

To Know
Christ
STUDY GUIDE

**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.

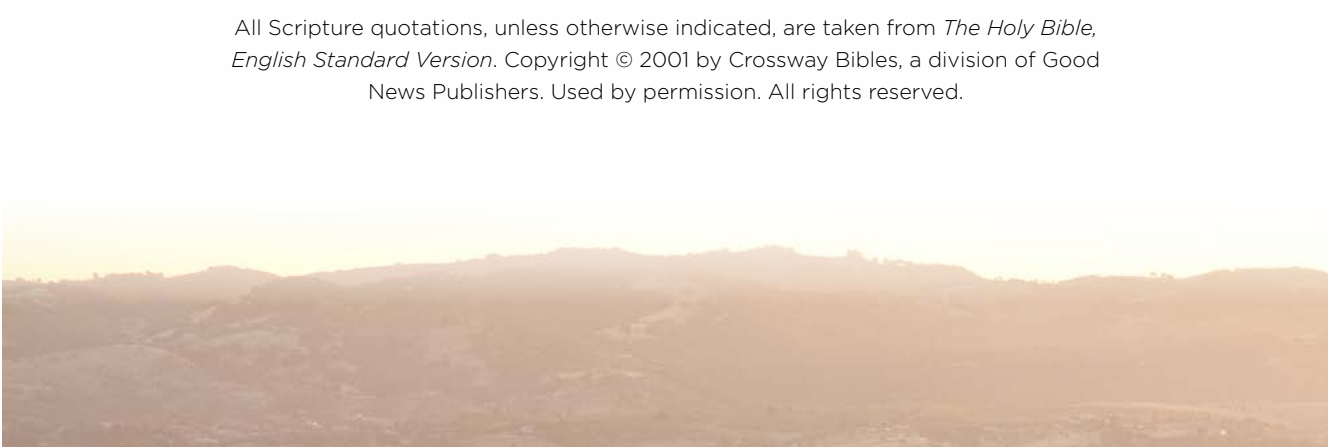


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To Know Christ: Study Guide
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No matter the time or place, Jesus Christ is bound to capture our attention. How can one man gain followers willing to die for Him while also drawing the ire of others 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



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 *come, take, learn, and find*. 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.”¹ 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

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 call 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

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?

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?

6. Luke 7 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

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?

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?

5. Alistair states that the unconverted are unaware of their blindness until God, by His grace, shows them that they are blind. How might this truth shape how you pray for the conversion of the lost?

6. Who do you know that needs to encounter God through the Gospel? Prayerfully consider this question, and make note of some ways you could share the Gospel with that person.

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

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

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 mind 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 sin (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

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?

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

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?

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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