

COME TO WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY
IN JANUARY AT 10:30 A.M. FOR A
NEW DEVOTIONAL!



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WEEK 1:
ALL IN WITH JESUS



SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

God speaks to me in the stillness of the night. When my mind has finally released the busyness of the day and given in to the restoration that sleep brings, He comes, and, like Samuel, I hear Him call my name. “Wake up and talk to me,” He says. In those quiet moments, I praise Him, I thank Him, and I share the concerns of my heart. He doesn’t thank me for my praise-it is His due-or acknowledge my thanksgiving. But He listens. He hears it all and He answers. He weighs those concerns and cares I bring to Him, and in His time, the answers come to me. Sometimes I find the answers in the light of day, and sometimes one another quiet morning when I hear “Wake up and talk to me”.

When does God speak to you?

Notes and Reflections



WEEK 1: ALL IN WITH JESUS INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us in worship on this first Sunday of the brand new year. It’s great to get started the right way, isn’t it? The right way to start is by reestablishing some old habits we’ve let slip, habits like gathering for worship and connection with others *every* week, making efforts to grow in our relationship with Jesus, stewarding our gifts well, and sharing the message with those outside. Those habits form the core of what it means to live as a follower of Jesus in the world. Dive into them. Work at them. See what happens.

To help us get started being “All In” we’re producing weekly devotional guides on each of the habits. Laypeople from our congregation have thought, prayed, and written these brief but important messages for you.

This week’s devotionals come from Marla Harper. Marla has focused on the theme of being “All In” on our relationship with Jesus. Marla knows a good bit about that. She’s a person of prayer and a person with a longstanding love for Jesus. Read and enjoy what she’s written, but also read and absorb and change. Go “All In”.

Let’s start well. Let’s go “All In”.

Pastor Mike

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

Every Spring I enjoy going to Wal-Mart, Tractor Supply, and other stores that sell gardening supplies. I look at all the seed packets and marvel at the variety and colors.

I don't buy any, though, because I know, deep down that I am not committed enough to plant and tend the seeds inside.

Salvation is like the seed, planted in my heart. I must be committed to tending it to stay in a viable relationship with Jesus, who planted the seed through the Holy Spirit and my acceptance. Jesus is committed to doing his part. I must be committed to doing mine through prayers, Bible Study, and constant communion with Him.

What are the seeds in your life and relationship with Jesus that need your commitment?

Notes and Reflections

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

I have a friend who has a heart like Jesus. By that, I mean the ability to look at people and see beyond what they look like, how they dress, where they live, how they talk, who they are. In the eyes of my friend, each person is a soul lovingly known and created by God and placed on this earth in this time, for His purpose.

Not everyone recognizes, accepts, or fulfills God's purpose for their lives. Our mandate is to love them, pray for them and seek God's guidance in our interactions with each of His people. In this way, we, like my friend become closer to Jesus as we come closer to His people.

Would you be my friend?

Notes and Reflections

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

We all, to some degree, want affirmation. It's there in our family life, our school or work environment, and our Christian witness. We want to know that what we're doing is good, right, and appreciated. Some areas of our lives receive recognition in the form of grades, reviews, promotions.

Our lives of service and witness may not get the same immediate recognition, but many times I've heard accounts of people who were changed/touched by observing the way a Christian exhibited Christ's love through words and actions. And in the end won't it be the Father who says "Well done"?

Who's affirmation do you seek most?

Notes and Reflections

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

We have just come through the most intense gift-giving time of the year. It's a time when we feel benevolent toward those less fortunate, and often add some philanthropic giving to our list of purchased presents.

Needs don't go away because the calendar date passes December 25. The same people who have basic needs in December will probably have them in March, or May, or September. As Christ's followers, we should look for needs that we can meet, whether large or small, throughout the year. Jesus didn't heal one person and say "Ok, I'm done". He continued to reach out as long as he was on earth. And we should too, whether that is with monetary support, prayer support, or physical support.

What can you do to open your eyes more to those around you?

Notes and Reflections

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

Where do you see Jesus? Is He in a perfect mountain vista, a rainbow after a spring rain, a mushroom that suddenly pops up where there wasn't one yesterday? Or do you find Him in the eyes of a child seeing Christmas lights for the first time, the deep belly laugh of a toddler who has his own private joke?

He may be in the smile of a stranger on the street, or a gentle hug from a friend just when you need it most. His presence in you could be waiting to be shared with someone else who needs that smile, that hug, that word of encouragement.

Do others see Jesus in you? How do you show Jesus to those around you?

Notes and Reflections

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

Prayer. That personal one-to-one conversation between Creator and creation, between man and the God who made him. From the earliest days, God has reached out to us and opened lines of communication. He wants our input.

There are many styles and forms of prayer, as many as there are people who pray. We teach our children to memorize prayers until they become comfortable talking to God in a way that feels right to them. Liturgical prayer, contemplative prayer, conversational prayer, guided prayer—all are useful. It's not HOW you pray, it's THAT you pray that matters to God.

What are some ways that you can enhance your prayer life and communication with God?

Notes and Reflections
