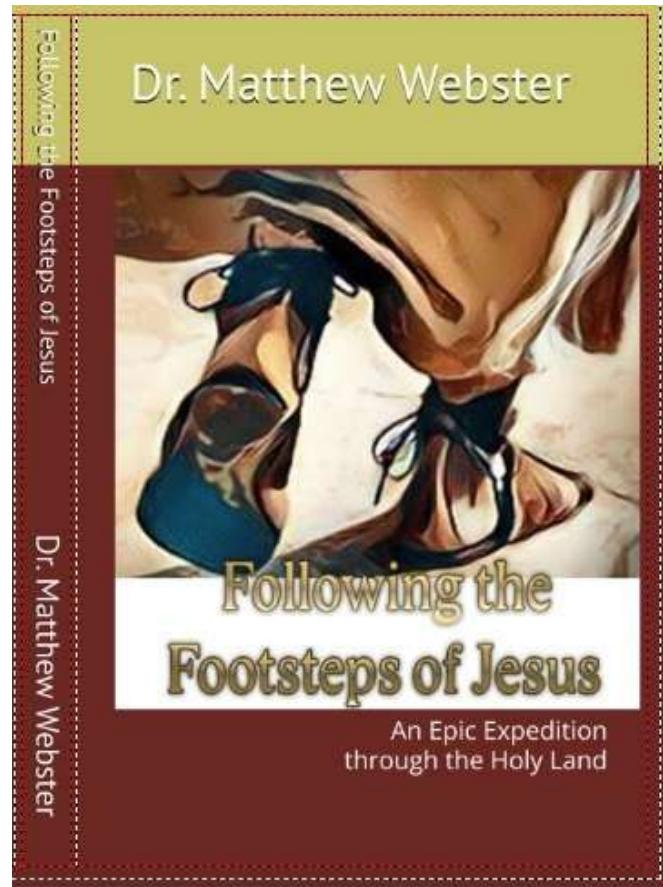


**Following in the Footsteps of Jesus —  
An Epic Expedition Through the Holy Land**  
*An 8-week Journey of Presence, Revelation, and Grace*  
By Dr. Matthew Webster



## **How to Use This Course:**

### **Following in the Footsteps of Jesus — An Epic Expedition Through the Holy Land**

*An 8-week Journey of Presence, Revelation, and Grace*  
By Dr. Matthew Webster

Welcome to *Following in the Footsteps of Jesus*. This is not just a study — it's a sacred expedition.

Whether you've been walking with Jesus for years or are just beginning to explore what it means to follow Him, this course is your invitation to encounter Christ in the very places He walked — not only geographically, but spiritually.

Each session is designed to guide you through the rich biblical, historical, and prophetic insights of Jesus' journey, while helping you discover your own place in His unfolding story of grace. You'll find that this isn't just a tour through Israel — it's a soul-level encounter with the One who still calls us, "Follow Me."

Here's how to make the most of this 8-week journey:

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#### **1. Weekly Theme + Teaching**

Each week begins with a theme rooted in the locations of Jesus' ministry — from Bethlehem's humble beginnings to the border-breaking power of Samaria.

#### **What to do:**

- Read slowly and prayerfully.
- Picture the places, but more importantly, listen for the presence of Jesus.
- Let the Holy Spirit reveal how grace is still moving in the deserts, villages, and seas of your own life.

#### **Why it matters:**

These truths aren't just historical — they're deeply personal. You'll discover that the places Jesus walked are still speaking, and His grace is still guiding your steps.

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## 2. Chapter Reading from the Book

Each session includes a chapter (or chapters) from *Following in the Footsteps of Jesus*. These chapters blend biblical events with historical context and personal application.

### **What to do:**

- Read with a journal or highlighter in hand.
- Let the insights open your heart to how Jesus moved — and how He's still moving.

### **Why it matters:**

This is more than information — it's an invitation. These reflections are designed to bring ancient soil and sacred truths into your present reality.

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## 3. Learning Objectives

Each week outlines key takeaways so you know what spiritual truths and insights to focus on.

### **What to do:**

- Review them before reading the chapter.
- Reflect on whether you see these forming in your life.

### **Why it matters:**

Transformation isn't about speed — it's about direction. These objectives help you track your journey with purpose.

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## 4. Reflection Questions (Personal Journal)

You'll be prompted each week to process how the stories and places intersect with your own walk.

### **What to do:**

- Write honestly and prayerfully.
- Don't rush. Let the Lord speak.

### **Why it matters:**

These questions are spiritual excavation tools. They help you uncover what

God is doing in the layers of your life, just like He did in the hills of Galilee and the valleys of Samaria.

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## **5. Prayer Prompt**

Each session includes a prayer rooted in the weekly theme, inviting you into communion with Jesus.

### **What to do:**

- Pray it aloud, or write your own prayer in response.
- Revisit it throughout your week.

### **Why it matters:**

Prayer turns reading into relationship. This is where your spirit aligns with Jesus' footsteps — not just learning about Him, but walking with Him.

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## **6. Memory Verse**

Each week features a verse to help anchor the truth in your heart and renew your mind.

### **What to do:**

- Memorize it. Post it. Meditate on it.
- Let it frame your week with grace.

### **Why it matters:**

God's Word grounds you when life feels like shifting sand. These verses are guideposts on the path of grace.

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## **7. Group Discussion Questions (Optional)**

If you're journeying through this course with others, the group questions are designed to spark meaningful conversations and deeper connections. What makes this course unique is that the small group questions in the book differ from those provided here in this course. Feel free to use any of the additional questions from the book's chapters to enrich your group discussions even further.

### 👉 **What to do:**

- Be real. Share your story. Listen well.
- Let grace be louder than performance.

### 👉 **Why it matters:**

We follow Jesus better together. The early church was born from those who walked and talked along the way, just like you'll do in this course.

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## ❖ **8. Practical Application (Optional)**

Each week gives you a hands-on activity to live out what you're learning in a fresh way.

### 👉 **What to do:**

- Embrace the challenge or action step.
- Journal the experience. What changed?

### 👉 **Why it matters:**

Grace isn't theory — it's tangible. When you live what you learn, your faith becomes a journey others can follow too.

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## 💡 **9. Weekly Reflection Prompts**

Simple prompts to take the week's truth deeper into your rhythms, choices, and daily awareness.

### 👉 **What to do:**

- Use them during quiet time, walks, or journal entries.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to speak through them.

### 👉 **Why it matters:**

The journey of faith is walked one step at a time. These questions keep your heart aligned to grace, even when you leave the page.

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## ⌚ Final Encouragement

This course will lead you through deserts, seas, temples, and towns — but more than that, it will lead you into deeper intimacy with Jesus. Every location you visit is not just part of His story — it's part of yours.

He still walks with you. He still speaks in the margins. He still breaks barriers. And He still calls:

**“Follow Me.”**

Let His footsteps become your path.  
Let His grace shape your walk.  
Let this journey mark your life forever.

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## **Week 1: Welcome to the Journey – Grace That Walks With Us**

### **Theme: You're Invited to Walk Where Grace Has Walked**

**"Jesus didn't just teach from Heaven – He stepped into real places so you could follow Him with confidence and intimacy."**

Welcome to *Following in the Footsteps of Jesus: An Epic Expedition through the Holy Land*. This isn't just a geography lesson or a historical tour — it's a soul-deep invitation to walk with Jesus through the very places where He lived, loved, served, and saved.

This course will take you on a journey through the land of the Bible — but even more than that, it will walk you into the heart of the One who still says, "Come, follow Me."

You'll discover how physical places carry spiritual meaning... and how each step Jesus took reveals grace, truth, and purpose for your life today.

Each week, you'll explore the real locations of Jesus' ministry and learn what those places still speak into your life.

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### **Reading: Introduction & Chapter 1 — Bethlehem's Blessed Birth**

 Read pages 7-20.

### **Key Scriptures:**

- Luke 2:4-7
- Micah 5:2
- Philippians 2:5-8
- John 6:35
- John 1:29

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### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this week, you will:

- Recognize Jesus as the Bread of Life and the Lamb of God.
- Reflect on how Bethlehem's humble beginnings point to God's heart.
- Understand how geography and prophecy intersect in revealing Jesus.
- Identify where you're beginning your own spiritual journey with Jesus.

✿ **Reflection Questions (Personal Journal):**

1. Why do you think God chose Bethlehem — a humble, quiet town — for the birth of His Son?
2. What does the imagery of the manger teach you about how God reveals Himself?
3. How does understanding that Jesus was born to die change your view of Christmas — and of your purpose?
4. What personal “Bethlehem” moment can you look back on — a place where God met you in humility?

### **Prayer Prompt:**

“Father, thank You for choosing Bethlehem — a place of humility and fruitfulness — to bring forth Your Son. Thank You that You meet me in the quiet, overlooked places of life. Help me to begin this journey with open eyes and an open heart. Nourish me with the Bread of Life and lead me step by step with Your grace. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.”

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### **Memory Verse:**

#### **John 6:35:**

“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.’”

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### **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the prophecy in Micah 5:2 deepen your appreciation for the birth of Jesus?
2. What stands out to you about Bethlehem’s symbolism: House of Bread and Place of Fruitfulness?
3. The manger and swaddling cloths were signs to the shepherds. What are signs of grace God has shown you?

4. How does Jesus' birth foreshadow His death and resurrection — and why does that matter today?

5. What would it look like for you to "feed" on Jesus as the Bread of Life this week?

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### ❖ Practical Application: "Bread & Table" Challenge

**Set a literal table of grace this week. Here's how:**

- Prepare or buy a simple loaf of bread.
- Set it on your table with a candle or a note that says, "Jesus, the Bread of Life."
- As you eat, pause to give thanks. Reflect on how Jesus came to nourish you spiritually.
- Write down one way you've seen God provide spiritual sustenance lately.

 **Journal Prompt:**

"What has God placed on my table that I've overlooked? How can I begin to see it as daily bread?"

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### ❖ Questions to Carry Into the Week:

- What area of my life feels like a stable or manger — low, overlooked, messy?
- Where is Jesus showing up in unexpected humility?
- How can I live with more gratitude for the grace already given?

## **Week 2: Jerusalem – The City of the King**

### **Theme: Where Heaven Touched Earth**

**“Jesus didn’t just visit the temple — He became the new and living temple where we meet with God forever.”**

This week, we follow Jesus into Jerusalem — the heartbeat of worship, prophecy, and passion. From His first visit as a child to His last steps toward the cross, Jerusalem wasn’t just a place Jesus passed through — it was where He revealed His identity, mission, and love in the most profound ways.

In Jerusalem, Jesus taught, healed, wept, turned over tables, and ultimately laid down His life. He fulfilled every festival, prophecy, and promise, not with rituals, but with relationship.

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### **Reading: Chapter 2 — *Journeys into Jerusalem***

 Read pages 22-54.

### **Key Scriptures:**

- Luke 2:41-42
- John 2:19-21
- John 8:12
- Matthew 21:12-13
- John 14:6
- Deuteronomy 16:16

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### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this week, you will:

- Understand Jerusalem’s central role in Jesus’ mission.
  - Discover how Jesus fulfilled the Old Covenant temple system.
  - Reflect on how Jesus, the true Light and Temple, invites us to worship from the heart.
  - Recognize your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit.
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 **Reflection Questions (Personal Journal):**

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the true Temple — the meeting place between God and humanity?
2. How does Jesus' teaching in all areas of the temple (Gentile, Women, Israel) show His inclusive love?
3. What does the "Light of the World" mean in the context of the Feast of Tabernacles?
4. Where in your life do you need Jesus to overturn what's become transactional or empty?

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 **Prayer Prompt:**

"Jesus, thank You for becoming the Temple where I meet with God, not in stone buildings, but in Spirit and truth. Cleanse my heart of distractions, idols, and pride. Light up my life with Your presence so that I can reflect Your love in all I do. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

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 **Memory Verse:****John 14:6:**

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

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 **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What were the three festivals men were required to attend in Jerusalem? Why were they significant?
2. Jesus overturned tables in the Court of the Gentiles. What message does this send about who is welcome in God's house?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" in the context of the temple's layout?
4. How is the cleansing of the temple a prophetic act? What does it tell us about Jesus' authority?

5. How might knowing that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit impact our everyday lives?

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### **Practical Application: “Temple Audit” Exercise**

Take time this week to reflect on your life as a temple for God’s glory. Here’s how:

1. Find a quiet place to pray and ask: “Jesus, what tables in my life need turning?”
2. Write down areas where you’ve allowed busyness, comparison, or legalism to creep in.
3. Choose one area to surrender or simplify this week (e.g., social media fast, digital detox, etc.)
4. In its place, create space for meaningful worship, Scripture reading, or stillness with God.

 **Journal Prompt:**

“If Jesus walked into my life like He did the temple, what would change in my daily routine?

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### **Questions to Carry Into the Week:**

- How do I approach God — like a tourist, a consumer, or a worshiper?
  - What needs to be turned over in me so I can fully embrace grace?
  - How does seeing Jesus as the true Temple change the way I see my own worth?
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## **Week 3: Wilderness & Wonder – Desert, Bethany, Jericho, and Ephraim**

### **Theme: When God Moves in the Margins**

**“In barren places and quiet towns, Jesus performs His most personal, powerful work — and prepares us for the journey ahead.”**

This week, we walk alongside Jesus into the Judean Desert and through villages like Bethany, Jericho, and Ephraim. Each of these locations tells a story of contrast — isolation and intimacy, weakness and wonder, loss and resurrection.

In the desert, Jesus faced warfare. In Bethany, He raised the dead. In Jericho, He restored the rejected. And in Ephraim, He withdrew before His final mission. These were not grand platforms — they were sacred margins where grace flowed freely.

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### **Reading: Chapters 3–6**

- *Judean Desert: Wilderness Warfare*
- *Blessings of Bethany and Bethphage*
- *Jericho’s Miracles*
- *Exploring Ephraim*

 Read pages 56-96.

### **Key Scriptures:**

- Matthew 4:1-11
- John 11:25-44
- Luke 19:1-10
- John 11:54
- Psalm 63:1
- Isaiah 43:19

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### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this week, you will:

- Identify how God uses wilderness seasons to prepare and empower us.
- Understand how resurrection and restoration are connected to grace.

- Discover how Jesus notices and redeems the overlooked (like Zacchaeus).
- Learn the value of retreating with God before stepping into purpose.

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 **Reflection Questions (Personal Journal):**

1. What wilderness have you walked through recently? What did you learn about yourself and God there?
2. In Bethany, Jesus waited before healing Lazarus. How does this challenge your expectations of God's timing?
3. What does Zacchaeus' story teach you about Jesus' heart for the rejected?
4. Why is it important to make space like Ephraim — a pause before the purpose?

 **Prayer Prompt:**

"Lord, thank You that You meet me in both deserts and villages. Help me trust You in the silence and believe You for resurrection in hopeless places. May I always be willing to pause and retreat with You before stepping into what's next. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

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 **Memory Verse:****John 11:25:**

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die.'"

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 **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What lessons can we draw from Jesus' temptation in the Judean wilderness? How do they relate to spiritual warfare today?
2. Why did Jesus wait to raise Lazarus? What does this reveal about His timing and glory?
3. Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. What "trees" do people climb today out of desperation or hope?

4. How do you create “Ephraim moments” — intentional withdrawal for spiritual renewal?

5. Which of these four places speaks most to your current season — and why?

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### ❖ Practical Application: “Grace in the Margins” Walk

Take a prayer walk in a safe, quiet, or overlooked place (a wooded trail, downtown area, park, etc.) and:

- Ask God to speak through the silence.
- Look for symbols of beauty in broken places — take a photo or make a note.
- End your walk by journaling this: “What did I see in the margin that reminded me of God’s grace?”

Optional: Create a “Margins Journal” and add weekly moments when God met you in unexpected ways.

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### 💡 Questions to Carry Into the Week:

- Where do I need to pause rather than push forward?
- How is God preparing me in quiet or overlooked spaces?
- Who around me might be waiting, like Zacchaeus, to be seen by grace?

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### ❤️ Week 4: Galilean Grace – Nazareth, Cana, and Capernaum

## **Theme: Where the Ordinary Meets the Miraculous**

**“God doesn’t wait for perfect settings — He moves through hometowns, weddings, and worn-out hearts to reveal His glory.”**

This week, we journey through Galilee, where Jesus’ ministry blossomed in unexpected ways. From His humble beginnings in Nazareth, to His first public miracle in Cana, and the healing wonders in Capernaum — each moment reveals the heartbeat of Jesus’ grace: meeting people where they are, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Whether rejected by His own or received by the desperate, Jesus continued to reveal the Kingdom — not through spectacle, but through love.

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### **Reading: Chapters 7–9**

- *Nazareth & the Nile*
- *Cana’s Celebration*
- *Capernaum: A Center for Christ’s Ministry*

 Read pages 98-131.

### **Key Scriptures:**

- Luke 4:16-30
  - John 2:1-11
  - Matthew 8:5-13
  - Isaiah 61:1-2
  - John 6:68-69
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### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this week, you will:

- Understand how Jesus’ rejection in Nazareth affirms His identity as the suffering servant.
- Discover the spiritual significance of Jesus’ first miracle at Cana.
- Recognize Capernaum as a model of faith-filled living and Kingdom encounters.
- Apply grace in the “ordinary places” of your own life.

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 **Reflection Questions (Personal Journal):**

1. How do you relate to Jesus being rejected in His hometown? Have you experienced rejection for your faith?
2. What does the miracle at Cana teach you about timing, trust, and transformation?
3. Jesus healed a Roman centurion's servant from a distance. What does this say about the power of His word?
4. How do you respond when God moves in ways that are quiet, surprising, or different from your expectations?

 **Prayer Prompt:**

"Jesus, thank You for walking into common places and bringing uncommon grace. Help me trust that You are present in the ordinary moments — and that Your power still transforms the everyday. I offer You my lack, my water, and I invite You to turn it into wine. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

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 **Memory Verse:****John 2:11:**

"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which He revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in Him."

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 **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think Jesus' own hometown rejected Him? What does this teach us about familiarity and faith?
2. What spiritual symbolism is found in Jesus turning water into wine?
3. How does Mary's statement, "Do whatever He tells you," challenge us in our walk with Christ?

4. Capernaum became a hub for Jesus' ministry. What made it different from Nazareth?
5. How can we cultivate a Capernaum-like atmosphere — one of expectancy and faith — in our lives?

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### **Practical Application: "Water to Wine" Faith Step**

Choose one ordinary activity this week (washing dishes, commuting, preparing a meal) and intentionally turn it into worship:

- Play worship music.
- Reflect on how God uses everyday moments for extraordinary encounters.
- End your task by praying: "Jesus, I invite You to fill my ordinary with Your extraordinary."

 **Journal Prompt:**

What's one area of my life where I need to believe that Jesus can turn "water into wine"?

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### **Questions to Carry Into the Week:**

- Am I limiting God to only work in grand or emotional moments?
- What does it look like to live with Cana faith, expectant even in the mundane?
- Where might Jesus be calling me to "pour water" so He can do the miraculous?

## **Week 5: On the Waters and the Hills – Sea of Galilee, Nain, Gennesaret, Dalmanutha & Bethsaida**

### **Theme: When Faith Meets the Storm and the Silence**

**"In every wave and whisper, Jesus speaks peace, multiplies grace, and raises what we thought was dead."**

This week, we sail with Jesus on stormy seas, climb hills of miracles, and enter villages touched by divine compassion. Whether calming the winds, feeding multitudes, or raising the dead, Jesus reveals a God who is not distant, but deeply involved in every detail of our lives.

From the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida, Jesus walks, teaches, touches, and transforms. Through both crisis and calm, He shows us that faith isn't forged in comfort — it's revealed in chaos and resurrected on mountaintops.

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#### **Reading: Chapters 10–13** Read pages 133-171.

- *Sailing the Sea of Galilee*
- *New Life in Nain & Glimpses of Glory on Mount Tabor*
- *Gennesaret's Grace*
- *Dalmanutha/Magadan & Bethsaida's Divine Encounters*

 Read pages 133-171.

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#### **Key Scriptures:**

- Mark 4:35-41
- Luke 7:11-17
- Matthew 14:13-21
- Mark 8:22-26
- John 6:19-21

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#### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this week, you will:

- Recognize how Jesus meets us in storms, silence, and scarcity.
- Explore the depth of His compassion for the grieving and hungry.
- Discover the meaning of progressive healing and how God works in stages.

- Reflect on what it means to follow Jesus with mountain-top faith and valley surrender.

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 **Reflection Questions (Personal Journal):**

1. What “storm” has Jesus calmed in your life — or is calming now?
2. How does Jesus’ compassion toward the widow at Nain encourage you in your own grief or loss?
3. In the feeding of the 5,000, what does Jesus teach us about surrendering what little we have?
4. What do you make of the two-stage healing in Bethsaida? Have you ever experienced God’s work in layers?

 **Prayer Prompt:**

"Jesus, You meet me in the storm and on the shore. You are my peace in chaos, my provision in lack, my healer in brokenness. Teach me to trust Your process — even when it comes in waves. You are enough. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

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 **Memory Verse:****Mark 4:39:**

"He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm."

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 **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What stands out most to you about Jesus calming the storm? How would you have reacted?
2. Why do you think Jesus raised the widow's son at Nain? What does this tell us about His nature?
3. In Gennesaret, people begged just to touch the edge of Jesus' cloak. What does this level of faith look like today?

4. The healing in Bethsaida was gradual — why do you think Jesus chose to heal this way?

5. Where in your life are you trusting Jesus for a second touch?

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### **✖ Practical Application: “Storm-Stiller” Card**

This week, write down a situation that feels out of control — a storm in your life. On the back of the card, write:

**“Peace. Be still” (Mark 4:39).**

Place it in a visible spot, and each time you see it:

- Speak those words aloud over the situation.
- Thank Jesus for being with you in the boat.

Optional: Give a blank card to someone facing a storm and pray with them.

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### **💡 Questions to Carry Into the Week:**

- What small offering can I place in Jesus’ hands and watch Him multiply?
  - Where have I been asking for a miracle, but resisting His method?
  - How can I be someone’s “second touch” — encouraging their healing, not rushing it?
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## **Week 6: River of Renewal – Bethany Beyond the Jordan**

### **Theme: Where Identity Is Spoken and Calling Begins**

**“Before Jesus performed a single miracle, the Father declared Him beloved – and He says the same of you.”**

This week, we travel to *Bethany beyond the Jordan*, the sacred site of Jesus' baptism. This wasn't just a ritual — it was a divine revelation. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus affirmed obedience, the Father affirmed identity, and the Spirit empowered purpose.

We are invited to that same place — a river where shame is washed away, calling is affirmed, and Heaven declares: “You are My beloved.” Before you serve, succeed, or struggle, you are already accepted in His Son.

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### **Reading: Chapter 14 – Bethany beyond the Jordan’s Jubilation**

 Read pages 173-192.

### **Key Scriptures:**

- Matthew 3:13-17
- John 1:28-34
- Romans 6:3-4
- Isaiah 43:1-2
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

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### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this week, you will:

- Understand the significance of Jesus' baptism as the launch of His public ministry.
  - Explore how identity precedes action in the Kingdom of God.
  - Reflect on your own baptism (or spiritual new beginning) and what it represents.
  - Embrace the truth that you are God's beloved, even before doing anything “for” Him.
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 **Reflection Questions (Personal Journal):**

1. Why do you think Jesus insisted on being baptized, even though He was sinless?
2. What does it mean to you that the Father called Jesus “beloved” before He ever performed a miracle?
3. Have you ever struggled with tying your worth to your works? How does the Jordan moment break that mindset?
4. What part of your identity do you need the Spirit to reaffirm this week?

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 **Prayer Prompt:**

“Father, thank You that I am not defined by what I do, but by whose I am. Speak over me again that I am Your beloved child, washed and raised to

new life. Let my identity in Christ be the foundation of everything I think, say, and do. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

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 **Memory Verse:**

**Matthew 3:17:**

"And a voice from Heaven said, 'This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'"

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 **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Why was Jesus baptized — and what did it reveal to the people watching?
2. How is Jesus' baptism a model for our own identity formation and commissioning?
3. What does it mean to live "from approval" rather than "for approval"?
4. In what ways can we daily remember our baptism — or the grace that brought us new life?

5. How can hearing “You are My beloved” change how we face fear, rejection, or criticism?

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### **❖ Practical Application: “Beloved” Mirror Challenge**

Write this on a sticky note and place it on your mirror:

**“I am God’s beloved child. He is pleased with me, not because of what I do, but because of who I am in Christ.”**

Every morning this week:

- Read it aloud with confidence.
- Ask: “How would I live today if I truly believed this?”

 Bonus: Revisit your baptism memory (or journal a symbolic baptism moment if not baptized) and write what it meant to you.

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### **💡 Questions to Carry Into the Week:**

- Am I still trying to earn what God has already freely given?
  - What fear or false identity needs to be drowned in the waters of grace?
  - How would living as “beloved” change the way I treat others this week?
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## **Week 7: Border Breaker – Tyre, Sidon, & Caesarea Philippi**

### **Theme: When Grace Crosses Every Line**

**“Jesus didn’t avoid hard places — He entered them to reveal who He was and who we can become through Him.”**

In Week 7, Jesus leads us far beyond the comfortable and expected — into Gentile territory, religious strongholds, and the shadow of pagan altars. Tyre and Sidon were outside Israel’s religious borders, yet Jesus brought healing there. In Caesarea Philippi, He made a world-changing declaration: “Upon this rock I will build My church.”

These were spiritually dark regions, yet they became bright moments of revelation. You’ll discover that grace is never limited by geography, status, or background. Jesus steps over borders — cultural, spiritual, and emotional — to meet us and send us.

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### **Reading: Chapters 15–16**

- *Tyre and Sidon’s Surprises*
- *Caesarea Philippi: The Gates of Hades*

 Read pages 194-217.

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### **Key Scriptures:**

- Matthew 15:21-28
- Mark 7:24-30
- Matthew 16:13-20
- Romans 10:12-13
- Ephesians 2:13-14

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### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this week, you will:

- Recognize that no one is outside the reach of God’s grace.
- Understand the significance of Peter’s confession at Caesarea Philippi.
- Learn how Jesus empowers us to confront spiritual strongholds with truth and authority.

- Reflect on the identity and mission of the Church as a people of revelation and resilience.

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 **Reflection Questions (Personal Journal):**

1. What does the faith of the Canaanite woman in Tyre teach you about persistence and humility?
2. Jesus praised a Gentile woman's faith and healed her daughter. What lines is He challenging you to cross with grace?
3. What does Peter's confession — "You are the Christ" — mean to you personally?
4. Are there any "gates of Hades" (areas of darkness or fear) you need to confront in Jesus' name?

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 **Prayer Prompt:**

"Jesus, thank You for stepping into the places others avoid — and for building Your Church where darkness once ruled. Help me carry Your light into difficult places, speak Your name boldly, and trust that no border can hold back Your grace. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

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 **Memory Verse:****Matthew 16:18:**

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

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 **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think Jesus traveled to Tyre and Sidon, and what surprises did He reveal there?
2. How does the story of the persistent woman challenge cultural and religious boundaries?
3. What is the importance of Peter declaring Jesus as the Christ in Caesarea Philippi?
4. How do you interpret “the gates of Hades will not overcome it”? What does that mean for the Church today?

5. Where is God calling you to step outside your comfort zone to bring grace?

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### **Practical Application: “Cross the Line” Grace Act**

This week, take one intentional action that crosses a “border” in your life — cultural, relational, emotional, or spiritual:

- Reach out to someone very different from you.
- Forgive where offense has drawn a line.
- Speak life into a spiritually dark situation.

 **Journal Prompt:**

What line did you cross this week — and how did God meet you there?

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### **Questions to Carry Into the Week:**

- Where have I drawn boundaries that Jesus wants to break through?
- What areas in my life do I need to declare, “Jesus, You are the Christ (Messiah)”?
- How can I be the Church — not just in the sanctuary, but in the world?

## **Week 8: The Final Stretch – Decapolis & Samaria**

### **Theme: When Outsiders Become Messengers**

**“Jesus didn’t just pass through forbidden places — He transformed them. And now, He sends us to do the same.”**

We end our journey in two regions that many Jews would have avoided — the **Decapolis** and **Samaria**. But Jesus was never about avoiding people — He was about reaching them. In these territories filled with spiritual darkness, cultural tension, and rejection, Jesus demonstrated unstoppable grace and revealed that the Gospel is for all people.

In the Decapolis, He sent a formerly demon-possessed man to become a witness. In Samaria, He sat with a woman burdened by shame and gave her living water. These weren’t chance encounters — they were intentional invitations to receive grace and become proclaimers of it.

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### **Reading: Chapters 17–18**

- *Decapolis: The Declaration of a New Identity*
- *Samaria’s Streams of Salvation*

 Read pages 219-250.

### **Key Scriptures:**

- Mark 5:1-20
- John 4:1-42
- Isaiah 55:1
- Acts 1:8
- 2 Timothy 1:7-8

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### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this week, you will:

- Understand Jesus’ intentional pursuit of the marginalized and rejected.
- Discover how personal testimony can become a powerful tool for evangelism.
- Reflect on how shame is silenced through the living water of Jesus.

- Embrace your role as a Spirit-empowered witness in your own “Decapolis” and “Samaria.”

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 **Reflection Questions (Personal Journal):**

1. What does the transformation of the demon-possessed man teach you about identity and calling?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal His identity as Messiah first to a Samaritan woman?
3. How does “living water” speak to the deepest longings of your soul today?
4. Where is Jesus calling you to “go home and tell” your story of grace?

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 **Prayer Prompt:**

"Jesus, thank You for meeting me in places others would pass by. Thank You for rewriting my story and filling my soul with living water. Send me out like the man from Decapolis — like the woman from Samaria — with boldness, joy, and freedom to tell the world what You've done. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

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 **Memory Verse:****Acts 1:8:**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses... to the ends of the earth."

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 **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What stands out to you about the Decapolis man's transformation?
2. Why did Jesus send him home instead of keeping him close?

3. Why was the Samaritan woman shocked by Jesus' approach? What did His interaction reveal about His character?

#### 4. How can personal testimonies be used to open hearts to the Gospel?

5. In what ways are you currently witnessing — not just through words, but through your life?

6. Where is your “Decapolis” or “Samaria” — a place or group that needs to hear your story?

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## ❖ Practical Application: “Living Water Testimony”

Write out a brief (3–5 minute) testimony that answers these three prompts:

- **Before Jesus** – What was my thirst?
- **Meeting Jesus** – How did He find and restore me?
- **After Jesus** – How is my life different now?

Then, choose one of the following:

- Share it with a friend, small group, or family member.
- Record a video or write a blog/social post to encourage others.
- Offer it in prayer and ask God for the opportunity to share it soon.

 Bonus: Ask God, “Where are You sending me with this story?”

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## 💡 Questions to Carry Into the Week:

- What’s my Decapolis — the place I never thought I’d return to, now transformed into my mission field?
- Am I still trying to draw water from broken wells, or have I received the living water of Christ?
- How will I continue walking in the footsteps of Jesus beyond this study?

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## 🌟 Final Encouragement: Your Journey Doesn’t End Here

You’ve walked where Jesus walked — through hills, deserts, and villages. But more importantly, you’ve journeyed into His heart of grace.

Remember:

You are not just a student of Jesus’ footsteps — you are a **follower**.

You are not just one who receives grace — you are a **carrier** of it.

You are not just going through a course — you are walking into your **calling**.

So take the next step... and keep following Jesus.

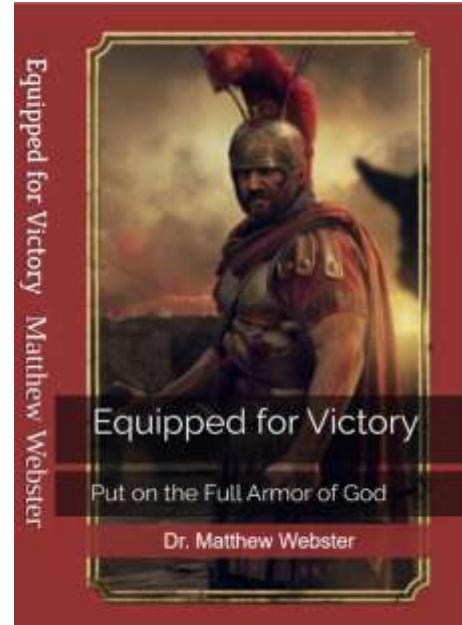
## ➡ Coming Next: Equipped for Victory –Put on the Full Armor of God

You've walked the roads of Galilee. You've stood on holy ground where grace broke through the dust of humanity. You've followed in the footsteps of Jesus — and discovered that every place He walked invites you into deeper intimacy and greater purpose.

Now, it's time to **stand firm** in that calling.

### ⌚ Your Next Journey: *Equipped for Victory*

*Put on the Full Armor of God and step into the life of strength, purpose, and spiritual power you were created for.*



In the next course, **Equipped for Victory**, we shift from walking *with* Jesus to standing *strong* in Him. Based on Paul's powerful exhortation in Ephesians 6, this study reveals how every believer can live victoriously — not by trying harder, but by putting on the armor Christ has already won for us.

Each week, you'll explore a different piece of the Armor of God and uncover:

- What it is,
- Why it matters, and
- How to practically “put it on” in your daily life.

More than just defense, you'll discover how to move **confidently** into your God-given mission — equipped, empowered, and emboldened by His Spirit.

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### ⭐ What You Can Expect:

🌟 **Week 1: Equipped for Battle** – Understanding the reality of spiritual warfare and why the armor is essential.

🔑 **Week 2: The Belt of Truth** – Grounding your life in the unshakable truth of God's Word.

❤️ **Week 3: The Breastplate of Righteousness** – Protecting your heart with the gift of Christ's righteousness.

跣 **Week 4: The Shoes of Peace** – Walking with confidence and bringing peace into chaos.

🛡 **Week 5: The Shield of Faith** – Extinguishing doubt and fear with trust in God's promises.

🧠 **Week 6: The Helmet of Salvation** – Guarding your mind from lies and discouragement.

⚔ **Week 7: The Sword of the Spirit** – Wielding the Word of God as your offensive weapon.

Ὑ **Week 8: Praying in the Spirit** – Staying alert, connected, and empowered through prayer.

🏆 **Week 9: Living Victorious** – Standing strong in your identity and walking daily in the power of Christ.

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### 🌟 **Why This Journey Matters:**

You're not meant to just survive — you are called to overcome. Victory isn't something you fight for — it's something you fight from. The armor is already yours in Christ. Now it's time to put it on.

Whether you've been feeling spiritually weary, confused, or ready to take ground, this course will give you the biblical tools and encouragement to walk boldly into every battle, with peace in your heart and victory in your hands.

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### 👋 **Get Ready to Be Equipped. Empowered. Victorious.**

📘 *Equipped for Victory* – The next chapter of your journey with Jesus begins now.