



Enjoying Jesus Discussion Guide

1. Enjoying the Presence of Jesus

- **Read Luke 5:27-32.** Can you picture Jesus hanging out with “tax collectors and sinners”? What would be the equivalent in the area where you live?
- John 14:16-17 says, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever—the Spirit of truth”. Think of some people who have been advocates for you in your life (meaning strengtheners, witnesses, helpers, or comforters). In what ways is the Spirit like those people?
- Do you think of it as “for your good” (John 16:7) that Jesus is present with you spiritually rather than physically? Why or why not?
- What does it look like to make Jesus welcome or unwelcome in your life? How are you doing with this?
- What prayerful practices could you put in place this week to remind you of Jesus’ loving presence with you always, even when you don’t feel him with you?

2. Enjoying the Compassion of Jesus

- Who do you think of as compassionate, and what is it that makes them so? Where does their compassion come from? How do they express it?
- Has there ever been a time when you’ve particularly struggled to feel compassion, or to communicate compassion well? What made it so hard?
- **Read Hebrews 4:15-16.** How does it feel to think that Jesus sympathises with your weaknesses? What difference does it make to know that the God of the universe understands human struggles first-hand?
- C.S. Lewis said, “Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is ... You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down.” Have you ever thought that because Jesus was God and he was sinless, he had it easy as a human? Do you see this differently now?
- What stops you from going to Jesus when you know you’ve sinned in some way? How do you think Jesus really feels about us when we sin?

3. Enjoying the Shelter of Jesus

- **Read Luke 8:22-25.** What was it like for the disciples to experience the “shelter” of Jesus in this story? How does it help you understand what being sheltered by Jesus means?
- What kind of things do people do in an attempt to make themselves feel safe when driven by fear? How effective are they?
- On pages 49-50 it says, “Paul prays that his readers might have a sense of the hope and power we have in Christ. That power is resurrection power—the same power that wrenched the lifeless body of Christ from the grip of the grave.” What difference does it make to know that Jesus has complete authority, even over death?
- What makes safety in Jesus different from other kinds of shelter and safety?
- Do you have a “happy place” that you might escape to mentally when times are tough? How might you put into practice taking refuge in Jesus when you feel anxious or afraid?

4. Enjoying the Touch of Jesus

- **Read Luke 5:12-13.** Can you imagine being touched by Jesus like this? What would it have been like? And how does it increase your appreciation of this story when you consider what most people’s attitude to leprosy was at the time?
- Why do you think Jesus chose for us to remember him through the physical act of eating and drinking?
- What are the implications when Paul says that drinking the cup and eating the bread are “a participation” in the body and blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16)?
- On page 65, the author explains the parallel between the Lord’s Supper and the pagan ceremony: “Both involve food that in the end is just food ... But place this food in the context of worship—whether pagan or Christian worship—and it communicates spiritual realities.” How might this reminder make a difference in the way we approach the table?
- When you take communion, what do you think about? How could you receive communion as the touch of Jesus and enjoy his presence there?

5. Enjoying the Vitality of Jesus

- What do you find “life-giving”? What things or activities give you energy to keep going? How much do you rely on these?
- Look through the headings on pages 74-78 to remind yourself of all the ways we’re connected to Jesus. Which resonated with you? Which came as a surprise to you?
- **Read John 6:63.** Can you think of a time when you have turned to the words of Jesus when feeling exhausted or defeated, and have drawn life from his words? What was that like?
- What do you think it means to “remain in [Jesus]” (John 15:4) and “remain in [his] love” (v 9)? How can we put this into action?
- What difference does it make to think that spending time in prayer and in the Bible is a way of maintaining your friendship and connection with Jesus?

6. Enjoying the Glory of Jesus

- What gives you the fear of missing out? Are there ever times when you’re tempted to think you’re missing out by following Jesus rather than living like the rest of the world?
- What do you think of Paul’s famous phrase, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21)?
- The Puritan Thomas Watson (quoted on p. 91) said, “If God be our God, then, though we may feel the blows of evil, we do not feel the sting ... If we lose our name, it is written in the book of life. If we lose our liberty, our conscience is free. If we lose our belongings, we possess the pearl of price. If we meet storms, we know where to put into harbour.” What challenges you or comforts you about this view?
- How easy do you find it to rejoice when things are going wrong? Could it make a difference to remember that Paul tells us to rejoice “in the Lord” (Philippians 4:4)?
- **Read John 10:10.** How do you picture a full life in Jesus? Is anything holding you back from making that a reality?

7. Enjoying the Delight of Jesus

- What might people assume makes Jesus happy? **Read Luke 10:17-22.** What fills Jesus with joy here?
- Do you think of yourself as making Jesus happy? In Luke 15:7, Jesus says, “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent”. How does this verse encourage you as you trust in him?
- What do you think of the picture from Song of Songs of Jesus bounding like a gazelle towards us with love?
- Song of Songs 2:14 says, “My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely”. Do you ever feel that you hide away from Jesus? How does this verse encourage you?
- What are the “little foxes” (v 15) that distract you when you pray or stop you from enjoying time with Jesus? How can you look out for them and guard against them?

8. Enjoying the Voice of Jesus

- Why might Christians prioritise serving Jesus to the neglect of listening to him? Do you ever find yourself “distracted by much serving” (p. 112), like Martha was (Luke 10:40)?
- “We don’t serve Jesus so that we’ll be loved by Jesus; we serve him because we’re already loved by him. So we need to hear his words of love before we leap into action; otherwise our service will quickly feel like a burden.” (p. 111) Do you ever slip into thinking you have to earn Jesus’ love through service? How is this reminder an encouragement to you?
- **Read John 10:14-16.** How does it feel to know that Jesus was already thinking of speaking to us, those “not of this sheepfold”, when he was on earth? In what ways do we hear him speaking to us today?
- Have you ever had the experience of listening to a sermon or reading a Bible passage and feeling that it was speaking directly to you? Share with the group how the Spirit encouraged, comforted or challenged you in that moment through God’s word.
- What does it look like for us today to “[sit] at the Lord’s feet listening to what he [says]” (Luke 10:39)? How will you put this into practice this week?

9. Enjoying the Connection of Jesus

- “If you want to make a Christian feel guilty, ask them about their prayer life” (p. 123). Does this resonate with you? Is there anybody whose prayer life you admire?
- In Luke 11:2 Jesus says, ““When you pray, say: ‘Father...’” How do you think the disciples would have felt about addressing God in such a new and personal way?
- **Read John 1:12.** How easily do you accept your identity as a child of God? What does it mean to you to be able to approach God the Father with the same kind of relationship that Jesus enjoys?
- Do you tend to think of prayer and worship as “a gift to be received” or “a task to be accomplished” (p. 129)? What difference does it make to think of praise and worship as participating in the praise Jesus offers to the Father—to think of him as the worship leader?
- How could what you’ve read about Jesus in this chapter help you feel more confident in coming to God in prayer?

10. Enjoying the Anger of Jesus

- What was your initial reaction on seeing this title? Does the idea of Jesus’ anger seem shocking or wrong?
- What did this chapter help you to understand about the connection between Jesus’ anger and his love? How often do you think our anger is a consequence of our love?
- Look at the examples of Jesus’ anger on pages 138-139. What do these show about the heart of Jesus?
- **Read Revelation 19:11-16.** How can this depiction of Jesus hearten us as we consider the injustice in the world today? How does it comfort us as we consider what we have personally endured from those who have wronged us?
- Page 145 describes how the robes Jesus wears in this picture are dipped in his own blood (v 13)—“Jesus himself has become the refuge from his own wrath”. Does this alter your perspective on Jesus’ anger?

11. Enjoying the Intercession of Jesus

- To intercede means to pray on behalf of another. Has there ever been a time when you've really appreciated the prayer of someone else on your behalf?
- **Read Luke 22:31-32.** Is Jesus' prayer for Peter a detail you have noticed before? What do you make of Jesus praying for his followers?
- Page 154 says, "Christ's intercession not only secures our pardon when we sin; it also ensures our acts of service are acceptable before God". How does it feel to know that Jesus still advocates for us in this way?
- **Read Hebrews 5:1-10.** Who appointed Jesus as our high priest—and why is that important?
- What comfort does it bring to know that "our prayers come before God wrapped around with Christ's prayers" (p. 153)?

12. Enjoying the Reign of Jesus

- How do you think Christians could enjoy evangelism more? What might give Christians more courage to tell others about Jesus?
- Look up each of the passages about how Jesus reigns through his words from the bullet points on page 164. What do each of these examples show about who and what Jesus has authority over?
- How did Jesus' life on earth show that his reign would defy the kind of reign that people are used to with human kings and powers?
- 2 Corinthians 5:20 says, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us". How does it encourage you to think that Jesus is with you and speaking through you when you share the gospel message?
- "When we speak of Jesus, we speak words of eternal life. They're words that bring forgiveness to the guilty, glory to the shamed, comfort to the sorrowing, freedom to the captives" (p. 167). Who do you know that needs these words of eternal life? Spend time praying for them to know the rule of Jesus in their lives and for opportunities to speak these truths to them.

13. Enjoying the Wealth of Jesus

- Page 174 says, “We’ve become shareholders in the Divine Bank of the Father”. Do you think of yourself as spiritually wealthy? How easy or hard is it to see God as generous?
- Read the quote from John Calvin on pages 176-177. What difference does it make to know that all those things are at our disposal as heirs and children of God?
- **Read Luke 24:49** and **Luke 11:13**. These verses show us that the Holy Spirit is the greatest gift that Jesus gives us. What do you think of that—do you tend to see the Holy Spirit that way? Why is the Spirit such an amazing gift?
- How can thanksgiving help to remind us of the blessings we’ve been given and to see them as gifts from Jesus, delivered by the Holy Spirit?
- “We so easily become resentful or envious when other people are blessed because we imagine this means we’re missing out—as if God’s kingdom is a zero-sum economy. We see their good gifts and think that it will mean there’s less available for us.” How does it encourage you to know that when we give, we’re not left poorer in kingdom terms? What difference would it make, when we’re tempted to envy or feel discontent, to know that Jesus’ storehouse is rich, with everything we need?

14. Waiting for the Appearing of Jesus

- When have you been made to wait recently? Did you manage to do so patiently or did you feel frustration?
- We have seen that this period of waiting for Jesus’ return is allowing time for people to repent—does this make sense to you?
- **Read James 5:7-11**. How are we to wait? Why is it tempting for us to grumble and complain?
- Page 187 says, “We remain ready by being about our master’s business”. What might this look like in reality? How do you want to be found when Jesus returns?
- John 17:24 says, “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory” (John 17:24). What difference does it make to know that Jesus wants you by his side?