

## “Joy In The Everyday: The Exemplar”

Growth Group Guide

June 21, 2026

### WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

The word “exemplar” means “a person or thing serving as a typical example or excellent model.” Based on your experience and the sermon from this week, how would you describe Jesus as “The Exemplar?”

### WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer, praising the Spirit for making us one spirit and one mind with Jesus our Exemplar, enabling us to be fully dependent on Him!

1 Corinthians 2:16b & 6:17 (ESV) But we have the mind of Christ...[And] he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

[Father,] I praise You that the Lord Jesus...delighted to do Your will...that He was attentive to Your voice and sensitive to Your working...that He lived in complete dependence on You, so that You in Him spoke those gracious and life-giving words [He said] and performed those mighty works [He did]. Thank You that He demonstrated how I am to live and serve, completely depending on Him as my indwelling Lord...What a delight to know that as I focus on Him,...You strengthen my heart ... so that more and more I honor Christ by the way I live [in union with Him]. (Myers, Ruth. 31 Days of Praise. Day 3. Kindle Edition.)

### WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. Many times we hear, we're to be like Jesus. This is a loaded statement. In what ways have you interpreted it in the past? What things did you think it required of you? Were the requirements concrete in your mind or somewhat fuzzy?
2. Have you believed it's possible for you to be like Jesus? Have you felt you could confidently say you're up to His example? Why or why not?
3. Many times being like Jesus is seen as imitating His actions, like the mirror game, basically mimicry. Why might this be dangerous? Discuss and then read **Galatians 5:17** and **John 3:6**. How might living out of the flesh play into this conversation?
4. Read **Philippians 2:5**. The Greek word Paul uses for mind carries the idea of an attitude or thinking like Jesus. This may be different from starting points you've heard about being like Jesus. Why is it important to begin here?
5. Read **John 5:19, 5:30, 6:38, and 8:28**. What predominant attitude or way of thinking do you find Jesus communicating? Why do you think He repeatedly pointed this out? Why is it important for us that He did?
6. Read **Philippians 2:6**. Paul is going to start with Jesus in Heaven and then take us through His trip to Earth and then back to Heaven. Read

- John 1:1-4, Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:1-3**. What do you learn about Jesus in eternity past? How would you describe His position?
7. Having a little insight into Jesus' position in eternity past, how shocking is the second part of **Philippians 2:6**? If it is, why? Does it give you a new thankfulness for Jesus, if so, in what way?
  8. Jesus didn't stop being God in nature, but He set aside everything that He had as deity to live as a man for a period of time, fully dependent on the Father. He fully identified with us and modeled for us a life that we are able to live. How does this change your understanding of the Christian life? How does it encourage you that you can actually live like a Christian that scripture talks about?
  9. Read **Philippians 1:21, Colossians 3:4, and John 5:26**. What is the common theme between these verses? How does this theme add to what we've been discussing?
  10. Read **Isaiah 14:12-15**. This passage describes Satan and his idea of how life is to be lived. His approach to living birthed relying upon ourselves instead of God. How does his attitude differ from Jesus' in the verses we've looked at? Why are the differences helpful to know?

### WALK *(Living out God's purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Jesus modeled for us how to live by his attitude of dependence.** In Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13, Jesus was tempted as a man when He was weak and hungry. He outright rejected each temptation using scripture to confess His dependence on the Father! Jesus modeled how we are able to live as well. Talk to God about areas you might feel “weak and hungry” and about any temptations you might be suffering to live independently from Him. As with Jesus, let God speak to you through His Word and empower you to outrightly reject Satan or any temptation. Everyday Joy is yours in Him!

### WORLD *(Embracing God's heart for others)*

Update from our missionary in Turkey: “This year we have given away many Bibles or New Testaments to people we meet. Among those who accepted a gift of God's Word were a woman at the bus station, bread sellers, our rota-tiller worker, a veterinarian's assistants, a man we met while feeding street dogs, a recyclable plastic/metal collector, a government car inspector, and the mother of a refugee friend....Last year when we gave a New Testament to the young rota-till man, we asked him if he had read it and he said, ‘No, I didn't get the chance because my cousin was so excited to read it that he took it from me’...When we gave him a new one, he pulled it to his chest and asked, ‘Does this have all three in it? The Law, the Psalms and the New Testament?’ We answered, ‘Yes,’ and he was overjoyed.” These stories remind us that the Bible is highly prized and treasured by many in this needy area of the world. “Pray for all those who received Bibles recently. Ask that each Bible will be read by someone in the home and that people will meet Jesus in His Word! (Excerpted from the June email newsletter.)

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