


AN NINE-WEEK BIBLE STUDY
ABOUT JESUS: THE HERO OF THE HUMAN STORY



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS





Guide to Studying Your Bible

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS FROM PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS



PRAY OVER IT

Begin with prayer. Ask for God's cleansing and the ability to receive what He wants to teach you.

PONDER IT

What did it mean **then**?
What does it mean **now**?
What does it mean **to me**?



PUT IT IN WRITING

Write down what **the Holy Spirit is revealing** to you.

PRACTICE IT

Find ways you can **incorporate the truths** you've just been shown into your own life.



PROCLAIM IT

Contemplate ways to **share the knowledge** God has given you.



6 QUESTIONS

TO ASK YOURSELF WHILE READING SCRIPTURE

Is there a promise to claim?

Is there a lesson to learn?

Is there a blessing to enjoy?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a new thought to carry with me?



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It's All About Jesus (Bible Study)

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INTRODUCTION


IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

If you have ever been lost in a great story, then you understand that the creator of that story knew how to connect you to the main characters and pull you into the plot. When we open the Bible, we have the opportunity not only to get to know the best hero of all time, Jesus, but we're also invited to be a part of His ongoing story with Mankind. When we know Jesus and give our lives to Him, He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

All of the Bible is knit together into one overarching story. In the Old Testament, we find out Someone is coming; in the Gospels, we find out that Someone has come; and in the Book of Revelation, we read that Someone is coming again. That Someone is Jesus, the One and Only, the Hero who came to Earth to rightly restore everything that had been taken from Mankind by the villain, Satan.

In this nine-week Bible study, you will explore truths about the true identity of Jesus. He is more than a man, more than a teacher, and more than a prophet. He is the Son of God, our Savior, and our Champion. The Gospels say that He is our Light, the Friend of sinners who leads us out of darkness. Through the story of Job, we see that He is our Mediator, and in Joshua, we are assured that He is our Refuge. He is the great I AM, and His mission has always been to rescue you and bring you back to God.

It's all about Jesus—the whole Bible, your whole life, all of creation—it's all wrapped up in the story of the King who came, who conquered, and who is coming again!



God the Father is
all there is.
The Holy Spirit is
all we will feel.
And Jesus is
all we will ever see.

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WEEK 1

JESUS: SON OF GOD

■ INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of the Trinity is the great Christian distinctive. It makes our faith different from all of the other faiths. Islam, Unitarianism, Mormonism and the Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the Trinity. The Jewish people, in general, do not believe in the Trinity because Jesus Christ is a stumbling block to them. However, the Jewish Scriptures in the Old Testament show us that Jesus is God. It's important to know what the Bible teaches about the Trinity. If we don't understand that Jesus is God, we can't recognize and come to know the Hero who has come to rescue us!

This week we will take a closer look at the Trinity. Let's focus first on what the angel said to Mary.

And the angel answered and said to [Mary], “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

The angel mentions the Holy Spirit and “the Highest,” which is God the Father, and the Son will be born from the virgin, Mary. Jesus Christ is so much more than a baby lying in a manger. If you want to understand Christianity, you must understand the true identity of Jesus Christ as God's one and only Son.

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, The Trinity is a difficult concept to understand, but I want to know You better. Open my eyes this week and enlighten my understanding of the Trinity, so that I can be strengthened as I share Christ with those who don't believe. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

WHO IS JESUS?

■ PONDER IT

Many people will try to tell you who Jesus is. Some of their answers sound really good, but they do not encompass all of who Jesus is. Here are some things people typically say about Jesus.

Jesus Christ was a great man. H.G. Wells, the noted historian who wrote *The Outline of History*, said, “Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.” When he listed the ten greatest men of all history, Jesus Christ was number one on his list.

Jesus Christ was a great moral teacher. C.S. Lewis said, “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Jesus Christ was a prophet, a messenger of God. The Qur’an of Islam honors Jesus as a messenger of God. People in the New Age movement and pantheists believe Jesus came to bring enlightenment to Mankind as a mystic medium or channel. Even some demonic spirits call themselves Jesus, but they are not the Jesus of the Bible.

When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, he asked God who he should say sent him.

And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exodus 3:14).

“I AM” is the most sacred name for God—not “I had a beginning” nor “I will ever have an ending.” He is the great I AM, the self-existent, eternal God.

When the Pharisees tried to discredit Jesus, they asked Him where His Father was. They boasted that Abraham was their father and suggested that Jesus was born out of wedlock. They asked if He claimed to be greater than their father Abraham. Jesus answered them by saying this:

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:56-58).

Jesus stated that He existed before Abraham existed. In fact, there never was a time when He was not. In this passage, it was clear to the Pharisees that He was claiming to be the I AM, the God of Moses. After this, they picked up stones to kill Him because to them that was blasphemy. Jehovah God is God; Jesus Christ is God; the Holy Spirit is God. This is the Trinity.

PUT IT IN WRITING

- What do people in your community say about Jesus? Do they believe He was the Son of God?
- What is a new thought about Jesus from these passages that you want to carry with you?

I have been selected
by the Father,
saved by the Son, and
sealed by the Spirit.

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SUBLIME MYSTERY

■ PONDER IT

The holy Trinity is a sublime mystery. You will never fully understand it by human investigation, logic, philosophy, science, or mathematics. You can't discover it because it has always existed. All that we know about the holy Trinity comes from the Bible, and the only way to believe in the holy Trinity is by divine revelation.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, said, "Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the triune God." When we talk about the divine Trinity—one God in three persons—some people think we're worshipping three different gods. This is not what the Bible teaches, but there are things that we don't understand about God. We can't fathom a god who never had a beginning or who is everywhere at the same time. These things are absolutely contradictory to logic, yet they are true. (See Psalm 90:1-2; Jeremiah 23:23-24.)

You probably have unanswered questions about the Trinity, but even a 5-year-old child can ask questions that no one can answer. We can't understand infinity or eternity. We must accept what the Bible says.

Some people try to prove or disprove the Trinity with illustrations, but you can't prove it with illustrations. Because there's only one God, nothing compares to Him. You can compare one man to another man or this church to another church. But there's only one God.

To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? (Isaiah 40:18).

We see reflections of the Trinity in all that God has made. Time is past, present, and future. The past is not the present, and the present is not the future. Yet all three are understood as time. They are distinguishable yet inseparable. Space is height, width, and depth. All parts are distinguishable, but all are inseparable because they exist together. You are body, soul, and spirit, yet you're one person. These are

reflections of the Trinity but not illustrations of the Trinity. If God could be fully understood and explained by Mankind, He wouldn't be God.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

It ought to give us comfort that we don't understand the Trinity. It means that God is bigger and greater than we are.

If you accept the Old Testament as truth, you must believe in the holy Trinity:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

The word for “God” is the Hebrew word “Elohim.” It ends with “-im,” a plural ending. For example, one angel is a “cherub”; more than one is “cherubim.” In this first sentence, a plural subject (Elohim) is paired with a singular verb (created). We also find “Elohim” in the creation of Man followed by the plural pronouns “us” and “our.”

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (Genesis 1:26a).

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—made Man in His (singular) image.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- How do you feel about worshiping a God you can't fully understand?
- What do you understand in a new way about God in the creation of Man?

DAY 3

GOD'S SON IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

■ PONDER IT

The Trinity is referenced in the Old Testament and reflected in creation. The great commandment affirms that there is one God. The “Shema” below used to open the liturgy in orthodox synagogues, and Jews say it each morning and evening. It says that God is one:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

We don't believe in three gods or pantheism. This text is proof for the unity and oneness of God. The word “LORD” is the word “Jehovah” and is singular. In the Bible, we see other examples of two or more things becoming one. When God created Adam and Eve, they were clearly two separate people who became one flesh. (See Genesis 2:24.)

The word “one” in the Scripture means “one as a unit”. This word appears in other Old Testament passages. At the tower of Babel, the people had one language and were united as one in their purpose to build a life independent of God. (See Genesis 11:6.) In Numbers 13:23, a bunch of clustered grapes was called “one.” The army in 1 Samuel 13:17 is referred to as “one company,” a company of soldiers. In 1 Chronicles 17:21, a whole nation is called “one.” It's the same word that means a plurality in a unity. There's one God, but that one God has three distinct parts.

The idea that God has a Son is not just a New Testament concept. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into the fiery furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the fiery furnace and saw the Son of God.

“I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God” (Daniel 3:25).

Psalms and Proverbs also refer to the Son of God.

“I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You’” (Psalm 2:7).

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son’s name, if you know? (Proverbs 30:4).

We know that His name is Jesus. The concept of God’s Son also appears in prophecies in the Old Testament:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

A wise man said, “Try to explain the Trinity, and you’ll lose your mind; deny it, and you may lose your soul.” We believe it because the Bible teaches it.

If you can’t believe in something you don’t understand, then don’t turn on the lights if you don’t completely understand electricity. Vance Havner said, “I do not understand all about electricity, but I don’t intend to sit in the dark until I do.” You don’t have to define or explain God to believe in Him.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Which of the examples from the Old Testament stands out to you the most as evidence of the Trinity?
- What is the most difficult part of the Trinity for you to understand?

SACRED HISTORY

■ PONDER IT

The Trinity has a sacred history. In each of these examples, each person of the Trinity is considered God.

Creation—God the Father created this world. God the Son also participated in creation. The Gospel of John begins this way:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made (John 1:1-3).

All things were made by Jehovah God, and all things were made by Jesus. There's no contradiction. The Holy Spirit created everything too.

By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent (Job 26:13).

God the Father made it, God the Son made it, and God the Holy Spirit made it. We worship one God who revealed Himself in creation.

Scripture—The Bible also came about through the holy Trinity. Scripture is inspired and breathed out by God the Father.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

God the Son also wrote the Scripture. The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets.

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified

beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow (1 Peter 1:10-11).

The Bible also was inspired by God the Holy Spirit. He moved men to write.

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21).

The Church—The Great Commission of the Church showed us the holy Trinity.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen (Matthew 28:19-20).

We’ve looked at the history of the Trinity: in the creation of the world, in the composition of the Bible, and in the commissioning of the Church. You may not be able to understand the mystery of the Trinity, but by divine revelation, you must believe that it is true.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Which of these three areas of sacred history is new to you or stands out to you?
- Do you agree that you don’t have to fully understand something in order to believe it? Why or why not?

SALVATION IN THE TRINITY

■ PONDER IT

The Trinity has a saving ministry. Through the holy Trinity, we have our salvation.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:3-7).

These verses say we were selected by God the Father. Before God swung this planet into space, He had you in His heart and in His mind. You were chosen in the past; you're predestinated by the future; you are accepted and preserved in the present. You are also saved by the Son, "the Beloved."

Jesus came to save us, and we have redemption through Him. No one is trying to sell salvation to you. It can't be purchased at a discount rate, and you don't need to finance it with a payment plan. It is the free gift of God's grace. You were selected by the Father; you are saved by the Son; you are sealed by the Spirit.

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:13-14).

In Bible times, they would stamp an icon into melted wax on an official document, a letter, or a proclamation. If it was a business transaction, like Paul is writing about here, the stamped seal would indicate that ownership is transferred, and the matter is settled. That's what happens when we get saved. We're selected by the Father, saved by the Son, and sealed by the Spirit.

You are bought and sealed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father. This is the holy Trinity working in your salvation. If you don't believe in the holy Trinity, you have no Christianity. The whole thing is gone. Don't just try to magnify the little babe of Christ or say Jesus is a great moral teacher. The Son of God is God the Son. Jesus is at the Father's right hand because He is the Son of God.

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? ...But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom" (Hebrews 1:5, 8).

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How do the three parts of the Trinity work together in your salvation?
- What are the blessings of salvation you receive according to the verses in today's study?

Before God swung this planet
into space, He had you
in His heart and in His mind.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 6

JESUS IS GOD

■ PRACTICE IT

There were three frogs on a log. Two of them decided to jump off. How many were left?

The answer is that unless two of them actually jumped off the log, there are still three frogs on a log. It's not enough to decide that you believe in the Trinity. You can decide anything, but it doesn't matter unless you jump. It's not just simply accepting the intellectual premise of the Trinity. You have to take a leap of faith and trust Him with everything.

Back in the 1800's, a great acrobat named Charles Blonden walked a tightrope more than 1,000 feet across Niagara Falls without any safety net, hundreds of feet above the roaring falls. A fall would have been deadly. Blonden had so much confidence that he walked across Niagara Falls backward, blindfolded, and even in shackles. On one occasion, he put a stove on his back. When he got to the middle, he sat, fired up the stove, cooked an omelet, and ate it hundreds of feet above Niagara Falls with no net at all. He put 350 lbs. of cement in a wheelbarrow and took that across the falls. The people cheered and applauded. Then he asked if they thought he could carry a person in a wheelbarrow across the rope. They absolutely did, but when asked to volunteer, they definitely would not.

It's one thing to have an intellectual belief; it's another thing to give your heart to Jesus Christ. Jesus is more than a great man. He is God, and He died for our sin. This is the mystery:

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory (1 Timothy 3:16).

We are not worthy of such love. If you will, by faith, receive Him as your personal Lord and Savior, He will forgive every sin. The Holy

Spirit of God will seal you to the day of redemption. God loves you, and He wants to save you. Pray something like this:

Dear God, I need to be saved. Jesus, You died to save me and promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You right now as my personal Savior. This moment I give You my heart and my life forever. Come into my heart. Forgive my sin. Save me, Lord Jesus. Amen.

■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page and clicking on I BELIEVE.

Share with someone what you have learned about the Trinity in this week's study and how the Trinity makes Christianity different from other religions. If you still have questions, meet with your pastor. Ask God the Father to give you an opportunity to speak the truth about God the Son and trust God the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say.

You can know the plan of salvation,
but you're not saved by the
plan of salvation; you're saved
by the Man of Salvation: Jesus.

ADRIAN ROGERS

Jesus took our sin
that we might
take His salvation.

ADRIAN ROGERS



WEEK 2

JESUS: FRIEND OF SINNERS

■ INTRODUCTION

Some people assume God is finished with them because they've sinned too much, they've gone too far, or it's just too late. If that is you or somebody you care about, the passage we are studying this week will be good news.

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:1-2).

Tax collectors and sinners were considered the same thing in biblical times. Most of the tax collectors were dishonest, and the Jewish tax collectors were taking money from fellow Jews to give to an occupying foreign enemy. People hated tax collectors and called them sinners. What the Pharisees and scribes meant in the Scripture above was that people who weren't considered faithful Jews like them were coming to hear Jesus.

Jesus was criticized by the Pharisees for keeping company with sinners, and He answered their criticism. Jesus addressed two main points: the sinful nature of Man and the saving nature of God. We should all be so thankful that Jesus chose to defend His decision to sit at the table with sinners. This is a great message for those who are saved and for those who are lost

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, Sometimes I feel like I'm not worthy of being forgiven or loved by You. I have messed up so many times in so many ways. I'm amazed that You, the Son of God, would be considered a friend of sinners. Heal my wounded heart so that I can feel Your great love for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

SHEEP NEED HELP

■ PONDER IT

In Luke 15, Jesus was being criticized by the Pharisees and scribes. They were highly educated in the Jewish religion, but the milk of human kindness had curdled in their hearts. They were held together by their legalistic religion, which had strict rules to follow in order to be considered righteous. They could not understand why Jesus would keep company with sinners. Jesus chose to answer their criticism with a parable.

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’” (Luke 15:4-6).

The Pharisees and the scribes were the upper middle class, and the tax collectors and sinners were the lowest class. But both need the Lord Jesus Christ. Men without God are like sheep. This reveals **the sinful nature of Man**. In the Old Testament, we are compared to sheep that have wandered away from the flock and gone their own way.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6).

We cannot understand the ways of God any more than sheep can understand the ways of Man. If we are left on our own, we will selfishly seek to fulfill our own sinful desires.

There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God (Romans 3:11).

Without Jesus, the Good Shepherd, you have no defense. The devil's coyotes and vultures will find you; you will be vulnerable to his lies because of your sinful nature. Jesus already knows this about you.

But when [Jesus] saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd (Matthew 9:36).

In his book, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, W. Phillip Keller wrote about how sheep becomes cast, stuck upside down on their backs. After grazing and nibbling the green, succulent grass, sheep will lie down in the sun to digest their food. If they get in a place that's not level, they will lose their center of gravity and get onto their backs. When this happens, they are not agile enough to get up. They just lie there pawing the air because they are cast. Eventually the gasses begin to swell in their stomachs, and they get bloated. The circulation to their legs is cut off, and they die if they're not up righted fairly quickly by their shepherd.

The Pharisees were criticizing Jesus and asking why He kept company with sinners, and Jesus told a story to help them see that it was because they were like sheep and needed a shepherd.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Do you recognize that you have a sinful nature and, if left on your own, you will go astray? What evidence would you use to prove that you are a sinner?
- Being told you have a sinful nature can sound like bad news. What is the good news of the passages we studied today?

Whether you're up and out
or down and out,
you need the Lord Jesus Christ.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

JOY OF REPENTANCE

■ PONDER IT

The first thing we notice about Luke 15 is that we are compared to sheep who need a shepherd. The second thing you will see is **the joy of repentance**.

“And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:5-7).

When the Shepherd comes home with the lost sheep, there’s a holy commotion—a party—in Heaven. When one sinner repents and returns to the fold, God Himself and the angels in His presence are rejoicing. This joy is also seen in another parable Jesus told in Luke 15.

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:8-10).

Lost sheep and lost coins are worthless while they are lost; you can’t cash them in or trade them for something else. Coins are meant to be spent, to be circulated, or to be treasured.

Consider this story from Pastor Rogers:

Somehow my original wedding ring slipped off my finger in the Atlantic Ocean. Apart from a miracle, it’s still there somewhere

on the ocean floor, but it's worth no more than a clam shell down in the water. It has no value or significance as long as it's lost. Thankfully, Joyce has since bought me another one because she doesn't like me going around without one.

The coin was lost in the dark, so the woman lit a candle to find it. It was lost in the dirt, so she got a broom and began sweeping. The coin was also lost in disgrace, which is a major point of the story. In the Bible, ten is the complete number. The woman had ten pieces of silver, and when she lost one, the set was no longer complete.

In Bible times, and even today in some Middle Eastern countries, a woman wore ten pieces of silver on her forehead, a gift from her husband when she was married. He would engrave his name on it and a hole in the coin allowed the ten pieces to be sewn as a headdress or necklace. These ten pieces of silver were a reminder of her husband's love for her and her love for her husband. Having one of those pieces cut off, lost, or stolen would leave a hideous gap. She would be ashamed because the heirloom was no longer complete.

Through these parables, Jesus answered the Pharisees' question. He kept company with the sinners because like sheep and like lost coins, they needed to be found.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- When have you lost something that you rejoiced to find? How does it impact you to know that God rejoices when we repent?
- When have you experienced the joy of repentance? When you came to Christ, what was the emotion that you felt?

Jesus takes nobodies and
turns them into nobilities.

ADRIAN ROGERS

THE LOST SON

■ PONDER IT

In Luke 15, Jesus answered the Pharisees' criticism with three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son.

...“A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’” And he arose and came to his father (Luke 15:11-20a).

The inheritance was generally given when the father died, so the younger son was essentially wishing his father were dead. He didn't need his father; he didn't want his care, fellowship, or authority. He wanted what the father had but not the father himself.

The world is full of people who want what God has, but they don't want God Himself. They want to walk on God's green Earth, breathe His fresh air, and eat the crops that He gives. They want Him to leave them alone, but they want His wealth. The lost son was like many of us.

Lost in depression—The son spent all his inheritance living high, but when his money ran out, he became depressed. Anyone without

Jesus Christ has no lasting wealth. Your bank account is eventually going to leave you or you're going to leave it. When you stand before God at the judgment, you will realize how bankrupt you are without Jesus Christ.

Lost in disgrace—The son became indentured to a non-Jewish man. He was sent into the fields to feed the swine, an animal that Jews could not eat or even touch because it was considered unclean. He was so low that he was touching hogs and wanting to eat their slop.

Lost in dissatisfaction—The son was physically hungry. You might have plenty to eat at home, but every person has a spiritual hunger. You might go to church and sing all the songs, but you eat the slop of the world all week because you don't know Jesus Christ. Apart from Christ, you have an emptiness and a hunger that nothing else can fill.

St. Augustine said, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." People are trying to find satisfaction in what the world offers. But only in Jesus can we be satisfied.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Have you ever been lost in depression? How have you relied on your wealth to bring you happiness?
- Have you felt disgraced by what you have done? Are you dissatisfied by what you have used to fill the spiritual hunger inside of you?
- How has your life changed since giving your life to Christ?

If you want to make Heaven happy,
give your heart to Jesus Christ.

ADRIAN ROGERS

THE TRINITY REVEALED

■ PONDER IT

Three people went after what was lost: the shepherd, the woman, and the father. They represent the holy Trinity working together to bring everyone to salvation. This reveals **the rescuing nature of God the Son.**

The shepherd illustrates God the Son. He suffered, bled, and died on the cross to bring you back to God. Jesus took our sin that we might take His salvation.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” (John 10:11).

Jesus is seeking you, the lost sheep. He wants you to come back to the fold with Him. Many people think Jesus came as a teacher, as an example, or as a healer. But Jesus came as a Savior. His nature is to rescue the lost, and He’s looking for you.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief (1 Timothy 1:15).

The woman illustrates God the Holy Spirit. She lit a candle, and God will light a candle in your heart to lead you out of darkness. The Holy Spirit will illuminate and convict you of sin in your life. She took a broom and began to sweep. The power of the Spirit of God will help you get rid of the dirt that sin brings into your life. Jesus told His disciples about the Holy Spirit:

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither

sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:16-17).

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 2:10).

This is a story from Pastor Rogers about his heart before he was saved:

Before I was saved, I knew something was desperately wrong in me. I was just a boy, but sometimes I would get on my bicycle, ride out into the woods and cry. I knew that I was in desperate shape. I knew that God the Holy Spirit was speaking to me. God was taking that broom and stirring up the dirt that was in my heart. That candle was lit so that I might see and understand the Lord Jesus Christ.

That’s what the Holy Spirit does. These parables reveal the saving nature of God the Son and the revealing nature of God the Holy Spirit. Tomorrow we will consider the nature of God the Father.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What similarities are the most meaningful to you when you consider Jesus as the shepherd looking for lost sheep? How do you know that Jesus is seeking you?
- What similarities are the most meaningful to you when you consider the Holy Spirit as the woman looking for a lost coin? How have you experienced the conviction of the Holy Spirit?

When the child of God loves the Word
of God and sees the Son of God,
He is changed by the Spirit of God into
the image of God for the glory of God
because he has found the truth of God.

ADRIAN ROGERS

GOD'S RECEIVING NATURE

■ PONDER IT

The three parables put together illustrate the rescuing nature of God the Son, the revealing nature of God the Spirit, and the receiving nature of God the Father. Jesus was the master storyteller.

The father of the lost son illustrates God the Father. In the last section of the parable about the lost son, we see the receiving nature of God the Father.

“But when [the son] was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry” (Luke 15:20b-24).

Even though the son left home, the father still loved him. No matter how spiteful he had been or what he had done, the father still loved him. Imagine the father asking if anyone had seen his son or had any word about him. Perhaps he looked every day for some kind of communication from him, wondering how his son was doing.

Then, imagine one day, the old man sitting on the front porch, looking down the long, narrow road, and seeing someone walking toward him. At first, he might have thought it was just another man, but then he recognizes something in the man's gait, something about the way he swung his arm or tossed his head. Imagine the father's excitement when he realized it was his lost son. Maybe the son was dressed in rags, emaciated and thin, but the father recognized him. Picture the old man leaping over the banister of that porch and

gathering up his long robes so he could run down the road to meet that boy who was coming home.

In the Bible, God moves with deliberate majesty—never ahead, never late, always very punctual. But when God welcomes a lost child, like the father of this story, He's in a hurry.

When you step out to meet God, He runs to meet you. There's nothing you can do that is so bad that He won't receive you.

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17).

Don't allow the devil to tell you that it's too late for you or that God will not take you back. He will. This was why Jesus kept company with sinners. He's the Good Shepherd. The Holy Spirit works with Him to illuminate hearts. God the Father receives those who come to Him. This is what it's all about: the sinful nature of Man and the saving nature of God.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- What stands out to you about how the father receives the lost son? Do you believe God receives you in the same way?
- If you knew that God was anxiously waiting for you, would you turn around and come to Him?

If sinners could see God's open arms
and His love for them,
they would understand why
Jesus wants to keep company with
them and bring them home to Him.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 6

COME HOME

■ PRACTICE IT

The Good Shepherd is looking for you. The Holy Spirit is illuminating and stirring your heart so that you will let yourself be found. God the Father stands with open arms to receive you and rejoices in your return. Don't delay answering His call. Pray something like this:

Dear God, I know that You love me. I know that my sin has taken me away from You. I know that You sent Your Son to pay the price for my sin so that I could be with You forever. I want to come home. Amen.

Maybe you have already come home, but there's a sense in which you have wandered far away from God, even if you are saved. If you have strayed away from God, tell God the Father that you want to come home. Pray something like this:

Lord God, Jesus, thank You for seeking the lost sheep. Holy Spirit of God, shine Your light, bring Your conviction to me. Heavenly Father, I trust that You will receive me into Your arms today. I want to come home. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to **lwf.org/discover-jesus**, scrolling down the page and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

Ask God to give you an opportunity to share with someone what you have learned about God this week. Be a friend of sinners like Jesus so that you can show people the way to be saved. Ask God to give you the courage and the words to say.

The devil would just as soon
send you to Hell from the pew
as he had the gutter,
so don't allow him to deceive you.

ADRIAN ROGERS

I love the name of
Jesus.
It fits just right
on my tongue.

ADRIAN ROGERS

The word "JESUS" is spelled out using five dark, rectangular metal type blocks. Each block has a raised, serif letter on its top surface. The blocks are arranged in a horizontal line on a light-colored, textured surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with rolling hills under a bright sky.

WEEK 3

JESUS: OUR SAVIOR

■ INTRODUCTION

Anyone who steps forward as a hero is bound to receive some criticism. The Pharisees in Jesus' day were masters of criticism. They criticized and interrogated Jesus in order to discredit Him. But they were so oblivious to the obvious. The Lord Jesus was right in their midst, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, but they were blind. To criticize Jesus after they watched Him teach and do miracles was pitiful. Jesus told them who He was, but they still refused to believe. He said:

“The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here” (Matthew 12:42).

The Pharisees were fascinated with religion, pomp, circumstance, glory, and power. They read about King Solomon in all of his glory, and they were impressed. The queen of the South came from the uttermost parts of the Earth, a long and dangerous trek, to see Solomon in all of his glory. Jesus told them that someone much greater than Solomon was right there with them. In their blindness and arrogance, they missed Him.

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, Sometimes it's difficult to see things the way You see them. I can understand how the Pharisees struggled to believe that Jesus was greater than Solomon, based on outward appearances. Open my eyes this week to see how Jesus was the greatest of all and the Savior of the world. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

WISDOM

■ PONDER IT

Dr. Robert G. Lee imagined what the Pharisees might have thought when they compared Jesus and Solomon: Solomon was a king's son; Jesus was a carpenter's son. Solomon was born in a palace in beautiful Jerusalem; Jesus was born in a stable in little Bethlehem. Solomon had many servants and kingly robes; Jesus didn't have any servants and dressed like a peasant. Solomon drank from vessels of gold; Jesus asked a Samaritan harlot for a drink from a well. Solomon was rich with mighty armies; Jesus was poor with just a few followers. Solomon lived in a palace; Jesus was homeless. Solomon had 1,400 chariots; Jesus walked wherever he went. Solomon ate with the queen of Sheba; Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees didn't understand how Jesus could be greater than Solomon. This week we will look at seven ways Jesus is greater than Solomon.

Wisdom—Solomon was known for his wisdom. The queen of Sheba couldn't stump him because God gave Solomon the supernatural gift of wisdom.

Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. ...Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart (1 Kings 10:1-3, 24).

Solomon was the primary writer of the Book of Proverbs, which is an incredible collection of wisdom. Solomon knew theology, philosophy,

biology, and sociology. People came from all over the world to hear the wisdom of Solomon. (See 1 Kings 4:32-34.)

Solomon had a prodigious mind full of great wisdom, but Jesus is greater. Solomon knew all about fish, but Jesus made the fish.

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made (John 1:3).

Solomon may have studied fish, but Jesus loaded a fisherman's net so full of fish that it sank two boats. (See Luke 5:6-7.) Solomon knew all about the winds, but Jesus commanded the winds. (See Matthew 8:23-27.) Solomon knew about sea navigation because he sent out his ships, but Jesus walked on water. (See Matthew 14:22-33.) Jesus is greater than Solomon's wisdom.

Interestingly, all of Solomon's wisdom didn't satisfy him. This is what he wrote in Ecclesiastes:

And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind (Ecclesiastes 1:17).

The world's wisdom is not the answer. The more a man knows, the more he knows that he does not know. You can have a head full of facts, but still have an empty heart. You can study all you want and learn as much as you want, but worldly wisdom will never satisfy the longing of your heart. It didn't satisfy Solomon, and it will not satisfy you. But Jesus gives wisdom that satisfies the heart. Jesus is greater than Solomon in wisdom.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Who do you consider really wise? Where does his or her wisdom come from?
- In what area of life do you need wisdom right now? Have you asked God for wisdom?

DAY 2

WORKS

■ PONDER IT

Yesterday we looked at the wisdom of Solomon and Jesus, and today we will consider their works.

Works—Solomon achieved a lot of wonderful things. He built a great house, and it took him 13 years to complete it. (See 1 Kings 7:1.)

And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built (1 Kings 10:4).

But Jesus has built a greater one. If you think that little shack that Solomon lived in was something, wait until you see what God has prepared for us.

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

Solomon also set a lavish table. The queen saw the elaborate feast that King Solomon had set. It took her breath away.

...the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her (1 Kings 10:5).

But Jesus is greater. Solomon could prepare a feast, but he couldn’t turn five loaves and a few fish into a meal for 5,000. (See John 6:1-14.) Solomon could not change pure water into sparkling wine. (See John 2:1-11.) Solomon could not give us the Bread of life nor the Water of life that will satisfy the deepest longing of our hearts.

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

Solomon set a wonderful table, but Jesus offers Himself.

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:54).

Solomon ate, but he was hungry again. Jesus alone can satisfy the deep longing of your heart.

Solomon built the house of the Lord. The temple was perhaps the most magnificent building the world has ever seen or ever will see. Solomon used 70,000 laborers, 80,000 stone masons, and 3,600 foremen on this massive project. (See 2 Chronicles 2:2.) They labored on it for seven years. (See 1 Kings 6:38.) Solomon’s father, King David, gathered gold and silver and precious stones to build that temple. (See 1 Chronicles 29:1-8.) God Almighty Himself was the architect of that temple. (See 1 Chronicles 28:11-21.) The historian Josephus wrote, “But this temple appeared to strangers, when they were coming to it at a distance, like a mountain covered with snow.”

But Jesus has built a greater temple. Solomon’s temple is gone. (See 2 Kings 25:8-9.) But the temple that Jesus built—God’s people inhabited by the Holy Spirit—will live forever.

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Salvation is not primarily getting Man out of Earth and into Heaven; it is getting God out of Heaven and into Man. We are now temples of Almighty God.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What are some things you have built or done that you are proud of? What role did God play in that process?
- How does it make you think about your body differently to know that it is the temple of God?

WORKERS AND WEALTH

■ PONDER IT

We have compared the wisdom and work of Solomon and Jesus. Today we will consider two more ways that Jesus is greater.

Workers—The queen of Sheba observed Solomon’s servants, and she noticed something about their countenance. She could see that his home was a wonderful place to work, and that he was a wonderful man to work for.

Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! (1 Kings 10:8).

But Jesus’ servants are more blessed than Solomon’s servants could ever be. The servants of Jesus have far more happiness than Solomon’s servants ever had. A child of God, walking by the Spirit, has continual, conspicuous, and contagious joy. Jesus said:

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).

Solomon, his palace, his table, and all his servants are gone. But Jesus’ servants remain all over the world and are greater in dedication. Millions and millions of people serve Jesus, and many have even died for Him. Jesus is greater in wisdom, in works, and in workers. Happy are His servants.

Wealth—Solomon had tremendous wealth.

The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides that from the traveling merchants, from the income of traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country. And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. He

also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three minas of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon. Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. ...So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom (1 Kings 10:14-18, 23).

The queen of Sheba was incredibly impressed when she saw Solomon's wealth. (See 1 Kings 10:5, 7.) Probably no individual who has ever lived, or ever will live, had the wealth that Solomon had. Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, and Elon Musk are paupers compared to Solomon.

But Jesus is greater in wealth.

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein (Psalm 24:1).

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine (Psalm 50:10-11).

All of the precious metals and jewels in this Earth belong to Jesus. Every star is His. It was all made by Him and for Him, and it's all coming back to Him. (See Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 21-22.) The world belongs to Jesus.

Solomon was wealthy, but he left us nothing. We are joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. We will share in His riches.

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16-17a).

This world has much wealth to offer, but nothing compares to Jesus. He is greater in wealth than Solomon.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Are the people who work with you or for you happy? How would you describe your attitude as a servant of the Lord?
- What is the blessing that comes from the wealth Jesus has to offer?

WORTH

■ PONDER IT

We have been looking at the ways that Jesus is greater than Solomon.

Worth—Wealth is what someone has; worth is what someone is. The queen of Sheba looked at Solomon and saw the blessings of God.

“Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness” (1 Kings 10:9).

She realized Solomon was a worthy man. She recognized that God had crowned Solomon and blessed him. This was symbolized in the throne Solomon sat on. When the queen of Sheba saw it, it took her breath away.

Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round at the back; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests. Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom. All King Solomon’s drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon (1 Kings 10:18-21).

But Jesus is greater in worth and has an even greater throne. The Apostle John was taken up into Heaven, and this is what he saw according to Revelation.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and

thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:11-13).

Solomon’s throne is gone. But Jesus is still sitting on a throne in Heaven as our great Savior, greater in worth than Solomon.

This is a story from Pastor Rogers about honoring a king:

A king came into a room full of diplomats and dignitaries. As he entered, they all stood up. He feigned modesty and said, “Sirs, be seated. After all, I’m not the Lord.”

One of the diplomats said to him, “Sir, I mean you no disrespect. I stand to give you honor, but if you were the Lord, I would fall on my face.”

John saw a throne established in Heaven, and it is still occupied. Jesus sits upon it, and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ. God honored Solomon, and it is not wrong to pay respect to him, but we should never worship him. We worship Jesus because He alone is worthy.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What is the difference between wealth and worth? What are the things you assign value to in your life?
- How do you show Jesus that He is worthy of worship in your life? Have you been on your face before Him?

If Christ is worth anything,
He's worth everything.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 5

WORSHIP

■ PONDER IT

We have been considering what made Jesus greater than Solomon and focusing on the story of the visit from the queen of Sheba.

And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her (1 Kings 10:4-5).

Worship—The queen of Sheba saw the entryway to the temple where Solomon “went up” to worship. She might have even witnessed Solomon bringing in his offerings to worship the Lord. When he dedicated the temple, he offered a huge sacrifice.

King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God (2 Chronicles 7:5).

This is one offering of many, but all of those offerings together could not atone for all the sin of Mankind. They typified and illustrated the offering that was to come.

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. ...He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:4, 9b-10).

In worship at the temple, Solomon offered the blood of bulls and of goats. But the Lord Jesus offered up Himself on Calvary.

This is a story from Pastor Rogers about what the world worships:

Our old, sin-sick world looks to science and asks, “Science, can’t you save me?”

Science says, “I can tell you how far it is from the Earth to the sun, but I cannot tell you how far God can remove sin from the human heart.”

The world looks at education, and asks, “Education, can’t you save me?”

Education says, “I can talk to you about facts, but I cannot impart saving truth to you.”

The world looks at the government, and the world asks, “Government, can’t you save me?”

The government says, “No, we can regulate things and run things, but the government has no power to deal with sin. Government has no power to make people good.”

The world continues its search, asking, “Sociology, can’t you save me?”

Sociology says, “All I can do, and all culture can do, is to make the world a better place to go to Hell from. I cannot save you.”

Jesus is great because He is the only Savior of the world. If you ask Jesus whether or not He can save you, He will immediately respond that He can and He will. He’s greater than Solomon in worship.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What do people worship other than God? What do they look to for solutions to the problem of sin?
- When you consider the sacrifice that Jesus made so that we could be saved from our sins, what is your response? How do you worship Him?

Solomon in worship offered the blood of bulls and of goats. The Lord Jesus offered up Himself.

ADRIAN ROGERS

WONDER

■ PRACTICE IT

Today we look at the last of the seven ways that Jesus was greater than Solomon.

Wonder—When the queen of Sheba saw everything that Solomon had done, she was filled with awe and amazement. But Jesus is more wonderful. It is difficult to comprehend the wonders that belong to Jesus Christ, King of kings, Lord of lords.

A doctor was able to perform a very delicate operation to restore the sight of a little girl who was blind. When they took off the bandages, he began to unwrap the gauze from around her beautiful little face. Then he said, “Keep your eyes closed until I tell you to open them, and open very slowly.” She slowly opened her eyes and focused. The first thing she saw was the face of that doctor. The next thing she saw was the face of her mother. The next thing she saw were her mother’s tears. She jumped up, wanting to see everything that she had only touched. She raced to the window and opened it. She saw the green grass and the blue sky. She saw God’s wonderful world. The little girl looked at her mother and asked why she never told her how beautiful it was. The mother said, “Darling, I tried to tell you, but you had to see it for yourself.”

That’s what it will be like when we get to Heaven and look upon Jesus’ face. When you see Jesus, you will know it was worth it all. He is greater in wonder. Jesus is greater than Solomon, greater than anybody else, and greater than everybody else put together. There’s only one dear, wonderful, glorious Savior. He wants to save you today, and He will save you based on the authority of the Word of God, if you’ll trust Him.

If you want the Lord Jesus in your life, you must understand that you’re a sinner and that your sins deserve judgment. You must understand that Jesus took your sins, carried them to the cross, and bore your judgment. He paid the debt of your sin, the penalty of your sin, with His own precious blood. By His grace, Jesus will save you if you

receive by faith the gift of everlasting life. You cannot earn it, and you'll never deserve it. It is a gift to sinners. You can pray a prayer like this:

Lord Jesus, I need You, and I want You. Thank You for dying for my sins. Thank You that You paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe God raised You from the dead. By faith, like a child, I receive You this moment as my Lord and Savior. Come into my heart. Forgive my sin. Save me and keep me. Amen.

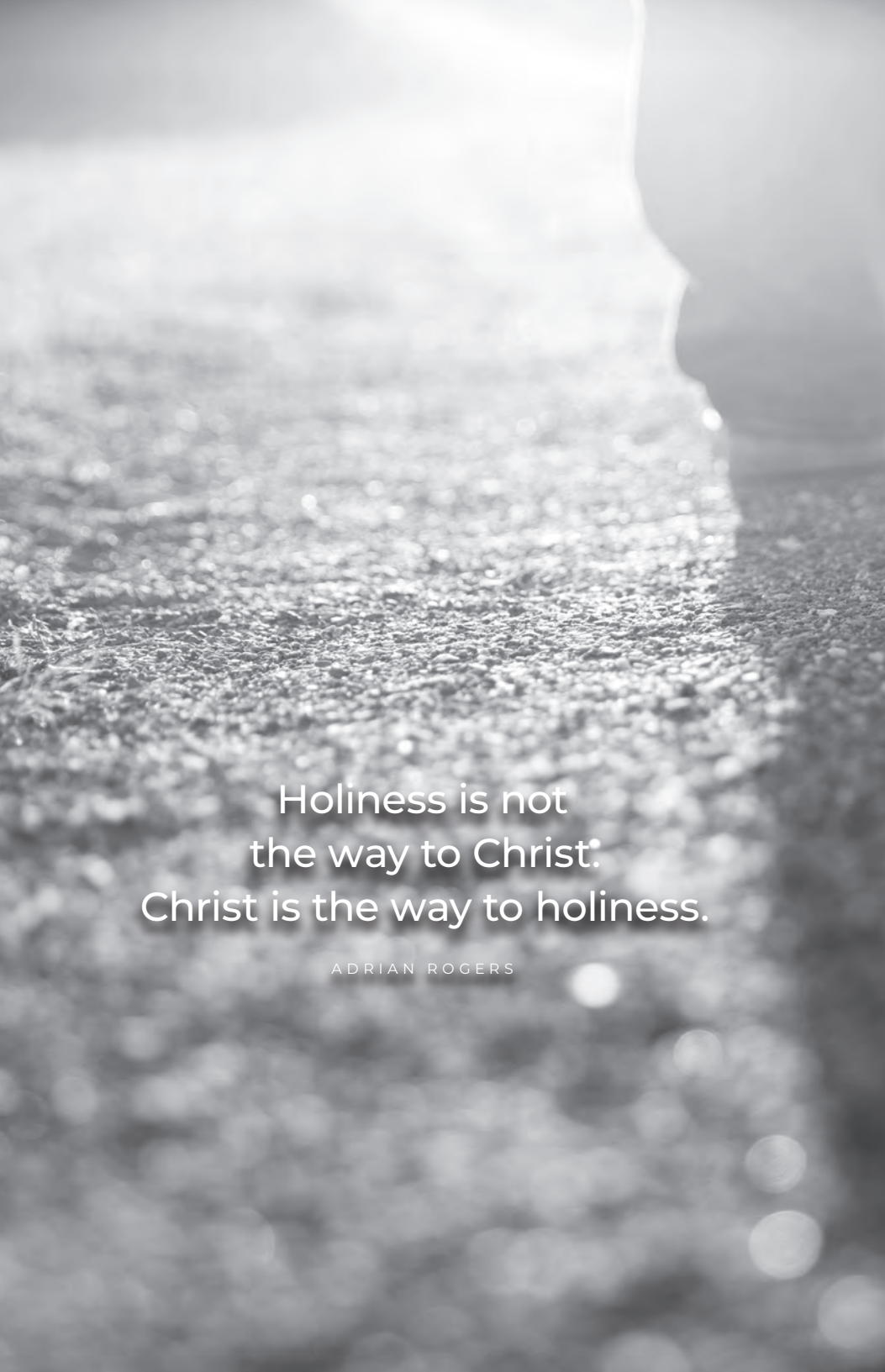
■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page, and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

Share with someone this week why Jesus is greater than everyone else. Ask God to give you opportunities this week to proclaim this truth. He will give you the words to say when the time is right.

When you see Jesus in glory,
you'll wonder why your preacher
didn't tell you about all of it. It's
because a preacher can't.

ADRIAN ROGERS



Holiness is not
the way to Christ.
Christ is the way to holiness.

ADRIAN ROGERS

JESUS: OUR MEDIATOR

■ INTRODUCTION

The Book of Job is the story of a good man who suffered. Job's story helps to answer this question: Why do bad things happen to good people? But that's only one of the questions. Other themes include: How can good things happen to bad people? How can sinners like us stand just and righteous and holy before God? (See Job 9:1-2.)

It is a big question. God is so holy, and we are so sinful. Unless we can be righteous, we cannot be with God.

“What is man, that he could be pure? And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous? If God puts no trust in His saints, and the heavens are not pure in His sight, how much less man, who is abominable and filthy, who drinks iniquity like water!” (Job 15:14-16).

Job acknowledged our need for a Hero who was pure, born of a woman, and righteous. We live in a world that drinks sin like water, that indulges in filthy entertainment, and that celebrates pride. Without a way to bridge the gap between our world and Heaven, without a hero to step in and do what we cannot do, we are separated from God forever. Thankfully, Jesus serves as our Mediator. Job, with eyes of faith, looked forward to the day of His coming.

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, I have struggled with these questions and heard other people ask these questions. I know that my sin separates me from You. I'm thankful You sent Jesus to be our Mediator. Show me how to live in the light of this truth. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

GOD'S HOLINESS AND OUR SINFULNESS

■ PONDER IT

Humans are all sinners. We're sinners by birth, sinners by nature, sinners by choice, and sinners by practice. We sin habitually because we're sinners. There's not an honest person who could stand and say that he has not and does not sin. The Bible says:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

Job struggled to understand how he could be right with God. He recognized that even though he was a good man, sin was still with him.

If I wash myself with snow water, and cleanse my hands with soap, yet You will plunge me into the pit, and my own clothes will abhor me (Job 9:30-31).

Many people use the single word “love” to epitomize the nature and character of God, and it's true that God is infinite, matchless, measureless, glorious love. But the word “holy” also perfectly characterizes God, and it's one we often overlook. We are so sinful, and God is so holy. (See Habakkuk 1:13.) We cannot lift ourselves to God because we're sinful, and God cannot lower Himself to us because God is holy.

Job had three friends who tried to answer Job's question: How can someone be just with God? It's a good question, but each friend gave the wrong answer to the right question. The Book of Job is about how a holy God can get together with sinful humans. The responses of the friends reveal three satanically inspired answers to Job's righteous question.

The devil is not against religion. As a matter of fact, the devil uses religion to damn and to doom souls. The first temptation in the Garden

of Eden was not to be ungodly but to be godly. He told Eve to eat the fruit so she could be “like” God. It wasn’t a temptation to fall down away from God; it was a temptation to step up toward God and become like God. (See Genesis 3:1-5.) The devil is clever.

The devil’s best lies sound like the truth, and every good lie has some truth in it. A clock that doesn’t run is right twice a day. Consider which is more dangerous and believable: a clock that is five minutes wrong or a clock that is five hours wrong. Your first instinct might be to think that it is obviously a clock five hours wrong, but that’s not so. When you look at a clock that’s five hours wrong, you know that something is wrong and you ask someone to tell you what time it is. But if you look at a clock that is five minutes wrong, you miss your plane. The devil is a very clever liar, so he uses lies that are very close to the truth but yet so far away.

Job asked how someone could be right with God. We are going to look at the responses of his three friends.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What are some of your sins that you can acknowledge? What have you tried to do to make yourself clean or right with God?
- Why can’t God ignore our sin? What does this tell us about the character of God?

We cannot lift ourselves to
God because we’re sinful, and
God will not lower Himself to
us because God is holy.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

ELIPHAZ'S ANSWER

■ PONDER IT

The first friend's response was from a man named Eliphaz. He shared his experience that led to his answer:

“Now a word was secretly brought to me, and my ear received a whisper of it. In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair on my body stood up. It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; there was silence; then I heard a voice...”
(Job 4:12-16).

Eliphaz said that he sensed a fearful presence in his sleep, and the form, which he couldn't make out, gave him some information. Most of us would not want to sense somebody or something like that in our bedrooms. But he took what this spirit said and passed it on to Job as if it were true information. But what was in this bedroom was a demonic spirit. God's Word has strong advice about listening to spirits:

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God (1 John 4:1a).

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1).

Eliphaz met an evil spirit who gave out doctrines of demons. We know it wasn't God because later on in the Book of Job, God said the information was not from Him:

And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is

aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has” (Job 42:7).

We have been living through decades of demons, and Hell is having a holiday. We see New Age demonism becoming more mainstream and socially accepted than ever before. Cults are emerging and spreading like wildfire. They say they honor the beauty and truth of all the world religions.

Educated people around the world consult their horoscopes and make major decisions based on astrology. People buy jewelry with crystals that they believe have special powers. Psychics convince people that they can see and know things that other people can't. People practice meditation to empty their minds and put themselves in neutral, but an empty mind is an open door for the devil. People use hallucinogenic drugs to experience breakthroughs and follow practices through which they open themselves up to the influence of demonic spirits. These practices are becoming commonly accepted, even by those who claim to be Christians. We turn to these things for solutions before we even pray. Without the truth of Scripture, we cannot discern what is from God and what is not.

What we have in these Last Days is the way of Eliphaz, which is demonism. Whether it's through religious cults, astrology, psychics, transcendental meditation, or the drug culture, a false spirit is testifying. It is the same spirit that Eliphaz met in the bedroom.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What do you see people using or relying on for truth apart from God? Do you see these things as demonic influences?
- How do you discern the voice of God in your own life? What practices help you listen to God?

When you meditate on Scripture,
you don't put yourself in neutral; you
fasten yourself upon the Word of God.

BILDAD'S ANSWER

■ PONDER IT

Not everybody's going to buy into demonism and satanic revelation, but the devil is very clever. He fed Job's friend Bildad another wise-sounding answer to the question of righteousness.

“For inquire, please, of the former age, and consider the things discovered by their fathers; for we were born yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow. Will they not teach you and tell you, and utter words from their heart?” (Job 8:8-10).

Bildad encouraged Job to study the accumulated wisdom of the ages. The appeal was sophisticated reason and humanism—the belief that humans hold the answers within themselves. Basically, Job needed to get educated.

In his book *Seven Men Who Ruled the World from Their Graves*, Dave Breese wrote about men from the nineteenth century who still have a great influence on our culture. Five stand out to us even today, and this is the wisdom our culture continues to follow and revere.

Charles Darwin—In 1859, he hatched the egg that poisoned the scientific world when he wrote about his theory of evolution. Being against evolution doesn't mean that you are against science. Evolution is a philosophy, not a science. It offered the world a way to think about the origin of Man without believing in God. The scientific method requires that we test a theory, but scientists have still not been able to witness or replicate what they say happened in this theory. Regardless, it is still taught as fact in most educational institutions.

Soren Kierkegaard—In 1841, he hatched the egg that poisoned the religious world. He was the father of neo-orthodoxy and existentialism, which called into question the very foundations of the Christian faith. When his ideas began to take hold after World War II, people no longer believed that the Bible was the fixed, inspired, inerrant, infallible Word

of God. His ideas led to existentialism, which invited the intellectual to question the validity and certainty of everything.

Karl Marx—Born in 1818, he poisoned the political world. His goal was to destroy capitalism and dethrone God. Karl Marx, the father of Communism, was an atheist. He had no moral absolutes and his atheistic writings continue to be read and taught. His ideas are very much alive today on our university campuses, shaping our future leaders.

Sigmund Freud—Born in 1856, he poisoned the psychological world as the father of psychoanalysis. He taught that the human race is motivated chiefly by pleasure, primarily eroticism, and that everything begins and ends with sex. He is the patron of extreme permissiveness, holding the notion that we should just allow little children to unfold and follow their natural desires. This remains a prevalent belief system in society today.

John Dewey—Born in 1859, John Dewey poisoned the educational world. He became a humanist, which is essentially an atheist. He is the father of modern public education, and his approach teaches that ideas and methods are more important than fixed truth.

The wisdom of the ages from these men has sabotaged the Bible, humanized God, deified Man, minimized sin, glorified greed, glamorized sex, and greatly influenced modern society.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What are the limits of philosophy and education in trying to help us understand God? Where did Bildad want Job to find answers?
- How do you see the ideas of these men influencing your community? What other ideas or philosophies sound really good, but eliminate God from the answer?

There are people who believe there
is life on Mars, yet they cannot
believe in the miracle of creation.

ADRIAN ROGERS

ZOPHAR'S ANSWER

■ PONDER IT

To answer Job's question, Eliphaz used demonism, Bildad used humanism, and finally, Zophar used legalism.

“If you would prepare your heart, and stretch out your hands toward Him; if iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, and would not let wickedness dwell in your tents; then surely you could lift up your face without spot; yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear” (Job 11:13-15).

Zophar thought Job needed more religion, to do more good. Religious people won't be caught up in satanic revelation or in sophisticated reasoning. However, a great number of religious people are caught up in sterile ritualism: rituals, religion, and legalism.

Zophar was really saying that Job needed a religion of form and self-effort. He needed to prepare his heart through meditation. He needed to stretch out his hands for ceremony. He needed to put away sin to experience reformation.

Meditation, ceremony, reformation. Many today are trudging to churches doing those three things and leaving with empty hearts. They're not into demonism or irrationalism, but they're into ritualism. They have a form of godliness, but they do not have its power.

But Job didn't accept their answers; he was a man after God's own heart.

Then Job answered and said: “Truly I know it is so, but how can a man be righteous before God? If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand. ...God will not withdraw His anger, the allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him. How then can I answer Him, and choose my words to reason with Him? For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him...For He is not a

man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both” (Job 9:1-3, 13-15a, 32-33, emphasis added).

Other translations use the words “umpire, middleman, or arbiter” for the word “mediator,” but the idea is the same. Job knew that he was sinful. He knew that God was and is holy. He knew that he needed God and that he couldn’t win an argument with God. If God brought him to court, he couldn’t answer one out of a thousand questions correctly because he was a sinner and a man. He realized he needed somebody to go between himself and God. He needed somebody to bring him to God, somebody who could lay hands on both of them. He needed an arbiter, a middleman, a go-between. He was crying for and longing for Jesus, the One who was fully God and fully Man.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time (1 Timothy 2:5-6, emphasis added).

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Have you ever used legalism, self-effort, or doing more good to get answers from God? What was the result?
- When have you felt your need for a mediator between yourself and God? What are the obstacles that keep you from going to God for the answers you need?

Reformation without transformation
leads to greater degradation.

ADRIAN ROGERS

A QUALIFIED MEDIATOR

■ PONDER IT

Suppose a king and a beggar are in a legal argument, and the king decides to take the beggar to court. The beggar wants somebody to represent him and present his argument as a mediator. The king recommends another king, but the beggar doesn't want two kings to decide his fate. The beggar thinks another beggar would be better, but another beggar doesn't have the education or eloquence to beat the king's lawyers. The beggar needs a mediator who is qualified to stand before a king, but one who will also represent him. It is like this with God and us. We need a mediator in order to stand before a holy God, but the mediator has to be qualified. Not just any mediator will do. The only qualified mediator is Jesus. (See 1 Timothy 2:5.)

Jesus is qualified because He is both God and human at the same time.

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law (Galatians 4:4).

This is the miracle of Christmas. Even though Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He did not have His beginning in Bethlehem.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

He is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father, but He stepped out of Heaven and came to Earth. He became a mediator for us when He became a Man. Jesus was not God simply inside of a man. He was not a package. He wasn't just masquerading as a man. He became a Man, as much a man as any mother's child is a man. He wept, slept, hungered, cried, and hurt. He was a Man.

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

Christ became a Man that He might die upon that cross as payment for our sin, even though He Himself was without sin. He could not have been a son of Adam because in Adam, all die because all sin. He had to be the Son of God; therefore, He had to be born of a virgin. A son of slaves is a slave himself, and Adam was a slave to sin and so were we.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:20-23).

But Jesus was the Son of God. He stepped out of Heaven and became a Man. He could lay His hand upon Job, and He could lay His hand upon the Father. Everything that God has, says, and does, Jesus has, says, and does. Yet everything that Job felt, Jesus felt. Jesus is the only qualified Mediator.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What makes Jesus a qualified mediator between yourself and God?
- Why do you need a mediator in order to be right with God?

Jesus is as much Man as if not God at all and as much God as if not Man at all.

ADRIAN ROGERS

JESUS BRIDGES THE CHASM

■ PRACTICE IT

Between God and human beings, there is a great chasm formed by sin. The Lord Jesus Christ bridges that chasm. He alone can stand on both sides of the chasm because He is fully God and fully Man.

Jesus is as much Man as if not God at all and as much God as if not Man at all. He's not half God and half Man, but all God and all Man. There has never been another like Him, the God-Man. Having put a foundation on both sides of the chasm, the God-Man Himself is the bridge between God and Man.

Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for all. Whoever wants to be saved can come to Him.

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37).

With the blood of His cross, He bridged the chasm between holy God and sinful Mankind, and He, the Mediator, the God-Man, built a strong and sturdy bridge that demonism, humanism, and ritualism could not build.

A mediator must be accepted by both parties, must be given absolute authority, must have both parties in mind, and must be totally just. No one other than Jesus can fit that description. Job asked how Man can be just with God. The answer is Jesus. No wonder the angels said:

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Choose to live in such a way that if you had a thousand lives, you'd give every one of them to Jesus. If you want to claim Jesus as your Mediator, pray a prayer like this:

Lord, I cannot lift myself to You in my sinful state, and You cannot come down to me until something is done with my sin. I believe that there's One who can bridge the gap between You and me, and His name is Jesus. Lord Jesus, come into my heart today. Give me the courage not only to receive You, but to make it public. In Your Name I pray, Amen.

■ **PROCLAIM IT**

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page, and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

Share with someone this week why you need a Mediator to bridge the gap between yourself and God. Ask God to give you opportunities this week to proclaim this truth. He will give you the words to say when the time is right.

If I had a thousand lives,
I'd give every one of them to Jesus.

ADRIAN ROGERS

The darkness can't put out
the Light. You can walk
in a room and turn on
the light, but you cannot
walk into the room and
turn on the darkness.

ADRIAN ROGERS



WEEK 5

JESUS: OUR LIGHT

■ INTRODUCTION

One night during World War II, the captain of an aircraft carrier in the North Atlantic, realizing his ship was in grave danger from enemy submarines, ordered a total blackout. Then he sent out six of his finest pilots to scout out enemy submarines.

When those pilots flew back toward the carrier, they radioed to say they were coming home and needed some light. The radio operator reported back that there was a total blackout. In desperation, one of the pilots begged for just one light. With a broken heart, the radio dispatcher told them again he couldn't provide a light and shut off the switch. Tragically, that night those brave American pilots went down in the blackness into the chilly waters of the North Atlantic.

Like those pilots, we're in a desperate condition, but Jesus is the Light we need. When He came to Earth, He came to rescue us so that we would not be lost forever. (See John 1:1-9.)

Jesus is the Hero of God's ultimate story. He is our Light.

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, I see darkness all around me and sometimes it is difficult to hold out hope that things will ever get better. But I know that You are the Light of the world. You came so that we would not have to live in a world of darkness. Show me how to live for You in the darkness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

PURE LIGHT

■ PONDER IT

Jesus was called the Light of the world even before He was born. Isaiah prophesied about the coming of the Messiah whom he called the Light. Light came to the world in Bethlehem.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great *light*; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a *light* has shined (Isaiah 9:2, emphasis added)

Zacharias prophesied about the coming Messiah during the naming of his son John the Baptist. He anticipated the Savior coming into the world and compared it to light coming into darkness.

“Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give *light* to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death...” (Luke 1:78-79a, emphasis added).

Simeon was a devout man who had been told that he would not see death before he had seen the Messiah. When Simeon picked up the baby Jesus to bless Him, he knew that the promise had been fulfilled and referred to Jesus as a light. (See Luke 2:27-32.)

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the purpose of the light in a dark world is to expose evil.

“And this is the condemnation, that the *light* has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than *light*, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the *light* and does not come to the *light*, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the *light*, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God” (John 3:19-21, emphasis added).

The Light is pure. Jesus was in the world, but He was not of the world. Light can't be defiled. No matter what it passes through or falls upon, light can't be corrupted. Light can fall on the most corrupted, vile, loathsome, disease-ridden object, yet the light is not affected by it. It can expose evil, but it's not touched by it. When water from the purest spring bubbles up and begins to flow through streams and valleys, it is eventually contaminated. A pure snow crystal falling from the sky is eventually corrupted by air pollution. But light can never be defiled, so light is a wonderful picture of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was in this world, and He was the Light of the world. He exposed sin, but He was never contaminated by sin. Jesus could touch sinners, but sin never touched Jesus. He's absolutely, totally undefiled.

When the Bible calls Christ "the Light of the world," it reminds us of the sinless, stainless purity of the Son of God. Jesus was here to expose sin, but He never sinned. When you think of Jesus as the Light of the world, remember His incorruptible purity.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Why is Jesus' pure and incorruptible nature so important in the Christian faith?
- When you bring your life into the light of Jesus' life, what sin is exposed?

We love to sing, 'Silent Night,
Holy Night,' but it is not about
the night; it is about the Light.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

CONSTANT LIGHT

■ PONDER IT

The Light is constant. The speed of light traveling through a vacuum is considered a universal constant. Light has existed since the beginning.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God (John 1:1-2).

Jesus is God, and He never changes. He couldn't get better, and He surely won't get worse. Because He is God, He's absolutely unchangeable.

“For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob” (Malachi 3:6).

James speaks of Jesus and God the Father as light that's unchanging:

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (James 1:17).

In 1905 Albert Einstein came up with the theory of special relativity: $E=mc^2$, which means that the energy of any given object equals its mass times the speed of light, squared. E stands for energy in ergs. M stands for mass in grams. C stands for the velocity of light in centimeters per second. This all means that a small amount of mass is able to produce a tremendous amount of energy like with nuclear fission.

The reason that Einstein was able to construct and write down the theory of relativity was because he found there is one thing in the world that was constant and could not change: the speed of light, which is 299,792,458 meters per second. That is constant, and everything else is relative. The only constant in our Universe is light. Jesus, in the spiritual realm, is the one Constant. He is Light, and He does not change.

One day we're going to be made just like the Lord Jesus. This is how Paul described Him to Timothy:

...who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen (1 Timothy 6:16).

One day, when we see Him, we'll be like Him. We'll be transformed into His perfect image, and for us, time will stand still. We will go from time to eternity because we will be like the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

For those in Hell, time will slow down. Through the eons of the ages, endless, timeless, dateless, and measureless, they'll be in darkness. Those who rejected our Lord will be in darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth. (See Matthew 22:13.)

Jesus is the Light of the world and does not change. He sees the beginning from the end, and nothing makes Him nervous.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Why is it important to worship a God who is constant and does not change? How does that inform your worship?
- Why is the constancy of Christ important to you? If He never changes, how does that impact your daily life?

Jesus is God, and because of that,
He never changes. He couldn't get
better, and He surely won't get worse.

DAY 3

VICTORIOUS LIGHT

■ PONDER IT

The **Light is victorious**. No matter how dark the darkness seems, we can know that the Light will always win.

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:3-5).

Here are three different translations of the last part of this passage:

1. "...the darkness has not overcome it." (NIV)
2. "...the darkness has never put it out." (GNT)
3. "...the darkness can never extinguish it." (NLT)

No matter how you say it, victory belongs to the light. There's a long history of the battle between light and darkness. "Lucifer" means "light bearer." But Satan turned against God and sinned against the light. He is no longer a light bearer, the son of the morning. (See Isaiah 14:12-15.) He is now Satan, the father of lies. (See John 8:44.) A devilish darkness battles with the light.

As night follows day and day follows night, it is as clear as the light of the noonday sun that darkness has no power against light. If you're in a dark room, the way to rid the room of darkness is to turn on the light. Then the darkness flees. It goes under the bed. It goes in the closet. It cannot stay. It is totally powerless against the light. The good news is that Light has come into the dark world.

The sun is incredibly bright. The energy on the sun is indescribable. The sun radiates more energy in one second than Man has used in the history of civilization or ever will use. Five million tons of hydrogen are destroyed every second in a nuclear explosion on the sun. If you look into the face of the sun, it could cause permanent damage to your eyes

in less than a minute. But that's a faint illustration of the Son of God and His brightness. This is how the Apostle Paul described it:

...who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen (1 Timothy 6:16).

We put a man on the moon, but we'll never put one on the sun. If the sun is just a picture of the glory and the power of our great God, then the victory belongs to His light.

On overcast or foggy days, the sun may be blocked, but it is still shining. You can block out the Light, but you can't put it out. Instead of praying against the powers of darkness, we need to realize the power of His light. We need to release the Light of the Lord Jesus Christ and witness to others about what we have seen and experienced. Think of Jesus, the Light of the world. Think of His purity. Think of His constancy. Think of His victory.

The darkness can't put out the Light. You can walk in a room and turn on the light, but you cannot walk into the room and turn on the darkness. The only thing that can let the darkness in is for the light to be blocked out.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- If the Light has already won and will continue to win, how does that affect your daily life? What do you have victory over because of the Light?
- How can you bring light to those around you who are in darkness?

As night follows day and day follows night, it is as clear as the light of the noonday sun that darkness has no power against light.

ADRIAN ROGERS

VITAL LIGHT

■ PONDER IT

The Light is vital. Light and life are inextricably interwoven. You cannot have life unless you have light.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:4).

When God wanted to bring life into chaos, He called forth light.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness (Genesis 1:1-4).

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good (Genesis 1:14-18).

When the light came, the seas began to swarm with life, and the trees and the seeds began to bud, blossom, and grow. (See Genesis 1:24-30.) Photosynthesis occurs when light causes plants to produce energy. The word “photo” means “light,” and “synthesis” means “to put together.” Growing things are put together with light. The whole life chain is built upon the sunlight.

If you were to take the sunlight away from this world, it would become cold, dark, and dead, like a person without Jesus. When Jesus came into the world, He brought life to Mankind. His light is vital for life.

If you want your life put back together, it'll be put back together with the Light. A divine photosynthesis occurs with the entrance of Jesus, the Light of the world, into your life. Your cold, dark, dead, clammy world will be put back together when the glorious light of the Son of God shines into your heart. There'll be a sunrise of the soul. There's no life without light. Jesus said:

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

God was living with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and when they sinned, the Lord went out. When the Lord went out, the life went out, and when the life went out, the light went out. When the Lord went out, Adam and Eve became depraved. When the Light went out, they became spiritually dead. When the Light went out, everything darkened. But when you get saved, the Lord comes back in, turns the light on, and life begins again.

Jesus is the Light of the world. That little babe in Bethlehem turned the light on and rescued us from darkness. We just need one Light, and God has given that to us.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- In what ways do you see light and life connected? What blessings come from light?
- How has knowing Jesus made you more alive?

Your cold, dark, dead, clammy world will be put back together when the glorious light of the Son of God shines into your heart.

ADRIAN ROGERS

GLORIOUS LIGHT

■ PONDER IT

The Light is glorious. Glory is the out-shining of the light of His grace and truth. In the Old Testament, it is often described as the Shekinah glory. “Shekinah” has no direct translation but most closely means “the majestic presence or manifestation of God to dwell among men.” The word for “glory” here is the Greek word “doxa.” It’s the light of God that’s in Jesus Christ.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Light from a manmade bulb can never match the purity of sunlight. In the same way, the purity of the light of the Lord Jesus is so much greater.

All light is made up of color, and seven colors comprise the visible light spectrum. Jesus is the Light of the world, and He is absolutely perfect. Perfection is often represented in the Bible by the number seven. God is perfect, and light with seven colors reminds us of the perfection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All of those colors put together give us pure white, which speaks of the holiness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Color is in light. Objects don’t have any color. The color is in the light. Someone with a nice red coat on really has a coat that picks up red out of the light. The color is not in the coat. Without light, even the most gorgeous bouquet in the world has no color. You have to turn on the light in order to see the color because the color is in the light.

Jesus is the One who makes everything glorious, and He gives us eyes to see what He’s made glorious. He is the glory of God, the One who gives joy and victory. He’s the One who makes this world beautiful in His time.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Have you ever thought about the people who've never seen the Light? They don't know the beauties that those who have seen the Light already know. They don't see all the wonderful things that Christians get to see. You may be a Christian and not see them because you're walking in the darkness.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:6-7).

Jesus is everything in the spectrum put together, and He is the One who makes all things beautiful. The glory of the Light of the world is Jesus.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- Where do you see the glory of God in your own life?
- How can you magnify and show the glory of God to others? What is something God has done in your life that only God could do?

Jesus is everything in the spectrum
put together, and He is the One
who makes all things beautiful.

ADRIAN ROGERS

AVAILABLE LIGHT

■ PRACTICE IT

Let's look back over what we've already discovered about Jesus, the Light of the world. He is pure; He cannot be defiled. He can expose sin, but He cannot be defiled by sin. He is constant; He never changes. He is victorious because the darkness can never extinguish the light. He is vital because no one can find abundant life apart from Him. He is the way to eternal life. He is glorious because the light makes everything beautiful.

But the sad reality is that many people neglect or refuse the Light that is offered to them.

That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (John 1:9-12).

Some people block out the Light and reject all that He has to offer. They won't open the door of their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ because they love the darkness more. Some people can't see because they don't want to see. They can't step into the light because they are afraid of what will be exposed. But if you want to be saved, all you have to do is open the door of your heart.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of

God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:16-20).

If you'll open your heart and receive Jesus as Lord, you will see things and know things that you could never know without Him. If you want a relationship with Jesus, the Light of the world, you can pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I need You. I'm tired of the darkness. I don't want to love darkness rather than light. I want the Light. I want the truth. Come into my heart. Forgive my sin. Save me, and turn on the light in my heart. In Your Name I pray, Amen.

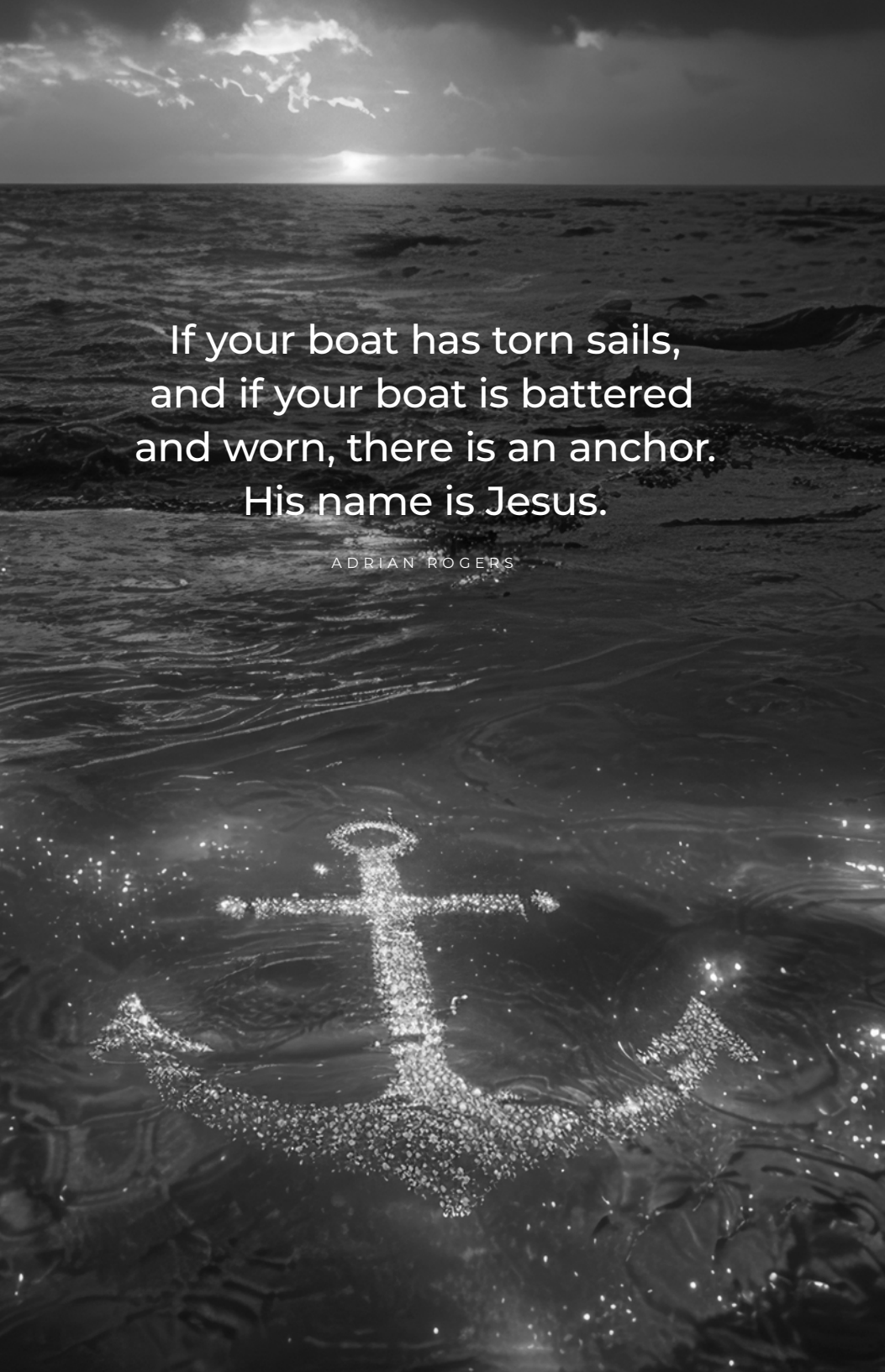
■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page, and clicking on I BELIEVE.

Proclaim the Light to someone this week. Be the light in someone's darkness. Share the Good News that the Light of the world has come. Ask God to give you opportunities this week to proclaim this truth. He will give you the words to say when the time is right.

A divine photosynthesis occurs with the entrance of Jesus, the Light of the world, into your life.

ADRIAN ROGERS



If your boat has torn sails,
and if your boat is battered
and worn, there is an anchor.
His name is Jesus.

ADRIAN ROGERS

WEEK 6

JESUS: OUR REFUGE

■ INTRODUCTION

Many of us have failed to appreciate the Old Testament because we think it's about Israel and the New Testament is about Jesus. However, all of the Bible is about Jesus. In the Old Testament, the Bible says Someone is coming; in the Gospels, Someone has come; and in the Book of Revelation, Someone is coming again. Jesus is the Hero of the Bible. If you read the Bible and don't find Jesus somewhere, you need to re-read it.

The Bible has Jesus as the hero, salvation as the theme, and Satan as the villain. In this Old Testament story in Joshua, we will find a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The LORD also spoke to Joshua, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, that the slayer who kills a person accidentally or unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood’” (Joshua 20:1-3).

If you've never received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and acknowledged Him openly and publicly, there's no better time than today. There's also no better time than today to tell others about the refuge available for them in Jesus Christ.

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, You alone loved us enough to save us in order to transform us into Your likeness. Open my heart to all You want to reveal to me. I don't want to leave anybody standing on the wrong side of the gate to the city of refuge. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

OUR CITY OF REFUGE

■ PONDER IT

When we come to Jesus, He is our refuge and safety. When we sin, we can flee to Him for refuge from eternal judgment. The writer of Hebrews said this about those who fled to Jesus:

Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us (Hebrews 6:17-18).

In Bible times, there were no court systems. If people were guilty of intentional manslaughter, if they had accidentally killed someone, or even if they had killed someone in self-defense, they were in great danger. The nearest relative was to avenge the blood of the person who had been slain, and he was called the “avenger of blood.” But God, knowing that sometimes people were unfairly judged, provided a place of refuge. God appointed cities of refuge so that those being accused of murder might be safe from the avenger of blood.

So they appointed Kedesh in Galilee, in the mountains of Naphtali, Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron) in the mountains of Judah. And on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness on the plain, from the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh (Joshua 20:7-8).

By the providence of God and divine inspiration, these cities represent the character of Jesus Christ and what He does for us.

Kedesh means a “holy place.” Without a holy Savior, we cannot be saved. Jesus is the stainless, spotless, sinless Son of God. Because He is holy, He is the only one who can save us. Confucius, Buddha, and Mohammad can’t save you. They were all sinners. If you wash your clothes in dirty water, they’ll still be dirty. Only the holiness of our Lord and Savior can wash away our sins. The sinless Son of God is holy, and God makes us holy through Him.

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

Shechem means “shoulder” or “back” and signifies support. Not only is the Lord our Savior, but He is our strength. When someone carries you on his back, you are being supported by another’s strength.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder (Isaiah 9:6a).

In Luke, Jesus tells the story of a shepherd who went out after the lost sheep. Once he found the animal, he laid it on his shoulders and brought it back to the sheepfold. (See Luke 15:5.) When you give your heart to Jesus Christ, you will know your own weakness. You’re not able to live the Christian life alone, but the Lord will put you on His shoulders and carry you. If you let Jesus be your Savior, He will also be your strength.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Why did Jesus have to be perfect and sinless? Have you recognized that you are not perfect or sinless?
- How has Jesus supported you and been your strength? What are you relying on Him to do in your life today?

You don't make Him Lord.
He's Lord already.
You just recognize it.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

OUR FORTIFICATION AND STRONGHOLD

■ PONDER IT

Yesterday we considered two of the names of the cities that pointed to Jesus. Today we will look at four more.

Hebron means to have “fellowship” and speaks of Christ, our satisfaction. Our hearts long for fellowship with God. Nothing else will satisfy us. Until you have fellowship with God, you will be a round peg in a square hole, a fish out of water, or a bird under water. God made the fish to swim in the sea and the birds to fly in the air. God made you to know Him, worship Him, and fellowship with Him. Until you do, you will never understand what you are meant to be. When we go to church, we’re having fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, with the Father, and with His Son.

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3).

Bezer means a “fortress” or “stronghold” and speaks of our security in Christ. If you have given your heart to Jesus, He will never let you go. He will not; He cannot; He must not. When you run into the city of refuge, Jesus Christ is your fortification, and He is your stronghold. On the authority of the Word of God, the Christ who gives us salvation will give us security.

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (Proverbs 18:10).

Ramoth means “heights” or “exalted.” It speaks of Christ, our sovereign. He is the exalted Son of God. We serve a mighty God who is holy and strong. Because of who He is, we lift our hearts in reverence and praise to the exalted Son of God with a name above every name.

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear (Acts 2:33).

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name (Philippians 2:9).

Golan means “separated” and speaks of our sanctification in Christ. Jesus not only saved us from something; He saved us to something. We’re separated from the world when we trust in the Lord. You can’t say that you’re a Christian and continue to live the same way you did before you were saved.

You cannot hold onto God with one hand and onto the world with another hand. Jesus will make you different when you allow Him to do so. A Christian in this sinful world is going to stand out like a diamond in a coal mine. You’re going to be different. You might feel like you don’t have what it takes, but that’s the point. Jesus in you will make you what you ought to be.

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17).

All of the names of these cities of refuge speak of the character of Jesus Christ, our Refuge.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Why do you need Jesus Christ in order to have fellowship with God? How has your relationship with Christ given you security?
- How can you exalt Jesus in your life and worship Him as sovereign?

You cannot hold onto God
with one hand and onto the
world with another hand.

JESUS IS NEAR TO YOU

■ PONDER IT

For anybody who needed help, God wanted a city of refuge nearby. He made sure the roads very wide so there'd be plenty of room. The priests removed all of the obstructions on the road and built bridges over any streams. At the crossroads going to these cities, a sign was posted for directions to the "Miqlat," which means "refuge." So imagine someone who is running from trouble finding a wide road with no obstructions and signs pointing, "Go this way!" The elders and the priests made sure that the roads to the cities of refuge were always open.

Anybody who needed to flee to a city of refuge could easily do so because of their strategic nearness. If those in biblical times needed to get to the city of refuge, God had already arranged it so that they could easily enter that city. The way was known and the path was clear. The strategic nearness of these cities speaks of the nearness of Jesus. If you're not a saved person, know that Jesus Christ is closer than a person sitting right next to you.

But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:6-9).

In this key passage, Paul revealed that you don't have to make a pilgrimage to Heaven and ask God to send a Savior. He's already come. You don't have to go into the grave and ask God to raise up His crucified Son. He has already been raised. He is already present. He

came from above, died, and raised from the dead. If He can do that, He can save you.

The word is in your mouth because He put it there. The word is in your heart because He put it there. The word of faith that you are reading now puts Jesus Christ near to you. He is available to you at this moment. All you have to do is believe the word that's already in your heart. All you have to do is confess with your mouth that which is already there. Believe Him and confess Him as your personal Lord and Savior. What's in the heart, the mouth is willing to tell. When you do that, you will come into that city of refuge, into Jesus Christ.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- How do you know that Jesus is near to you? In what ways can you feel His presence?
- What obstacles are keeping you from Jesus? What do you need to believe is true?

What's in the heart,
the mouth is willing to tell.

ADRIAN ROGERS

OUTSIDE THE GATE

■ PONDER IT

Sadly, some people miss the refuge that Jesus Christ offers, and they don't come to the city of refuge. The avenger of blood was a near relative who had a right to chase and kill the person who killed his relative. Even if this person had done something unwittingly or accidentally, he was guilty of taking a life. But in the city of refuge, the avenger of blood did not have the right to take his life.

In the Bible, during the war between the house of Saul and the house of David, a man named Abner killed Asahel during a battle. Asahel's brother, Joab, was the commander-in-chief of David's army. David and his men were living in Hebron, a city of refuge. While Joab was away, David asked Abner to deliver a message to Saul. But when Joab found out that Abner was returning, he saw an opportunity to avenge the death of his brother.

Now when Abner had returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him privately, and there stabbed him in the stomach, so that he died for the blood of Asahel his brother (2 Samuel 3:27).

Abner died at the gate to the city of refuge, Hebron; he was not in the city. When King David heard Abner was dead, he was heartbroken. He couldn't hold Joab accountable because Joab had acted justly, according to the law.

So they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept. And the king sang a lament over Abner and said: "Should Abner die as a fool dies? Your hands were not bound nor your feet put into fetters; as a man falls before wicked men, so you fell." Then all the people wept over him again. ...Then the king

said to his servants, “Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?” (2 Samuel 3:32-34, 38).

A lot of successful people in this world are foolish because they prepare for every situation but fail to prepare for eternity. You can be a great man or a noble woman but die and go to Hell if you die outside our city of refuge—Jesus Christ. Some people get very close to the gate, but they never enter into Christ. They go to church and listen, but they don't give their hearts to Jesus Christ. Because of their sinful neglect and foolishness, they reject the message they have heard.

Abner was a great man and a prince, but he was a victim of a cunning deception. Joab took him aside and put his arm around him right before he entered the city of refuge. He pretended to be his friend when he was really his enemy.

Some people think that Satan is their friend because they're having a good time and living the good life. But Satan wants to keep you out of the city of refuge. Satan is like Joab, wearing a smile on his face as he slipped the knife into Abner's side. He is a liar and a deceiver.

Jesus is our city of refuge. You need to give your heart to Jesus today while you are still breathing.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What is the difference between being at the gate and being in the city? How does Satan deceive people to keep them from being saved?
- What does it mean to enter into Christ and give your heart to Jesus? What will you be saved from when you do?

The definition of failure is
succeeding at the wrong thing.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 5

LESSONS FROM THE CITY OF REFUGE

■ PONDER IT

Jesus is a wonderful Savior: the holy One, the strong One, the fortification, and the sanctification. We can take away four lessons from the cities of refuge:

If you're already in the city of refuge, love Jesus. Praise Him for your salvation, and thank Him for your redemption. Give Him the glory. Never lose the excitement of being a child of God. If you know that you're saved, rejoice in your salvation. You have something gloriously wonderful.

If you have never given your heart to Jesus Christ, do it today. If you are waiting just outside the gate and haven't decided to enter into everything that Christ offers, do it immediately. You need what Jesus offers more than you need anything else. Be the person who chooses Jesus because you don't know when you might die. Many have made it days, weeks, months, and years without Jesus, but their time can run out at any moment.

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth (Proverbs 27:1).

The wisest and safest thing you can ever do is to come into the city of refuge today.

...“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion” (Hebrews 3:15).

The Church needs to weep over lost souls. Sometimes we have a casual attitude about leading people to Christ. Never lose your burden for lost souls. Never ever fail to be concerned for the lost. Weep over them.

He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him (Psalm 126:6).

If you have never shed a tear for souls that are mortgaged to the devil, you need to weep for them because God weeps for them. If you don't have compassion for the lost souls around you, get alone and wait before God until He gives you compassion. Then you will see a world of people as He sees them. The Bible says when Jesus saw people in His day, He was moved with compassion. The phrase "moved with compassion" means "to feel sympathy with the deepest feelings."

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd (Matthew 9:36).

You need to warn others. Warn everyone of the deceiver, the devil. He wants to deceive our children and our neighbors, and he's doing a good job at it. You need to warn them that Satan, like Joab, is only pretending to be a friend. He is an enemy. He doesn't want them to be saved. He wants them to go to Hell because he wants them to die in their sins. But while they are still living, they can take refuge in Jesus Christ.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Have you entered into the city of refuge? Are you trusting Jesus alone to save you?
- Who are the people around you that you are weeping for? Whom do you need to tell about the refuge Jesus offers?

Never lose your burden for lost souls.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 6

JESUS INVITES YOU INTO THE CITY OF REFUGE

■ PRACTICE IT

Jesus talked about a man of great success who was making plans for the future, and He called him a fool because that night he would die. (See Luke 12:20.) No one knows for certain that they'll see the sunset today.

Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away (James 4:14).

Many people place great value in all their knowledge, success, automobiles, businesses, houses, lawns, and clothes, but those things aren't as important as preparing for eternity.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:36-37).

If you're not absolutely certain that you're saved, know that Jesus Christ is close to you today. Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead, and you will be saved. You are at the gate of the city of refuge, and Jesus invites you to come in. Pray a prayer like this:

Dear God, I'm lost, and I need to be saved. Jesus, You're the holy Son of God who shed Your blood on the cross so my sin debt would be paid. I believe that and confess it with my mouth. I believe in my heart that God has raised You from the dead. I trust You to save me. Help me not only to believe in my heart, but to confess with my mouth. In Your Name, Amen.

■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page, and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

Ask God to give you an opportunity to share with someone what you have learned about Jesus this week. Ask God to show you someone who is outside the city of refuge. Trust the Holy Spirit to give you the courage to speak and the words to say.

Religion can't save you.
Church membership can't save you.
Good behavior can't save you.
Baptism can't save you.
Only Jesus can save.

ADRIAN ROGERS



Everybody needs a hero.
Jesus is mine.

ADRIAN ROGERS

WEEK 7

JESUS: OUR CHAMPION

■ INTRODUCTION

No matter how much the world around us changes, God's Word remains true. The great story of the Bible is still unfolding, and if you want to understand your place in God's story, you must understand the origin story of Mankind. The truth the Apostle Paul wrote about in the Book of Ephesians is the same truth God wants the Church around the world to know today. It motivated Paul to write this prayer for the saints at Ephesus:

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come (Ephesians 1:17-21).

This week's lesson is meant to encourage you and help you learn more about the hero of God's story: Jesus, our Champion.

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, I know that Your Word is true. I want to know more about the redeeming story You have created for Mankind. Open my heart to understand Your divine plan and Your purpose in sending Your Son, Jesus. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

MANKIND WAS CREATED TO HAVE DOMINION

■ PONDER IT

Imagine you have a wealthy father, and he wants to give you a beautiful estate. It is magnificent and includes a ranch, a garden, and a home. Because he loves you, he wants you and your spouse to oversee his estate. He wants you to have it and rule over it. In it, you will find everything you could ever need for your joy, happiness, and fulfillment.

Then suppose one day a wicked stranger drives onto the property. He's exceedingly clever and talks to you and your spouse separately. He talks about your father in a flattering way, but eventually causes you to question your father's love and motives. The diabolical stranger puts doubts in your mind about your father's instructions, and he offers a better way to run the estate. He promises you'll enjoy it much more and will be more successful if you follow his lead. He can show you how to be a better lord over the estate. He suggests you appoint him as the director and let him run it. If you just turn it over to him and give him the keys, he will hold onto it so he can give it back to you after he shows you how to run it properly.

Then this smooth-talking stranger convinces you to sign a legal document to legally give it over to him. You trust him and hand your legacy over to him. You even tell him you'll be happy to run the estate for him, your new master, while he's showing you the ropes. You thank him, convinced he knows so much more about it than your father ever did. Just like that, you give up your dominion.

Something like this happened in the Garden of Eden. God made Adam and Eve and placed them in a beautiful garden. He told them He loved them and wanted them to have dominion over it.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the

sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

“Dominion” means “to rule.” Mankind was given rule over this Earth, to control and master its resources. Men and women were designed for dominion and made for mastery, and God gave Adam and Eve all they needed.

You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet (Psalm 8:6).

Adam and Eve were rulers over the Earth, but something happened. Mankind no longer has dominion. We don't rule, and we're not in charge. It's obvious that Satan is in control. Read this morning's news. Read about the disease, death, hate, war, crime, sorrow, disappointment, despair, and frustration that is everywhere. Adam and Eve were created for dominion, but they lost it.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Have you ever been convinced to believe something that wasn't true? Do you think you would have made the same choice as Adam and Eve?
- What does it mean to have dominion over something? When you look at the world around you, who is running the show?

When God created Man,
he was designed for dominion
and made for mastery.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

MANKIND'S DOMINION WAS LEGALLY LOST

■ PONDER IT

Through our Champion, Jesus Christ, we can retrieve and restore what Adam and Eve sold and signed over to Satan so long ago, but to do that, we must know the truth. We will look at three important truths about losing and regaining our dominion.

First, Adam and Eve legally lost their dominion. Paul wrote this about those who were once lost:

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others (Ephesians 2:1-3).

At one time, Satan was an angel, but he rebelled against God. (See Isaiah 14:12-15.) Satan's name, Lucifer, means "light bearer." He was incredibly beautiful and powerful. (See Ezekiel 28:12-17.) But one day, he convinced himself he was too beautiful and powerful not to be God.

Satan led a rebellion of the angels against God, and a third of the angels followed him. (See Revelation 12:4.) He thought that he could overthrow the throne of God. Lucifer, the son of the morning, became Satan, the father of the night. No sooner had he unsheathed his sword of rebellion than the thunders of Almighty God rolled through the corridors of Heaven, and Satan was banished. Jesus said He saw Satan fall "like lightning" from Heaven. (See Luke 10:18.)

Satan saw Adam and Eve in the garden and tried to achieve on Earth what he failed to achieve in Heaven. He tempted them with lies,

and they gave their dominion to him. (See Genesis 3:4-6.) God was dethroned in their hearts, and they enthroned Satan. What Satan failed to achieve in Heaven, he achieved on Earth.

Some people wonder why God didn't step in and give Adam and Eve back their dominion. But God runs this Universe by His own righteous and holy laws, so if He did that, He would be breaking His law. As a just God and the Creator of justice, He can't do that. Dominion was legally lost, and it must be legally regained because the Universe runs according to divine law.

Everyone is a slave to something, but you can choose which master you will serve. Adam chose to follow Satan instead of following God. Rather than yielding in obedience to righteousness, he yielded to sin, and we all make the same choice.

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? (Romans 6:16).

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of this world. He offered to give them to Jesus if He would worship him. (See Luke 4:6.) Interestingly, Jesus never disputed Satan because He knew that dominion was legally his. Satan has power in this world because Adam and Eve willfully gave their dominion to Satan.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What did you learn about God and His character from this lesson? Why didn't God just give dominion back to Mankind?
- If God is more powerful than Satan, why didn't He overlook Adam's and Eve's sin and give dominion back to them?

If there is no opposition,
there is no victory.

ADRIAN ROGERS

MANKIND'S DOMINION WAS RIGHTFULLY RECOVERED

■ PONDER IT

The second truth is that Mankind's dominion was rightfully recovered. If it was legally lost, it had to be legally regained. This was God's mighty plan.

...which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come (Ephesians 1:20-21).

The Son of God stepped out of Heaven, walked the dusty shores of Galilee, sweated blood in Gethsemane, and died in agony, to rightfully regain what Adam had legally lost. God runs the Universe by divine law; therefore, dominion had to be legally regained. If God had just given dominion back to Adam, it would have made a farce of divine judgment and divine justice. God owes Satan nothing, but God owes His own righteousness everything. God is going to be true to His principles of righteousness and justice.

Dominion was legally given to Mankind, and it was legally lost by Mankind. It could only be regained by a member of Adam's race—someone to whom Satan had no claim. Adam became a slave of Satan, and every person born after him was born as a slave to Satan. Someone who was not born of Adam but of the race of Adam was the only One who could legally regain what was lost. This is the reason the incarnation is a cornerstone in the Christian faith, and the reason God became a Man. It's the reason God stepped out of Heaven and walked this Earth in sandaled feet.

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

Satan has the power of death as his main weapon against Mankind. To destroy the devil and take away his power, Jesus had to become flesh and blood. (See Hebrews 2:14.) Only a perfect man could rightfully return dominion and destroy death. (See Galatians 4:3-5.)

Jesus was perfectly human, and He was the Son of God. Even though He was born of a woman, He was not a descendant of Adam because He was miraculously conceived. Satan had no claim upon Him. He inherited no sin from Adam; He was absolutely, totally righteous. Jesus Christ our Savior is truly human and unquestionably divine at the same time.

By dying a criminal's death as a sinless Man and rising from the dead, Jesus defeated Satan. When Jesus defeated Satan, He used the same weapons that were available to Adam—the truths of God's Word. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus defeated Satan with the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit. (See Matthew 4:1-11.)

Jesus had two things as a Man: the anointing of the Spirit and the authority of the Word. He came against Satan with both weapons—the same weapons Adam could have used, the same weapons we ought to use.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Why is it so important that Jesus was fully God and fully human?
- How can you use God's Word and the Holy Spirit to fight temptation?

God owes Satan nothing, but God owes
His own righteousness everything.

ADRIAN ROGERS

JESUS WON THE BATTLE

■ PONDER IT

Before Christ was born, it looked like everything was going Satan's way. Then a hero was divinely conceived and born of a virgin with no sinful nature. Satan knew that if he could get Jesus to sin, he would win. So, the war began. On one side was the sinister minister of evil, Satan. On the other side was the Holy Son of God and Son of Man who came to redeem Mankind's lost dominion.

The first battle took place in the wilderness. (See Luke 4:1-13.) Satan brought the artillery of Hell against Jesus Christ. They both knew that if Jesus gave in to temptation, He would become a slave of Satan—just like Adam. After three big temptations, Satan tucked his tail and ran.

A second battle began in dark Gethsemane. Satan was not finished and would not admit defeat. In Gethsemane, Jesus wept and prayed, knowing that He would soon go to the cross.

[Jesus] went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Matthew 26:39, emphasis added).

All the sins of the world were distilled in that cup. Jesus did not want to drink this cup, and the silence from Heaven said that there was no other way. Instead of following His own desires, Jesus said, “nevertheless” and accepted God's will. “Nevertheless” is the word that changed your destiny and mine.

Satan thought the cross would destroy Jesus, but Jesus was nailed to that cross to destroy Satan. The sins of the world were upon Jesus, laid on His shoulders. He was separated from God's presence and became the object of the Father's wrath. Jesus took our shame, blame, suffering, and separation, and the fires of Hell were poured out upon Jesus. Then Jesus said, “teleō” a Greek word for the phrase “It is finished.”

(See John 19:30.) The price was paid in full. Adam and Eve's dominion was rightfully redeemed.

But Satan didn't give up hope. He thought that since Jesus was dead and buried, He'd stay there. But it was impossible for death to hold Him. (See Acts 2:24.) On that third day, on that Easter morning, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, arose. He got up from His bed of slumber, and He folded the grave clothes that were upon His face. Jesus, with a nail-pierced hand, reached up and pulled Death from his throne. The crown toppled from Death's head, and Jesus put His heel on Death's neck. He reached down and pulled the sting out of Death, took the keys to death and Hell, put the crown on His own head, and walked out. (See Revelation 1:18.) This is the power of the resurrection.

...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come (Ephesians 1:19-21).

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How did Satan try to defeat Jesus? How does Satan try to defeat us?
- How did Jesus defeat Satan? How can we defeat Satan?

"Nevertheless" is the word that changed your destiny and mine.

ADRIAN ROGERS

MANKIND'S DOMINION IS GLORIOUSLY GIVEN

■ PONDER IT

The third truth is that Mankind's dominion is gloriously given. God gives it back to those who will receive it.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4-7).

We have something Adam and Eve never had. Adam and Eve were innocent; we can be righteous. Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, and they walked with God. But we have the Lord Jesus Christ living in us.

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones (Ephesians 5:30).

The Church is not an organization with Christ as the president. The Church is an organism, a body with Christ as the head. What is true about the Lord Jesus Christ is true about you. Jesus did not defeat Satan on His behalf. He is the Champion who defeated Satan on our behalf. We have been co-executed, co-risen, co-exalted, and co-enthroned with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus became the Son of Man so that we might become sons and daughters of God. He took our sins so that we might be innocent. He became guilty so that we might be acquitted. He was filled with despair, so that we might be filled with joy. He took our shame, so that we might take His glory. He endured the pains of Hell so that we might have the

blessings of Heaven. The Lamb has triumphed. He has prevailed and has left us the Great Commission.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus has authority over Satan, and so do you. If the demons are subject to Jesus, then they're subject to you. Satan hopes you never learn this. Paul prayed that God would open the believers' eyes so that they might know God's mighty power. Your dominion was legally lost. It has been rightfully regained through Christ's death and resurrection. It is gloriously given to you when you declare Jesus as Lord. Paul prayed this for the Ephesians:

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints... (Ephesians 1:17-18).

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What are the things that are true of Jesus that are also true of those who believe?
- As a believer, what power and authority do you have?

Jesus became the Son of Man
so that we might become sons
and daughters of God.

MANKIND IS REINSTATED BY THE LOVE OF JESUS

■ PRACTICE IT

Satan is still waging war, and you must decide whose side you will be on.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

Jesus, the Conquering Christ, our Champion, is the victor. It's time that Heaven broke loose. It's time that we understand that Jesus, as a Man and also as God, has reinstated us in His love. He has made a way for us to be righteous before the holy God of the Universe. If you want Jesus as your Lord and Savior, if you want to get back your lost dominion, if you want a right relationship with the Father, you can pray a prayer like this:

Lord Jesus, Come into my heart, forgive my sin, and save me. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe You died for my sin on that cross, and now I accept You by faith as my Lord and Savior. Take control of my life, and rule over my life. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.

On the authority of the Word of God, you can be assured that He will hear your prayer and save you. Don't listen to that dirty devil—that liar who wants to send you to Hell with him. Come to Jesus today. He'll save you. You might be a member of a church, but you know you have never really been saved. Make that decision now to ask Christ to be your personal Savior.

■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page, and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

Ask God to give you an opportunity to share with others this week the Good News about Jesus. Explain to them what you have been learning about the importance of Jesus' incarnation, death, and resurrection. Live your life as a victor, not as a victim, and others will notice.

God doesn't just love all of us.
He loves each of us.

ADRIAN ROGERS



We can't be just simply
willy-nilly, haphazard
about the way to God.

ADRIAN ROGERS

WEEK 8

JESUS: THE ONLY WAY

■ INTRODUCTION

God created, and owns, the entire Universe. Everything that transpires is part of His story and is governed by His laws. He has revealed to us there is only one true God and only one way to God—through Jesus.

Some say this claim is “wrong” because it is narrow and limited, but those same people narrowly insist that their view of many ways is the only way to think correctly about spiritual matters.

And those same people, like all of us, appreciate “narrow” thinking in non-spiritual matters. They want surgeons to be narrow and operate in exactly the right spaces. They want pilots to be narrow about finding landing strips, not just land wheels up anywhere they feel like. And they want their bankers to be narrow about where their money ends up. Narrowness is good, they say, except when it comes to faith in God, sin, and matters of eternal destiny.

This week we’re going to look closely at Jesus, who truly is the one and only way to be made right with God. Jesus is the only way not because Christians say He’s the only way but because God has clearly revealed Jesus as the only way.

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross (Colossians 1:19-20).

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, Sometimes I’m afraid to let You have Your way in my life. But I can’t afford to miss You. Show me the way to please You and help me tell others that Jesus is the only way. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

JESUS IS A BIG DEAL

■ PONDER IT

Some people want to know why we make a big deal about Jesus. In today's culture, with many false teachers, Christians must understand exactly who Jesus Christ is.

In a TV special called *The Search for Jesus*, Peter Jennings interviewed scholars about their understanding of Jesus. They were like a group of blind men with a jar full of lightning bugs, trying to explain the noon-day sun. They didn't find Jesus because they weren't looking for Him in the right places.

Bryant Gumbel interviewed Larry King and concluded by asking, "What questions would you ask God if He were a guest on your show?" King, who was raised Jewish, listed several questions, but the first one was: "Do you have a son?" The answer is that He does have a Son; His name is Jesus.

Scholars tell us there have been approximately 117 billion people who have lived upon the face of this Earth. Throughout the history of Mankind, out of that 117 billion, only a handful of people have ever made any lasting impact on the world. Out of that handful, one personality towers above all others. He is Jesus, the One and Only.

Jesus Christ has attracted a combination of attention, devotion, criticism, adoration, and opposition like no other person. Every word of Jesus that is recorded in the Bible has been analyzed, studied, dissected, scrutinized, labored over, and memorized. He lived 20 centuries ago, yet millions of people are still studying what He said.

Jesus lived in a small town in a small country over 2,000 years ago. He was born and laid in a feeding trough in a stable, yet His birth was so significant that it divides the centuries: AD, Anno Domini, or "the year of our Lord" and BC, "Before Christ."

Jesus never wrote a book, yet millions of books have been written about Him. He never painted a painting, but He has inspired many of

the greatest artworks of this world. He never wrote a song, but even today millions of people sing to Him and about Him.

Jesus died for people that they might live, and there are millions today who are willing to die for Him. There are millions who have died for the Lord Jesus Christ. As far as we know, He didn't travel outside the tiny little land of Israel, yet all around the world, from pole to pole and all around the equator, Jesus is magnified and worshiped.

Jesus started with a little handful of disciples, and today more than 30% of the world's inhabitants claim to be Christ-followers. He had no formal education, yet universities and seminaries have been built in His name.

To explain Him is impossible, to ignore Him is disastrous, and to reject Him is fatal. There are no words or thoughts that do credit to the person who is our Lord and Savior. His name is Jesus, and He is the One and Only.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- Is Jesus a big deal to you? Why or why not?
- Why do you want people to pay attention to Jesus?

To explain Him is impossible,
to ignore Him is disastrous,
and to reject Him is fatal.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

JESUS REVEALS THE FATHER

■ PONDER IT

The first chapter of Colossians tells us three key truths about Jesus.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation (Colossians 1:15).

First, Jesus alone reveals the Father. God is invisible; He is unseeable. Because He is infinite, He is unknowable. Because He is holy, He is unapproachable. There's no way that we could come to God or understand God or fully know God without Jesus. Despite our efforts, reason, religion, and ritual do not allow us to fully know God. We can only know God by revelation. If we're going to know God, somebody has to take us by the hand and introduce us to Him.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of creation. The word "image" is the Greek word "eikōn," which means "an identical and exact replica, an exact image." Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. He is the "icon" of God and the exact representation of Him. He is God in the human flesh.

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9).

All the fullness of the godhead dwells in Him bodily in human flesh. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are combined in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The only way you can know God as Father is through Jesus. You can recognize God as Creator and as Sovereign. You can know a lot about Him. But only through Jesus Christ can you know Him and have intimate fellowship with Him. Unless Jesus reveals God the Father to you, you can never know Him as Father. Jesus said:

“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (Matthew 11:27).

Jesus is the God-Man, both fully God and fully human at the same time. He is God in human flesh. (See John 1:14). He’s fully human and totally divine. He’s not all God and no man. He’s not all man and no God. He’s not half God and half man. He is the direct representation of God.

Jesus is the “firstborn” over creation. This does not speak of time; it speaks of status. He is the chief, the highest of the high. Those who don’t believe in the eternal deity of Jesus Christ try to say that He had a beginning, but He never had a beginning. His beginning was not at Bethlehem; His birth as a human was at Bethlehem. Some deny that He is God by saying that He was the first one whom God created, but the Bible says that all things were created through Jesus. (See Colossians 1:16).

Jesus wasn’t created; He created all things. He is the uncreated one. Whether in Heaven or on Earth, He’s over all. God says:

Also I will make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth (Psalm 89:27).

“Firstborn” speaks of His privilege and His greatness. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is above everything, and He alone reveals the Father.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What does Jesus reveal about God the Father?
- What is the blessing of believing that Jesus is fully God and fully human?

Unless Jesus reveals God the Father to you, you can never know Him as Father.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 3

JESUS RULES THE UNIVERSE

■ PONDER IT

The second thing Colossians 1 reveals about Jesus is that He alone rules the Universe. Jesus made the visible and the invisible. Jesus is the power of creation. The baby in the manger is the mighty God who spoke the Universe into existence.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist (Colossians 1:16-17).

Evolutionists are struggling to explain even the simplest things that have been discovered by science. They used to think that a cell was a primitive and ordinary thing. The Darwinian philosophers believe that primitive protozoa became more organized over millions of years until finally progressing to more complex life forms. They believe that organization magically comes from random chance, even though the lower forms of life do not contain the building blocks necessary to construct higher forms.

In your body, you have about thirty trillion cells. Every one of those cells is complex. Your genes are organized into dense, protein-DNA complexes, strands that form the chromosomes. They give detailed instructions for every part of your body, like a coded blueprint. If you were to take the full set of instructions for one person, you'd fill more than 3,000 books. Each page would have 1,000 letters, and each book would have 1,000 pages. It would take more than nine years to read the complex coded instructions needed for the formation of one person. Does that sound like something that could happen without a designer—by random chance?

Unlike Darwin's theory, the Bible can tell you where you came from; what's more, it can tell you where you're going. It's not just about the origin of the species; it's about the destiny of the species.

What you believe about this is important. If you believe in evolution, you not only have trouble with the Bible, but you also have trouble with salvation.

Humanists believe that humans have all the answers within themselves. If you think humans are just on their way up and that we evolved from primordial ooze, then you believe that, as a species, we should be getting better and better every day. Does that match with what you see on the nightly news? If you believe we can get better on our own, then you believe we don't need a birth from above, just a boost from beneath.

If you don't believe in God, you must consider your options. If you believe humans are just another species of animal, then you believe human life has the same value as plant and animal life. In public schools, children are being taught that they descended from animals; it should be no surprise when they act like animals. Animals live for self-gratification, self-preservation, and self-propagation, which is what many people live for today.

Mankind was created in perfection and then fell into sin. Mankind needs to be redeemed. The implications of what you believe about where everything came from will lead you to Christ or lead you further away from God.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What do you believe about where everything came from?
- When you look at the world God created, what does it tell you about God?

That little baby that you read about in Matthew 1 is the mighty God of Genesis 1. If Genesis 3 is a myth, then John 3 is a farce.

PRESERVER AND PURPOSE OF CREATION

■ PONDER IT

Jesus Christ rules the Universe, and He is the power of creation. **Colossians 1** tells us that **Jesus is also the preserver of creation.**

And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist (Colossians 1:17).

The word “consist” means “to band together or unite parts into one whole.” Jesus is the glue of the galaxies. He keeps it all from flying apart. There are about 200 billion trillion stars in the Universe, most with planets orbiting around them. He holds all of that together. By Him, it all consists. If He were to take His hand off of it, it would all come apart.

New Age and Eastern religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism teach that life is circular. It goes around and around. Followers of these religions believe in reincarnation. If you didn’t do it right the first time, you go through again. You get another chance. If you have good karma, you may come back to a higher level. But if you have bad karma, you may come back as a cockroach.

Nothing in Scripture teaches reincarnation; it teaches that a person dies a physical death only once. (See Hebrews 9:27.) The Bible teaches that history is linear and that we’re headed toward a climax and a purpose. The world is coming to Jesus, and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ. It is all made for Him.

Jesus is the power, preserver, and purpose of creation.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- How is Jesus preserving you or keeping you together today?
- What can you do to tell others about Jesus?

Life is all about the Lord Jesus
Christ. He is the answer to
the mystery of history.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 5

JESUS BRINGS US TO A HOLY GOD

■ PONDER IT

Jesus alone reconciles the lost. He is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of creation. He made everything and controls everything. It's all coming to Him. When He died on the cross, He reconciled us by His blood.

...and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled (Colossians 1:20-21).

In this passage, the Apostle Paul expressed the glory, magnificence, and deity of Jesus. His deity makes His death absolutely remarkable. God, the mighty Maker, died for Mankind's sin. His deity makes His death meaningful; His death makes His deity knowable. The One who made every seed, caused every plant to grow, and made the limb on every tree, died on a tree. The One who made the oceans and caused the clouds to send forth rain was thirsty. (See John 19:28.) The One who fueled the sun with fire and flung it into space is the One who was baked by that torturous noon-day sun as He hung on a cross. He made the world with a word, but He saved the world with His precious blood.

Between God and Mankind is a chasm of sin. A holy God on one side of the chasm cannot overlook sin because He's holy. Sinful people on the other side of the chasm cannot stop sinning or pay the price for the sins they have already committed. We all have God-shaped vacuums inside us and long to be with God. We try to bridge the chasm of sin through good works, ritual, religion, and philosophy, but all these feeble bridges crumble and fall in their efforts to reach a holy God.

This gap between God and Mankind needed to be reconciled. Jesus Christ put down the foundation of His absolute Godhead on one side. Then He put down His absolute Manhood on the other side. He identified Himself with sinners and took our sin upon Himself on a cross to span the chasm. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal bridge. He is the God-Man and the only One who can bridge the great chasm between Man and God.

God cannot let one-half of one sin go unpunished. If He did, He'd cease to be holy. God will be just regarding your sin. Your sin will either be pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell, but it will not be overlooked.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- Have you been reconciled or made right with God through Jesus Christ?
- What other things have you tried to use to bridge the gap between yourself and God?

His deity makes His death meaningful;
His death makes His deity knowable.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 6

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

■ PRACTICE IT

The Lord Jesus Christ took holy God by one hand and sinful Man by the other, and by the blood of His cross, He made peace with God and Man. There is no other Savior like our Lord Jesus Christ. He stepped out of glory, took our sin upon Himself, carried it to cruel Calvary, paid the sin debt in full, and walked out of the grave to show that He is Lord of lords and King of kings. No one else has or will ever be able to do that. Jesus is not just the best way to Heaven; He's the only way to Heaven.

Jesus is the only way to God. He's not just somebody you add into your life when it's convenient. You must give Him your life, and when you do, you can know, beyond the shadow of any doubt, that when you die, you'll go to Heaven.

If you don't know Him or can't say for certain that you are saved, you can know for sure. Jesus will save you today if you put your faith in Him. The Bible says clearly, plainly, sweetly, simply, sublimely, that when you believe, you will be saved. (See Acts 16:31.) When you believe, you go beyond mere intellectual belief or agreement. The word "believe" in the Bible means "trust," just like you really believe in an airplane when you get on it. You trust it.

When you trust Jesus Christ, you commit your life to Him. He made peace with the blood of His cross, but that will do you no good unless you receive it. If you reject it, it only increases your judgment. If you would like to pray right now from your heart, say something like this:

Dear God, I'm a sinner. I'm ashamed of my sin. My sin deserves judgment, but I need and want mercy. Jesus, thank You for paying for my sin with the blood of Your cross. Thank You for dying for me. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe God raised You from the dead. Now by an act of faith, I receive You as my

Lord and Savior. Come into my heart. Forgive my sin. Save me, Jesus. Give me the courage now to make public my trust in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

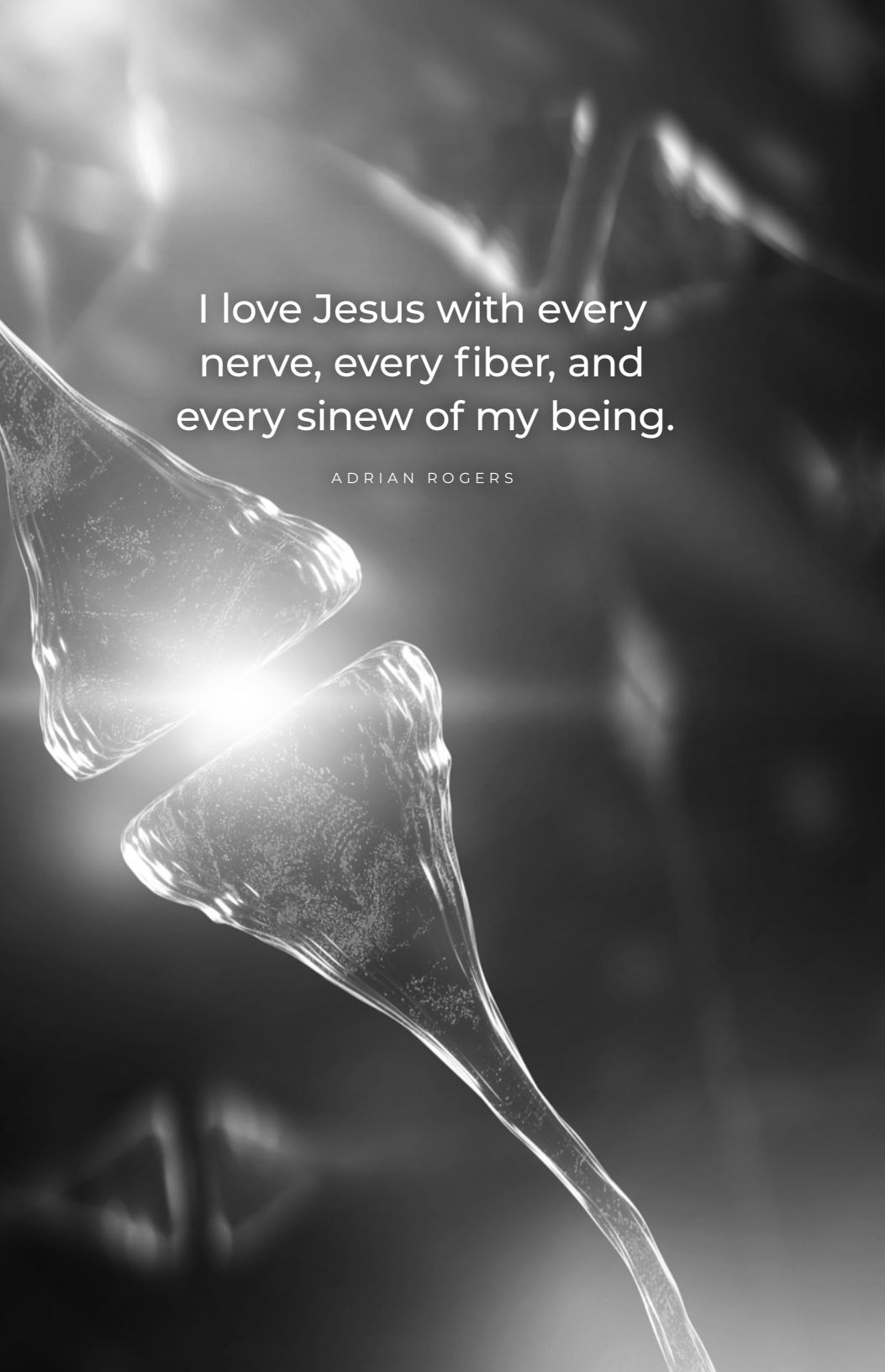
■ **PROCLAIM IT**

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page, and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

Ask God to give you an opportunity to share with someone what you have learned about Jesus this week. Ask God to give you an opportunity to speak the truth about Jesus to someone who doesn't believe that He is the only way to Heaven. Trust the Holy Spirit to give you the courage and the words to say.

Jesus is not the best way to Heaven;
He's the only way to Heaven.

ADRIAN ROGERS



I love Jesus with every
nerve, every fiber, and
every sinew of my being.

ADRIAN ROGERS

JESUS: LORD OF ALL

■ INTRODUCTION

In any good story, the hero is at the center, and Jesus Christ is at the center of the story of all Mankind. He alone deserves to be Lord of your work, your wealth, and your worship. Heroes stand head and shoulders above those around them. In the moment of crisis, they make decisions and perform feats that cause those around them to watch in wonder. It's what makes them heroes.

We will be looking at an episode in the earthly life of Jesus from the Gospel of Mark. It takes place during a feast, celebrating the fact that Lazarus has been raised from the dead. The resurrected Lazarus was at a table with Jesus along with his sisters, Mary and Martha.

And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply (Mark 14:3-5).

Spikenard was a precious perfume. Some scholars estimate this jar would be worth a laboring man's wages for a year. Others criticized this woman's lavish gift, but she demonstrated that Jesus was Lord of all in her life.

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, I want You to be Lord of all in my life, but I know that I often miss the mark. Show me more of who You are so that I can worship You the way this woman did in this story. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE

■ PONDER IT

The Church today is filled with ordinary people. Don't ever think He cannot use you. God does extraordinary things through ordinary people.

This same story of the woman pouring perfume on Jesus' head is also recorded in the Gospel of John, and he tells us that her chief critic was Judas. The Bible says Judas complained about her gift because he called it wasteful, but it also reveals that he complained because he was a thief. He was the treasurer for the disciples, and he wanted part of the money from the sale of that perfume.

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it (John 12:1-6).

Once the perfume was poured out, it no longer held monetary value. But consider what Jesus said:

But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you

always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her” (Mark 14:6-9).

Whatever was happening in the hearts of others, Jesus called this woman’s deed a good work. It was a lasting work, and the world has been filled with the sweet perfume of what Mary of Bethany did so long ago.

Mary was so overcome with emotion and love for Jesus that she left the room and came back with an alabaster box of ointment. Not caring what others thought, she did something that was exquisitely meaningful and incredibly beautiful. She didn’t just take the lid off. She broke the container, so that none of it would be held back. Then she lavishly anointed the head and feet of Jesus Christ. Even as people criticized her, her eyes were fixed upon her Lord. The alabaster box was broken, and the perfume spilled out for the love of Jesus.

Mary was an ordinary woman, and mainly known as Martha’s sister. As the woman in charge of the household, Martha was busy, active, skilled, and efficient. But it wasn’t Martha who did this; it was Mary, an ordinary person.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Have you ever felt like God wouldn’t choose to use you because you are not extraordinary? What does this story reveal about who God uses?
- If you were in this room, which person do you think you would be the most like? Have you ever criticized others for their extravagant worship?

Don't ever insult God by saying
that He cannot use you.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

GOD USES PEOPLE WHO DO WHAT THEY CAN

■ PONDER IT

When you compare yourself to Martha, Paul, or Billy Graham, you might believe that you are useless to God. But you were made by God, and all He asks is that you do what you can. This is a story Pastor Rogers told about a broken violin:

A great violinist named Niccolò Paganini had long, flexible fingers and played an exquisite instrument. One night, while playing a serenade, three of his four strings broke. As the strings broke one by one, people wondered what he would do. But he simply finished the serenade playing all the notes on the very last string. All he needed was one good string.

The skill of the violinist is more important than the violin. You may be a one-string violin, but God is a masterful violinist. God moved Mary to do this wonderful thing. Jesus said:

“She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial” (Mark 14:8).

Jesus didn't say she had done what she couldn't or shouldn't do. He said she did what she could. This is the sweet, wonderful, glorious thing: the only thing that Jesus asks of you is what you can do with His enablement. If a cup of water is all that He places in your hand, then just a cup of water is all that He demands. **Mary did what she could.** We must stop comparing ourselves to other people.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- Have you ever felt like you haven't done as much as you could or that you didn't have enough to give to God?
- In what area is God asking you to do what you can? What is your next step of faith?

If it's just a cup of water that He places within your hand, then just a cup of water is all that He demands.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 3

GOD USES OBSERVANT PEOPLE

■ PONDER IT

Mary was an ordinary person, and she was **an observant person**. Some might wonder what motivated her actions at the feast, but Jesus told us. He said:

“She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial” (Mark 14:8).

Mary knew something the others at the table did not know. In just a few days, Jesus would go to dark Gethsemane and then to ugly Calvary. Jesus said she came to anoint His body before burial. Martha was serving, but she didn't know Jesus would soon be killed. Mary knew it because she made a habit of sitting at Jesus' feet.

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:38-42).

When Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume, it was not the first time that she had been at His feet. Imagine Martha in the kitchen serving. Then she came out with an apron on, perspiration on her brow, and flour up to her elbows. She asked Jesus to tell Mary to get in the kitchen and help her. But Jesus told Martha to calm down.

He told her that she was bothered about a lot of things, but Mary had chosen what was better.

The best time you will ever spend is not in the kitchen working for Jesus but there at the feet of Jesus. God revealed something to Mary that all the others did not know. Her faith in God led her to do something unique and meaningful. When we spend time with Jesus in prayer and in God's Word, we can discern the voice of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We listen to the Holy Spirit and then take action based on what He is prompting us to do, even if we don't fully understand it at the time.

Because Christ was her Lord, Mary looked into the heart of God and worshiped at His feet. Jesus Christ should be the Lord of all our worship and the Lord of all our work, so that our work will be lasting and memorable.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- What are the needs you observe around you? How can you follow God's prompting in your daily life?
- Do you want your work to be lasting and memorable? How can you spend more time at the feet of Jesus so that you can know the work He is calling you to?

The best time you will ever spend
is not in the kitchen working for
Jesus but at the feet of Jesus.

ADRIAN ROGERS

GOD USES THOSE WHO ARE OBLIVIOUS TO CRITICISM

■ PONDER IT

Taking time each day to sit at the feet of Jesus reminds us that Jesus is Lord of all. Jesus is Lord of all, no matter who likes it, no matter who criticizes it, no matter who has quibbled about it, and no matter who condemns us for a lavish love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

While Mary was anointing the head and feet of Jesus, Judas was watching. He was filled with righteous indignation and wanted to know why she would use the expensive oil instead of selling it and using that money to feed the poor. Some people are always eager to tell other people what they should do with their money. They may not even give money themselves, but they are always ready and willing to tell other people how much they should give.

While Judas was criticizing, Mary was worshiping at the feet of Jesus. **She was oblivious to his criticism.** She was having such a wonderful moment at the feet of Jesus that the criticism of Judas did not bother her. In fact, it was Jesus who rebuked Judas and told him to leave her alone. He knew Judas' heart and that he didn't care about the poor; he was a thief.

But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply (Mark 14:4-5).

It's time to fall so in love with the Lord Jesus Christ that you don't worry about what other people say. Don't worry about their righteous indignation. Just fall in love with the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you openly, publicly, gloriously, freely serve Jesus Christ with reckless abandon, some people will call you a fool, a freak, and a fanatic. They will gladly criticize you and tear you down. They will look down

on you and say you have no right to do that. They might even start listing things from the past that have disqualified you. But you can be oblivious to them and just worship the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't worry about your critics. Jesus will address them. He told Judas and the others to leave her alone because she had done a good work for Him. He protected her and shielded her from their hurtful words.

You can avoid criticism by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing. Then they will criticize you for saying, being, and doing nothing. Make up your mind that you are going to go out 100% for Jesus Christ. That's what this is all about.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- When have you experienced criticism for following Jesus? When have you criticized others for how they were worshiping Jesus?
- What would it look like in your life to be oblivious to criticism? What would you boldly do for God if you weren't afraid of what others would say?

Make up your mind
that you are going to go out—
100% for Jesus Christ.
That's what this is all about.

ADRIAN ROGERS

GOD USES THOSE WHO ARE OBEDIENT

■ PONDER IT

Mary was an ordinary woman, an observant woman, and an oblivious woman. **She was also an obedient woman.** God moved her to do something, and she did it. She simply did what the Spirit of God moved her to do.

Obedience is the key. You can tell whether people have recognized Christ as Lord by their obedience. Jesus said:

“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Mary was an obedient woman. Thankfully, she obeyed when she did, because in just a few days Jesus would be crucified and die.

“She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial” (Mark 14:8).

On the first Easter morning, a handful of women made their way into that garden graveyard, just outside the city of Jerusalem. They had in their hands some spices and ointment according to their burial traditions.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large (Mark 16:1-4).

If you had stopped them and had asked them where they were going, they would have told you that there hadn't been time to properly anoint Jesus' body for the burial.

His followers had been rushed getting His body down off the cross before the Sabbath. These women were probably worried about what the Roman guards would say when they asked them to roll back the stone and let them go in to anoint the body of Jesus. As that little band of women made their way into that graveyard, they noticed that the stone had already been rolled away from the tomb. The tomb was empty, and the guards were gone. Jesus had been raised from the dead. It was too late for them to anoint the body of Jesus.

Because of Mary's obedience, she anointed His body. If she had waited just a few days, it would have been too late. Obedience is immediate. Procrastination is a form of disobedience. She did what she could when she could. If she would have delayed or talked herself out of doing it, she would have missed the opportunity.

It's time to get serious about serving Jesus Christ. It's time to seize the opportunity that is yours today. No one knows how many hours he has left. No one knows how many days she has left. Jesus said:

“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4).

We need to be brought to the point where we will do what we can when we can, because the night is coming.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- When was a time you obeyed God, even though you didn't fully understand? When have you not obeyed and what were your excuses?
- Is there anything God has asked you to do that you have been putting off? What does obedience look like for you today?

Most people want to serve God
but only in an advisory capacity.

GOD USES THOSE WHO ARE OPEN-HANDED

■ PRACTICE IT

Mary was also **an open-handed woman**. She retrieved an alabaster box, which was likely a prized possession. Perhaps it was part of her dowry. Perhaps it was for her retirement. Perhaps it was her inheritance. It was her most precious treasure. She didn't just take the stopper off the perfume; she broke the jar. It was lavish and extravagant. It could no longer be saved, gathered up, or reused. She poured it out on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote that we all have a treasure in an earthen vessel.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us (2 Corinthians 4:7).

The earthen vessel is us inside our physical bodies. The treasure is Jesus living inside us. Until this earthen vessel is broken, Jesus Christ, in all of His sweet aroma, is not made known to this world.

Are you willing to be broken? What alabaster box are you holding on to? Maybe it's your children, your health, or your home. Maybe it's your reputation, money, or business. Are you willing to let God take your children to a faraway land to preach the Gospel? Are you willing to give up your job to go into full-time ministry? Are you willing to make Jesus Lord of all? He is Lord of your work. He is Lord of your wealth. He is Lord of your worship. Make Him Lord of all your life so that He can use you for His glory. You won't regret it.

■ PROCLAIM IT

If you want to know more about what it means to be a Christian, we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your faith. Please let us know by going to lwf.org/discover-jesus, scrolling down the page, and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

Do something lavish and extravagant for Jesus this week. Declare Him as Lord of your life because He is worthy. Follow Him in obedience and do what you can when you can.

Until this earthen vessel is broken,
Jesus Christ, in all of His sweet aroma,
is not made known to this world.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

This study is based on a message series Pastor Rogers preached on various passages from the Bible that reveal the true identity of Jesus and His great love for us. It uses passages from the Old and New Testaments to help you understand God's epic story for Mankind.

KEY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED IN THIS STUDY

- Why does Mankind need to be rescued?
- How does Jesus fit into the Holy Trinity?
- What does it mean to be saved?
- How does knowing Jesus change your life?

KEY CONCEPTS

- Jesus is the Son of God and Lord of all.
- Jesus came to save the lost and restore what Mankind lost.
- Jesus is our Savior, our Mediator, our Refuge, and our Light.
- Jesus is the Hero throughout God's story and the only way to Heaven.

■ PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE EACH SESSION

Read through the weekly lesson in the Bible Study and spend time writing your answers to the questions. Encourage the group participants to do the same. Before the session, review the **Discussion Questions** and the **Prayer & Action Point**. The questions are meant to build and increase in depth. If you have time, listen to Pastor Rogers' message for each week. (Note: There is not an audio available for Week 9's message, "Jesus: Lord of All.") He includes additional information and interesting stories that may not be included in the text of the Bible Study. When appropriate, you may want to invite your group to listen to specific sections of Pastor Rogers' messages.

■ CONDUCTING EACH SESSION

At the beginning of each session, read the **Introduction** from the Bible Study book to your group, then open discussion by asking participants

to share their biggest questions or takeaways from the week. Please keep in mind that you do not have to have the answers to the questions people ask. Sometimes the act of asking the question is helpful, and having a safe place to be curious about our faith is important. Allow the group to answer the question or commit to finding the answers together before the next session. If specific questions are too far off the topic of the study, you may want to meet with the person asking those questions outside the session or get the support of a pastor or church leader.

Next, pray and ask God to guide your conversation and then lead your group through the **Discussion Questions**. Your role is to facilitate the lessons and the conversation. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to share. Avoid the temptation to fill silence with talking or lecturing. The silence can allow time for everyone to process, think, and listen to the Holy Spirit. You can also invite participants to go deeper by asking questions like “Why? Why not?” or saying “Tell me more.” You can ask someone to clarify an answer by saying “Can you help me understand...?”

The questions are intentionally ordered so that the first two questions are typically questions that everyone can answer. They are meant to get people talking. If you want to keep them talking, avoid fixing and judging. Do not try to fix their problems or tell them what they are doing wrong. If others in the group try to do this, find a polite way to bring the focus back to sharing personal experiences.

The questions will increase in depth. You can jump around based on which questions feel the most applicable to your group. Be listening to the Holy Spirit as well to see if other questions come to mind. As the facilitator, you are listening to the group and the Holy Spirit at the same time. Your situation each week can change based on participant feedback and questions. You are leading your group as God is leading you. Stay focused on the content and the context of the study, but also be attentive to where the Spirit is moving.

The last question asks group members to apply what they have learned to their lives. You may invite participants to silently reflect or write down their answers until they are more comfortable in the group. If people share their answers out loud, avoid judgment statements that are positive or negative. This will help people avoid

comparison and people pleasing. Simply say, “Thank you for sharing” or “We will be praying for that with you.”

Encourage participants to find one or two other people with whom to discuss the **Prayer & Action Point**. It is meant to challenge them to apply the main teaching in the lesson in a practical way and open the door for accountability. Participants can share their answers to the question and then pray for each other. Remember to affirm the importance of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

WEEK 1

JESUS: SON OF GOD

■ LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

lwf.org/audio-2265



■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. Good things come in threes. What are three things that always go together in your mind? What are some famous—real or fictitious—trios you've heard of?
3. What are some things you have heard other people say or believe about Jesus? What makes Jesus more than a good man, a good moral teacher, or a great prophet?
4. What are some illustrations of the Trinity that help you understand the concept? What about the Trinity remains a mystery to you?
5. From Day 4, how do creation, Scripture, and the Church reveal the triune nature of God? What is the significance of Jesus being revealed and mentioned in the Old Testament?
6. From Day 5, how do the three persons of the Trinity work together in your salvation? What are the blessings of salvation that you receive?
7. How would you explain the Trinity to someone else? Why is it meaningful to you that Jesus was fully God and fully Man?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

As a group, spend time in worship praising God for who He is and thanking Him for sending His Son Jesus. Invite the Holy Spirit to work in and through your group.

WEEK 2

JESUS: FRIEND OF SINNERS

■ LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

lwf.org/audio-2472



■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. If Jesus were to come into your community today, where would He want to eat and why? Would you want Jesus to come to eat at your house?
3. Do you agree that everyone is born with a sinful nature? If God is like the shepherd in the parable of the lost sheep, how important are lost sheep to Him?
4. Like the parable of the lost coin, when have you lost something precious and celebrated when you found it? Like the parable of the lost son, when have you felt lost in depression, disgrace, or dissatisfaction?
5. According to Days 4 and 5, what do these three parables reveal about the Trinity when told together? When you put all of these stories together, what do you realize about how God feels about those who are lost?
6. What is the difference between wanting what God provides and wanting a relationship with Him? If God is like the father in the parable of the lost son, how do you think He feels when He sees you coming back to Him?
7. What did these three parables show you about how God views you? Who in your life needs to know that God is actively pursuing them, searching for them, and waiting for them with open arms?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

With a partner, pray for those in your circle of influence who are lost. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the Good News with them.

WEEK 3

JESUS: OUR SAVIOR

■ LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

lwf.org/audio-1976



■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. In our culture, what are the things people use to impress others? How do you know that someone you are meeting is important?
3. Where does your culture say that wisdom comes from and who is considered wise in your community? How would we act differently if we truly valued all the wisdom Jesus communicates to us?
4. What are some of the greatest achievements you have seen in your lifetime? What is something Jesus has accomplished in your life—something only God could have done?
5. From Day 4, what is the difference between wealth and worth? What has Jesus given to you that is more valuable to you than anything you own?
6. What do people worship other than God? What things in your life rival your worship for Jesus?
7. What have you seen recently that has filled you with awe and amazement? When was the last time you sat in wonder of all that God has created? What role does wonder play in your relationship with God?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

As a group, spend time worshiping God for all the ways that Jesus is greater than Solomon. Thank Him for what He has done in your lives.

WEEK 4

JESUS: OUR MEDIATOR

■ LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

lwf.org/audio-1970



■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. What are some of the reasons people struggle to believe in God? What was difficult for you to understand about God before you were saved?
3. What do other religions say you have to do to be right with their deities? How have you seen people attempt to make themselves righteous or right with God?
4. How do you see demonism influencing your community through cults, astrology, drug culture, or other methods? How can we discern between God's voice and voices of deception?
5. How do you see the philosophies of the five men mentioned on Day 4 continuing to influence your community? What are the truths from Scripture that combat the lies those schools of thought tell?
6. Why does legalism, following all the rules, or trying to be a good person fall short? Why can't you make yourself right with God on your own?
7. Pastor Rogers warns against reformation without transformation. How is your relationship with Christ transforming you?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

With a partner, share some of the other things you have trusted to save you or make you right with God. Confess those to each other and pray for each other.

WEEK 5

JESUS: OUR LIGHT

■ LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

lwf.org/audio-1895



■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. When you were growing up, who was your hero? What was the evil or darkness that hero fought against?
3. From Days 1 and 2, why is Jesus' pure and incorruptible nature so important in the Christian faith? Why is it important that Jesus never changes?
4. Because light always overcomes darkness, you can have victory. In what area of your life are you living in or longing for victory?
5. In what ways are light and life connected? How has your relationship with Jesus brought you more life?
6. Into what areas of your life are you bringing the Light of Jesus? How can you glorify God, even if you are surrounded by darkness?
7. In your own spiritual journey, when did you realize that you were living in darkness? How has living in the Light changed your life?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

With a partner, thank Jesus for being the Light of the world and not leaving us in darkness. Pray for those in your circle of influence who are still living in darkness.

WEEK 6

JESUS: OUR REFUGE

■ LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

lwf.org/audio-2471



■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. When was a time when you had to take cover or find refuge somewhere? Has someone ever used your home as a refuge to get away from something else?
3. From Day 1, why is the holiness of Jesus important in Christian theology? When have you felt the support that a relationship with Jesus offers?
4. What are the benefits of taking refuge in Jesus? How has your relationship with Christ changed your life?
5. What was the significance of having a city of refuge nearby? Before you knew Christ, was it easy or difficult for you to find Him?
6. From Day 4, what is the difference between being at the gate and being in the city? What lies does Satan tell people to keep them from Christ?
7. Why do you need the refuge Jesus offers? What keeps people from accepting the safety and security He offers?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

With a partner, thank Jesus for being your city of refuge. Pray for those in your circle of influence who do not know Him.

WEEK 7

JESUS: OUR CHAMPION

■ LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

lwf.org/audio-1879



■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. What is one of your favorite stories from the Bible? Which person is the hero of the story?
3. According to Day 1, what does it mean to have dominion over something? How did Adam and Eve lose the dominion God gave them?
4. According to Day 2, what was Satan like before he fell from Heaven? Why didn't God step in and give Adam and Eve back their dominion?
5. Why is it important that Jesus is fully God and fully Man? How can you use the two weapons Jesus used in the desert to fight your spiritual battles?
6. How does Satan keep people away from Jesus or attack those who believe in Jesus? How did Jesus restore our dominion and what does that mean for us when we face Satan's spiritual attack?
7. Where do you see spiritual battles in your life or community? What truths do you need to remember when you are facing a spiritual attack?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

With a partner, share an area where you are experiencing a spiritual battle. Pray for each other as you step into victory in Christ.

WEEK 8

JESUS: THE ONLY WAY

■ LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

lwf.org/audio-2314



■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. What are some of the limitations, laws, or regulations that govern your work? What would happen if you didn't follow them?
3. What are the biggest obstacles that keep people from finding Jesus? What are some of the false teachings that people believe about Him?
4. What does Jesus reveal about the Father? What is the blessing of believing that Jesus is fully God and fully Man?
5. On Day 3 we read, "What you believe about this is important. If you believe in evolution, you not only have trouble with the Bible, but you also have trouble with salvation." What truth do you find in that statement? What is the danger of picking and choosing what to believe in Scripture?
6. Why is there a gap between God and people? How does Jesus bridge this gap?
7. What other things have you tried to use to bridge the gap between you and God? How do you respond to people who believe there are multiple ways to Heaven?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

With a partner, briefly share how you came to know Christ. Pray for those in your circle of influence who don't know Jesus.

WEEK 9

JESUS: LORD OF ALL

■ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's study? What questions do you have after going through the study?
2. What makes you extraordinary or different from others? How would you finish this phrase: I think God would use me more if...?
3. From Day 1, what was the significance of the perfume and breaking the container? If you had been in that room when it happened, what might you have been thinking?
4. From Day 2, what parallels did you find in the story of the one-string violin and a Christian submitted to God? When have you seen God glorified in your weakness?
5. What are the needs you observe around you? How do you sit at Jesus' feet and follow God's prompting in your daily life?
6. When have you been criticized for your faith? What would you boldly do for God if you weren't afraid of what others would say?
7. Is there anything you've been holding back from God? How can you be more obedient and more open-handed with Him?

■ PRAYER & ACTION POINT

As a group, spend time worshipping the qualities of Jesus we have studied. Give thanks for what He has done and worship Him as the Lord of all.



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Love Worth Finding Ministries with Adrian Rogers is pleased to be able to bring you this Bible study. If you have found it helpful, we suggest you go to our website, lwf.org.

Peruse our **Find Answers** tab and look through questions, answers, and resources about your life, about our world, and about God. Use our menu to sign up for an email challenge that brings encouragement to your inbox. You will also find a study to engage in by browsing our **Adrian Rogers Center for Biblical Learning**. Go to the **LWF Store** for print and digital resources for yourself and those you love.

Through broadcast, print and digital media, our reach is global. Our mission is to help people find the greatest Love worth finding, Jesus Christ, and to help those who already know Jesus grow in the faith.

Put Love Worth Finding in the palm of your hand with the **MyLWF App**.



Here you'll find audio and video messages from Pastor Adrian Rogers, our daily devotional, and special programs such as our "Conversations that Matter" interview-format program on biblical topics and our "Voices" audio theater programs.

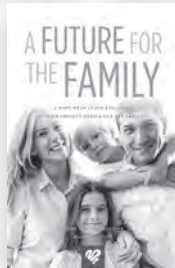
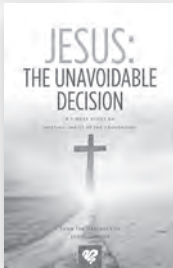
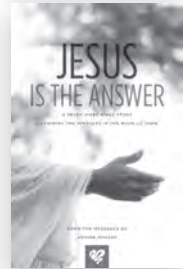
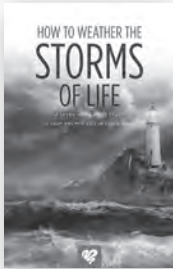
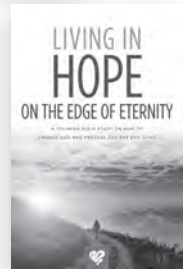
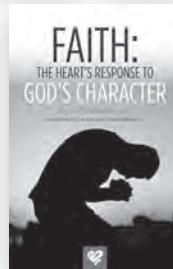
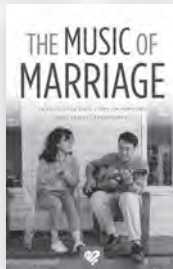
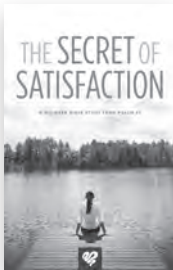
The **MyLWF App** includes programming in several languages. And you can learn how to partner in Love Worth Finding's global mission to bring people to Christ and help them grow in the faith.



Scan the QR code below or search for the heart-shaped **MyLWF App** in your favorite app store to download it today.



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Pastor **Adrian Rogers'** unique ability to apply biblical truth to everyday life is yet unparalleled by other modern teachers. **Love Worth Finding** is dedicated to glorifying God by honoring that legacy and expanding his impact.

LWF produces broadcast, print and digital media that reaches around the globe with the profound truth of the Gospel, simply stated. **The mission: to bring people to Christ and mature them in the faith.**

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LWF is funded primarily through gifts from Christians committed to sharing God's Word with lost and hurting people from all walks of life.

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THE HERO OF THE HUMAN STORY

People love to watch an epic story in which the hero swoops in and saves the day from an evil villain. We long for justice to prevail, for wrongs to be made right, and for someone to defend us for the sake of love. Ultimately, we all yearn for the epic and beautiful story God wove together and revealed from Genesis to Revelation—the story of Jesus.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan, the evil villain, destroyed paradise, and every person born since was born into his evil kingdom. But Jesus is the ultimate hero. He defeated death and gave us a way back to God. He rescued us from an impossible situation and changed the eternal destiny of all those who would follow Him. The Bible shows us the true nature of Jesus, and the more you know Him, the more you will fall in love with Him.

When we give our lives to Jesus, the devil has no power. Our Hero has come to our rescue, and He wants to be Lord of your life.



Pastor, teacher, and author **ADRIAN ROGERS** has introduced people all over the world to the love of Jesus Christ, and has impacted an untold number of lives by presenting profound truth, simply stated.

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