

TRUTH FORLIFE

THIS STUDY GUIDE

contains nine sessions that will explore the identity and work of Jesus. You will get the most out of this study by carefully reading or listening to the sermons from Alistair Begg's series *To Know Christ* as you progress. You will engage with the key Scriptures on Christ, gaining a deeper understanding of His message and ministry. The content for each session accompanies a particular sermon Alistair preached on the life of Jesus.



FIND ALL 9 MESSAGES AT TFL.ORG/KNOWCHRIST.

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o matter the time or place, Jesus Christ is bound to capture our attention. How can one man gain followers willing to die for Him while also drawing the ire of others who hate Him? One thing's for certain: whether we worship Him or walk away from Him, it's impossible to ignore Him.

In this series of messages, Alistair Begg explores what the Gospels have to say about the identity and work of Jesus. It didn't matter if He was raising the dead or receiving a drink—Jesus used every opportunity to love others to the glory of God. When we contemplate Jesus on the cross, we see His great love for humankind and His obedience to the Father; when we consider Him seated on His throne, we see the unblemished author and finisher of our faith. Getting to know Christ better through the testimony of God's Word will make us all the more prepared to spend our lives dedicated to pursuing God's glory.

Each session includes four parts:

- 1) **Getting Started**: a brief summary statement or commentary on the sermon, followed by an introductory question
- **2) Key Scriptures**: important Bible verses that were referenced in the sermon and are flagged for further meditation and memorization
- 3) Going Deeper: questions to help you process the main ideas of the sermon
- **4) Praise and Prayer**: a poem or hymn that can be committed to memory, incorporated in worship, and used as the basis for prayer about what you have learned and considered

SESSION ONE

"Be in Christ" | Matthew 11:25-30

Getting Started

Christ has issued an astounding invitation to us. He invites all of us to come to Him by faith, learning from Him and finding rest for our souls. True fulfillment and freedom are found only when we respond to the invitation of our Lord to rest in Him.

What are some of the other ways people search for fulfillment or purpose, and why do you suppos
those things ultimately fail?

KEY SCRIPTURES

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Going Deeper
1. What does it mean to be in Christ?
2. To whom and from whom is the invitation of Matthew 11:28 issued? What does this convey to us about the heart of God?
3. Those who reject Christ will often do so for one of two reasons: they believe they are either too corrupt for God's grace or too moral to need it. How does the Gospel address both?
4. What does it mean for Jesus' yoke to be easy and His burden light (Matt. 11:30)?

5. Jesus calls us to action in the invitation of Matthew 11:28–30, inviting us to <i>come, take, learn</i> , and <i>find</i> .
Which of these actions might the Lord be prompting you to take in response to Him?
6. C. S. Lewis said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it,
but because by it I see everything else." How has learning from Christ changed how you think about
the major areas of your life?

O Christ, in Thee my soul hath found,
And found in Thee alone,
The peace, the joy I sought so long,
The bliss till now unknown.

Now none but Christ can satisfy,

None other name for me!

There's love and life and lasting joy,

Christ Jesus, found in Thee.

"NONE BUT CHRIST CAN SATISFY"
BY FRANCES BEVAN

SESSION TWO

"Be Like Christ" | Selected Scriptures

Getting Started

certain for all believers, regardless of background or present circumstance. Because of the surety of this promis
we can live with confidence and contentment.
How has God made you more like His Son as you have walked with Him?

It is the purpose of God to conform us to the image of His Son. God's promise to make us like Jesus is true and

KEY SCRIPTURES

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Romans 8:28-29

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:18

Going Deeper
1. What does it mean to be like Christ?
2. How does the promise of Romans 8:28-29 equip us to endure suffering and hardship?
3. Christ died in our place to free us not only from the penalty of sin but also from its power and dominion. What is the difference?
4. What is our role in the process of becoming like Christ? What is God's part?

5. Reflect on this statement from Alistair: "Ethics is an exhortation to become what we're not. The cal
of Christianity is to become what we are." How might this truth lead us to joyful obedience?
6. The work of God to make us like Christ is both a past event and an ongoing process. How should we live in light of these complementary truths?

The work which His goodness began
The arm of His strength will complete;
His promise is Yes and Amen
And never was forfeited yet.

"A DEBTOR TO MERCY ALONE"
BY AUGUSTUS TOPLADY

SESSION THREE

"Humble Servant" | John 13:1-17

Getting Started

In John 13, the Creator stoops low to wash the feet of His creation, leaving us an example of humility and service to follow. Yet while the service of our Lord is compelling, this account is not ultimately about water and a basin; it is about blood and the cross. Only in the shadow of the crucifixion can we understand the cleansing work of Christ.

When was the last time you were able to serve someone, and what was the experience like?

KEY SCRIPTURES

"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

John 13:14-15

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Philippians 2:5-8

Going Deeper
1. How does Philippians 2:5-8 shed light on the humility Christ displays in John 13?
2. What did Peter fail to understand about the symbolism behind Jesus washing his feet (John 13:5-9)
3. Read Psalm 51:7 and Isaiah 61:10. How do these Scriptures on spiritual cleansing connect to what Christ accomplished on the cross?
4. Just as Jesus washed His disciples' feet, so He expects us to serve one another (John 13:15-17). What are some specific ways you can obey this command?

why this truth is significant.

The Son of God His glory hides
With parents mean and poor;
And He who made the heaven abides
In dwelling place obscure. ...

He before whom the angels stand,
At whose behest they fly,
Now yields Himself to man's command,
And lay His glory by.

"IN STATURE GROWS THE HEAVENLY CHILD"

JEAN-BAPTISTE DE SANTEUL

TRANS, JOHN CHANDLER

SESSION FOUR

"Compassionate Shepherd" | Luke 7:1-17

Getting Started

The early stages of Christ's kingdom were marked not by dramatic victories over the political forces of His day but instead through works of mercy. It was in the compassionate ministry of Christ that the transforming impact of the Gospel first resounded throughout the world.

Why do you think the compassion of Christ is often a compelling inroad by which nonbelievers come to embrace the Gospel?
Going Deeper
1. What do the accounts of the centurion and the widow in Luke 7 reveal to us about God's heart for sinners and sufferers?

KEY SCRIPTURES

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

"Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

Romans 2:4

2. What details does Luke provide that clue us in to the centurion's humility and steadfast faith in Christ (Luke 7:1-10)?						
3. Why do you suppose humility is essential for receiving the blessing of God?						
4. What is it about the widow's circumstance and background that makes Christ's compassionate intervention so significant (Luke 7:11-17)?						
5. Alistair points out that if there is anything of Christ in us, we ought to be moved with compassion What sins or attitudes might you need to address to reflect more closely the heart of Christ?						

. Luke / presents Christ as a compassionate shepherd. What are some other instances in the Gospels
where we find Christ acting with compassion toward others?

When the blest, who sleep in Jesus, at His bidding shall arise

From the silence of the grave, and from the sea,

And with bodies all celestial they shall meet Him in the skies,

What a gath'ring and rejoicing there will be!

What a gath'ring, what a gath'ring,

What a gath'ring of the ransomed in that summer land of love!

What a gath'ring, what a gath'ring,

Of the ransomed in that happy home above!

"WHAT A GATHERING" BY FANNY CROSBY

SESSION FIVE

"Personal Evangelist" | John 4:27-42

Getting Started

Speaking on the importance of evangelism, the Reverend John Newton once wrote, "To convert one sinner from the error of his way, is an event of greater importance than the deliverance of a whole kingdom from temporal evil."²

What are some reasons you don't evangelize as often or zealously as you ought?

KEY SCRIPTURE

"Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." John 4:35

² The Works of the Rev. John Newton (New York: Daniel Fanshaw, 1821), 4:228.

Going Deeper

1. The disciples were often preoccupied with their own needs, forgetting what it was that Christ came
to do (John 4:31-32). How do believers today fall into the same pattern?
2. How does Jesus' exhortation in John 4:35 speak to the urgency of evangelism?
7. What was the impact of leave's van relief according to John 4:20, 70, 70, 422
3. What was the impact of Jesus' evangelism according to John 4:28-30, 39-42?
4. Considering Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, what principles can we learn about
sharing the Gospel with clarity and compassion?

I know not how the Spirit moves,

Convincing men of sin,

Revealing Jesus through the Word,

Creating faith in Him.

But "I know Whom I have believed And am persuaded that He is able To keep that which I've committed Unto Him against that day."

"I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED"
BY DANIEL WEBSTER WHITTLE

SESSION SIX

"Suffering Servant" | Mark 14:32-37

Getting Started

the cup before Him: the innocent was about to bear God's wrath for sin. This event in Gethsemane both illustrates
the seriousness of sin and instructs believers to entrust their own suffering into the hands of God.
How does the truth that even Christ was not immune from our suffering comfort and encourage you?

Just before His crucifixion, our Lord experienced great distress in Gethsemane. The source of His sorrow lay with

KEY SCRIPTURES

"He said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Mark 14:36

"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

Romans 8:32

Going Deeper

1. Look at the language used to describe Christ's distress in Mark 14:33-35. What do these descriptions
convey about the scope and severity of His suffering?
2. Using Isaiah 53:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:21 for reference, how would you explain the physical suffering and theological significance of Christ's death?
3. What can we learn about God's character from Christ's prayer in Mark 14:36?
4. How do we see Jesus' humanity, humility, and obedience to the Father on display in Gethsemane?

5. How does the suffering of Jesus in Gethsemane shape your own experience of distress? How is
Christ's example instructive for you?
6. In his sermon, Alistair remarked, "We were so messed up that Jesus had to die for us, and we were so unbelievably loved in Jesus that He was pleased to die for us." How does this statement impact the way you view the suffering and sacrifice of Christ?

O, it was love, 'twas wonderful love;
He who purchased my pardon:
Praying in sorrow, shedding His blood,
Jesus alone in the garden.

"JESUS IN THE GARDEN" BY G. W. SEDERQUIST

SESSION SEVEN

"Great High Priest" | Hebrews 10:1-18

Getting Started

To its first question, "What is your only comfort in life and death?" the Heidelberg Catechism answers, "That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him."

Which lines from the catechism above stand out to you, especially in relation to the priestly role of Christ?

KEY SCRIPTURES

"He had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."

Hebrews 2:17

"When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God."

Hebrews 10:12

Going Deeper
1. What were the main functions of the Old Testament priest? How does Christ fulfill them?
2. Jesus is described as a "merciful and faithful high priest" (Heb. 2:17). What examples come to minor from His ministry in the Gospels that demonstrate these aspects of His character?
3. Jesus did the Father's will on earth, fulfilling what the law required and bearing the penalty for sir (Heb. 10:7). What impact does this have on those who are in Christ?
4. What might it look like for a believer to approach God's throne with boldness (Heb. 4:16)?

5. The priestly work of Christ is both finished and ongoing. Using Hebrews 7:23-28 for reference
explain what aspects of His priestly ministry continue for the believer.

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea;
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

"BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE"

BY CHARITIE LEES BANCROFT

SESSION EIGHT

"Divine King" | John 12:12-19

Getting Started

Jesus comes as a Prophet to oust our ignorance, a Priest to deal with our alienation, and a King to subdue every dimension of our rebellion. The divine kingship of Christ relates to all aspects of our existence. He exercises His kingly authority over salvation, the cosmos, the future, and our lives.

What are the dangers of neglecting to recognize Christ's kingship over all things?

KEY SCRIPTURE

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:31-33

Going Deeper

1. Using Genesis 49:10, Isaiah 32:1, and Zechariah 9:9 for reference, explain what kind of king God's
people anticipated before Christ's incarnation. How does Jesus embody these qualities?
2. Abraham Kuyper famously asserted, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human
existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" ³ What would it look like
for the church to live in light of this truth?
3. How should Christ's rule over even the future shape how we view all present history?

4. Prayerfully reflect on the kingship of Christ in relation to your own life. What areas might you need
to bring willingly under His kingly rule?
5. How is the cross the epicenter of Christ's kingly reign? How does this reveal the uniqueness of His
kingly rule?
Kingly Fale.

So be it, Lord! Your throne shall never, Like earth's proud empires, pass away; Your kingdom stands and grows forever Until there dawns Your glorious day.

"THE DAY THOU GAVEST, LORD, IS ENDED"

BY JOHN ELLERTON

SESSION NINE

"Lamb on the Throne" | Revelation 5:1-14

Getting Started

We often view the book of Revelation as a sort of puzzling riddle to be solved. But the main and plain theme of the book is that Christ is the triumphant Lord and King. As the slain and enthroned Lamb, He has purchased salvation for all who truly believe in Him.

What does the image of Christ as the Lamb reveal about His nature and work?

KEY SCRIPTURES

"God has highly exalted [Christ] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:9–11

One of the elders said to me, 'Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'"

Revelation 5:5

Going Deeper

1. Alistair reminds us that Revelation was written to suffering Christians in the first century. How does
viewing the book through this lens help us to interpret and apply it properly?
2. John likely had in mind Old Testament passages like Exodus 12 and Isaiah 53 when he referred to Jesus as "the Lamb." How do these chapters provide helpful context for understanding this title?
3. How does Revelation 5:9-10 describe the scope of Christ's redemption?
4. Revelation depicts the whole of redeemed creation responding to the slain Lamb in praise (Rev. 5:11-14). How do the truths of the Gospel lead you to worship?

. In his trial, John needed to be reminded of what he already knew concerning Christ's work (Rev. 5:5)
Vhat aspects of Christ's work might you call to mind amid suffering or doubt?

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

"CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"

BY MATTHEW BRIDGES

ALISTAIR BEGG is the Bible teacher on the daily program Truth For Life and serves as the senior pastor of Parkside Church near Cleveland, Ohio.

Originally from Scotland, Alistair began pastoral ministry in 1975. He teaches directly from the text of the Bible and relies on the Spirit of God to do the work of God through the Word of God in the lives of those who listen.

Alistair's teaching reaches a global audience through radio, social media, truthforlife.org, and the Truth For Life mobile app. He has written several books and routinely speaks at conferences around the world.

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