



NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

Series: Knowing Jesus

Date: May 4, 2026

Scripture: [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

Title: Keep It Simple

Author: Esther Baird

Read: [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

[**Editorial note:** This devotional was written before Eddie preached on 4/3/26 but in God's sovereign timing, Eddie spoke on the very same things and at one point from the same text in Matthew! If you missed the sermon on 4/3 go check it out to hear a more in depth take on following Jesus and staying on mission.]

Devotional:

Just typing the title above - *Keep It Simple* - makes me anxious.

I want to keep things simple, but our world makes everything complicated. Choices, decisions, life-altering moments. Do I want my eggs with avocado or bacon? Do I take I-95 all the way around, or cut across the North Shore on 114?

And then, more seriously: Do I let my kid have a phone at 13? 16? Never? Do I take this job or that one? Do I go on the date or stay home?

Our world creates decision paralysis through sheer volume. We make so many choices every day, every hour, that by the time the big decisions come, exhausted and stressed out.

At the end of this 12-week devotional series, what I want to remind us is this: in a life full of complexity, in a culture that is loud, demanding, and fast, Jesus offers clear and direct instructions.

We started this series with Jesus saying two simple words: "Follow me."

This job or that job? Assuming both are reasonable options and you are not, say, considering a career as an illegal arms dealer, ask yourself: Can I follow Jesus here? Great! Then follow him and he will guide you in whichever job you take.

Should your kids go to this school or that school? After weighing both options responsibly, ask: Can we follow Jesus there? Great! Then go, and he will lead your children in either school.



NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

Series: Knowing Jesus

Date: May 4, 2026

Scripture: [Matthew 28: 16-20](#)

Title: Keep It Simple

Author: Esther Baird

Devotional cont.

Our final passage comes at the end of Jesus' earthly ministry. In Matthew 28, Jesus gave his followers his final instructions. He didn't tell them which degree to pursue, who to marry, or whether they should delete that app on their phone. (Ahem, if you have to ask... maybe yes.)

Instead, he told them how to live out his first set of instructions: 1) Go and make disciples. 2) As you go, baptize people and teach them everything Jesus taught about who he is and what God's plan is for the world.

In other words: follow Jesus, and while you follow him, go and tell other people about him. Guess what? You can do that as a student, a barista, a gym bro, an accountant, a stay-at-home mom, an Uber driver, a lawyer, a retiree, a cancer patient, a teacher or as a technician. You can do it in a long conversation over coffee, or in thirty seconds in a checkout line.

There is no life stage, job title, or major decision that does not allow you to follow Jesus and tell others about him.

Life is still messy. It is still sad, complicated, and often confusing. But when you know Jesus, you know your identity and your purpose. Who are you? You're a Jesus follower. What are you called to do? Tell and teach others about Jesus.

Over the last 12 weeks, we've spent time looking at who Jesus is so that we can know him better. But here is the best part, *he already knows you*. He knows you, calls you by name, and tells you who you are based on who he is.

Like we said in week one, Jesus changes everything. Let him change your life today and for all time!



NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

Series: Knowing Jesus

Date: May 4, 2026

Scripture: Matthew 28: 16-20

Title: Keep It Simple

Author: Esther Baird

Reflection Questions:

- What decisions in your life currently feel overly complicated or overwhelming?
- How does Jesus' command to "follow me" simplify the way you think about those decisions?
- In your current stage of life, what might it look like to "make disciples" in ordinary ways?
- Do you tend to focus more on finding the "perfect plan" or faithfully following Jesus where you are?
- After finishing this series, what is one practical way you want to follow Jesus more intentionally?

Notes:
