, and the more it reveals about a relationship.

**Have you ever praised Jesus like that?**

P

Spend a few moments telling Jesus what you really think about him. You could talk about how you've experienced him recently (maybe even something that happened last week), or thank him for any goodness and protection you're feeling in your life. (He created it.) Feel free to sketch or write a few words if that helps you stay focused.

**PRAISE EXAMPLES IN LUKE**

Try reading these verses in Luke:

001:46-55; 001:67-79; 017:11-17; 019:37-40.

**A LIFE OF PRAISE**

Praise doesn't have to be all talk and prayer meetings. King David is a great example of someone who praised God in all kinds of ways: by writing poems (many of which are collected in the biblical book of Psalms), playing music, singing and dancing (sometimes half-naked—seriously—see 2 Samuel 6).

PSALM 033:01-03 TNIV

**Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.**

**Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.**

**Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.**



DAY 01

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DAY 02

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DAY 03

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DAY 04

Sometimes a u-turn is the quickest way to get back on track.

Think about the stuff you hide, the things you do that end up hurting you or others, and the choices you know just weren't right. (That's sin.) Jesus doesn't want us plodding along with guilt, or wondering how to work our way out from under our mistakes. That's a hamster wheel—an ugly place to get stuck.

**Jesus wants us to be completely free. This is how it happens:**

ISAIAH 030:15 TNIV

**“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength...”**

Repentance is the u-turn. You turn away from what interferes with your relationship with Jesus. (In other words, you take action and don't just sit and stew in it.) And repentance won't always look the same—sometimes you'll leave tire marks, and sometimes you'll make the same u-turn twice in one trip. But make the turn. Don't obsess over what it'll take or how you'll feel afterwards. Do it so you're free.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

LUKE 018:09-14 TNIV

**“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’**

**“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’**

**“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

R

Talk to Jesus about the things in your life you think he'd want you to change, stop or move away from. If nothing comes to mind, ask him to help you out, then listen. Spend at least five minutes on this, no interruptions. Write down whatever comes to mind. (Remember: you won't be able to make the u-turns on your own. Ask Jesus to make these changes in you. He will.)



Jesus wants us to ask.

LUKE 011:09-10 TNIV

**Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; those who seek find; and to those who knock, the door will be opened.**

Some of us have no problem asking, yet some of us would rather drive in circles for hours than ask for directions. We have too much pride to say, "Yes, I need something." But the Bible makes it clear that there is a ton of good stuff we don't have, simply because we never asked (John 16:24, James 4:2).

Asking is not weak. What's weak is hanging onto everything yourself and trying to solve problems that are way too big for you to handle. What's weak is asking for help from the ultimate helper and then not accepting an answer we think is wrong. (Sometimes we have no idea what we need.)

### Big news:

MATTHEW 007:07-11 TNIV

**Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**

A

Go ahead and ask God for what you want. Write down your requests. Keep track of your prayers, and when they're answered. In other words, keep this guide. You might need it next year. And when you pay attention, you'll realize that God is, too.







DAY 01

DAY 02

DAY 03

DAY 04

When you've really given God your attention, you'll probably feel something. If you feel prompted to go do an action, then go do it. If you feel like you're being told to go back to praising him, do that. If you're ready to go suffer a long commute without flipping someone off...go.

This is yielding with response.

This is a real relationship.

This is prayer.

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TAPE YOUR CHALLENGE HERE



**JESUS DOESN'T WANT YOU  
TO GO TO CHURCH.  
HE WANTS YOU TO BE THE CHURCH.**







## TALK TO GOD THIS WEEK

WEEKLY RESET PRAYER CHALLENGE

W 06

Community is an important part of following Jesus, and if we really want to know him, we'll often learn the most from interacting with others. **Put your RESET sticker in a place or on an object that signifies ways in which you connect with community. It could be your telephone,**

**your computer, or something else that helps you connect with others. Each time you see it, ask God if there's someone he'd like you to reach out to and connect with.** If you think he might be showing you someone, then do it. No agenda. Just reach out to them.

DRESSING UP  
DRESSING DOWN  
PADDED PEWS  
MOVIE CLIPS  
DUSTY HYMNALS  
STAINED GLASS  
PULPITS  
CHOIR ROBES  
U2 SONGS  
BELL CHOIRS  
OFFERING PLATES  
SUPER BOWL  
SERVICES  
STANDING UP  
SITTING DOWN  
READING IN  
UNISON  
KNEELERS  
CONFESSIONALS  
HANDSHAKE  
GREETINGS  
STATUES OF  
SAINTS  
VESTIBULES  
CHALICES  
FREE COFFEE  
DIRECT MAILERS  
JUMBOTRONS  
OVERHEAD  
PROJECTORS  
CARPET



JESUS RESET  
CHURCH

The church is not a building.

Jesus is not a symbol.

The church is not a holding tank.

Jesus is advancing.

The church is not stale communion.

Jesus is alive.

The church is breathing, running,  
contagiously overflowing.

Jesus calls people—calls you—to  
fight with (and for) love.

The church is those who follow.

**And every person who comes alive  
and lives out the Kingdom of God is  
a game-changer.**



“Church” isn’t a building, or a denomination. According to the Bible, the Church is actually Jesus’ body:

EPHESIANS 001:22-23 TNIV

**And God placed all things under [Jesus’] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**

The Church is made up of all believers, all over the world and across all time. If you’ve made the decision to follow Jesus, you have an important role to play:

1 CORINTHIANS 012:12; 25-27 MES

**You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you’re still one body. It’s exactly the same with Christ... The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don’t, the parts we see and the parts we don’t. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ’s body—that’s who you are!**

This illustration of the body paints a picture of the Church as it’s designed to operate: **living in close community, relying on one another’s gifts and abilities, meeting each other’s needs, and healing and celebrating together.** The Church is meant to be completely dependent—first on Jesus himself (the head) for its leadership, and also on one another (Jesus’ body) for all its needs.

**Do you depend on anyone in your life? If so, who, and how?  
Where in your life do you strive for independence from others?  
Why?**





What's the point of "church?"

Luke's description of the lives of some of the first followers of Jesus (as recorded in the book of Acts) is a great example:

ACTS 002:42-47 TNIV

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

These early believers embodied the purposes of the Church as Jesus intended it:

### TO WORSHIP GOD

(1 PETER 2:9, JOHN 4:23, HEBREWS 13:15).

### TO TEACH AND ENCOURAGE

(MATTHEW 28:20, COLOSSIANS 3:16, HEBREWS 10:25).

### TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

(GALATIANS 6:10, MATTHEW 22:39, ACTS 1:8).

Imagine living in a gathering of believers like the one described in Acts.

What about living in this kind of community excites you? What about it makes you a bit nervous? Are there practical steps you could take to get more community in your life?

Horizontal lines for writing.











Community is so much more than small talk and civic duties.

Real community is knowing and being known, loving and being loved, celebrating and being celebrated, serving and being served. This requires vulnerability, and a willingness to bring ourselves fully to the community, even when we're not sure we have anything valuable to offer. Our job is simply to show up, engage, and give freely to others what God has put in us. When we do that, everybody wins.

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TAPE YOUR CHALLENGE HERE



# APPENDIX

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SMALL GROUP GROUND RULES  
RECOMMENDED READING  
PLANS FOR READING LUKE  
ADDITIONAL PAGES FOR NOTES  
RESET PRAYER STICKERS

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THESE GROUND RULES WILL HELP YOU (AND YOUR SMALL GROUP) GET THE MOST OUT OF THE RESET JOURNEY:

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**ACCOUNTABILITY:** I'll show up every week unless I'm out of town or I've let the host know the (good) reason I will be absent.

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**PREPARATION:** Before each meeting, I'll have listened to the weekend message, completed my individual challenge, and read and reflected on as many of the weekly thought prompts in the guide as possible.

---

**AFFIRMATION:** I acknowledge that every person in this group is at a different point in considering, seeking or following Jesus, and I will value and affirm people for where they are.

---

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** I'll maintain complete confidentiality. What I hear and say in the group stays in the group.

---

**LISTENING:** I understand that others will need to be encouraged to share, to be open and to express emotion. I will let them do so, without being judgmental, trying to "fix" them or offering unsolicited advice.

---

**SELF-AWARENESS:** I understand that some of us are talkers and some are quieter, so I'll be aware of not dominating the discussion or always leaving the weight of it to others.

---

**VULNERABILITY:** I'll stretch myself to be as open and honest as I can with my perspectives and experience to create a safe environment that might encourage others to take risks, too.

---

**CONFLICT:** Community can be very messy, and conflicts may arise. I'll offer grace to others and won't leave the group over disagreements, realizing that God might use conflict in my spiritual formation in some way I don't currently understand.

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## RECOMMENDED READING

## WEEK ONE

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**Mere Christianity** (C.S. Lewis)

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**The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism** (Tim Keller)

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**Letters from a Skeptic: A Son Wrestles With His Father's Questions About Christianity** (Gregory Boyd)

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**The Jesus I Never Knew** (Philip Yancey)

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## WEEK TWO

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**Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message** (Ravi Zacharias)

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**The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus** (Lee Strobel)

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**What's So Amazing About Grace** (Philip Yancey)

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**The Ragamuffin Gospel** (Brennan Manning)

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## WEEK THREE

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**The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical** (Shane Claiborne)

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**The Challenge of Jesus** (N.T. Wright)

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**Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality** (Donald Miller)

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## WEEK FOUR

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**The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming** (Henri J. M. Nouwen)

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**Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God** (Henry & Richard Blackaby, Claude King)

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**Waking the Dead: The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive** (John Eldredge)

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## WEEK FIVE

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**Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home** (Richard Foster)

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**The Practice of the Presence of God** (Brother Lawrence)

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**Seeing Is Believing: Experience Jesus through Imaginative Prayer** (Gregory Boyd)

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## WEEK SIX

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**Repenting of Religion: Turning from Judgment to the Love of God** (Gregory Boyd)

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**Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church** (N.T. Wright)

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**Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth** (Richard Foster)

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## 1. READ IT ALL AT ONCE

Day 1: Luke 1:1 – 24:53

## 2. READ IT OVER 6 WEEKS 4X PER WEEK

### WEEK 1

- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 4

### WEEK 2

- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6
- Chapter 7
- Chapter 8

### WEEK 3

- Chapter 9
- Chapter 10
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12

### WEEK 4

- Chapter 13
- Chapter 14
- Chapter 15
- Chapter 16

### WEEK 5

- Chapter 17
- Chapter 18
- Chapter 19
- Chapter 20

### WEEK 6

- Chapter 21
- Chapter 22
- Chapter 23
- Chapter 24

## 3. READ IT OVER 6 WEEKS 6X PER WEEK

### WEEK 1

- Day 1: Luke 1:1-38
- Day 2: Luke 1:39-80
- Day 3: Luke 2:1-20
- Day 4: Luke 2:21-52
- Day 5: Luke 3
- Day 6: Luke 4

### WEEK 2

- Day 1: Luke 5
- Day 2: Luke 6:1-26
- Day 3: Luke 6:27-49
- Day 4: Luke 7:1-35
- Day 5: Luke 7:36-8:21
- Day 6: Luke 8:22-56

### WEEK 3

- Day 1: Luke 9:1-36
- Day 2: Luke 9:37-62
- Day 3: Luke 10:1-24
- Day 4: Luke 10:25-42
- Day 5: Luke 11:1-28
- Day 6: Luke 11:29-54

### WEEK 4

- Day 1: Luke 12:1-34
- Day 2: Luke 12:35-59
- Day 3: Luke 13
- Day 4: Luke 14
- Day 5: Luke 15
- Day 6: Luke 16

### WEEK 5

- Day 1: Luke 17
- Day 2: Luke 18
- Day 3: Luke 19
- Day 4: Luke 20:1-26
- Day 5: Luke 20:27-21:4
- Day 6: Luke 21:5-38

### WEEK 6

- Day 1: Luke 22:1-38
- Day 2: Luke 22:39-65
- Day 3: Luke 22:66-23:25
- Day 4: Luke 23:26-56
- Day 5: Luke 24:1-35
- Day 6: Luke 24:36-53

















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You'll be prompted to put these stickers in places where you'll see them each day as reminders to RESET something in particular, or to challenge you to pray regularly throughout the journey.

**Look for this heading throughout the guide to find the prayer prompt for the week:**



## TALK TO GOD THIS WEEK

WEEKLY RESET PRAYER CHALLENGE

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We've included some extras, so feel free to use more than one for certain weeks if you want to do so. Stick them to whatever you want (foreheads and other people's backs aren't recommended), but clean up your own sticky residue if you decide to peel them off, OK?

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