

July 13/14, 2024
"God Is Trustworthy"
Pastor Brad Holmes



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

July: Read Isaiah to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 Luke 5:1-11 | God is Trustworthy

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:10-11

Jesus is in his early thirties, and his public ministry is just underway. He speaks in the Saturday synagogue service and declares himself to be Israel's long-awaited Messiah ([Luke 4:14-21](#)). A brief time later, he casts a demon from a man at a synagogue service in neighboring Capernaum ([Luke 4:31-37](#)). Word of Jesus spreads quickly as he heals many, including Simon Peter's mother-in-law ([Luke 4:38-39](#)). Just days later, the same Peter allows Jesus to use his fishing boat so he can speak to the crowd. It is the same boat the fishermen used unsuccessfully all night and that Jesus miraculously fills with fish.

Peter is beginning to recognize who Jesus is. He has a glimpse of Jesus's holiness. Peter recognizes the contrast of his own sinfulness but responds to Jesus's invitation to follow him and fish for people instead of fish. As Peter takes these first steps on his journey with Christ, he is tired, stuck and confused. But Peter learns that God is trustworthy and faithful to his plans. What is true for Peter is also true for us. As we follow Peter's story this week, we will see God's trustworthiness in our daily lives, even when we are tired, stuck and confused.

TODAY: Reflect on the ways you have seen God's trustworthiness in your life or the lives of people around you. Journal about these situations and the lessons you have learned from them. These will be helpful as you continue to follow Jesus.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 27-28](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus referred to himself as the cornerstone ([Matthew 21:43-44](#)).

Day 2 Luke 5:4-5 | Tired

"Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." Luke 5: 5

To say it was a long night on the Sea of Galilee would be a huge understatement for these professional fishermen. All night long, they cast their nets and pulled them in . . . empty. One hour slowly moved to the next. Finally, they said, "Enough," and ended their night of hard, manual labor. They are exhausted but finish their work by cleaning the nets. It is then that Jesus steps into one of the boats so he can teach the crowd. After his teaching, Jesus tells these veteran fishermen, against all their wisdom and experience, to push out into the deep and drop down the nets they just cleaned. There is nothing about this instruction that makes any sense to these guys. But they do it and are overwhelmed with a miraculous catch of fish.

They followed the instruction because Peter sees something different about Jesus: “Because you say so, I will let down the nets.” In his exhaustion, Peter learns that God is faithful and can be trusted. We can be obedient even when we might not feel like it, because God is faithful. When we’re exhausted and feel like our patience is gone, we can trust the Lord. In these moments, we can still choose to trust in his faithfulness and obey his Word.

TODAY: Watch Ada Bible’s worship team sing “[Firm Foundation \(He Won’t\)](#).” Use the lyrics, “Christ is my firm foundation, The Rock on which I stand,” to strengthen your faith in God when you are exhausted and feel like giving up.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 29-31](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note how Jesus quoted [Isaiah 13:13](#) (see [Mark 7:6-7](#)).

Day 3 Luke 5:6-10 | Stuck

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”
Luke 5:8

Peter knows that Jesus cast out a demon from a man. He saw his mother-in-law healed. It was in Peter’s hometown where Jesus spent the night healing anyone who showed up ([Luke 4:31-41](#)). But what convinces Peter that Jesus is different is the miraculous catch of fish. Only then does Peter see he is in the presence of someone who has power over nature. Peter sees his sinfulness in the light of Jesus’s power and perfection. Peter will eventually understand who Jesus is—the Messiah, the Son of the living God ([Matthew 16:16](#)). Here, Peter recognizes that his sin means he doesn’t deserve to be around God. He feels stuck and even asks Jesus to go away from him.

We, too, know we don’t measure up. We can get stuck thinking we have to earn our way to God when we know we can’t. We might focus on our pattern of failure rather than on God’s faithfulness. We may even feel that we’ve messed up so much there’s no way we can be forgiven. We can easily lose sight that God is the One who offers us life, forgiveness and freedom through Jesus’s life, death and resurrection. Jesus reveals God’s ultimate faithfulness.

TODAY: Where do you feel stuck? Confess that to God and ask for help. If you need help in sorting some things out, we’d love to speak with you. Reach out to us at care@adabible.org to start a conversation.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 32-33](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 4 Ephesians 2:1-5 | But God

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5

The story of the Bible shows that people keep messing up. They constantly turn away from God. It started in the Garden of Eden ([Genesis 3:1-7](#)) and continues through the Bible and up to our day. It is this theme that the Apostle Paul picks up on in his letter to the church in Ephesus. After describing them as “dead in your transgressions and sins,” he writes two powerful words, “But...God.” With these two words, he begins to describe how God steps into the mess to rescue people.

Using beautiful language, Paul tells us why God would rescue people. His descriptions tell us who God is and how he acts with great love, is rich in mercy, saves by grace, raises us up with Christ and seats us with him in heavenly realms ([Ephesians 2:4-6](#)). The good news is that everything Paul says about the Ephesian Christians is true for everyone today who places their faith and trust in Jesus for forgiveness of all they’ve done wrong. It’s

this gift of life that God pleads with us to receive. When we do, we have the power of his Holy Spirit living in us to live the life God has for us.

TODAY: If you have not trusted Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, you can do so right now and begin your new life in Christ. If you have, take a few moments to thank God for all he has done for you in Christ. Paul's list in Ephesians 2 is a great place to start.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 34-36](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus said he opened the eyes of the blind and made the deaf hear ([Matthew 11:2-6](#)).

Day 5 Luke 5:9-11 | Confused

For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:9-11

This miraculous catch of fish was an event Peter could not understand. Looking first at the fish and then at Jesus, Peter must be shaking his head in amazement and confusion. Then Jesus steps in. Peter may not have known the depth of his confusion, but Jesus does. Jesus knows Peter needs clarity about what life is about. As Peter marvels at the fish, Jesus tells Peter he has a new mission in life. His mission is no longer about fish; it is about people. Knowing that Jesus is different, he responds by leaving fishing behind to follow him.

The same can be true of us. When we understand who Jesus is and what he has done for us, we can move from confusion to clarity. Jesus has a mission for us: to represent him in the world. We can do this with our family, friends or co-workers. We don't have to be a missionary or in full time ministry to do this. We can represent Jesus to the people around us wherever we are.

TODAY: Have a discussion with a trusted Christian friend about what it means to represent Jesus in your life and circles of influence. If you are in a small group, talk with your small group leader. You can also connect with us at btw@adabible.org. We'd love to speak with you!

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Isaiah 37-39](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.