



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

KNOWING JESUS

Lessons Jesus Gave for Everyday Life

A Beginner Guide to Living as His Disciple

The short answer

Love God. Love people. Trust the Father. Seek His kingdom. Forgive, serve, speak truth, steward wisely, and build your life on Jesus' words.

“Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock.”

Matthew 7:24 WEB

Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

Jesus teaches us how life with God looks

This Companion was not written to replace your Bible. It was written to help you fall in love with it. Every page is intended to send you back into God's Word with greater confidence, deeper understanding, and a clearer picture of Jesus Christ.

Begin with grace

Jesus' teaching is not a ladder we climb to make God love us. We are saved by grace through faith, and then Jesus teaches His people how to live as those who belong to Him (Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 2:11–14).

Three truths to remember

01

Jesus is Savior and Teacher

We do not separate His commands from His cross, resurrection, grace, and lordship.

02

His teaching reaches the heart

Jesus addresses motives, desires, loyalties, and trust—not only visible behavior.

03

Obedience grows through relationship

We learn to obey by remaining in Jesus and depending on the Holy Spirit (John 14:15–17; 15:1–5).

Welcome and transformation belong together

Jesus receives people with grace and truth. He welcomes us as we come to Him, then lovingly changes what is sinful, harmful, fearful, proud, or unbelieving so that our lives increasingly reflect Him (John 1:14; 8:10–11; Romans 8:29).

How to use this guide

Read each passage in context. Choose one truth to trust and one faithful response to practice rather than trying to change everything in a day.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

HOW TO READ HIS TEACHING

Hear the words—and notice the setting

Jesus taught through sermons, conversations, questions, commands, warnings, blessings, parables, and vivid word pictures. A saying becomes clearer when we notice whom He addressed, what prompted it, and what happened next.

Ask four beginner questions

01

What does Jesus reveal about God?

Look for the Father's character, kingdom, priorities, promises, and warnings.

02

What does He reveal about the heart?

Notice fear, pride, hypocrisy, unbelief, anger, greed, compassion, humility, and faith.

03

What response does He call for?

Repent, believe, pray, forgive, love, serve, watch, endure, or obey may be central.

04

How does the Gospel make this possible?

Connect the command to Jesus' saving work and the Spirit's transforming power.

Do not isolate one sentence

Read the paragraph before and after it. Some sayings correct a particular person or situation; others summarize a broad pattern for disciples.

Memory anchor

Context first. Jesus at the center. Grace before obedience. Faith expressed through action.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

Love God—and love your neighbor

When asked for the greatest commandment, Jesus joins Deuteronomy 6:4–5 and Leviticus 19:18. Love for God and love for people summarize the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:34–40).

01

Love God with all your heart

Give Him your deepest loyalty, affection, worship, and trust.

02

Love God with all your soul

Let your whole life belong to Him—not only religious moments.

03

Love God with all your mind

Bring your thoughts, beliefs, questions, and decisions under His truth.

04

Love your neighbor as yourself

Seek another person's good with the care you naturally give your own needs.

Who is my neighbor?

In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus shifts the question from “Who qualifies as my neighbor?” to “Will I become a neighbor to the person in need?” (Luke 10:25–37).

Love is more than a feeling

Biblical love seeks another person's true good. It may comfort, serve, forgive, protect, speak truth, set wise boundaries, or confront harm.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PRIORITIES AND TRUST

Seek God's kingdom instead of being ruled by worry

Jesus points to birds and flowers as reminders of the Father's care. He does not deny that people need food, clothing, and shelter. He teaches that anxious striving cannot secure life and that the Father knows what His children need (Matthew 6:25–34).

Jesus gives a different order

01	Know your Father He sees, knows, values, and cares for His children.
02	Seek His kingdom first Make God's rule, righteousness, and priorities more important than anxious self-protection.
03	Receive today's responsibilities Jesus directs attention away from imagined tomorrows and toward faithful action today.
04	Bring needs to God Prayer replaces self-sufficiency with dependent trust (Matthew 6:9–13; Philippians 4:6–7).

A needed clarification

Jesus is not shaming people who experience anxiety, grief, trauma, or illness. His words invite us to bring real fear to a trustworthy Father. Prayer, wise support, medical care, counseling, and practical planning can all be faithful responses.

Memory anchor

Worry asks, "What if?" Faith asks, "What has my Father said, and what is today's faithful next step?"



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

INSIDE-OUT TRANSFORMATION

God cares about what is happening within us

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus moves beneath outward behavior to the heart. Murder is connected to contemptuous anger; adultery to lust; religious acts to the desire for human praise (Matthew 5:21–30; 6:1–18).

Jesus confronts

- Anger that treats another person as worthless.
- Desire that turns a person into an object.
- Promises designed to manipulate rather than communicate truth.
- Religious activity performed mainly to be admired.
- Hidden loyalties that compete with devotion to God.

The goal is not behavior management

Jesus calls for truth in the inward person. Lasting change involves confession, renewed thinking, Spirit-produced fruit, wise action, and ongoing dependence on Him (John 15:4–5; Galatians 5:16–25).

A simple heart check

What am I doing? What am I wanting? What am I believing? What would trust and love look like here?

Grace meets us honestly

We do not need to hide the heart from the One who already sees it. Jesus exposes sin so that we can repent, receive mercy, and be transformed.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PRAYER

Come to the Father simply, honestly, and persistently

Jesus warns against praying to impress people or piling up empty words. He teaches His disciples to pray to a Father who already knows their needs (Matthew 6:5–13).

The Lord's Prayer gives a pattern

01	Begin with God Honor His name, desire His kingdom, and submit to His will.
02	Bring daily needs Depend on the Father for ordinary provision one day at a time.
03	Confess and forgive Receive mercy and extend mercy to others.
04	Ask for protection Seek God's help against temptation and evil.

Jesus also teaches persistence

The friend at midnight and the persistent widow encourage continued prayer, not because God is reluctant or unjust, but because disciples can keep bringing their needs to Him with faith (Luke 11:5–13; 18:1–8).

Prayer is relationship

Prayer is not a technique for controlling outcomes. It is honest dependence on a wise Father, shaped by His character and will (Matthew 26:36–44; 1 John 5:14).



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

FORGIVENESS AND MERCY

Forgiven people learn to forgive

Jesus places forgiveness near the center of prayer and discipleship. The parable of the unforgiving servant shows the inconsistency of receiving an immeasurable mercy while refusing mercy to another (Matthew 6:12, 14–15; 18:21–35).

Forgiveness means

- Releasing personal revenge and entrusting justice to God.
- Refusing to keep using the offense as a weapon.
- Remaining willing for God to work repentance and restoration.

Forgiveness does not always mean

- Pretending the wrong did not happen or calling evil good.
- Immediately restoring trust without repentance and changed behavior.
- Remaining in danger, concealing abuse, or avoiding appropriate authorities.
- Avoiding grief, boundaries, consequences, or wise counsel.

Forgiveness and reconciliation are related but different

One person can choose forgiveness before the other repents. Reconciliation normally requires truth, repentance, safety, and rebuilding trust. Jesus holds mercy and accountability together (Luke 17:3–4). In cases involving abuse, threats, crimes, addiction, serious mental-health concerns, or danger to a child or vulnerable adult, involve qualified professionals and appropriate authorities rather than trying to manage the situation alone.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

RELATIONSHIPS AND CONFLICT

Pursue peace without abandoning truth

Take initiative

Jesus teaches worshipers to take broken relationships seriously and seek reconciliation where possible (Matthew 5:23–24). He also gives a step-by-step process for addressing sin directly rather than spreading it through gossip (Matthew 18:15–17).

01

Begin privately

Speak directly to the person when it is safe and appropriate.

02

Listen and tell the truth

Aim for understanding, repentance, repair, and faithfulness—not winning.

03

Invite wise help when needed

Serious or unresolved matters may require mature witnesses, church leadership, professionals, or authorities.

04

Know your responsibility

Seek peace as far as it depends on you, but you cannot force another person's repentance or cooperation (Romans 12:18).

Love your enemies

Jesus calls disciples to pray for enemies and refuse the cycle of hatred and retaliation (Matthew 5:43–48). Enemy-love does not approve evil; it refuses to become like the evil it opposes.

Wise love

Love can be gentle or firm. It can move closer in compassion or create distance for safety. Its goal is God-honoring good, not people-pleasing.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

WORDS AND INTEGRITY

Our words reveal—and shape—the heart

Jesus says words flow from the abundance of the heart and that people will give account for careless words (Matthew 12:33–37; Luke 6:43–45). Speech is therefore a spiritual issue, not a minor social habit.

Jesus teaches us to

01

Tell the truth simply

Let your yes mean yes and your no mean no (Matthew 5:33–37).

02

Refuse contempt

Do not use words to dehumanize, shame, or feed sinful anger (Matthew 5:21–22).

03

Avoid hypocrisy

Do not demand from others what you refuse to face in yourself (Matthew 7:1–5; 23:1–12).

04

Use words for faithful witness

Acknowledge Jesus, speak truth, and trust the Spirit's help under pressure (Matthew 10:18–20, 32–33).

A pause before speaking

Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it loving? Is it the right time? Am I speaking to the person—or merely about the person?

Words need grace and truth

Jesus never used truth as permission for cruelty or kindness as permission for deception. His followers need both (John 1:14; Ephesians 4:15, 29).



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

What we treasure directs the heart

Jesus speaks often about money because possessions easily compete with trust in God. He warns against greed, anxious accumulation, selfish luxury, and the illusion that life consists in abundance (Matthew 6:19–24; Luke 12:13–34).

01

Store treasure with God

Invest in what lasts rather than living only for temporary gain.

02

Serve one master

Money is a useful tool but a destructive lord (Matthew 6:24).

03

Practice generosity

Give freely, quietly, and compassionately without performing for praise (Matthew 6:1–4; Luke 12:33).

04

Be faithful with what is entrusted

Small acts of stewardship reveal character (Luke 16:10–13).

05

Guard against greed

Wanting more can hide beneath comfort, comparison, fear, and success (Luke 12:15).

Jesus is not teaching that wealth proves God's favor

The Gospels include faithful people with differing resources. The central questions are ownership, trust, generosity, justice, contentment, and whether possessions serve God's purposes or control the heart.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

HUMILITY AND SERVICE

Greatness in Jesus' kingdom looks like serving

The disciples repeatedly argued about status. Jesus answered by placing a child among them, washing feet, and pointing to His own mission: the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom (Mark 9:33–37; 10:42–45; John 13:1–17).

Kingdom greatness

- Does not need the most attention, title, influence, or comfort.
- Uses authority to protect and serve rather than control.
- Notices people whose work or needs are easily overlooked.
- Chooses faithfulness even when no one applauds.
- Receives service humbly as well as giving it.

Humility is not self-hatred

Jesus knew who He was and still took the servant's towel (John 13:3–5). Biblical humility agrees with God about our dependence, gifts, limits, and value, then uses what He has given for the good of others.

Memory anchor

In Jesus' kingdom, we do not climb over people to become great. We follow the King downward into loving service.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

DISCERNMENT AND JUDGMENT

Judge carefully—beginning with yourself

“Don’t judge” is often quoted as though Jesus prohibited all moral discernment. In context, He condemns hypocritical, self-righteous judgment while still requiring disciples to recognize fruit, false teaching, and what is holy (Matthew 7:1–20).

01

Examine your own life first

Remove the log from your eye before addressing another person’s speck.

02

Use God’s standard

Personal preference, irritation, rumor, or appearance is not the same as biblical truth.

03

Look at fruit over time

Character and teaching become clearer through their results (Matthew 7:15–20).

04

Remain humble and teachable

We can make necessary judgments while remembering that only God sees every motive perfectly.

Beware of spiritual deception

Jesus warns that religious language, impressive works, or claims of closeness to Him do not replace knowing and obeying Him (Matthew 7:21–23; 24:4–5, 23–25).

A balanced conclusion

Do not condemn carelessly, excuse blindly, or trust appearances. Examine Scripture, character, fruit, and your own heart.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

TRouble AND ENDURANCE

Jesus never promised an easy path

Jesus promises His followers both His presence and real trouble. Disciples may experience rejection, loss, persecution, grief, and hardship, yet no suffering can separate them from His faithful care (John 15:18–21; 16:33).

Jesus teaches His followers to

01

Expect opposition without seeking it

Faithfulness may create conflict, but disciples should not confuse harshness with courage.

02

Fear God more than people

Human power is limited; the Father sees and values His children (Matthew 10:26–31).

03

Depend on the Spirit

God supplies help and witness under pressure (Matthew 10:18–20; John 14:16–18).

04

Endure with hope

Present suffering is not the end of the story. Jesus will return, judge rightly, and restore all things.

Peace in Jesus

Biblical peace is not denial or the absence of pain. It is settled confidence in Jesus within the storm. “In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33 WEB).

When suffering is overwhelming

Seeking prayer, safety, medical care, counseling, practical help, or legal protection can be faithful—not faithless.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP

Take up your cross and follow

Jesus calls disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him (Luke 9:23–26). This does not mean creating suffering or remaining under abuse. It means surrendering self-rule and remaining loyal to Jesus even when obedience is costly.

Daily following includes

- Listening to Jesus through Scripture and responding in faith.
- Turning from known sin rather than protecting it.
- Choosing God's will above comfort, approval, and control.
- Loving people through practical service and truth.
- Remaining connected to Jesus in prayer and dependence.
- Continuing after failure by receiving correction and grace.

Count the cost—and know the One you follow

Jesus warns against shallow enthusiasm that has not considered the cost (Luke 14:25–33). He also promises His presence, rest, the Spirit's help, a new family, and eternal life (Matthew 11:28–30; 19:27–30; 28:20).

Memory anchor

Discipleship is not adding Jesus to my plans. It is entrusting my whole life to the One who gave His life for me.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

EVERYDAY MISSION

Live as salt and light

Jesus calls His followers the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13–16). Disciples do not hide their allegiance to Him, but neither do they perform goodness to gain attention. Their lives should help people see God's goodness and give glory to the Father.

01

Live visibly faithful lives

Let honesty, compassion, purity, courage, and hope make the character of Jesus easier to recognize.

02

Speak about Jesus naturally

Be ready to explain who He is, what He has done, and why your hope rests in Him.

03

Serve the people near you

Mission includes ordinary faithfulness at home, work, church, neighborhoods, and places of need.

04

Make disciples—not admirers

Jesus sends His followers to help people trust Him, be baptized, learn His commands, and follow Him (Matthew 28:18–20).

Witness needs both words and life

Good works without the Gospel can leave Jesus unnamed. Words without Christlike character can make the message difficult to hear. Faithful witness brings truthful words and a transformed life together (1 Peter 3:15–16).

You are not responsible for changing hearts

The Spirit gives power to witness and opens hearts to the truth (Acts 1:8; 16:14). Our responsibility is to be faithful, loving, clear, and prayerful; salvation belongs to the Lord.

Memory anchor

Shine so people see the Father. Speak so people hear about Jesus. Depend on the Spirit for the result.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

A PRACTICAL WEEKLY RHYTHM

Move from reading to faithful action

01	Read Choose one Gospel paragraph. Read it slowly at least twice.
02	Notice What does Jesus say or do? Who is present? What problem or question is being addressed?
03	Know What does this reveal about Jesus, the Father, God's kingdom, or the human heart?
04	Respond Is there a truth to trust, sin to confess, command to obey, person to love, or promise to remember?
05	Pray Turn the passage into an honest conversation with God.
06	Practice Choose one specific, realistic response and ask the Spirit for help.
07	Review At the end of the day or week, notice where God helped you and where you need continued growth.

Keep the order healthy

We do not obey to earn Jesus' love. We obey because He has loved and saved us. Grace is the root; Spirit-formed obedience is the fruit (John 15:9–12; Ephesians 2:8–10). The Holy Spirit reminds believers of Jesus' words, produces Christlike fruit, gives strength against sinful desires, and empowers witness (John 14:26; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:16–25).



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · WANT TO DIG DEEPER? · INTERMEDIATE

Read Jesus' teaching with greater care

01

Recognize vivid exaggeration

Jesus sometimes uses deliberate hyperbole to make a truth unforgettable—for example, removing an eye or a hand rather than tolerating sin (Matthew 5:29–30). He is demanding radical action against sin, not self-harm.

02

Read wisdom sayings as wisdom

A proverb-like saying describes a reliable moral pattern without necessarily promising the same immediate outcome in every circumstance.

03

Let context define hard sayings

“Turn the other cheek,” “do not judge,” and “give to everyone” must be read within Jesus' whole teaching on love, justice, stewardship, truth, and protection.

04

Distinguish description from command

Not every action in a Gospel story is something disciples are told to imitate. Ask what the narrator and Jesus commend or correct.

05

Hold kingdom ethics with Gospel grace

Jesus' commands expose sin, describe life under God's rule, and form His people. They must not be separated from His atoning death, resurrection, and gift of the Spirit.

Already and not yet

Disciples begin living the life of God's future kingdom now, but they do so in a world where sin and suffering remain. We should expect real transformation without pretending believers are already perfected (Matthew 6:10; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 3:2–3).

Intermediate memory anchor

Read the words in context, identify the form of teaching, connect the command to the Gospel, and apply it with wisdom and humility.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

REVIEW AND REFLECTION

Build on the rock

Which teaching of Jesus is especially encouraging me? _____

Which teaching is challenging or correcting me? _____

What does it reveal about God's heart? _____

What does it reveal about my heart? _____

How does Jesus' grace meet me here? _____

What is one specific act of trust or obedience I can practice? _____

Who could pray with me or help me follow through? _____

A simple prayer

Jesus, thank You for loving and saving me. Help me hear Your words honestly, receive Your grace, and obey through the Holy Spirit. Shape my thoughts, desires, relationships, words, priorities, and choices so that my life increasingly reflects You. Amen.

One faithful summary

Jesus teaches His followers to live from a heart transformed by grace: loving God and people, trusting the Father, seeking His kingdom, practicing truth and mercy, serving humbly, and obeying His words.

This content is made to be used and shared

You may freely print, copy, and share this resource to encourage others to open their Bibles. Please preserve source acknowledgments, do not sell it, and do not present it as error-free.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

THE MOST IMPORTANT INVITATION

Would you like to begin with Jesus?

Jesus' teaching shows us God's goodness and also exposes how far every heart falls short. We do not become Christians by perfectly keeping His commands. Every one of us has sinned and needs the Savior (Romans 3:23).

God did for us what we could not do for ourselves. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived without sin, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. Through Him, God offers forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life as a gift of grace (Romans 5:6–8; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Ephesians 2:8–9).

How do we respond?

01

Turn toward God

Repentance means turning from sin and self-rule toward God. It is not becoming perfect before you come to Him (Acts 3:19).

02

Believe in Jesus

Trust that Jesus is Lord and that His death and resurrection are sufficient to save you (John 3:16; Romans 10:9–10).

03

Call on Him

Confess your need, place your trust in Jesus, and ask Him to forgive and lead you. "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13 WEB).

A prayer can express your faith

Jesus, I know that I have sinned and cannot save myself. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I turn to You, ask for Your forgiveness, and trust You as my Savior and Lord. Help me follow You and grow in Your Word. Amen.

A prayer is not a magic formula—the words themselves do not save us. Jesus saves everyone who truly comes to Him in faith. If you have trusted Christ, begin reading His Word, tell another faithful Christian, connect with a Bible-believing local church, and learn about baptism and discipleship (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:38–42).