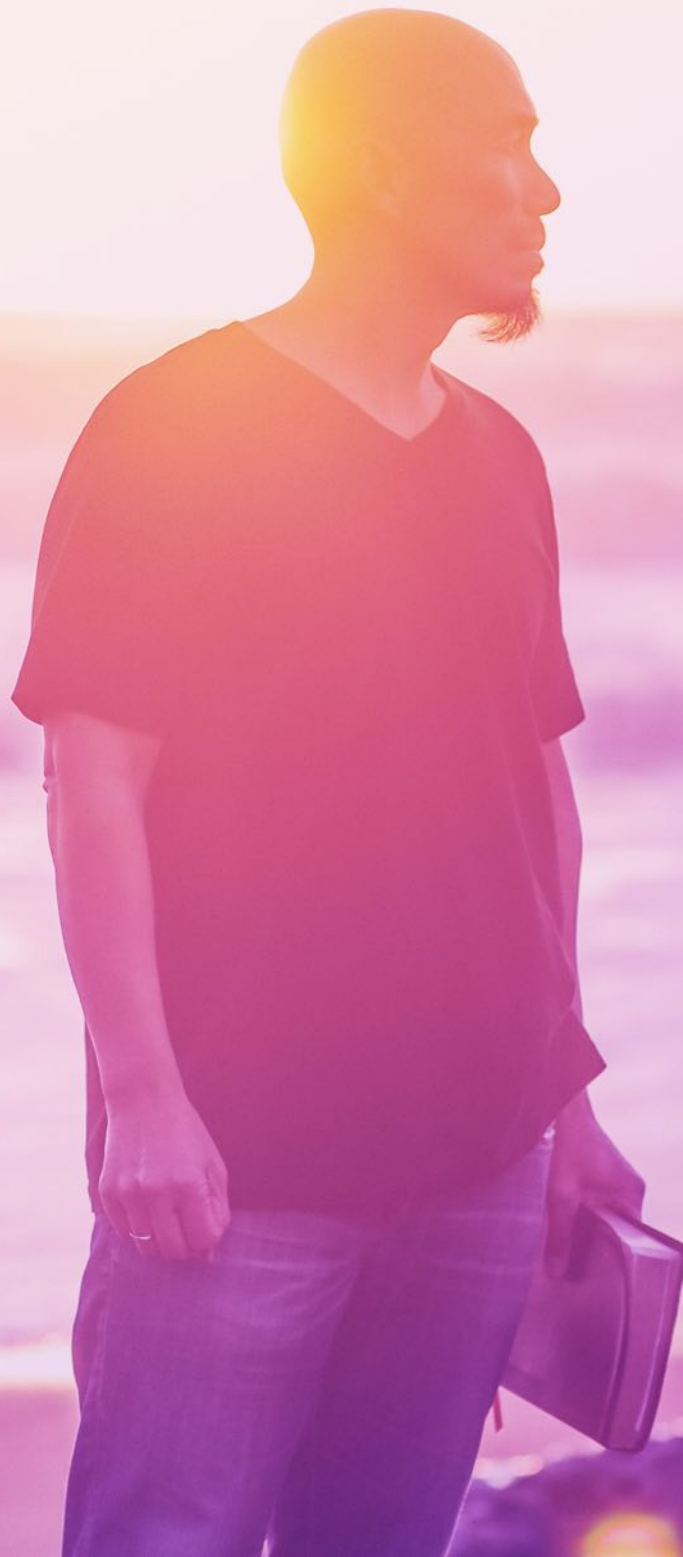




**GREATER THAN** | STUDY GUIDE  
WITH FRANCIS CHAN

This film series and study guide were produced by Next Step Ministries alongside Francis Chan and Crazy Love. It was watched by thousands of students on Next Step mission trips across the globe. Our hope is that this series will challenge your faith and inspire you to act, knowing that God is ***GREATER THAN*** anything standing in your way.

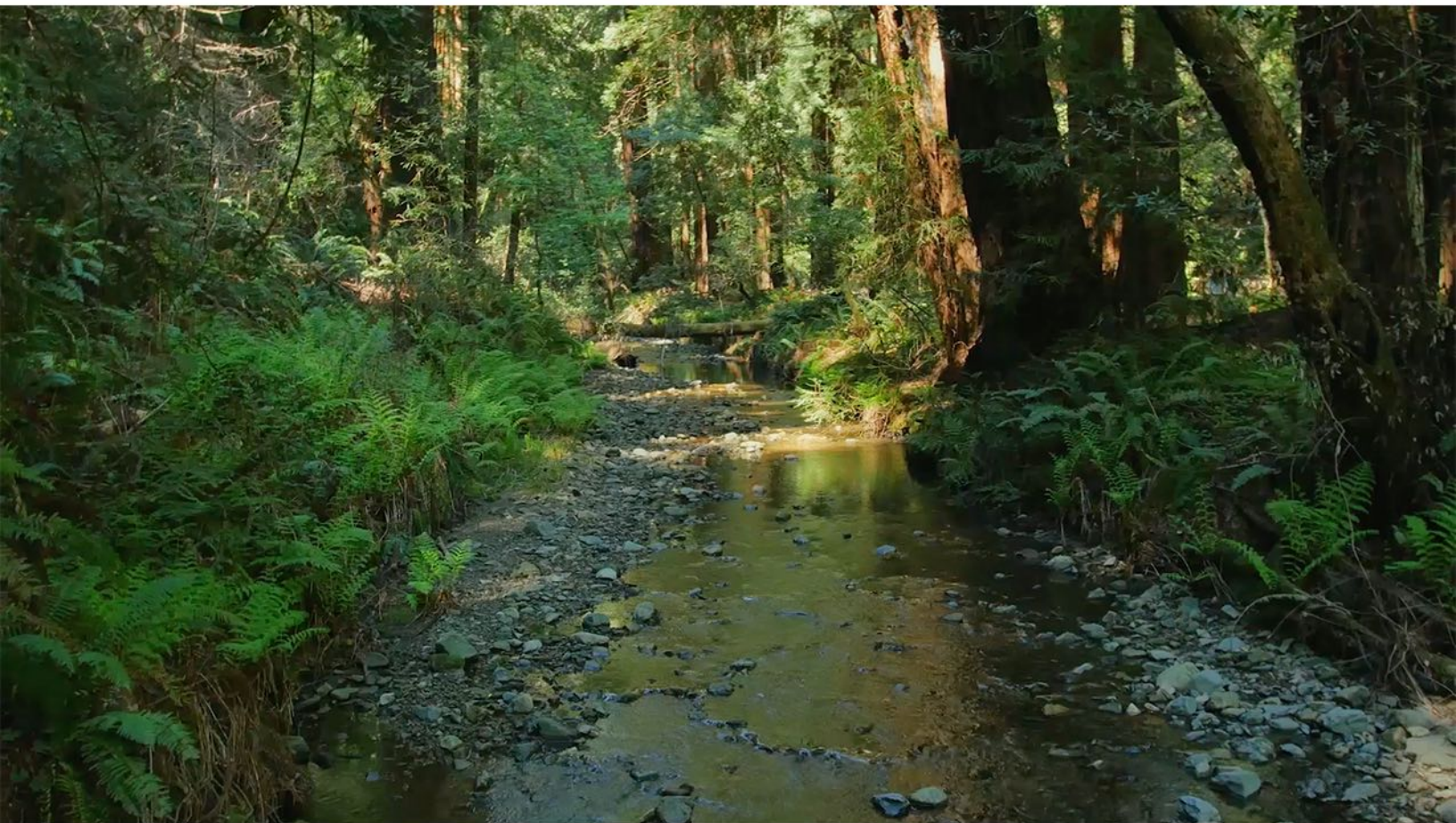


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DAY 1

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Do you believe that? This used to be something that people would take for granted and say, ‘Of course everything was created by God, look at the design.’ But we’re growing up in a different time, and now we’re told that this might not be an option.”*



### **Psalm 33:6**

**By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
and by the breath of His mouth all their host.**

We're often told we're only cosmic accidents; the result of a big bang some 14 billion years ago. Our culture tells us everything happens only as a coincidence and that there's no ultimate purpose to life.

God tells us otherwise.

Do you ever stop and think about this truth? God tells us He is the Creator of everything, literally everything, but do you honestly believe that? Or have you bought into the lies that our culture force feeds us?

### **Isaiah 40:26**

**Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.**

How often do you spend time marveling at God's creation?

Come up with a list of some of the greatest marvels of creation that you had the opportunity to see or would like to see one day.

Why do you believe it is important to "lift up your eyes" and spend time reflecting on God's glory and creation?

This verse also tells us that God knows each of the billions of stars by name and not one is missing. This is an incredible truth. What does this mean for us when we start to get worried or scared that God isn't watching out for us?



*“God says you could look at creation and you would see Him. Somehow you would recognize that there was something behind all of this, someone behind all of it.”*

## **Romans 1:20**

**For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.**

We are told in this verse that God's qualities have been clearly seen since the beginning of the world. We have no excuse to ignore God or say we can't see Him. God is behind it all.

So if we have no excuse, why do you believe we make excuses? Have you ever gone through a period of life where you have questioned the existence of God?

What made you think that God wasn't there or didn't care?

When we begin to neglect our relationship with God, or question his existence and creation, we are essentially saying that we're the center; we're the creators and directors of our own lives.

How has this worked out for you before? Have you ever tried to follow your own path and pushed God off to the side? Explain.

## **Psalm 19:1**

**The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.**

God is in charge of it all and He designed and made everything. There is no excuse to say, "There is no God, I'm glad all of this randomly happened!" No, we look up and can't help but say, "The heavens truly do declare the glory of God."



*“When the Bible would describe this Being, it wasn’t just another version of us, and a bigger version of us. But the people who interacted with Him said, ‘No, no, He calls himself Holy.’ Holy, meaning set apart; completely different from us.”*



## **I Timothy 6:16**

**He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable light. No one has ever seen Him, nor can anyone see Him. To Him be honor and eternal dominion!**

When we think about God we often place our human limitations and ideas on Him.

For example, maybe you have a strained relationship with your father who treats you like you aren't ever good enough for his love and affection. Then we, in turn, place the emotions of our earthly father onto our perceived emotions of our heavenly Father and suddenly we believe we can never be good enough even for God's love.

Have you done this? What earthy limitations and emotions have you placed on God?

But the Bible tells us that He is holy, immortal, and beyond what we can ever comprehend.

## **Acts 17:24-25**

**The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.**

This is the God we serve. He is a God beyond our comprehension and He alone is the one who gives us life and breath and everything we see.

How does this knowledge change how you see God? Is God approachable to sinful mortals like us? Why or why not?

## **Isaiah 40:28**

**Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.**



*“He determined exactly when and where we would be born. He orchestrates the situations and circumstances in our lives so that we may feel our way towards Him and find Him.”*

## **Jeremiah 1:5**

**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.**

If God has determined exactly where and when we would be born then that means there is a very specific reason that you're alive today.

So why are you here? Are you living as if your purpose is to make yourself known or are you living to make God known?

Are you actively feeling your way towards God by pursuing a relationship with Him?

How are you pursuing this relationship? Do you spend time in His word? Do you pray? Worship Him? Spend time in quiet wonder and awe of His creation?

## **1 Peter 2:9**

**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.**

Our culture may tell us that there is no rhyme or reason to life other than to have fun and get ahead in life. But we know we are here for so much more. We have been called out of darkness and into His light. But are you still living in darkness?

What are some areas of "darkness" that you may still be living in? A secret sin? The way you treat others? The way you treat yourself?

*“God orchestrated this, and this was another step of you feeling your way toward Him and finding the Creator of all of this.”*



### **Acts 17:26-27**

**From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us.**

God isn't some unapproachable being that's sitting up in heaven looking for ways to smite or ignore us. God wants us to find Him. He wants to have a personal relationship with you.

He has put different people into your life at various times and has caused things to happen all so that you may find your way to Him. And once you find your way to Him, what becomes of your previous life? You suddenly have a new purpose.

So what is your purpose? How can you begin, even in small ways, to live out that purpose?

God can and will reveal what He has orchestrated for your life. You only need to take the time to ask and listen.

### **Exodus 9:16**

**But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you My power and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth.**

You are alive this minute, on this day, in this year to declare and reflect the glory of God. What could be a better purpose than that?

DAY 2

*“Why right now am I standing at my mother’s grave, if God is so good then why did she die while giving birth to me?”*





Let's say for a moment that there is an amazing, powerful and loving God that created all that exists. Let's say that we aren't an accident and we are designed with a purpose in mind. Let's say this is true for a moment. Doesn't this beg the question, that is, if God is truly the creator, the greatest conceivable being that loves humanity and has designed us with a purpose then why does evil exist in this world? Why doesn't God stop all the bad things from happening?

Chan's biological mother died while she was giving birth to him. He then lost his stepmother due to a car accident when he was only 8 years old and shortly after that his father passed away from cancer when he was just 12 years old. This created a lot of pain in Chan's life and he began to ask some real and serious questions.

Why do bad things happen? If you're all powerful why would you allow my whole family to die one by one beginning at birth?

What are some of the instances in your life that have made or still make you question God's power, as well as his love for you?



*“The Bible says this is not the way it’s supposed to be.  
Something did go wrong.”*

Read Genesis 2-3

This passage describes what really went wrong between God and humanity.

### **Genesis 2:16-17**

**And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”**

### **Genesis 3:1-7**

**Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die. You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.**

Humanity was created to be in a loving relationship with God, but something went very wrong. Based on your reading of Genesis 2 & 3 state what went wrong in your own words.

*“After Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and eat of the forbidden fruit everything changed and suddenly death entered the world.”*



There is a curse upon this earth; therefore, when you take a good look at the world around you and you say something is wrong, something is not right, you are absolutely correct!

One day God will make everything new and there will be a new Heaven and Earth and everything will be put right once again, but until then there is still good news.

**James 1:2-4 (ESV)**

**Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

How can one count all their pain and trials as joy?

Can you think of a few times that God turned your trials in life into something amazing and good?

Looking back upon your past trials how has God used them to strengthen and increase your faith in him?

*“The crazy thing is that God can use the pain that we are going through for his glory and turn it into something good.”*



Using Francis Chan’s cake analogy, there are several ingredients that go into making a cake. Some of them are tasty and some of them are not so tasty. For example, combining sugar and milk are tasty, but mixing baking powder and flour tastes terrible! When you place all the ingredients together and place it in the oven to cook, the end result is something more amazing than any one ingredient on it’s own could have managed. All the ingredients are used to make this perfect cake just the way the baker planned it.

So it is with God.

God uses and mixes all sorts of ingredients into our lives and some of those come in the way of trials, which can cause us pain, while others can be sweet and bring us tremendous happiness, but in the end what God is looking for is the final result. God is concerned about who you are at the end of your life.

### **James 1:12 (ESV)**

**Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.**

Do you carry any resentment personally towards God because of trials you are currently facing? Have you brought it before God?

It's okay to bring your questions and doubts before God. God loves you more than you could ever know. The real question is, will you choose to stand steadfast in your love for God and allow him to use your trials to strengthen you, or will you choose to turn away from him and allow that bitterness to grow?

Have you ever carried bitterness in your heart about something or someone? Have you let go of the bitterness you carried and if so how describe the feelings you felt when you finally let it go.

When you love God, not because he gives you everything you desire, but rather because you simply love him (regardless of your circumstances), God promises you the crown of life.

Describe what you think James is talking about when he says that those who love God and are steadfast will attain the crown of life?

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.**

Know that God loves you and that he knows what is best for you. A day is coming when things will be made right, but until then know and allow God to use all the ingredients in your life to make you into his masterpiece.

DAY 3



*“The Bible talks about a future judgment that will carry with it eternal consequences for all of humanity.”*



### **Revelations 20:11-15**

**Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

The Scriptures tell us there will be a coming judgment. It tells us that there are consequences for our actions not just right now on this earth, but also for the future.

Watching Chan speak in this video and reading Revelations 20:11-15 are there any new questions or feelings that come to mind regarding God's character? If so, explain.

### **1 John 4:8**

**Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

How would you explain a God who is described as love itself throwing people not written in the book of Life into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15)?



*Francis Chan described God as looking at the world and saying, “I love them and I don’t want to punish them,’ so here is what I’m going to do, I’m going to show love to them like no one has ever shown love to them before. I’m going to have my son die on the cross for their sins.”*

### **Romans 5:8**

**But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Sin, as defined in the Bible, can really just mean to miss the mark. The mark, in this case, is the standard of perfection established by God and seen through the person of Jesus. Viewed in that light, it is clear that we are all sinners.

### **Romans 3:23**

**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

### **Romans 6:23**

**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The Apostle Paul tells us that the wages for our sin, which all of us have committed, is death.

Based on what you know about the character of God, why does he take sin so seriously?

*“The great news is that Jesus was raised from death to life and he is alive today!”*



In the video Francis Chan talked about the idea of taking his own son to Death Row, showing him all the inmates that committed some of the most heinous crimes imaginable, then looking into his son's eyes and telling him that he loves those criminals so much that he is going to send him to be tortured, spit upon, cursed, made fun of and finally dying by being nailed to the cross for their freedom.

If you are a parent or could imagine being one for a moment, would you be able to tell your child that you were going to send him or her to suffer the way Jesus did for rapist, murders, thieves, liars, gossipers, adulterers, etc.?

How does the love of a Parent that would allow their only child to take your punishment for you impact your life?

### **Romans 3:26**

**It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

How does Jesus show that he is both “just and the justifier” and why is this understanding of God significant in helping us understand who God, the creator of all that exists, is?



*We all have secrets; we all have things we are ashamed of. We all have things we've done in our lifetime that we don't want anyone to ever know about, yet God knows all.*

### **John 3:16**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Becoming a Christian is this moment in time where you recognize personally, “I sin, I’m a sinner, I need a Savior, and Jesus came to be my Savior.”

The sooner you embrace the fact that you’re a sinner, the sooner you are enabled to engage in God’s free gift of salvation towards you. The sooner you’re able to experience his forgiveness and his pardon for sin, the sooner you’re able to engage in a personal relationship with a Savior. Because at the cross, Jesus took your shame, and Jesus took your guilt, and Jesus took your blinders off so that you can now see the true light of Christ. Salvation starts the minute you commit your life to Christ. Eternal life surrounded in God’s love!



DAY 4



*Jesus warns his followers that it's going to be a difficult path if they choose to follow him.*

## **Romans 10:9**

**Because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

It's one thing to say that you believe, but the real question comes down to action, that is, will you act on that belief?

Are you willing to use the opportunities God gives you to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others?

Can you say with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord and your master?

Adam and Eve rebelled against God and made a choice to not be under God's command. If you choose to be a Christ follower, it is like doing a 180 and saying "Yes! Jesus, I want you to be my master."

What are some of the things you have had to or will have to give up to make Jesus your Lord and Master?

*Jesus, being God, emptied himself by becoming a man and taking on the form of a servant.*



### **Matthew 7:13-14**

**Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life and only a few find it.**

Jesus warned his followers that when you want to follow Jesus it's going to be a difficult path.

What are some ways in which you have chosen the narrow road even though it was difficult to do so? Was it worth it in the end? Explain.

Scenario Exercise:

As follower of Christ come up with some realistic scenarios that may prove to be difficult if you were to share your faith with family, friends, work, etc. and live as God calls you to live.

### **John 15:18-20**

**If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own, but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that said to you a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.**

Using your scenarios from the above exercise and in light of John 15:18-20 write out a prayer asking God to give you strength to follow along the narrow path even though it will be difficult.



*Jesus gave us an example of how to live our lives.*

## 1 John 3:16-18

**By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**

We all know that it's pretty easy to talk a big game, but it's a whole different thing to live by them. The Bible doesn't hold back when it comes to helping those less fortunate. As a follower of Christ our finances and worldly goods are no longer ours but our master's. Following the narrow road is difficult. We don't build up rewards and wealth on earth, but in heaven. Are you willing to give of your time and resources for another who is need? Is God calling you to be a servant to someone you know who is in need

Come up with a few ways that you can use your time and your finances to act as Christ calls us to act towards those in need.

“Jesus was not only meant to be our Savior, but he was also meant to be our example.”

## John 13:12-17

**When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.**

“We live in a world where everyone wants the power, they want the authority and we then have the example of Jesus who had the power and had all authority and he chose to serve.”

Jesus came to serve and he calls us to do the same. Are you ready for that kind of life? Is this the life you desire? If it is, then get ready for the most exiting ride of your life. The narrow road is difficult, but it is also the most rewarding.

DAY 5





*“At the cross everything changed.”*

### **Romans 5:10**

**For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!**

How does Christ's death on the cross and resurrection change everything for you as a believer?

God has reconciled all believers from death of itself. While Christ's death on the cross solved the problem of God's wrath between God and a fallen humanity, God's full purpose for humanity as described at the end of verse 10 is for life. A life that goes far beyond and is no longer threatened by death, but rather celebrates and partakes in His salvation itself.

In today's day and age so many people think that Christ's work was finished on the cross, but was it, or did it only begin there?

Describe a couple of times where you have seen Christ life at work in your lifetime.

*“It’s not about this one time decision where we decide to believe. It’s about a change of a lifestyle.”*



### **James 2:14-17**

**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**

How does this Scripture impact the way you view your own faith as a believer?

What are some areas in your life that your lifestyle has really changed due to your faith in Christ?

What are some areas in your life that your lifestyle really needs to change in order to reflect your faith?



*The majority of the world is going to be against you. There is a much easier road you could have taken, but you chose to take this road. You will have temptations all around you, you've got people who hate the way you believe, but Jesus says it's okay because I'm going to give you the power of the Spirit.*

The Bible often talks about the world as a place that is in conflict with God ever since the Fall of humanity (Gen. 3). As believers we are called to a higher standard of living. If you call yourself a Christian then what you are saying to the world that you are a follower of Jesus Christ and not a follower of the world.

### **1 John 2:15-17**

**Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**

Why would God tell Believers not to “love the world nor the things of the world”?

Verse 16 describes some of the things in the world that are in conflict with how God calls all believers to live. If you were to rewrite verse 16 in your own words and personalize it to the temptations you face as a Believer how would that verse read?

Verse 17 describes that all worldly things will one day pass away “but the one who does the will of God lives forever”. Try and imagine for a moment all those worldly things gone from you, describe as best you can what that world might look like. It’s almost unimaginable, isn’t it?

## **Romans 12:2**

**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

There is an old adage, “garbage in, garbage out” that is, what you put in your body or mind overtime comes out of you eventually. If I continually surround myself with lustful images trains my mind to view others as objects rather than people or brothers and sisters in Christ. This idea can be used for everything that the world values over Christ like living.

The good news is that the flip side of this saying is true as well, that is, if you surround yourself with healthy Christ like, Kingdom oriented things than what pours out of you will be healthy Christ like living.

What are some areas in your life that you may need to cut out of your life so that you can transformed by the renewing your mind?

## **John 15:18-21**

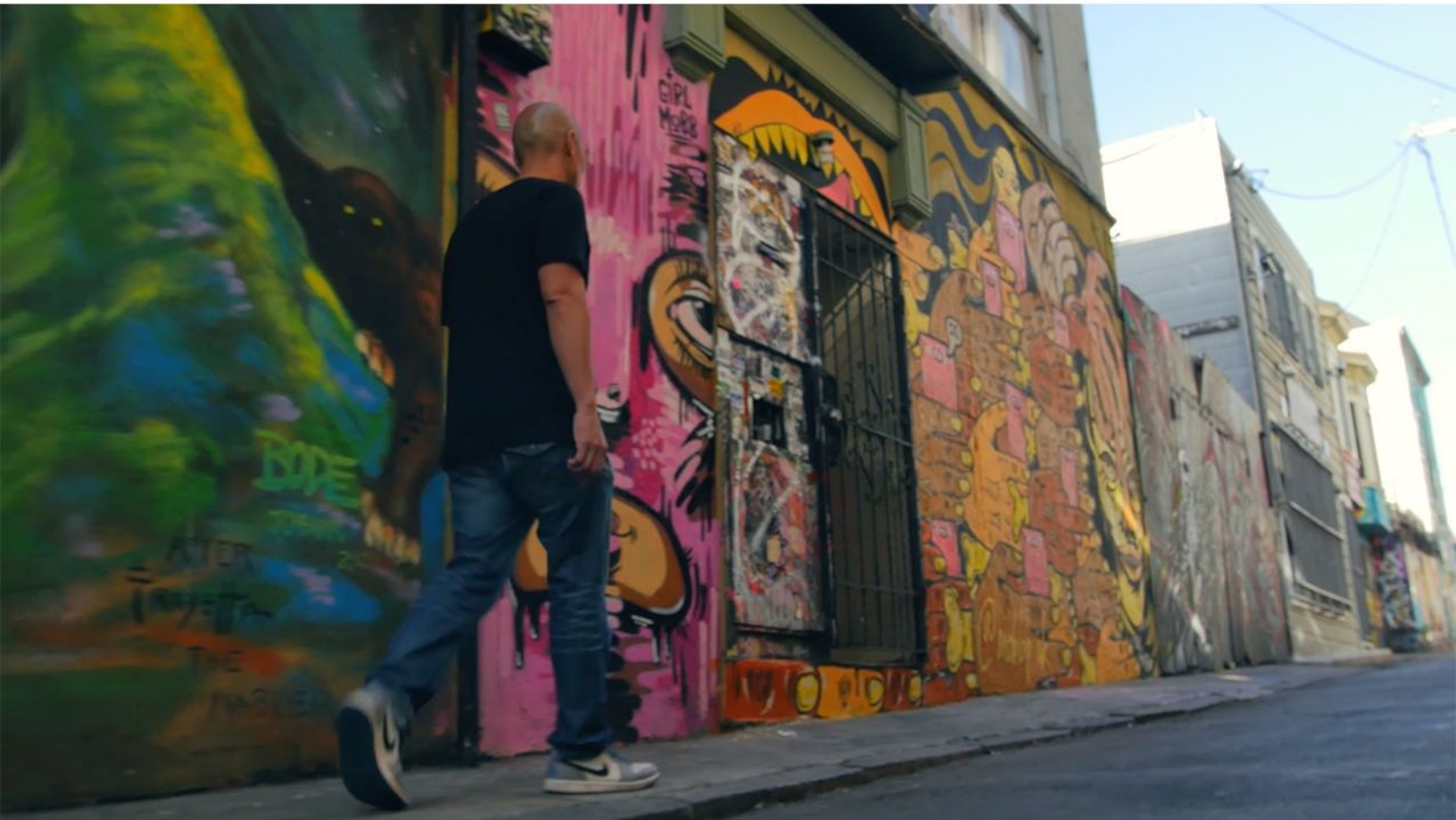
**“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.**

Why do your think that the Bible says that the world will hate you if you are a follower of Christ?

What does Jesus mean when he says that he has chosen you out of this world and that you no longer belong to this world?

What does this passage in John tell you about your identity as a Christ follower?

*“God is going to change you from the inside out. He is going to change your desires and you’ll have the power to overcome.”*





## **Romans 8:11-13**

**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.**

**Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.**

This is incredible news! Because no matter what temptation you face in life, no matter what struggle or hardship you face, the power of the Holy Spirit is within you! The same Spirit that “raised Jesus from the dead” is with you as a believer to give you counsel and the needed strength to get through any and all situations!

Picture that dead body and the amount of power it took to take a dead crucified, mutilated body and cause it to rise up and come to life! Paul says that this is the same Spirit that is in you right now. This is the Spirit He gave us to put to death the deeds of the flesh. This is the Spirit He gave us to be his witnesses.

While the role of the Spirit is to counsel and to give you power to fulfill God’s call, please know that you have a role to play in all of this as well. First, you have to listen to the Holy Spirit and second you have to obey when the Holy Spirit calls you to do something.

How does reading Romans 8:11 change the way you think about your own worldly temptations or situations?

What are the temptations and situations in your life that you could really use the Holy Spirit’s guidance and power in right now?

Do you find it a struggle when listening for the Holy Spirit’s guidance (Explain)?

What are some good strategies or ways to know when the Holy Spirit is trying to tell you something or push you in a certain direction? Do you have any practical examples of times in your life when you felt the Holy Spirit tell you something?

*When you committed your life to Christ this was the beginning of something new.*



You have purpose now. You are not just some random creation that's just out there doing whatever feels good, but you were made with a purpose! When you hear the word “commitment” what thoughts come to your mind?

### **1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (MSG)**

**You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.**

When you commit your life to Christ, you commit to running a race. If you are a Christian you run to win! Just like anything we do in life, if we don't put everything we have into it we won't win. Maybe you have heard the old adage, "you get what you put into it", and that's a very true statement

The goal of Christian life is "to be like Christ." Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians says, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Would you ever be so bold and able to make that comment?

The Apostle Paul tells us to give our best effort; he calls us to run the race and discipline ourselves and put our greatest effort towards the prize. While on the one hand the prize is salvation, on the other hand, it is really becoming like Christ!

You can do this by getting involved more with your church. You can do this by getting into God's word every day, studying it and finding out more and more about who this great God is that you serve. You can take time in your busy day to pray. You can find ways to serve in your communities. You can take the opportunities God brings your way to share the good news of Jesus to your friends, and the list can go on and on, right?

Are you willing to daily give your all, to daily lay aside every sin that holds you back?

Will you run the race or will you be a spectator simply standing on the sidelines and watching others?

Remember the runner wins the trophy ... the spectator walks away with nothing other than a memory of watching a good race run by others.

*You decided to follow Christ and now he has given you the power to follow him.*



## **2 Timothy 1:7-8**

**For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.**

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ then it's time to be committed and get in the race pursuing God with every ounce of your being.

Standing on the sidelines and cheering on those who have gone before us may be enjoyable and carry with it a "feel-good" but how are you going to win the race if you haven't chosen or are too timid to run it!

Everyone's race holds different obstacles within it. The good news is that you're not alone; God has sent the Holy Spirit to counsel you and give you the needed power to be disciplined and follow him.

You can make a difference in the world. But this is your life and only you can make the choice.

Run the race set before you. Serve God, pursue Him, worship Him and do it with everything you have, and He'll see to it that your prize is out of this world!

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