

Welcome to the Family of God!

Heaven is celebrating—and so are we! The Bible tells us that when even one person puts their trust in Jesus, all of heaven rejoices (Luke 15:7, 10). You’ve made the most important decision of your life by saying “Yes” to Jesus, and we are excited to walk with you on this journey of faith.

At the center of this journey is the gospel—the foundation upon which everything else is built.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—that through His life, death, and resurrection, He defeated the power of sin and death. It is a declaration of victory and triumph for all those who believe in Him.

At the same time, the gospel is an invitation to come under the loving rule of Christ—an invitation that extends far beyond a one-time experience or single moment when you decided to follow Jesus. Rather, it is a way of life—a daily decision to walk in the Truth and the promises we receive through Christ, so that we become more and more like Him.

WHAT’S AHEAD?

As you start this exciting new chapter, our desire is to equip you with the timeless and unshakable truth of God’s Word—truth that will guide you, strengthen you, and stay with you for the rest of your life. Our prayer is that your faith will grow deep and develop as you become a strong Christian.

We’re honored to be part of your story—let’s begin the journey!



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How to use this guide:

This course is designed to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus by exploring the foundational beliefs of the Christian faith. As followers of Christ, our growth happens best through a healthy rhythm of community and solitude—learning alongside others and spending quiet time alone with God.

Each week, **we'll walk through a key topic together. You'll connect with others in group discussions, spend time in personal devotion, and reflect on what the Bible teaches us.** Our prayer is that this rhythm of learning, sharing, and reflecting becomes a lasting part of your faith journey.

COMMUNITY

GROWING TOGETHER

Life is better together. There's something powerful that happens when we gather with other believers—we ask the questions we've been wondering about, share our struggles and victories, and learn from each other's perspectives. Through weekly discussions and conversation questions, you'll discover that you're not alone on this journey. The doubts you have; others have wrestled with them too. The insights God gives you might be exactly what someone else needs to hear.

SOLITUDE

GROWING DEEPER

In the stillness—away from the noise and distractions—God speaks. It's in these quiet moments that He renews our soul and reveals more about who He is and His Kingdom. Through daily devotionals and personal study, you'll create a space for God to breathe life into your heart and mind.

If being still feels unfamiliar or challenging at first, that's okay—like anything meaningful, it takes intentionality and time. The important thing is to start. Make room in your day to slow down, quiet your heart, and simply listen. God meets us in the silence.

Insight

As you go through this guide, you'll find helpful notes called Insights that highlight key ideas, important references, and big themes from the Bible. They're there to help you connect the dots and see the bigger picture of God's story.

The W.O.R.D. Method

A major part of your growth journey includes growing in the knowledge of Jesus and walking in His ways. As Christians, we are not merely hearers, but DOERS of His Word. Each week, we will encourage you to focus on a passage of Scripture by using the W.O.R.D method.

WORD

What does the Bible say?

Start by reading the assigned passage. Take your time—read it more than once. Let the words settle in your heart.

OBSERVE

What do you see?

Look closely at the text. What verse(s) grabs your attention? Are there repeated words or phrases? Circle or underline them. Ask: *What is God saying to me through this?*

REFLECT

What does it mean?

Go deeper. Study the passage using notes, commentaries, or trusted resources. What truth is God revealing?

DO

How will I respond?

Let God's Word shape your actions. Ask: *How does this apply to my life right now?* Whether it's a challenge, encouragement, or a promise—write it down and take your next step in faith.

****All Bible verses are taken from the
New Living Translation****

Helpful Resources

This guide is just the beginning of an incredible adventure! As you continue forward, these great resources will serve you well on your journey, providing daily encouragement and practical guidance whenever you need them:



THE BIBLE APP

Imagine having instant access to God's Word wherever life takes you—whether you're commuting to work, taking a lunch break, or winding down before bed. The Bible App transforms your phone into a gateway to spiritual growth with features like:

- Audio Bibles that let you listen while you walk, drive, or relax
- Study tools that help you dive deeper into passages that speak to your heart
- Community features to study alongside friends and fellow believers
- Reading plans that guide you through Scripture at your own pace



CELEBRATION CHURCH APP

Stay connected and grow in your faith throughout the week with our church app! With a simple tap, you can access:

- Study plans that keep you engaged with Scripture
- Service notes and sermon follow-ups to help you apply what you've learned
- Prayer requests and community updates that keep you connected
- Resources tailored specifically for your spiritual growth stage



THE BIBLE PROJECT

Get ready to see the Bible in a whole new light! The Bible Project takes the sometimes overwhelming task of understanding Scripture and makes it accessible and genuinely exciting. Through:

- Engaging animated videos that bring biblical stories and concepts to life
- Clear explanations that help you see how every part of the Bible connects to Jesus
- Study tools that turn complex theological concepts into understandable insights
- Thematic explorations that help you discover recurring patterns and meanings throughout Scripture

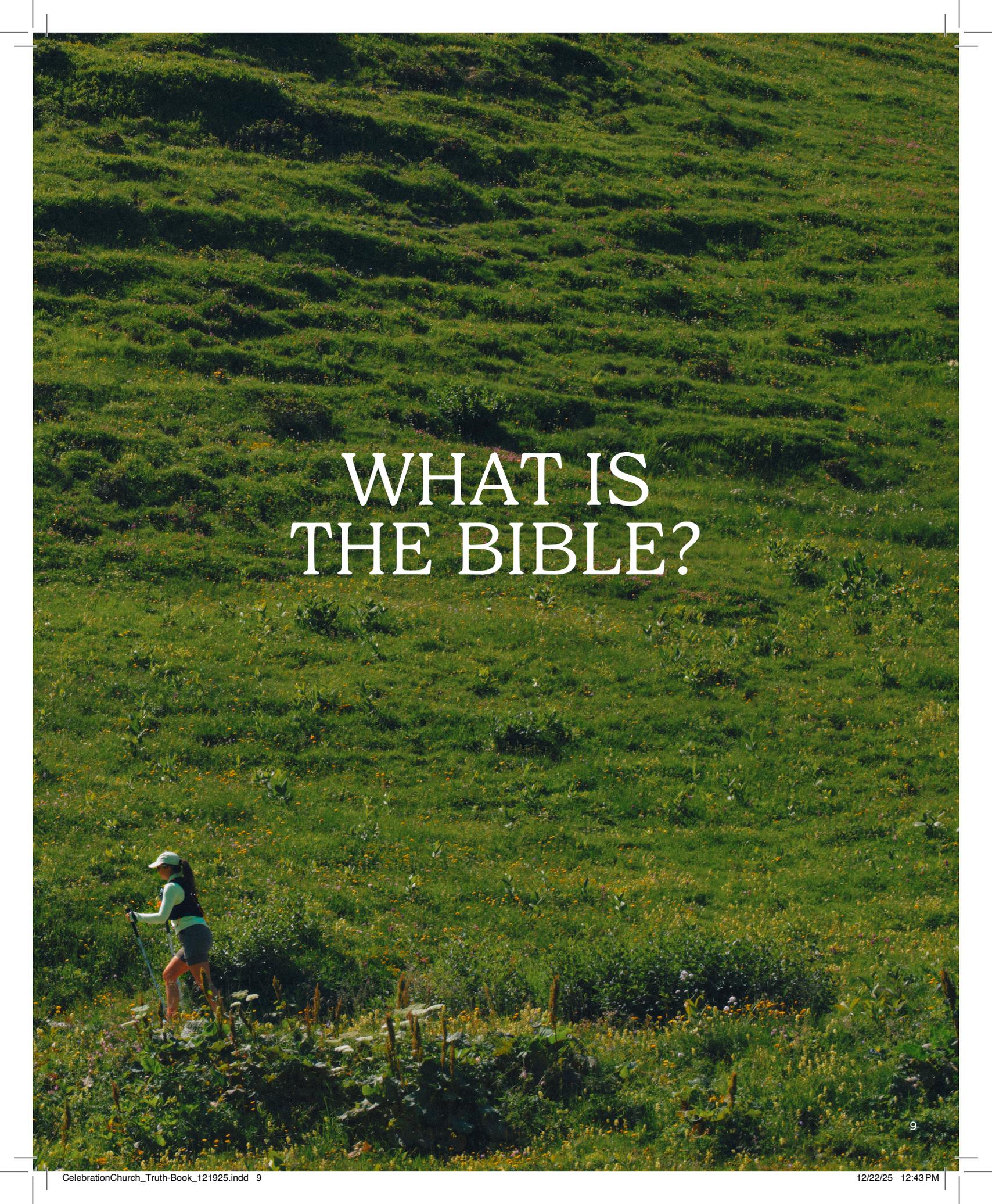


THE BIBLE RECAP

Reading the Bible can feel challenging—but it doesn't have to be! The Bible Recap helps you understand Scripture one day at a time, making God's Word come alive in a simple, meaningful way. Through:

- Short daily podcasts that summarize and explain each day's Bible reading
- Clear insights that highlight God's character and connect each passage to the bigger story of Scripture
- Practical reading plans (available in the YouVersion Bible App) that guide you through the entire Bible in one year



A photograph of a hiker on a grassy hillside. The hiker is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark vest, shorts, and a white cap. They are using trekking poles and are positioned in the lower-left corner of the frame. The hillside is covered in lush green grass and small yellow flowers. The text "WHAT IS THE BIBLE?" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, serif font.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

What is the Bible?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

KEY SCRIPTURE:

2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

OPENING PRAYER

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and for meaningful discussion.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What has been your experience with the Bible? Has it been encouraging, confusing, challenging—or maybe a mix of all three?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Bible is God’s roadmap for our new life in Christ.
- The Bible is inspired by God and equips us for every good work.
- The Bible is God’s unchanging truth, His divine will, His good plan, and His instruction for right living.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt lost after moving to a new city or starting at a new school? Does your faith journey ever feel the same way? How can the Bible be like a “map” to guide us as we learn what it means to follow Jesus?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. These verses say the Bible teaches us, rebukes us, corrects us, and trains us. Have you ever read something in the Bible that either challenged you or helped you in your walk with God? What was it?
3. In Matthew 4:1-11, we see Jesus use the Word of God to fight against and overcome the temptations of the devil in the wilderness. Can you think of a time when a Bible verse helped you get through something hard, make a better choice, or stay strong in your faith?
4. Discuss the statement: “I know this: when I’m in His Word, I’m in His will.” What do you think that means? How can spending time in the Bible each day help you stay close to God and become more like Him?
5. What are some situations where it’s been especially hard to stand firm in biblical truth in today’s culture? How can knowing and trusting what the Bible says give you confidence and reassurance?

CLOSING PRAYER

End the session by thanking God for the assurance of salvation through Christ and asking for a deeper love for His word.





Devotions in the W.O.R.D.

Before reading the Devotional and Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and understanding

Day 1

The Power of God's Word

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Insight

The Bible has 66 books—39 in the Old Testament (before Jesus) and 27 in the New Testament (after Jesus).

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Blank lined area for observation notes.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

As followers of Jesus, we need guidance, and God has given us the perfect map in His Word. Today's reading reminds us that Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. The Bible is not just a book; it's alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. As you begin this journey, ask God to open your eyes to the power of His Word. How can you make Bible reading a daily habit? Consider setting aside a specific time each day to engage with Scripture, allowing it to reshape your thoughts and actions.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 2

The Holy Spirit as Our Guide

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

John 14:26: *But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

The first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are called the Gospels. They tell the story of Jesus’ life, teaching, and what He did to save us.

Insight

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

While the Bible is our guidebook, the Holy Spirit is our personal guide, helping us understand and apply God's Word to our lives. He illuminates Scripture, convicts us of sin, and leads us into all truth. As you read today's passages, pause and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Ask Him to reveal areas where you need growth or healing. Listen for His gentle promptings and be open to His guidance. Remember, you're not alone in your spiritual journey — God's Spirit is always with you, ready to help and direct.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 3

Standing Firm in Faith

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Matthew 4:1-11: Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ² For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. ³ During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,

'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶ and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'

⁷ Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" ⁸ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." ¹⁰ "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'

¹¹ Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Insight

Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. This book tells the story of Jesus' life and shows how He fulfilled God's promises from the Old Testament.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Four horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Our faith is grounded in the truth of the Gospel—that Christ died for our sins and was raised to life. This truth is our foundation and our reason for hope. However, standing firm in this faith requires active engagement. Like Jesus using Scripture to combat temptation, we too must arm ourselves with God’s Word. Today, identify an area of your life where you’re struggling or facing temptation. Find a verse (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:6-8, 1 John 4:4) that speaks directly to that situation and commit it to memory. God’s Word is not only a defense but also a sword that helps us fight back (Ephesians 6:17).

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 4

Living Out God's Truth

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

James 1:22-25: *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*

Insight

James is the 20th book of the New Testament, written by Jesus' half-brother and a leader in the early church. This letter teaches that real faith shows up in how we live, calling believers to put their faith into action.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Five horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

It's not enough to simply hear or read the Bible—we are called to live it. James compares someone who hears but doesn't obey to a person who looks in the mirror and immediately forgets what they look like. God's Word reveals not just who He is, but also who we are. When we obey it, we begin to reflect Christ more clearly to others. Think about an area of your life where God's Word has been nudging you—maybe forgiving someone, showing kindness, or stepping out in faith. Obedience is the bridge between knowing the truth and living transformed. Today, ask God for the courage to put His Word into practice in a specific way.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 5

The Importance of Community

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Acts 2:42-47: All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Insight

Acts is the 5th book of the New Testament and tells how the early church began. After Jesus returned to heaven, His followers boldly spread the good news, starting a movement that still transforms lives today.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Handwriting lines for observation notes.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

From the very beginning, the church was built on the foundation of God’s Word and community. Believers devoted themselves to teaching, prayer, fellowship, and breaking bread together. Their faith wasn’t lived out in isolation—it was lived in relationship. We grow deeper when we walk alongside others who encourage us, challenge us, and remind us of God’s truth. On your own, it’s easy to get discouraged or distracted, but in community, faith becomes stronger and more resilient. Who are the people in your life helping you follow Jesus? And who might God be calling you to encourage in their walk? If you’re not yet in a small group, consider joining one today.

DO: *How will I respond?*





WHO IS GOD?

Who is God?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 23:1-6: The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. ³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. ⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

OPENING PRAYER

Ask God to open your heart and mind to see Him more clearly and to draw closer in relationship with Him.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Growing up, how did you see God? Was He like a close friend, a distant figure, or someone you weren't quite sure about? What kind of role did He play in your life?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Our understanding of who God is profoundly affects who we become.
- David describes God as a Shepherd in Psalm 23, emphasizing His care, provision, and presence.
- God meets our needs, provides rest, leads us, restores us, protects us, and blesses us abundantly.

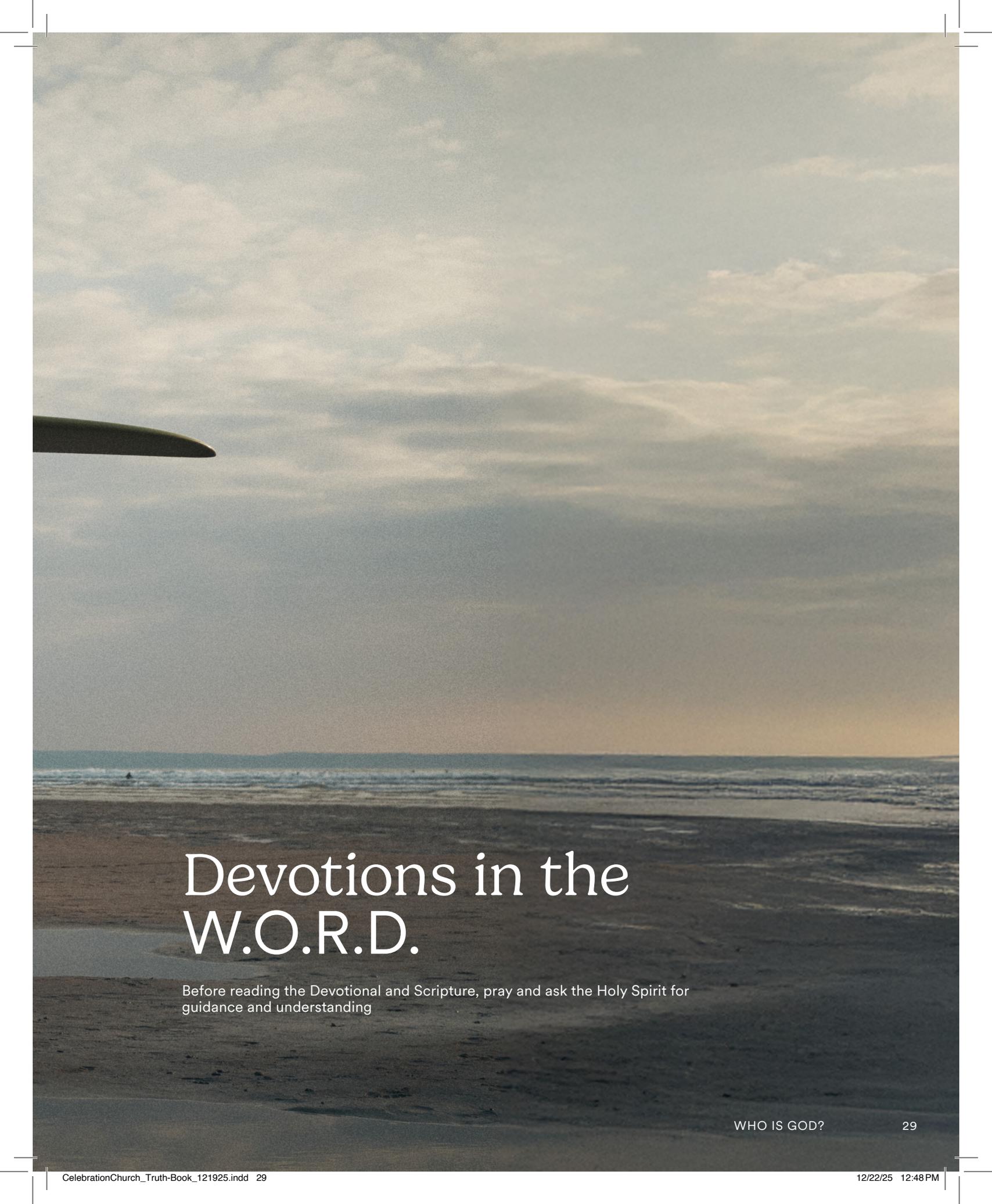
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Psalm 23. Which description of God as your Shepherd speaks to you the most, and why? What does it reveal about His character?
2. Sheep only rest when they feel safe, peaceful, clean, and fed. Have you ever felt worn out, empty, or broken—and then experienced God bringing you peace, hope, or healing? What was that like?
3. Sheep trust their shepherd through dark valleys because they know he’s wise and good. In the same way, God knows what’s best for us—but when life gets tough, trusting Him can be a real struggle. Share about a time you were unsure of God’s plan, His way or His goodness. How can we better learn to trust Him?
4. David wrote, “Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.” Can you think of a time when you clearly saw God’s kindness or mercy, even when you didn’t expect it?
5. God desires to be close to us—not just on Sundays but in every moment. How might your day-to-day life change if you truly believed the Lord was walking beside you at all times?

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite group members to thank God for specific ways He has been a Shepherd in their lives and to ask for deeper trust in His care.





Devotions in the W.O.R.D.

Before reading the Devotional and Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and understanding

Day 1

The Lord is Our Shepherd

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Psalm 23:1-6: The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. ³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. ⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Insight

Psalms is the 19th book of the Old Testament and contains 150 poems and songs. They express prayers, praise, and honest emotions to God.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Handwriting practice area with five horizontal lines.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

David's picture of God as a Shepherd is one of the most comforting in all of Scripture. A shepherd knows his sheep intimately—he feeds them, protects them, and leads them to safety. In the same way, God provides for every need, restores our strength, and guides us on the right path. Notice how personal this psalm is: "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need." God doesn't just care for His people in general; He cares for you specifically. Where in your life right now do you need to experience His provision, His peace, or His protection? Today, rest in the truth that your Shepherd is near, and He never leaves His flock.



King David was Israel's most famous king, known for defeating Goliath, uniting the twelve tribes, and writing many Psalms. The Bible calls him "a man after God's own heart."

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 2

Trusting God's Provision

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Philippians 4:10-13: *How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me.¹¹ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.¹² I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

Insight

Philippians is the 11th book of the New Testament—a warm, personal letter Paul wrote to his beloved church in Philippi.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Five horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

David said, “I have all that I need.” Paul echoes that same truth when he declares he has learned to be content in every situation—whether in plenty, or in need. True contentment doesn’t come from circumstances but from trusting God’s care. That’s why Paul can boldly say, “I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” For us, this means learning to see God’s hand in both seasons of abundance and seasons of lack. Is there an area where you feel anxious about provision—finances, health, relationships, or the future? Take time today to list three ways God has already provided for you. Gratitude builds faith, and faith produces contentment.

Paul wrote the majority of the New Testament. He traveled from place to place sharing the good news about Jesus and starting new churches.



DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 3

Finding Rest in God

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Matthew 11:28-30: Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.

Insight

The Gospel of Matthew was written by Matthew (also called Levi), a former tax collector who became one of Jesus' twelve disciples.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Sheep only rest when they feel safe, and our Shepherd knows this. In Psalm 23, God leads His people beside still waters and makes them lie down in green pastures. Jesus echoes this same heart when He invites the weary to come to Him for rest. Rest is more than sleep—it is a soul-level peace that comes from knowing God is in control. Many of us carry burdens we were never meant to bear, and we run ourselves weary trying to fix everything. What burden is weighing you down today? Jesus says His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Lay your cares before Him and allow His presence to refresh your soul.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 4

Walking Through Dark Valleys

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Isaiah 43:1-3: But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine."² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.³ For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place.

Insight

Isaiah is the 23rd book of the Old Testament, written by the prophet Isaiah to call God's people back to Him. This book contains powerful prophecies and vivid glimpses of the coming Messiah, Jesus.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Five horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

David admits that valleys will come—dark and dangerous places we’d rather avoid. However, notice what he says: “I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.” God doesn’t promise to remove every trial, but He does promise His presence in the midst of them. Isaiah’s words echo the same truth: when you go through deep waters or fiery trials, God is with you. Think back to a difficult season in your life—how did you see God’s presence with you? Maybe through an answered prayer, an encouraging word, or simply the strength to keep going. Let this reminder strengthen your trust: no valley is too deep, no fire too hot, no river too strong for God to carry you through.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 5

Dwelling in God's House Forever

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

John 14:1-6: Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Insight

John is the 4th book of the New Testament, written by John—one of Jesus' closest disciples and affectionately known as "the one whom Jesus loved."

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

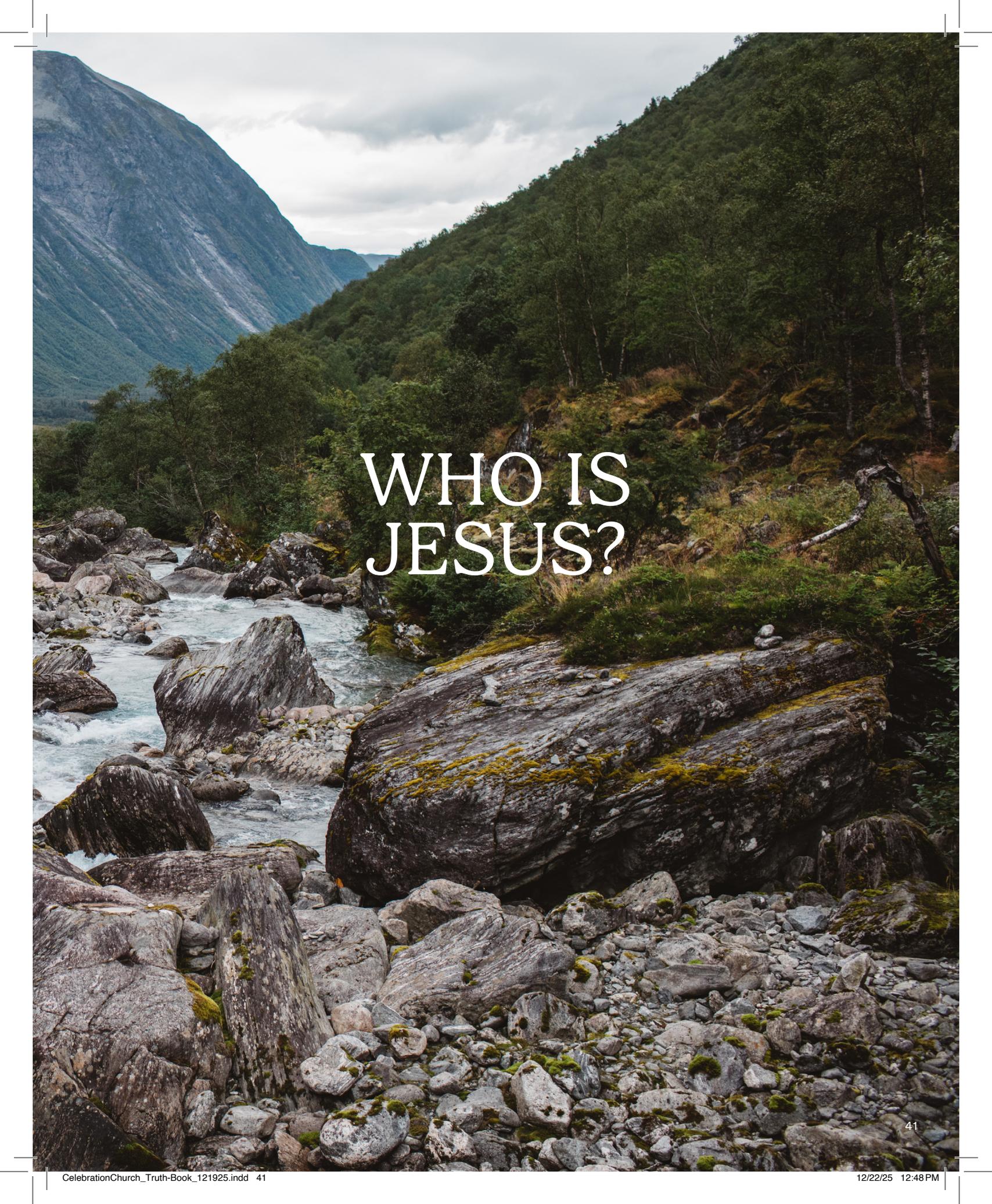
Handwriting lines for observation notes.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Psalm 23 ends with an incredible promise: “I will live in the house of the Lord forever.” Jesus confirms this truth when He tells His disciples that He is preparing a place for them in His Father’s house. This means our future is secure—we will dwell with God forever. Eternal life doesn’t begin someday in heaven; it begins now. Even today, you are living under His care and walking in His presence. How does the hope of eternity shape the way you live today? Instead of being weighed down by temporary troubles, you can walk in peace, knowing your future is certain. Let that hope give you strength to live faithfully now, while you look forward to the joy of forever with Him.

DO: *How will I respond?*





WHO IS JESUS?

Who is Jesus? DISCUSSION GUIDE

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 16:16: Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

OPENING PRAYER

Ask God to reveal more of who Jesus is and to deepen your love for Him during this session.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Imagine meeting someone who has never heard of Jesus—how would you describe who He is?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

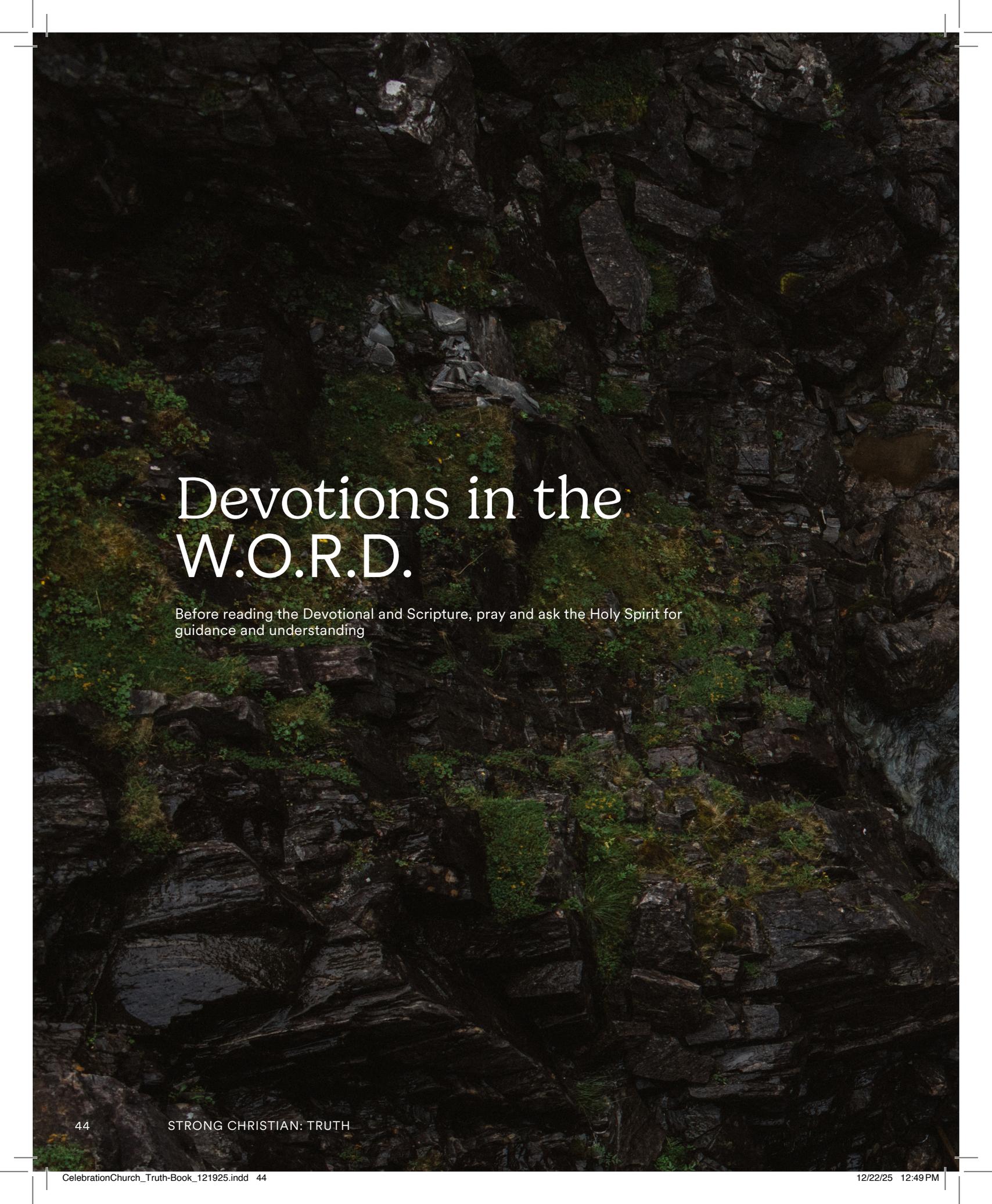
- Jesus is not just a man—He is God.
- Jesus is our Savior, fulfilling what we could not do by ourselves and reconciling us to God—through His life, death, and resurrection.
- Jesus is the center of our faith journey. To follow Him means to pursue Him daily.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 16:13-16. When Jesus asks: “Who do you say I am?” —how would you honestly answer that today?
2. How has your understanding of Jesus changed since you first heard about Him? Was there a moment or experience that made Him feel more real or personal to you?
3. Jesus isn’t only a good teacher or moral person—He is God Himself. How does truly believing that change how you trust Him or live your day-to-day life?
4. Knowing that Jesus has completely saved you by His grace, how does that shape how you see yourself? How might that truth help you love others, even when it’s difficult?
5. In the story of the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17–22), Jesus challenged him to surrender what mattered most. What’s something in your life that might be hard to surrender for Jesus? What step could you take today to begin putting Him first in that area?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank Jesus together for who He is—the Messiah, the Son of God, and Savior of the world. Ask for strength to pursue Him wholeheartedly in everyday life.



Devotions in the W.O.R.D.

Before reading the Devotional and Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and understanding



Day 1

Jesus Is God

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

John 1:1-5: In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Insight

God is one, but eternally exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All three persons are fully God, equal in nature and attributes, with each having distinct roles.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

John opens his Gospel with a breathtaking truth: Jesus is eternal, divine, and the very Word of God. He wasn't created—He has always existed, and all things were created through Him. When you think of Jesus, it can be easy to picture Him only as the humble man who walked on earth. Pause for a moment and let this truth sink in: the One who spoke light into existence is the same One who came to dwell among us. This means your Savior isn't distant or powerless—He is God Himself, full of glory and authority, yet willing to come close. How does it change your relationship with Him to know the Jesus who loves you, is also the eternal God who holds the universe together?

DO: *How will I respond?*

Jesus as Savior

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Romans 5:6-8 *When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

Insight

Romans is the 6th book of the New Testament and was written by Paul as a letter to the church at Rome.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Five horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Paul describes the incredible love of Christ in simple but profound terms: He died for us while we were still sinners. This means Jesus didn't wait for you to clean yourself up, earn His approval, or prove your worth. He stepped into your brokenness at just the right time and gave His life for you. Think about that—Jesus knew every failure, weakness, and sin you would ever commit, and He chose to die for you anyway. That is the measure of God's love. Do you ever find yourself slipping back into the mindset of trying to “earn” His love? Today, rest in this truth: you are fully loved and fully saved because of what Jesus did—not because of what you do.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 3

The Pursuit of Jesus

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Philippians 3:7-14: I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Insight

Paul wrote this letter from prison to encourage believers that true joy comes from Jesus.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Handwriting practice area with five horizontal lines.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Paul had every earthly reason to boast—status, knowledge, achievements—but he considered it all worthless compared to knowing Christ. His passion was clear: “I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead.” For Paul, faith wasn’t a casual interest; it was a relentless pursuit. What about you? Is knowing Jesus your greatest treasure? Reflect on the things you value most—career, possessions, approval, success—and ask yourself how they compare to the surpassing value of Christ. Jesus doesn’t just want part of your attention; He invites you into a daily pursuit of knowing Him more deeply. What one habit could you practice this week to press on toward Him?

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 4

Jesus In Our Daily Lives

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Colossians 1:15-20: *Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*

Insight

Colossians is the 12th book of the New Testament, a letter written by Paul to the church in Colossae. This letter boldly declares that Jesus is fully God and reigns supreme over all creation.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Handwriting lines for observation notes.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

This passage paints a powerful picture of Christ—supreme over all creation, the visible image of the invisible God, and the One in whom “all things hold together.” Sometimes we limit Jesus to Sunday mornings or moments of crisis, but Paul reminds us that every part of life is under His care. Your relationships, work, struggles, and even your ordinary routines matter to Him. He is not just Lord of the universe—He is Lord of your daily life. Where do you need to surrender control to Him right now? Maybe it’s in your family, your job, your finances, or your future. Remember: the same Christ who holds galaxies in place also holds the details of your life.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 5

Bearing Witness to Jesus

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Matthew 16:13-17: *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”¹⁵ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*

Insight

‘Son of Man’ is the title Jesus most often used for Himself, highlighting His humanity and His divine role as the supreme judge over all, as seen in Daniel 7:13. “Messiah” (Hebrew) and “Christ” (Greek) both mean “Anointed One.” Jesus is the promised Savior who fulfills God’s plan to rule and redeem His people.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

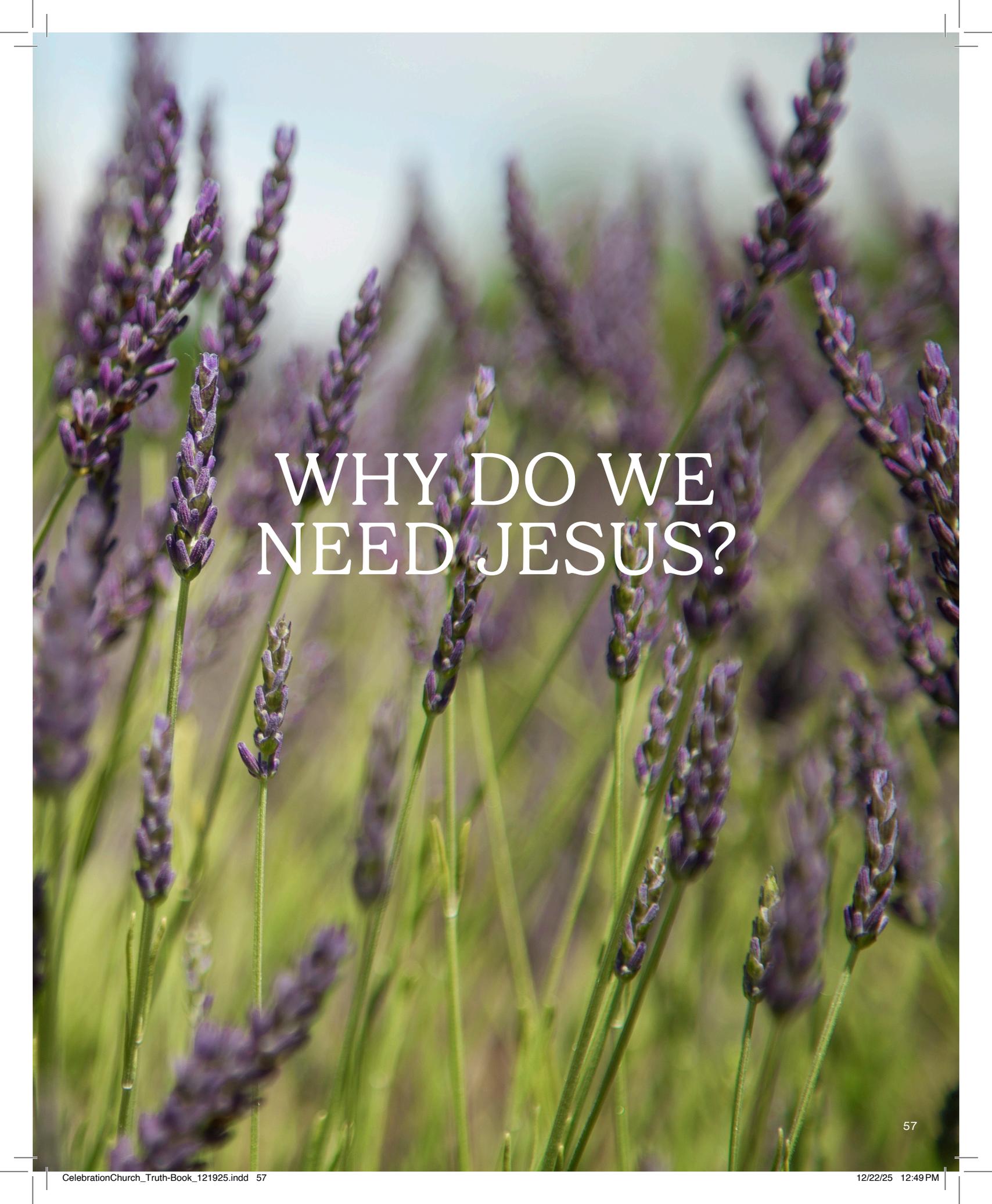
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REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Jesus asked His disciples a life-defining question: “Who do you say I am?” Peter’s answer: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” was bold and clear. Every follower of Jesus must answer this same question. Who do you say He is? Your answer shapes not only your faith but also your witness to others. People around you—family, friends, coworkers—may never open a Bible, but they will see Christ in the way you live. Does your life point others to Him? Today, take time to reflect on your own confession of faith. Pray for opportunities to share your story and to live in such a way that others can clearly see who Jesus is through you.

DO: *How will I respond?*





WHY DO WE
NEED JESUS?

Why Do We Need Jesus? DISCUSSION GUIDE

KEY SCRIPTURE:

2 Corinthians 5:21: For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

OPENING PRAYER

Ask God to help you see both the seriousness of sin and the beauty of His grace through Jesus Christ.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Think about a time when you felt separated from someone you love—maybe a friend, family member, or spouse. How did that separation make you feel? What was it like when you were reunited?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sin separates us from God and keeps us from His purpose for our lives.
- Jesus made the way for us to be made right with God through His sacrifice on the cross.
- We are saved when we turn away from our sins and put our trust in Jesus.

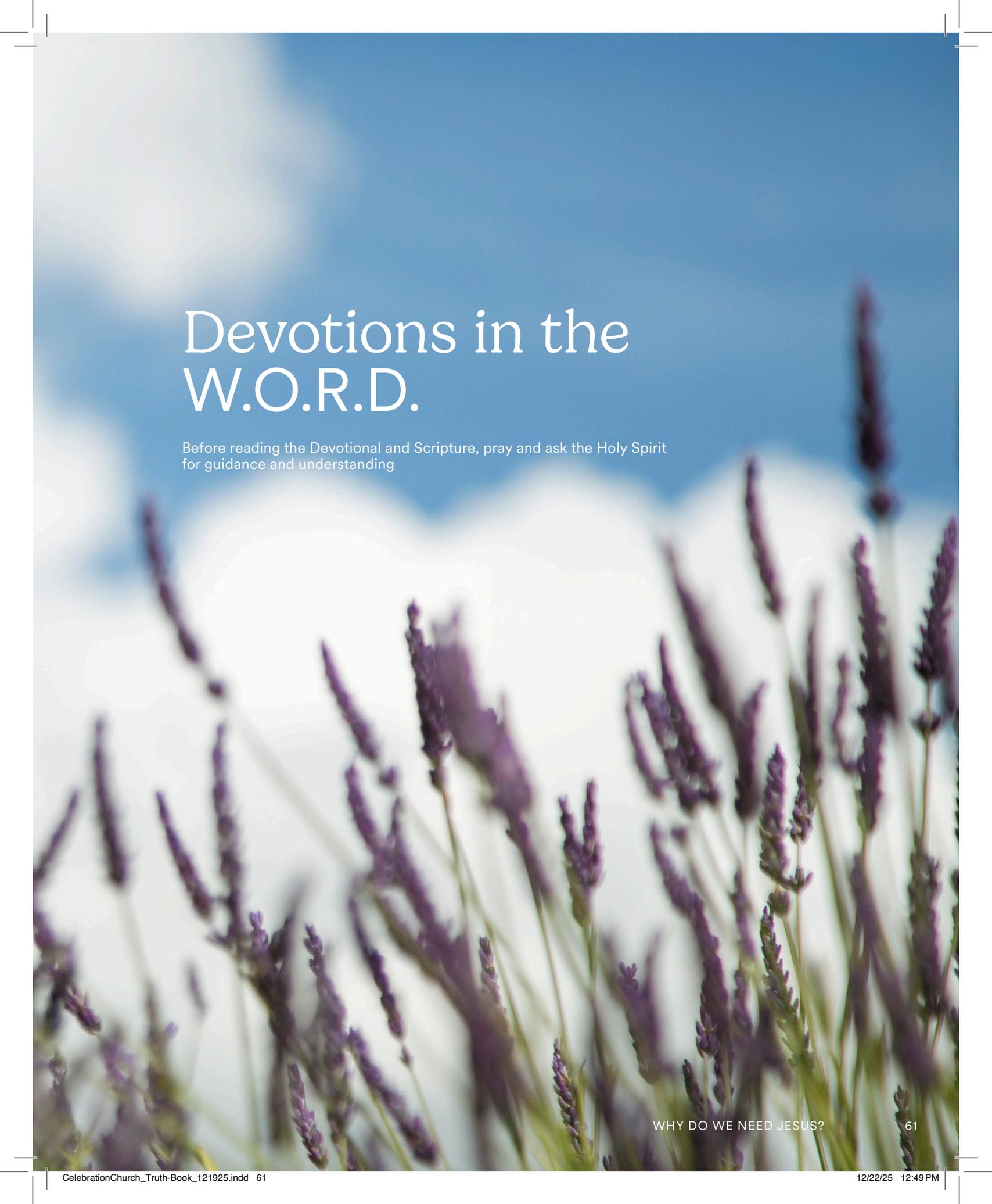
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What does this verse reveal about God’s plan for our salvation through Jesus? How does that make you feel personally?
2. Sin means “to miss the mark.” What do you think God’s “mark” is for how we should live—and why do we struggle to hit it?
3. When you recognize your own sin, how does it make you more aware of God’s grace? Can you think of a moment when His forgiveness felt especially real to you?
4. What does daily connection with Jesus look like in your life right now? What would you like it to look like going forward?
5. Read 1 John 1:6-10. How does this passage encourage believers to deal with sin? How does it bring hope instead of shame?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank God together for sending Jesus to save us. Ask Him to help you walk in daily dependence on Christ’s grace.





Devotions in the W.O.R.D.

Before reading the Devotional and Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and understanding

Day 1

Recognizing Our Need for a Savior

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Romans 3:23-24: For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Insight

Romans is a letter Paul wrote to the church in Rome. This letter is often called the foundation of Christian theology, laying out the essential truths every believer should know.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Handwriting practice area with five horizontal lines.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

It's tempting to compare ourselves to others and feel "good enough." Paul reminds us that every single person falls short of God's perfect standard. Sin is universal—it leaves us separated from God and powerless to fix ourselves. That sounds like bad news until we hear the good news: through Jesus, God freely makes us right with Him. We don't have to live condemned, ashamed, or trapped in guilt. Take a moment today to admit your need for Jesus—not just once when you were saved, but every day. True strength begins with dependence on Him.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 2

The Power of God's Love

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

John 3:16-17: *For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*
¹⁷ *God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*

Insight

In addition to writing the Gospel of John, John also wrote 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation. His writings give us both an intimate picture of Jesus' life and powerful visions of the future.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

At the heart of the gospel is love—God’s love for you. It was love that sent Jesus to the cross, not anger or judgment. Sometimes we view God as distant or harsh, but Jesus’ life shows us otherwise. He came not to condemn but to rescue, not to shame but to save. Let that truth sink in: God loved you so much He was willing to give His Son. How does knowing you are loved this deeply affect how you see yourself? How might it change the way you treat others today? Ask God to help you reflect His love in every interaction.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 3

The Power of Christ's Sacrifice

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

2 Corinthians 5:19-21: For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Insight

2 Corinthians is the 8th book of the New Testament, Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth. This letter is deeply personal, revealing his struggles, victories, and a rare glimpse into his inner life as a follower of Jesus.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Five horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

The cross was not an accident or a tragic ending—it was God’s plan to reconcile the world to Himself. In an incredible exchange, Jesus—who never sinned—became sin for us. He bore our penalty so we could be forgiven and restored. This is more than a theological truth; it is deeply personal. It means your sins—past, present, and future—were nailed to the cross. When God looks at you, He sees the righteousness of Christ. Today, reflect on what it means to live as someone forgiven and reconciled. How can you carry this “message of reconciliation” to those around you who still feel far from God?

DO: *How will I respond?*

More Like Jesus

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Philippians 2:5-11: *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Insight

This passage is often called the "Hymn of Christ." The hymn celebrates Jesus' humility, obedience, and exaltation as Lord over all.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Five horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Jesus didn't only save us—He also showed us how to live. His life was marked by humility, obedience, and sacrificial love. Following Him means more than believing; it means becoming like Him. That doesn't happen overnight—it's a lifelong process of letting God shape our attitudes, desires, and actions. Where is God calling you to reflect Christ's humility or obedience? Maybe in how you serve your family, treat coworkers, or handle conflict? Remember, becoming more like Jesus isn't about striving harder, but surrendering more fully. Invite the Holy Spirit to transform you from the inside.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 5

Walking in the Light

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

1 John 1:5-10: This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶ So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. ⁷ But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

Insight

A major theme throughout the Bible is God’s compassion and kindness toward His people. He is slow to anger, abounding in unending love, and forgives when His people turn to Him with sincere hearts (Exodus 34:6–7).

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Handwriting lines for observation notes.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Life with Jesus is described as “walking in the light.” That doesn’t mean perfection—it means honesty, openness, and a willingness to confess and turn from sin. The promise is powerful: when we confess, God is faithful to forgive and cleanse us. Too often we hide our struggles in shame, but freedom comes when we bring them into His light. Is there an area of your life you’ve been keeping in the dark? Talk to God about it today. His forgiveness is not reluctant—it’s faithful and certain. As you walk in the light, you’ll discover a deeper fellowship with Him and with others.

DO: *How will I respond?*



IN CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN



In Christ, We Are Forgiven DISCUSSION GUIDE

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 43:25: I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.

OPENING PRAYER

Thank God for the gift of forgiveness in Christ and ask Him to help each person receive it fully.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Think of a time when someone forgave you unexpectedly—maybe when you thought they'd be angry or disappointed. How did that feel, and what did you learn from that experience?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

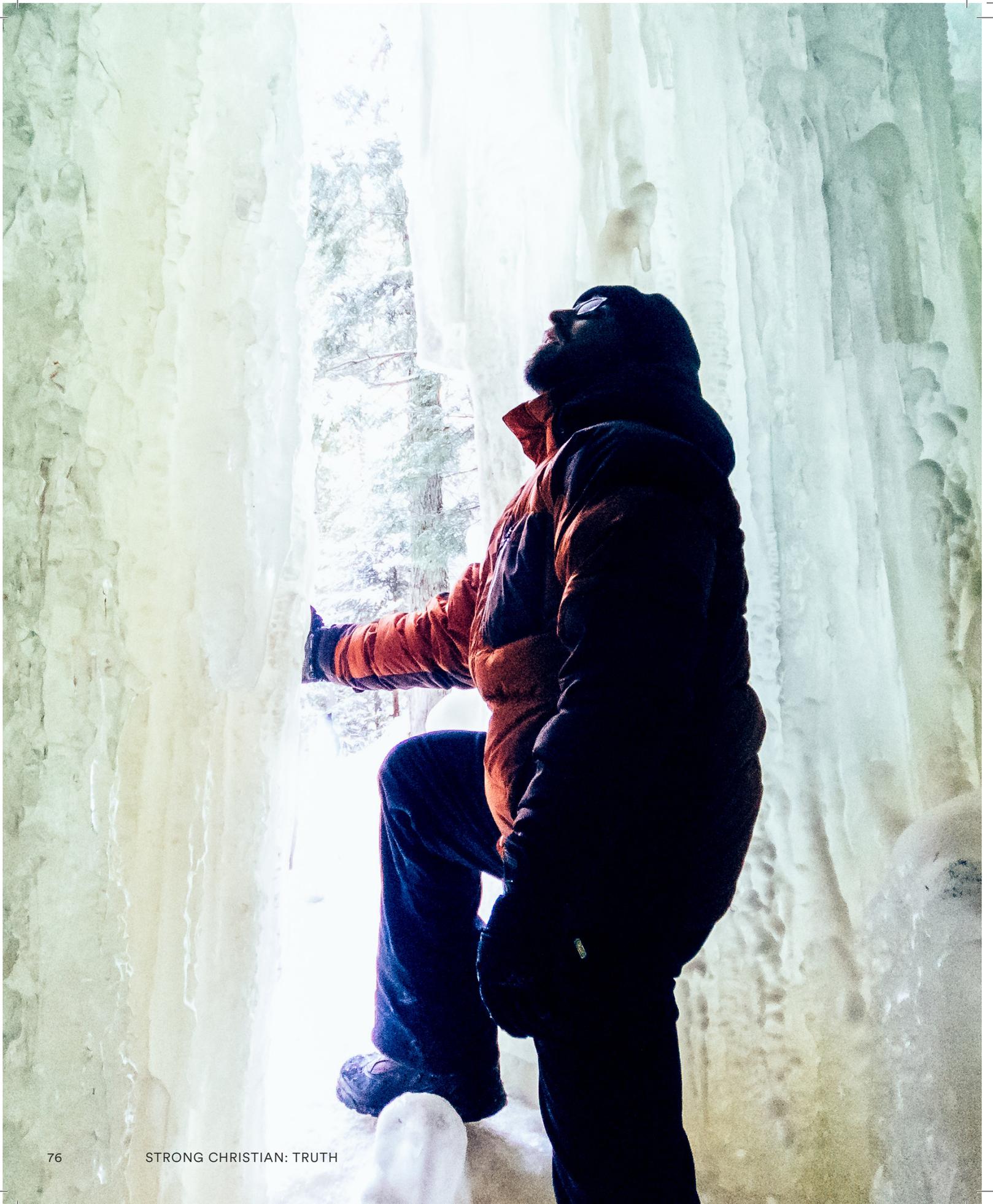
- In Christ, you're given a new identity as a forgiven child of God.
- God's forgiveness covers your past, present, and future sins.
- Your position as God's family is secure—not based on your performance, but on Jesus' finished work.

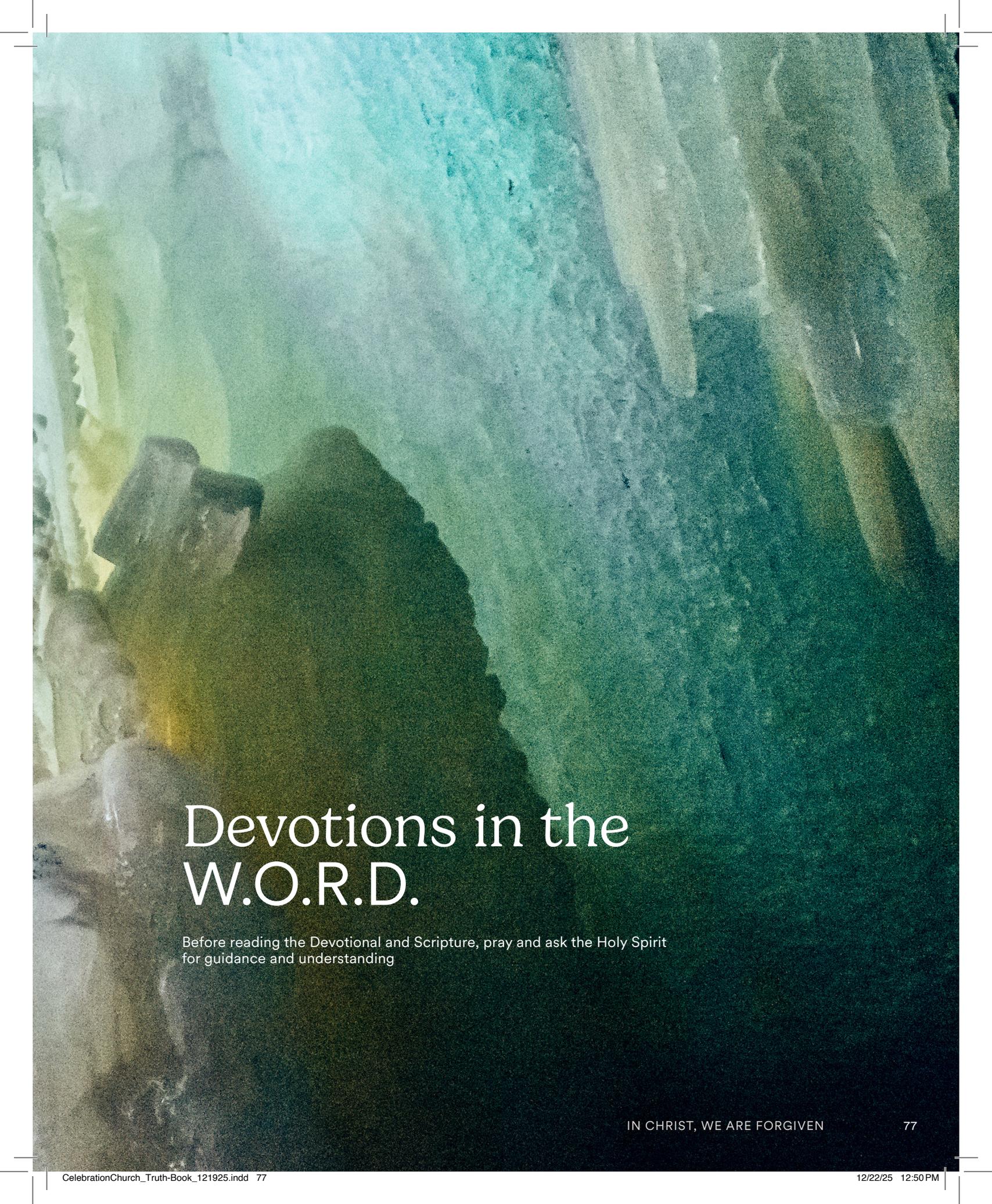
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Isaiah 43:25. God says He “blots out” our sins and chooses not to remember them. What comes to your mind when you hear that? How does it change the way you think about His forgiveness?
2. God's forgiveness covers our past, present, and future sins. Which of these do you find the hardest to fully accept—and why do you think that is?
3. In the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11–24), the father runs to his son and welcomes him home with open arms. How does that picture help you understand the way God treats us when we come back to Him?
4. Many people replay their past mistakes over and over in their minds. What are some practical ways we can stop doing that and start living as those who are truly forgiven?
5. Our relationship with God doesn't depend on being perfect, but on Jesus' sacrifice. Is that hard for you to believe at times? Why or why not?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank God for His endless forgiveness and ask Him to help you walk in the freedom and joy of being forgiven in Christ.





Devotions in the W.O.R.D.

Before reading the Devotional and Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit
for guidance and understanding

Day 1

Embracing God's Forgiveness

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Luke 15:11-24: *To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. ¹³ "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. ¹⁴ About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."²⁰ "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. ²² "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.*

Insight

The Gospel of Luke is the 3rd book of the New Testament, written by Luke, a doctor. His careful and detailed account highlights Jesus' compassion and care for all people.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

The prodigal son expected anger and rejection, but his father ran to him, embraced him, and celebrated his return. This is a picture of God's forgiveness. He doesn't just tolerate you coming back—He welcomes you with joy. Too often we hold on to guilt, convinced our past disqualifies us. God says, "I have blotted out your sins and will never think of them again" (Isaiah 43:25). Where are you still carrying shame for something God has already forgiven? Today, thank Him that forgiveness isn't earned, but freely given through Jesus. Live as someone welcomed *home*.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Mercy For Today

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

John 8:1-11: *Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives,² but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them.³ As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.*

⁴ *“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery.⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”*

⁶ *They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”*

⁸ *Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.*

⁹ *When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”*

¹¹ *“No, Lord,” she said.*

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

Insight

In Bible times, adultery was a crime punishable by death. The law required both people to be caught in the act (Deuteronomy 22:22), and both faced the same severe punishment of death if found guilty.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Four horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

God's forgiveness isn't just for our past; it's available to us in our present moments of weakness and failure. The story of the woman caught in adultery reminds us that Jesus offers mercy even in our darkest moments. Today, consider any areas where you feel unworthy or distant from God due to recent struggles or sins. The beauty of the gospel is that we can approach God's throne of grace with confidence, not because of our perfection, but because of Christ's sacrifice. How can you practice running to God instead of away from Him when you fall short? Take a moment to confess any current struggles to God, receiving His forgiveness and grace for this very day.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 3

Future Hope in God's Faithfulness

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Colossians 2:13-14: You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Insight

The church in Colossae began when Epaphras heard Paul's gospel message in Ephesus. He returned home and shared the good news with the people.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Paul writes that God forgave all our sins and canceled the record of charges against us by nailing them to the cross. That includes not only sins from the past but also those you haven't even committed yet. This doesn't give us a free pass to sin—it gives us confidence that nothing can separate us from God's love. You don't have to live in fear of "messing up" so badly that God will turn His back on you. Instead, you can live in grateful obedience, knowing His forgiveness is complete and secure. Where do you need to stop living in fear of failure and start trusting in God's faithfulness?

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 4

Resting In God's Forgiveness

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Psalm 103:8-14: *The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.⁹ He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever.¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.¹² He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.¹³ The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.*

Insight

Psalm 103, written by King David, is a joyful song of praise that celebrates God's character and His unfailing love for His people.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

David describes God as compassionate, merciful, and slow to anger. He removes our sins “as far as the east is from the west.” This is the heart of our Father. Many of us struggle to rest in this reality—we keep punishing ourselves long after God has forgiven us. What would it look like to truly rest in His grace? Maybe it means silencing the voice of condemnation in your mind or stopping the habit of replaying past mistakes. Today, meditate on the truth that God is not keeping a record of your wrongs. Instead, He delights in you.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 5

Loving As God Does

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Ephesians 4:32: Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Insight

Ephesians is the 10th book of the New Testament, a letter written by Paul to the church in Ephesus

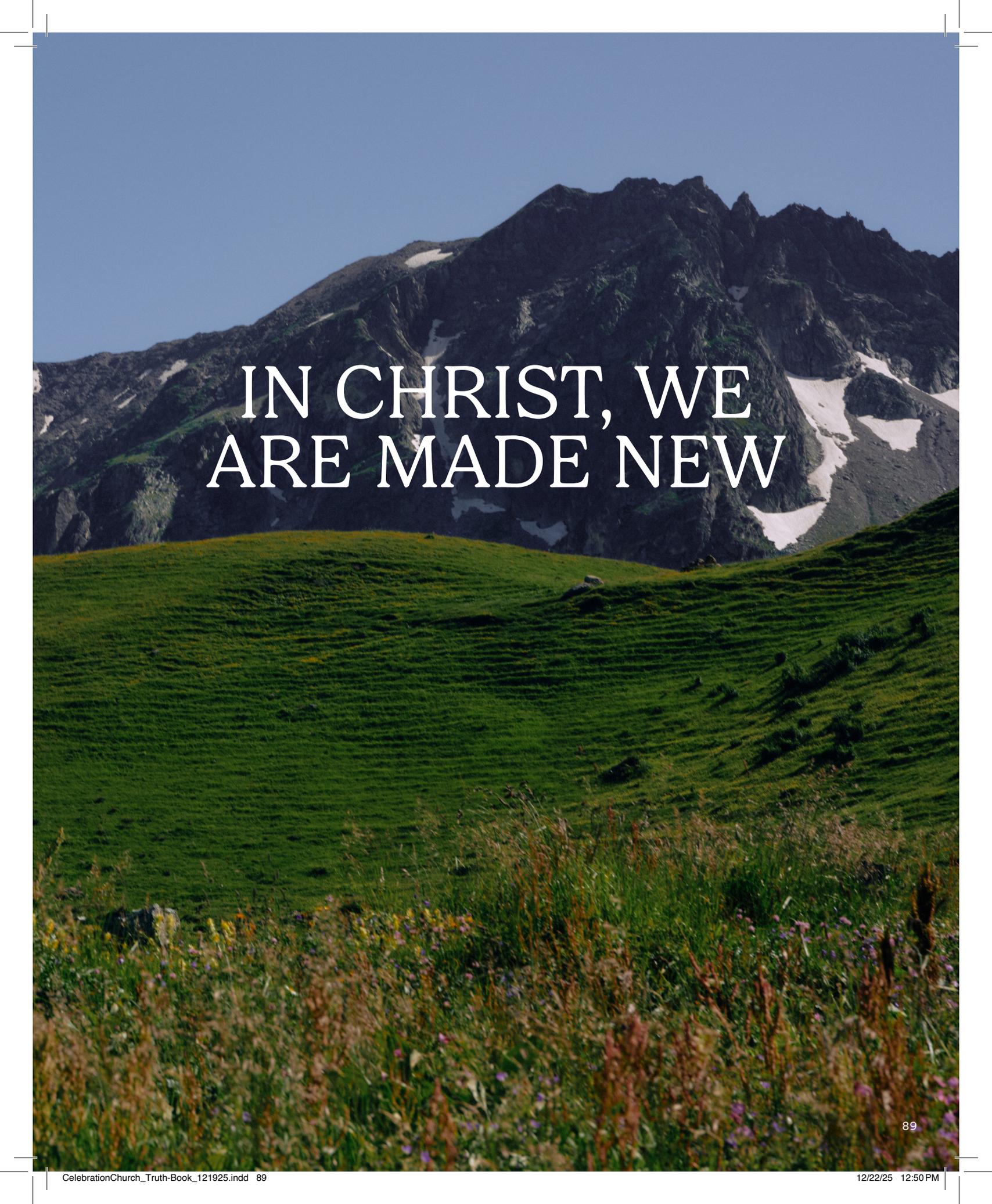
OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

God's forgiveness is not only a gift to receive but also a gift to extend. Paul tells us, "Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." Forgiveness is rarely easy—it may feel costly, unfair, or even impossible. When we forgive, we reflect the very heart of Christ. Is there someone you've struggled to forgive? Remember: forgiving doesn't mean excusing their wrong; it means releasing them to God's justice and choosing freedom over bitterness. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you forgive as you've been forgiven—completely and generously.

DO: *How will I respond?*





IN CHRIST, WE
ARE MADE NEW

In Christ, We Are Made New DISCUSSION GUIDE

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Ephesians 2:8-10: God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

OPENING PRAYER

Thank God for His gift of grace and ask Him to help you embrace your new identity in Christ.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What's something you once believed about yourself that changed after you started following Jesus?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In Christ, we are new creations with a clean slate and a new identity.
- Nothing—not even our past—can separate us from God’s love.
- Our true identity is found in who God says we are, not in what others say or what we’ve done.

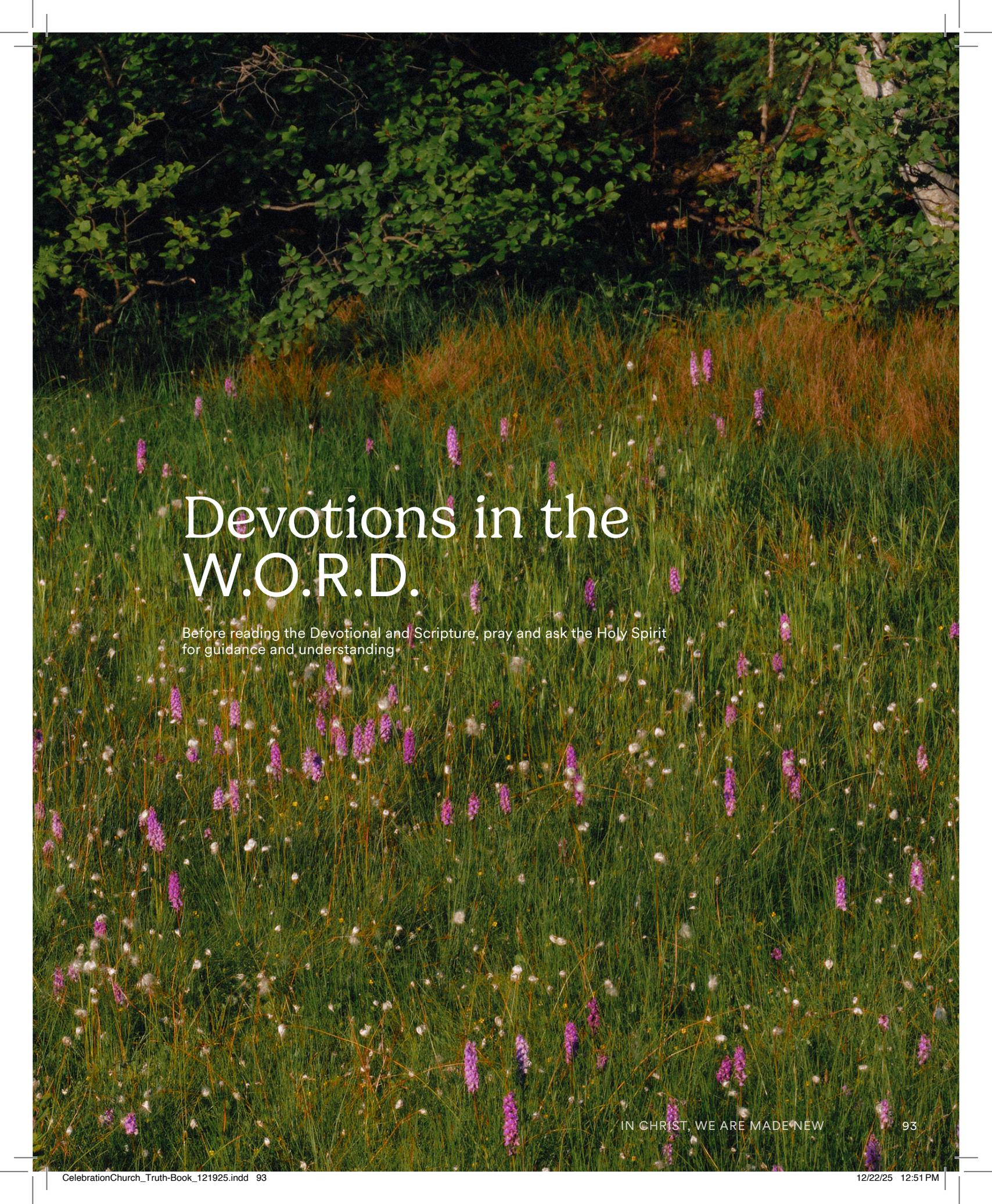
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Salvation is a gift—not something we earn, but something freely given by God’s grace. How does that truth shape the way you see God’s love for you? And how does it affect your understanding of the nature and depth of His love?
2. The Bible says we’re made new in Christ. What do you think that means for how we live each day? How might that reality shape your decisions, habits, or the way you see yourself?
3. Are there areas in your life where you still wrestle with a false identity? What would it look like to see yourself more fully through the lens of who you are in Christ?
4. Zacchaeus had a total heart change after meeting Jesus—he gave back what he had stolen and lived differently. What kind of changes might happen in your life if you fully embraced your new identity in Christ?
5. God often chooses the underdog, the overlooked, or the outcast. Jesus saw potential in Zacchaeus, even when others just saw a sinner. What could happen in our friendships, families, church, and ultimately the world, if we started seeing people the way Jesus sees them?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank God for making you new in Christ and ask Him for strength to live out your true identity every day.





Devotions in the W.O.R.D.

Before reading the Devotional and Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit
for guidance and understanding

IN CHRIST, WE ARE MADE NEW

93

Day 1

Embracing God's Grace

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Ephesians 2:8-10: God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Insight

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus to remind believers of their incredible blessings in Christ and to show them how to live out their faith in light of all they've received.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Salvation is not something we earn or achieve—it is God’s gift of grace. This truth cuts against the grain of our culture, where worth is often measured by performance, success, or appearance. Paul reminds us that we can’t boast about our salvation because it rests entirely on God’s mercy. Yet this doesn’t mean our lives have no purpose. We are God’s masterpiece, created anew to do the good works He prepared long ago. Pause and consider: are you still striving to earn God’s love or approval? How might your life change if you truly believed you are already His beloved creation? Receive His gift with gratitude and walk in the purpose He designed for you.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 2

Made New In Christ

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

2 Corinthians 5:17: This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

In Christ, sin has been defeated and no longer controls us (Romans 6:1–14). We are free from sin’s hold and empowered to live in Jesus’ victory.

Insight

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

In Christ, you are not just improved—you are completely new. The old labels, failures, and shame no longer define you. God has given you a new identity, grounded not in your past but in His promises. Still, many of us cling to old patterns or listen to lies about who we are. What “old” identity do you still struggle to let go of? Ask God to help you see yourself as He does: forgiven, redeemed, and brand-new. Each day you walk with Him is a fresh beginning. Don’t live as if you’re still chained to the past—step into the freedom of who you are in Christ.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 3

Freedom From Condemnation

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Romans 8:1-2, 38-39: So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Insight

In Christ, we are more loved and accepted than we could ever imagine. The Holy Spirit reminds us of this reality and bears witness to who we truly are in Him.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

One of the enemy’s favorite tactics is condemnation—reminding us of our failures and whispering that we’ll never be enough. Paul declares: “There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.” Why? Because the power of the Spirit has set us free, and nothing in all creation can separate us from God’s love. If God has already declared you forgiven and free, why hold on to guilt He has removed? Reflect on areas of your life where you still feel weighed down by condemnation. Release them to Jesus today. Remember: true freedom isn’t found in perfection, but in belonging to Christ, who loves you beyond imagination.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 4

Overcoming False Identities

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Luke 19:1-10: *Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." ⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. ⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" ⁹ Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.*

Insight

In Jesus' time, tax collectors were fellow Jews who worked for the Roman government, collecting taxes on Rome's behalf. Many also took extra for themselves, which caused their own people to see them as greedy traitors and thieves.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

Four horizontal lines for writing observations.

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Zacchaeus was known by his sin—a corrupt tax collector despised by many. When Jesus called him by name, everything changed. Instead of seeing a sinner, Jesus saw a man worth redeeming. That encounter transformed Zacchaeus, giving him a new heart and a new way of living. Many of us carry false identities—labels from our past, lies we believe, or opinions others have spoken over us. Jesus calls us by name, not by our failures. What false identity do you need to surrender today? Let Jesus rewrite your story and remind you of who you truly are: a beloved child of God.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 5

Living Out Our New Identity

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Colossians 3:12-15: *Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.*

Insight

The Bible beautifully describes love for us: Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

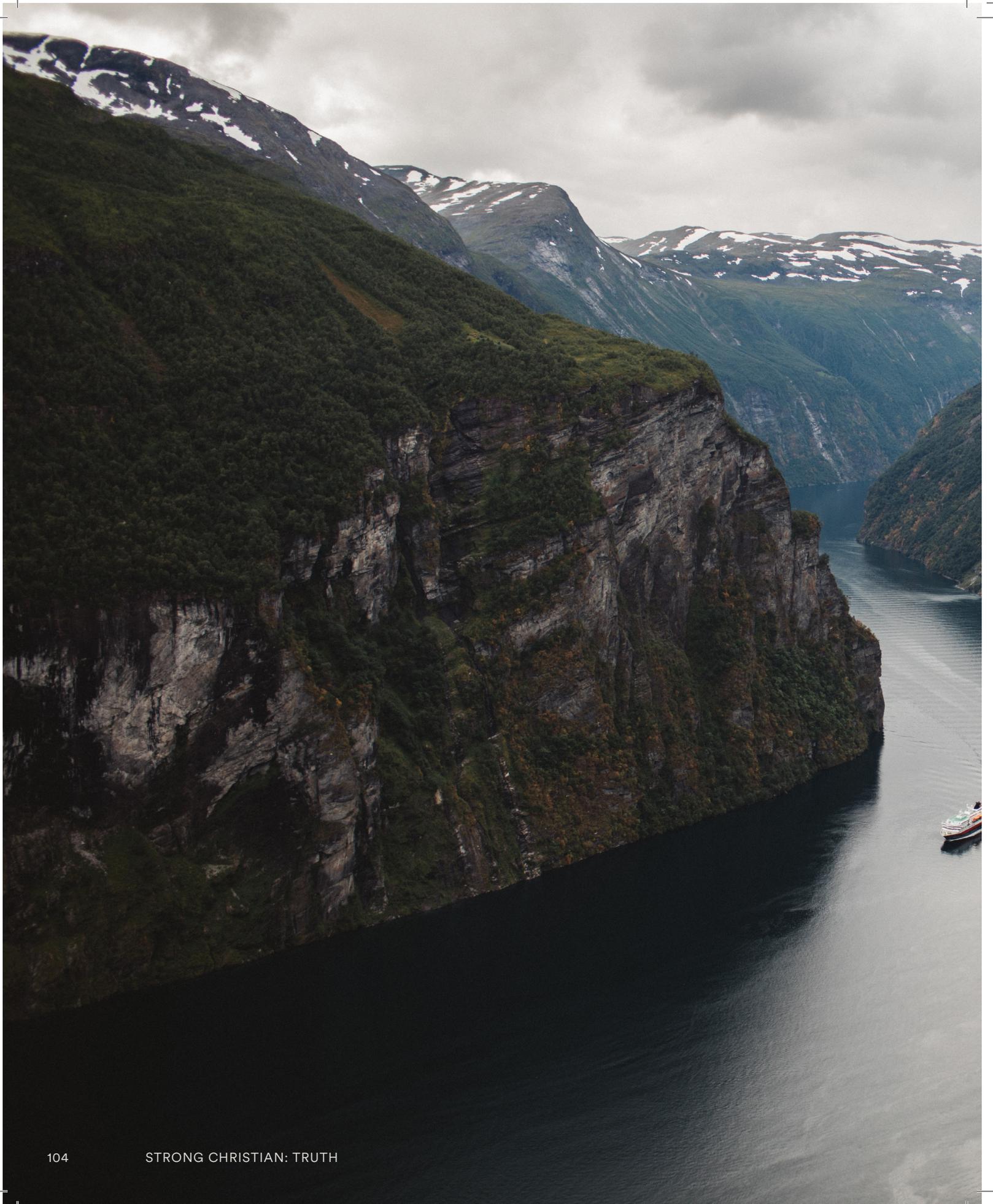
OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

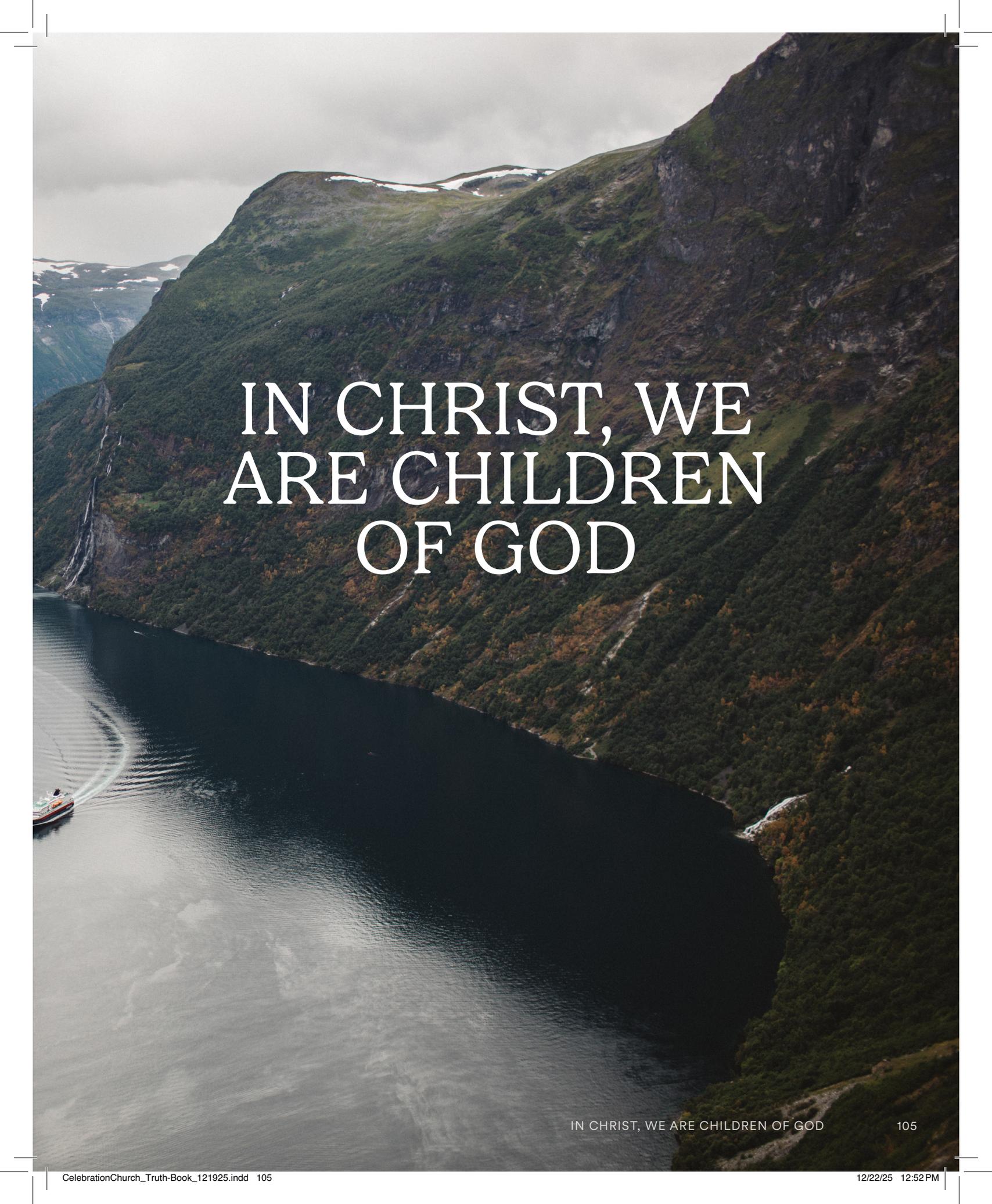
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REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Being made new in Christ isn't just about how we see ourselves—it's about how we live. Paul reminds us that as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, we are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Forgiveness and love should mark our relationships, while the peace of Christ rules our hearts. Which of these qualities do you find most difficult to live out? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in that area today. Remember, these traits are not things we force but fruit that grows as we live from our new identity.

DO: *How will I respond?*





IN CHRIST, WE
ARE CHILDREN
OF GOD

IN CHRIST, WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD

105

In Christ, We Are Children of God DISCUSSION GUIDE

KEY SCRIPTURE:

John 1:12: But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Thank God for adopting us into His family and ask Him to help each person grasp the depth of His love as their Father.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What's something that made you feel really loved or accepted recently? Maybe a moment when someone made you feel like you truly belonged?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

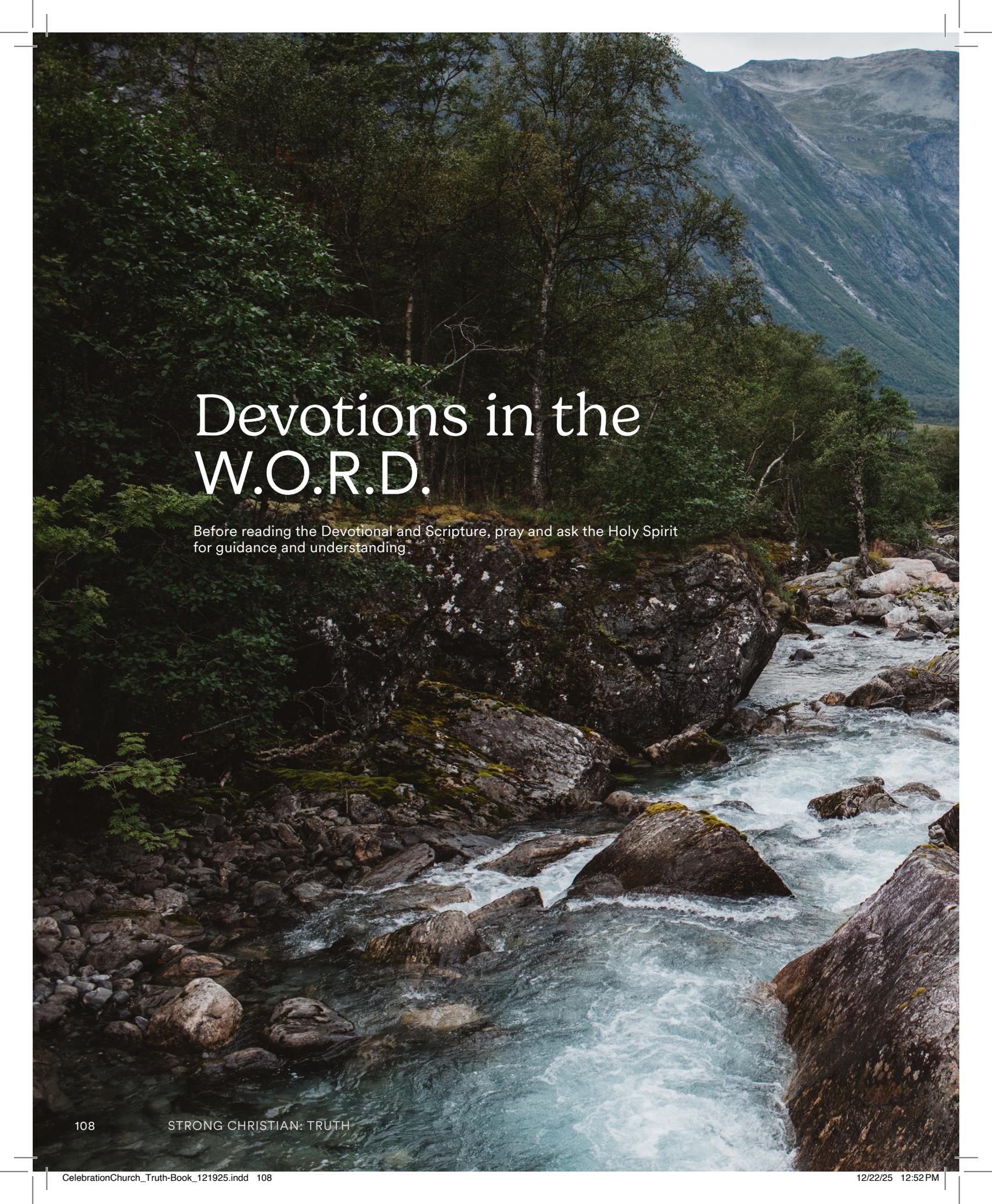
- In Christ, we are welcomed into God’s family—not by works but by faith.
- The Holy Spirit confirms our identity as God’s children.
- God’s extravagant love is the foundation of our adoption into His family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 1:12. These verses say we become God’s children through faith. What does that say to you about God’s grace and how we’re welcomed into His family?
2. The Bible makes it clear that we can’t “work ourselves” into being God’s children. Does that idea challenge what you used to think? Or does it bring you comfort? Why?
3. Read Romans 8:14-17. This passage says the Holy Spirit helps confirm that we really are God’s children. Have you ever had a moment where you felt that truth deeply—maybe through peace, conviction, comfort, or prayer?
4. How does the idea of being clothed in the righteousness of Jesus affect your self-perception and your approach to personal growth?
5. Life gets hard, and it’s easy to forget who we are. What are some real, practical ways we can remind ourselves every day that we belong to God—especially when things feel overwhelming or discouraging?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank God for His extravagant love and adoption. Pray for strength to live with confidence as His children every day.

A scenic landscape photograph of a river flowing through a forested valley with mountains in the background. The river is turbulent, with white water rapids cascading over large, mossy rocks. The surrounding forest is dense with green trees, and the mountains in the distance are rugged and partially covered in snow or light-colored rock. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Devotions in the W.O.R.D.

Before reading the Devotional and Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and understanding.



IN CHRIST, WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD

Day 1

Becoming A Child Of God

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

John 1:9-13: *The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

Insight

The true light is Jesus. Later in John's Gospel, He declares, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

John makes it clear: becoming a child of God is not about physical birth, family background, or human effort. It's a spiritual birth that comes from God alone, received through faith in Jesus. That means your worth and identity are no longer tied to what others think of you, or even what you think of yourself. You belong to God's family because you believed and accepted Christ. Pause and consider: Do you live as if you are truly God's child, or do you sometimes still feel like a spiritual outsider? Today, thank God for adopting you into His family. Approach Him with confidence, knowing you are fully accepted as His son or daughter.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Led By The Spirit

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Romans 8:14-17: *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba , Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.*

Insight

"Abba" means "father" in Aramaic, the everyday language spoken in Israel during New Testament times. This word conveys deep intimacy and endearment, expressing the close and personal relationship we are invited to have with God.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

The Holy Spirit is the One who confirms our identity as God’s children. As we learn to listen and respond to His leading, we grow in confidence as sons and daughters of God. Think back on moments when you sensed the Spirit guiding, prompting, or comforting you—how did those moments shape your faith? Ask God to help you become more aware of the Spirit’s presence in your everyday life. Where might He be leading you today? Commit to following His guidance with trust and obedience, and consider a few practical ways you can slow down, listen, and stay in step with Him.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 3

Heirs With Christ

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Galatians 4:4-7: But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. ⁶ And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷ Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

Insight

Galatians is the 9th book of the New Testament, a passionate letter Paul wrote to the church in Galatia. This letter defends the heart of the gospel: we are made right with God through faith in Christ alone, not by our good works.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

Paul reminds us that being God's child also makes us His heir. That means you share in the inheritance of Christ Himself—eternal life, peace with God, and the promise of His glory. This isn't just about the future; it begins now. You have access to God's presence, His promises, and His power today. Do you live as an heir—or do you sometimes live as if you're still a slave to fear, shame, or sin? Ask God to help you live with the confidence and boldness of an heir—using your inheritance not just for yourself, but to bless others and advance His Kingdom.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 4

The Father's Extravagant Love

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

1 John 3:1-3: See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. ² Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³ And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

Insight

John's central message is that genuine love for God and others is the clear mark of someone who truly belongs to Him.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

John marvels, “See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” God’s love is not cautious or conditional—it is extravagant and unchanging. You don’t have to earn it, and nothing can diminish it. Let this truth shape how you see yourself today: You are wanted, chosen, and dearly loved. Reflect on a time when you felt distant from God. Did His love stop? No—He loved you then, and He loves you now. His love never wavers. Ask God to help you live in the security of His love, letting it overflow into every relationship and decision.

DO: *How will I respond?*

Day 5

Hope For The Future

WORD: *What does the Bible say?*

Philippians 3:20-21: But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

Insight

In 1 Corinthians 15:42–44, Paul explains what happens to believers' bodies at the resurrection. Our earthly bodies, marked by brokenness and weakness, will one day be raised in glory and strength. What is sown as natural and temporary, will be raised as spiritual and eternal.

OBSERVE: *What do you see?*

REFLECTIONS: *What does it mean?*

As children of God, we are not living for this world, but for our true home in heaven. This eternal inheritance awaits us—one day, Jesus will return and take us home. Does this mean we withdraw from the world until He comes? Absolutely not! Jesus showed us how to live with purpose: He spent time in prayer, knew the Scriptures, obeyed the Father, served others, and shared the good news. We're called to follow His example—faithfully living out our faith, serving in the church, and pointing others to Christ. How does knowing your true citizenship is in heaven change your perspective on current challenges? In what ways might you be living too much for this world rather than your eternal home? What would it look like to engage more fully with the world around you while keeping your eyes fixed on heaven? Who can you share your salvation story with?

DO: *How will I respond?*



Next Steps

Congratulations, You Did It!

You have built a strong foundation for your faith through meaningful conversations, quiet reflection in God's Word, and time spent in prayer. And here's the beautiful truth: this is not the end—it's just the beginning. So, what's next?

We encourage you to:

GET BAPTIZED

Baptism is a powerful step of obedience and public declaration of your faith. It's an outward sign of the inward transformation that's already happened in your heart. If you haven't been baptized, prayerfully consider taking this step soon.

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH OTHERS

Your story matters. Don't keep it to yourself! Share with others what Jesus has done in your life. You never know how your testimony might give someone else hope and point them toward Christ.

JOIN A SMALL GROUP

Spiritual growth happens best in community. Surround yourself with others who can encourage, challenge, and walk with you as you grow in Christ.

ATTEND CONNECTION POINT

This is a great way to discover more about Celebration Church and learn how God has uniquely designed you to make a difference.

CONTINUE READING YOUR BIBLE AND PRAY

Keep reading your Bible and spending time in prayer. These rhythms will deepen your relationship with God and keep your heart anchored in His truth.

The beauty of following Jesus is that it's a lifelong journey. The more you pursue Him, the deeper and better you'll understand His incredible love for you. And as His love transforms you from the inside out, you'll find yourself becoming more like Him—more compassionate, more patient, more filled with hope and joy.

This is just the beginning of your story with God. Keep going. Keep growing. Keep saying "Yes" to Him.

