

## **Following Jesus**

### **Study Guide – Depending on God’s Word**

**Main Idea:** Jesus relied upon God’s Word as something essential to his spiritual survival (Matt. 4:4).

**Living like Jesus:** God calls us to follow Jesus by knowing and living out God’s Word. This includes reading, studying, memorizing, and reflecting upon the Bible. Just as we need food and water to survive physically, so we also need to feed upon God’s Word in order to live the life God intended.

**Key Scriptures:** Here are examples of how Jesus depended upon God’s Word:

- As a Jewish boy as part of a typical Jewish education in the home (Luke 2:39-40, 51-52)
- In his response to temptations (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)
- In direct statements about the value of the Old Testament (Matt. 5:17-19; John 5:46-47; 10:35)
- In teaching his disciples how the Old Testament is being fulfilled (Matt. 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43; 11:4-6; John 13:18)
- In putting the Old Testament laws into perspective (Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-6; Luke 13:10-17; 14:1-6; John 5:1-18; 9:1-34; Matt. 12:11)
- In describing his own ministry (Luke 4:18-19, 25-27; 12:10-11; 24:47; Matt. 11:5; Luke 7:22; Matt. 10:35-36; Mark 12:36; John 5:39; 7:38)
- To explain why some people reject his message (Mark 4:12; 7:6-7; Matt. 13:14-15)
- In affirming important beliefs, such as the ten commandments (Mark 10:19) or the hope of the resurrection (Mark 12:26) or the greatest commandment (Mark 12:29-30)
- To defend his practice of relating to sinners (Mark 2:24-27; Matt. 9:13; 12:3-7)
- In disputes with the religious leaders (Mark 7:1-23; Matt. 22:29-32; 23:2-3, 23)
- In teaching through parables. Many parables are rooted in the Old Testament.
- To predict what God would do in the future (Matt. 11:23; 23:38-39; Mark 13:14; Luke 21:34-35)
- To explain his dramatic actions (Mark 11:17)
- In teaching the crowds and the disciples (e.g., Matt. 7:28-29; Mark 10:6-8)
- To speak of his return (Mark 13:26; 14:62) and of coming judgment (Mark 9:48; Matt. 12:41-42; 16:27)
- During times of celebration (Matt. 21:16)
- During times of crisis, such as his arrest (Mark 14:27) and crucifixion (Matt. 27:46; John 19:28, 30; Mark 15:34; Luke 23:46).

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What impresses or surprises you about how Jesus himself relied upon God’s Word?
2. What keeps you from relying on God’s Word on a consistent basis?
3. When are you most dependent upon God’s Word? Why during those times?
4. Do you have a consistent time of reading, studying, and memorizing the Scriptures? If so, what does that practice involve?
5. What are the key obstacles in your life to depending upon God’s Word?
6. How can we help each other live as Jesus lived—in dependence upon God’s Word?