



**WALK**

# MY BOOK

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## INTRODUCTION

Some of the very first words we read from Jesus are found in John 1:43. In this verse, Jesus initiates a weighty challenge to His disciples, “Follow me.” This phrase literally means to line up behind Him, to walk in His steps and spend time with Him. Just like the disciples, you and I have been invited to follow in the footsteps of Christ so that we might become more like Him. In writing this series of booklets, the overarching purpose has always been to help believers grow. In his book, *4 Chair Discipling*, Dann Spader articulates a significant metaphor for Christian maturity. He describes Christian growth using five things that a baby must learn in order to grow as a human being. First, a baby must learn whose they are. As they grow up, they must then learn to walk, talk, feed themselves, and finally as well to clean themselves. These physical behaviors that a baby learns are not that different from what a new believer must learn in order to grow in faith. No matter where you are in this process of Christian maturity, our aim is to help you grow in your own understanding and articulation of your Christian faith so that you might become a mature follower of Jesus who seeks to multiply your life to the glory of God.

### **WAYS TO USE THIS BOOKLET**

Using Dann Spader's metaphor, we have created a series of booklets which are intended to be done in community. Each booklet is a guide for conversations that will challenge you as you seek to pursue Christian maturity and a deeper relationship with Christ. As Jesus often modeled by sitting in dialogue with His disciples, learning often has its greatest effect in the context of community. In these booklets, there will be space for you to think individually, creatively as well as space to reflect about what you are learning.

## **TIPS BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

In order to make the most of this study, bring your bible, your pen, and be ready to engage. These booklets were designed to fit various time frames. They can be done in fifteen minutes or two hours, so decide together what time frame you have and use that to guide your discussion. Also, remember the relationships that are being shaped and formed through this time together. Whether it is two people or ten, lean in! Learning is often directly proportional to the extent of the relationship in which it occurs. Start each conversation with prayer and invite the Spirit to make clear what He has for you to learn and how He wants you to live.

### ***NOTE: How can you best use the eBook version of this resource?***

- 1. Read with your Bible, a journal notebook and a pen in hand.*
- 2. When you come to a question in the eBook, write down the question with your response in your journal, along with the Scripture reference if you're journaling about a particular verse.*

ONE  
WALK IN THE SPIRIT

**GETTING STARTED**

Learning to walk is one of the first things a baby learns to do. Recently I watched my friends get dragged all over the place by their little one. He was no longer satisfied crawling on the ground. He wanted to run but he needed mom or dad's fingers to hold him up and help him balance. For a child, learning to walk is a critical step towards growing in independence. As a believer grows in maturity and in their relationship with Christ, they too must learn to walk. However for a Christian this process is one in which we grow in further dependence upon the Holy Spirit. In the Christian life, learning to walk is the process of learning how to live. It is the process of learning to live as Jesus lived and submitting to the power of the Holy Spirit day in and day out.

When a child learns to walk it is a huge moment for the baby but also for the parents. As we learn to walk as Jesus walked, the Lord delights in us just as a parent delights in the first steps of their child. So let's get started!

**HOLY SPIRIT DEPENDENCE**

**Read 1 John 2:6 aloud together.**

**Rewrite this verse in your own words and then share it with your group.**

Scripture makes it clear that our life should reflect what we claim about Jesus Christ. If we profess to be Christ followers, we need to learn to live like Christ lived. This is what it means to learn to walk. We have to ask the question, “How should I live?” We must look to Jesus as our model and seek to live as He lived.

**Recall Jesus’ life and ministry. Identify as a group some examples of how Jesus “walked” while He lived on earth. What do you notice?**

Jesus walked perfectly. He lived a perfect life. Not the perfect life that we might desire. Jesus never had financial success; He didn’t travel the world with just the pack on His back; He wasn’t everyone’s favorite person at the party (except when He turned water to wine) and He never had a happy, shiny house with a beautiful family. Jesus lived a perfect life that was not without trials and temptations, but one lived in perfect intimacy and obedience with the Father. He was tempted by power, anger, and fear and yet every time He chose to do what was holy and pleasing to the Lord because He had completely surrendered Himself to the will of the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus chose to live “the abundant Christian life”, meaning He chose the better life. This is not without struggle but the abundant Christian life is lived to glorify God and enjoy Him forever through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Circle which words describe your current Christian walk.**

---

growing	frustrated	stuck	lost	disappointing
joy-filled	intimate	duty	mediocre	hopeful
guilt-driven	up and down	hard	empty	
exciting	inconsistent	others?		

---

**Share with your group what words you circled and why.**

**Discuss together why so many believers may not be satisfied with their Christian walk.**

As Christians trying to live like Christ, we continually fall short of this perfect walk. We get frustrated by our lack of discipline, by our constant self-centeredness or by our jealousy. We cannot experience intimacy with God and “walk as Jesus walked” in our own strength. Learning to live like Jesus means learning to depend on the Holy Spirit.

**Read Paul’s words in Romans 7:18,19 and Galatians 3:3. After each verse, summarize the idea Paul is trying to convey. Share your responses aloud.**

***Romans 7:18,19***

*“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”*

***Galatians 3:3***

*“Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?”*

Jesus calls us to an abundant Christian life, a life to the full, a satisfying Christian life (John 10:10). However, the tension is real. We feel it daily. We cannot walk as Jesus walked on our own.

**Describe a time that you have felt the same tension Paul wrote about in your own life. Share this with your group.**

Jesus experienced the same trials and temptations we do. In Hebrews 4:15 it says, *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”* Jesus fully relied on the Holy Spirit within Him to live the abundant Christian life. For 40 days in the desert, Jesus was tempted by the devil himself. During this time, I imagine intense struggle. Jesus is hungry and tired but in the first verse of Matthew chapter four, we see that it was the Spirit who led Jesus to the desert and just as Jesus trusted the Spirit into the desert, Jesus would

also depend on the power of the Spirit to endure the temptations in store for Him.

**As a group, name the words or images that come to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit.**

**Discuss with your group, what you learned when you were growing up about the role and person of the Holy Spirit (e.g. in church, through culture, from other people, etc.)**

Scripture tells us the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, equal with God the Father and God the Son.

**Read the following verses and in the margins write what Scripture reveals to us about who the Holy Spirit is and His role.**

***John 14:16,17***

*“Jesus said, ‘I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth.’”*

***1 Corinthians 2:12***

*“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.”*

***Galatians 5:16,25***

*“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature... Since we live by the Spirit, let us stay in step with the Spirit.”*

***John 16:7-8***

*“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper (meaning the Spirit) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”*

***Galatians 5:22-23***

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

**Dialogue together: What stood out to you about the person and work of the Holy Spirit? What might be different or the same from what you grew up thinking about Him?**

God gave us His Spirit that we might experience intimacy with Him, enjoy Him and be empowered by Him to walk as Jesus walked. The

same Spirit that rose Jesus from the dead lives within us as believers. And now, Ephesians 5:18 commands us, “*Do not get drunk with wine, but be filled by the Spirit.*” What controls the actions and behaviors of a drunk man is the alcohol in him. But Paul tells believers to instead let the Spirit have control over our lives. He will empower us to walk as Jesus walked.

**Identify an area where you desire to see the power of the Spirit take control in your life.**

**On your own, write down how this area of your life would look different if it were fully surrendered to the power and control of the Holy Spirit.**

Walking in the power of the Spirit is a moment-by-moment lifestyle. Bill Bright used the powerful word picture of spiritual breathing. As in breathing we exhale carbon dioxide, in spiritual breathing, we first exhale our sin in confession. We agree with God concerning our sin and thank Him for His forgiveness. Then, like breathing in the oxygen, we must ask God to fill us with His presence and power through the Spirit, surrendering the control of our lives to Him.

**Practice spiritual breathing on your own. First, take a moment on your own in personal confession and repentance. Then, pray Paul’s prayer below to yourself.**

***Ephesians 3:16***

*“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”*

**Personalize this prayer and read it once more. Switch the word ‘you’ with ‘me’. Ask God by faith to fill you with His Spirit and take control, specifically in regard to the area you identified.**

## **AS YOU GO FROM HERE**

Our hope for this conversation is that you see Jesus living dependent upon the Holy Spirit, and be inspired to walk as Jesus walked. Our growth comes from a life fully dependent on the Spirit. In the next few sections of this booklet we will dig in and discover what it looks like to walk empowered by the Holy Spirit. We will study Jesus’ model and see how He lived a life of Prayer, seeking guidance from the Spirit every step of the way. We will see that Jesus lived Obediently, always living first in light of the Father’s will. He lived Word-centered, always focusing on the word of the Lord. And lastly we will see that Jesus lived always Exalting the Father and giving Him glory. This is what it looked like for Jesus to live in light of the Holy Spirit’s POWER.

*Prayerful guidance*

*Obedient living*

*Word-centered living*

*Exalting the Father*

*Relational intentionality*

Commit this week to practice spiritual breathing. Take time each day to confess your sin and ask the Lord for forgiveness. Then ask the Lord to fill you with His presence and power as He promised He would do if we ask.

TWO  
GUIDED BY PRAYER

*“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.”*

*1 John 5:14*

**GETTING STARTED**

In the last conversation we explored the metaphor of a Christian learning to walk. This metaphor is one I heard often growing up in the church. When we sat down to hash out what this metaphor means, we used words like obedience, pursuing holiness, and behavior. However it became clear, if we look at Jesus as our model, learning to walk means more than just how we act. It is how we live, the decisions we make everyday and even the motivations that push us to make those decisions. When we look to Scripture, we see Jesus consistently choosing to walk empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Take a few minutes to flip back through the pages of this booklet. How would you summarize the last conversation? What was one thing that

had an impact? Share with your group the insights or questions that have come up since then.

In Scripture, we see again and again that Jesus lives in complete reliance upon the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit calls Him to go, Jesus does not hesitate. When the Holy Spirit moves Jesus to preach and heal the sick, He stays late into the evening. So what does it mean to live powered by the Holy Spirit and how do we do this? The first way in which we see Jesus living empowered by the Spirit is through prayer, so let's take a look at what it means to live a prayerful life.

## **A PRAYERFUL LIFE**

**Circle the answer that you most resonate with below and share your discoveries together:**

---

**I prefer to:** pray alone   to pray corporately   other

**I find myself most often in prayer:**

in confession   asking God for guidance   thanking God

interceding for others   praising God for who He is   other

**I like to pray:** in the morning   at night   sporadically during the day

---

**Identify one word or phrase that best depicts your experience with or the role prayer has played in your life so far.**

**Share your words or phrases and why you chose them with your group.**

Prayer is simply talking to God. In his book, *Prayer; Does it Make a Difference?* Philip Yancey says that “*Prayer is a declaration of dependence upon God.*” When we pray, we not only acknowledge the presence of God, but we also recognize His power. Jesus Himself models to us time and time again the central importance of prayer in life.

**On your own, take a few minutes to read the following passages and answer the question below:**

When and where did Jesus pray? What do you observe about Jesus and prayer through these passages?

*Mark 1:35-39*

*Mark 6:46*

*Luke 3:21-22*

*Luke 5:16*

*Luke 6:12-13*

*Luke 9:18*

*Luke 9:28-29*

*Luke 11:1*

**Share your findings with the group. What stood out to you?**

**Share with your group what about these passages personally compels you to pray.**

**Discuss the following question together: If Jesus was God, why did He need to pray?**

This is a big question. It's big but it's such a good question to ask. When we talk about prayer, this is the type of question that everyone is thinking about. It is a hard question to respond to because it dips into the mystery of the Trinity. Read the quote below from Charles Swindoll in response to this question.

---

“Jesus Christ was no less God on earth when praying to His Father in heaven. He was depicting how even in sinless humanity it is necessary to have a vital prayer life in order to do His Father’s will. Jesus’ praying to the Father was a demonstration of His relationship within the Trinity and an example for us that we must rely on God through prayer for the strength and wisdom we need. Since Christ, as the God-man, needed to have a vibrant prayer life, so should the follower of Christ today.”

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Jesus demonstrates that humanity was designed to be in relationship and in communication with God. Jesus lived a prayerful life. He prayed with

people, without people, on a mountain, on a boat, out loud, and silently to His Dad. His ministry was rooted in the priority of prayer. His life was submitted to the will of the Father.

**Reflect back on the previous passages and any other Scriptures on prayer that come to mind. What did Jesus and the early church often pray for?**

**Imagine if you were committed to a life of prayer as Jesus was. What might be some of the benefits in your life and ministry? Talk about this together as a group.**

**Dialogue together about some of the ways Jesus and those around Him benefited from His life of prayer.**

In Scripture, there are countless examples of miracles resulting from Jesus' prayers. 5000 men and women are fed from a young man's lunch, a dead man is called from the grave, the sick and possessed are healed and sinners are forgiven.

**The same Spirit that empowers Jesus' prayer life is also granted to us. As a group, discuss how this truth changes how you pray.**

The Lord wants to use you! He wants to do incredible things in your life and through you! In 1 John 5:14,15 it says, *“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know*

*that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*” Jesus lived His life according to the will of God. He prayed that God’s will would be done even if it meant His own death on a cross. The Lord desires for us to seek Him and promises us that if we ask according to His will, our requests will be granted.

Remember, the focus is not on us but on our faith in God. In the words of Søren Kierkegaard, *“The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.”* It’s not that prayer is this magic formula that can manipulate God. In my own life, a lack of prayer is often connected to a lack of faith. It often means I am only doing what I think I can do in my own strength and ability rather than depending on the Holy Spirit.

**As you look forward to this week, identify one thing you want to see God do. What is a second?**

**Take a moment to pray silently, and then aloud as a group over these prayers.**

## **AS YOU GO FROM HERE**

Jesus models for us how humanity was designed to live in perfect relationship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He is constantly in communication with them. He takes time away from His setting and schedule to devote to prayerful listening and petition. Jesus shows us what it looks like to be devoted to the practice of prayer and talking to God. Our hope for this conversation is that you would look to

Jesus' priority of prayer. We hope that you would see Him as the model for a prayer-filled life and believe in the benefits of prayer. In the words of Brother Lawrence, *"There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful, than that of a continual conversation with God."*

**Share with your group one specific way that you will commit to follow in the footsteps of Jesus' prayer life.**

THREE  
WALK IN OBEDIENCE

*“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will  
of Him who sent me.”*

*John 6:38*

**GETTING STARTED**

In the last few pages of this booklet, we looked at Jesus living empowered by the Holy Spirit through prayer. We studied examples of Jesus praying, in the morning, on a mountain, alone and in front of many people. It is clear from Scripture that Jesus constantly prayed. He made it a priority in His life to be in communication with His Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus models for us the reality that humanity was designed to live in communication with God.

Take some time to flip back through the last conversation. What stands out from last week? What was significant to you? Share with your group the insights or questions that have come up since then.

As Christians learning to walk, we look to Jesus who models for us the way we should seek to live. He models Holy Spirit dependence as He lives a life of prayer. He also models this by obeying the will of the Father. Many times in Scripture we see Jesus choosing to do God's will rather than His own so let's take a look at Scripture and learn from Jesus' model.

## **OBEDIENT LIVING**

Obedience is God's love language! When we obey Him, we show Him the love and honor He deserves. Jesus sets for us a perfect example of obedience. He models a life that asks, "What does my Father want me to do?" as opposed to "What do I want to do".

**Take a moment by yourself and circle the number below that most closely reflects how you are doing in walking in obedience to God.**

---

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Living always and only for myself					Living always and only for God				

---

**Spend some time in reflection and write down one or two personal examples from your life recently that exemplifies why you chose the number you did.**

**Share with your group one of these examples.**

Jesus made it clear that He did only what pleased His Father (John 8:29). In fact, Jesus did what Adam failed to do. When Adam failed to follow God's commands in the Garden of Eden, he sinned. Anything done outside of God's agenda is called "sin". Jesus, on the other hand, lived without sin and this is why sometimes He is called the Second Adam. He perfectly followed God's agenda and in doing so, rescued us from our sin. The entirety of Jesus' life, even from childhood, was lived in complete obedience to the Father.

**Read Luke 2:41-52 aloud together.**

**Discuss Mary and Joseph's response when they discovered Jesus was missing. What emotions do you imagine them experiencing?**

**Look at Jesus' response in 2:51. How are Jesus' actions toward His parents described? How is this related to obedience?**

While Scripture reveals that Jesus followed obediently as a boy, Scripture also shows that He remained obedient to the Lord throughout His ministry and to the end of His days.

**Read the following verses. In the margins, write what you learn about Jesus and obedience.**

***John 6:38***

*“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”*

***John 12:49***

*“For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.”*

***John 5:19***

*“Jesus gave them this answer: ‘Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.’”*

***John 4:31-34***

*“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you know nothing about.’ Then his disciples said to each other, ‘Could someone have brought him food?’ ‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.’”*

***Philippians 2:8***

*“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”*

**Share with the group your responses and what stood out about Jesus and His obedience from these passages.**

**Looking at Jesus example, discuss what you think complete obedience would look like for us as believers.**

Ultimately, when it comes down to it, obedience is a choice. For us as followers of Christ, obedience is making the daily decision to do God’s will. This decision is a lot like love. Love is also a choice. For Christ, His obedience to the Father is also evidence of His love. These two decisions are related and interconnected.

**Describe a time when God has asked you to step out in bold obedience to Him. What was that like for you?**

AW Tozer says, *“The true follower of Christ will not ask, ‘If I embrace this truth, what will it cost me?’ Rather he will say, ‘This is truth. God help me to walk in it, let come what may.’”* As Jesus modeled, obedience can be costly. In fact, it rarely resulted in comfort, self-centered pleasure, or wealth.

Jesus says *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”* What He means is that walking in obedience as a disciple requires a willingness to surrender everything to the Lord.

**Brainstorm together about why it is sometimes so difficult to be obedient. Share with your group what for you personally stands as a roadblock to obedience.**

Hebrews 5:8 tells us that *“Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.”* Jesus’ suffering was not merely isolated to His death on the cross; it included His life of perfect obedience. Suffering is part of life, both as we endure trials and temptations.

**Together, discuss what you think it means that Jesus “learned obedience” by what He suffered.**

Just like a baby grows in confidence with each step, as we begin to walk in obedience we grow in our confidence and trust in God. Jesus tells us that it was for the joy set before Him that He endured the cross. In the midst of the most costly obedience, He had learned that the long-term result was joy. The cost was worth it.

**Write down an area where it feels particularly costly in this moment for you to walk in complete obedience to the Lord.**

**Spend some time in prayer. Share honestly with Him about the area that feels costly. Invite His Spirit to fill you and empower you to walk obediently.**

## **AS YOU GO FROM HERE**

In the words of Henry Blackaby, *“He has the right to interrupt your life. He is Lord. When you accepted Him as Lord, you gave Him the right to help Himself to your life anytime He wants.”* When we become Christians, the purpose of our life changes. We begin to walk with a different destination in mind. No longer do we walk with personal fame and success as our destination, nor do we walk with wealth and comfort as our end goal. When we become followers of Christ, we aim to walk as Jesus did. We seek to live for the Father and we walk in obedient submission to His will.

**Reflect back on the verses about Jesus’ life of obedience and your personal area where obedience feels costly. Identify one way this week you will move forward to better reflect Christ’s obedience in this area.**

FOUR  
GUIDED BY THE WORD

*“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

*Hebrews 4:12*

**GETTING STARTED**

So far we have seen that Jesus lived a life fully empowered by the Holy Spirit. We first studied and saw that Jesus lived His life in constant prayer. In our last conversation we saw that He lived to love His Father and walk in obedience. We looked at passages of Scripture and read how Jesus followed the Father’s will His entire life. Growing up, I remember many tearful conversations with my own dad when I had disobeyed. He would have me sit at the foot of my bed and I would give wet and puffy faced apologies for whatever I had done. He would explain the consequences of my actions but every time he would end our conversation by giving me a big strong hug and reminding me that he loved me and that he had forgiven me. This picture is a good reminder as we study obedience. God is forgiving and gracious to us as He recognizes that we are in this process of learning to walk in obedience.

He delights in our successes and helps us up when we stumble and fall. As we experience the patience and love of the Father in this way, it makes us want to stand up and take steps again. Obedience is God's love language so the decision to obey is a choice motivated by love.

Before moving on, spend some time looking through the last section. Often we learn best by spending time in reflection and remembering what we have learned. What stands out from the previous conversation?

What is one thing a group member shared that stuck with you. Share what insights came as you continued to think about obedience in the last few days.

No matter where we are at as Christians growing in maturity and relationship with Christ, we are learning to walk and to live in obedience to the Father's will. However, this begs the question, how do we know God's will? The third way in which Jesus lived empowered by the Holy Spirit is by living with central importance upon the Scriptures.

## **WORD-CENTERED LIVING**

80 times in the Gospels, Jesus quotes from more than 70 chapters, from 24 different Old Testament books. It is obvious that the Scriptures were central to His life. He loved them, He lived by them, and He taught them to others. Yet far too quickly we assume that because Jesus was fully God His knowledge of Scripture came with an easy button, with one click He had all insight into its truths and memory of its passages downloaded instantly.

Both Scripture and history paint us a different picture. In the first century, all Jewish boys studied the Scriptures. In fact, many students would memorize all of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) by age twelve. Sit on that idea for a moment!

**Take a second and with your group try to quote a verse or two from your favorite song.**

For some people this might actually be really easy; but for many of us, the words become jumbled and suddenly they don't make any sense because we have completely mixed up the lyrics. And that's your favorite song! In the days of the New Testament, Rabbis would test their student's knowledge by picking a verse and asking the Jewish boys to quote the verses before and after.

**Read Luke 2:40-47; 52 aloud together.**

**Discuss together what we learned about Jesus' intellectual development. How did Jesus get wisdom?**

Jesus grew in wisdom. He asked questions, He learned.

**Read Matthew 5:17-19 aloud together as well.**

**Share what these passages tell us about the attitude Jesus had towards Scripture. What do they show us about His trust or confidence in them?**

Depending on your translation of the Bible, this passage in Matthew might read a bit differently. The ESV version uses the phrase “not an iota, not a dot” in verse 18. An iota, also translated “jot” is the smallest of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet. A dot, or in other translations, a “tittle” is described as the smallest stroke of a pen. It literally translates to “a point”. In the Hebrew language, sometimes even a small dot would change the entire meaning of a word. So what Jesus is ultimately saying here, is that all of Scripture, even to the smallest mark, demands our wholehearted obedience.

**Reflect on your own posture towards Scripture. In what ways do you emulate this same attitude? What is one tangible way you can seek to pursue this same attitude as Christ.**

Ways you emulate Christ's attitude	One way you can seek this attitude

**Share your thoughts with your group.**

In the words of Dann Spader, “*Jesus understood that to see and interpret reality accurately, He must have a clear understanding of His Father’s plan. Over 75 times in the Gospels, Jesus says, ‘I tell you the truth’ (Matthew 8:10 and 10:15 for examples). His reality was rooted in the truth. For Jesus, Scripture was truth.*” As we seek to emulate Christ, we must seek to do the same. The greatest source of truth is God’s Word. We must posture ourselves both in submission and obedience to Scripture’s every part and it’s truth must guide our everyday choices and motivations.

**Look up the following passages and answer the question in the box above it.**

How did Jesus use Scripture?	How we are to use Scripture?
Matthew 4:4	James 4:7
Mark 1:21-22	2 Timothy 2:15-16
Luke 4:18-19	Hebrews 4:12
Matthew 19:3-6	Psalms 119:35-27

**Circle the passage on the right that resonates with you most. Star which feels hardest for you to believe or act upon.**

**Share the passages you marked with your group and what stood out to you from your findings.**

Jesus learned the Scriptures. He respected and loved God's Word. He submitted to it in obedience and He used it in His everyday life. Jesus' life was saturated in Scripture. It was at the heart of His life and ministry.

**Take a moment by yourself to do an honest self-assessment. Answer the following questions:**

1. How often are you spending time in God's Word?
2. What are you currently learning from your time in the Scriptures?
3. How well are you able to relate your present circumstances to various stories and passages in Scripture, both Old and New Testaments?
4. What percentage of the Bible have you read?
5. On a scale from 1-10, one being not very, ten meaning very very, how important is the Word of God in your day-to-day life?

This exercise is not intended to evoke shame or guilt so don't let this self-assessment discourage you, or perhaps for others, evoke pride. Though time in God's Word often results in spiritual growth, God's love for us is not earned or even measured by it. We are a work in progress!

**Discuss together what keeps you from being Word-centered like Christ?**

In the words of Howard Hendricks, *“Dusty Bibles always lead to dirty lives. In fact, you are either in the Word and the Word is conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ, or you are in the world and the world is squeezing you into its mold.”* Hendricks points out that Christians who neglect time with God and in the Scriptures also make themselves more susceptible to the temptations of sin and this world. The Scriptures are our direct mode of hearing from the Lord. He has spoken to us in His Word so we should not neglect this important book.

**Read John 14:26 and then the quote from George Mueller aloud together.**

***John 14:26***

*“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

***George Mueller***

*“I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions. If the Holy Spirit leads us, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.”*

**Discuss together what these excerpts reveal about how we must approach God's Word. How do they challenge you personally?**

**Take a moment and reflect on the life and ministry of Christ. Invite the Spirit to fill you and confess any areas where your attitude towards God's Word is not like Christ's.**

### **AS YOU GO FROM HERE**

In the words of Charles Finney, *"We must read (this book) more than any or all other books. We must pause and pray over it, verse after verse, and compare part with part, dwell on it, digest it, and get it into our minds, till we feel that the Spirit of God has filled us with the spirit of holiness."* Jesus lived with the Word of God as a priority. He studied it, quoted it and lived His life according to its truth and guidance. Our hope for this study is that you would see the way Jesus valued Scripture and through His model, you would be inspired and compelled to do the same.

**Spend some time reflecting on Jesus' model. Commit to one tangible ways you will cultivate a love for Scripture and make it more of a priority in your life in the coming days.**

FIVE  
GUIDED BY WORSHIP

*“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

*Matthew 23:12*

## **GETTING STARTED**

In the last section of this booklet, we looked at Jesus’ model of Word-centered living. This is the third way we have seen Jesus living empowered by the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we are called, along with the 12 disciples, to follow Jesus. We aim to walk as He walked dependent on the Holy Spirit. He did this by living a life devoted to prayer, by being obedient to God’s will, and by deeply valuing the word of God. As we saw in the last section, Jesus’ life exemplifies Word-centered living. We saw many examples of Him quoting the Scriptures or referencing Old Testament prophets in order to share the good news that He had come to fulfill the law. When tempted by the devil in the desert, Jesus used His knowledge of Scripture to stand firm in His convictions. All together, these glimpses of Jesus’ life reveal a need for us to live like Christ and value time in the Bible.

Spend some time in the last conversation. What still stands out as you think about the last time together? What is one thing someone shared that made an impact on you?

We hope as you have been studying the model of Jesus, you have been compelled by His life. The intimacy that is evident in Jesus' relationship with the Father is something that we can experience as we grow in relationship with the Lord. We grow to trust God and by grace, He calls us into deeper relationship with Himself. As the Holy Spirit cultivates this desire within us, we also learn to exalt the Father. The fourth way in which Jesus lived empowered by the Holy Spirit was by exalting the Father in all things.

## **EXALTING THE FATHER**

**Describe a time to your group when you received praise for something you did, said, or accomplished.**

Once when I was in fifth grade, I made an Oregon Trail Parade Float. I took my little Red Wagon and used hula-hoops and a bed sheet to add the top. Then I filled the wagon and hung an assortment of doll pots and pans and stuffed animals to make the wagon look full. When the fifth grade parade happened at school, my little sister sat in the wagon and I pulled her around to show everyone the float. I was thrilled to see all the parents clap when they saw what I had made. (In retrospect, my parents had helped a little too.) God deserves our praise and honor all the time. He is worthy of all our exaltation. The fact that we woke up this morning is evidence of God's sustaining grace! He made us! He is our Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Savior and so much more!

Far too often when we think about praising God we immediately think about the worship band or music played at church. But praising God is an all-encompassing lifestyle. We should not reserve all our praise for Sunday morning. Instead we should seek to exalt Him everyday and throughout each day.

**Use your phone to look up the definition of ‘exalt’ or work together to collectively craft the most accurate definition.**

In Greek, the word “exalt” literally translates to “lift up high” or “raise to the very summit”. While He lived on earth, Jesus perfectly exalted God the Father. He raised Him up to the very summit and made His glory and His will priority over all else.

**Brainstorm together some examples of what you think it would mean to live a life that always exalts God.**

**Read through the passages aloud together. On the right, summarize what the passage reveals about how Jesus exalted the Father in all things.**

John 3:21	
John 17:7	
John 5:19	
John 5:30	
John 8:28	
John 10:32	
John 12:49-50	
John 15:15	

**Take a second to read through your notes from these passages and then share in your group what stood out to you the most.**

Every aspect of Jesus’ life exalted the Father. He didn’t cut corners or take glory for Himself. He continually pointed to God as His source of wisdom, strength and power.

Matthew 23:12 says, *“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

**On your own, rewrite this verse in your own words. Then together share what you wrote.**

**According to Matthew 23, identify what happens when we strive to exalt ourselves. What happens when we work for the honor of someone else?**

**Reflect on a time you have seen this principle, in one way or another, prove true in your own life. What happened?**

**Have a few people in your group share their stories.**

**Read Philippians 2:5-11 aloud.**

Exalting the Father and humility go hand-in-hand. In Philippians 2, Paul explains that Jesus did not consider equality with God as a thing to be grasped and used for His own advantage. Instead He stepped down in humility and took on humanity. Even further, He lived a perfect life and never did anything wrong but then He took on everyone else's sin and died a criminal's death. In this passage, Paul proclaims that because of Jesus' humility, God was glorified so in the end, God has glorified Jesus and exalted His name above all other names.

**According to this passage, how do you see the principle from Matthew 23:12 prove true for Jesus?**

**Reflect on this Philippians passage again. Describe as a group what it notes about how Jesus exalted the Father with His life.**

**Dialogue together: In what way does Jesus' life challenge you to live differently?**

**Pray aloud, exalting God for who He is and the various ways you have seen Him show up in your life recently.**

### **AS YOU GO FROM HERE**

In his book, *The Pursuit of God*, AW Tozer writes, *“As God is exalted to the right place in our lives, a thousand problems are resolved all at once.”* Tozer understood that God's proper place in our life is at the forefront of our minds. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit has empowered us to live all of our life to the glory of God. Because of the Holy Spirit in us, we are able to exalt God in all our actions, words and choices. Tozer goes on to say that when God is properly placed at the forefront, we are able to think, choose and act as He has called us to live. We can learn to walk when we learn to exalt the Father in all that we do. Our hope for this conversation is that you would grow in your desire to glorify God and that you would be able to name some tangible ways in which you can seek to exalt God in your life.

**What is one tangible way in which you can exalt God the Father this week? Tell someone in your group how and when you will do this!**

SIX  
WALK IN LOVE

*“After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them, and baptized.”*

*John 3:22*

## **GETTING STARTED**

As Christians learning to walk, we look to Jesus and the life He modeled for us. As we study the way He lived and the choices He made, we grow in our understanding of how we should live and what it means to follow in His footsteps. Over the past 4 sections, we have studied how Jesus shows us what it means to live emPOWERed by the Holy Spirit. In the last section, we specifically studied the way Jesus exalted the Father. We saw that choosing to exalt the Father is also a decision to humble yourself. We cannot give glory to God and claim some for ourselves.

Before moving forward, flip through the last few pages of this booklet. Consider the ways you were challenged by Jesus’ model of exalting the Father. What is one thing that continues to challenge you or something that resonates with you from the last discussion?

The last way that Jesus shows us what it means to live emPOWERed by the Holy Spirit is through Relational Intentionality. Jesus made it a point to invest in people and we can learn from His methods and model. So let's take a look.

## **RELATIONAL INTENTIONALITY**

**Describe a time you have experienced growth because someone invested into you relationally (i.e. a coach, friend, teacher, mentor, etc.). What was it that helped you grow?**

As you read in the introduction to this booklet, learning is often directly proportional to the depth of the relationship in which it occurs. Jesus' life illustrates this principle.

**Discuss together why you think this is true?**

Jesus took on flesh and became a human to become like us so that He could identify with us in every way. He sought out 12 ordinary men and He intentionally spent time with them. He invested His life.

In John 3:22 it says, **“After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent time with them, and baptized.”** The words ‘spent time’ translates to diatribo in Greek. This

literally means, “get under the skin of” or “rub off on”. So much good imagery!

**Talk together about what the imagery of diatribo conveys about this time between Jesus and the disciples.**

**Discuss as a group why you think this time with His disciples was important to Jesus.**

In the words of behavioral scientist, Dr. Steve Maraboli, *“If you hang out with chickens, you’re going to cluck and if you hang out with eagles, you’re going to fly.”* Jesus spent time with His disciples so that they could learn from Him; so that they could follow Him and grow to be like Him. This is also true for us as disciples following after Jesus. The more time we spend investing in our relationship with Christ, the more we will grow in the likeness of Christ.

**Read Matthew 11:19 and Luke 15:1-2 aloud and then take some time on your own to understand the context of these verses.**

**Discuss what you learn about Jesus’ relational intentionality from these passages. How is it different from John 3:22?**

Jesus spent time with the pagans of society. This time indicates that Jesus cared about them. He challenged the social structures of the day and was intentional about building relationships with those that Jewish society dubbed as undesirable and unclean trash. Often these relationships

tarnished Jesus' reputation and caused others to question Jesus' integrity.

**Brainstorm in your group why you think this time with those whom the community dubbed as the 'sinners' was important to Jesus.**

**Read together 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and write down each word that describes what love is or isn't. Then, on the right describe examples of what this might have looked like in Jesus' relationship with His disciples. If possible, illustrate each observation with an event from the life of Jesus.**

Love is/isn't	Jesus' life example

**Reflect back on this list. Next to the column on the left, star one word from 1 Corinthians 13 you think friends and family would most likely use to describe you. Put a checkmark next to the word that would least likely be used to describe yourself.**

**Share with your group what stood out to you from this exercise.**

Jesus demonstrated perfect love to all people, believers and even those without faith. As John 1:14 says, Jesus was a man filled with grace and truth.

**In the graph below, identify two people you would like to invest in relationally this week. Then, on the right, using the description of love from 1 Corinthians, write down what tangible step you will take.**

Person to connect with.	One way you will be intentional to love this person.

**Take time to pray aloud with your group for those people that you identified. Ask the Lord to empower you with His Spirit that you might love as Christ loved.**

## **AS YOU GO FROM HERE**

In the words of David Platt, *“If the Son of God thought it necessary to focus His life on a small group of men, we are fooling ourselves to think we can mass produce disciples today. God’s design for taking the gospel to the world, is a slow intentional simple process. That involves everyone of His people sacrificing every facet of their lives to multiply the life of Christ in others.”* Platt states that Jesus’ methods in Scripture reveal an intentionality that we should aim to replicate. Jesus invested in others and lived alongside His disciples. He models life-on-life discipleship and calls His disciples to follow and do as He did. Our hope for this conversation is that Jesus’ example would compel you, through the power of the Spirit, to invest deeply in the relationships that the Lord has given you.

**Reflect back on the two people you would like to connect with. Commit to be intentional with them this week. If you need the accountability, send them a text right now.**

## A FINAL WORD

D.L. Moody once said, *“The world has yet to see what could be accomplished by a man wholly consecrated to the Lord. By God’s power I aim to be that man.”* With these words, Moody expresses a depth of Christian maturity as He invites the Lord to have full control over His life. In writing this booklet, our aim has always been to help believers grow in Christian maturity. Like a child learning to walk, a Christian must learn to walk empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have sought to create a guide for a sequence of conversations that would help cultivate intimacy in your relationship with the Father, affection for your brothers and sisters, and confidence in your ability to live like Christ. As you go from here, our prayer is that you would continue to grow into a disciple of Jesus Christ who seeks to multiply your life to the glory of God.

Join with us in this prayer. In the words of Charles Spurgeon:

*“Take our heart, our head, our hands, our feet, and use us all for You. Lord take our substance, let us not hoard it for ourselves, nor spend it for ourselves. Take our talent let us not try to educate ourselves that we may have the reputation of being wise, but let every gain of mental attainment be still that we may serve You better.”*

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