

Foundations: *Jesus Study Guide*
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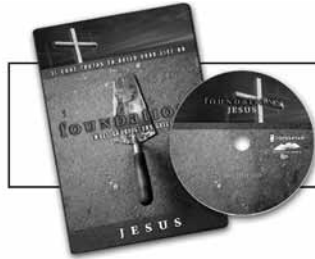
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Session One

JESUS, YOUR BEST FRIEND

JESUS, YOUR BEST FRIEND



BIBLE TEACHING

Watch the video lesson now and take notes in your outline on pages 3-5.

Why Is It Important to Know More about Jesus Christ?

How well do you know Jesus? Is he someone you know by name only? Maybe as a figure in history? Or do you count him as a friend? That's why you study the person of Jesus—so you can learn about someone who desires to be your best friend. The goal of this study is not that you will just become informed about Jesus, but that you will develop a deeper relationship with him. The more you know about him, the more you realize how deeply he loves you and how he's given you the wonderful ability to love him in return.

1. Knowing Jesus is life's continuing _____ .

Everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. (Philippians 3:8a LB)

2. Knowing Jesus is the believer's continuing _____ .

For as you know him better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life: he even shares his own glory and his own goodness with us! (2 Peter 1:3 LB)

FOUNDATIONS JESUS

The Names of Jesus

One of the first ways you get to know a person is by learning their name, and one of the first ways you get to know more about Jesus Christ is by learning his name. The names of Jesus help you identify who he is.

In the Bible, a name was an indicator of three specifics about a person:

_____, _____, _____.

- _____ : means “salvation of God”

You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. (Luke 1:31 NIV)

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11 NIV)

- Savior: showing Jesus’ _____
- Christ: shows Jesus’ _____
- Lord: showing Jesus’ _____

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

For you to learn about Jesus without having a relationship with him would be life’s greatest tragedy. If you want the kind of relationship that God made you for and Jesus died on the cross to offer you, then pray the following prayer:

*Jesus Christ, today I want to begin a relationship with you.
I don’t want to just know about you;
I want to know you personally.
I ask you to forgive me for the wrong things I’ve done.
I want to learn from you how to live.
I choose today to begin to live by your direction and guidance.
I don’t even know all that will mean,
but I’m trusting in you to show me the way.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

JESUS, YOUR BEST FRIEND

KEY PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

The Power of Jesus' Name

The Bible does more than just list Jesus' names; it tells us of the power of his name!

1. Jesus' name is _____ .

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:9-11 NIV)

2. As believers we _____ .

- We are anointed. (James 5:14)
- We are forgiven. (1 John 2:12)
- We are baptized. (Acts 10:48)
- We are justified in his name. (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- We assemble in his name. (1 Corinthians 5:4)
- We bear his name. (1 Peter 4:16)
- We believe in his name. (John 1:12)
- We call on his name. (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- We give thanks in his name. (Ephesians 5:20)
- We have life. (John 20:31)
- We preach. (Acts 8:12)
- We speak. (Acts 9:28)
- We suffer. (Acts 21:13, 1 Peter 4:16)
- We do everything in his name. (Colossians 3:17)

JESUS, YOUR BEST FRIEND

4. Is the idea of a personal relationship with Jesus new to anyone in your group? Many people grow up knowing about Jesus, but never hearing they can know him personally. If anyone in your group is unsure whether or not they have this kind of relationship with Jesus, this is an ideal place to start it. Pray together the prayer of commitment on page 4 of your outline notes. First, recognize his purpose as Savior of your life and ask for his forgiveness. Second, realize his promise to us as the one sent from God. Finally, accept his position as Lord of your life.

Did You Get It? How has this week's study helped you see that there is no greater priority than your relationship with Jesus?

Share with Someone: Think of a person you can encourage with the truth you learned in this session. Write their name in the space below and pray for God to provide that opportunity this week.

FOUNDATIONS JESUS

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Discipleship

1. Jesus Christ wants to be your best friend. Think of it: your best friend is ruling at God's right hand. He is the one who holds everything together. This week, choose to live out and enjoy the fact that Jesus is your best friend. Here are three ways you can do that:
 - Say to yourself, "He accepts me even when I don't feel acceptable." Remind yourself throughout this week that you are Jesus' friend simply because of his grace, not because you somehow deserve that friendship.
 - Talk to him like a friend. That's what prayer is. At least once this week take a few minutes to talk to Jesus. Tell him what is happening in your life. You'll discover that talking to him about what you're facing each day, as you would to a friend, is life changing.
 - In addition to talking to him, you need to listen to him as you would your best friend. Conversation is always two-way. When we read the Bible we are reading the book he gave us. This week, listen as you read. Listen as if to the advice of a deeply trusted friend.
2. In week three of this study, you will be asked to share the story of how your relationship with Jesus began. A good way to tell this story is through the simple outline Paul used when he gave his testimony in the book of Acts.
 - My life before I came to Christ
 - How I came to know Jesus Christ
 - My life since I've come to know him

In preparation for sharing your personal Jesus story, take some time this week to write down a sentence or two about each of these three life events.

If you don't have a relationship with Jesus, consider praying the prayer on page 4 of this study guide sometime this week.