

Week 1

The Revealing of Jesus

Day 1

1 John 1:1-4: *We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. 2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.*

It is hard to know someone if you haven't spent time with them. Any type of relationship you have with someone requires spending time with them and getting to know more about them: who they are, what their interests are, what they dislike, etc. It's the same way with Jesus. We can know things about Jesus without actually *knowing* Jesus. Think of your favorite sports player or singer or actor. Chances are you probably know a lot about them but you've never actually met them. You know facts but you have no relationship. Is your relationship with Jesus based on knowing about him or actually knowing him?

The introduction to John's first letter sets the stage for what it looks like to have an intimate relationship with Jesus. John walked side-by-side with Jesus for three and a half years and after Jesus' death and resurrection, he continued to walk with him, though in a different way. Jesus is alive with us just as much as



he was when he walked this earth with John. John saw, touched, and experienced the power of Jesus after he was raised from the dead; he was an eyewitness to it and this opening statement encourages us to pursue the same relationship with Jesus that he experienced.

Where are you with Jesus? Have you been following him for a while? Are you a newer Christ follower? Are you just starting to explore Jesus? Wherever you're at, we want to help you grow closer to Jesus by Being with Him, Becoming Like Him, and Doing What He Would Do.



Day 2

Philippians 2:6-11 **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.

Hebrews 4:14-16: **14** So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. **15** This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. **16** So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

It can be hard to relate to someone who seems on another level in terms of influence and power. How many of us can actually say we understand what celebrities or Fortune 500 CEOs go through? How could they ever know what we go through? Jesus had more influence and power than any human who ever walked the earth, yet he did not use that to his advantage. Instead he humbled himself to experience everything we would experience. We can be with Jesus because he can fully relate to us. He endured hunger and thirst. He felt emotions and hardships. He knows what it's like to be on the outskirts of society and culture. He knows what it means to be rejected. Even his best friends left him high and dry before he was crucified. He was tempted in every way that we are tempted, yet he resisted falling into temptation. Is there something in your life that you're struggling with or someone you don't see eye to eye with? Reach out to Jesus. He wants to help you. He hears us when we pray and is waiting for you to come to him.



Day 3

Mark 9:2-8: *2 Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. 4 Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus. 5 Peter exclaimed, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6 He said this because he didn't really know what else to say, for they were all terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him." 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.*

2 Peter 1:16-18: *16 For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes 17 when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." 18 We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.*

The story of Jesus and the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration is perhaps the closest revelation on earth of what heaven will be like. In this moment, we see Elijah (symbolizing the prophets of the Old Testament) and Moses (symbolizing the law) standing on either side of Jesus (the fulfillment of the law and the prophets). What a truly extraordinary moment in history! As Peter writes to defend the second coming of Christ, he uses this experience to confirm that the story of Jesus is not a fable or myth; Peter himself was witness to the power of Christ and he uses this moment to point to what his readers can anticipate when Jesus returns.

How does your idea of heaven shape the way you live your life? Do you live in the confidence of being with Jesus for eternity? Does the idea of living in



eternal perfection drive you to share Jesus with others? We have been given the greatest gift the universe will ever know through Jesus. And we have the opportunity to tell others so they can live in the freedom of Christ, a freedom that no one or nothing else can give.

Who is someone you can share Jesus with today?

Day 4

Psalm 105:1-4: "Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds. Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord. Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him."

Worship of God is not something that happens on Sunday mornings only. It is also not strictly reserved for music (although singing is an excellent way to worship). Our true worship to God is seen in how we live our lives. When we live according to how he has shown us to live through Jesus, we are worshipping God and giving him glory and honor that he rightly deserves. When we are generous with our time, treasures and talents, that is an act of worship. When we help someone in need, knowing that's what Jesus would do, we are worshipping God. It can come in many different forms. Sometimes, just sitting in silence and meditating on His goodness is an act of worship.

How do you worship God? How can you be more consistent in your worship of God?



Day 5

Acts 4:13, 18-22: 13 The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus... 18 So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? 20 We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard." 21 The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God 22 for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years.

"Boldness" is the word that sticks out in this passage. Peter and John are on the verge of being imprisoned, and yet they held fast to their belief in the truth of Jesus. The council knew that these two fishermen did not have the same training as them, but they recognized that the two had been with Jesus. The revelation of Jesus to Peter and John had caused them to put their reputation and life at risk, but as they say in verse 19, "Do you think God wants us to obey you (the council) rather than him?"

Do people recognize that you have been with Jesus? Is there something that sets you apart that people can't quite put their finger on? Are you willing to put your reputation on the line and not stop telling people about Jesus, much like Peter and John? There was nothing special about them as people. They were two flawed human beings who spent time with Jesus, believed in his message, received the Holy Spirit, and told others about him, which in turn started a movement that continues two thousand years later. We have the ability to do the same things they did, for we have the same Spirit within us.

Pray for boldness as you go about your day and look for opportunities to share what Jesus has done in your life.



