

## Jesus Never Said THAT: Life Will Be Easy

April 19, 2020

### Week 1 Reading Plan

#### Day 1-

READ: [Matthew 14:22-33](#); [Psalm 77:16-20](#)

REFLECT: In Matthew's gospel we see Jesus walk on the water and Peter climb out of the boat. In the Psalm, we hear the Israelites sing in remembrance of their deliverance through the sea from Egypt. Imagine you are Peter once he is safely ashore, thinking back to what happened in the storm. God brings this Psalm to his remembrance. What was God teaching His people about their suffering and about Himself? What was He teaching Peter? What is He teaching you?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: The point of these stories is not the people or their circumstances, the point is the faithfulness of the Lord. Praise Him for His faithfulness and ask Him to bring to your remembrance His faithfulness in your life. Now ask Him to increase your faith and be ready to see how He gives you opportunities to do so!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH & LISTEN: [The Story Behind the Hymn: It Is Well With My Soul](#) from RightNow Media. Find a favorite version of this song and add it to your worship playlist this week.

#### Day 2-

READ: [John 16:33](#)

REFLECT: Shortly before Jesus dies on the cross, He speaks these words to His disciples. Read the verse a second time. Now, read it again, pausing to reflect after each phrase. Write down what you hear God speaking to you.

The disciples do not see the future, but Jesus does. What does He say the disciples will find in Him? What will they find in the world? What are you finding in your world today? How will you let Jesus speak to you this week so that you will find peace in Him?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: *"Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."* (from a hymn by Helen Howarth Lemmel). With whom could you share the peace of Jesus this week? Ask Him to bring a name or a face to your mind.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: Jesus' Farwell Discourse- [John 13:31-16:33](#)

REFLECT: After 3 years of ministry with these 12 men, Jesus prepares them for the difficult road they will walk as His followers. If Jesus sat down and spoke these words to you today, how do you think you would respond? Why is it worth it to choose Jesus and not the “easy” life?

### Day 3-

READ: [Hebrews 11:23-29](#)

REFLECT: How is faith defined in [Hebrews 11:1](#)? Moses is commended as having lived his life with this faith. Based on his brief “highlight reel” in Hebrews, how would you describe his life? Is *easy* on your list? Moses neither led his people into the promised land, nor saw God’s ultimate redemption of His people (Jesus). Yet what did his faith, his obedience mean for the future of God’s people, the Israelites, and for us?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Ask God to increase your faith to follow Him, as Moses followed, wherever He leads - to the courts of your enemy, to the banks of the raging sea, to the wilderness, toward a promise yet to be fulfilled.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: Moses is credited as the author of [Psalm 90](#). What do you learn about him and what do you learn about God in Moses’ song of lament?

### Day 4-

READ: [Philippians 1:21](#)

REFLECT: Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi while he was in prison. After reading this one sentence, how would you describe Paul’s life? Write “to live is Christ” at the top of a piece of paper. Brainstorm all the ways that a person’s life could be lived for Jesus. Read back through the list. How is your life being lived for Jesus right now? How do you want to live for Jesus moving forward? What mental shift will it require for you to consider death as gain?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Surrender your life and your death to Jesus today!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: [Crossing the Waters: Storming the Peace](#) on RightNow Media. An Alaskan salmon fisherwoman reflects on the storms that rage and Jesus as our Savior.

Day 5-

READ: [Isaiah 43:1-3](#)

REFLECT: Copy these verses into a journal and add your name wherever it says “you.” Now read it again, out loud. How does it feel to hear the words God spoke to His people 1000s of years ago echo in your head and heart right now? Remember, His Word is living and active. It was written for then and it is written for now.

PRAY & PRAISE: Write your own prayer of praise to the Lord. Be honest with Him about where you are (emotional, spiritually, physically) and praise Him for being big enough to be present with you where you are.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [Psalm 139](#). Be encouraged. Be strengthened. You are known and seen by God, your Creator.