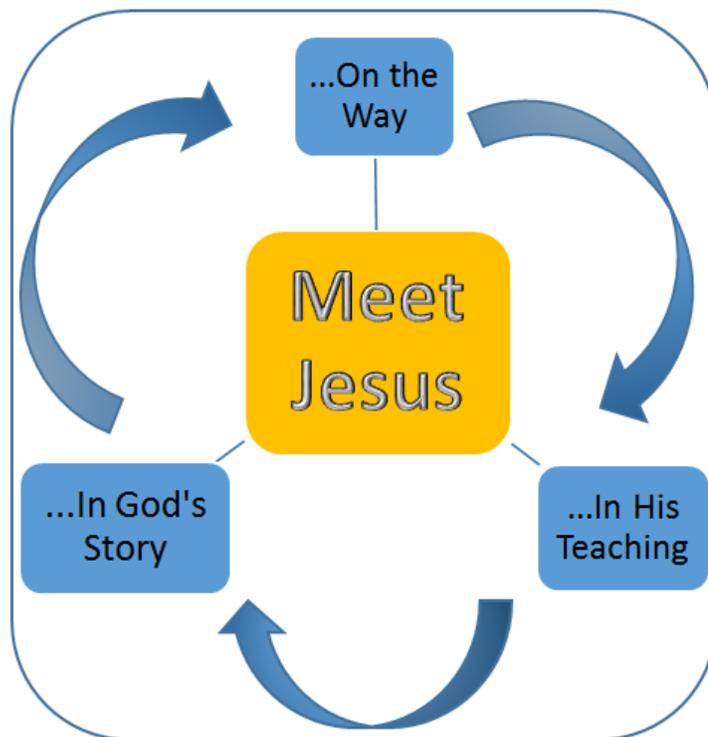


Meet JESUS

On the Way



Jim Fredericks

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For additional **personal engagement**, I would encourage you reading *“Times of Refreshment”* along with these five weekly texts about Jesus. This is a free PDF download on the *“Bible Resources”* tab on my website, JimFredericks.com.

When you finish these Bible studies in this *“Meet Jesus...”* series, I have also written other resources to support you as companions on your journey with Jesus. These are available at JimFredericks.com. Other guides in Scripture are available under the *“Companion through Scripture”* tab, designed as companions to guide you to the next level.

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Welcome!

“Meet Jesus...” as we relate what the Bible says to our everyday lives in a natural, engaging, and empowering way. **“Come & See”** just as you are.

And it’s actually fun!

Our aim is to remove the artificial barriers people may have erected against looking together into the Bible. This is a welcoming, embracing, anyone-can-come group, whether casual observer or active participant. You set the level of involvement that you are comfortable with. Bring your inquisitive thinking so we can learn together.

The Bible is accessible for anyone with a desire to know what this popular book has to say, whether curiously exploring Christianity or young in their walk with Christ. This *“whole-person”* approach involves our inquisitive minds and our enlivened affections/emotions triggered by our sanctified imagination so we activate our will.

This is a safe place to ask questions on your heart. None are excluded.

In **“Meet Jesus...”**, we focus on the essential, growth-rich *ABC’s of our value and worth* interwoven throughout Scripture. Such a life is worthy of investing my all into. Now as we spend regular time in Scripture, each year becomes fifty-two weekly opportunities for LifeChange.

“God has not hidden truth from us, but for us to increase our delight in Him.” Ask any miner the effort needed to mine for silver or gold. Also ask if the return from the mother-lode is worth the effort. And God’s Word is the mother-lode of truth.

“If you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand...” (Proverbs 2:4).

Jim Fredericks

Yorba Linda, CA

ENGAGE with MARK 1:9-28 as if you were there.

As an introduction to this natural and engaging approach to learning from the Bible, please read “*Welcome*” on the previous page.

Mark was the first of the Gospel writers to write down the oral story of Jesus’ life. From his first words, Mark describes the decisive inbreaking into history of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This creates a sense of crisis as He ruptures the status quo. With Jesus’ baptism, Mark deliberately points us back to the 1st creation in Genesis 1 & 2. The same Three Persons were active in speaking the 1st creation into existence, God the Father, God’s Spirit who flutters or hovers over the water, and Jesus, the Word (see John 1:1 + 14).

The arrival of King Jesus (1:15) **calls us** to join God’s restoration plan for all that was lost in Genesis 3. Each storm is an opportunity for God to do the impossible. Jesus’ Kingship calls **for us** to bow our knees, **all-in** with wholehearted allegiance toward His loving sovereignty. Jesus restores intimacy with the Father for all who repent and believe in Jesus. This is the BIG-Story that makes sense of life as we fully give ourselves to Jesus. “*Gospel*” or “*Good News*” means history-making, life-shaping news, not daily news. And so it is! Jesus calls for a decisive response on our part. He impacts people through His words and His works of power demonstrating His Kingdom authority (1:21-28). Then He trains up His new family (1:16-20) to follow Him in the “family business” of evangelism and discipleship.



“The Bible paints a panoramic picture of God’s bountiful and ever-present supply poured into the lives of His people with the intriguing use of water....God pleads with them; ‘I will be like that dew in your spiritual life’” (Fredericks, “Times of Refreshing”).

QUESTIONS for group dialog.

1. In 1:9-13, how does Mark weave the Father’s care and the Spirit’s power together with the Reality of trials at the beginning of Jesus’ adventure?
2. Read 1:14-15 several times, perhaps the key passage in the first eight chapters of Mark. What strikes you?
3. Notice how Mark describes the two-fold thrust of raising up His team of followers in 1:14-20 and the work of evangelism in 1:21-28. Why do you think Mark selected these stories?

DIALOG together in group this week.

- Relate what you are most grateful or thankful for today.
- Read the passage twice out loud, each reading a few verses.
- Retell: What does this say about God and about me?
- Request our caring Father to meet any specific personal need.

From MARK 1:9-28, what stirs your mind & affections?

1:9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.

19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 24 “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

25 “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” 26 The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

How is God drawing me to live this out loud? *"I will..."*

ENGAGE with MARK 2:1-12 as if you were there.

Jesus had proclaimed repentance and faith as the doorway into the now-at-hand Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15b). Shortly after He began gathering His new Family of God to Him, all who are willing to do God's will (Mark 3:31-35). Does this include **you**? Jesus modeled the *Word/Works* ministry He has passed down to all His followers, teach the Word and demonstrate its Reality. I'm first moved by the four great friends this paralytic had. Many societies marginalize the handicapped. These friends went to all lengths to get their friend help, even if the crowd thought they might be a little strange. Jesus responded to the friends with deep care because of their faith. Again, place yourself imaginatively into this 1st century event, as the friends, as the stuffy teachers of the law, as the crowd or as the man healed.

Jesus first meets the paralytic's **one, primary**, essential need...for forgiveness. "*Son, your sins are forgiven.*" Jesus had His priorities in order. He sees the spiritual realm as far more crucial than even crushing physical needs. And He calls us to a similar perspective. Jesus also dealt with the physical, healing him because of the faith of his friends. Jesus connects with the paralytic with care and compassion at his point of physical need, now as a part of His new Family of God. How does this release risk-taking faith in you?

The Bible uses a number of graphic word-pictures to describe how forgiven God's people are. Why do you think? An idea is memorable when we can picture it. I have a short exercise with seven of word pictures for forgiveness at the end for you to engage with. This could be life-impacting as you dialog in the group to dialog together.

 "*Jesus died in our place on the cross, as our substitute, His life for ours. He took once for all time all the punishment for every one of your sins and mine, removing all grounds for condemnation forever. Mind boggling, yet true!*" (Jim Fredericks, "Times of Refreshing").

QUESTIONS for group dialog.

1. What do you think it means when Jesus said his sins were forgiven (2:5)?
2. Which is easier to **say** to a paralytic, "*your sins are forgiven*" or "*walk*" (2:9)
3. Why did Jesus do this according to 2:10?

DIALOG together in group this week.

- Relate what you are most grateful or thankful for today.
- Read the passage twice out loud, each reading a few verses.
- Retell: What does this say about God and about me?
- Request our caring Father to meet any specific personal need.

From MARK 2:1-12, what stirs your mind & affections?

2:1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? 9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?"

10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.

This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

How is God drawing me to live this out loud? *"I will...."*

ENGAGE with LUKE 7:36-50 as if you were there.

“Is it even possible for me to experience such a satisfying overflowing life, knowing my back story?” Have you ever been there? The woman in the story was. An outcast in society, living a sinful life. From her perspective, she held little hope of ever living a flourishing life...until her contact with Jesus, the most remarkable man ever. Jesus was concerned about each individual, especially those on the fringe. The religious leaders had a warped view of our caring Father, unable to believe that the godly would ever associate with the riffraff of the day. But not Jesus! The God who created us welcomes all people. He invites us to return home into His embracing arms, on the original terms at creation. *“Full allegiance to Me so I can bless you!”*

And what a touching display of affectionate gratitude by the woman in 7:37-38. The religious leader was appalled, fully convinced that Jesus could not be a prophet with so little insight into who she was. Jesus read His mind, then told a pointed parable. The words of the religious leader revealed how little he was like God in the arena of love and forgiveness. Jesus saw the woman as the heroine because of her faith-response and the leader as the villain. Jesus concludes by telling the woman what had already happened to her (48 + 50). How do you think the woman was impacted? I wonder if she forgave others from her heart, like Jesus. Read this fascinating story and parable as if you were there, participating, and see how it speaks to your heart.

 *“Don’t hook yourself to them by refusing to forgive. We are the losers if we do. Yes, the pain is real so no pretense. We have not really forgiven another without acknowledging the deep pain and cost involved. Until we grieve the loss, forgive, carry the debt to the cross, and fully release that person, he will continue to hurt us. Forgiveness is enlightened self-interest” (“Times of Refreshing”).*

QUESTIONS for group dialog.

1. How did the *“immoral woman”* respond to Jesus, especially in 7:37-38
2. How did Jesus and the religious leader (*“Pharisee”*) respond to the uninvited guest? Compare and contrast their responses.
3. In verse 47, who did Jesus say showed much love and who showed little love? What made the difference?

DIALOG together in group this week.

- Relate what you are most grateful or thankful for today.
- Read the passage twice out loud, each reading a few verses.
- Retell: What does this say about God and about me?
- Request our caring Father to meet any specific personal need.

From LUKE 7:36-50, what stirs your mind & affections?

7:36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. 37 When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. 38 Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

40 Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."

"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

41 Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. 42 But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

43 Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt."

"That's right," Jesus said. 44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

47 "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." 48 Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?"

50 And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

How is God drawing me to live this out loud? *"I will...."*

ENGAGE with JOHN 4:1-26+39-42 as if you were there.

I don't have all the answers...for sure. But I know that people get confused in this life about what they want and what they have done and what they think they should have done because of it. Everything they think they are or did takes a hold so hard. It doesn't let them see who they can become through risk-taking faith in Jesus. The way into this refreshing life with Jesus is authentic repentance flowing out of Spirit-initiated insight leading to faith (Mark 1:15b). Repentance is wholehearted, a change in our mind drawing out a change in our affections and in our will and choices. Because we see ourselves differently, our value structure changes. Changed values naturally change our priorities. The Samaritan woman is a great example. Look how Jesus approached her with dignity and compassion, directly yet sensitively. Enter the story personally.

Jesus knew that most Jews of His day avoided all contact with the half-breed Samaritans, especially women. And her own village had ostracized her with her history of five divorces (she drew water at noon, in the heat of the day when no villagers were there). Not so for Jesus! Jesus' compassion and sense of justice moved Him so He "had to" go through Samaria (verse 4) to cut across the social stigmas of His day and to reach out. He restores the disenfranchised to relationship with God, ignoring the cultural prejudices of His day to minister to one, alone, empty person in need. Jesus knows how to reach the spiritually bankrupt with the "Beautiful News."

What do you see in this story to pass on to a friend? To whom?

 "God has given you a unique life-story to share with others.? [In] Acts, the Apostle Paul shares his personal story three different times. When the Samaritan woman encounters Jesus, she returns to the villagers who had ostracized her and simply told them to "come and see." (Jim Fredericks, "Times of Refreshing").

QUESTIONS for group dialog.

1. Why did Jesus use the picture of water in verses 4:10 + 13-14?
2. What can you learn from Jesus about how to relate to others? Why do you this in Jesus' life?
3. As soon as the woman connected with Jesus, she reached out to her villagers (39-41). Why do you think, since they had rejected her?

DIALOG together in group this week.

- Relate what you are most grateful or thankful for today.
- Read the passage twice out loud, each reading a few verses.
- Retell: What does this say about God and about me?
- Request our caring Father to meet any specific personal need.

From JOHN 4: 4:1-26+39-42, what stirs your mind & affections?

4:1 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."...

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers. 42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

How is God drawing me to live this out loud? *"I will..."*

ENGAGE with MARK 10:17-31 as if you were there.

The man in this event had it all. Young Wealthy. A Jewish ruler of influence. Yet something within stirred a restless longing for a quality of life beyond what he presently knew. The young man came on the wrong basis. Typical of us, a “performance” mentality of “*what must I do?*” Jesus revealed the Good News: “*I paid the price. So embrace authentic life on My terms of full allegiance.*”

Jesus approached the young man with humility as an equal, dialoging from the perspective of this good Jew, his views of the Old Testament. Verse 21 encapsulates Jesus’ approach. Jesus (1) saw him as a unique individual, (2) loved him as he was, and (3) invited him into more through an all- in abandonment to Jesus. According to Jesus, **He** is the *only* place authentic life exists (John 14:6).

Two groups are excellent at avoiding wholehearted allegiance to Jesus and steering their own ship. First, the very *wealthy*; second, the very *religious*. This man was both! Christians often talk about the high **cost** of discipleship. How often, though, do we think about the far higher cost of **non**-discipleship, missing the best in life, focusing on secondary values? Each storm is now an opportunity for God to do the impossible. We forfeit the invitation to come home to our only true home, resting in the caring Father. And we forfeit this for all eternity. The disciples also recognized the high cost (10:26). So Jesus pointed to the God of possibilities to provide strength for them to give wholehearted allegiance to Jesus (10:27). He then mentioned a few of the benefits that come as a byproduct of fully following Jesus (29-30). For this man, the cost was *too* high. And what about for you as you entered into this story? **What is your heart-response to Jesus’ offer?**

 “Nothing is worth injuring our relationship with the Lord in the slightest way. [God’s people thirst] after the living God, like a lost traveler in the desert longs for a cool drink from a shady oasis. “O God, you are my God; my soul thirsts for you [in], in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1, “Times of Refreshing”)

QUESTIONS for group dialog.

1. What can you discover about the rich young ruler in this passage?
2. How would you feel if people approached you like Jesus (18 & 21)?
3. What does Jesus say about the cost and benefits of discipleship in 10:29-31

DIALOG together in group this week.

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- Request our caring Father to meet any specific personal need.

From MARK 10:17-31, what stirs your mind & affections?

10:17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

20 “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

28 Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

How is God drawing me to live this out loud? *"I will...."*

Fully Forgiven!

 *"If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).*

Listen closely to what God says about forgiveness. Through faith in Christ, we are so fully and finally forgiven that the Bible almost exhausts language to describe it. God's mercy and grace has thoroughly removed the stain of guilt and the resulting fear of condemnation. How can God convey this reality adequately?

I have listed seven verses with seven magnificent images demonstrating how totally God has forgiven us. He has painted such graphic pictures of forgiveness so that we might never forget how forgiven we are in Christ. Briefly summarize what the verse says about how forgiven you are in Christ. Then try your hand at drawing a picture to describe each of these seven pictures because a picture is worth a thousand words, Picasso!

1. *As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us* (Ps 103:12)

2. *"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool"* (Is 1:18)

3. *You have put all your sins behind your back* (Is 38:17)

4. *"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more"* (Is 43:25)

Thoughts

5. *"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist" (Is 44:22)*

6. *"In those days, at that time," declares the Lord, "search will be made for Israel's guilt, but there will be none, and for the sins of Judah, but none will be found, for I will forgive the remnant I spare" (Jer 50:20)*

7. *"You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19)*

 ***"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).***

Receiving Personal Forgiveness: List the sins you do not think God has forgiven, or maybe can ever forgive. Write them down in code if necessary, but please write them down...for yourself only.

Forgiving Those Who Have Sinned Against You: Because of God's full and final forgiveness, He calls us to forgive others from our heart. Mentally go through your life. Is there any person at all whom you have not forgiven *from your heart*? If there is, forgive them now...for your sake so you are not hooked.

Thoughts

For the Group Leaders

Please remember that these groups are not designed for directive teaching, like many of us have been taught. Additionally, I have come to believe that the highest act of teaching is *drawing out* of others what is in them. Then, and only as necessary, *putting in* or *telling*. These studies are not about what you can pass on, but more of what you can encourage in others.

As a group, we want to help each other overcome any barriers that might hinder us from sharing this good news with family and friends. We will ask each person how they intend to respond each week, “*I will...*” statements. Then next week we will follow up, reinforcing this fruitful “*teaching to obey*” response that is so crucial for our flourishing growth.

Active participation switches on our natural desire to learn. So an important responsibility for those who lead is to provide space for each person to learn. Therefore, we want to pass the group leadership around after the leader models a couple weeks. The brief intro can be read before the passage to give the group a focus. The three questions can be used to stimulate mutual dialog (or bring your own). Also, encourage each to put what they think the passage is saying in their own words. Since we are not the “answer man,” when a group leader is asked what the passage means, we will often turn this around by asking: “*What do you think it means?*”

Our learning accelerates as we respond to what we are learning. This is especially true when we share with someone we know about what we have learned this week. Even though the group will be asked to put truth into action, and pass it along to one person they know, each member is still free to choose his/her own level of involvement. Each is most welcome to come and be with us whatever the level of involvement. It’s crucial to provide space for each person to grow at their own rate since each is a unique individual. As group leaders, be sure to provide the space each one needs. Additional teaching tips available on my website under the “*For Teachers*” tab.

Jim Fredericks
Yorba Linda, CA

Dedication:

My heartfelt thanks goes out to those over the years who have been God’s instruments in my spiritual growth. They have grown alongside me in community-learning groups that are intent on multiplying disciples, that is, learners and followers of Jesus. Thanks for your love, honest openness, and willingness to let me use you as human guinea pigs in experimenting over the years to multiply disciples in a “*whole-person*” approach that respects both individual responsibility and community mutuality. I have a passion to be one a guide on our Christian journey, and to release the sleeping giant within. In addition to the “*Meet Jesus...*” series, this is why I have written a series of eight 5-week “*Building Blocks*” on these essentials for our Christian journey. As special thanks to Pastor Jamie Gillentine for his vision to keep the format simple and reproducible.

Additional Resources Available

When you complete this “*Meet Jesus...*” 5-week study, **free** PDF downloads for the other two in the “*Meet Jesus...*” series are available on my web site @ **JimFredericks.com** under the “*Engage God’s Love-Letter*” tab. -friendly resources. Also, “*Companion toward LifeChange*” has eight 5-week next-level user-friendly studies to build key books solidly into our lives.

Jim Fredericks

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