



40 DAYS *Prayer*

October 19 - November 27

Morning prayer

- Pause and be still – recenter scattered senses
- Rejoice with a Psalm and reflect on scripture
- Ask God for help in your life
- Yield to God's will in your life



Evening prayer

- Reflect on the day that has passed
- Rejoice in God's goodness
- Repent of sins, receiving forgiveness
- Rest in readiness for sleep

Jesus Followers

The background features several large, overlapping organic shapes. On the left, a dark red shape curves upwards. In the center, a dark brown shape overlaps with a teal shape on the right. Below these, a lighter brown shape curves across the bottom. The overall composition is abstract and layered.

Jesus Followers

God's Love
Reckons

Having the Mind of Christ

Eight Axioms to Cultivate a Robust Faith

Ben Sternke and Matt Tebbe



1. God is always present and at work.



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- 2. God is just like Jesus.**



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- 2. God is just like Jesus.**
- 3. God meets us in our messy reality**



- 1. God is always present and at work.**
- 2. God is just like Jesus.**
- 3. God meets us in our messy reality**
- 4. God cares more about all of that than I do**



5. God does the same work through you He does in you.



- 5. God does the same work through you He does in you.**
- 6. God's love always reckons with power.**



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- 6. God's love always reckons with power.**
- 7. We learn to love through embodied participation.**



- 5. God does the same work through you He does in you.**
- 6. God's love always reckons with power.**
- 7. We learn to love through embodied participation.**
- 8. God is love, so it is all about love.**



“An important goal of Jesus’ ministry was to radically change the distribution of authority and power, goals and resources, so all people – particularly the little people, or “the least of these,” as Jesus called them – might have lives free of political repression, enforced hunger, and poverty.”

- Obrey Hendricks Jr.



“God’s power is God’s love, and as such it always reckons with real-life effects of how ungodly power wars in the world.”

- Ben Sternke and Matt Tebbe



**How are you experiencing power
dynamics in your life?**

**How are you stewarding the
power given to you?**



Recognize Power

In your world that you have and that you don't have



⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.



John 1:43-51

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.



John 1:43-51

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”
48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.
Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”



John 1:43-51

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”



John 1:43-51

⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”



John 1:43-51

J e s u s W a s N o t



J e s u s W a s N o t
J e s u s W a s



J e s u s W a s N o t
J e s u s W a s
I s L o v e E n o u g h ?



¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said:



Matthew 5:1-12

- ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.



Matthew 5:1-12

- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.



Matthew 5:1-12

- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.



Matthew 5:1-12

¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



Matthew 5:1-12

R e d i s t r i b u t e P o w e r

Take responsibility for the power you have in seeking justice for the sake of others.



R e d e f i n e P o w e r

Imagine a power system rooted in God's love.



What power do you have in the world today?



**In what ways have you experienced
powerlessness?**



What injustices in our world today come to mind with individuals or groups using power over others?



**Have you been empowered or used your power
to empower others?**



**Is believing that God is always present and at
work good news for you?**



**Is believing that God is always present and at
work good news for you?**

**Is the fact that God is just like Jesus good
news for you?**



**Is the fact that God meets us in our messy
reality good news to you?**



**Is the fact that God meets us in our messy
reality good news to you?**

**Is it good news that what God wants to do
through you He will do in you?**



**Is God's love reckoning with power
good news to you?**



**What are some things you can do to recognize,
redistribute and imagine a redefinition
of power through God's love?**



