

# JESUS: Our Spiritual Example

**Has anyone told you they would believe God IF He appeared to them?**

The fact is, *God already revealed Himself to mankind* through the life of one man who lived over two thousand years ago.

**"The Son is the radiance of God's glory  
and the exact representation of His being..."**

Hebrews 1:3, NIV

If you really want to see what God is like, then  **look** at Jesus Christ, His Son!

## Jesus, the Son of God

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made....  
The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...."* John 1:1-3, 14, NIV

- ❖ **Circle** who is identified as "the Word."
- ❖ **Underline** what "the Word became".

The Word became a man and lived among us as God's only begotten Son, *Jesus Christ!*

*"He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation....  
For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."* Colossians 1:15 & 2:9, NIV

- ❖ **Underline** each description of Jesus Christ in these verses.
- Christ is the *visible* representation of the *invisible* God.

"I know men, and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man.... Between Him and whoever else in the world there is no possible term of comparison....

**Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I myself** have founded great empires.



But upon what did these creations of our genius depend? **Upon FORCE.**

**Jesus** alone founded His empire **upon LOVE**; and to this very day millions would die for Him." ~ Napoleon Bonaparte

## Jesus, the Son of Man

<sup>5</sup> "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> *Who being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness."*

*Jesus*

Philippians 2:5-7, NIV

- ❖ **Circle** how verse 6 describes Jesus.
- ❖ **Underline** what verse 7 says Jesus did.

## Jesus, the Way

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

John 14:6, NIV

- ❖ **Circle** who can come to God without Jesus.

"On July 20, 1969, **Apollo 11** astronauts landed on the moon...Millions remember the words of Neil Armstrong:

*'That's one small step for man,  
one giant leap for mankind.'*



...Two thousand years earlier, the Creator of the moon made a giant leap of a vastly different kind. He **descended** from heaven to earth (**Philippians 2:5-8**).

God the Son, the eternal Word (**John 1:1, 14**), stepped down from heaven to become fully human, while remaining fully God.

It was an amazing 'leap,' which showed us God's heart of love. He became one of us so that He could die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. By trusting Him as our Savior, we are forgiven.

...He now unites all who trust Him, producing in them a growing humility and love that replaces selfishness and pride.



**Going to the moon is NOTHING compared to that."**

~ Dennis J. De Haan

"JESUS is **not** one of MANY ways to approach God, **nor** is He the best of SEVERAL ways;

He is the  way."

~ A. W. Tozer

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# Jesus, Our Savior

*"We have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."* 1 John 4:14, NASB

❖ **Frame** why God the Father sent Jesus to earth.

**IF** our greatest need had been **INFORMATION**, God would have sent us an **EDUCATOR**.  
**IF** our greatest need had been **TECHNOLOGY**, God would have sent us a **SCIENTIST**.  
**IF** our greatest need had been **MONEY**, God would have sent us an **ECONOMIST**.  
**IF** our greatest need had been **PLEASURE**, God would have sent us an **ENTERTAINER**.  
**BUT** since our greatest need was **FORGIVENESS**, God sent us a **SAVIOR**.  
~ Roy Lessin

# Jesus, Our Example

*"For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it, you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an **example** for you to follow in His steps."* 1 Peter 2:20-21, NASB

❖ **Underline** how to find "favor with God."

❖ **Circle** who "suffered" for us.



*"Follow God's **example**, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us..."* Ephesians 5:1-2, NIV

❖ **Underline** Christ's example of sacrificial love.

Walking in the "way of love" means trying to live the way Jesus would.

# What Would Jesus Do?

"Hang this question up in your homes – '**What would Jesus do?**' and then think of another – '**How would Jesus do it?**'

For what Jesus would do and how He would do it may always stand as the best guide to us."

~ Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

## ► Compassionate Lives

*"For this reason He [Jesus] had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement [peace with God] for the sins of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted."* Hebrews 2:17-18, NIV

❖ **Underline two** reasons Jesus was made like us "in every way."

❖ **Circle** what Jesus is able to do because He "suffered."

Jesus is a *Compassionate Helper* in our times of need because He experienced and overcome temptation.



"Christ literally walked in our **shoes** and entered into our affliction." ~ Tim Keller



"Each of us is an **Innkeeper** who decides if there is room for Jesus!"

~ Neal Maxwell

*"Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did."*

1 John 2:6, NIV

"One will never know if what motivates us is **Moral CONVICTION** OR **Moral CONVENIENCE** until we are forced to suffer loss for standing our ground or keeping our word."  
~ Sam Storms

*"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, '**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**'"*

Acts 20:35, NKJV

"What **common task** could I start doing as if I were doing it directly for Jesus?"  
~ Rick Warren

*"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."*

Luke 6:36, ESV

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## ► Humble Lives

*“And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”  
Philippians 2:8, NIV*

- ❖ Circle **who** “humbled” Christ.
- ❖ Underline **how** Christ showed humility.

Note that Christ **“humbled Himself.”**

- ◆ Others can humiliate us, but only we can humble ourselves. There is a difference!
- ◆ If you are not humble, just look in the mirror to see who is preventing you.

## ► Surrendered Lives

*“And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And He [Jesus] said to His disciples,  
‘Sit here while I pray’ ....  
And going a little farther, He fell on the ground and prayed that,  
if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him.  
And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me.  
Yet not what I will, but what you will.’”  
Mark 14:32, 35-36, ESV*

- ❖ Underline Jesus’ prayer.

*“Then Jesus said to his disciples,  
‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves  
and take up their cross and follow me.’”  
Matthew 16:24, NIV*



- ❖ Underline what a “disciple” of Jesus should do.

## ► Prayerful Lives

*“I [Jesus] pray **for them** [disciples]. I do not pray for the world  
but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.  
I do not pray for these alone,  
but also **for those** who will believe in Me through their word.”  
John 17:9, 20, NKJV*

- ❖ Circle two groups of people Jesus prayed for.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed for **His disciples** and **everyone else** who would later believe on Him!



## ► Forgiving Lives

*“And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him [Jesus],  
and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.  
Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do....’”  
Luke 23:33-34, NKJV*

- ❖ Underline Jesus’ prayer.

On the cross, Jesus demonstrated how to forgive and love your enemies.

*“Bear with each other and forgive one another  
if any of you has a grievance against someone.  
Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”  
Colossians 3:13, NIV*

- ❖ Circle how we are to “forgive.”

**“When you FORGIVE, you must cancel the debt.  
Do not spend your life paying and collecting debts.”  
~ Joyce Meyer**



❓ What does **Matthew 23:12** say will happen if you humble yourself?

### HUMILITY

- is not thinking less of yourself
- but **thinking of yourself less.**

~ C. S. Lewis

*“...God resists the proud, but  
gives grace to the **humble.**”*

James 4:6, NKJV

“**“Taking up my ‘cross’**  
means a life voluntarily  
surrendered to God.”  
~ A. W. Tozer

❓ What did Jesus do all night before He called His twelve disciples? **See Luke 6:12-13.**

“When a **deep injury**  
is done us,  
we never recover  
until we **FORGIVE.**”

~ Alan Paton



### **Forgive Quickly.**

The quicker you do it,  
the easier it is.

~ Joyce Meyer

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## ▶ Servant Lives

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Mark 10:45, NKJV

❖ **Underline** *two* things the Son of Man came to do.

*"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve [disciples] and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.'" Mark 9:35, NIV*

❖ **Circle** Jesus' description of how to be "first."

**"The 2** conditions of true greatness are **humility** and **service**;

- not to be the servant of friends, or kindred, or of a class, or even of church members,
- but of **ALL**, like Christ." ~ Barton Johnson

## ▶ Obedient Lives

*"For I [Jesus] have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me."*

John 6:38, NKJV

❖ **Underline** what Jesus came "down from heaven" to do.

**"Instant obedience** is the only kind of obedience there is; **Delayed obedience** is disobedience." ~ Thomas a Kempis



## ▶ Confident Lives

*"...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2, NASB*

❖ **Underline** how we are to run the Christian "race."

❖ **Circle** whom we are to fix our eyes on.

❖ **Underline** what enabled Jesus to endure the suffering of the cross.

- ◆ When Jesus looked at the cross, He focused on the "joy" that would result and the **victory** that would be His in the end.
- ◆ We must also look past our problems to the triumph God will ultimately provide!

**"Fixing our eyes on Jesus"** is perhaps the most important lesson in this athletic metaphor [or analogy].



- Any runner in the Greek stadium who took his eyes off the goal and either looked at the crowds, or his competitors, would **lose valuable time and concentration**.
- So it is in the Christian life. When we get our eyes off the Lord, and onto others, we are in danger of **getting sidetracked spiritually**."

~ Gene Getz

## APPLICATION



Think of a challenging situation that recently happened in your life.

**How would Jesus respond?**

"Those who are **happiest** are those who do the most for **others**."



~ Booker T. Washington

*"So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say,*

*'We are unworthy **SERVANTS**; we have only done what was our duty.'*

Luke 17:10, ESV

## AFFIRMATION

**1.** In Christ I can see the One True Invisible God.

**2.** As Christ's Disciple, I will live...

- ~ a Humble Life!
- ~ a Compassionate Life!
- ~ a Surrendered Life!
- ~ a Prayerful Life!
- ~ a Forgiving Life!
- ~ a Servant Life!
- ~ an Obedient Life!
- ~ a Confident Life!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ "Yet in **ALL** these things we are  
★ **MORE THAN CONQUERORS**  
★ through Him who loved us."  
★ ~ Romans 8:37, NKJV  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, thank you for Your example of how to live. Enable me to be "more than a conqueror" and to keep my focus on You. Amen.*

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