**GIVE ME JESUS: STUDY NOTES**

*In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise, give me Jesus*

*Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus*

*And when I am alone
Oh, and when I am alone
And when I am alone, give me Jesus*

*Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus*

*And when I come to die
Oh, and when I come to die
And when I come to die, give me Jesus*

*Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
You can have all this world
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus*

This has been one of my favourite worship songs for quite some time. It’s very simple yet powerful. My heart for this short series before we hit the summer is to lean into hanging out with Jesus, watching how Jesus does things and learning from our great rabbi Jesus the way of life.

**As a small group you may like to use these notes to go alongside the sermon series OR maybe over the summer you would like to read: Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer and meet up to discuss parts of it.**

*Please see previous study note booklets or come and ask if you need ideas for icebreakers or small group worship and prayer times! Our hope has always been that each small group session(s) includes being in the word, worship together and a sense of being on mission and outreach – be that through action, prayers, accountability etc. Below are just some questions to help look at the scripture together. Our hope is that in a busy world – what we’re thinking about on Sunday has a chance to settle in us as we then unpack it in our small groups – a wise person once said we can only ever have capacity to hear and apply deeply a few sermons every year – that doesn’t mean we don’t need the bread and butter each week of regular sermons but that we are limited in what we absorb and apply in any one season our small groups are hopefully places where we can process together and encourage one another in applying the word in our lives.*

**STUDY 1: Joining in Jesus’ Mission**

Pray and read together Luke 4.

1. Why do you think Jesus chose the passage from Isaiah to read in the synagogue? Looking at Isaiah 61 we can see that Jesus slightly changes the order – why?
2. How does Jesus' authority manifest in His teaching and miracles?
3. Why does Jesus insist on going to other towns to preach, even when the people in Capernaum want Him to stay?
4. In what ways do Jesus’ actions in this chapter demonstrate His mission and purpose?
5. Jesus is rejected in Nazareth his home town, what were some of the reasons he faced rejection there and how can we have a healthy faith and trust in God when we experience rejection?
6. How does Jesus' handling of the situation in Nazareth model grace and courage in the face of opposition?
7. How does Jesus' response to the devil's temptations inform our own approach to spiritual warfare?
8. How does Jesus balance His time between healing, casting out demons, and preaching?
9. What does Jesus' retreat to a solitary place reveal about His spiritual practices, and how can we apply this to our lives?
10. How does the episode in the synagogue in Nazareth inform our understanding of Jesus' mission? And how should it inform our approach to being on mission with Jesus?

**STUDY 2: Joining in Jesus’ Sacrifice**

Pray and read together Matthew 16.21-28

1. How does Jesus’ view of what it means to be the Promised Messiah conflict with Peter’s?
2. How does Jesus respond to Peter?
3. Back in verse 15 – Jesus asks the most important question that we all must answer! Peter gets an A\* for his answer and yet now just a few verses later we see that he still has a long way to go on his journey of discipleship. What have we understood and if you’re able to be honest and accountable with your group – where do you need to grow in your following of Jesus today?
4. Looking at verses 24-27 what does Jesus say is necessary if we are to be his followers? Also look up: Gal 6.14 & Heb 12.2.
5. What does it mean to ‘deny ourselves and take up our cross.’? Where are we resistant to this and why? Where do we find it easier to embrace this and why?
6. Having focused on the cross Jesus’ bore for us – it would be good to pray together and consider what you will take away from this passage and then to either sing or listen to a song to praise Jesus for the cross.

**STUDY 3: Joining in Jesus’ Welcome**

Pray and read together Luke 15.11-32

1. For many of us this can be a familiar story. As a group read it once together and then ask just one person to read whilst everyone else picks one of the characters in the story and as they read it through try and thinks about the thoughts and emotions your character might have had – when you have done this share any thoughts together.
2. Have a little look at the quote below. Many of us hide in shame, put our head in the sand, give up or simply accept with a sigh our brokenness. What about taking it all to God instead and letting God love you amid it. How does this passage speak into that and help us to feel encouraged in returning to God?

*“I will never forget when my spiritual director advised me, “John Mark, sit in your sin and let God love you.” He did not mean “Keep sinning and don’t feel guilty.” He meant “When you sin [and I will, as you will], don’t hide it from God. Hold it before God, with no excuses, no blame shifting, no denial, just utter vulnerability, and let God love you as you are. And then let God love you into who you have the potential to become.”*

*―****John Mark Comer,***[***Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become like him. Do as he did.***](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/108373498)

1. How does the father leaving the party to go towards the older son also show his love and welcome of him? At the end of the story we do not know whether the elder son stays sulking or goes and joins in – how can we help one another out of ‘sulking’ and back towards God?
2. How should this passage inform our welcoming home of one another?

**Book Recommendation, a great summer read: *The Prodigal God by Tim Keller***

**STUDY 4: Joining in Jesus’ Friendship with the Father**

Pray and read together John 14.7-12

1. What is Jesus claiming here?
2. Claiming something doesn’t mean you are what you claim but it does leave us with just a few options: If his claims are false but he sincerely believed them to be true, he is crazy. If his claims are false and he knew them to be false, he is a liar. But if His claims are true, He is God. How could you use this to help people understand what Jesus claimed and why we don’t just think Jesus was a prophet?
3. Jesus’ relationship with the Father and the Spirit is harmonious and close. We are invited into this relationship with the trinitarian God through Jesus. In the same way that Jesus had a close friendship with his Father whilst he walked the earth as a human – we to are encouraged into a close relationship with God. What ways could you give more time to your relationship with God over the summer? What things could we take from Jesus’ model relationship with the Father into our lives today?
4. Are you excited or nervous by the authority Jesus gives his disciples?
5. What will you take from this passage into your thinking, actions and prayers this week?