



A 40-DAY JOURNEY THROUGH  
THE FOUR GOSPELS

# THE JESUS

# 40

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FOR KIDS

Learn to live and love like Jesus,  
one day at a time.

THEJESUS40.COM

T H E J E S U S

40

F O R K I D S

One teaching of Jesus each day, told in simple words for  
young hearts, with one small way to live it before the sun  
goes down.

F I R S T E D I T I O N

*Freely you have received; freely give.*

MATTHEW 10:8

This book is free, and it always will be.  
Copy it, print it, and give it away to any family who will read  
it.

The verses in this book are retold in simple words for young  
readers. They are drawn from the four gospels, Matthew,  
Mark, Luke, and John. When you are ready, you can read the  
full verses there.

THE JESUS 40 · THEJESUS40.COM

*Let the little children come to me, and  
do not stop them, because the kingdom  
of God belongs to people like them.*

M A R K 1 0 : 1 4

# A Note for Grown-Ups

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This little book holds 40 days of Jesus for the youngest disciples. Each day gives your child one teaching or story of Jesus, retold in simple words from the four gospels, along with one small way to live it before bedtime.

Here is how a day works. Read the page out loud together. It takes about five minutes. Then help your child do the Try it today challenge sometime before the sun goes down. At dinner or bedtime, ask the Talk about it together question and listen to what comes out. You may be surprised. End with a one-line prayer, in your own words or theirs.

There is no falling behind. If you miss a day or a week, just pick up where you left off. The goal is not speed. The goal is a child who knows that Jesus is real, that Jesus loves them, and that his words are meant to be lived, not just heard.

When your child is older, the full journey is waiting for them, and for you, at [thejesus40.com](http://thejesus40.com). It is free, and it always will be.

Now find a cozy spot, and turn the page together.

PART ONE

# Jesus and You

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*I have called you friends.*

JOHN 15:15



## DAY ONE

# Jesus loves kids like you

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One day, moms and dads brought their children to Jesus so he could bless them. But the disciples tried to shoo them away. Do not bother Jesus, they said. He is too busy for children.

Jesus heard them, and he did not like that one bit. He said, Let the children come to me. Then he picked the kids up in his arms, put his hands on their heads, and blessed them.

Jesus was never too busy for kids. He is not too busy for you. That is where this whole journey begins.

*Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to people like them.*

MARK 10:14

### TRY IT TODAY

Tonight before you fall asleep, say, Hi Jesus. Thank you for loving me. That is a real prayer, and he hears every word.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

If Jesus walked into our house today, what would you want to tell him about yourself?

**TOMORROW** *You will hear the happiest news the world has ever gotten.*



## DAY TWO

# The best news ever

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On the night Jesus was born, shepherds were out in the dark watching their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared, and the whole sky lit up. The shepherds were terrified.

The angel said, Do not be afraid. I bring wonderful news that will fill everyone with joy. Tonight your Savior was born. Then the sky filled with angels, all praising God at once.

The shepherds ran to town and found him, baby Jesus, lying in a manger. God had sent his own Son into the world as a tiny baby. That is the best news ever told.

*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today your Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord.*

LUKE 2:10-11

### TRY IT TODAY

Good news is made for sharing. Tell someone in your family one thing that made you happy today.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why do you think God gave the biggest news in history to ordinary shepherds first, instead of kings?

**TOMORROW** *Did you know Jesus was once a kid, just like you?*





### DAY THREE

## Jesus was a kid too

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Jesus did not skip being a kid. He was a baby who had to learn to walk. He was a boy who helped his parents, played with friends, learned to read, and asked lots of questions.

The Bible says Jesus grew in four ways. He grew wiser. He grew taller. He grew closer to God. And he grew in kindness with the people around him.

You are growing in those same four ways right now. Jesus knows exactly what it is like to be your age, because he has been there.

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and in height, and he was loved by God and by people.*

LUKE 2:52

### TRY IT TODAY

Pick one way to grow today. Learn something new, help someone at home, or spend a quiet minute with God.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Which of the four ways of growing feels easiest for you? Which one is hardest?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus says two little words that can change a whole life.*



## DAY FOUR

# Come, follow me

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One day Jesus walked along the shore and saw two brothers fishing, Peter and Andrew. Jesus called out, Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people.

They did not say, Maybe later. They dropped their nets right away and went with him. A little farther down the beach, their friends James and John left their boat and followed too.

Following Jesus means walking through life with him. Listening to him. Learning to love the way he loves. And it all starts with one simple yes.

*Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people.*

MATTHEW 4:19

### TRY IT TODAY

Say yes to Jesus in one small way today. When you know the kind thing to do, do it right away, like Peter dropping his net.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What do you think Jesus meant by fishing for people?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus has a special name for the way he takes care of you.*



## DAY FIVE

# The Good Shepherd knows your name

In the days of Jesus, shepherds lived with their sheep. They led them to green grass and cool water. They protected them from wild animals. A good shepherd knew every single sheep by name.

Jesus said, I am the Good Shepherd. He was telling us how he cares for us. He knows your name. He knows what makes you laugh and what makes you scared. He watches over you day and night.

Sheep learn the voice of their shepherd. You can learn the voice of Jesus too, by hearing his words a little bit every day. That is exactly what these 40 days are for.

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep, and my own sheep know me.*

JOHN 10:14

### TRY IT TODAY

Jesus knows your name. Say his name back today. Just say, Jesus, thank you for watching over me.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What does a good shepherd do for his sheep? How does Jesus do those same things for us?

**TOMORROW** *Someone asks Jesus the biggest question of all, and his answer is only four words long.*



## DAY SIX

# Love God, love people

A teacher once asked Jesus, Out of all the commandments, which one matters most? Everybody leaned in to hear what he would say.

Jesus answered, Love God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Then he added a second part. Love your neighbor the way you love yourself.

Love God. Love people. Everything Jesus taught fits inside those four words. If you remember nothing else from this whole journey, remember this.

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. And love your neighbor as you love yourself.*

MATTHEW 22:37-39

### TRY IT TODAY

Do both halves today. Tell God you love him. Then show love to one person with your actions, not just your words.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Who counts as our neighbor?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus gives you a golden rule that works everywhere, every time.*



## DAY SEVEN

# The Golden Rule

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How do you know the right way to treat someone? Jesus made it simple enough for anyone to remember. Treat other people the way you want them to treat you.

Want others to share with you? Share with them. Want kind words? Say kind words. Want a friend to sit with you? Go sit with someone who is alone.

People call this the Golden Rule, because it is worth more than gold. It turns every choice into one easy question. How would I want to be treated right now?

*In everything, treat other people the way you want them to treat you.*

MATTHEW 7:12

### TRY IT TODAY

Before you act today, ask the golden question one time. How would I want to be treated? Then do exactly that.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

When is the Golden Rule hardest to follow?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus tells the grown-ups that the greatest person in the kingdom is someone your size.*



## DAY EIGHT

# The greatest is like a child

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One day the disciples argued about which of them was the greatest. Jesus did something surprising. He called a little child over and stood the child right in the middle of everyone.

Then he said, If you want to be part of the kingdom of heaven, become like this child. The grown-ups needed to trust God the way kids trust, love the way kids love, and wonder the way kids wonder.

Did you catch that? When Jesus wanted to show the world what greatness looks like, he picked a kid. You are not too small for the kingdom of God. You are exactly the right size.

*Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

MATTHEW 18:3

### TRY IT TODAY

Grown-ups need help remembering how to trust God. Give someone a kid-sized reminder today. Wonder out loud, laugh hard, or pray a simple honest prayer with them.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What could the grown-ups in our family learn from kids about trusting God?

T O M O R R O W *Jesus says you shine. Really.*

PART TWO

# Living Like Jesus

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*Let your light shine.*

MATTHEW 5:16





## DAY NINE

# Let your light shine

Jesus looked at his followers and said something amazing. You are the light of the world. Nobody lights a lamp and hides it under a basket. You set it up high so it lights the whole house.

Your light is the good you do. Kind words. Helping hands. Telling the truth. Sharing what you have. Every good thing you do makes the world a little brighter and points people to God.

You do not have to be loud or famous to shine. You just have to be kind, right where you are.

*Let your light shine in front of others, so they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven.*

MATTHEW 5:16

### TRY IT TODAY

Do one bright thing today where someone can see it. When they smile, remember that your light is pointing to God.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Where does our family need a little more light this week?

TOMORROW *Two tiny words with big power. Yes and no.*



## DAY TEN

# Tell the truth

Jesus taught that his followers should be people others can trust. He said your yes should mean yes and your no should mean no. You should not need big promises to prove you are honest. Your plain words should be enough.

Telling the truth can feel hard, especially after a mistake. But every true word makes trust grow stronger. Every lie makes things heavier and more tangled.

Jesus called himself the truth. When you are honest, you are being like him.

*Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no.*

MATTHEW 5:37

### TRY IT TODAY

Be a yes-means-yes kid today. If you say you will do something, do it. If you make a mistake, tell the truth about it.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why is it sometimes scary to tell the truth? What makes it easier?

TOMORROW *What Jesus says to do about mean people will surprise you.*



## DAY ELEVEN

# Be kind to unkind people

Everybody knows how to be nice to nice people. That part is easy. Jesus asked his followers to do something much harder. Love your enemies, he said. Pray for the people who are mean to you.

That does not mean letting someone hurt you. If someone is hurting you, tell a trusted grown-up right away. It means you do not have to pay back mean with mean. You can pray for that person instead, and stay kind even when they are not.

When you love people who are hard to love, you are acting just like God, who is kind even to people who forget all about him.

*Love your enemies and pray for those who are unkind to you.*

MATTHEW 5:44

### TRY IT TODAY

Think of one person who was unkind to you. Tonight, pray one sentence for them. God, please bless them and help their heart.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Does being kind to someone mean that what they did was okay? What is the difference?

**TOMORROW** *How many times should you forgive somebody? Jesus does the math.*



## DAY TWELVE

# Forgive again and again

Peter came to Jesus with a math question. Lord, if someone keeps hurting me, how many times should I forgive them? Seven times? Peter probably thought seven sounded very generous.

Jesus said, Not seven times. Seventy-seven times. He did not mean count to seventy-seven and then stop. He meant, stop counting. Keep forgiving, because God keeps forgiving you.

Forgiving does not mean it did not hurt. It means you hand the hurt to God instead of carrying it around. Holding a grudge is heavy. Forgiving makes your heart light again.

*Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

MATTHEW 18:22

### TRY IT TODAY

Is there someone you are still mad at? Say quietly, I forgive you, and ask God to carry the mad feelings away for you.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What is the difference between forgiving someone and pretending nothing happened?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus wants to show you something about the birds outside your window.*



## DAY THIRTEEN

# Look at the birds

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Do you ever worry? About school, about friends, about the dark, about tomorrow? Jesus knew that people worry, so he pointed at the birds.

Look at the birds, he said. They do not plant gardens or fill up barns with food, and God feeds them every single day. And you matter to God even more than the birds do.

So when worry starts buzzing around your head, do what Jesus said. Look at a bird. Remember who feeds it. Then tell that same God exactly what you are worried about.

*Look at the birds. They do not plant or gather food into barns, and your Father in heaven feeds them. Are you not worth much more than birds?*

MATTHEW 6:26

### TRY IT TODAY

Find a bird today, out a window or outside. When you spot one, say, God takes care of you, and God takes care of me.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What is one worry you can hand over to God tonight?

**TOMORROW** *The disciples ask Jesus to teach them something you can start doing right now.*



## DAY FOURTEEN

# Jesus teaches us to pray

The disciples watched Jesus pray, and they wanted to learn. Lord, teach us to pray, they asked. So Jesus gave them a prayer so simple that kids all over the world have prayed it for two thousand years.

You do not need fancy words to talk to God. The prayer Jesus taught covers everything. It praises God, asks for what we need today, says sorry, forgives other people, and asks for help to do what is right.

Prayer is not a performance. It is talking with your Father in heaven, who loves the sound of your voice.

*Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come, and may what you want be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the bread we need. Forgive us, as we forgive others. And keep us safe from evil.*

MATTHEW 6:9-13

### TRY IT TODAY

Pray this prayer out loud tonight, slowly, with someone in your family.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Which line of the prayer do you like best? What do you think it means?

TOMORROW *Jesus tells you about a door that opens when you knock.*



## DAY FIFTEEN

# Ask, seek, knock

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Jesus said, Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will open. He was talking about prayer.

Then he explained why. If a child asks their dad for bread, would he hand them a rock? Of course not. Good parents give good things to their kids. And God is the best Father there is.

So do not be shy with God. Ask him for help. Ask him your questions. Knock on his door about anything, big or small. He never says, Go away, I am busy.

*Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you.*

MATTHEW 7:7

### TRY IT TODAY

Ask God for one thing today, out loud or in your heart. He is listening.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Does God always answer prayers the way we expect? Can you remember a time a prayer was answered?

TOMORROW *A mission so secret, only God gets to see it.*



## DAY SIXTEEN

# The secret kindness mission

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Jesus said that when you do something kind, you do not need to announce it with a trumpet. He said the best giving is so quiet that your left hand does not even know what your right hand is doing.

Why keep kindness secret? Because then you are not doing it for claps and compliments. You are doing it out of love. And Jesus promised that your Father sees everything done in secret.

Secret kindness is one of the most fun things Jesus ever asked us to do. It turns goodness into a treasure hunt.

*When you give, do it quietly. Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

MATTHEW 6 : 3 - 4

### TRY IT TODAY

Do one secret kind thing today. Make a bed, leave a nice note, do a chore nobody asked for. Do not tell anyone. God saw it, and that is enough.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why is a kind deed extra special when only God knows about it?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus starts telling his famous stories, beginning with two builders and one big storm.*



PART THREE

# Stories Jesus Told

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*He taught them many things in stories.*

MARK 4:2



## DAY SEVENTEEN

# The wise builder

Jesus loved to teach with stories. Here is one about two builders. A wise man built his house on solid rock. A foolish man built his house on soft sand.

Then a storm came. Rain poured, rivers rose, and wind slammed against both houses. The house on the rock stood strong. The house on the sand crashed flat.

Jesus said the rock is hearing his words and doing them. Not just knowing what Jesus said, but living it. Every time you do what Jesus taught, you are building your life on rock. Storms will still come, but you will stand.

*Everyone who hears my words and does them is like a wise builder who built a house on rock. The rain fell and the wind blew, but the house did not fall.*

MATTHEW 7 : 24 - 25

### TRY IT TODAY

Pick one thing Jesus taught this week and do it today. That is one more brick on the rock.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What storms can blow into a person's life? How does following Jesus help us stand through them?

TOMORROW *A farmer, a bag of seeds, and four kinds of dirt.*



## DAY EIGHTEEN

# The farmer and the seeds

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A farmer went out to plant, tossing seeds everywhere. Some fell on the hard path, and birds gobbled them up. Some fell on rocky ground, sprouted fast, then dried up because they had no roots. Some fell into thorn bushes and got choked out. But some landed in good soil and grew tall and strong.

Jesus explained that the seed is the word of God, and the soils are hearts. Some hearts are too hard, too shallow, or too crowded to let it grow.

But a heart like good soil hears the word, holds onto it, and grows. Guess what you are doing right now, listening to Jesus a little every day? You are being good soil.

*The seed in the good soil stands for the people who hear the word of God, hold onto it with a good heart, and grow.*

LUKE 8:15

### TRY IT TODAY

Water a seed today. Say the Golden Rule from Day 7 out loud from memory, then go do it once.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What kinds of things crowd our hearts and make it hard to listen to God?

**TOMORROW** *The smallest seed in the garden is hiding a giant surprise.*



## DAY NINETEEN

# The mustard seed

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Jesus held up the tiniest seed anyone knew, a mustard seed, hardly bigger than a grain of sand. He said, The kingdom of God is like this.

Because when you plant that tiny seed, it grows and grows into a tree so big that birds fly in and build nests in its branches.

God loves to start with small things. A tiny seed. A small lunch. A little prayer. A kid like you. Never think you are too small to matter. Small plus God equals big.

*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It is the smallest of seeds, but it grows into a tree so large that birds nest in its branches.*

MATTHEW 13:31-32

### TRY IT TODAY

Plant something small today. One kind word, one little prayer, one shared snack. Then watch what God grows from it.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What small thing in your life might God want to grow into something big?

TOMORROW *Buried treasure!*



## DAY TWENTY

# The hidden treasure

Jesus told a story about a man digging in a field. Clunk. His shovel hit something. Treasure! He was so excited that he ran home, sold everything he owned, and hurried back to buy that whole field.

Was he sad about giving everything up? Not even a little. He was full of joy, because the treasure was worth more than all of it put together.

Jesus said the kingdom of God is like that treasure. Knowing God and walking with Jesus is the best thing you will ever find. Worth more than every toy, every game, and every prize in the world.

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he was so full of joy that he sold everything he had and bought that field.*

MATTHEW 13:44

### TRY IT TODAY

Tell God he is your treasure. Then set aside a screen or a toy for a while today, and spend that time with him or with your family instead.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What do people treasure most? What makes God the best treasure of all?

**TOMORROW** *Ninety-nine sheep are safe at home. One is missing. What will the shepherd do?*



DAY TWENTY-ONE

## The lost sheep

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Jesus asked, If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one wanders off, what does he do? He leaves the ninety-nine safe ones and goes looking for the lost one. He searches and searches until he finds it.

And when he finds it, he does not scold it. He lifts it onto his shoulders, carries it home, and calls all his friends. Celebrate with me! I found my lost sheep!

Jesus said heaven throws a party like that whenever one person comes back to God. Nobody is ever too lost for God to find. He will always come looking for you.

*Celebrate with me, because I have found my sheep that was lost!*

LUKE 15:6

### TRY IT TODAY

If you ever feel far from God, just tell him, Here I am. Then smile, because heaven just got happier.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

How does it feel to know God would search for you out of a hundred?

**TOMORROW** *A boy runs away from home, and you will not believe what his dad does.*



## DAY TWENTY-TWO

# The father who ran

Jesus told a story about a son who took his share of the family money and ran far away. He wasted every bit of it. Soon he was hungry, dirty, and feeding pigs just to survive. He decided to walk home and say, Dad, I am sorry. I do not deserve to be your son anymore.

But while the son was still far down the road, his father spotted him. And the father ran. He threw his arms around his boy, kissed him, put the best robe on him, and threw a giant welcome home party.

Jesus told this story to show us what God is like. When we mess up and come back to say sorry, God does not cross his arms and frown. He runs to us.

*While the son was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with love. He ran to him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him.*

LUKE 15:20

### TRY IT TODAY

Is there a sorry you need to say, to God or to someone at home? Say it today, and watch what love does.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What surprises you most about the father in this story?

**TOMORROW** *A man is hurt on the road, and the hero is not who anyone expected.*



## DAY TWENTY-THREE

# The Good Samaritan

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A man asked Jesus, Who counts as my neighbor? Jesus answered with a story. A traveler was attacked by robbers and left hurt beside the road. A priest walked by on the other side. A temple helper walked by too. Neither one stopped.

Then came a Samaritan, a man from a place the listeners did not like at all. He stopped. He bandaged the traveler, lifted him onto his own donkey, brought him to an inn, and paid for his care.

Jesus asked, Which one was a real neighbor? The one who showed kindness. Then Jesus said four words worth remembering forever. Go and do likewise. Your neighbor is anyone who needs your help, even someone very different from you.

*Which one was a neighbor to the hurt man? The one who showed him kindness. Jesus said, Go and do the same.*

LUKE 10:36-37

### TRY IT TODAY

Be a stopper today. When you see someone who needs help, stop and help, even if it is not convenient.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Who are the people we sometimes walk past? How could our family stop for them?



T O M O R R O W *Two sons, one question. Which one really said yes?*



## DAY TWENTY - FOUR

# The yes that counts

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Jesus told a story about a dad with two sons. He asked both of them to go work in the vineyard. The first son said, No, I will not. But later he felt sorry, changed his mind, and went and did the work. The second son said, Yes sir, right away! But he never went at all.

Jesus asked, Which son did what his father wanted? Everyone knew the answer. The one who actually went.

Saying the right words is easy. Doing them is what counts. Jesus does not want us to just talk about love and kindness. He wants us to live it. That is the whole secret of these 40 days. Do his words, and you will discover they are true.

*Which of the two sons did what his father wanted? The one who went and did the work.*

MATTHEW 21:31

### TRY IT TODAY

Turn one yes into action today. If you say you will help, help right then, before you forget.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why do you think doing matters more to Jesus than just saying?

**TOMORROW** *A master hands out treasure and says, Let us see what you do with it.*



## DAY TWENTY - FIVE

# Use your gifts

Jesus told about a master who gave his helpers bags of money before leaving on a trip. To one he gave five bags, to another two, to another one. The first two helpers got busy and doubled what they were given. The last one got scared and buried his bag in the ground.

When the master came home, he cheered for the busy ones. Well done, good and faithful helper! But he was sad about the treasure that stayed buried and never got used.

God has given you gifts too. Maybe you are good at making people laugh, or drawing, or running, or being a friend. Gifts are not for burying. They are for using, to make the world better and to make God smile.

*Well done, good and faithful helper! You were faithful with a little, so I will trust you with much more.*

MATTHEW 25:21

### TRY IT TODAY

Use one of your gifts for someone else today. Draw them a picture, make them laugh, help them with something you are good at.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What gifts do you see in each person in our family?

**TOMORROW** *The biggest party ever, and guess who is on the guest list.*



DAY TWENTY-SIX

## Everyone is invited

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Jesus told about a man who prepared a great feast and invited many guests. But one by one, they all made excuses. I bought a field. I got new oxen. I am just too busy.

So the man told his servant, Go into the streets and bring in everyone you can find. The poor, the hurt, the forgotten. Then go out to the country roads and invite them all, until my house is completely full.

That is what the party of God is like. No one is left off the list. Not the kid nobody picks, not the new kid, not the different kid. Everyone is invited to the table of God. And people who follow Jesus make their own tables look like his.

*Go out to the roads and country lanes, and invite everyone you find, so that my house will be full.*

LUKE 14:23

### TRY IT TODAY

Widen your circle today. Invite someone who is usually left out to play, to sit with you, or to join your game.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Who could our family invite to something this month?

**TOMORROW** *The stories become real life, starting with one boy and his lunch.*

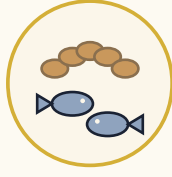
PART FOUR

# Jesus Shows God's Love

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*Even the wind and the waves obey him.*

MARK 4 : 41



## DAY TWENTY - SEVEN

# The boy who shared his lunch

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A giant crowd followed Jesus far from town, more than five thousand people, and everyone was getting hungry. The disciples had no idea what to do. Then Andrew found one boy with a small lunch. Five little loaves of bread and two little fish.

The boy gave his whole lunch to Jesus. Jesus thanked God for it, broke the bread, and began handing out food. And it did not run out. Everybody ate until they were full, and there were still twelve baskets left over.

Jesus fed thousands, and he started with a kid who was willing to share. When you put what you have into the hands of Jesus, even something small, he can do more with it than you could ever imagine.

*Here is a boy with five small loaves of bread and two little fish.*

JOHN 6 : 9

### TRY IT TODAY

Share something today. Your snack, your toys, your time. And remember whose hands you are putting it in.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why do you think Jesus used a kid's lunch instead of just making food appear?

TOMORROW *A boat, a huge storm, and three little words from Jesus.*



DAY TWENTY - EIGHT

## Jesus calms the storm

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One evening Jesus and his friends sailed across the lake. Jesus fell asleep on a cushion in the back of the boat. Then a wild storm blew in. Waves crashed over the sides, and the boat began filling with water. The disciples were terrified. They shook Jesus awake, shouting, Teacher, do you not care that we are sinking?

Jesus stood up and spoke to the storm. Quiet. Be still. Instantly the wind stopped, and the water went flat and calm. The disciples whispered to each other, Even the wind and the waves obey him.

Storms come to everyone. Scary nights, scary news, scary feelings. But Jesus is never asleep on the job, and he is never worried. The one who is with you is stronger than any storm.

*Jesus stood up and said to the wind and the waves, Quiet! Be still! And everything became completely calm.*

MARK 4 : 3 9

### TRY IT TODAY

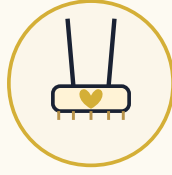
Next time you feel afraid, whisper the words Jesus said. Quiet, be still. Then remember he is in your boat.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What storms feel scary to you right now? Let us tell Jesus about them together.

T O M O R R O W *Four friends, one roof, and a hole nobody expected.*





DAY TWENTY - NINE

## Four good friends

A man could not walk, and his four friends heard that Jesus was in town. They carried him on his mat all the way to the house. But the crowd was packed so tight, they could not even get near the door.

Did they give up? No. They climbed onto the roof, opened up a hole right through it, and lowered their friend down on ropes, landing him right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw how much the friends believed, he healed the man. Stand up, take your mat, and go home. And he did!

Be that kind of friend. The kind who carries people when they are weak, who does not give up at the first closed door, and who brings friends close to Jesus.

*When Jesus saw the faith of the four friends, he said to the man, Stand up, take your mat, and go home.*

MARK 2 : 5 , 11

### TRY IT TODAY

Carry a friend today. Help someone who is struggling, or pray for a friend by name.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Who carries you when things are hard? Who could our family help carry?

**TOMORROW** *A short man, a tall tree, and a dinner that changed everything.*



## DAY THIRTY

# Zacchaeus comes down

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Zacchaeus collected taxes and cheated people out of their money, so nobody in town liked him. He was also short. When Jesus came through, Zacchaeus could not see over the crowd, so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree.

Jesus stopped right under that tree, looked up, and called him by name. Zacchaeus, hurry and come down. I am coming to your house today. The crowd grumbled, He is eating with a cheater! But that day, the heart of Zacchaeus changed. He gave half his money to the poor and paid back everyone he had cheated, four times over.

Jesus sees the people everyone else avoids, and he knows them by name. And when Jesus comes close, hearts change.

*Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, because I must stay at your house today.*

LUKE 19:5

### TRY IT TODAY

If you have taken something or hurt someone, make it right today like Zacchaeus did. Give it back, own up, fix what you can.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why do you think Jesus chose the house of the least liked man in town?

**TOMORROW** *Ten people get an amazing gift, but only one does something about it.*



## DAY THIRTY-ONE

# The one who said thank you

Ten men with a terrible skin sickness stood far away and shouted, Jesus, have mercy on us! Jesus healed all ten of them. As they walked away, their sickness disappeared.

But only one of them stopped, turned around, and ran back. He praised God at the top of his voice and fell down at the feet of Jesus, saying thank you. Jesus asked, Were not ten healed? Where are the other nine?

Gratitude is rare, and gratitude is powerful. Every good thing you have is a gift. Noticing the gifts and saying thank you makes your heart glad, and it makes God glad too.

*One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God with a loud voice, and thanked Jesus.*

LUKE 17:15-16

### TRY IT TODAY

Be the one who comes back. Thank God for three things tonight, and say thank you out loud to one person who helps you.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Let us go around and each name three things we are thankful for right now.

**TOMORROW** *The smallest gift in the offering box turns out to be the biggest.*



DAY THIRTY-TWO

## Two small coins

Jesus sat near the offering box at the temple, watching people give. Rich people dropped in big handfuls of money. Clink, clink, clink. Then a poor widow came and quietly put in two tiny coins, worth less than a penny.

Jesus called his disciples over. This poor widow gave more than all the others, he said. They gave from their extra. She gave everything she had.

God does not measure gifts by their size. He looks at the heart behind them. Your small gifts, your little prayers, your kid-sized kindness. They count big in heaven.

*This poor widow has given more than all the others. They gave from their extra. She gave everything she had.*

MARK 12 : 43 - 44

### TRY IT TODAY

Give something today that actually costs you a little. Your favorite snack, the best seat, some of your saved up money.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why does God care more about the heart than the amount?

TOMORROW *Two sisters, one busy kitchen, and the better choice.*



## DAY THIRTY-THREE

# Sitting with Jesus

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Jesus visited the home of two sisters, Martha and Mary. Martha rushed around the kitchen, busy, busy, busy, trying to make everything perfect. Mary sat down at the feet of Jesus and simply listened to him.

Martha got frustrated. Lord, tell my sister to come help me! But Jesus answered gently, Martha, Martha, you are worried about so many things. Only one thing is really needed. Mary chose it, and it will not be taken away from her.

Being busy is not bad. But the best thing of all is being with Jesus. That is what you are doing right now, in this quiet moment. Call it Mary time.

*Mary has chosen the better thing, and it will not be taken away from her.*

LUKE 10:42

### TRY IT TODAY

Take five quiet minutes today. No screens, no rushing. Sit still and talk to Jesus, or just be quiet with him.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What keeps our family the most busy? When could we build in a little Mary time?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus tells you a secret about helping people. It is bigger than it looks.*



## DAY THIRTY-FOUR

# Helping the least is helping Jesus

Jesus told his friends a secret about the end of the story. One day the King will say to his people, I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was sick and you took care of me.

His people will be confused. Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or sick? And the King will answer, Whatever you did for the least important person, you did for me.

Read that again, slowly. When you help someone that others ignore, Jesus counts it as helping him. Every sandwich shared, every lonely kid included, every sick friend cheered up. You are serving the King himself.

*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*

MATTHEW 25:40

### TRY IT TODAY

Find the least today. Someone hungry, lonely, new, or sad. Help them, and know exactly who you are really helping.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Who gets overlooked in our town? What is one thing we could do for them?

**TOMORROW** *The final week begins with a parade, and kids steal the show.*

PART FIVE

# The Best News of All

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*He is not here. He has risen!*

MATTHEW 28:6



## DAY THIRTY-FIVE

# The kids who would not stop singing

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds waved palm branches and shouted, Hosanna! That means, Save us! And even after the parade was over, in the temple, the children kept right on shouting. Hosanna to the Son of David!

The grumpy leaders were annoyed. Do you hear what these kids are saying? they asked Jesus. Make them stop.

Jesus would not stop them. He said God planned it this way all along, that perfect praise would come from the mouths of children. Your worship matters. When you sing to God, heaven hears a masterpiece.

*Out of the mouths of children, God has prepared perfect praise.*

MATTHEW 21:16

### TRY IT TODAY

Praise out loud today. Sing a song to God, or just shout, Thank you, God! He loves the sound of your voice.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What is your favorite way to praise God? Singing, drawing, dancing, praying?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus grabs a towel and does the most surprising thing a king ever did.*





DAY THIRTY-SIX

## The King with a towel

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a special dinner with his disciples. Then he did something shocking. He got up, tied a towel around his waist, poured water into a bowl, and began washing the dirty feet of his disciples. That was the job of the lowest servant in the house.

Peter tried to stop him. Lord, you should not be washing my feet! But Jesus finished every single foot, sat back down, and said, I have given you an example. Do for each other what I have done for you.

The greatest one in the room became the helper of everyone. In the kingdom of God, that is what greatness looks like. Not being served, but serving.

*I have given you an example. Do for one another what I have done for you.*

JOHN 13:15

### TRY IT TODAY

Do a towel job today. A lowly chore nobody wants. Take out the trash, clean up a mess, help without being asked.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why do you think Jesus washed their feet instead of just telling them to serve each other?

**TOMORROW** *The hardest day, and the greatest love the world has ever seen.*



## DAY THIRTY - SEVEN

# The greatest love

The next day, Jesus was arrested, even though he had done nothing wrong. He was nailed to a cross, and he died. It was the saddest day. Even the sky went dark. His friends cried and cried.

But here is what you need to know. Nobody took the life of Jesus from him. He gave it. He chose the cross because he loves us more than we can measure. He took the punishment for all the wrong things we do, so that we could be forgiven and live with God forever.

Even while it was happening, Jesus kept on loving. Father, forgive them, he prayed. That is the greatest love in the history of the world. And the story was not over. Hold on for tomorrow.

*God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not be lost, but will live forever with God.*

JOHN 3:16

### TRY IT TODAY

Say the words of John 3:16 with your family tonight, and then say it again with your own name inside. God loved me so much that he gave his Son for me.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

How does it feel to know that Jesus chose to give his life because he loves you?

T O M O R R O W *The tomb, the stone, and the best surprise in history.*



## DAY THIRTY-EIGHT

# He is risen!

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Early on Sunday morning, some women walked to the tomb where Jesus was buried, feeling so sad. But when they arrived, the giant stone was rolled away. An angel, shining like lightning, said, Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here. He has risen, just as he said!

The women ran to tell the others, their hearts pounding with fear and joy at the same time. And then Jesus himself met them on the road. Alive! They fell down and worshiped him.

Jesus is alive. Death could not hold him. That is why we celebrate Easter, and it is why friends of Jesus can have hope even on the saddest days. The worst day in history turned into the best one. With Jesus, sad is never the end of the story.

*He is not here. He has risen, just as he said!*

MATTHEW 28:6

### TRY IT TODAY

Celebrate today like it is Easter morning. Tell someone the news the angel told. He is risen!

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Why does Jesus being alive change everything?

**TOMORROW** *Jesus makes a promise about a Helper you cannot see, but you can know.*



DAY THIRTY - NINE

## The Helper

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Before Jesus went back to heaven, he made his friends a promise. I will not leave you alone. The Father will send you a Helper, the Holy Spirit.

The Helper is not stuck in one place the way a body is. The Holy Spirit is God with us, everywhere, all the time. Jesus said the Helper would teach his friends everything and remind them of all that he had said.

Have you ever felt a little nudge to be kind, or brave, or honest? Has a verse ever popped into your head right when you needed it? The Helper is real, and the Helper is with you.

*The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.*

JOHN 14:26

### TRY IT TODAY

Ask for help from the Helper today. Say, Holy Spirit, help me remember what Jesus taught, and help me do it.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

Can you remember a time you felt God helping you or reminding you of something good?

**TOMORROW** *Your last day, and your very first mission.*



## DAY FORTY

# With you always

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You made it. All 40 days of walking with Jesus. On a mountain, the risen Jesus gave his friends their mission. Go and make disciples everywhere. Teach them everything I have taught you. In other words, what you have received, give away.

Then Jesus finished with a promise you can hold onto your whole life. And remember, I am with you always, to the very end.

So here is your first mission. You are carrying 40 days of treasure now. Give some away. Tell a friend your favorite story about Jesus. Show your family the Golden Rule. Keep reading his words, and keep doing them. And when you are older, an even bigger journey is waiting for you, called The Jesus 40, with more of his words to live. Jesus is with you today, tomorrow, and always. This is not the end. It is your beginning.

*Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them everything I have taught you. And remember, I am with you always, to the very end.*

MATTHEW 28:19-20

### TRY IT TODAY

Give it away. Tell one person your favorite thing you learned in these 40 days.

### TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER

What was your favorite day of the whole journey? What is one way you have changed?

You finished  
The Jesus 40 for Kids.  
Now live it.

*And remember, I am with you always,  
to the very end.*

MATTHEW 28:20

When you are older, an even bigger journey is waiting for you. Take the full 40-day walk through the words of Jesus, free forever, at [thejesus40.com](http://thejesus40.com).

THEJESUS40.COM