



8th – 12th Grade Bible Summer Reading Assignment

Book: *The Jesus I Wish I Knew in High School*
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Assignment: Your assignment is to read the book, *The Jesus I Wish I Knew in High School*. This book is comprised of 30 short (5-6 page) chapters which can be used to help you develop a habit of being in God's Word daily over the summer. We will be using this book in our chapel program and discipleship groups during the upcoming school year.

While you are required to read the whole book, for your summer assignment you will need to choose any 12 of the 30 chapters to answer questions about. The questions you are to answer are **NOT** the questions at the end of the chapter but are the ones listed in the assignment below. To encourage you to be reading the book and in God's Word throughout the summer, six chapters will be due in TEAMS on July 31 and the final six will be due on August 31. Eighth graders, you may pick 8 chapters to do instead of 12. You will have 4 chapters due at each of the deadlines.

You will need to clearly label the chapter number and then retype or cut and paste the questions for each of the chapters you be submitting. Questions and answers need to be typed. Submit your first 6 chapters by July 31 all in one document in TEAMS. You will submit your second set up 6 chapters the same way by August 31.

Chapter 1:

1. What does the author mean when she writes, "I just didn't want Jesus ruining my fun or restricting my freedom"?
2. How did being "surrounded by people who loved Jesus in real ways" highlight her hypocrisy?
3. When the author writes "I risked that I'd find my best life in him [Jesus]," what was she risking?
4. How does John 3:16 and Romans 8:32 show God's generosity?
5. What does the author mean when she writes that you may lose your life but also find your life when following Jesus?

Chapter 2:

1. From the first section of Chapter 2, on a scale of 1 – 10 (1 – doesn't relate to how I feel; 10 – that describes me exactly) how well do you relate to the feelings the author is describing? In 3-4 complete sentences, tell why you chose the number you did in how you relate to what the author felt as a high school student.
2. In what areas are you looking for acceptance based on your performance?
3. The author of the chapter wants you to know that through Christ, you are enough. Write 2-3 sentences explaining what this means.



Chapter 3:

1. What event did Mac experience as a thirteen-year-old that shaped his adolescent years?
2. What role did Mac feel he needed to play in the lives of his younger siblings?
3. Who stepped in to fill the void in Mac's life?
4. Describe the difference between Sympathy and Empathy?
5. How can we as believers be assured that Jesus can relate to our grief/our struggles? Include examples from Scripture.

Chapter 4:

1. What are the four desires that Michelle said everyone in high school has?
2. Michelle said that hiding her real self was worth it so that her peers wouldn't make fun of her anymore. List the things she said she would do.
3. What did Michelle wish one of her pastors or Bible teachers would have told her?
4. Michelle struggled with racial insults and bullying but was encouraged because Jesus understood her loneliness and her rejection because of the color of her skin. How should you respond to racial insults that you hear from your peers?
5. Michelle challenges us to be "Bridge Builders." What does it mean to be a "Bridge Builders?"

Chapter 5:

1. Why was Kristen "behind" the other cheerleaders at try-outs?
2. What was Kristen's real motivation for making the cheerleading squad?
3. For what reasons did Kristen begin to resent God?
4. Describe the lessons Kristen learned when she "changed" her definition of righteousness.
5. What is the solution Paul offers us to our sinful nature in Romans 3:23-24?

Chapter 6:

1. Why did the author feel worn out by his relationship with Jesus?
2. What does he mean by "Jesus felt distant" and "I knew Jesus as Lord, King, or Judge; I didn't know him as a friend"?
3. Why was the author "perpetually worried"?
4. What is the doctrine of adoption and what does it mean for followers of Jesus?
5. What tips does the author give for drawing nearer to Jesus?

Chapter 7:

1. The author of Chapter 7 describes longing for a more exciting story, a more extraordinary life. Can you relate? How?
2. For someone dealing with anxiety and depression, the advice from the world's philosophy is, "Find worth in yourself. You have everything it takes. Be your own hero!" What is wrong with this advice? What does God say instead?
3. What does it mean to have your identity in Christ?



Chapter 8:

1. What mistake did Sandra make that caused her such trouble?
2. Give an example of a decision you made that was driven by your ego.
3. What should be guiding us in our faith walk as believers?

Chapter 9:

1. After he placed his faith in Christ, Watson claimed that something dark surfaced within him. What were those things that surfaced within him?
2. According to Watson what happens when we feel we are serving God enough? What happens when we fall?
3. According to Watson, the free gift of God's acceptance eliminates our need to perform. How can we live our lives now?
4. According to Watson, why are we proud and arrogant?

Chapter 10:

1. What happened that changed Dawson's future plans so radically?
2. Describe the ways that Dawson's life changed.
3. What did she learn about Christ's healing?
4. Explain what Dawson means with her words, "I didn't have to wait until I was 25 or 50 to understand my inability to save myself".
5. How does Jesus describe himself in Matthew 11:28-30

Chapter 11:

1. What words did the author's college minister say to him about failing Economics, which the author didn't believe at the time but now sees his college minister's words were correct?
2. What promise from God are we told in Romans 8:28?
3. Why do you think it was only in failure that the author began to recognize his need for Savior?
4. How did Jesus' crucifixion look like a failure to the people of his day and how was it not?
5. What does the author mean by "your biography is not the basis of your righteousness"?

Chapter 12:

1. What is the heartbreak the author describes in this chapter?
2. The author explains that we tend to measure people as being "in" or "out" of our league. What does she mean by, "there are no leagues in souls?"
3. How does the concept Jesus explains in Luke 15:3-7 bring comfort in the midst of heartbreak?
4. How does God's unconditional, eternal love encourage your heart?



Chapter 13:

1. How did Jessica describe herself while in elementary and high school?
2. Was this a true depiction of who she really was?
3. Where was Jessica when she realized that a change was needed? What was she doing at the time?
4. According to this chapter what does scripture state proceeds rule-giving?
5. Can you think of an example in your life where you tried to “earn” God’s love?

Chapter 14:

1. Why was David scared of Jesus in high school?
2. According to David, what would God rather do than be alienated from you?
3. According to David, what will every rejection that we experience do to us?

Chapter 15:

1. Describe some of the issues Melina’s classmates were having in middle school.
2. How did the environment at Mesa HS make Melina feel?
3. What is a Caboodle box?
4. How did Melina respond to her insecurities in high school?
5. How was Nicodemus like Melina? What action did he take that demonstrates he understood Jesus?
6. How does Jesus offer Freedom?

Chapter 16:

1. How did things come “crashing down” for the author?
2. What does she mean that she used the Bible like a “Magic 8-Ball?”
3. How did the “overly simplistic” message of John 3:16 change her perspective of herself?
4. Why don’t we *earn* the acceptance of God?
5. When in doubt of God’s love, what event can you look to as a reminder of the strength of God’s love?

Chapter 17:

1. What was the author, Scott, afraid of as he entered high school?
2. Were his fears realized? Give evidence for your answer.
3. What did Scott become in order to stand out in high school? Describe how that worked out for him.
4. What was really hiding behind all his outward antics?
5. How do you put up fronts and what are you hiding?



Chapter 18:

1. What two guiding principles were stressed in Kevin's home growing up?
2. What shameful thing did Aaron and the children of Israel commit in Exodus 32? What lesson did our author, Kevin learn from how God dealt with Aaron?
3. Is God's grace something that we can earn?
4. Read John 2: 1-11 How might the honor/shame culture have impacted the family who ran out of wine?
5. What does Joel chapter 2 say about God's desire to never shame us? What should our response to his love be?

Chapter 19:

1. According to the chapter, what is "Rheumatic Fever"?
2. Rachel's diagnosis was not her first encounter with brokenness. What are the three examples that Rachel gives?
3. Rachel says that Jesus is more than some superficial superhero. What did she say that He is?
4. If Rachel had seen the person of Jesus, what would she have seen?

Chapter 20:

1. What tragic event occurred while Emily was in 8th grade?
2. Describe the circumstances surrounding Emily's becoming a Christian.
3. What caused Emily to doubt her faith how did it change her daily life?
4. Describe the conversion of Emily's college friend and how it affected Emily.
5. Who did Emily eventually confide in about her doubts?
6. What prayer did Emily begin to pray from Mark 9:23-24?

Chapter 21:

1. What had become the author's idol?
2. Wanting love, affirmation, and favor is not necessarily bad, but when does it become a bad thing by becoming idolatry?
3. How does idolatry rob us of having joy in good things?
4. What is "the great exchange"?
5. What is the big idea of Romans 8:14-15 and how does it give us "rest" from seeking endless approval from others?

Chapter 22:

1. What caused Peter to hate himself?
2. Can you identify with the author's question, "Do you hate yourself?" When do you feel this way? How often do you feel this way?
3. You are not alone. Jesus knows what it feels like to be rejected. Read Isaiah 53:3-5. How can these verses be a comfort to you when you feel like an outsider?



4. When you are overwhelmed with the negative opinions of others about you, what does Psalm 139:13-18 say about how God views you?

Chapter 23:

1. Liz describes herself as being the “King of her own kingdom. “And had a desire to control every aspect of her life. What did this lead to? How can you relate?
2. Can sports or academics or pursuit of something else cause you to become the king of your own universe?
3. Rather than being King of our own lives, what should our approach to life in the Kingdom of God entail? What should it look like?

Chapter 24:

1. Why was Davis scared to death that he lacked success in fighting his temptation?
2. Why did Davis hide his pornography usage?
3. What are the two main reasons that Davis did not reach out to others and ask for help dealing with pornography?
4. Davis challenges us to not let our sin and shame drive us from Jesus. What should we do instead?

Chapter 25:

1. As a teenager, what lie did Chelsea choose to believe?
2. What rebellious behavior did Chelsea engage in that she tried to hide?
3. What was Chelsea’s drug of choice?
4. What extreme act did Chelsea commit and what went through her mind as it was occurring?
5. What were the elements of Chelsea’s transformation?
6. What did Jesus say to Nicodemus after Nicodemus tried to prove all he knew about the Scriptures?
7. Write out the full quoted passage on page 149.

Chapter 26:

1. What was the big issue the author was dealing with at home?
2. What was the first step the author made in finding peace within herself about the situation?
3. What does Matthew 12:50 say about the church being a family?
4. The author says Jesus did not give her the tools to fix her parents but to live at peace in the middle of the fighting. What did she come to understand that brought this peace?
5. What promise does God make to us in Hebrews 13:5b?



Chapter 27:

1. At the beginning of the chapter, the author struggled with self-righteousness. What is self-righteousness? What Bible characters were known for being self-righteous?
2. How do you exhibit self-righteousness at school...at home? Who are some people you view as “worse sinners” than you?
3. What does it mean that God imputes His righteousness to us? (See Romans 3:21-24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:17-19; I Corinthians 1:28-30)
4. How does this truth of God’s imputed righteousness to you help you to view yourself and others properly?
5. Have you ever felt you’ve committed a sin too big for God to forgive or for you to ever be used by God again? How does God’s imputed righteousness to you through Christ speak to that?

Chapter 28:

1. Is it possible to go to church before going to Jesus?
2. What happened to Scotty’s mother?
3. What did this tragedy lead to in Scotty’s life?
4. Have you ever experienced hurt that you hid from others? Is there still something hurting you that you have not healed from?
5. Can you point to a scripture that assures you that you can be open and honest with Jesus about your struggles/fears?

Chapter 29:

1. What did Lucy say her teenage years was a clear picture of?
2. According to Lucy, what is every one of us born with?
3. What is the Jesus that Lucy wishes she knew in high school?

Chapter 30:

2. What was Clark’s worry when he converted to Christianity?
3. What area of temptation did Clark struggle with and what was his initial solution?
4. What did Clark’s Korean/Asian community uphold as the highest “good”?
5. How were areas of sin handled in the church Clark discovered in college?
6. How was Clark’s experience with Jesus and the freedom Jesus offered similar to that of the woman at the well in John 4:29?
7. Explain what Clark concludes about seeking approval in order to value ourselves.