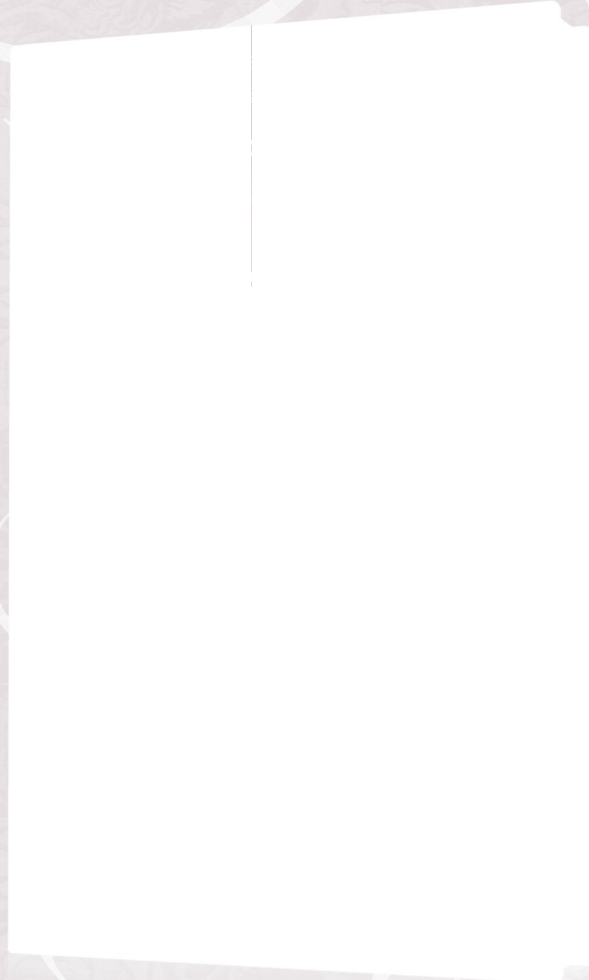


# The Jesus Always

## 52-Week Discussion Guide





*The Jesus Always 52-Week Discussion Guide*  
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# 52 WEEKS OF TOPICS

1.	January 1	Fullness of Joy	27.	July 1	An Eternal Commitment
2.	January 8	Joy That Knows No Bounds	28.	July 8	Give Your Concerns to Him
3.	January 15	A Shining Light	29.	July 15	God's Unfailing Love
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5.	January 29	The Joyful Journey	31.	July 29	God's To-Do List
6.	February 5	Rejoice in the Lord	32.	August 5	Our Greatest Friend
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8.	February 19	A Reliable Source of Joy	34.	August 19	Joyful Dependence
9.	February 26	A Beautiful Heart	35.	August 26	Supernatural Joy
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25.	June 17	Our Graceful Guide	51.	December 15	God the Father
26.	June 24	Putting on the New Self	52.	December 22	The Light of the World



# The Jesus Always 52-Week Discussion Guide

## *Embracing Joy in His Presence*

The following discussion-guide questions are based on readings from the devotional *Jesus Always* and are designed to help an individual or group gain a deeper understanding of “embracing joy in His presence.” The selections are identified by date; however, the discussion sessions do not have to be done on a specific date—the references are simply used to help you locate the passages. Questions can be used for group discussion or personal reflection any time of the year.

### **Discussion #1: FULLNESS OF JOY**

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated January 1, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What past events of your life do you find yourself dwelling on? Do you tend to let the disappointments and failures of yesterday overshadow your life today?

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2. Today’s reading tells us that “*today* is a precious gift” and that we should “*rejoice and be glad in it.*” What are some ways you can pay attention to what’s going on today and be grateful for the moment that is in front of you?

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3. One of the scriptures associated with the reading today promises this: “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11 NKJV). Do you believe that by seeking God daily you can find “fullness of joy”? What does this look like in your daily life?

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## Discussion #2: JOY THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated January 8, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What adversities are you facing today? Do you believe it's possible to still find joy in life amidst even the more difficult times? Describe a time when you found joy during a tough situation.

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2. Today's reading advises us to "refuse to let adversity keep you from enjoying Me." Why do you think it's important to lean on God during difficult times? What does the text tell us will happen when we "keep [our] hope fully fastened" on God?

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3. One of the scriptures for today explains, "Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8 NKJV). Write a prayer asking God for the courage to face your troubles boldly so that you may find inexpressible joy in Him.

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### Discussion #3: A SHINING LIGHT

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated January 15, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. How have you found strength when going through a dark time in your life? What are some blessings you've been able to bestow on others when they needed a "light" during their own dark times?

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2. In the reading today, we are assured that God has an "eternal grip" on us and that He will never let us go. What does this reading tell us we can receive when we "cry out for His assistance" with even the smallest prayers for help?

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3. When you "trust in him at all times" and "pour out your hearts to him" as Psalm 62:8 exhorts us to do, you can know that God will be your refuge. Think about how God is your refuge. How, as today's reading suggests, might you see God's light "*shining on* in surpassing splendor" as you emerge from the shadows of difficult times?

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## Discussion #4: THE ROCK OF CONFIDENCE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated January 22, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading reminds us that God is "worthy of *all* [our] confidence, *all* [our] trust." What are some ways God has empowered you with confidence to take on changes or shifting circumstances in your life?

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2. Psalm 18:2 provides this encouragement: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." In recognizing that the Lord is our rock, how does this knowledge have the potential to change how you approach difficult decisions in your life?

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3. Whenever we feel insecure, anxiety sets in. But when we choose to trust in God, our Rock, we can have power over anxious feelings. Whenever you feel anxious this week, take time to voice your feelings to God. Write a prayer asking God to lift you out of anxiety-ridden moments and find complete joy in Him.

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## Discussion #5: THE JOYFUL JOURNEY

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated January 29, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading reminds us that "you feel more alive—more awake and real—when you are actively pursuing [God]." What does it mean to you to pursue God? Describe some ways you seek Him in your life.

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2. One of the scriptures for today tells us this: "'You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,' declares the LORD, 'and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile'" (Jeremiah 29:13–14). As you consider the things of life that might hold you captive, what are the ways you've seen God "bring you back from captivity"?

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3. Our journey through life can be joyful as we seek God along the way. Take time to focus on God through all of your commitments this week. Record here all the ways you recognize His presence through each day.

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## Discussion #6: REJOICE IN THE LORD

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated February 5, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Do you believe that no matter what happens in life, you can still be joyful in the Lord? Philippians 4:4 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” Make a list of the joys in your life today, and note how they are present, despite any challenges you may be currently facing.

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2. Today’s reading tells us that God is “training you to view your life from a heavenly perspective—through eyes of faith.” As you find ways to deal with the circumstances of the moment, are you able to look beyond them with “eyes of faith” and express your confidence that God is still at work in your life?

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3. Try practicing the phrase “I can still rejoice in You, Jesus” with each circumstance you face this week. As you do this each day, take note of how this practice helps change your perspective to a more joyful one throughout the week.

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## Discussion #7: GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated February 12, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Have you ever had a moment in your life that felt like a “taste of heaven’s splendor”? These are times when God made Himself evident with some gift or circumstance that powerfully revealed His goodness. Describe one of these times.

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2. Today’s reading shows that God offers us an “*inexpressible and glorious Joy*—straight from heaven itself!” We can rejoice in the fact that we serve a “risen, living Savior.” And though for now we know Him by faith, not sight, we can look forward to seeing Him one day. What are some ways you relate to God as your Father, even though you’ve not yet seen Him face to face?

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3. Our love and belief in a living God, whom we haven’t seen, defines an important aspect of the Christian faith. Reflect on these words from John 20:29: “Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed’” (NKJV). What are some blessings that come from your faith and the assurance that you will spend eternity with your heavenly Father?

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## Discussion #8: A RELIABLE SOURCE OF JOY

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated February 19, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Psalm 16:8 says, “I have set the LORD continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken” (NASB). The knowledge that God is always near should be a tremendous source of joy for us. What are some things that remind you that God is never far from you?

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2. Today’s reading reminds us that we should be “real” with God in our prayers, and that when we “stay in close communication with [Him], the Joy of [His] Presence is [ours]!” How do you make communication with God a part of your daily routine? How else can you incorporate prayer into your day?

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3. Communication with God happens when we “study and meditate on Scripture.” How does knowing God’s Word more intimately help change your mind-set for the better?

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## Discussion #9: A BEAUTIFUL HEART

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated February 26, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading says that "*man looks at the outward appearance, but [God looks] at the heart*" and that God is "primarily interested in the condition of your heart, and [He works] to create beauty in it." We know God created visually beautiful things for our pleasure, but what in your life is beautiful from a *heart* perspective?

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2. Proverbs 4:23 warns us to "above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." What does it mean to you to "guard your heart"?

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3. When we align our priorities with what God has taught in the Bible and hide these principles in our hearts, He creates something of beauty in our lives—far beyond the beauty of this world. As you read the Bible this week, begin to memorize key verses in an effort to nourish the beauty of your heart with God's Word. Write one or more of those verses here.

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## Discussion #10: ALL IN GOOD TIME

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated March 4, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Most of us don't enjoy waiting for things in life; instead, we would rather make things happen to hasten the process along. Today's reading reminds us that while "waiting patiently does not come easily to you, . . . it is nonetheless very good for you." What are some benefits that might result from waiting patiently?

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2. "Timing is everything," we're often told. As we ponder God's timing, can you think of some circumstances in your life when the timing may not have been your choosing? Did God's timing influence the outcomes in a positive way?

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3. Isaiah 30:18 reminds us that "the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" As you pray for patience this week, be reminded that though we cannot see the future clearly, God can. Write a prayer acknowledging God's control and thanking Him for His perfect timing.

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## Discussion #11: THE ANCHOR OF GRATEFULNESS

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated March 11, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading says, "Thankfulness keeps you linked to [God] and anchored in the present," while "worry, on the other hand, pulls you into the future, where you wander in barren places of uncertainty." What are the gifts you see in your life today that anchor you to the present?

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2. Colossians 2:6–7 says, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." How might living a life steeped in thankfulness help keep worry at bay?

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3. This week, try turning a worried thought into one of gratitude by whispering prayers of thanksgiving each time an anxious thought comes into your mind. As the week progresses, how do you see this affecting your outlook?

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## Discussion #12: A JOYFUL RETURN

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated March 18, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading reminds us that God knows "exactly how much you can handle with [His] help." Have you ever felt pushed to the limit in life? Where did you find the strength to get through those times?

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2. Whenever your thoughts lead you into feeling overwhelmed, you can always turn your thoughts back to God who is "ready to strengthen, encourage, and comfort you." Think of a specific time when God used a situation, spoke through a friend, or brought encouragement to you. How did this change your outlook and give you hope?

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3. Matthew 6:34 instructs us to take this attitude toward handling life's difficulties: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." To prepare for this week, write a simple prayer you can offer up to God each time you begin to wander down a path of worry. Use it to keep your focus joyfully centered on God.

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## Discussion #13: THE TREASURE OF ALL TREASURES

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated March 25, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. The reading for today reminds us that God is “everything you could possibly need—for this life and the next. [He is] the Treasure that encompasses all treasures.” What are the things you highly value in your life that might cause you to forget where your true treasure lies?

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2. Colossians 2:2–3 says, “My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” As you ponder this verse, think of the questions you have in this life. How does it feel to know we are promised, through seeking Christ, that we will grow in wisdom and understanding?

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3. Knowing that our true treasure is in God alone, remember this week that He is the “answer to all your struggles, the Joy that pervades all time and circumstances.” Write a prayer asking God to open your eyes to see His treasures in your daily life, and keep a list of them here.

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## Discussion #14: BRIGHTENING YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated April 1, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Each day brings with it various trials and triumphs. We can choose to live in the knowledge of God's love amidst those trying times, or we can get lost in the notion that somehow we "deserve more." Are there some things you think you deserve? Begin to let go of those things, trusting that God will supply all your needs. What are you thankful for that you have already been given?

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2. The reading today says that God delights in "brightening your perspective." It goes on to say that the reason Jesus ventured into the world was to "*open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison, and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.*" What are some ways God has opened your eyes, freed you, and released you from darkness?

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3. Psalm 119:105 proclaims, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Describe a time when studying Scripture has been like a bright light for your path. As you pray and study this week, take note of those moments of light when God reveals His wisdom and grace to you.

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## Discussion #15: THE REASON FOR HOPE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated April 8, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Romans 5:5 says, "Hope does not disappoint us." List several things that bring you hope.

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2. Just as David prayed in Psalm 27:4, we can also pray: "One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple." Think of this hope David had in the promise that he would one day "dwell in the house of the LORD." What feelings does this promise stir within you?

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3. There will be situations in our lives that cause feelings of hopelessness. Today's reading reminds us that "whenever you're struggling, encourage yourself by pondering truths of the gospel and by gazing at [God], your glorious Hope." Whenever you feel hopeless, pause for a moment, and ask God to help you be aware of His presence. Though you may not yet see the solution to your challenge, in what ways can you be sure that He will sustain you?

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## Discussion #16: A SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated April 15, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. It is a rare experience to show or to be shown sacrificial love. Describe a time in your life when someone demonstrated sacrificial love on your behalf.

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2. We are reminded in today's reading of the sacrifice Jesus made for us: "For your sake, [Jesus] left the glorious perfection of heaven and began life in your world as a helpless, stable-born infant." Reflect on the depth of love God must have for us—that He sent His Son to bear the burden of our sins. As you ponder this amazing truth, what words come to mind to describe this kind of love?

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3. When we encounter God's level of sacrifice and love, it is natural to trust Him. We are told in 1 Peter 5:7 to "cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." Think of each problem and care you are dealing with right now, and imagine that you are handing them over to God to take care of. How does it feel to know that He frees you from the weight of carrying those burdens alone?

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## Discussion #17: A MEANINGFUL LIFE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated April 22, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What brings meaning and purpose to your life?

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2. As followers of Christ, we can rejoice in knowing that God is aware of our every need. Although we might not always understand the path He leads us to, today's reading reminds us that God is our ultimate guide: "Be ready to follow wherever I lead. I will guide you along adventurous paths that can fill your life with meaning." Can you think of a path you wouldn't have necessarily chosen but that has turned out to be meaningful for you? Describe how it became an important time in your life.

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3. As we willingly and wholeheartedly allow God to guide our steps, He will bless our lives in joyful and even unexpected ways. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart." How might you realize "the desires of your heart" as You follow His path for your life?

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## Discussion #18: HEAVENLY SECURITY

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated April 29, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What are the things in life that give you confidence and security?

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2. In today's reading we are reminded that we should rely on God for our ultimate security: "[God is] worthy of all your confidence, all your trust." When we place our security in things like education, wealth, or abilities, we quickly learn that these things are fleeting and unreliable. What does it look like to lessen your dependence on worldly things and increase your dependence on God?

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3. One of the listed Scripture passages is a prayer of recognition of the character of God: "Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies" (Psalm 36:5). As we recognize where our eternal security lies, we can lessen our grip on the things this world says we must have to be confident. Write a prayer asking God to deepen your dependence on Him and to help you see His limitless and everlasting love.

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## Discussion #19: AN EVER-PRESENT HELP

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated May 6, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. When you think about your future, do you plan its every detail? Do you anticipate it fearfully, not sure of what's to come? Or do you trust God to be with you and help you always?

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2. Today's reading points out that God is intimately involved in our lives and we can depend on Him: "Because you are [God's], purchased with [His] own blood, you can count on [His] promise to help you as you journey through this world. This is how you gain victory over fear: through trusting in [His] *ever-present help*." What are some ways you see God working in *all* parts of your life? Does seeing Him at work in your life help you trust Him with your future?

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3. Psalm 23:6 assures us this, "Surely goodness and mercy and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell forever [throughout all my days] in the house and in the presence of the LORD" (AMP). How can goodness, mercy, and love be a part of your life when you're going through a difficult time? How does the promise of God's presence affect your attitude during difficulties?

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## Discussion #20: SPEAKING TRUTH

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated May 13, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Have you ever had to share a difficult truth with someone? Describe that experience.

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2. There is a difference between what today's reading calls "superficial, self-righteous, and hypocritical evaluations" and having the courage to "*speak the truth in love.*" How can you ensure that you are not being judgmental of those with whom you are sharing truth?

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3. Ephesians 4:15 tells us that if we are careful to speak the truth in love, then "we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." How might refraining from judgmental speech help you grow in Christ? How might it help you lead others to Christ?

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## Discussion #21: THE QUEST FOR CONTENTMENT

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated May 20, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Do you ever compare yourself to other people in areas like wealth, possessions, or status? How do you feel when you measure yourself against others in this way?

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2. First Timothy 6:6–8 reminds us that “godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” How does this verse challenge our tendency toward obtaining more and more things?

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3. The reading for today encourages you to keep in mind that “no matter what you possess in this world, remember: Little (or much) plus [God] equals everything!” Take a moment to think through the blessings and gifts God has given you. How does the age-old advice of “counting your blessings” help you as you strive for contentment each day?

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## Discussion #22: A KINGDOM COMMUNITY

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated May 27, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What is your view of how the world is doing today? Do you believe things are getting better or worse?

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2. Whatever condition our world is in, our reading today encourages us to remember that we “are part of [God’s] kingdom of everlasting Life and Light.” When observing a fallen world, how does it make you feel to know that God is still in control and that we belong to His kingdom?

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3. We can be reassured by the words of Jesus in John 16:33: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (NKJV). Though this world is often in turmoil, how can you find joy and peace in Christ?

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## Discussion #23: BREAKING THE MOLD

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated June 3, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Each day we are witnesses to God's glory—though it may sometimes masquerade as simply normal parts of life. As today's reading points out, "You can get glimpses of [God's] loveliness in the wonders of nature, but these are only tiny, weak reflections of [God's] massive Glory. . . . For now, gazing upon [God's] beauty requires focusing on [His] unseen Presence through prayer and meditating on [His] Word." What beauty are you witness to when you focus on God through prayer and reading His Word?

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2. Our constant pursuit of God will give us the opportunity to witness His unseen beauty. What are some ways you can tune in to God to get a glimpse into His true glory?

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3. Jeremiah 29:13 offers us this promise: "Then [with a deep longing] you will seek Me and require Me [as a vital necessity] and [you will] find Me when you search for Me with all your heart" (AMP). As you pursue time with God this week, make a note of those glimpses of glory that you see in your prayer time. Do you find them leading you into a deepening sense of closeness to God?

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## Discussion #24: ENDURING THE UNENDURABLE

Please read the passage (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated June 10, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. When we face problems that don't seem to go away, it can be easy to descend into negativity. Think about the times you've been disappointed in life. How did you react? Did you get back up and try again, or did you seek to blame and become mired in your circumstances?

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2. Today's reading points out that "the more difficult your circumstance, the more you can gain through it. [God will] gladly give you Glory-strength. It is exceedingly potent because the Spirit Himself empowers you—*strengthening you in your inner being.*" Can you think of a time when you were empowered to handle a seemingly impossible situation? Did this difficult time shape you in some positive ways?

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3. Colossians 1:11 says, "As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives" (MSG). As you embrace God's "glory-strength," what are some practices you can employ that will help you endure through difficulties more joyfully?

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## Discussion #25: OUR GRACEFUL GUIDE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated June 17, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Have you ever felt as if you were waiting for something to happen in your life that never actually seems to come to fruition? How can you turn *impatient* waiting into *productive* waiting as you faithfully trust God to work it out in His timing?

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2. Today's reading says that God is "*good to those who wait hopefully and expectantly for [Him].*" But when we tire of waiting, it may sometimes seem more expeditious to plunge into something on our own—instead of exhibiting patience and trusting God to bring the pieces together. Can you think of a time you pushed forward when you should have waited? What happened?

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3. Today's lesson demonstrates God's desire for us to let Him lead by saying, "Follow [God's] lead as [He guides] you gracefully through your life." Lamentations 3:25 promises that "the LORD is good to those who wait [confidently] for Him, to those who seek Him [on the authority of God's word]" (AMP). Think about some of the things you're waiting for and what you're learning in the process. How might your quiet patience get you something better than what you'd get by working it out hastily on your own?

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## Discussion #26: PUTTING ON THE NEW SELF

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated June 24, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Do you ever think of how you are constantly changing and being renewed by God? Think back over just the last year of your life. What is different about you and your life?

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2. Today's reading points out that God's renewing process is "a massive undertaking; you will be under construction till the day you die." It also challenges us to be constantly "*putting off your old self*—your old way of thinking and doing things—and *putting on the new self*." What does this process of putting off the old in exchange for the new mean to you?

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3. This constant "*putting on the new self*" is really a process of becoming more like Christ, and that occurs as we seek to know Him and walk in His presence. Second Corinthians 5:17 says it this way: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" As you reflect on how God is shaping and molding you to become your best self, write a prayer surrendering each area of your life to God's control.

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## Discussion #27: AN ETERNAL COMMITMENT

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated July 1, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What do you think are the most important principles of commitment? What values and actions do you esteem in terms of the commitment that you have to others and that others have to you? Do you find that most people are able to honor these tenets of commitment?

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2. Today's reading reminds us of the unparalleled commitment that God has extended toward us: "[God has] *engraved you on the palms of [His] hands*, and this is an eternal commitment. Nothing could ever scrape off or corrode this inscription, for you are [God's] treasured, blood-bought possession." How does it feel to know that God is unwaveringly committed to you?

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3. Scripture shows us in Isaiah 49:15 that God's commitment to us surpasses even that of a mother to her child: "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" As you reflect on today's reading and on the permanent, loving commitment God has promised you, why do you think God considers each of us "a priceless treasure"? How can we respond to His commitment?

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## Discussion #28: GIVE YOUR CONCERNS TO HIM

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated July 8, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What would you like to have more of in life? How do you try to get more of what you are missing?

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2. When you wake up in the morning, instead of thinking about that thing you're lacking, concentrate on what you *do* have and the blessings of this day. As today's reading points out, "It's important for you to grow not only more trusting but more thankful." When you concentrate only on what you're missing, you're vulnerable to being dragged down "both spiritually and emotionally." Turn those thoughts of missing out into opportunities to be grateful for what you *do* have. What are some things that you can be grateful for today?

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3. First Thessalonians 5:18 tell us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (ESV). Write a prayer of commitment to God, promising to thank Him, no matter what, in each day of this week—and then ask Him to help you keep your promise.

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## Discussion #29: GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE

Please read the passage (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated July 15, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What is your definition of *love*? What are the ways you express love to others? How have you had love shown to you in ways that are meaningful?

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2. When you think of these memorable ways you've shown love and been given love, imagine the limitless love that God has for us, which is "*better than life itself!*" Today's reading points out that "it is infinitely better than anything this world offers, and it will never run out. *How priceless is [His] unfailing Love!*" As you contemplate how vast God's love is, choose to fully embrace the knowledge of this all-encompassing love each day. How can you make His love your focus each day?

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3. In Psalm 36:7, David recognized God's love: "How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings." As you lift up prayers to God this week, ask Him to help you internalize and fully believe in His great love for you. How might this then enable you to relate more lovingly to others?

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## Discussion #30: THE PATHWAY TO HEAVEN

Please read the passage (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated July 22, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Jesus came to earth, died, and rose from the dead so that we could experience a new birth, as today's reading points out: "By confessing your sinfulness and trusting [God] as your Savior, you have become one of [His] own—walking along a pathway to heaven." What kind of hope do you have for your life knowing that you have been redeemed?

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2. It can be a challenge to go down the path God has prescribed for us, especially when we face dark times. What gives you the strength to keep going in His chosen direction when worldly circumstances try to lead you down a different path?

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3. First Peter 1:3 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Knowing that your life's journey will ultimately end in heaven, how do you find "living hope" along the way?

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## Discussion #31: GOD'S TO-DO LIST

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated July 29, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. God is the most vibrant force we can tap into. Even in suffering, He is building qualities in us that last long beyond our own physical energy, endurance, or intellect. How has a time of suffering in your own life brought about a strengthening of character?

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2. Today's reading reminds us that we can take our problems to God: "Ask [God] to take this dark, ugly thing and transform it into something lovely. [He] can weave bright, golden strands of Glory into the most heart-wrenching situation." It can be difficult to be patient as we go through times of suffering. How might a time of "*patient endurance*" through suffering draw us closer to God?

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3. The Bible has this promise for us when in times of suffering: "Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory" (Romans 8:17). How would knowing that you are a co-heir with Christ help you shine His glory through difficult times?

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## Discussion #32: OUR GREATEST FRIEND

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated August 5, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading reminds us that, like a couple in love, God's heart leaps for joy when we are together with Him: "You are [God's] betrothed, and [He is] the forever-Lover of your soul. Rejoice in the astonishing affection [He has] for you!" Do you believe that Jesus is not only your Savior and Lord, but that He is also your closest friend? Make a list of qualities you cherish in your closest friends. Which of these same qualities do you see in Christ in your life?

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2. Jesus not only embodies the qualities of a close friend, but also, when we glorify Him, He promises to "strengthen and delight you, bringing Power to your prayers and Joy to your heart." What does it look like for you to trust Jesus as your friend? What can you get from a relationship with Him that no one else can provide?

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3. John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Jesus laid down His life for you; how can you lay down your life for Him?

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## Discussion #33: COUNT IT ALL JOY

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated August 12, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Each day we are faced with adversity—whether big or small. Some situations may seem beyond our ability to conquer. Think of some moments like this in your life. Were you able to rely on God when you realized you couldn't defeat the problem with your own abilities? How might you begin to rely on God *before* relying on your own abilities?

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2. Today's reading suggests that as we "bounce off these 'impossibilities,'" God's "everlasting arms are wide open—ready to catch you, calm you, and help you do what does not seem possible." Describe a time when you have fallen into God's arms in complete abandon.

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3. James 1:2–3 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." Describe how you might approach impossible problems knowing that you are living, as today's reading says, in "joyful, trusting dependence" on God.

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## Discussion #34: JOYFUL DEPENDENCE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated August 19, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. We spend a lot of time striving to take care of ourselves and others—working toward being self-sufficient. Today’s reading gives insight into God’s perspective toward dependence on Him: “[God wants] you to depend on [Him] not only in stormy circumstances but when the skies of your life are calm. This is a daily discipline—preparing you for whatever lies ahead. It is also a source of great Joy.” How might you pursue an *independent* life and still acknowledge that a life *dependent* upon God is best?

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2. As we turn our hearts toward God, we are able to see that being in daily communication with Him is “an extraordinary privilege,” giving us a much richer life than anything we could attain on our own. What are the things God will bestow on your life when you learn to rely on Him?

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3. Psalm 89:15–16 says, “Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD. They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness.” Think about this verse and what you are doing in terms of managing your own life. Are you ready to embrace the promise that God can meet *all* your needs? How will this influence your future pursuits?

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## Discussion #35: SUPERNATURAL JOY

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated August 26, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. It may seem impossible to be thankful when nothing seems to be going your way. However, in today's reading we are encouraged that "no matter what is happening in your life, you can *be joyful in [God]* because [He is] *your Savior*. . . . This sort of Joy is supernatural—powered by the Holy Spirit, who lives in all [His] followers." Does this connection to God help you tap into His supernatural joy, even in tough circumstances?

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2. Perhaps you've been through a difficult situation and come out on the other side of it. Can you remember a time that you experienced flashes of inexplicable joy during that season of hardship as God walked with you through it? Was He able to help you realize any blessings in the midst of the pain?

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3. Habakkuk 3:18 states, "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior." How does rejoicing in God bring us closer to Him and usher His presence into our lives?

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## Discussion #36: LISTEN IN LOVE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated September 2, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. We all need someone to talk to when we experience challenges in life. As today's reading notes, "When people bare their souls to you, you are *on holy ground*. Your responsibility is to listen and love." When friends or loved ones come to you, do you listen with an attitude of love? Or do you tend to try to fix the situation with your own take on it?

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2. We should consider this prayer from Psalms as we approach helping others with their problems: "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul" (Psalm 143:8). Do you seek God's mind and heart when helping others work through issues? How can you be a conduit for His "healing Presence" in this role?

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3. Practice your role of listening with love in your daily conversations this week. Be prayerful when you hear others' concerns, asking God to use you to shed His light on the situation. Do you see this approach changing the way others confide in you?

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## Discussion #37: PLAYING IT SAFE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated September 9, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. What are some ways you strive for knowledge or try to figure life out in order to make life seem less mysterious?

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2. A teachable attitude is prized by God. As our reading for today illustrates, the Lord is “pleased with your desire to learn wondrous things from [Him],” and “when you come to [God] eager to learn *great things which you do not know*,” God rejoices. When you find yourself in search of answers that you cannot find through conventional means, what are some ways you can be open to God’s teaching?

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3. Psalm 143:10 easily becomes a prayer we can offer to God as we seek knowledge from the ultimate Teacher: “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.” As you seek wisdom and knowledge, do you remember who the source of all knowledge is? How have you been open to learning in ways that look completely different than how the world learns?

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## Discussion #38: MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Please read the passage (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated September 16, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Describe a typical morning for you. Are you rushed and in a hurry to start the day? How does starting your day like this affect the rest of your day?

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2. Our reading today says, “Devote yourself to prayer *with an alert mind and a thankful heart*.” It also explains that “you can train yourself to call on [God] even while you’re engaging in other activities.” Think about the routine of your day. During what times might you offer up a prayer to God and communicate with Him for a few minutes along the course of your day?

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3. Colossians 4:2 encourages you to “devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart” (NLT). When can you make appointments with God this week—even during your other activities? Does spending time in communication with Him help your work go more smoothly? Does it bring a sense of fulfillment and peace to your week?

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## Discussion #39: REST IN GOD

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated September 23, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Have you ever been so depleted of energy and resources that you felt helpless? Perhaps an illness, a trying situation, or even just compounded daily stress caused you to reach your limit. What happens when you get to this point? Where do you turn for help?

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2. Perhaps you are someone who feels you can never have a day off. Our reading today reminds us that we sometimes *must* rest in order to be refreshed: “Instead of trying to figure everything out, *lean on* [God] in confident trust. Go off-duty for a while, trusting that [He’s] watching over you and working on your behalf.” In our busy lives it can be hard to imagine going “off-duty,” but what are some things you can put aside today so that God can provide healing for your spirit as you rest in His presence?

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3. We are reminded in Proverbs 3:5 to “trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding” (AMP). Even if you can’t fully retreat, take a mini-retreat to talk to God about your problems. When you choose to let God worry about the outcomes, are you able to find the peace “which surpasses all comprehension” that He promises (Philippians 4:7 NASB)? Why or why not?

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## Discussion #40: A FRIEND LIKE NO OTHER

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated September 30, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Think about a good friend you have known for a long time. How did you get to know each other? What kinds of things helped your friendship grow deeper? Do you feel as if you know your friend better than most?

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2. Scripture reminds us that when we seek a relationship with Jesus, we can know His glory. He is the most intriguing, singularly special person we could ever know. Second Corinthians 4:6 tells us this: “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” What does it mean to you to have “knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ”?

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3. The kind of loving, knowing relationship we enjoy with a great friend can be found in even greater depths in a relationship with Jesus. As today’s reading points out, He is the only friend who offers the “*Light of the gospel of [His] Glory*.” Knowing Jesus involves an awareness of Him—“experiencing [His] Presence.” How can you seek God this week and become more aware of His presence in your life?

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## Discussion #41: FREE YOUR MIND

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated October 7, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Think for a minute about the first things you see and hear in the morning. Is it the television? Or something on the Internet? Are your first waking thoughts filled with the troubles of the world, fed to you by a relentless barrage of outside sources?

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2. All the things vying for our mental attention aren't as important as the knowledge that God has "*overcome the world*," and that He is "also your loving Savior and faithful Friend." How do you go about filling your mind with God's truths and "pushing back the darkness" that is fed to you from so many sources?

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3. John 16:33 says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." As today's reading suggests, take time to fill your mind with biblical truth and spend time reading or singing the Psalms. Start your day this way, before the barrage of the world's input is able to cloud your mind. How are you better able to "resist discouragement" throughout your day when you employ these practices?

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## Discussion #42: THE PROMPTINGS OF GOD

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated October 14, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. With so many voices in our lives, it can be tempting to follow the most powerful ones and be led down paths that aren't always good for us. As our reading today mentions, "Unscrupulous people can manipulate their followers to do things they wouldn't freely choose to do." Have you ever felt as if you were being manipulated by someone in a leadership position? How did you deal with this situation?

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2. In the reading today, we are told that God will "*guide you with [His] truth and teach you [His] precepts so that you can make good decisions.*" Have you ever had one of those moments when a "gut feeling" told you that something just wasn't right? Have you considered that this might be a prompting from the Spirit of God to guide you in a different direction? Describe a time this happened in your life. How did it turn out?

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3. As you get deeper into prayer time and your study of Scripture, you will become more attuned to the map God has given us to follow through His Word—and you will also come to lean more fully on our Savior who is "completely trustworthy and dependable." Psalm 73:23–24 says, "Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory." What do these words mean in your life?

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## Discussion #43: HOLD ON LOOSELY

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated October 21, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading tells us to hold things, people, and circumstances with "loose hands." Is there something or someone to which you cling too tightly? Is that thing or person taking precedence over your relationship with God?

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2. Our attachment to things and people isn't necessarily unhealthy, but it must be balanced with the recognition that "ultimately [God is] the Owner of everything." Are you able to cherish your friends and family without putting them on pedestals in your life? How can you better remember to seek God even when circumstances aren't dire and your life seems peaceful?

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3. We tend to define our lives by our relationships, possessions, and status, forgetting that our true worth comes from Christ alone. Reflect on this verse from Colossians 2:6: "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him" (NLT). How can you balance pursuing some things in life while also following Jesus?

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## Discussion #44: NO LONGER CAPTIVE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated October 28, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Do you have something in your past or present that has prevented or is preventing you from approaching God? Do you have feelings of being alone in a situation, or of fear, guilt, and shame? Have you carried these feelings for so long that having them has become more natural than not having them?

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2. Scripture tells us in Psalm 126:3 that “the LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Do you trust that God is more powerful than the feelings you’ve been holding on to for so long? His healing power and grace extends to all parts of you, even the parts you want to hide from the world. Think of each of the things that have you bound by guilt, fear, and shame. As you list them, write a prayer acknowledging that Jesus has the power to set you free from each and every one.

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3. Today’s reading reminds us that God knows our every struggle and wants to free us from painful patterns: “There are hurting parts of you that [God desires] to heal. Some of them have been with you so long that you consider them facets of your identity. You carry them with you wherever you go, barely aware of their impact on your life.” How might the process of confessing your deepest thoughts and fears to God help you develop new patterns of thinking and living?

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## Discussion #45: THE LORD'S WORK

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated November 4, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading reminds us that "living in close communication with [God] can be a foretaste of heaven." Although our daily routines may not be as exciting as we'd like sometimes, whenever we focus our energy on working as if for the Lord, "even menial tasks glow with the Joy of [His] Presence." How do you approach your daily work? Do you slog through the routine, counting the minutes until you can finish, or do you work as if you're doing it all for God?

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2. The energy Christ imparts as we work with Him will help us discover the "beauty of days lived with [Him] always before [us] and beside [us]." Colossians 3:23–24 states, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." How might approaching your tasks as if you're working for God change your perspective for the better?

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3. As you approach your days in service to God, remember that "ultimately, *nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate you from [Him].*" How could the knowledge of God's unending and unfailing love brighten everything you do in life?

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## Discussion #46: GRACE AND MERCY

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated November 11, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Do you ever feel as if the world owes you something? What is the opposite of that sense of entitlement? Our reading today says, “Thankfulness is the opposite: a grateful attitude for what you *already* have.” Are you thankful for what you have? Or do you struggle with feeling that you aren’t getting what you truly deserve?

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2. Today’s reading goes on to say, “Thinking that you deserve more than you currently have will make you miserable, but a grateful attitude will fill you with Joy.” Do you find that dwelling on what you think you’re missing actually brings those things into your life? Or does it just bring more frustration?

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3. Remember these words from Ephesians 2:4–5: “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” God has given us so much more than we deserve. As you look at your life, what do you really deserve? But because of Christ, what are you given?

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## Discussion #47: CALM BEFORE THE STORM

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated November 18, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. In your view, what are the qualities of a strong person? Conversely, what are the qualities of a weak person?

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2. In 2 Corinthians 12:9, Paul showed one of the ways God views weaknesses: “Then [God] told me, My grace is enough for you; it’s all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness.” Paul then said, “Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ’s strength moving in on my weakness” (MSG). Describe a time when you felt weak but were led into new strength by seeking God.

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3. The reading for today emphasizes where we find true strength: “[God’s] powerful Presence not only strengthens you; it holds you close and doesn’t let go. [He has] a firm grip on you, beloved.” List some ways can you reach out to take hold of the lifeline of God’s strength and power.

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## Discussion #48: A LIGHT FOR YOUR PATH

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated November 25, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Have you ever found yourself seeking answers and direction but getting “stuck in introspection” when you have an important decision to make? What kinds of things have you turned to when you have big choices to make in life?

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2. Today’s reading gives us insight into how we can make decisions with God as our guide: “When you need to make decisions, consider what would glorify [God] and bring [Him] pleasure. This can help you to choose wisely and stay more aware of [His] Presence.” How might remembering to reflect God’s glory in the decisions you make help you as you face difficult choices?

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3. When you find yourself having difficulty making a decision, remember that God knows more about you and your situation than anyone else. If you spend hours in self-contemplation without seeking the Lord’s help, you may not come any closer to a decision. As Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Think of a decision that is coming up in your life, and write a prayer asking God to “guide your mind as you think things out.”

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## Discussion #49: THIRST FOR GOD

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated December 2, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Describe what it is like to be thirsty. Now describe how it feels when that thirst is quenched.

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2. We know that water is essential to life. Just as we *thirst* for water, God desires that we *thirst* for Him. As today's reading points out, "Thirst is a very powerful appetite; this is necessary because drinking sustains life even more than eating. . . . Thirsting for [God] first and foremost is crucial for your spiritual health." Think of what it would be like if you didn't have enough water. Now imagine what it would be like without the "Life-water" of God to sustain you. Where would you ultimately end up without His "refreshing and renewing" presence in your life?

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3. Revelation 21:6 illustrates the symbolism of thirsting for God: "He also said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the one who is thirsty I will give water free of charge from the spring of the water of life'" (NET). Describe how it feels to plunge into a cool body of water on a hot day. As you list the adjectives that come to mind, compare them to the joy of receiving "Life-water" from the One who refreshes your soul.

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## Discussion #50: THE LORD OF PEACE

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated December 8, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Do you ever envision God as a judge who is tallying up all your mistakes? How would this view of God affect your actions each day?

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2. Today's reading points out that "many of [God's] followers forfeit Peace because they think [He is] always scrutinizing them through critical eyes. On the contrary, [He gazes] at you through eyes of perfect Love." Considering that God views us this way, how does this make you feel? God doesn't want to punish us, so why do you think we punish ourselves when we fail?

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3. When we're conscious of God's love and grace toward us, our failures shouldn't matter. Instead of feeling angst, we should seek and embrace His peace. Romans 8:31 asks the question that we should ask ourselves: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (NKJV). How does the knowledge of God's "*unfailing Love*" affect the way you deal with difficult people and situations? Does it give you peace?

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## Discussion #51: GOD THE FATHER

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated December 15, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Some of us grew up with amazing examples of fathers in our lives, and others of us did not. If you were to create the perfect father, what qualities would he have?

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2. Today's reading talks about how we refer to God as our Father, and by drawing close to Jesus, we are gaining closeness to our heavenly Father: "As you come to know [Jesus] in greater depth and breadth, realize that you are also growing closer to the Father." Thinking about your description of the perfect earthly father, how does it feel to know you have a Father God who possesses all those qualities in abundance?

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3. As you concentrate on becoming closer to God as Father, think about the words of Jesus in John 10:30: "I and the Father are one." Through Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit, you are being drawn ever deeper into experiencing the true love of a Father who cares and watches over you. Describe how having such a Father affects the way you see yourself and others as well as the way you live your life.

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## Discussion #52: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Please read the devotion (or listen if you have the *Jesus Always* audiobook) and related Scripture passages from *Jesus Always* dated December 22, and then answer/discuss these questions:

1. Today's reading celebrates Jesus' presence in our lives during the season of Advent: "*I am the Light of the World! . . . My Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it.*" Describe a time in your life when the light of Christ guided you out of the darkness and into a better place?

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2. Scripture recounts Jesus' message of hope to us in John 8:12: "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" What does it mean to you to "have the light of life"?

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3. Stand strong in the knowledge that Jesus is your "beacon of hope" and the reason He came into the world was to be an "eternal Light breaking through the darkness and opening up the way to heaven." When you think of the gift of Light that God gave us through Jesus, what are you most thankful for? Write out a prayer of thanksgiving to Him, expressing your joy and celebrating His arrival into the world.

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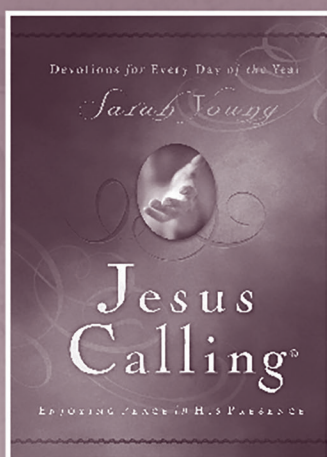
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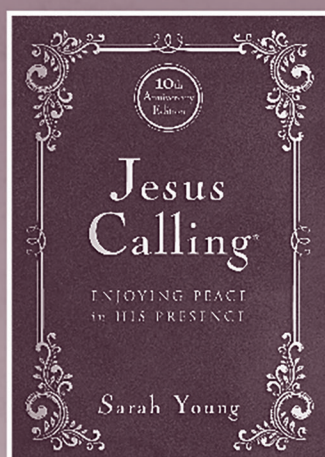




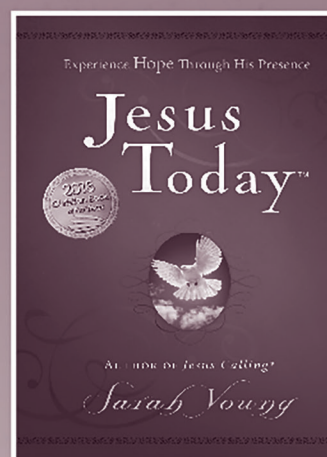
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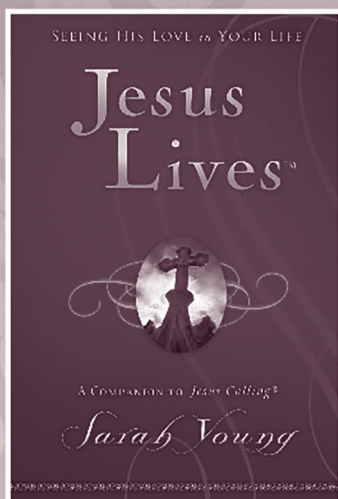
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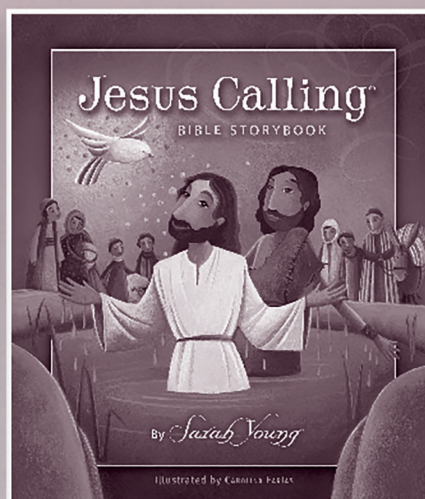
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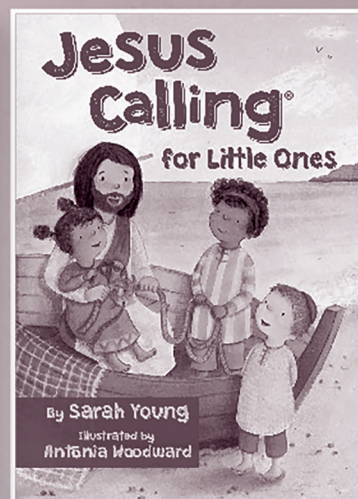
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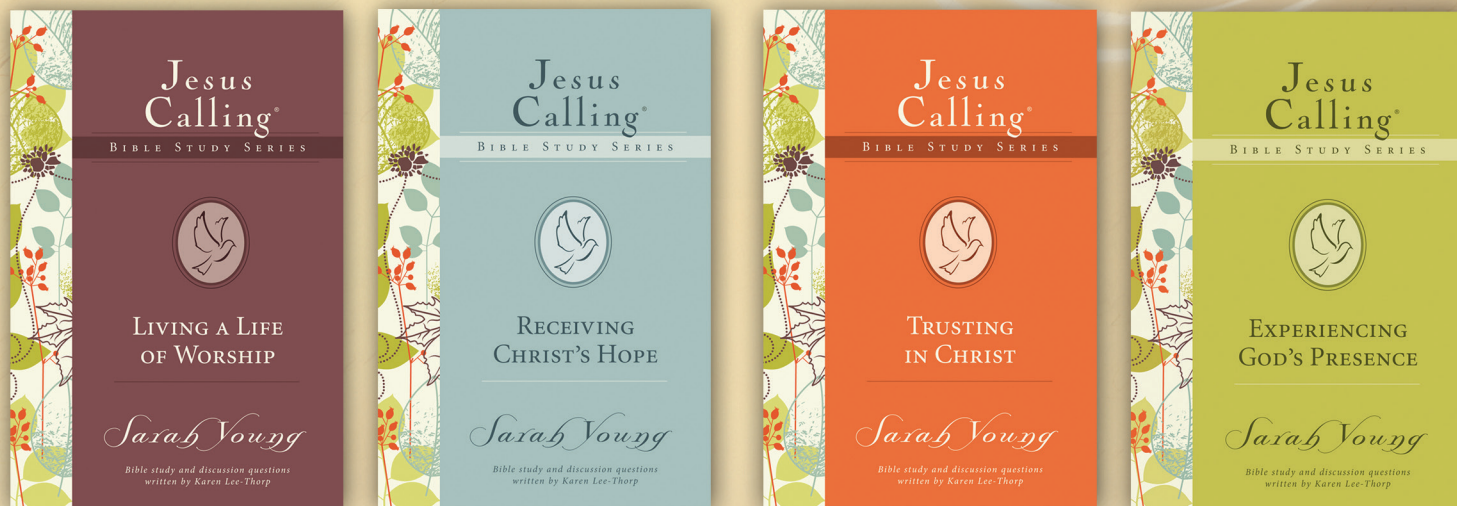
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