



# *Encounters with Jesus*

2025 Bible Reading Plan Q4 | [nhc.click/brp](https://nhc.click/brp)



# Encounters with Jesus

We are excited to continue the 2025 Bible Reading Plan, which focuses on the life-changing encounters Jesus had during His time on Earth. Through this plan, we will explore how Jesus treated others with compassion, wisdom, and grace, offering valuable lessons for how we navigate our own relationships today. As we explore these interactions, we will not only learn from how Jesus engaged with individuals and groups, but also from the responses of those who encountered Him. In a world that often feels divided, these stories will help us grow in our faith and in how we relate to others, following Christ's example. Join us as we journey through the Gospels and witness the profound impact of Jesus' ministry.

Each week, we will explore the encounters Jesus had during His time on Earth and reflect on some general overview questions. Additionally, each reading includes supporting Bible verses that highlight key concepts and takeaways from the encounters, accompanied by thoughtful reflection questions.

## General Weekly Questions:

1. How can you apply Jesus' example in your daily interactions with others?
2. In what ways do the responses of those who encountered Jesus challenge your faith and perspective?
3. What specific steps can you take to model Christ's example in your relationships this week?
4. How does this week's reading inspire you to deepen your faith, trust God more fully, and grow closer to Him?
5. When the same story appears in multiple Gospels, how do the different accounts impact your understanding? Do they challenge you in unique ways? What details stood out as different?

## **Week Forty-One: October 13**

### **Teaching on Prayer; The Faithful**

**Bible Story Verses:** Luke 11:1-13, Matthew 6:6-13

#### **Monday Reflection**

God is Generous to Those Who Ask: Jesus teaches that if we ask, seek, and knock, God will provide for us. He compares God to a loving father who gives good gifts to His children when they ask.

#### **Monday Verse**

*Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.*

James 1:17 (NLT)

#### **Monday Questions**

Am I persistent in asking God for what I need, trusting in His generous nature? How can I grow in faith as I seek God's will through prayer?

---

---

#### **Wednesday Reflection**

Prayer Requires Persistence and Faith: Jesus highlights the importance of persistence in prayer, encouraging us to keep asking and trusting. Even when answers are delayed, we are called to remain faithful in our pursuit of God's response.

#### **Wednesday Verse**

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.*

Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

In what areas of my life do I need to remain persistent in prayer? How can I trust God's timing more deeply?

---

## Friday Reflection

God's Response is Always for Our Good: Jesus teaches that God answers prayers in ways that are ultimately for our benefit, even when we don't fully understand. He desires to bless us with what is best for us.

## Friday Verse

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*  
Romans 8:28 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

How can I trust that God's answers to my prayers, even when unexpected, are always for my good? How can I align my prayers more with His will?

## **Week Forty-Two: October 20**

### **Jesus Predicts His Death; The Rebuked**

**Bible Story Verses:** Mark 8:31-38, Matthew 16:21-28, Luke 9:22-27

#### **Monday Reflection**

Following Jesus Requires Sacrifice: Jesus predicts His suffering and calls His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him. True discipleship involves a willingness to sacrifice personal desires for the sake of God's will.

#### **Monday Verse**

*My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

#### **Monday Questions**

In what areas of my life am I being called to sacrifice for the sake of following Jesus? How can I better align my will with God's?

---

---

#### **Wednesday Reflection**

Eternal Gain Comes from Losing Our Lives for Christ: Jesus teaches that those who try to save their lives will lose them, but those who lose their lives for His sake will find eternal life. The paradox of the kingdom is that surrendering to God leads to true fulfillment.

#### **Wednesday Verse**

*For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.*

Philippians 1:21 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

How can I live with the mindset of gaining through surrender to Christ?  
What does losing my life for Jesus look like in my daily walk?

---

## Friday Reflection

Boldness in Witnessing about Jesus: Jesus warns His followers not to be ashamed of Him or His words, promising that He will acknowledge those who boldly proclaim Him. We are called to live our faith openly, without fear of rejection or persecution.

## Friday Verse

*For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

Romans 1:16 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

Are there areas where I have been hesitant to share my faith? How can I find courage to be more bold in my witness for Jesus?

## **Week Forty-Three: October 27**

### **Peter's Denial Predicted; The Unsure**

**Bible Story Verses:** John 13:36-38, Luke 22:31-34, Mark 14:27-31

### **Monday Reflection**

Jesus Knows Our Weaknesses: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, showing His understanding of human frailty. Despite Peter's strong declarations of loyalty, Jesus knew Peter would stumble, reminding us that Jesus sees our weaknesses and loves us still.

### **Monday Verse**

*This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.*

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

### **Monday Questions**

How can I find comfort in knowing that Jesus understands my weaknesses and still loves me unconditionally? In what ways can I embrace His grace and compassion, trusting that He accepts me despite my shortcomings?

---

---

### **Wednesday Reflection**

How can I find comfort in knowing that Jesus understands my weaknesses and still loves me unconditionally? In what ways can I embrace His grace and compassion, trusting that He accepts me despite my shortcomings?



## Wednesday Verse

*Who then will condemn us? No one –for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

Romans 8:34 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

When my faith is weak, how can I rely on Jesus' intercession to restore and strengthen me?

---

## Friday Reflection

Repentance Leads to Restoration: Though Peter would deny Jesus, he later repented and was restored to a position of leadership. This shows us that no failure is too great for God's forgiveness and restoration when we turn back to Him.

## Friday Verse

*Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.*

Joel 2:13 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

How can I trust in God's ability to restore me, even after my greatest mistakes?

## **Week Forty-Four: November 3**

### **Jesus Before Pilate; The Accusers**

**Bible Story Verses:** John 18:28-40, Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26,  
Mark 15:1-15

### **Monday Reflection**

Jesus' Silent Strength: When accused before Pilate, Jesus did not defend Himself, showing us the power of silent strength and trust in God's plan. In moments of accusation or misunderstanding, Jesus models how we can remain calm and composed, trusting God to be our defender.

### **Monday Verse**

*This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it.*

Isaiah 30:15 (NLT)

### **Monday Questions**

How can I respond with calm strength when I am misunderstood or accused, trusting in God's defense? In what ways can I practice silent strength, following Jesus' example, and rely on God to be my defender in challenging situations?

---

---

### **Wednesday Reflection**

Truth in the Midst of Injustice: Jesus speaks of His kingdom of truth when questioned by Pilate, demonstrating that even in the face of injustice, His focus was on proclaiming truth. We are reminded that our allegiance to truth should not waver, even in difficult situations.

## Wednesday Verse

*Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.*

Ephesians 6:14 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

Am I willing to stand for truth, even when faced with opposition or personal cost? How can I strengthen my commitment to uphold truth, trusting that God's righteousness will support me in challenging situations?

---

## Friday Reflection

God's Purpose Prevails: Despite the earthly injustice Jesus faced, God's greater purpose was being fulfilled through His trial and suffering. This reminds us that even when situations seem unjust, God's overarching plan is at work.

## Friday Verse

*That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.*

2 Timothy 1:12 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

How can I trust in God's purpose, even when I experience unfair treatment or trials in my life? In what ways can I remind myself that God's plan is still at work, even amidst the challenges I face?

## **Week Forty-Five: November 10**

### **The Road to Emmaus; The Disheartened**

**Bible Story Verses:** Luke 24:13-35

#### **Monday Reflection**

Jesus Reveals Himself in Unexpected Ways: The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus at first, showing us that God often reveals Himself in ways we don't expect. Our hearts can be opened to His presence when we focus on Scripture and invite Him into our conversations and lives.

#### **Monday Verse**

*But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*

James 1:22 (NLT)

#### **Monday Questions**

How can I become more aware of Jesus' presence in my everyday interactions and experiences? In what ways can I intentionally invite Him into my conversations and focus on Scripture to recognize His presence in the unexpected moments of my daily life?

---

---

#### **Wednesday Reflection**

God's Word Brings Understanding and Clarity: As Jesus explained the Scriptures to the disciples, their hearts burned within them, and they began to understand the true meaning of His life and resurrection. This teaches us that Scripture has the power to open our minds to God's truth when we seek understanding.

## Wednesday Verse

*The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.*

Psalm 119:130 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

Am I seeking deeper understanding of God's Word in my life? How can I better engage with Scripture?

---

## Friday Reflection

Encounters with Jesus Lead to Action: Once the disciples recognized Jesus, they immediately returned to Jerusalem to share the good news. Our encounters with Christ should motivate us to spread His message of hope and salvation to others.

## Friday Verse

*Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

How can I take action to share the love of Christ with others after encountering Him in my life? What steps can I take to ensure that my experience with Jesus inspires me to actively spread His message of hope and salvation to those around me?

**Week Forty-Six: November 17**  
**Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two; The Sent**

**Bible Story Verses:** Luke 10:1-24

**Monday Reflection**

Courageous Faith: Stepping out in faith even when the future is unclear shows our trust in God.

**Monday Verse**

*See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength and my song; he has given me victory.*  
Isaiah 12:2 (NLT)

**Monday Questions**

Where is God calling me to show courageous faith in the face of uncertainty? How can I trust in God's strength and victory, even when the future feels unclear?

---

---

**Wednesday Reflection**

Steadfast Obedience: Obeying God's Word, even when it's difficult, brings blessings.

**Wednesday Verse**

*Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts.*  
Psalm 119:2 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

What is God calling me to obey, even though it's challenging? How can I remain joyful and committed to following God's Word, trusting that obedience will lead to His blessings?

---

---

### Friday Reflection

God's Protection and Guidance: Trusting in God's protection brings peace in challenging times.

### Friday Verse

*Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.*

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NLT)

### Friday Questions

Where do I need to trust in God's protection and guidance? In what areas of my life can I seek His peace, knowing that He is always with me and will never abandon me?

## **Week Forty-Seven: November 24**

### **Healing of the Ten Lepers; The Thankful**

**Bible Story Verses:** Luke 17:11-19

#### **Monday Reflection**

Gratitude Reflects Faith: Out of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, only one returned to thank Him, and that man was a Samaritan. Jesus highlights the importance of gratitude, teaching that it not only expresses thankfulness but also demonstrates faith in God's work in our lives.

#### **Monday Verse**

*And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

#### **Monday Questions**

In what areas of my life can I show more gratitude, especially in times of healing or provision? How can I cultivate a heart that expresses thankfulness, reflecting my faith in God's work in my life?

---

---

#### **Wednesday Reflection**

God's Grace Is for All: The lepers were outcasts, both socially and religiously, yet Jesus reached out to heal them without discrimination. This reminds us that God's grace is extended to all people, regardless of their background or social status.



## Wednesday Verse

*There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

How can I better embrace and extend grace to those who are often marginalized in society? In what ways can I actively seek to love and support individuals from diverse backgrounds, recognizing that God's grace is inclusive and calls us to unity in Christ?

---

## Friday Reflection

Faith Leads to Wholeness: While all ten were physically healed, only the one who returned to give thanks received the greater blessing of spiritual wholeness. Jesus shows that faith not only brings physical restoration but also deep, spiritual healing.

## Friday Verse

*Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*

Romans 5:1-2 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

In what ways can I deepen my faith to experience greater wholeness in my life, beyond just physical or material needs? How can I cultivate a heart of gratitude and seek spiritual restoration, knowing that true healing comes from a close relationship with Christ?

## **Week Forty-Eight: December 1**

### **Rich Young Ruler;The Reluctant**

**Bible Story Verses:** Matthew 19:16-22, Mark 10:17-22,  
Luke 18:18-23

### **Monday Reflection**

Following Jesus Requires Sacrifice: The Rich Young Ruler learned that following Jesus would require giving up his wealth, a sacrifice he wasn't ready to make. Jesus shows us that discipleship often means letting go of what we hold dear.

### **Monday Verse**

*Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ.*  
Philippians 3:8 (NLT)

### **Monday Questions**

What in my life am I holding onto that might be hindering me from fully following Jesus? What sacrifices might God be asking of me?

---

---

### **Wednesday Reflection**

True Treasure is Found in Christ: Jesus emphasizes that eternal life and true riches are found not in earthly wealth but in following Him. The Rich Young Ruler was focused on his possessions instead of the eternal treasure offered by Jesus.

## Wednesday Verse

*Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

Am I more focused on accumulating earthly wealth or investing in eternal treasure? How can I shift my priorities to focus on what truly matters?

---

---

## Friday Reflection

The Dangers of Wealth: Jesus cautioned that wealth can be a barrier to entering the Kingdom of God, as it can lead to reliance on material possessions rather than on God. The Rich Young Ruler's wealth held him back from fully committing to Christ.

## Friday Verse

*Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!*

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

How does my relationship with wealth and material possessions affect my spiritual life? Am I placing my trust in God or in my resources?

## **Week Forty-Nine: December 8**

### **Teaching on the Wise and Foolish Builders; The Wise**

**Bible Story Verses:** Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:46-49

#### **Monday Reflection**

Building on the Foundation of Jesus' Teachings: Jesus teaches that those who hear His words and put them into practice are like wise builders who lay their foundation on rock. A strong spiritual foundation is built on obedience to His teachings, ensuring stability in times of trial.

#### **Monday Verse**

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have in Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NLT)

#### **Monday Questions**

Is my life built on the firm foundation of Jesus' teachings, or are there areas where I am relying on something else? In what ways can I ensure that my spiritual foundation is solid, anchored in His teachings to withstand the trials of life?

---

---

#### **Wednesday Reflection**

Storms Reveal the Strength of Our Foundation: The storms in life test the strength of our foundation. Jesus illustrates that those who fail to act on His words are like foolish builders whose foundations crumble under pressure.

## Wednesday Verse

*We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

How do I respond to life's challenges? Do they reveal a need for a stronger spiritual foundation?

---

## Friday Reflection

Obedience Brings Stability and Resilience: Jesus emphasizes that hearing and obeying His words leads to a stable and resilient life. Obedience is key to weathering life's difficulties with grace and strength.

## Friday Verse

*Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.*

Philippians 4:9 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

In what areas of my life do I need to move from hearing God's word to actively obeying it? How can I commit to putting into practice what I have learned from Him, knowing that obedience leads to stability and resilience in my life?

**Week Fifty: December 15**  
**Teaching on the Beatitudes; The Submissive**

**Bible Story Verses:** Matthew 5:1-12, Luke 6:20-23

**Monday Reflection**

**Blessed Are the Humble:** In the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches that those who are poor in spirit, humble, and recognize their need for God are blessed. The Kingdom of Heaven is open to those who rely not on their own strength, but on God's grace.

**Monday Verse**

*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.*  
James 4:10 (NLT)

**Monday Questions**

In what areas of my life do I need to practice more humility and rely on God's strength? How can I embrace a posture of humility, recognizing my need for His grace, and trust that He will lift me up in due time?

---

---

**Wednesday Reflection**

**Persevering Through Trials Brings Blessing:** Jesus highlights that those who endure persecution and suffering for righteousness are blessed, for they will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Through trials, we can cling to God's promises and find hope in His ultimate reward.

**Wednesday Verse**

*For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!*  
2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

How can I better persevere in faith during difficult times, trusting in God's reward? In what specific ways can I hold onto God's promises and find hope in the midst of trials, knowing that perseverance leads to blessings in the Kingdom of Heaven?

---

---

## Friday Reflection

The Merciful Receive Mercy: Jesus emphasizes that those who are merciful to others will receive mercy from God. Extending grace and compassion to those around us reflects the heart of God and opens us to experience His mercy in return.

## Friday Verse

*No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

How can I practice more mercy and compassion toward others, even when it's difficult? In what ways can I actively demonstrate God's grace and compassion in my daily interactions, knowing that showing mercy opens me to receive His mercy in return?

## **Week Fifty-One: December 22**

### **The Great Commission; The Commissioned**

**Bible Story Verses:** Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-18,  
Luke 24:46-49

#### **Monday Reflection**

Jesus Calls Us to Make Disciples: In the Great Commission, Jesus commands His followers to go into the world, make disciples, and teach them to obey His commands. This is not only a call to share the gospel but also to nurture spiritual growth in others.

#### **Monday Verse**

*But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him?  
And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him?  
And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them...*

Romans 10:14 (NLT)

#### **Monday Questions**

In what ways can I be more intentional about sharing my faith and helping others grow spiritually? How can I actively engage in conversations and actions that encourage others to understand and embrace the message of Jesus?

---

---

#### **Wednesday Reflection**

God Equips Us for the Mission: Jesus promises that He will be with His followers as they carry out the Great Commission, giving them the power and guidance needed for the task. We are not left alone in this mission; we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.



## Wednesday Verse

*For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you.*

1 Thessalonians 1:5 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

How can I rely more on the Holy Spirit's power in fulfilling my role in the Great Commission? In what ways can I seek His guidance and strength to effectively share the Good News and support others in their spiritual journey?

---

---

## Friday Reflection

Our Mission Is Urgent and Global: Jesus' command to spread the gospel applies to all nations and people groups, emphasizing the urgency and global nature of the mission. The love of Christ is meant to reach every corner of the world.

## Friday Verse

*For the Lord gave us this command when he said, 'I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.'*

Acts 13:47 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

What steps can I take to support the global mission of the gospel, whether locally or internationally? In what ways can I actively participate in spreading the love of Christ to all nations and communities?

## **Week Fifty-Two: December 29**

### **Zacchaeus; The Transformed**

**Bible Story Verses:** Luke 19:1-10

#### **Monday Reflection**

Seeking God's Kingdom First: Prioritizing God's will in our lives leads to true fulfillment.

#### **Monday Verse**

*You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors.*

Deuteronomy 30:20 (NLT)

#### **Monday Questions**

How can I make seeking God's Kingdom a greater priority in my daily life? In what specific ways can I demonstrate my commitment to loving and obeying God, ensuring that my choices align with His will?

---

---

#### **Wednesday Reflection**

Living for Eternity: Our decisions today impact our eternal future with God.

#### **Wednesday Verse**

*So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen..*

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT)

## Wednesday Questions

How can I live with a greater sense of eternity in mind? In what ways can I align my daily choices with the understanding that my decisions today impact my eternal future with God?

---

## Friday Reflection

Contentment in God's Provision: Learning to be content with what God provides leads to peace..

## Friday Verse

*I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation.*

Philippians 4:12 (NLT)

## Friday Questions

How can I cultivate contentment in God's provision, even in times of need? What practices can I adopt to recognize and appreciate what I have, trusting that God is meeting my needs?



8905 OX ROAD, LORTON VA 22079 • [www.newhope.org](http://www.newhope.org)