



FIRM FOUNDATIONS. FRESH FAITH.

Sermon Study Guide

Week 2: Jesus

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Sometimes we approach the Bible as if it were a rulebook with instructions for moral living or religious behaviour. But Scripture is more like a collection of love letters revealing God's relentless desire to restore relationship with humanity.

This week we reflect on the story of a God who promises, comes, dies, wins, and reigns. His invitation is to turn towards Him and live as children who know and are known by the King.

Read Acts 2:14-41

In the book of Acts, we see the early believers learning what it looks like to walk in 'the way'. They didn't have the Bible as we know it. The New Testament hasn't been written yet. They were living it out, devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching, and building their lives on the good news of Jesus.

After the Spirit of God falls at Pentecost, Peter stands up and shares this good news as someone with first-hand experience. Peter walked with Jesus. He heard His teaching. He witnessed His miracles. He was there through His life, death and resurrection.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter preaches the gospel and tells the love story of the God who promises, comes, dies, wins, and reigns.



1. Do you tend to approach the Bible as an instructional book and experience faith as rule-keeping? What would it look like to see God's word more like a love letter calling you into relationship?

God Promises

Read Acts 2:29-32, also Genesis 3:8-15 and 12:1-3

From the earliest pages of Scripture, God's desire is relationship. Humanity was created to live in closeness with God, walking with Him, knowing Him, enjoying friendship with Him. But that relationship fractured when humanity turned away. From that moment on, the story of Scripture becomes the story of restoration. Every step is part of a long unfolding promise: God will make a way to bring His people back to Himself. This ancient promise, woven through the Old Testament, finds its ultimate fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ.

1. God desires relationship with you. Where have you seen this pursuit in your own life?

God Comes

Read Acts 2:22, also John 1:14 and Philippians 2:5-11

God comes to us. This is one of the most radical claims of Christianity: God does not remain distant. He enters human experience. He lives among ordinary people. He heals, teaches, restores and loves.

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. He welcomes the outcast. He touches the untouchable. He sees the overlooked. The incarnation reveals the nature of divine love—humble, sacrificial and personal.

1. What stands out to you about God becoming human?
2. When you reflect on Jesus' life, what specific quality of His character inspires you most to live out God's love in your own daily interactions?

God Dies

Read Acts 2:23, also Isaiah 53:3-6 and Romans 5:6-11

Peter is direct: humanity killed the Messiah. The one who embodies divine love is rejected and crucified. This is not simply about a historical event. It's about the human condition. Jesus dies because of human rebellion and self-righteousness. Our



tendency to turn from God and our attempts to justify ourselves without Him. Both impulses exist in every human heart.

Turning away from God produces shame, a universal experience that is part of being human. We feel not enough. We feel exposed. We feel unworthy. But rebellion isn't the only problem. Moral self-reliance can be just as binding when we try to prove our own worth. Modern culture often reinforces this pressure: create yourself, define yourself, perfect yourself. But self-creation is exhausting. Trying to be your own saviour is heavy work and ultimately fruitless. Personal growth and self-construction cannot save us.

Jesus died to free humanity from both shame *and* striving. His death is an act of reconciliation, restoring the relationship that humanity could never repair on its own.

1. How do you personally relate to the ideas of shame or striving? Why is it difficult for people to accept grace rather than earn approval?
2. What does the cross reveal about the seriousness of sin and the depth of God's love?

God Wins

Read Acts 2:24, also Luke 24:1-12 and 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

The story does not end with death. Jesus rises.

This is the turning point of Christian faith. Without the resurrection, Jesus may be remembered as a moral teacher or tragic hero. But the resurrection declares something far greater: death itself has been defeated.

Peter and the other disciples claim they witnessed the risen Christ. They saw him, spoke with him, touched him. Their testimony reshaped their lives, and eventually the world. The resurrection is not a symbolic hope, but a historical reality. It confirms that everything Jesus said is trustworthy. It reveals that sin and death do not have the final word. Life eternal, restored, and abundant is now possible. God wins.

1. The resurrection makes hope a present power, not just a future wish. How does knowing that Jesus rose from the dead impact your current struggles or fears? What specific hope does the resurrection offer you in your daily life right now?



God Reigns

Read Acts 2:33-39

The final chapter is not just about what happened then, but what happens now. After Jesus rises, the Holy Spirit is poured out on believers. God's presence no longer rests in a temple or sacred place alone, but within people. This means faith is a lived relationship.

Just as love between two people is known through shared life, so God's love is experienced through ongoing connection. You are invited to know God, not just know about him. You are invited to encounter His presence, guidance and power in daily life, and to live in freedom as a child of the King.

1. What does it mean to experience God rather than simply know about him? What difference does it make to see yourself as a child of God?
2. How do repentance and faith function as ongoing practices, not one-time events?

The Invitation: Turn and Trust

Peter's listeners respond with a question that still echoes today: *What should we do?* His answer is simple—repent and believe.

Repentance simply means turning around and changing direction. Turning from self-rule and turning toward God. It is a movement of trust, surrendering control and receiving grace.

This turning is not a one-time event but an ongoing posture as we daily return to relationship. So, what does it look like for you to "turn around" from a specific area of self-reliance or rebellion this week, and actively "turn toward" God in faith?

Optional activity for the week

Spend time reflecting on the good news of the gospel this week. As you commit to regular Scripture reading and prayer of surrender ("thank you, sorry, please"), you may like to meditate on one movement of the gospel each day:

Monday — God promises

Tuesday — God comes

Wednesday — God dies



Thursday — God wins

Friday — God reigns

Reflect, pray and journal.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for your great love, a love that seeks and saves. Thank you for your promises, fulfilled in Jesus, and for the new life we have through Him. Help us to turn toward you each day with open hearts. Free us from shame, release us from striving, and teach us to live as your beloved children. Fill us anew with your Spirit, and guide us to walk in faith, hope and love this week.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.