



Sept 6, 2026
Series: Week 1
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Jesus at the Center

Just as every tree has a story to tell, every generation, every church, every person, has a story to be told. It is a story of struggle and success, of hopes, fears, pain, and healing. It tells the story of the forces that have formed them and shaped them. And of what is at their very heart, holding them together.

“Jesus at the Center”

-**The Gospel Story of Jesus** (1 Cor. 15:3-4) helps us to learn and apply, the lessons of the past; and the **Living Presence of Jesus** (1 Cor. 15:5-10, John 14:15-21) gives us peace and power in the present, and hope and joy for the future!

-At our very center is not only supposed to be the “facts of the story” about Jesus, but also to be a living, loving, active, ongoing, relationship with Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, because of the generous love of the Father.

-The more that we choose to learn from the story of Jesus, and surrender to the power and presence of Jesus, the more we will be **Formed by Jesus. We are always being “formed” by something.** (Romans 12:1-2)

Consider:

- 1.) What is at the center of your life? (A person, A goal, A hobby or passion, etc.?)
- 2.) Allow the following questions to help you identify what is currently at the center:
 - What do you think about the most, with a natural desire to continually be **knowing** more?
 - What impacts your daily **living** the most, in your private life, your relationships, and the world around you?
 - What do you naturally find yourself **sharing** about the most with others?

“Knowing, Living, Sharing... the Heart of Jesus”

-Jesus practiced **Knowing, Living, and Sharing** the heart of the eternal, triune God with all of us.

-Because we desire to be Formed by Him, we desire to practice...

...“Knowing... the Heart of Jesus” (Matthew 22:37-38)

- As those being formed by Jesus, we desire to understand who He is and what He has done, but also to abide in relationship with Him, receiving His love, and loving Him in return.

...“Living... the Heart of Jesus” (Matthew 22:39-40)

-As those being formed by Jesus, we desire to see all people (including ourselves, our families, Christian brothers and sisters, and those still far from God) as He does, and to actively love them as He would.

...“Sharing... the Heart of Jesus” (Matthew 28:18-20)

-As those being formed by Jesus, we desire to express the Gospel to all people, declaring the Truth in Love, through Jesus’ power and for His glory.

“9 Essential Practices for every Follower of His Way”

“Knowing...” Practices:

WORD

(Humbly learning from the inspired Scriptures, through the ongoing ministry of the Spirit, how to follow Jesus and become like Him)

WORSHIP

(Authentically responding with surrendered hearts to who God has revealed Himself to be, and all that He has done for us)

PRAYER

(Unceasingly engaging with our ever-present God, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit)

“Living...” Practices:

COMMUNITY

(Intentionally connecting to an intergenerational, supernatural, loving representation of Jesus’ royal family)

CREATIVITY

(Uniquely expressing our Spirit-empowered giftings to bring about inspiration, provocation, form, and flourishing)

GENEROSITY

(Gratefully giving our time, treasure, and talents towards Jesus’ Kingdom work)

“Sharing...” Practices:

HOSPITALITY

(Expectantly welcoming others into life-giving friendships, practicing the ministry of presence)

SERVICE

(Practically ministering to those in need, in ways that bring help, hope, and healing)

WITNESS

(Confidently testifying of what Jesus has done, through our words and actions, in ways that invite others to follow Him)

Consider:

- 1.) Which of these nine essential practices are the most natural for you in this season of life?
- 2.) Which of them seem to be the most challenging to you? Why do you think that might be?
- 3.) Can you think of examples in the life of Jesus where He showed examples of these practices?
- 4.) What are some passages in the Bible that seem to call us to practice each of these?
- 5.) Do you have practical experiences with any of these that you feel may be helpful to pass on to others?

