

JESUS WORDS

62-DAY DEVOTIONAL AND
8-WEEK SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Devotions of
selected words
spoken by Jesus
chronologically
as found in the
Book of John

by
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This devotional and small group study is based on Craig Mattes' e-book devotional published in 2013 and available for download at <http://gumroad.com/l/oxtc>.

Dedicated to my loving wife Amy and God's miracle to our lives, our son Will.

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Getting the most out of **Jesus Words**

First, thank you for participating in this 62-day journey!

To get the most out of this study, here are some tips...

- **GET IN THE RED DAILY** – By red, we mean the red letters of Jesus—His spoken words. Beginning one week before your group meeting, read each day's devotion including the Bible reading from the Book of John. So before that first group meeting, you will have read days 1 thru 7.
- **GET IN THE RED ON THE WEEKENDS** – Plan to attend worship each weekend where our pastors will dive deeper into Jesus' words and where we as a larger community will grow in living out our faith together.
- **GET THE RED OUT** – Plan to fully participate in your group's efforts to relationally impact the community outside of our church walls with the love of Jesus.
- **PARTICIPATE AS A STUDY COMPONENT LEADER AT LEAST ONCE** – The group experience is richest when the body of Christ shares leadership. Don't worry. Nearly everything is scripted.

Day 1

Read John 1:1-42.

"What are you seeking?" —John 1:38

What are you seeking during this two-month journey and reflection on Jesus' words?

"Come and you will see." —John 1:39

Through Jesus be encouraged that you will find truth in what you are seeking. Jesus...is...Truth.

Day 2

Read John 1:43-51.

"Follow me." —John 1:43

Thoughts on this statement:

- Simple.
- To the point.
- Serves as a spiritual filter.
- It's an invitation and a directive for all situations we face and people we encounter.

What would you add?

What could your day look like after meditating on those two words? How might your meditating on these words impact the people in your life?

Day 3

Read John 2:1-12.

"Woman, what does this have to do with me?" [later] **"Fill the jars with water."** —John 2:4, 7

The setting: a wedding in the town of Cana.

Jesus' mother tells Him that there is no wine. And despite everything going on in the cosmos, Jesus meets the needs of a wedding party. Even in the ordinary events of our lives, He rescues. Praise to our Jesus who cares!

Where do you need Jesus today?

Day 4

Read John 2:13-25.

"Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade" —John 2:16

Jesus said these words to people buying and selling goods in the temple—God's house of worship.

Paul wrote that "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you." —1 Corinthians 6:19

What is Jesus calling you to take away (remove) that conflicts with your worship of God?

Day 5

Read John 3:1-15.

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." —John 3:14-15

Do you believe?

Is there a difference between knowing something to be true and believing in something? What is that difference?

How does (or doesn't) this impact your life?

Day 6

Read John 3:16-36.

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned..." —John 3:17-18

Is someone in your life weighed down by a seemingly unforgiveable past? What could hearing these words of Jesus mean to them?

Day 7

Read John 4:1-45.

"...whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." —John 4:14

Thirsty?

Be quenched by Jesus who fully and eternally satisfies our deepest thirst.

Group Discussion – Session One

Worship 5 minutes
– Our Redemption Response

All: Dear Jesus, thank You for bringing us together today. Bless us as we begin this new journey together, getting in the red letters, immersing ourselves in Your spoken words as found in John. As we get into the red, may we not only hear Your words, but be transformed by them so that we may get the red out into our communities, among people who desperately need to know You, Our Lord and Savior. All this we ask in the power of Your Holy Name. Amen!

Word of God 45 minutes

GET IN THE RED

Option 1
Discuss, in order, the questions presented in Day 1 thru 7's devotions.

Option 2
Discuss which reading from Day 1 thru 7 spiritually challenged you the most? Why was that? What next step Jesus is calling you to take?

Outreach 15 minutes

GET THE RED OUT

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”
–John 17:18

What can your group do to put this verse into practice?

As the red letters of Jesus pour into us, getting the red out into our communities becomes our Christ-following lifestyle.

James 1:22 (ESV) states, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

Over the next several weeks, your small group will select, plan, and initiate an effort to impact the community with Jesus' love. This effort would ideally happen before session 7's small group meeting. The nature and scope of this is up to you. It could be volunteering at a homeless shelter. It could be buying coffee for patrons at a local coffee shop with no strings attached. It could be planning an event that would bless your next door neighbors. The ideas are endless.

Here are your next steps:

1. Recruit a group member to be your GET THE RED OUT Champion. Your champion will help keep everybody moving forward with your group's idea.
2. Have your GET THE RED OUT Champion go to www.stpaulaurora.org/blog---small-groups for ideas. Your Champion can report some options back to the group at your next meeting.

Prayer 20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's Word of God and/or Outreach time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle).

Equipping 5 minutes

– for coordinating next week's meeting (mirroring St. Paul's core values)...

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| Prayer | |
| Outreach (a.k.a. Get The Red Out Champion) | |
| Word of God | |
| Equipping | |
| Worship (Our Redemption Response) | |

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Day 8

Read John 4:46-54.

"Go; your son will live." —John 4:50

Jesus said these words to an official who came to Jesus because of his gravely ill son.

Jesus hears ALL of our requests — even if He doesn't always answer them according to our wishes. Let us praise God for answered prayers that bring Him all the glory and demonstrate His love. Share those answered prayers with others.

Day 9

Read John 5:1-18.

"Do you want to be healed?"

—John 5:6

Jesus asked this of a sick man and then healed him.

How about you?

Don't hesitate to come before Jesus with your requests—whether for physical/emotional healing, mending broken relationships, etc.—whatever is on your heart. Jesus has the power to heal and the strength to take on our heaviest burdens.

Day 10

Read John 5:19-29.

"The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son."

—John 5:22

Imagine...a judge and a clearly guilty defendant. The due punishment is death. To everyone's surprise, the judge—filled with love and compassion—steps down and takes the guilty man's place.

Praise Jesus for being the judge who saves so that we may have a new life in Him!

Day 11

Read John 5:30-47.

"How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?" —John 5:44

Jesus asked this of the "God-fearing" folks who persecuted Him. A sobering, getting-to-the-truth-of-the-matter question.

What do you seek more of: glory from others or glory from God? Are you living your life for Him and Him alone?

Day 12

Read John 6:1-15.

**"Gather up the leftover fragments,
that nothing may be lost."**

—John 6:12

Jesus fed 5000 people using 5 loaves and 2 fishes. After everyone ate, His disciples gathered 12 baskets of leftovers!

How does this speak to your life? How has God blessed you from virtually nothing?

What "leftover" blessings have value enough to bless someone else?

Day 13

Read John 6:16-21.

"It is I; do not be afraid." —John 6:20

Jesus provided peace to His disciples when they were frightened by rough winds at sea.

These words mean something to us as we experience our own storms of life. The disciples reacted to Jesus' words with gladness. May we receive Jesus' comforting words in the same way and know His peace.

Day 14

Read John 6:22-59.

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." —John 6:35

Do you "feed" on things of this earth for satisfaction only to be left feeling empty, frustrated, or disappointed?

Come to Jesus today.

Receive the satisfying, lasting spiritual filling that only He can provide.

Group Discussion – Session Two

Worship 5 minutes
– Our Redemption Response

All: Almighty, everlasting God, Lord, Heavenly Father, whose Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path: Open and enlighten our minds that we may understand Your Word purely, clearly and completely. Change our lives according to Your Word. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Word of God 45 minutes

GET IN THE RED

Option 1
Discuss, in order, the questions presented in Day 8 thru 14's devotions.

Option 2
Discuss which reading from Day 8 thru 14 spiritually challenged you the most? Why was that? What next step Jesus is calling you to take?

Outreach 15 minutes

GET THE RED OUT

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”
–John 17:18

Last week we discussed that during these next several weeks your small group will select, plan, and initiate an effort which will impact the community with the love of Jesus. You also selected a GET THE RED OUT Champion.

Here are some next steps:

- Discuss your options.
- Choose your plan.
- Lay out your timeline. What needs to happen by when?
- Who in your group will do what?
- Begin to get things organized.
- Feel free to use blank pages at back of booklet for taking notes.
- What are we missing?
- Pray!

Prayer 20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's Word of God and/or Outreach time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle).

Equipping 5 minutes

– for coordinating next week's meeting (mirroring St. Paul's core values)...

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Day 15

Read John 6:60-71.

"Do you want to go away as well?"

—John 6:67

Jesus asked this of His disciples who remained with Him after others had left.

What about you?

Do you respond like Peter, who said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life...you are the Holy One of God." —John 6:68

What does this mean as you move forward in your life?

Day 16

Read John 7:1-24.

"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

—John 7:24

How challenging is this?

Have you been burned, frustrated, and/or judged by what people assume by just looking at you?

As we experience Jesus' love, let us first look at everyone through God's eyes. Let us really get to know others, seek to understand, and simply listen with humility.

Life changing!

Day 17

Read John 7:25-31.

"You know me, and you know where I come from?" —John 7:28

With these words, Jesus countered the claims of those who "knew" where He came from. But they didn't know that the Father had sent Jesus to save us.

Do you know this as the truth?

If "yes," how does this truth then compel you to live?

If "no," what convinces you otherwise?

Day 18

Read John 7:32-36.

"You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." —John 7:36

Those who heard Jesus say these words could not understand what He meant at that time. But we can see how it was God's plan for Jesus to go it alone (where we could not come), die for our sins, then rise from the dead, defeating sin and death.

Praise Him!

Day 19

Review John 7:32-52.

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" —John 7:37-38

Do you see evidence of Jesus' living water flowing out of your heart?

Ask a friend or family member if he/she sees evidence of the living water of Jesus in your life. Or is something else flowing from you?

Day 20

Read John 7:53, 8:1-11.

**"Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."
—John 8:11**

Jesus made this promise to an adulterous woman who was about to be stoned — that is, until Jesus convicted the people ready to stone her of their own sins.

Paul confirmed, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." —Romans 8:1

How do you respond to Jesus' promise and Paul's statement?

Day 21

Read John 8:12-30.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." —John 8:12

Not sure where you are going?
Directionless? Lost? Missing purpose?
Need a light?

Jesus is it—or rather—He is the Light.
Follow Him.

Then...as He guides you, you will discover more and more of His awesome plan for you!

Group Discussion – Session Three

Worship 5 minutes

– Our Redemption Response

Read The Apostles' Creed together:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Word of God 45 minutes

GET IN THE RED

Option 1

Discuss, in order, the questions presented in Day 15 thru 21's devotions.

Option 2

Discuss which reading from Day 15 thru 21 spiritually challenged you the most? Why was that? What next step Jesus is calling you to take?

Outreach 15 minutes

GET THE RED OUT

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

–John 17:18

Continue planning your GET THE RED OUT initiative. What details still need to be taken care of? Who are those outside of your group, maybe even your friends who do not-yet-know Jesus, you could invite to be a part of your plans?

Prayer 20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's Word of God and/or Outreach time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle).

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Day 22

Read John 7:31-38.

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples..." —John 8:31

Our Disciple Litmus Test—abiding in God's Word and His teachings, all of which we find in the Bible.

It is 100% Jesus' work in saving us. But abiding in Him is how we freely respond to His amazing love.

Look up the word "abide." What does it mean? What does it mean in the context of the verse above?

Day 23

Read John 8:39-47.

"Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word." —John 8:43

What gets in the way of people who cannot bear to hear the truth of Jesus? Pride, self-centeredness, stubbornness, materialism? Do you have more to add to the list?

What gets in your way of better understanding Jesus?

Pray for ears to hear the truth.

Day 24

Read John 8:48-59.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." —John 8:51

Look up the definition of "keep."

You may own a Bible sitting on a shelf collecting dust. You may have the Bible on your mobile device hidden among a collection of apps.

Are those ways of "keeping" Jesus' word? Or does Jesus mean something else?

Day 25

Read John 9:1-41.

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
—John 9:35

I love the questions Jesus asked during his time on Earth that we can answer today.

Do you believe in Jesus?

If "yes," then how does your belief manifest itself as something tangible that can be seen and caught by others?

If "no," what is getting in the way of you believing?

Day 26

Read John 10:1-21.

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." —John 10:10

Jesus spoke of His followers having an abundant life.

Is your life fruitful?

Jesus provides the blessing (in many different ways). Have you allowed weeds and obstructions get in the way of experiencing an abounding life? What needs to go?

Day 27

Read John 10:22-42.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."
—John 10:27

Being known is one of humankind's greatest needs. That the God of the Universe knows me...wow...I find that simply amazing!

He knows all of my failings, my warts and imperfections, and yet...He loves me. That is why I follow Him!

What about you?

Day 28

Read John 11:1-16.

"If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."
—John 11:9-10

Do you desire to avoid stumbling?

Following Jesus is like walking in the light!

Continue in His Word (the Bible) each day so that you can clearly see His path.

Group Discussion – Session Four

Worship 5 minutes

– Our Redemption Response

All: Dear Lord, thank you for loving us. We come into your presence with the hope and expectation that we will be filled with your truth and the message of your love. Send your Holy Spirit to bind us together and to help us grow in our faith. Amen.

Word of God 45 minutes

GET IN THE RED

Option 1

Discuss, in order, the questions presented in Day 22 thru 28's devotions.

Option 2

Discuss which reading from Day 22 thru 28 spiritually challenged you the most? Why was that? What next step Jesus is calling you to take?

Outreach 15 minutes

GET THE RED OUT

**“As you sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.”**

–John 17:18

What details remain? What needs to be taken care of to fulfill your plans? Review who is doing what and talk through any other logistics.

Prayer 20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's Word of God and/or Outreach time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle).

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Day 29

Read John 11:17-27.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

—John 11:25-26

Do you?

What does your belief in Jesus mean to you? How does it rank at the same level of other things you believe in or that shape your entire belief system?

Day 30

Read John 11:28-37.

"Where have you laid him?"

—John 11:34

Seems like a pretty ordinary question, right? Not something entirely profound...yet it was said by Jesus during a most human moment of struggle —the death of his dear friend Lazarus. Following His question, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35).

How amazing Jesus is! To save His people, the God of the Universe actually came down to be among us. He was with His people as they celebrated. He was with His people as they mourned. Let us praise our most loving, most amazing, incarnational God!

Day 31

Read John 11:38-57.

"Lazarus, come out." —John 11:43

Jesus called that out to His dear friend whom He had raised from the grave.

If Jesus were to call, "[Your name], come out," what would He be calling you from? Out of a damaging addiction? Out of a physically or verbally abusive relationship? Out of a world of isolation? Out of [fill in the blank]?

Pray to the Spirit for His strength and help for you to come out. Today could be the day.

Day 32

Read John 12:1-19.

"Leave her alone..." —John 12:7

Jesus said this in defense of Mary, who was being judged by Judas for using expensive oil to anoint Jesus' feet.

When we are focused on God's Kingdom work and His glory, He is always our defender against such opposition. Be encouraged when following Jesus and responding in love to Him. He will always have your back!

Day 33

Read John 12:20-26.

"If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him." —John 12:26

Whom do you serve?

We all serve someone or something—sometimes we simply serve ourselves or our own desires.

Ponder this verse as well today: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." (Matthew 6:24)

Day 34

Read John 12:27-43.

"...believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." —John 12:36

Jesus is the light.

What would it mean to be a son or daughter of light?

- Would you radiate the light of the Son?
- Would you serve the Spirit as He guides those who walk in darkness by pointing them to our Heavenly Father?
- What else?

Day 35

Read John 12:44-50.

"I did not come to judge the world but to save the world." —John 12:47

Do you know that being a "good person" does not guarantee that you will go to heaven after you die?

If that was the case, then Jesus would not have needed to come down from Heaven and die for our sins. This is what saves us: Jesus' work on the cross and God's gift of faith in Jesus—in Him alone. And by our faith we live our life for Him.

Do you?

Group Discussion – Session Five

Worship 5 minutes

– Our **R**edemption Response

Spend 2-3 minutes going through the Book of Psalm. Write down words that identify God (Almighty, Anointed One, etc.). As a whole group recite these words in praise to our Almighty God. Pray as the Spirit leads you. Take turns; no need to pray in a circle. Pray aloud or silently. The Worship leader will close in prayer after a period of silence.

Word of God 45 minutes

GET IN THE RED

Option 1

Discuss, in order, the questions presented in Day 29 thru 35's devotions.

Option 2

Discuss which reading from Day 29 thru 35 spiritually challenged you the most? Why was that? What next step Jesus is calling you to take?

Outreach 15 minutes

GET THE RED OUT

**“As you sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.”**

–John 17:18

Is there anything getting in the way of your GET THE RED OUT plans? How can this obstacle be overcome? What final details need to get covered?

Prayer 20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's Word of God and/or Outreach time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle).

Equipping 5 minutes

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Day 36

Read John 13:1-20.

"If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." —John 13:8

One could give a 20-minute sermon analyzing this verse!

First, Jesus teaches that it is He who does the washing, who initiates the transforming of our lives. Second, without Jesus doing this work, we are not a part of Him. Jesus is our sole key to salvation.

What other teachings do you find in this single verse? How does this verse move your heart and/or help you live out your faith in Him?

Day 37

Read John 13:21-30.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." —John 13:21

Jesus said this to His disciples regarding Judas' impending betrayal.

It's easy to point to people we see or read about and consider them worse than us—like Judas. But isn't that just deflection and/or denial? It only takes one sin to betray God.

Today let us own up to our own sins by confessing and repenting (returning to God). Let's thank Him for saving us from sin and death by living our lives for Him.

Day 38

Read John 13:31-35.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
—John 13:34-35

Indicator to the world that you are Jesus' disciple: your love for others. Granted, this may be a different kind of love than the world commonly sees.

For an expanded definition of love, read all of 1 Corinthians 13.

Day 39

Read John 13:36-38.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times." —John 13:38

Jesus entrusted a failure—Peter, the one who denied Him—to lead Jesus' disciples in spreading the good news to the world. That's crazy, right?! But that's how God works with His people every day. That's how God worked throughout the Bible.

No matter your past failures, Jesus has given you a new life. Your sins were washed away with Jesus on the cross.

He is a God of second (third, fourth, etc.) chances. Live anew for Him this day and pass His good news along to someone in need of hearing it!

Day 40

Read John 14:1-14.

**"Let not your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God..."** —John 14:1

Worried? Frustrated? Impatient?
Lonely? Disappointed? Angry? Sad?
Depressed? Hurt? Anxious?

These words from Jesus are for you
today (and always).

May God strengthen your belief in Him
and reassure you of the great and
wonderful plans He has for your life.

Day 41

Review John 14:1-14.

**"I am the way, and the truth, and the
life. No one comes to the Father
except through me."** —John 14:6

Notice that Jesus didn't say, "I am 'a'
way or 'a' truth or 'a' life." The "the" is
absolute.

What vision (implications for our lives)
does Jesus cast here?

What intention (decisions made) do
you have for living this vision?

By what means do we have at our
disposal to live out this vision?

Day 42

Review John 14:1-14.

**"Whatever you ask in my name, this
I will do, that the Father may be
glorified in the Son. If you ask me
anything in my name, I will do it."**
—John 14:13-14

Wow! "I will do it." That raises our
prayer confidence level!

Now what does it mean to ask in Jesus'
name?

Where or to whom is the focus of such
prayers?

Pray in such a way today (and every
day).

Group Discussion – Session Six

Worship 5 minutes

– Our Redemption Response

Psalm 146 (NIV) Read Responsively

Leader: Praise the LORD.

All: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Leader: I will praise the LORD all my life;

All: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Leader: Do not put your trust in princes,

All: in mortal men, who cannot save.

Leader: When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

All: on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

All: whose hope is in the LORD his God,

Leader: the Maker of heaven and earth,

All: the sea, and everything in them—

Leader: the LORD, who remains faithful forever.

All: He upholds the cause of the oppressed

Leader: and gives food to the hungry.

All: The LORD sets prisoners free,

Leader: the LORD gives sight to the blind,

All: the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,

Leader: the LORD loves the righteous.

All: The LORD watches over the alien

Leader: and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

All: but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Leader: The LORD reigns forever,

All: your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD. Amen.

Word of God 45 minutes

GET IN THE RED

Option 1

Discuss, in order, the questions presented in Day 36 thru 42's devotions.

Option 2

Discuss which reading from Day 36 thru 42 spiritually challenged you the most? Why was that? What next step Jesus is calling you to take?

Outreach 15 minutes

GET THE RED OUT

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

–John 17:18

What are you excited about with regards to your GET THE RED OUT effort? What are you nervous about? What are you praying will happen?

Prayer 20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's Word of God and/or Outreach time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle).

Equipping 5 minutes

– for coordinating next week's meeting (mirroring St. Paul's core values)...

| Study Components | Study Component Leader |
|--|------------------------|
| Prayer | |
| Outreach (a.k.a. Get The Red Out Champion) | |
| Word of God | |
| Equipping | |
| Worship (Our Redemption Response) | |

Prayer leader – Leads group prayer time
Outreach leader – Leads the charge of outreach (serving, inviting, filling the empty chair, etc.)
Word of God leader – Leads the Bible study time, encourages application of God's Word to life
Equipping Leader – Coordinates and reminds who will lead the different meeting components.
Worship (Our Redemption Response) Leader – Leads worship time during meeting.

Day 43

Read John 14:15-31.

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words." —John 14:23-24

What about you? Fan or follower of Jesus?

A fan likes Jesus, but from a distance—a spectator.

A follower loves Jesus and is compelled by God's love, grace, and Spirit to actively live his or her life for Him and by His Word.

Day 44

Read John 15:1-17.

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." —John 15:13

I love the line "real love is not afraid to bleed" found in Rend Collective's song "The Cost." No greater love was shown to the world than when Jesus died horrifically on the cross while paying the debt of OUR sins. Jesus' love is real. Jesus' love is true. It was so when He dwelled among us more than 2,000 years ago. It is the same today.

I pray that this knowledge brings you comfort today. If you are so moved, share with another person Jesus' deep love for them.

Day 45

Read John 15:18-27.

"...when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness..." —John 15:26-27

Our Helper, the Holy Spirit, equips/empowers/releases those with faith in Jesus to bear witness—on the truth of Jesus found in His Word, on how God has impacted their lives, through acts of service and mercy, and much more.

How will you bear witness today? What help from the Spirit do you need in doing so? Pray for that help.

Day 46

Read John 16:1-15.

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth..." —John 16:13

Need guidance?

The Holy Spirit is the guide for those who follow Jesus. He is the one who reveals the truth of Jesus to those who first believe.

Pray to Him today for where you most need direction, where to take your next spiritual step, and/or for a committed faith in Jesus.

Day 47

Read John 16:16-24.

"Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." —John 16:24

What do you need to ask of God—those urgent matters, anxieties, blessings, assurances, etc., that are on your heart and mind the most?

With faith and in Jesus' name, ask our Heavenly Father. If you've been holding back, today is the day to ask. And continue to ask; pray unceasingly.

Day 48

Read John 16:25-33.

"...in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." —John 16:33

To think on and be encouraged today:

Jesus is...

- our Peace-giver,
- our Rescuer,
- our Redeemer,
- our Savior,
- our Stand-in on the cross,
- our Friend.

What more can you add to this list?

Day 49

Read John 17:1-26.

"...this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." —John 17:3

Jesus offered these words as part of His prayer to the Father.

Take some time to consider what Jesus means by "know." Is this just a head knowledge thing? Or does He mean "know" as something deeper, something life changing, something life impacting, something life directing?

Group Discussion – Session Seven

Worship 5 minutes

– Our Redemption Response

Stand and read together Nehemiah
9:5b-7a (NIV):

**All: Stand up and praise the Lord
your God who is from everlasting to
everlasting.**

**Blessed be your glorious name, and
may it be exalted above all blessing
and praise.**

**You alone are the Lord.
You made the heavens, even the
highest heavens, and all their starry
host, the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them.**

**You give life to everything, and the
multitudes of heaven worship you.
You are the Lord God. Amen!**

Word of God 45 minutes

GET IN THE RED

Option 1

Discuss, in order, the questions
presented in Day 43 thru 49's
devotions.

Option 2

Discuss which reading from Day 43
thru 49 spiritually challenged you the
most? Why was that? What next step
Jesus is calling you to take?

Outreach 15 minutes

GET THE RED OUT

**“As you sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.”**

–John 17:18

How did your GET THE RED OUT plan
go?

What praise reports do you have to
share with one another?

How did you see Jesus show up?

What did you learn from the
experience?

What would you do differently?

Prayer 20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what
was discussed during this meeting's
Word of God and/or Outreach time.
What is that next step in your faith life
God is calling you to make? What
convicted you from God's Word
and/or our discussion of His Word?
Please also share a way in which the
group may support/encourage you
regarding what you've shared. Of
course other important matters can be
prayed about as well. After all have
shared, pray for the person on your left
(whether aloud or silently). Pray
together in popcorn style (as opposed
to going in order around a circle).

Equipping 5 minutes

– for coordinating next week's meeting
(mirroring St. Paul's core values)...

| Study Components | Study Component Leader |
|--|------------------------|
| Prayer | |
| Outreach (a.k.a. Get The Red Out Champion) | |
| Word of God | |
| Equipping | |
| Worship (Our Redemption Response) | |

Prayer leader – Leads group prayer time
Outreach leader – Leads the charge of
outreach (serving, inviting, filling the
empty chair, etc.)
Word of God leader – Leads the Bible study
time, encourages application of God's
Word to life
Equipping Leader – Coordinates and
reminds who will lead the different
meeting components.
**Worship (Our Redemption Response)
Leader** – Leads worship time during
meeting.

Day 50

Review John 17:1-26.

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." —John 17:11

Jesus prayed these words to the Father for His followers.

What do you believe are the benefits of unity? What do you see as the glue that keeps followers of Jesus united? Do you promote unity within God's family? Is this an area where you have room for growth? What's a feasible next step for you to grow in this area?

Day 51

Review John 17:1-26.

"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."
—John 17:18

Jesus prayed this to the Father.

Followers of Jesus are a sent people.

That is who we are. The word "sent" signifies our role in serving God's mission.

What do you believe are the implications for you as someone who has been sent? How does this play out in your everyday life?

Day 52

Review John 17:1-26.

"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." —John 17:22-23

Dig in to these Jesus words.

According to this prayer to the Father, how would the world know of Jesus and His love?

Day 53

Read John 18:1-18.

"I am he." —John 18:5

Jesus responded accordingly to the men who sought Jesus of Nazareth. And "when Jesus said to them, 'I am he,' they drew back and fell to the ground."

The posture of Jesus' enemies was to draw back and fall. Now think about the posture of Jesus' followers as they go about their day in His presence.

Jesus draws us close to Him. We may also lower ourselves to the ground (in a prayerful stance) but out of reverence to Him, reflecting our deep love for Him.

What is your posture before Jesus?

Day 54

Read John 18:19-40.

"If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong..." —John 18:23

With these words, Jesus responded to His captors, the men accusing Jesus of false teaching. Jesus' captors bypassed calling witnesses who could have provided testimony (the facts) on what Jesus shared openly to the public.

How can we respond to those questioning the truth of Jesus—those whose accusations stem more from feelings than from factual evidence? How can we respond in a "love-thy-neighbor" manner, a way that would encourage a continued, respectful conversation?

Day 55

Read John 19:1-16a.

"You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above." —John 19:11

Jesus said this to Pilate, who claimed to have authority to release Jesus or crucify Him. Humbling. Jesus redirects Pilate—and, in turn, redirects us—to our One and Only God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) as the Giver of all things in this universe.

Let us worship our True King today!

Let us be thankful to our Giver of all good things!

Day 56

Read John 19:16b-27.

"'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!'" —John 19:26-27

While dying on the cross, Jesus continued to care for people. In this case especially, He was looking on and extending love to His grieving mother and to His best friend. This is the same selfless love that Jesus has for you.

How do YOU receive His love? How does Jesus' love (meant for life transformation) transform your life? If things are getting in the way of receiving His love, take those things in prayer to God. Ask a friend who follows Jesus to pray for you as well.

Group Discussion – Session Eight

Worship 5 minutes

– Our Redemption Response

Praise Knee Bends

Leader: Philippians 2:10 (NIV) instructs, “...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”

Kneel on the ground (or bow in one’s chair if unable to kneel), and read the following verses responsively from Revelation 4 and 5 (NIV).

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

All: You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

Leader: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

All: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever! Amen!

Word of God 45 minutes

GET IN THE RED

Option 1

Discuss, in order, the questions presented in Day 50 thru 56’s devotions.

Option 2

Discuss which reading from Day 50 thru 56 spiritually challenged you the most? Why was that? What next step Jesus is calling you to take?

Outreach 15 minutes

GET THE RED OUT

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

–John 17:18

What can your group do to continue reaching out to your community with the love of Jesus Christ?

Prayer 20 minutes

Share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting’s Word of God and/or Outreach time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God’s Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you’ve shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle).

IF YOUR GROUP PLANS TO CONTINUE MEETING...

- Please contact Craig Mattes, Director of Group Life, at cmattes@stpaulaurora.org. Craig will then equip you with small group study resources and tools.
- Use the equipping tool to figure out who will do what at next week’s meeting.
- Continue reading devotions for days 57 through 62 on your own.
- Open up your next meeting discussing what Jesus taught you during days 57 thru 62.

Equipping 5 minutes

– for coordinating next week’s meeting (mirroring St. Paul’s core values)...

| Study Components | Study Component Leader |
|--|------------------------|
| Prayer | |
| Outreach (a.k.a. Get The Red Out Champion) | |
| Word of God | |
| Equipping | |
| Worship (Our Redemption Response) | |

Prayer leader – Leads group prayer time
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Worship (Our Redemption Response) Leader – Leads worship time during meeting.

Day 57

Read John 19:28-42.

"It is finished." —John 19:30

These are the last words of Jesus before He died on the cross. But as we continue on through Jesus Words, they were not His last words to us. Either John (the author of the account) or someone whom John considered reliable was there at Jesus' death. "The man who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe."

May we follow this example and bear witness to the truth of Jesus so that others may believe.

Day 58

Read John 20:1-18.

"Mary." —John 20:16

After Jesus died, Mary Magdalene looked for Jesus' remains...not there. Angels greet her in Jesus' tomb, then Jesus greets her Himself. She doesn't recognize him at first, but then with one word—"Mary"—Mary sees her Teacher.

JESUS IS RISEN! Our personal God didn't reveal Himself with lightning bolts and fireworks, but with one word that shows He knows His precious child. He knows each of us by name, too. Our God is not distant; he is right here and cares for you right where you are.

Day 59

Read John 20:19-23.

"Receive the Holy Spirit,"

—John 20:22

These words were said by our risen Savior Jesus to His followers. Jesus points us to our unlimited spiritual power source: the Holy Spirit.

With the Holy Spirit we can know peace. With the Spirit we are sent into the world to tell the good news of Jesus. With the Spirit we are equipped with love and strength to forgive as we are forgiven in Christ. May the Spirit remove the things that get in the way of you receiving Him more fully.

Day 60

Read John 20:24-31.

"Do not disbelieve, but believe."

—John 20:27

All world religions—except for Christianity—have one thing in common: to earn salvation YOU need to DO something to please the higher power(s). And even when doing good works, it is a guessing game whether or not you'll be blessed by the god(s).

With Jesus, for those who believe in Him, Jesus did 100% of the saving...and this saving is something we can be 100% assured of. Believe in Him. Share your belief so that others may be saved.

Day 61

Read John 21:1-18.

"Do you love me?" —John 21:17

Jesus asked this of Peter three times. Three times Peter said "yes." Those responses were then followed by a call for Peter to demonstrate his love for Jesus, "Feed my sheep...Tend my sheep...Feed my sheep."

Do you love Jesus?

How is Jesus calling you to live out that love?

Day 62

Read John 21:19-25.

"Follow me." —John 21:19

Jesus asked this of Peter. He asks this of you.

Will you follow Him? After going through more than 60 days of Jesus Words, what is your spiritual next step in following Jesus? Not just following Him as a fan follows a celebrity on Twitter, but following Him as one so moved by His amazing love that you can't help but want to grow in looking, living and loving more like Him?

Ask another believer to help you with your next step. Maybe you can help each other! God bless you in your journey!