



**Educate
+ Engage**



THE LOVE
OF GOD



Relationship
with Jesus

OVERVIEW

Jesus wants a relationship with you. The most valuable thing you'll ever build is your relationship with Jesus.

Scripture Passages

- John 15:4–5
- Luke 10:41–42
- Mark 3:14
- Psalm 145:18
- Matthew 7:21–23

EDUCATE

Jesus came to rescue you to restore a relationship with you.

What is the most valuable thing in your life?

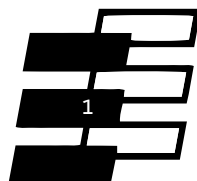
Point 1: Jesus wants to be with you, not just use you.

Mark 3:14 says, “And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach” (KJV). Before Jesus asked the disciples to preach or cast out demons, He asked them to simply be with Him. That tells us something powerful: Jesus isn't first looking for what we can do for Him—He's longing for relationship. He chose His closest followers not just to send them out, but to draw them close.

This reveals something deeply important for us: our value to God doesn't begin with our talents, our performance, or even our passion. It starts with being present with Him. Time with Jesus is not preparation for ministry—it is the ministry. Everything else flows from that place of nearness.

Too often we equate our usefulness to God with activity. We lead, serve, post Scriptures, go to church—and all of those things matter. But if we're doing it all without actually knowing Him, we're missing the point. Matthew 7:21–23 shows us a chilling example: people who did amazing things in Jesus' name but didn't have a relationship with Him. He said, “I never knew you.”

God is not impressed by busyness. He's moved by closeness. Jesus wants to know you deeply. He wants to walk with you in every part of your life, not just be visited once a week.



So before you ask, 'What does God want me to do?' start by asking, 'How can I be with Him today?' Relationship is always the first step.

Point 2: Abiding means staying close daily.

John 15:5 says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (NIV). This verse isn't just poetic—it's practical. Jesus is showing us the secret to a fruitful life: stay connected.

Abiding means staying close—daily. Not just during worship services or emotional moments, but in the everyday grind. It means choosing Jesus in the quiet when nobody sees it. Opening your Bible not to check a box, but to hear His voice. Praying not for performance, but for presence.

Mary chose this. In Luke 10, she sat at Jesus' feet while her sister Martha was stressed out doing all the "good" things. Jesus didn't shame Martha, but He did say Mary chose the better part—not the easier part, the better part.

When you stay close, you get His heart. You begin to learn what matters most. You'll still face storms, but you won't face them alone. You'll still make mistakes, but you'll grow from them because your life will be rooted—not in hype, not in emotion, but in relationship.

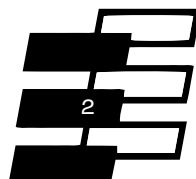
To abide is to remain, stay, dwell. That's not always exciting, but it's how deep relationship grows. Just like a tree doesn't shoot to full height overnight, your walk with Jesus grows in layers, seasons, and roots.

Point 3: Everything flows from relationship: identity, calling, peace, and purpose.

Everything that matters in your spiritual life flows out of your relationship with Jesus. If you're struggling to understand who you are, where you're going, or how to find peace, start by looking at your connection to Him.

When you're rooted in Christ, you don't have to chase identity—you receive it. You're not trying to prove your worth—you're walking in it. You don't perform for love—you live from it.

Psalms 145:18 says, "The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth" (NLT). That closeness gives clarity. When you know Him, His voice becomes louder than the world's noise. His peace overrides fear. His truth silences lies.



Jesus said, "Apart from me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). That means if you're trying to build your life—your influence, your future, your friendships—without relationship, you'll constantly be running on empty. Relationship with Jesus is not just the foundation—it's the source.

Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (ESV). It's not you that does it; it's Christ. Apart from Him, you can do nothing, but when you are in relationship He can move through you, strengthening you to do His will.

When you stay close to Him:

- You know how to love others well.
- You respond to criticism with grace.
- You serve without burning out.
- You lead from overflow, not obligation.

So don't chase calling, gifting, or influence. Chase Jesus. And from that relationship, everything else will find its place.

Closing

Let's pause and take a breath. We've talked a lot today about relationship—not religion, not performance, not pressure. Just relationship.

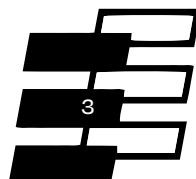
That's what Jesus came for. He wants to be with you—not just use you. He's not waiting to hand you a spiritual to-do list. He's inviting you to sit with Him, walk with Him, and know Him personally.

He invites you to abide. Not to visit occasionally, not to show up when you're desperate—but to *remain* close every day. To let His voice become your guide, His presence become your peace, and His love become your foundation.

Because here's the truth: Everything flows from your relationship with Him. Your identity, your strength, your future, your joy—it all begins and ends with Jesus.

And the beautiful thing is this: His love isn't just the starting point—it's the staying point. He doesn't love you so you'll perform. He loves you because He's a Father. And He just wants to be close.

So if you feel like you've wandered, if your relationship with Jesus has felt dry, distant, or even confusing—know this:



He hasn't moved.
He hasn't changed His mind about you.
He still wants you.

Every relationship requires time, attention, and intentionality. And your relationship with Jesus is no different.

But it's worth it. It's the most valuable thing you'll ever build.

ENGAGE

Take a few moments to reflect on this question and journal: What's one thing you need to remove, shift, or change to grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus?

- Is it time?
- Is it distractions?
- Is it fear of not doing it "right?"
- Is it shame or guilt from the past?

Write it down. Be honest.

Then, underneath that, write this declaration:

"Jesus, I want to be with You. I want to know You. I choose relationship over routine."

