

**BIBLE  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE®**

*Daily*

Discipleship Guide

ADULTS • CSB  
FALL 2025

THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME  
HOW TO HANDLE LIFE'S INTERRUPTIONS



## THE PERFECT GIFT

Most of us never outgrow the childlike delight of receiving a gift, but as we become adults, we discover the joy is just as rich when we give a gift. We save for weeks and shop for just the right present, or we invest time in making or planning the gift. Then, we watch with joyful anticipation as the recipient opens the gift. Seeing his or her smile only increases our joy.

As much as we enjoy giving gifts, God enjoys it far more. Because He loves us so much, He gave us the greatest gift possible: Himself. Left to ourselves, we're lost; our sin keeps us from the joy of eternal life with God. But Jesus came to earth as a child, lived the sinless life we couldn't, and died as a substitute for our sin. That was His perfect gift to us. But the gift doesn't stop there. God raised Jesus from the dead, conquering sin and death for us.

Through Jesus, God offers us the gift of forgiveness, freedom, a new beginning, and a life with Him that never ends. But to receive this gift, we must: Let go of our sin. Repent and place our faith in Him. Admit to God we're sinners, and ask Him to forgive us. Confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and express our repentance and faith by praying something like this:

**“Dear God, I know I’m a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive me of my sins. I’m sorry for all the wrong I’ve done and ask You to forgive me. I now accept Your gift of eternal life. Thank You for Your love, forgiveness, and a new life in Jesus Christ. From this day forward, I choose to follow You. In Jesus’s name, Amen.”**

Share your decision to follow Jesus with a pastor or those in your Bible study group. Get involved in a church that will help you grow in your faith. Be baptized as an expression of your faith.

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## DON'T MISS THIS!

### EBOOK

*Bible Studies for Life* is also available as an eBook. You can order a copy at [Lifeway.com/bsflebook](http://Lifeway.com/bsflebook).

### COMMENTARY

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[BibleStudiesforLife.com/adults](http://BibleStudiesforLife.com/adults)

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*Bible Studies for Life: Daily Discipleship Guide*  
Volume 8, Number 1  
Fall 2025

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Printed in the United States of America

*Bible Studies for Life: Daily Discipleship Guide* (ISSN: 2577-2163; Item: 005804449) is published quarterly by Lifeway Christian Resources, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707, Ben Mandrell, President. © 2025 Lifeway Christian Resources.

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*Bible Studies for Life: Daily Discipleship Guide* often lists websites that may be helpful to our readers. Our staff verifies each site's usefulness and appropriateness prior to publication. However, website content changes quickly so we encourage you to approach all websites with caution. Make sure sites are still appropriate before sharing them with students, friends, and family.

## USING THE DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Your *Daily Discipleship Guide* is full of tools to help you grow as a disciple. But like any tool, you have to use it to get the benefit.

### GROUP TIME

This is the content you will study with your group in your weekly gatherings. These pages introduce the Bible passage and unpack its meaning. You'll have opportunities to dig deeper into the content outside your group time.

### LIVE IT OUT

This section is designed to answer the question, "Now what?" These ideas will help you apply the study content during the week by giving you something specific and concrete to do. You're encouraged to choose at least one action to pursue further.

### TALK IT OUT

Use this section to hold yourself and others accountable by meeting in a smaller group with two to three individuals of the same gender. You'll have an opportunity to discuss the passage, its relevance to your life, and ways you can live it out. This is also a good place to share what God has been teaching you through the group time and your personal, daily Bible study.

### DAILY STUDY

These five daily Bible engagement pages are designed to help you dig deeper into God's Word, building on your group study experience. Engage in each daily Bible study, record your thoughts, reflect on the questions, and take action.

Use this resource every week, even when you're unable to attend your group's Bible study. Missing a group meeting doesn't mean you can't still engage daily with God through His Word.



## THE PATHWAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Growing in Christ is a journey—a lifelong journey—but what does that look like? Lifeway’s research reveals eight markers consistently present in the lives of believers who are growing spiritually. Each year, *Bible Studies for Life* engages all eight of these areas. Following this intentional plan for discipleship ensures progress on the pathway to becoming more like Christ.

Visit [BibleStudiesforLife.com](http://BibleStudiesforLife.com) for a fuller picture of this discipleship plan through 2026.

	FALL 2025	WINTER 2025-26	SPRING 2026	SUMMER 2026
<b>ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE</b>	The Greatest Truths of All Time			
<b>OBEY GOD &amp; DENY SELF</b>	How to Handle Life’s Interruptions			
<b>EXERCISE FAITH</b>		Limited Resources, Limitless God		
<b>SHARE CHRIST</b>		Sharing Jesus in a Post-Christian World		
<b>SEEK GOD</b>			God Is: Understanding the Character of God	
<b>LIVE UNASHAMED</b>			Seize the Day: Embracing a Mission with Purpose	
<b>BUILD RELATIONSHIPS</b>				Connecting with Others Like Jesus Did
<b>SERVE GOD AND OTHERS</b>				Essentials for Christian Living

## THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME

*How This Study Supports the Discipleship Plan:*

**ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE.** The six great subjects in this study hit upon the central themes that run through all of Scripture.

- Session 1**      The Greatest Name • Isaiah 42:1-12
- Session 2**      The Greatest Need • Luke 5:17-26
- Session 3**      The Greatest Sin • Matthew 12:22-32
- Session 4**      The Greatest Gift • Romans 5:6-11,18-21
- Session 5**      The Greatest Command • Mark 12:28-34
- Session 6**      The Greatest Return • 1 Thessalonians 4:16–5:8

## HOW TO HANDLE LIFE'S INTERRUPTIONS

*How This Study Supports the Discipleship Plan:*

**OBEY GOD AND DENY SELF.** Our response to life's interruptions is a good indicator of who is in charge of our lives. This study pushes us to obediently trust God rather than our own plans.

- Session 1**      When God Interrupts Your Life • Hebrews 11:8-19
- Session 2**      When Life Goes Terribly Wrong • Genesis 39:21-23; 40:5-8; 41:10-14
- Session 3**      When Your Actions Cause an Interruption • Exodus 2:11-17,20-22; 3:7-10
- Session 4**      When Well-Meaning People Interrupt Your Plans • Luke 8:40-50,54-56
- Session 5**      When a Time of Inactivity Slows You Down • Acts 1:4-8,12-14; 2:1-4
- Session 6**      When Doing God's Work is Interrupted • Acts 16:4-15

## STUDY INTRODUCTIONS

### THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME

We live in a culture of extremes. If we eat a new dish, we claim it's the greatest meal ever. This year's vacation has to be better than last year, or we consider it a loss. As soon as a rising star achieves the first championship, we start to wonder if they'll become the GOAT. When we describe everything as the best ever, the term *greatest* loses its power.

Jesus is in a category all by Himself. He doesn't do anything halfway. That's why when we think about who He is and what He does, there's no way to consider Him anything other than the greatest. There's no name as powerful as His. He takes care of our deepest spiritual needs. He provides us with direction like no other. There was no life like His, no sacrifice like His, no victory like His, and we await a return like no other. Jesus is the greatest of all time. And within His Word, He provides us with the greatest truths that sustain us in uncertain times like these.

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### HOW TO HANDLE LIFE'S INTERRUPTIONS

There are limitless opportunities today to be who we want to be and achieve anything we put our minds to. This self-dependence fades as life and "adulting" force a reality of bank accounts, work responsibilities, and health insurance. Even with the perfect job, house, and relationship, a life built on our decisions and not on the Lord will ultimately lead to a crossroads when interruptions arise.

We all encounter life disruptions. Sometimes they're brief, and other times they alter the course of our entire lives. Our response to interruptions demonstrates our spiritual maturity. Who are we seeking first in our present crisis? Who do we think can ultimately solve the situation facing us and those around us?

After Jesus's ascension, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Jairus, and His followers demonstrated how interruptions, crises, mistakes, and pause can draw us nearer to the Lord. Their actions serve as a barometer of our dependence on Him when we enter these moments. Our response should be to trust God, not our plans, but that knowledge isn't enough; we must apply it to our hearts.

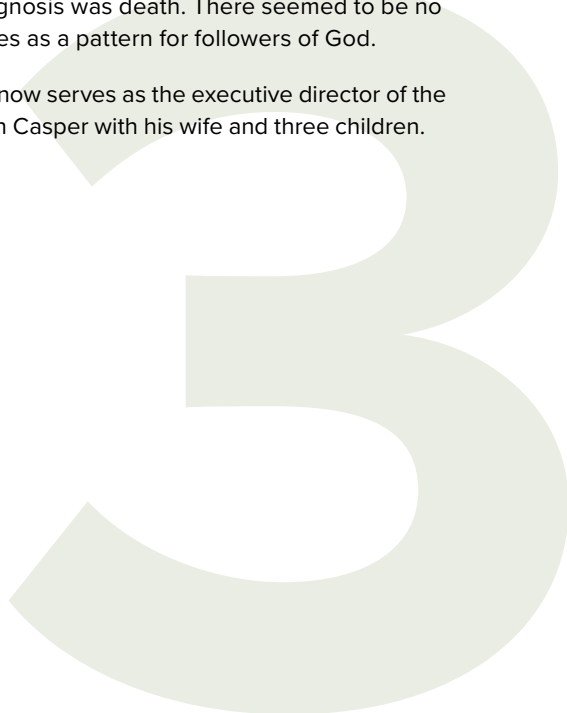
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## **FROM PROBLEMS TO PRAISE**

We all have hard days. We experience pain, uncertainty, and loss. The world and perhaps well-meaning friends may encourage us to walk away from our faith during these times, telling us that God has let us down, but what does God's Word say? As we read the Bible, we quickly learn that these difficult times aren't only going to happen, but they're promised. We will face trials and experience pain, but God promises to be present with us in the midst of it. He promises to use these experiences for good, and He promises that He is enough. In this study, we meet a man who got the news we all fear. Hezekiah had become sick, and his diagnosis was death. There seemed to be no hope for him in this world. His response to his crisis serves as a pattern for followers of God.

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We hope you enjoy this Bible study experience!

Jeremiah 29:13

# ONE



## THE GREATEST NAME

## THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Our world is drowning in prideful individuals shouting their names to be heard above the crowd. They strive to stand out in person and online. Boasting about themselves or advertising their favorite brands won't change anyone's life. Are we focusing our efforts on what needs to be heard? As believers, the point isn't to promote ourselves but to glorify the One worthy of our attention. Isaiah spoke of a "servant" who was to come. That Servant was Jesus, and His mission was to represent God and His name.

## THE POINT

**There is only one God, and only His \_\_\_\_\_ deserves glory.**

Isaiah is often called the prince of prophets. His tenure spanned four kings and almost sixty years. His book has the most sweeping and complete prophecies of our Messiah, covering everything from how He would enter the world to how He would leave it. Isaiah served during a critical time. God sent Isaiah as a warning for His people to repent before punishment would come. Amid ongoing sin and imminent judgment, Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah who would redeem all that rebellion had created.

**Isaiah 42:1-4** <sup>1</sup>“**This is my servant; I strengthen him, this is my chosen one; I delight in him. I have put my Spirit on him; he will bring justice to the nations.** <sup>2</sup>**He will not cry out or shout or make his voice heard in the streets.** <sup>3</sup>**He will not break a bruised reed, and he will not put out a smoldering wick; he will faithfully bring justice.** <sup>4</sup>**He will not grow weak or be discouraged until he has established justice on earth. The coasts and islands will wait for his instruction.”**

### 1) God brings glory to His name through His \_\_\_\_\_.

While Isaiah preached against the weakness apparent in God's people, he also spoke about the strength that would define God's "servant" (v. 1) who was to come. Even though the nations had brought chaos, He would bring needed justice. Isaiah didn't know this servant's name, but we do! Jesus came to earth to strengthen the weak. He finished what He came to accomplish, and His work and words brought glory to God. Jesus glorified God by finishing the work God gave Him to do (John 17:4).

**Isaiah 42:5-8** <sup>5</sup>**This is what God, the LORD, says—who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk on it—** <sup>6</sup>**“I am the LORD. I have called you for a**

righteous purpose, and I will hold you by your hand. I will watch over you, and I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people and a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup> in order to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those sitting in darkness from the prison house. <sup>8</sup> I am the LORD. That is my name, and I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.

**2) God's name deserves glory for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ He offers.**

When Isaiah prophesied about Jesus, he indicated that the Messiah would be a light to the nations (v. 6). The world is walking in darkness, but the gospel of Jesus turns the light on for all who desire to see (2 Corinthians 4:6). The one mission the Almighty God sent His Only Son to accomplish was to create a way to have a relationship with Him. Because of our sin, He could have left us on our own. Instead, He opened our eyes to see the redemption found in Him. By the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12), we are saved *from* judgment and *for* freedom.

**Isaiah 42:9-12** <sup>9</sup> The past events have indeed happened. Now I declare new events; I announce them to you before they occur.”  
<sup>10</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD; sing his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea with all that fills it, you coasts and islands with your inhabitants. <sup>11</sup> Let the desert and its cities shout, the settlements where Kedar dwells cry aloud. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy; let them cry out from the mountaintops. <sup>12</sup> Let them give glory to the LORD and declare his praise in the coasts and islands.

**3) God's name deserves glory from all \_\_\_\_\_.**

The glorious way we've been redeemed should create an urgency to worship Him. Since He is constantly showering us with grace and mesmerizing us with His glory, God deserves a new song sung by people from every corner of the earth. This new song is a reminder that the first time the Servant came as Messiah, son of Joseph, the Lamb to reconcile, but the second time He will come as Messiah, son of David, the Lion of Judah to conquer. And He will take those who have trusted in Him to heaven. One day, “every knee will bow . . . and every tongue will confess” Jesus as Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).

## ENGAGE

In the margin, compile three lists: (1) What the Father says about the Son (vv. 1-4); (2) What the Father says about Himself (vv. 5-8); and (3) Why people should glorify the Father (vv. 9-12).

## LIVE IT OUT

What actions will you take in response to today's study?

- **Give God glory.** What's the best way to get the attention off yourself? Place it on the One who deserves it. Spend time in prayer, giving glory to God for who He is and what He's done.
- **Register for a mission trip.** Isaiah mentioned that all the nations need to worship God. That can't happen without someone sharing the gospel with them. Talk with your pastor or small group leader about opportunities to participate in a mission trip.
- **Share your testimony.** If you've experienced the transforming nature of what God can do, share it with someone else. Share how He opened your eyes, strengthened your life, and provided your freedom.

## TALK IT OUT

**Want to go a step further? Gather with two or three Christ-followers of the same gender. Read Isaiah 42:1-12, then use the following summary and questions for a deeper discussion.**

One of the greatest hindrances to giving God the glory He deserves is our temptation to honor lesser things. We glorify ourselves by boasting about our achievements and blaming others for our shortcomings. We glorify others by focusing our attention and affection on them.

It's one thing to give God glory when we gather as a church and worship together. It's another to give Him glory in our daily activities. If God is the only One deserving of our glory, then we must make such an effort our priority and fight against our tendency to glorify lesser things.

- ? **What lesser things do we glorify in our culture today?**
- ? **What practices best help you give God the glory and praise He deserves?**
- ? **How can our group help each other give glory to God?**



**DAY 1: Jesus never demanded recognition.****Read Isaiah 42:1-2.**

The world is used to prideful tyrants demanding honor from their people. History is full of examples of dangerous leaders who expected unwavering respect. If such admiration wasn't freely given, it was adamantly required.

Such pride exists in smaller venues than the world stage, yet it can be just as dangerous. Any authority figure in a home, school, church, workplace, or community can make life miserable for everyone. Ego-driven tendencies demand the respect they think they deserve but only prove they're undeserving of it in the first place.

Jesus was the unexpected Messiah. People thought they knew what to expect, but they were immensely mistaken. As the prophet Isaiah pointed to Jesus's appearance, he indicated, "He will not cry out or shout or make his voice heard in the streets" (v. 2). He won't demand respect. Why? He doesn't need the world to affirm Him because His Father already did. "This is my chosen one; I delight in him" (v. 1). We see the Father's affirmation of the Son at His baptism, where the onlookers heard a voice from heaven declare, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Before Jesus ever preached a sermon or performed a sign, He was loved by His Father. That delight freed Him from the need to seek it elsewhere.

While this passage describes how Jesus would conduct His life and the humility He would display, it also beckons us to a countercultural way of living. We don't have to make ourselves heard if we know what the Father thinks about us. God the Father sent His Son to take our place on the cross because of His great love for us. If that fact doesn't settle us, what on earth can?

Jesus didn't require respect, yet He deserves it all the more. In a world full of people demanding recognition, give it to the One who never demanded it.

**? What are some situations in which you feel the need to make yourself heard? What would it look like to shift the focus of recognition in these situations to God? Journal your thoughts in the margin.**

## **DAY 2: How we see God affects how we interact with Him.**

### **Read Isaiah 42:3-4.**

Our perception of God dramatically affects how we interact with Him. If we develop an unhealthy and untrue impression of His character, we'll always need help knowing how to approach Him. In verses 3-4, Isaiah foreshadowed the coming Messiah and gave us powerful insight into who He is.

- **A bruised reed (v. 3).** Symbolizes something fragile, weak, or damaged. A reed is easily broken or bent, representing those who are fragile, vulnerable, or hurting. The image conveys God's tenderness and care for the weak. He won't destroy or exploit the already vulnerable but will show compassion and restoration.
- **A smoldering wick (v. 3).** Refers to a lamp or candle that's weak and close to being extinguished. This is another image of fragility and vulnerability. God's servant will bring life and hope. He is compassionate and patient, nurturing those who are struggling or spiritually weary.
- **Will faithfully bring justice (v. 3).** The servant is described as faithful and committed to righting wrongs and setting things straight. This justice is driven by faithfulness and righteousness. It signals God's desire for fairness, equity, and the restoration of the moral order in the world.
- **Will not grow weak or be discouraged until he has established justice on earth (v. 4).** Despite the challenges and opposition that might come, the servant will persist without growing weary or discouraged. He won't stop until God's justice is fully established.
- **The coasts and islands will wait for his instruction (v. 4).** The "coasts and islands" are symbolic of distant nations or far-off peoples. The justice and hope the servant brings will extend to all the world. People from all over will turn to God's law for guidance, hope, and salvation.

This passage emphasizes God's patience, mercy, and commitment. Through Him, even the most fragile and weary find hope and healing.

- ? Which of the bulleted points above most challenges your current perception of who God is? Make time this week to connect with a trusted Christian mentor or friend and discuss this together.**

*How do you typically respond when  
God interrupts your plans?*

*Share your experience!*



SCAN ME

*See other's responses  
later in this study.*

### **DAY 3: God always holds our hand.**

#### **Read Isaiah 42:5-9.**

“I Want to Hold Your Hand”—no true fan of The Beatles can read that song title without hearing those moppy-haired boys from Liverpool sing one of their first infectiously memorable singles. As the song’s popularity rose and the band’s exposure spread, millions of adoring female fans hoped some handsome male would sing it to them.

While we’ve all likely held the hand of someone in a romantic relationship, we also hold hands in other types of connections. Maybe you’ve held a child’s hand, helping him or her navigate a situation that was too challenging or dangerous for those early years. Or you might have held a senior’s hand as his or her mind or body wasn’t allowing quick actions and reactions. In most situations, the gesture indicates, “I’m here for you. I can help you when situations are challenging. You don’t have to do this alone.”

Maybe that’s what makes verse 6 so encouraging: “I will hold you by your hand.” God knows we’re weak. He understands we get off the path. He often calls us to go into uncertain situations but never desires us to wander through them alone.

Verses 5-9 remind us of the God who doesn’t abandon those created in His image. He calls us for righteous purposes, but He’s committed to walking alongside us as we seek to fulfill them. What a relief to know He watches over us! He’s never unsure, even when we get confused over our whereabouts.

God promises to help us see what we need to see, find freedom from our bondage, and trust Him for future events (vv. 7,9). No matter what happens, He’s got us. He’s with us. He’s for us. If you’re anxious about the steps ahead, remember that your heavenly Father will always take you by the hand and lead you forward.

**? Is something making you feel anxious? Where do you need God to lead you forward? Spend some time talking to Him about it. Thank Him for His promise to always hold your hand.**

**DAY 4: There's always a song to sing.****Read Isaiah 42:10-12.**

Singing isn't reserved for talented vocalists. While we may not want to display our vocal prowess through a microphone for all to hear, human existence requires a song occasionally. It might be that tune you sing in the shower, the chant you belt in the stadium, or a jam that comes on the radio. Sometimes we connect with something so much that spoken words just won't do. We can't talk about it; we've got to sing about it.

The prophet Isaiah encouraged God's people to "sing a new song to the LORD" (v. 10). The remarkable thing about Isaiah's instruction was that God's people probably didn't feel much like singing right then. They were unpacking the consequences of their actions. They failed to listen to warnings and were experiencing their deserved punishment. Surely this wasn't the time to sing!

If we don't learn to sing even when we don't feel motivated to do so, we may not endure through the difficult times. The people were confused, scattered, and hopeless. Even in their punishment, God hadn't given up on them. In the first thirty-nine chapters of his book, Isaiah warned about judgment. In Isaiah 40, once the Father's discipline came, Isaiah turned a corner to declare that even though God's people walked away from Him, He never walked away from them. Now that's a reason to sing!

Isaiah then commanded people to sing at the coast (v. 10) or from the mountaintops (v. 11). He highlighted many geographical markers to illustrate we have reason to praise regardless of where we are.

Whether you're where you want to be right now or not, you have a song to sing because you aren't where you could be. Give glory to the Lord (v. 12); no matter where you are, He's there with you.

- 🕒 **Spend time singing along with some of your favorite worship music. Praise Him regardless of where you are.**

“

In a sense, we are better prepared to praise God than the angels are, for angels have never known the joy of redemption.

”

David Jeremiah



## DAY 5: Jesus deserves our exaltation.

### Read Philippians 2:9-11.

“Every knee will bow . . . and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (vv. 10-11). Paul’s writing to the Philippian church served to frame future reality. There will be a time when all people will finally grasp that Jesus is Lord. Some may bow now, but all will bow eventually. Such honor will finally come when the world beholds Jesus for who He truly is.

“For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name” (v. 9). To understand why God exalted Jesus, it’s essential to consider the opening phrase of the verse: “For this reason.” A quick backward glance at the previous verses in Philippians 2 indicates that what Jesus did is the reason God exalted Him. Though equal with God, Jesus “emptied himself” (v. 7). He humbled Himself to be born as a man, live as a servant, and die as a criminal (vv. 6-8). Jesus’s exaltation is directly tied to His humiliation.

This sequence is noteworthy because it completely contradicts everything this world teaches about gaining recognition. To be deemed significant, we’re told to prove it—exude confidence, flaunt achievements, and set ourselves apart from those less remarkable. The greater the distance we create from others not as stellar as ourselves, the higher our chances of being noticed.

Jesus did the complete opposite. Though He was deserving of all recognition, He deflected it. God exalted Jesus because Jesus didn’t seek to elevate Himself. That’s why Paul’s encouragement in Philippians 2:5 is now better grasped: “Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus.” If Jesus humbled Himself to that level, we will never outdo Him. If we seek to exalt ourselves, God will humble us, but if we seek to humble ourselves, God will exalt us (Matthew 23:12). Choose wisely; be like Jesus.

**?** **The next time you have an opportunity to exalt yourself, how can you exalt Jesus instead? Write your thoughts in the margin.**