

# JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

## JANUARY

- Daily **readings** suggested to do at your own pace. Use shorter days to catch up and use your time in scripture to listen to God, not to “checklist” a reading assignment.
- Use **reflection questions** as you read; write down questions to discuss with your community group or mentor later in the week.
- Recite the **prayer(s)** daily or weekly. Ancient prayers provide a foundation of time-tested language to express what so often feels inexpressible. They unite us with the full body of Christ, both around the world and throughout time.
- A monthly verse is suggested to **memorize**. While it may seem daunting, the exercise of scripture memory is a proven way to cement words into our minds, so they shape our hearts and our lives. Practice writing it, reading it aloud, and reviewing it throughout the month.
- Spiritual disciplines (**practices**) help us connect with God and live out the character of Jesus. We encourage you to try out a new practice each month.<sup>1</sup>

## Read

WEEK OF	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
<b>JAN 1</b>	Luke 1:1–25	Luke 1:26–56	Luke 1:57–80	Luke 2:1–24	Luke 2:25–52	Isaiah 9:1–7
<b>JAN 8</b>	Luke 3:1–20	Luke 3:21–37	Luke 4:1–13	Luke 4:14–30	Luke 4:31–44	Deuteronomy 6
<b>JAN 15</b>	Luke 5:1–11	Luke 5:12–26	Luke 5:27–39	Luke 6:1–11	Luke 6:12–16	Psalms 32
<b>JAN 22</b>	Luke 6:17–26	Luke 6:27–36	Luke 6:37–42	Luke 6:43–45	Luke 6:46–49	Lamentations 3:19–33
<b>JAN 29</b>	Luke 7:1–9	Luke 7:11–17	Luke 7:18–35	Luke 36–50	1 Kings 17:17–24	Isaiah 35

## Reflect

- What does this passage teach you about God? About Jesus?
- How do Jesus’ actions show us the character of God?
- What does it look like to follow Jesus in this passage?

<sup>1</sup> Some of our practices and definitions come from the book *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun (IVP, 2015)

## Pray

*My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Might One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.*

*He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.<sup>2</sup>*

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*Lord, thou hast given us thy Word for a light to shine upon our path; grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>3</sup>*

## Memorize: Luke 6:27–31

*Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

*If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.*

*Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

## Practice: Fasting<sup>4</sup>

Fasting is the self-denial of physical needs or normal practices so that the perceived emptiness draws you closer to God. In Matthew 6:16–18, Jesus seems to indicate that fasting will be a normal practice of his disciples. Rather than think of fasting as just “removing” food, think of it as an opportunity to substitute time with Jesus instead. For example, spend an hour journaling your prayers in place of one meal weekly, or give up social media for 24 hours and offer extra time to God in prayerful listening.

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<sup>2</sup> From the *Magnificat*, Luke 1:46–55

<sup>3</sup> St. Jerome, c 342 – 420 AD

<sup>4</sup> To go deeper, read Dave Patterson’s book, *Pursuit: A 21 Day Prayer and Fasting Journal*.