

Treasure

What treasure did the Lord bless you with this week that you don't want to forget?

Record below:

In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes. I will not forget your Word. Psalm 119:14-16

2

Living
The Life
CREATIVELY
CONNECTING
WITH GOD

CHRIST THE
CENTER

Reminder

The goal is to creatively meditate on God's Word not to complete a page or picture! Work through the daily Bible study until you sense the Lord highlight a treasure to ponder. Then contemplate that treasure with Him, listening to hear whatever He wants to say to you about it. Don't rush past these gifts from the Lord! Besides, unfinished pages leave space for future opportunities to creatively meditate with Jesus.

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Processing The Week With Jesus

W = What stood out to you?

Review your Journal Notes from this past week, highlighting key thoughts you want to remember, then recording them below:

H - How has your understanding of God grown as a result of your time spent with Him meditating on His Word?

E = Examen

What did you do this week that moved you closer to Jesus or increased your awareness and enjoyment of Him? What resulted in you feeling farther away from Him or less aware of Him? Why?

E = Explain.

How would you explain to a friend what you sensed the Lord's been teaching you this week? Write a summary below of what you learned this week.

L = Loving God, Loving Others

How do you sense the Lord is inviting you to practically respond to Him and others as a result of your time in His Word this week?

Christ the Center

How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 relate to Christ being the Center of your life?

Why do you think this verse was selected as the memory verse for this part of the wheel?

Why is it important to remember the truth of this verse? How does this relate to living the life? (Re-read Romans 6:11-13.)

Write below a prayer of response to God for what He has done as revealed in this verse:

“If you mean business for God,
at the center of your life must be Jesus Christ...”

From the hub comes your driving power, your guiding power, and your holding power. The hub is attached to the axle which is attached to the drive shaft, and hence, to the motor. Because Christ is at the heart of the Christians' life, we are called Christ-ones, or Christians... From Him comes our life, our power to be victorious and our all-sufficiency.

Try to put anyone else's name in this little white circle, and it wouldn't work. Put your father's name, your pastor's name, the greatest Bible teacher or church saint you may know or have ever heard about, and if that person is at the hub of your life, you've got problems.”

- Dawson Trotman, as quoted in
The Navigator by Robert D. Foster, pp. 53-54

Living the Life: Christ The Center
CREATIVE MEDITATION OPPORTUNITIES
FOCUS: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Review Your Verse

Introduction: Scripture Memory & Review

Day 1 Check The Context - Contemplative Doodling with Basic Shapes

Day 2 Consider Key Words - Doodling Double Shapes

Day 3 Contemplate Cross References - Doodling Abstract Shapes

Day 4 Connect To The Old Testament - Doodling Icons

Day 5 Camp Out In A Different Translation- Doodling Lines: Thick, Thin, Wavy, Straight, Broken, Bent, Squiggly...

Day 6 Consult A Bible Dictionary- Doodling A Combination

Day 7 Converse With Jesus as you Connect The Passage to Your Life - Doodling A Border

REMINDER: This is not an exhaustive study of 2 Corinthians 5:17. There are so many other ways to explore and greater depths of understanding to be reached when you camp out in this verse even more. You are welcome to be creative and meditate on God's Word in a different way than what is presented in this booklet. But, whatever you do, I would encourage you to ask the Lord to open your eyes so you can see wonderful things in His Word and bless your ears to hear all He wants you to!

"Learn portions one or two verses in length, or, at the most, three short verses. This helps you to pinpoint a truth. It is difficult to learn a long passage and difficult to identify a single verse that is buried in a long passage when the time comes to use it. For example, if you memorize 1 Corinthians 13, you will have the problem of remembering that 1 Corinthians 13:4 meets a need regarding envy or pride.

Many people have found great blessing in memorizing long portions of Scripture, and surely this is refreshing to the heart. However, you will do well to learn verse-by-verse, so that you may use each verse or pair of verses in answer to a specific need. In so doing you will also enjoy the blessing of the whole portion. Later on, when you have memorized several hundred verses, you may want to learn some longer passages."

Lorne Sanny

Write your memory verse in the space below:

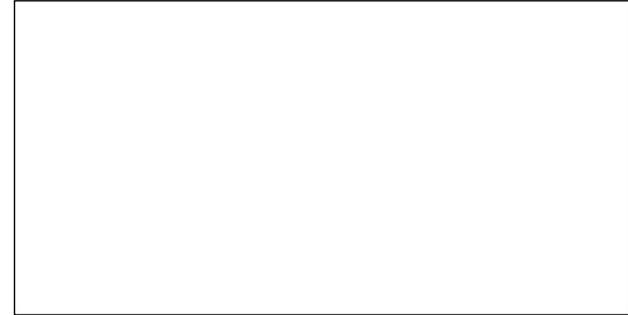
Be sure to check your verse before you continue reviewing.

Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold,
the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

INTRODUCTION

1. When you think about Christ being the center of everything what picture comes to your mind?



2. How do the following verses relate to this?

Matthew 22:37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Colossians 1:18. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Philippians 3:17-11 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

John 14:6. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

3. What difference does it make in your life if lose sight of the reality that Christ is the center of everything?

4. What else has been the center of your life? How did that work? Why do you think that happened?

5. What happens if someone is religious, but they aren't living out the reality that Christ is the center of everything?

Contemplative Doodling

DOODLING A BORDER

Throughout this week I hope you've had fun exploring different ways to doodle. Today you get to take what you've been learning and pull together your favorite parts as you create a border. This is another fun way of exploring combination doodling but there are set boundaries to it.

When I began sketching pictures to summarize what I sensed the Lord teaching me in my morning quiet times I discovered taking time to draw even a simple border really pulled the sketch together. And by simple I mean drawing a box around whatever I'd scribbled.

But then I took a sketchbook journaling course and the instructor expanded my concept of borders exponentially. A fun border can add so much to a picture. I've also found this is an incredible way to contemplatively doodle.

On the next page, have fun doing whatever has brought you the most joy this past week. It can be a simple shape, double shapes, abstract shapes, icons, lines or a combination of any and all, the only guidelines are to stay within the border and do this with Jesus.

May He richly bless the time you enjoy with Him as you do this!

Conversing With Jesus

THROUGH HIS WORD

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:9-21

The Pharisee Wheel

Last week we learned how the founder of the Navigators, Dawson Trotman created the wheel illustration to help the boys he was teaching learn how to live the life. But did you know, there isn't only one wheel to be found in the Bible? If you take Jesus out of the Center you easily end up with The Pharisee Wheel. Jean Fleming's husband Roger first showed this to me.

Consider the following verses, underlining anything that catches your attention:

John 5:39-40. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Matthew 6:5. "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward."

Matthew 11:17-22 But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

Matthew 23:15. "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

Colossians 2:20-23 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Based on these verses, how would you draw a Pharisee wheel? (ps, there isn't just one way to do this - have fun in the space below!)



Conversing With Jesus

THROUGH HIS WORD

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Day 1

CONVERSING WITH JESUS THROUGH A PASSAGE

When I interview people for a video or podcast I've found thinking up questions or having an outline for the conversation in advance can help our conversation go deeper. I'm not talking about reading from a script but having a loose structure can help us be intentional to make the most of the time.

In the same way, using Scripture to structure prayer can add so much to our interactions with Jesus. I find when people pray they tend to either wing it or go to the other extreme and quote rote prayers. While there can be a place for both, I love to pray through the Scriptures as I converse with Jesus.

My friend Lisa and I have done this for years as we pray for our husbands and families. We have prayed through entire books of the Bible (not all at once, but picking up where we left off the previous time). One of us will read a verse and then we will pray whatever comes to mind connecting the verse to our lives and the lives of those we love. Then the other person will either pray more on what that verse brings to mind or read the next verse and respond to it.

To finish this week, I encourage you to take time to go back through the context of 2 Corinthians 5:17 and pray through that passage, connecting it to your life and sharing with Jesus whatever comes to mind.

And don't forget to write down anything you sense Him laying on your heart. He is an amazing communicator who delights to interact with you. And anything you receive from Him truly is truth to treasure!

His Word provides a wonderful structure for conversing with Him in prayer. And you never know, even after spending an entire week camping out in 2 Corinthians 5:17, you just might gain some new sweet insights!

The Heart of the Wheel Illustration

Sadly there are many substitutes instead of Jesus that can be placed at the center of one's life. If you were to boil them all down, they'd consist of what we do (or seek or look to) to find life. Anything but Jesus at the center constitutes a different gospel.

Without Jesus at the center, life goes off kilter fast!

Below are statements two Navigator leaders said toward the end of their lives. Underline anything that stands out to you, then record your thoughts after reading.

"More important than the wheel illustration, more important than the hand illustration, more important than my book on meditation, people need to know that we are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. And until a disciple understands that their justification before God is not based on their performance, but on the shed blood of Christ in the finished work that Christ has done for them, they can never fully grow as disciples."

Mike Hearon, Campus Outreach Global Leadership, shared at Jim Downing's funeral that Jim told him this before he died.

Jerry Bridges stated before he went to be with the Lord, justification means, "Just as if I never sinned" and "Just as if I did everything right." We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone. He lived the perfect life we couldn't live. He bore our sins. He alone satisfied the wrath of God and on the cross He said, "it is finished."

Consider the following verses:

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Romans 3:25-28 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Galatians 2:20-21 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.

What might happen if someone doesn't understand that their justification before God is not based on their performance, but on the shed blood of Christ in the finished work that Christ has done for them? How might this impact the way they view the wheel illustration?

Review Your Verse

“The Word of the Word is the “sword of the Spirit,” but if there is no Bible physically accessible to you, then the weapon of the Word must be present in the armory of your mind in order for the Spirit to wield it. Imagine yourself in the midst of a decision and needing guidance, or struggling with a difficult temptation and needing victory. The Holy Spirit enters your mental arsenal and looks around for available weapons, but all He finds is a John 3:16, and Genesis 1:1, and a Great Commission. Those are great swords, but they're not made for every battle.”

Tim Challies

Write your memory verse in the space below:

Be sure to check your verse before you continue reviewing,

With scripture memory consistency really helps.

If you can find a set time of day (eg., like during breakfast with family or friends) when you review your verses it will really help your brain take in and retain the verse.



Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold,
the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

True Confessions...

This might seem like a no brainer except a few weeks ago I sat down and came up with a list, "What Do I Need To Live?"

After putting down daily time with Jesus and walking and praying, I began to add things like Drink 64 oz of water, 8 hours of sleep, exercise, read, sing, have fun... soon my list was so long I began to wonder how I'd ever do it all.

First I went along the side and considered if I just spent 30 minutes a day doing each of the things listed... and discovered I wouldn't have time to work or cook for my husband. "That won't fly!" So I added "fix healthy meals for Jim" to the list.

Then I thought well what if I just did each thing for 15 minutes a day. It was still too much! And my list kept getting longer.

But then I was having my second quiet time in Galatians 2 reading from The Message Bible. I'd camped out in that chapter the day before during my quiet time and sensed the Lord inviting me to not move on to Galatians 3 the next day but instead to stay in that chapter for a couple days. What a blessing I did!

My second time in Galatians 2 verse 15 jumped out at me, "We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it—and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen!" And as I was writing down my observations and dialoging with Jesus about this, want to guess what He brought to mind? My "What Do I Need to Live" list!

Busted!

I realized I'd been trying to come up with a formula for how to live rather than truly believing life comes from God!

I don't know if my system of rules was the best the world had ever seen, but I knew immediately I'd been looking to something other than Jesus for life. Looking to follow a set of rules rather than Him.

Never have I been so happy to be busted! Because joy came abundantly as I repented. It's not that each item on my list was bad. What was wrong was looking to them to do what only Jesus could. Surrendered to Him, done in response to His leading, many of those things can be helpful - especially drinking enough water!

For example, studies have shown getting 8 hours of sleep is good for your health. But if this becomes a rule, something I believe I need for life, well, then I'm not available if Jesus wants me doing something else. He is so able to maximize my sleep or be my strength if in following Him I don't get enough of it.

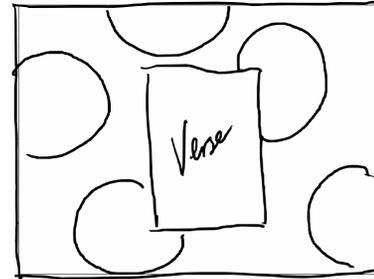
Do you see how this relates to being His disciple? And how looking to anything other than Him for life can get in the way of us following Him? This can be true even for "spiritual" things like prayer, the Word, fellowship and witnessing.

Have you ever experienced any of those four pulling you away from God when He hasn't been at the center of you doing them?

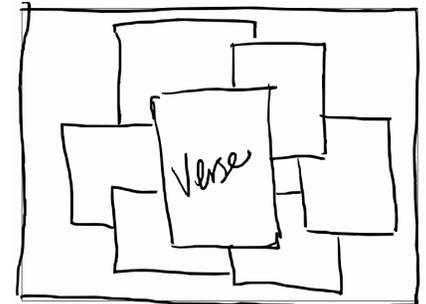
Contemplative Doodling

COMBINATION DOODLING

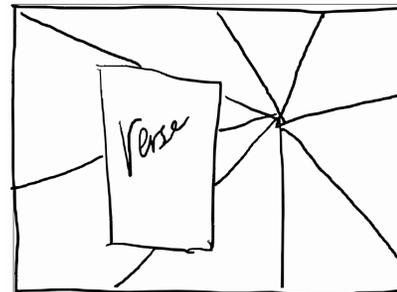
Throughout this week you've had opportunity to learn five different types of contemplative doodling with many options for each. Are you ready to take this a step further? In combination doodling, you get to have fun pulling different elements together. Select whichever doodles have brought you the most joy - or use this as an opportunity to try new doodles you haven't yet used. There are many different ways to do this but I've shared three options below.



You can draw a series of large circles around the verse and then put a different type of doodle in each one.



Or you can draw a series of large boxes around the verse and draw a different doodle in each one.



In her book Treasures in Darkness, my friend Shini Abraham divides her page as if it were a pie, only she places the center of the pie to the right and adorns each "slice" with a different doodle.

Just remember, above all, to have fun doing this with Jesus. This is a wonderful exercise to identify what types of doodles are most conducive for pondering and enjoying time with Him.

What New Has Come?

Read the following underlining anything that stands out to you.

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: Regeneration (aka New life)

"It may be said in general that the teaching of the apostles on the subject of regeneration is a development of the teaching of Jesus on the lines of the adumbrations of the Old Testament...the need of it is plainly stated by Paul. It is necessary to salvation for all men. "The body is dead because of sin" (Ro 8:3-11; Eph 2:1). The flesh is at enmity with God (Eph 2:15); all mankind is "darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God" (Eph 4:18). Similar passages might be multiplied. Paul then distinctly teaches that thus is a new life in store for those who have been spiritually dead. To the Ephesians he writes: "And you did he make alive, when ye were dead through your trespasses and sins" (2:1), and later on: "God, being rich in mercy,.... made us alive together with Christ" (2:4,5). A spiritual resurrection has taken place. This regeneration causes a complete revolution in man. He has thereby passed from under the law of sin and death and has come under "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (Ro 8:2). The change is so radical that it is possible now to speak of a "new creature" (2Co 5:17; Ga 6:15, margin "new creation"), of a "new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth" (Eph 4:24), and of "the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him" (Col 3:10). All "old things are passed away; behold, they are become new" (2Co 5:17).

Paul is equally explicit regarding the author of this change. The "Spirit of God," the "Spirit of Christ" has been given from above to be the source of all new life (Ro 8); by Him we are proved to be the "sons" of God (Ga 4:6); we have been adopted into the family of God (huiothesia, Ro 8:15; Ga 4:5). Thus Paul speaks of the "second Adam," by whom the life of righteousness is initiated in us; just as the "first Adam" became the leader in transgression, He is "a life-giving spirit" (1Co 15:45). Paul himself experienced this change, and henceforth exhibited the powers of the unseen world in his life of service. "It is no longer I that live," he exclaims, "but Christ liveth in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me" (Ga 2:20).

Word Meanings in the New Testament, Earle, p. 254. Passed Away... Become New

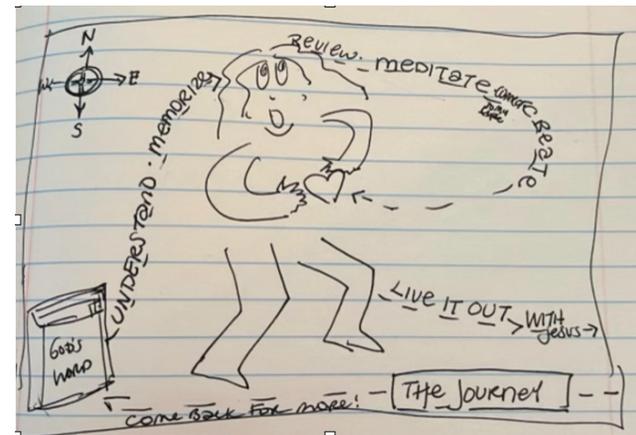
The KJV reads, "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." But this fails to represent the difference in tenses. "Are passed away" is the aorist tense, which indicates a crisis experience. "Are become new" is the perfect tense, indicating a continuing state. "The old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (NASB).

If a friend asked you "According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, what's become new?" How would you respond?

It's important to realize having Christ be the Center of your life isn't a one-time decision. The Bible warns we have three enemies: The world, Satan and our sin nature. All throughout every day, all three are seeking to pull our focus away from Jesus and replace him with something else at the center of our lives.

A battle rages daily! And the enemy knows if he can get us off on this one thing, he can sidetrack us. And our sin nature is only too ready to comply.

It requires on-going effort to keep depending on the Lord to help us keep Him at the center of our lives! I like to picture this as a journey



We need to understand what the Lord has revealed in His Word, memorize key verses related to this and review them so we can remember, then invest time meditating on these truths, connecting them with our lives. Then what really helps me get truth from my head into my heart so I can live it out is to take time to creatively process with Jesus and then come back for more. This is a lifelong journey for life! Throughout the rest of this resource we will be learning how to do this!

Memorizing for Life!

When you spend a week with Jesus camping out in one verse, creatively meditating on it each day, it is amazing how easy it can be to memorize it. Conversely, if you are intentional to start your week memorizing the verse it can facilitate you meditating on the verse all throughout the day and night. I encourage you to memorize this verse phrase by phrase and review the verse as you do the key word study that follows. What can it look like for you to memorize this verse with Jesus?

Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17

Memorize the verse one phrase at a time, repeating each phrase at least three times.

Christ the Center 2 Corinthians 5:17	Christ the Center 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
Christ the Center 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;	Christ the Center 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has passed away;
Christ the Center 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.	Christ the Center 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 6

CONSULT A BIBLE DICTIONARY
"Behold, the new has come."

Read the following underlining anything that stands out to you.

behold!

Strong's #1400 - ἰδοὺ

1. behold, see, lo

Thayer's expanded definition - excerpt

ἰδοὺ, a demonstrative particle (in Greek writings from Sophocles down), found in the N. T. especially in the Gospels of Matthew and of Luke, used very often in imitation of the Hebrew הִנֵּה, and giving a peculiar vivacity to the style by bidding the reader or hearer to attend to what is said: "Behold! See! Lo!"

This term is used in the Bible when something new is introduced (Matthew 2:9), when a thing is specified which is unexpected yet sure (2 Corinthians 6:9), when a thing is specified which seems impossible and yet occurs (Luke 11:41; Acts 27:24).

The simple ἰδοὺ is the exclamation of one pointing out something (Matthew 13:3) and calling attention (2 Corinthians 5:17). In other places it is equivalent to observe or consider (Matthew 10:16).

"Behold' is used 1,298 times in the King James version of the Bible. It is derived from the Greek word 'eido,' which has the literal translation of: be sure to see. Or as I like to think of it - don't miss this." - Bob Lonac

The English word behold is taken from the Old English word bihalden. If we break this word down, it means to thoroughly hold something (bi- 'thoroughly' and haldan 'to hold') To behold is to do more than just glance or look at something. To behold is to be captivated. When you behold something, you see it with your eyes, but you also hold your gaze on it in order to search and to understand. Sounds to me a lot like creatively meditating! :0)

What thoughts come to your mind as you ponder this?

Special Quote to Trace & Ponder

The work of a new creation is even greater than God's work of creating the world.

My brethren it was more difficult, if such terms are ever applicable to Omnipotence, it was more difficult to create a Christian than to create a world.

What was there to begin with when God made the world? There was nothing, but nothing could not stand in God's way - it was at least passive.

But, my brethren, in our hearts, while there was nothing that could help God, there was much that could and did oppose him.

Our stubborn wills, our deep prejudices, our ingrained love of iniquity, all these, great God, opposed thee, and aimed at thwarting thy designs... Yes, great God, it was great to make a world, but greater to create a new creature in Jesus Christ."

- Charles Spurgeon

Scripture Memory Review

According to Dawson Trotman, your verse isn't memorized until you've quoted it word perfectly 49 times (7 times a day for seven days!)

On the back of your index card create a grid you can check off each day for the next seven days to keep reviewing your verse. You will need to recite it out loud (just repeating it in your mind to yourself isn't the same).

Christ the Center 2 Corinthians 5:17	
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.	
2 Corinthians 5:17	

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2:	<input type="checkbox"/>						
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You can have fun with this! Sometimes, I will be waiting in line at the grocery store and ask strangers if they'd be willing to check me on my verse. I've found most people especially if they are bored waiting are willing to help. And at times it's even led to great conversations!

One other thing I love to do is review my verses using the Fighter Verse App from John Piper's church.



This is one of the BEST investments I have ever made to help with scripture memory! I HIGHLY recommend it.

There are five years' worth of weekly verses set to music. I will search to find the verses I'm currently memorizing and then play the verse song on repeat as I exercise for a half hour each day. Doing this internalizes the verses so if I wake at 3 in the morning they are the soundtrack automatically playing in my mind. It is wonderful!

There is a really fun song for 2 Corinthians 5:17 in Set 2 (#17) on the Fighter Verses app. You can even have a dance party as you review!

Day 1

CHECK THE CONTEXT

When the enemy tempted Jesus in Luke 4:1-13, he quoted Scripture. The problem? Those Scriptures were taken out of context. Jesus responded putting those verses right back into their correct context and this helped him escape the devil's traps.

Context refers to what comes before and what follows after. This can be the immediate verses near the verse we're studying, or it can refer to the entire context of the Scriptures. It can also refer to the cultural or geographical or historical context (Eg., what was taking place at the time?).

Much evil has been accomplished using Scriptures out of context (eg., slavery, the holocaust). It is also the basis for cults. Wise is the person who takes time to consider context.

This is one reason Paul tells Timothy "Do your best to present yourself to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed who correctly handles the Word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

God's Word can be mishandled. And meditating on God's Word can be dangerous if we don't consider the context of the verse(s) we are focusing on.

Whenever a verse starts with "Therefore" you always want to ask "What's the 'therefore' there for?" What is this referring to? What is the connection?

Review Your Verse

You can't review God's Word unless you remember it. If you've memorized Scripture, you can think about it when you get into bed at night or as you drive to an appointment. You can think about the Bible because you've memorized it. That's called meditation. The only promise of prosperity and success that God gives us in the Bible says that meditating on his Word is the key (Joshua 1:8).

Rick Warren

Write your memory verse in the space below:

Be sure to check your verse before you continue reviewing, you don't want to be reviewing the wrong words. If you do, that not only is a missed review but it actually confuses your mind and makes it harder to recall the verse in the future.

Picture someone making a circle in the sand. Every time they go over the same route, the indentation is deepened. But if they veer off course not only is the circle depth not impacted but the circle is no longer a circle.

But every time you review the correct words, that verse gets even more firmly embedded in your mind.



Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold,
the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Check The Context

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. **12** We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. **13** For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. **14** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15** and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **18** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling[c] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Look:

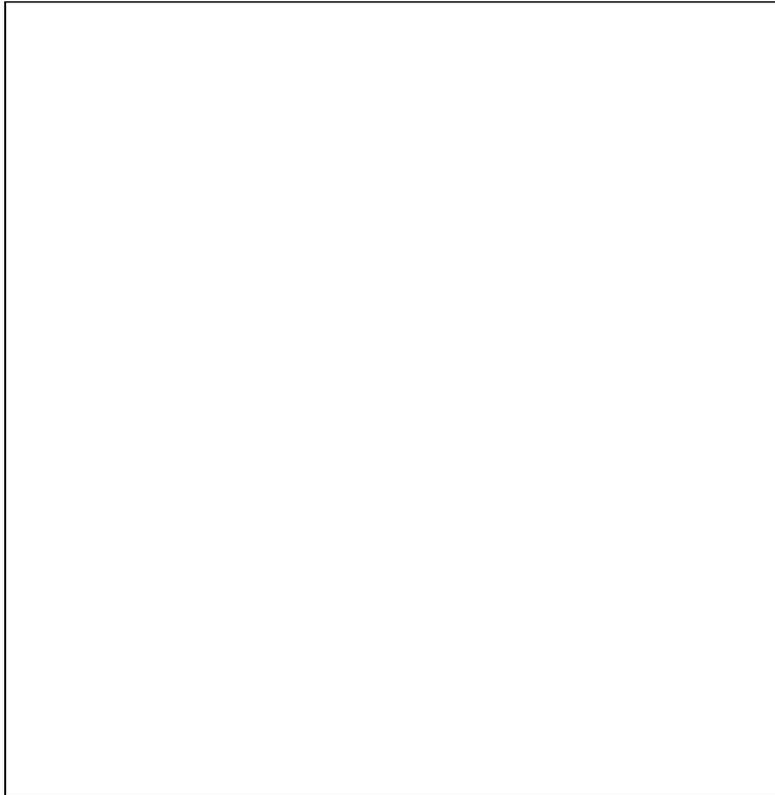
Listen:

Live It Out:

2 Corinthians 5:9-21 (ESV)

Let It Last:

Sketch a picture summarizing the main idea that stood out to you.



What is the context of the entire passage?

What does the therefore refer to?

Contemplative Doodling

DOODLING WITH LINES

Lines come in all different shapes and sizes. They can be:

Thick,



Thin,



Wavy,



Straight



Broken



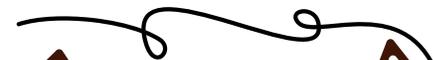
Bent



Variable



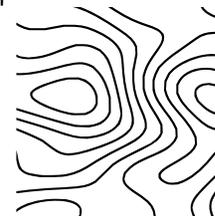
Squiggly



Jagged



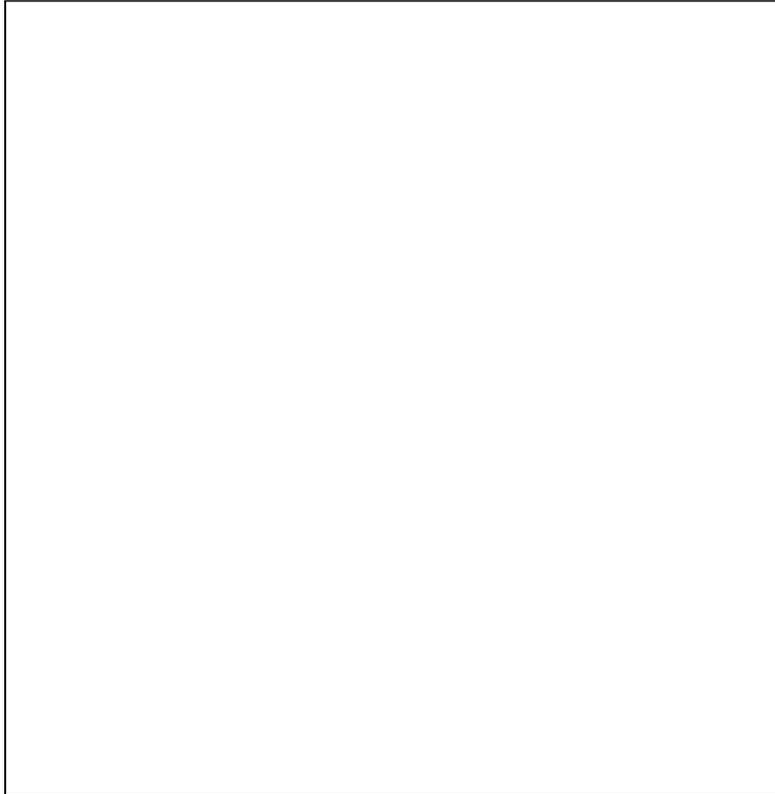
Topographical



Select a line (or lines) and have fun doodling with Jesus on the following page.

Let It Last:

Sketch a picture summarizing the main idea that stood out to you.



What has passed away? Why is this important?
(OPTIONAL: Check out Psalm 103:12 and Romans 6:1-14)

Contemplative Doodling

Ten years ago I attended a workshop given by Shini Abraham. When she was left in chronic pain following severe health problems, Shini found it difficult to focus while praying and meditating on God's Word.

One day, as she contemplated Isaiah 49:16 where the Lord says I have engraved you on the palm of my hands, the Lord gave her the idea to place her hand on the page, trace it and then doodle around it. She then drew repetitive shapes around the outline of her hand.

Shini discovered while her hands were occupied doodling, it helped her to focus and enjoy sweet time with the Lord meditating on His Word. (You can learn more about this and see Shini's creations at www.ducodivina.com)

After hearing her share, I was eager to give this a try. She was right! It really helped me to focus! I love spending time with Jesus doing this. I find it is a wonderful way to relax and unwind at the end of the day.

All you need is pen and paper. There are only three steps: 1. Pray, 2. Select a verse to focus on, and 3. Select a simple design to draw repetitively, either around the verse written on a page or trace your hand and doodle around it.

On the next page trace the verse then select a basic shape to repeatedly draw around the verse as you prayerfully consider the verse with Jesus. You may use color or keep it simple using a black pen.



Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 5

CAMP OUT IN A DIFFERENT TRANSLATION

“The old has passed away”

Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

LOOK:

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

LISTEN:

How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.

LIVE IT OUT:

2 Corinthians 5:15-21 (MSG)

Review Your Verse

"I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. . . .

No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends!

Your prayer life will be strengthened.. (John 15:7).

Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective... (1 Peter 3:15)

Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change...

Your mind will become alert and observant...

Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced... (Col 3:16)

Your faith will be solidified. (Romans 10:17)"

Chuck Swindoll,

Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life

[Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994], p. 61.

Write your memory verse in the space below:

Be sure to check your verse before you continue reviewing.

Daily Review is such a help for memorizing. It really does make a difference whether you review a little every day versus if you were to review a verse fifty times in one day. Coursera offers a free course entitled How We Learn and in there they explain the brain science behind this!

Review Your Verse

"When one takes something into one's memory it actually shapes you in significant ways...

you take what you memorize inside you,

into your brain chemistry... to a deeper bodily level than if you just read it on a screen."

Michael Frost,

author of Hide This In Your Heart

Write your memory verse in the space below:

Check your verse. How did you do?

If you didn't get something right, correct it, then repeat that word or phrase five times before reviewing again. This can help to embed the correct version into your brain.

If you find yourself struggling to memorize ask the Holy Spirit to help you! I find this makes such a difference. And before doing your daily review ask the Holy Spirit to bless the time you're doing this and help the verse really stick!

If you like, you can check these boxes as you review.

Day 2

CONSIDER KEY WORDS

"If"

Taking time to consider one word at a time, even if you only chew on one word can provide powerful insights. How does that word relate to the whole verse? The quotes below come from one of my favorite resources

www.precentaustin.org.

Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17

What thoughts come to mind
as you zero in on this word?

If

If is a conditional conjunction, which is translated if or since. In the present context the idea is if the first part of this statement is true, the second is also true.

THEREFORE,
IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,
HE IS A NEW CREATION.
THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY;
BEHOLD,
THE NEW HAS COME.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Contemplative Doodling

DOODLING AN ICON

An Icon is a thing regarded as a representative symbol. For example:



This isn't really what a star looks like. But it's a very recognizable symbol for one.



In the same way, this looks nothing like a real heart but can represent a person's heart or the concept of love.



Icons don't only have one meaning. A drop could represent water or tears or even the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

What concepts come to mind when you see the following icons?



For contemplative doodling that facilitates meditating on God's Word with Jesus, I find it helpful to use simple icons.

A great source for ideas is www.thenounproject.com. If you type in whatever word or concept you wish to portray, this site will provide numerous options!

Select one icon that connects with what's been standing out to you from 2 Corinthians 5:17. Then repeatedly draw that on the next page as you doodle with Jesus. (For example, you might select something that represents what you've learned about being a new creation).

Consider Key Words

"Anyone"

Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

What thoughts come to mind as you zero in on this word?

Anyone

Anyone is a pronoun that can signify one, someone, anyone, a certain one. In short this pronoun teaches that this verse is the "biography", the "testimony" of every believer! What a great promise this pronoun holds out for lost men and women. Any sinner, no matter how awful, despicable, depraved, disgusting (and the list could go on and on) who repents and believes in Christ is placed in Christ wherein he or she is a new creature, regardless of how corrupt and decadent the old creature was in Adam.

SOURCE: www.preceptaustin.org

Contemplative Doodling

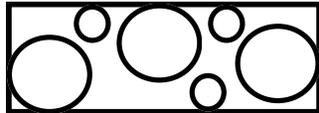
DOODLING DOUBLE SHAPES

You can also doodle with double shapes!

You can take the same shape and go back and draw a smaller version inside or outside the original shapes. For example:



Or you can add smaller shapes in the spaces between the larger shapes.



Or you can even use two different shapes, either placing one inside the other or between the larger shapes.



I have found it helps me stay focused on Jesus when I am placing smaller shapes between larger shapes if I first do the larger shapes then go back and add the smaller shapes as I get distracted trying to decide whether I should do a smaller or a larger shape next.

You want to find what works best for you. The goal is to stay focused on Jesus and ponder the verse with Him. So experiment. If You find something is distracting, cross that off your list and try something else. There isn't one right way to do this. Instead, this is all about discovering new ways to go deeper with Jesus as you let His Word dwell in you even more richly.

Connect to the Old Testament

“He is a New Creation”

Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

What thoughts come to mind as you consider King David's longing for what believers now have in Jesus?

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Psalms 51: 1-2, 7-11

Day 4

CONNECT TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

What does it mean to be
a new creation?

A New Creation

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Ezekiel 36: 16-17

Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold,
the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 3

CONSIDER CROSS REFERENCES

What does it mean to be “in Christ?” Is it a question of location, like being in a house? Is it something like belonging to a club or an organization? No, the term “in Christ” is the apostle Paul’s shorthand expression for being united to Christ.

What does it mean to be united to Christ? To answer it, we begin with 1 Corinthians 15:22, “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Note the two expressions in Adam and in Christ. And again in 1 Corinthians 15:45, Paul refers to “the first man Adam” and to “the last Adam,” who is clearly Christ. What Paul is getting at in these two verses is that in God’s way of dealing with humanity there are only two men, Adam and Christ. All the rest of us are represented before God by one or the other of these two men.” - Jerry Bridges, Who Am I, p. 18.

Read the following verses and circle every time you see the phrase “In Christ” then consider, how does this compare to being “in Adam?”

In Adam In Christ

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:22

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. Romans 5:18

Review Your Verse

“It’s hard for the flesh to think God thoughts. It’s hard to concentrate on spiritual concepts. The brain doesn’t like to think, especially if its on spiritual matters. We like to sit down in a nice, soft chair in a cool breeze and float to heaven on a flowery bed of ease. I’m that way and I know that in life, there are a lot of things that come easy, but getting the Word of God on your heart through memorization isn’t one of them. It’s spiritual.

Anything spiritual is work, and my flesh and blood doesn’t like work.

But it can be done, and we can do it!”

— Dawson Trotman

Write your memory verse in the space below:

Be sure to check your verse before you continue reviewing.

When you aren’t able to find someone to listen to you review your verses, Voice Memos on your phone can be a huge help. What I do is record myself quoting the verse (Topic, reference, verse, reference) then I play it back as I look at the verse to verify I quoted it correctly, then I check off one of the boxes below and then record myself again! It takes me less than five minutes to review a verse seven times using this process (unless I’m reviewing a super long passage!) and as I listen to the playback while reading the verse it further cements the verse into my memory.

Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold,
the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17

Consider Cross References

Read the following verses and circle every time you see the phrase "In Christ"
then consider, how does this compare to being "in Adam?"

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

In Adam

In Christ

Ephesians 2:1-9

Consider Cross References

"There is also a whole other dimension of our union with Christ... our living union with Christ. This living union is best described by Jesus' use of the vine and branch metaphor in John 15:1-5. As you read John 15:1-5 what do you learn about being in Christ?"

Jerry Bridges, Who Am I? p. 18

Read John 15:1-5. What do you discover about being "in Christ" from these verses?

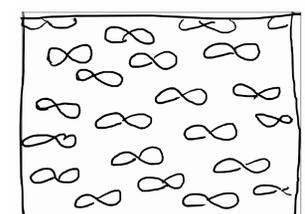
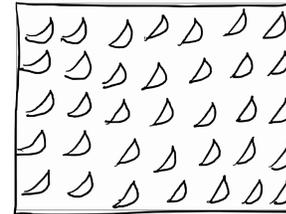
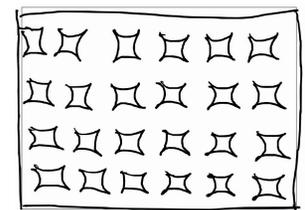
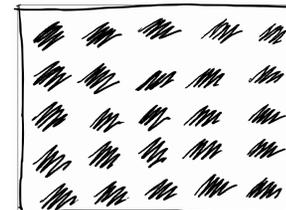
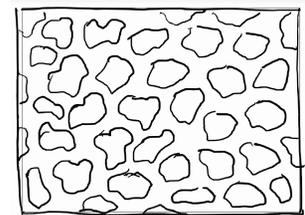
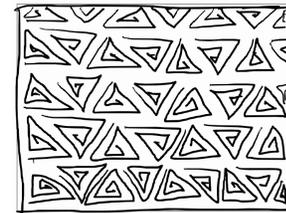
"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:1-5

If someone asked you, "What does it mean to be "in Christ?" how would you respond?

Contemplative Doodling

ABSTRACT SHAPES

You can also contemplatively doodle with abstract shapes. My friend Shini Abraham loves to do this. The term abstract means "Existing in thought or an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence." In other words, it's not an image of something. This could mean drawing a bunch of blobs or filling in a triangle or even a series of scribbles... the options are limitless. What I love about using abstract shapes is this really hits home home what you draw doesn't have to look like anything for it to be personally impactful, helping you be present with Jesus, freeing your mind to focus and ponder with Him.



Select one of these examples or make up your own and doodle it on the following page as you creatively meditate with Jesus.