

The PEARL of GREAT PRICE

The kingdom of heaven
is like a merchant seeking
fine pearls, who, when he had
found one pearl of great price,
went and sold all that he had,
and bought it.

— MATTHEW 13:45-46



ETERNAL TRUTH, LASTING JOY



1. TREASURE JESUS ABOVE EVERYTHING

Matthew 6:33

Seek first His kingdom
and His righteousness,
and all these things
will be given to you
as well.



2. TREASURE JESUS IN HIS WORD

Psalms 119:11

I have hidden Your
word in my heart,
that I might not
sin against You.



3. TREASURE JESUS IN HIS PRESENCE

Psalms 27:4

One thing I ask from
the LORD, this only do
I seek: that I may dwell
in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life.



4. TREASURE JESUS IN HIS SACRIFICE

Philippians 3:8

I count all things
loss for the surpassing
worth of knowing
Christ Jesus my Lord.



5. TREASURE JESUS AS YOUR KING

Revelation 3:11

Hold fast what you
have, so that no one
takes your crown.



Jesus Christ and His Kingdom is the Pearl of Great Price!

Seek His Kingdom, first!



JESUS FIRST: THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

A 40-Day Journey of Study, Prayer, and Surrender

Foundational Scripture: Matthew 13:44–46

Eternal Truth:

Jesus Christ and His Kingdom are the Pearl of Great Price. Nothing compares with knowing Him, belonging to Him, and living under His reign.

Daily Declaration:

Jesus Christ is my greatest treasure. I will seek His Kingdom first, surrender every rival treasure, listen to His voice, obey His Word, declare His Gospel, and live for the glory of Christ my King.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Set aside approximately 20–30 minutes each day.

1. **Be Still** — Quiet your heart before Jesus.
2. **Read** — Slowly read the assigned Scripture.
3. **Study** — Consider the central truth.
4. **Reflect** — Answer the questions honestly.
5. **Respond** — Complete the Jesus-First action.
6. **Pray** — Speak openly with the Lord.
7. **Declare** — End by declaring that Jesus is your greatest treasure.

DAYS 1–8

BEHOLD THE PEARL

Seeing the incomparable worth of Jesus

AUGUST 17 - THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Read: Matthew 13:44–46

Central Truth:

The Kingdom of Heaven is worth more than everything we possess.

The merchant did not reluctantly surrender everything. He joyfully sold everything because he had discovered something infinitely better. Following Jesus is not merely giving things up; it is gaining the Treasure for whom our hearts were created.

Reflect:

- Do I view surrender to Jesus as a loss or as a joyful exchange?
- What does my life reveal that I currently treasure most?
- Do I genuinely believe Jesus is worth everything?

Jesus-First Response:

Write this sentence and complete it honestly:

“Jesus, You would truly be first in my life if I surrendered _____.”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, open my eyes to see Your incomparable worth. Forgive me for treating temporary things as greater treasures than You. Give me the joy and courage to surrender everything that keeps me from following You completely. You are the Pearl of Great Price. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus Christ and His Kingdom are worth everything.

AUGUST 18 — THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

Read: Colossians 1:15–20

Central Truth:

Jesus is not one important part of life. He is supreme over everything.

All things were created through Jesus and for Jesus. He existed before all things, sustains all things, leads His church, defeated death, and reconciles sinners to God through His blood.

Jesus does not compete for first place. First place already belongs to Him.

Reflect:

- In which areas have I treated Jesus as an addition rather than the center?
- Does my schedule reflect the supremacy of Christ?
- What would change if everything I did were consciously done for Him?

Jesus-First Response:

Review today's schedule. Dedicate every responsibility, conversation, and decision to Jesus.

Prayer:

King Jesus, You are before all things, above all things, and worthy of all things. Take Your rightful place in every area of my life. May my thoughts, time, relationships, work, and worship exist for Your glory. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus is supreme, and everything in my life belongs to Him.

AUGUST 19 — THE RADIANCE OF GOD’S GLORY

Read: Hebrews 1:1–4

Central Truth:

God has revealed Himself fully and finally through His Son.

Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being. To know Jesus is to see the heart, holiness, authority, and grace of God.

Our greatest need is not merely more information. We need to look to the Son, listen to the Son, and submit to the Son.

Reflect:

- Am I allowing other voices to become louder than Jesus?
- What does this passage reveal about His authority?
- How should the greatness of Jesus affect my worship?

Jesus-First Response:

Spend five uninterrupted minutes worshipping Jesus for who He is—not merely for what He gives.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for revealing Yourself through Your Son. Jesus, silence every competing voice and become the focus of my heart. Teach me to see Your glory, trust Your authority, and treasure Your presence. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus perfectly reveals the glory of God.

AUGUST 20 — GRACE AND TRUTH CAME THROUGH JESUS

Read: John 1:1–18

Central Truth:

The eternal Word became flesh and came near to rescue us.

Jesus entered our darkness. He did not remain distant from our suffering, sin, and brokenness. He came full of grace and truth so that we could become children of God.

The Pearl of Great Price came looking for us before we ever began looking for Him.

Reflect:

- How has Jesus brought light into my darkness?
- Do I receive both His grace and His truth?
- Where do I need to welcome His light today?

Jesus-First Response:

Thank Jesus specifically for three ways He has revealed the Father's grace to you.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming near. Shine Your light into every hidden place of my heart. Help me receive Your grace without resisting Your truth and receive Your truth without forgetting Your grace. Amen.

Declaration:

The Light has come, and the darkness will not overcome Him.

AUGUST 21 — THE SURPASSING WORTH OF KNOWING CHRIST

Read: Philippians 3:7–11

Central Truth:

Everything is loss compared with the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus.

Paul's greatest treasure was not his reputation, religious accomplishments, education, or influence. His treasure was Christ Himself.

Christianity is more than knowing facts about Jesus. It is knowing Him, sharing in His life, trusting His righteousness, and becoming like Him.

Reflect:

- What accomplishments or identities am I tempted to trust?
- Do I desire Jesus Himself or mainly His blessings?
- What would pursuing deeper fellowship with Christ look like?

Jesus-First Response:

Lay one personal accomplishment, title, or source of pride before Jesus and declare that it does not define you.

Prayer:

Jesus, I want to know You. Free me from trusting my accomplishments, reputation, or religious performance. May knowing You become the consuming pursuit of my life. Amen.

Declaration:

Nothing compares with knowing Jesus Christ my Lord.

AUGUST 22 — ONE THING I SEEK

Read: Psalm 27:1–8

Central Truth:

A Jesus-First heart develops a “one thing” desire.

David faced enemies, danger, and uncertainty, but his deepest request was to dwell in God’s presence and seek His face.

Many things may demand our attention, but only one Treasure can satisfy the soul.

Reflect:

- What is the “one thing” currently dominating my desires?
- Do I seek God’s face or mainly seek relief from my problems?
- What regularly distracts me from His presence?

Jesus-First Response:

Create a distraction-free place for your daily time with Jesus.

Prayer:

Lord, unite my divided heart. More than comfort, success, recognition, or security, teach me to seek Your face. Become the one great desire beneath every other desire. Amen.

Declaration:

One thing I seek: to know and behold the Lord.

AUGUST 23 — TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

Read: John 6:60–69

Central Truth:

Jesus alone has the words of eternal life.

Some abandoned Jesus when His teaching became difficult. Peter did not claim to understand everything, but he knew there was nowhere else to go.

A Jesus-First disciple remains with Christ even when His words confront, correct, or confuse.

Reflect:

- Have I resisted any teaching of Jesus because it is difficult?
- Do I follow Jesus only when I agree with Him?
- What keeps me faithful when following Him becomes costly?

Jesus-First Response:

Identify one difficult teaching of Jesus that you need to trust and obey.

Prayer:

Jesus, You alone have the words of eternal life. Keep me from walking away when Your truth is difficult. Give me a surrendered heart that trusts Your wisdom above my understanding. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus alone has the words of eternal life.

AUGUST 24 — ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 2:6–10

Central Truth:

The Jesus-First life begins, continues, and matures in Christ.

We do not receive Jesus by faith and then mature through human strength. We continue in Him the same way we began: trusting, following, and remaining rooted in Christ.

Every false pearl promises fullness, but true fullness is found only in Jesus.

Reflect:

- Where am I tempted to look for fullness outside Christ?
- Am I rooted in Jesus or dependent on circumstances?
- What spiritual habits will strengthen my roots?

Jesus-First Response:

Choose a consistent daily time and place to meet with Jesus throughout the remainder of this journey.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, root me deeply in You. Protect me from empty ideas and deceptive promises. Build my life upon Your truth so that I become strong, grateful, and spiritually mature. Amen.

Declaration:

All the fullness I need is found in Christ.

DAYS 9–16

EXPOSE THE FALSE PEARLS

Removing the rival treasures of the heart

AUGUST 25 — WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS

Read: Matthew 6:19–24

Central Truth:

Our treasure directs our hearts, shapes our vision, and determines our master.

Jesus does not merely ask what we say we treasure. He reveals treasure through what receives our attention, affection, sacrifice, and trust.

We cannot serve two masters. Jesus will not share the throne of our hearts with money, approval, comfort, or control.

Reflect:

- What receives most of my time, attention, and emotional energy?
- What am I afraid to lose?
- Is there a rival master competing with Jesus?

Jesus-First Response:

Examine your calendar and spending from the last seven days. What do they reveal?

Prayer:

Jesus, expose the true treasure of my heart. Forgive me for allowing temporary things to master me. Redirect my attention, affection, and resources toward Your eternal Kingdom. Amen.

Declaration:

Where my treasure is, my heart will follow.

AUGUST 26 — SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM

Read: Matthew 6:25–34

Central Truth:

Worry often reveals where we have placed our trust.

Jesus does not deny our needs. He teaches us that our Father already knows them. Instead of being ruled by anxiety, disciples are called to seek God's Kingdom and righteousness first.

Seeking Jesus first means trusting Him with what comes next.

Reflect:

- What concern is consuming my thoughts?
- What does my worry reveal about my view of God?
- What would seeking the Kingdom first look like today?

Jesus-First Response:

Whenever worry arises today, turn it into a sentence of prayer.

Prayer:

Father, You know what I need. Forgive me for living as though everything depends upon me. I place my future, family, health, finances, and responsibilities into Your hands. Help me seek Your Kingdom first. Amen.

Declaration:

My Father knows my needs; I will seek His Kingdom first.

AUGUST 27 — THE TREASURE THAT POSSESSED HIM

Read: Mark 10:17–31

Central Truth:

Whatever we cannot surrender may already possess us.

The rich man desired eternal life, but his possessions held his heart. Jesus loved him enough to expose the rival treasure standing between them.

Jesus may touch the very thing we believe we cannot live without.

Reflect:

- What would be most difficult for me to surrender?
- Is there something I value more than wholehearted obedience?
- Do I believe Jesus is better than what He asks me to release?

Jesus-First Response:

Practice generosity today in a way that challenges your attachment to possessions.

Prayer:

Jesus, look upon me with love and reveal anything that owns my heart. Give me faith to release every false treasure. I do not want to walk away from You holding something that cannot save me. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus is worth more than anything He asks me to surrender.

AUGUST 28 — COUNTING THE COST

Read: Luke 14:25–33

Central Truth:

Jesus does not call us to add Him to our lives; He calls us to surrender our lives to Him.

Following Jesus affects relationships, possessions, ambitions, comfort, and identity. Grace is freely given, but discipleship requires complete allegiance.

Jesus must be loved above everyone and everything.

Reflect:

- Have I counted the cost of following Jesus?
- Where am I tempted to negotiate the terms of discipleship?
- Is Jesus truly first in my closest relationships?

Jesus-First Response:

Write a personal surrender statement beginning:

“Because Jesus is my King, He has authority over _____.”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You gave everything to rescue me. I surrender my right to control my life. Teach me to carry my cross and follow You with undivided allegiance. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus is not part of my life; He is Lord of my life.

AUGUST 29— DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD

Read: 1 John 2:15–17

Central Truth:

The world offers desires that are temporary, deceptive, and unable to satisfy.

The cravings of the flesh, the cravings of the eyes, and pride in possessions promise life but slowly replace love for the Father.

Everything the world celebrates will pass away. The one who does God's will remains forever.

Reflect:

- Which worldly desire most strongly appeals to me?
- Where has comparison weakened my gratitude?
- Am I living for what passes away or what lasts forever?

Jesus-First Response:

Fast today from one form of media, entertainment, or consumption that feeds comparison or worldly desire.

Prayer:

Father, cleanse my heart from love for the world. Free me from craving, comparison, and pride. Teach me to desire what pleases You and to live for what will remain forever. Amen.

Declaration:

The world is passing away, but the will of God remains forever.

AUGUST 30 — LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT

Read: Hebrews 12:1–3

Central Truth:

Not everything slowing us down is openly sinful.

Some habits, commitments, relationships, and distractions may be permissible but still hinder our pursuit of Jesus.

The Christian race requires us to remove every weight and fix our eyes upon Christ.

Reflect:

- What consistently distracts me from Jesus?
- What weight makes spiritual faithfulness more difficult?
- What do I need to remove, reduce, or reorder?

Jesus-First Response:

Remove one unnecessary distraction from your daily routine for the remainder of the 40 days.

Prayer:

Jesus, show me every weight and sin that hinders me. Give me endurance to run the race You have marked out. Fix my eyes upon Your faithfulness and Your finished work. Amen.

Declaration:

I will lay aside every weight and fix my eyes on Jesus.

AUGUST 31 — FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD

Read: James 4:1–10

Central Truth:

Conflicted desires produce conflicted lives.

Arguments, envy, pride, and frustration often emerge when our desires become demands. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Freedom begins when we submit ourselves to God and draw near to Him.

Reflect:

- What unmet desire is creating conflict within me?
- Where has pride prevented repentance?
- What would humble submission look like today?

Jesus-First Response:

Confess one specific area of pride to God and, where appropriate, to another mature believer.

Prayer:

God, I humble myself before You. Purify my divided heart. I submit my desires, disappointments, and plans to You. Draw me near as I draw near to You. Amen.

Declaration:

I submit myself to God and receive His grace.

SEPTEMBER 1 — SEARCH MY HEART

Read: Psalm 139:23–24

Central Truth:

Jesus-First living requires honest examination.

We cannot surrender what we refuse to acknowledge. God searches us not to destroy us, but to expose what is harmful and lead us in His everlasting way.

Reflect:

- What have I learned about my heart during the first sixteen days?
- Which false treasure appears most frequently?
- What have I been reluctant to admit to God?

Jesus-First Response:

Spend ten minutes in silence. Invite God to reveal hidden fears, motives, idols, and wounds.

Prayer:

Search me, O God. Know my heart, test my thoughts, and reveal anything offensive within me. Lead me away from false treasures and into the everlasting way of Jesus. Amen.

Declaration:

I welcome the searching light of God.

DAYS 17–24

SEEK HIS VOICE

Listening, abiding, and being transformed by Jesus

SEPTEMBER 2 — THE ONE THING NEEDED

Read: Luke 10:38–42

Central Truth:

Activity for Jesus must never replace attentiveness to Jesus.

Martha was distracted by good responsibilities. Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen. Serving becomes spiritually dangerous when we become too busy to receive from Christ.

Reflect:

- Has my service for Jesus crowded out time with Jesus?
- What distractions make it difficult for me to listen?
- What would it mean to choose the better portion?

Jesus-First Response:

Sit quietly with Jesus before beginning today's responsibilities.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, forgive me for becoming distracted and anxious about many things. Teach me to sit at Your feet, listen to Your words, and receive what cannot be taken away. Amen.

Declaration:

Before I work for Jesus, I will be with Jesus.

SEPTEMBER 3 — MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE

Read: John 10:1–10, 27–30

Central Truth:

Jesus knows His sheep, speaks to His sheep, and leads His sheep.

His voice will never contradict His written Word. The more deeply we know Scripture, the more clearly we recognize the character, truth, and direction of our Shepherd.

Reflect:

- Which voices currently influence me most?
- Am I becoming familiar with the voice of Jesus through Scripture?
- Where is the Shepherd leading me to obey?

Jesus-First Response:

Read today's passage aloud twice. Write down the words or phrases that draw your attention.

Prayer:

Good Shepherd, quiet every competing voice. Train me to recognize Your truth, follow Your leadership, and refuse the voice of the stranger. Lead me into abundant life. Amen.

Declaration:

I belong to Jesus; I will listen to His voice and follow Him.

SEPTEMBER 4 — TREASURING HIS WORD

Read: Psalm 119:9–16

Central Truth:

We treasure Jesus by treasuring His Word.

God's Word guards our path, cleanses our hearts, renews our minds, and teaches us His ways. Scripture is not merely information to study; it is truth to store, delight in, declare, and obey.

Reflect:

- What place does Scripture have in my daily life?
- Do I read to finish a task or to encounter God?
- Which verse do I need to store in my heart?

Jesus-First Response:

Begin memorizing Matthew 6:33 or Matthew 13:45–46.

Prayer:

Lord, give me hunger for Your Word. Keep me from wandering from Your commands. Help me store Your truth within my heart and delight in everything You have spoken. Amen.

Declaration:

I will treasure the Word of Christ in my heart.

SEPTEMBER 5 — JESUS WITHDREW TO PRAY

Read: Mark 1:32–39

Central Truth:

Jesus refused to allow urgent demands to replace communion with His Father.

People were looking for Him, needs were everywhere, and opportunities were increasing. Yet Jesus withdrew to pray and received clarity concerning His mission.

Busyness is not always faithfulness.

Reflect:

- What urgent demands are controlling my attention?
- Do I seek God before making significant decisions?
- What distractions keep me from prayer?

Jesus-First Response:

Begin tomorrow with prayer before checking messages, news, or social media.

Prayer:

Father, teach me to seek You before responding to the demands around me. Give me clarity, strength, and direction through prayer. May urgency never replace intimacy with You. Amen.

Declaration:

Prayer will shape my priorities and direct my mission.

SEPTEMBER 6 — EVERY WORD FROM GOD

Read: Matthew 4:1–11

Central Truth:

Jesus overcame temptation by trusting and obeying the Word of God.

The enemy tempted Jesus to satisfy legitimate hunger in an illegitimate way, prove His identity, and gain a kingdom without the cross.

Temptation often offers a shortcut to something God intends to provide through faithful obedience.

Reflect:

- Where am I tempted to take a shortcut?
- Which lie repeatedly influences my choices?
- What truth from Scripture confronts that lie?

Jesus-First Response:

Write one temptation, the lie beneath it, and a biblical truth that answers it.

Prayer:

Jesus, strengthen me against temptation. Expose every lie and teach me to answer with truth. I choose worship, trust, and obedience over every shortcut offered by the enemy. Amen.

Declaration:

I will live by every word that comes from God.

SEPTEMBER 7 — REMAIN IN ME

Read: John 15:1–11

Central Truth:

Fruitfulness comes from remaining in Jesus.

Branches do not produce fruit by trying harder. They bear fruit by remaining connected to the vine. Apart from Jesus, our activity may appear impressive but cannot produce eternal fruit.

Reflect:

- Am I operating from dependence or self-reliance?
- What helps me remain conscious of Christ throughout the day?
- What fruit is Jesus seeking to produce in me?

Jesus-First Response:

Pause three times today and pray: “Jesus, I remain in You. Produce Your fruit through me.”

Prayer:

Jesus, You are the true vine. Keep me connected to You in every moment. Prune what is unfruitful and produce love, obedience, joy, and lasting fruit through my life. Amen.

Declaration:

Apart from Jesus I can do nothing; in Him I will bear fruit.

SEPTEMBER 8 — CHRIST LIVES IN ME

Read: Galatians 2:20–21

Central Truth:

The Jesus-First life is a crucified life.

Our old identity no longer rules us. Through union with Christ, we share in His death and receive His life. We now live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Reflect:

- What part of my old identity still attempts to control me?
- Am I living by faith or by self-effort?
- How does the love of Jesus motivate surrender?

Jesus-First Response:

Write your name into this statement:

“_____ has been crucified with Christ, and Christ now lives in _____.”

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for loving me and giving Yourself for me. Let my pride, selfishness, and independence remain crucified. Live Your life through me as I trust You today. Amen.

Declaration:

I have been crucified with Christ; Christ now lives in me.

SEPTEMBER 9 — ALIVE TO GOD

Read: Romans 6:1–14

Central Truth:

Those united with Jesus in His death and resurrection are called to live a new life.

Grace does not give sin permission to rule. Through Christ, sin's dominion has been broken. We are called to offer ourselves to God as people brought from death to life.

Reflect:

- Where am I still thinking like a slave to sin?
- What does it mean to consider myself alive to God?
- How can I offer my body to God today?

Jesus-First Response:

Dedicate your eyes, mouth, hands, mind, and body to God in prayer.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for uniting me with Christ. I refuse to let sin reign over me. I offer every part of myself to You as an instrument of righteousness. Help me walk in the new life Jesus has given me. Amen.

Declaration:

Sin will not be my master; I am alive to God in Christ.

DAYS 25–32

LIVE UNDER HIS KINGSHIP

Obedience, love, holiness, and wholehearted surrender

SEPTEMBER 10 — TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Read: Matthew 16:24–27

Central Truth:

To follow Jesus, we must deny self and take up our cross.

Self-denial is not self-hatred. It is refusing to allow self-interest, comfort, reputation, or desire to rule us. We lose the life centered on ourselves and receive the life centered on Christ.

Reflect:

- Where is self-interest competing with obedience?
- What cross is Jesus calling me to carry?
- What temporary gain could cost me spiritual life?

Jesus-First Response:

Choose one act of obedience today that costs you comfort or convenience.

Prayer:

King Jesus, I deny the right to rule my own life. Give me courage to take up my cross and follow You. May I never gain the world while losing what matters eternally. Amen.

Declaration:

I will deny myself, take up my cross, and follow Jesus.

SEPTEMBER 11 — FAITH-INSPIRED LOVE EXPRESSES ITSELF THROUGH OBEDIENCE

Read: John 14:15–24

Central Truth:

Obedience does not purchase the love of Jesus; it expresses our love for Jesus.

Jesus connects love, obedience, His Word, and His presence. A heart that treasures Christ does not ask how little it can obey. It desires to please the King.

Reflect:

- Is there a command of Jesus I am delaying?
- Do I separate loving Jesus from obeying Jesus?
- What promise in this passage encourages obedience?

Jesus-First Response:

Obey one clear command of Jesus that you have postponed.

Prayer:

Jesus, I love You because You first loved me. Forgive my selective obedience. Give me a willing heart that delights in Your commands and welcomes Your presence. Amen.

Declaration:

Because I love Jesus, I will obey His Word.

SEPTEMBER 12 — SET YOUR HEARTS ON THINGS ABOVE

Read: Colossians 3:1–17

Central Truth:

Those raised with Christ must develop new desires, new conduct, and a new identity.

We put to death what belongs to the old life and clothe ourselves with the character of Jesus. Christ becomes all and is in all.

A Jesus-First heart is demonstrated through a Jesus-shaped life.

Reflect:

- What must I put to death?
- What Christlike quality do I need to put on?
- Is the Word of Christ dwelling richly within me?

Jesus-First Response:

Choose one behavior to put off and one Christlike quality to intentionally put on.

Prayer:

Jesus, set my heart and mind upon things above. Put to death everything that dishonors You. Clothe me with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love. Amen.

Declaration:

Christ is my life, and His character will shape my life.

SEPTEMBER 13 — FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE

Read: Galatians 5:13–26

Central Truth:

The Spirit produces a life of love that the flesh cannot manufacture.

Christian freedom is not freedom to serve ourselves. It is freedom to serve one another in love. As we walk by the Spirit, He produces the character of Christ within us.

Reflect:

- Which work of the flesh do I need to confront?
- Which fruit of the Spirit is most needed in my life?
- Who can I serve through love today?

Jesus-First Response:

Perform one hidden act of service for someone who cannot repay you.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, lead me today. Crucify selfish desire and produce the character of Jesus within me. May my faith become visible through sacrificial love. Amen.

Declaration:

I will walk by the Spirit, and my faith will work through love.

SEPTEMBER 14 — LOVE GOD AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Read: Matthew 22:34–40

Central Truth:

Wholehearted love is the standard of Christ our King.

Every command is fulfilled through love for God and love for others. We cannot claim to treasure Jesus while consistently refusing to love the people He places around us.

Reflect:

- Am I loving God with my whole heart, soul, and mind?
- Who is difficult for me to love?
- What specific action would demonstrate Christlike love?

Jesus-First Response:

Encourage, serve, forgive, or reconcile with someone today.

Prayer:

Lord, teach me to love You with all that I am. Fill me with Your love for my family, church, neighbors, enemies, and those who are overlooked. Make love the evidence of my allegiance to Jesus. Amen.

Declaration:

I will love God completely and love others through Christ.

SEPTEMBER 15 — THE MIND OF CHRIST

Read: Philippians 2:1–11

Central Truth:

Jesus revealed His greatness through humility and sacrificial service.

Though He possessed the highest position, Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to death on a cross. The way upward in His Kingdom is downward through humility.

Reflect:

- Where am I seeking recognition or status?
- Whose interests do I need to consider above my own?
- How can I imitate the humility of Jesus?

Jesus-First Response:

Serve in an unnoticed way without mentioning it to anyone.

Prayer:

Jesus, give me Your mindset. Empty me of selfish ambition and pride. Teach me to serve, sacrifice, and obey with humility, trusting the Father with every outcome. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus is Lord, and I will follow His path of humility.

SEPTEMBER 16 — JESUS FIRST AT HOME AND WORK

Read: Colossians 3:18–4:1

Central Truth:

The lordship of Jesus transforms ordinary relationships and responsibilities.

Christ must be first not only during worship gatherings but also in marriages, parenting, family relationships, employment, leadership, and daily responsibilities.

We serve the Lord Christ in every role.

Reflect:

- Does my treatment of those closest to me honor Jesus?
- Where have selfishness or harshness entered my relationships?
- How can I serve Christ through my responsibilities today?

Jesus-First Response:

Ask someone close to you: “What is one way I could better demonstrate the love of Jesus toward you?”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, reign over my home, relationships, leadership, and work. Help me serve others with sincerity, patience, justice, and love. May those closest to me experience Your character through me. Amen.

Declaration:

In every responsibility, I serve the Lord Christ.

SEPTEMBER 17 — A PEOPLE BELONGING TO GOD

Read: 1 Peter 2:9–12

Central Truth:

Jesus has rescued us from darkness and formed us into a people who declare His praises.

We do not follow Jesus in isolation. We belong to His people, share His mission, and display His goodness together.

The Pearl of Great Price gives us a new identity and a new community.

Reflect:

- Am I meaningfully connected to the body of Christ?
- How does my conduct display the goodness of Jesus?
- Where can I strengthen unity within the church?

Jesus-First Response:

Encourage a fellow believer and affirm the work of Christ you see in that person.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for making us Your people. Deliver me from isolation, criticism, and division. Help me strengthen Your church and declare the praises of the One who called us out of darkness. Amen.

Declaration:

I belong to Jesus and to the people He purchased.

DAYS 33–40

DECLARE HIS GOSPEL AND MOVE ALL GENERATIONS

Living for the mission and eternal Kingdom of Christ

SEPTEMBER 18 — DISCIPLE PEOPLE IN LOVE

Read: Matthew 28:16–20

Central Truth:

The risen King sends His disciples to make disciples.

Jesus possesses all authority. Therefore, we go with confidence, baptize people into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything Christ commanded.

The mission rests upon His authority and His presence.

Reflect:

- Who helped me become a disciple of Jesus?
- Whom am I intentionally helping follow Christ?
- Have I confused church attendance with disciple-making?

Jesus-First Response:

Write the name of one person you will pray for, encourage, and help move toward Jesus.

Prayer:

Risen King, send me. Give me courage to go, love to serve, wisdom to teach, and perseverance to make disciples. Help me trust Your authority and Your presence. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus has sent me to make disciples of all nations.

SEPTEMBER 19 — NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

Read: Romans 1:14–17

Central Truth:

The Gospel is the power of God for salvation.

We do not need to improve, soften, or replace the Gospel. We must understand it, live in its power, and declare it without shame.

The Gospel reveals a righteousness received by faith from first to last.

Reflect:

- What makes me hesitant to speak about Jesus?
- Do I trust the power of the Gospel?
- Can I clearly explain the death, resurrection, and kingship of Jesus?

Jesus-First Response:

Practice sharing the Gospel in two minutes: who Jesus is, what He has done, and how we must respond.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, remove my fear and shame. Fill me with conviction that Your Gospel is the power of God for salvation. Give me wisdom, compassion, and boldness to declare it faithfully. Amen.

Declaration:

I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SEPTEMBER 20— CHRIST'S LOVE COMPELS US

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14–21

Central Truth:

The love of Christ moves reconciled people to become ambassadors of reconciliation.

Jesus died and rose so that we would no longer live for ourselves. God has entrusted us with the message that reconciliation is available through Christ.

Evangelism is not merely an obligation; it is love overflowing from a transformed heart.

Reflect:

- Am I living primarily for myself or for Jesus?
- Who around me needs to hear the message of reconciliation?
- Does Christ's love compel my relationships and priorities?

Jesus-First Response:

Pray for an opportunity to speak about Jesus and remain attentive throughout the day.

Prayer:

Jesus, let Your love compel me. Free me from self-centered living. Make me a faithful ambassador who speaks truth with humility, courage, and compassion. Amen.

Declaration:

The love of Christ compels me to live for Him and represent Him.

SEPTEMBER 21 — DECLARE HIS POWER TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Read: Psalm 71:14–18

Central Truth:

Every generation carries a responsibility to proclaim God's works to the next.

The Gospel must not stop with us. Children, teenagers, young adults, families, and future leaders need living examples of Jesus-First faith.

We move all generations by declaring what God has done and demonstrating faithful obedience.

Reflect:

- Who invested spiritually in me?
- Which younger person could I encourage or disciple?
- What testimony of God's faithfulness must I pass on?

Jesus-First Response:

Share one story of God's faithfulness with someone from another generation.

Prayer:

God, do not let me keep Your mighty acts to myself. Use my words, example, prayers, and service to move all generations toward Jesus. Raise up faithful disciples long after my life is finished. Amen.

Declaration:

I will declare God's power to the next generation.

SEPTEMBER 22 — ONE TRESURE, ONE DEVOTION

Read: Acts 2:42–47

Central Truth:

Jesus-First disciples devote themselves to biblical teaching, fellowship, communion, prayer, generosity, and shared life.

The early church did not treat the body of Christ as an occasional event. They shared life because they shared one Lord, one Gospel, and one mission.

Reflect:

- Am I devoted or merely attending?
- Which practice of the early church needs strengthening in my life?
- How can I contribute to the unity and spiritual health of the church?

Jesus-First Response:

Commit to being fully present and spiritually engaged at the next gathering of the church.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, deepen my devotion to Your people. Protect me from isolation and consumer Christianity. Make our church a community of truth, love, prayer, generosity, and joyful witness. Amen.

Declaration:

I will devote myself to Christ and His body.

SEPTEMBER 23 — YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:50–58

Central Truth:

The resurrection of Jesus guarantees that faithful labor has eternal significance.

Death does not have the final word. Because Jesus has been raised, His people will also be raised. Therefore, we can stand firm and give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

What is done for Christ will never be wasted.

Reflect:

- Where am I becoming discouraged or weary?
- How does the resurrection change my perspective?
- What work of the Lord must I continue faithfully?

Jesus-First Response:

Return to one act of service, ministry, or obedience that discouragement has caused you to neglect.

Prayer:

Risen Jesus, strengthen my weary heart. Remind me that death is defeated and eternity is secure. Help me stand firm and give myself fully to Your work. Amen.

Declaration:

Because Jesus is risen, my labor in Him is never in vain.

SEPTEMBER 24 — ALL THINGS MADE NEW

Read: Revelation 21:1–7

Central Truth:

The Kingdom we seek will one day be fully revealed.

God will dwell with His people. Death, mourning, crying, and pain will end. Jesus is making all things new, and those who overcome through faith will inherit His promised Kingdom.

Every false pearl will perish. The Treasure will remain forever.

Reflect:

- How does eternity reshape my present priorities?
- What suffering do I need to view through the promise of restoration?
- Am I living for the present age or the coming Kingdom?

Jesus-First Response:

Write one present burden beneath the words: “Jesus will make all things new.”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, fix my hope upon Your coming Kingdom. Comfort me in suffering and keep me faithful in waiting. Help me live today in light of the world You are preparing. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus is making all things new, and His Kingdom will never end.

SEPTEMBER 25 — JESUS, MY ETERNAL TREASURE

Read: Revelation 22:12–21

Central Truth:

The Jesus-First life is lived in readiness for the return of the King.

Jesus is coming. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

The goal of these forty days is not a temporary emotional experience. It is a reordered life in which Jesus remains first until we see Him face-to-face.

Reflect:

- What has Jesus revealed about my heart during these forty days?
- Which false treasures have lost their grip?
- What daily practices will help me continue seeking His Kingdom first?
- What specific commitment is Jesus asking me to make?

Jesus-First Response:

Write and sign the covenant below.

Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus. You are my Savior, my Lord, my King, and my greatest treasure. Keep my heart faithful until the day I see You. May my life declare that You are worth everything. Amen.

Declaration:

Jesus Christ is the Pearl of Great Price. I will seek His Kingdom first.

MY JESUS-FIRST COVENANT

Because Jesus Christ loved me, gave Himself for me, was raised in power, and reigns as King, I choose to live a Jesus-First life through hope-inspired faith bearing the fruit/working in love:

- ▶ I will treasure Jesus above possessions, approval, comfort, success, control, and every temporary desire.
- ▶ I will seek His voice through Scripture and prayer.
- ▶ I will submit to His authority and obey His commands.
- ▶ I will remain in Christ and walk by the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ I will love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- ▶ I will love others as Christ has loved me.
- ▶ I will boldly declare His Gospel.
- ▶ I will help move all generations toward faithfulness to Jesus.
- ▶ When I fail, I will repent, receive His grace, and return to Him.
- ▶ Until Jesus returns or calls me home, I will live for the glory of Christ, my King.

Jesus Christ and His Kingdom are my Pearl of Great Price.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, in light of Ephesians 3:20-21, I thank You for revealing the incomparable worth of Your Son. Forgive me for every false treasure I have placed before Him. By Your Spirit, keep my heart faithful, my eyes fixed upon Jesus, and my life surrendered to His Kingdom.

Jesus, You were crucified in love, raised in power, and You reign as King. I choose to live by faith in You. Teach me to seek Your voice, declare Your Gospel, and move all generations toward Your glory.

You are not simply one treasure among many. You are the Treasure above every treasure, the King above every king, and the Pearl of Great Price.

Jesus Christ is first. His Kingdom is my pursuit. His glory is my purpose.

Amen.