

Journeying With Jesus Through the Basics

a Bible Study Workbook

“Great are the works of the LORD;
they are studied by all who delight in them.”

Psalm 111:2

Conni Hudson



Journeying With Jesus
42335 Washington Street, Ste F, #120
Palm Desert, CA 92211
journeyingwithjesus@gmail.com

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journeyingwithjesus@gmail.com

This book is dedicated to Mary Stewart
who "prayed much and pushed gently" every step of the way.
And to those precious women at the *Journeying With Jesus* retreat
who asked for this book to be birthed – here you go!
May it be used of God to help His children grow.



Journeying With Jesus
Through the Basics

Table of Contents

Foreword	v.
Preface	vii.
Acknowledgements	ix.
Introduction	xi.
 Section A Journeying to Eternity	
Week One The Eternal Plan	5
Week Two The Eternal Plan – Your Salvation	59
 Section B Provisions for the Journey	
Week Three The Holy Spirit	117
Week Four The Word of God	167
Week Five Prayer	223
Week Six The Body of Christ	277
 Section C Until Then	
Week Seven Sights Along the Way	331
Week Eight Journey's End – Jesus face-to-Face	385
In Closing	441
About the Author	443
About <i>Journeying With Jesus</i> Ministries	445
JWJ Statement of Faith	447
End Notes	451

FOREWORD

Two lonely, discouraged men were walking on the road from Jerusalem back to their home in Emmaus. They had just witnessed the crucifixion of the One they believed to be the Messiah. Disillusioned, discouraged, and confused about life, they were met by a stranger who asked them what they were talking about. They poured their hearts out to this One Who questioned them. Arriving at their home, they invited Him to stay with them and share a meal. As they sat down at the table together, this stranger blessed the bread, broke it, and the eyes of those two men were opened to discover the true identity of their traveling companion—it was Jesus, the One whom they had hoped was their Redeemer. In an instant, they realized He was everything they had looked for and so much more. He was the fulfillment of all Moses and the Prophets had written about: He was their Savior, their Redeemer, and the Blessed Hope of eternal life. More than that, when He met them on their road of discouragement, He opened up the Scriptures to them concerning Himself, and, as a result, He set their hearts on fire. The fire in their heart was so contagious, it spread. And it is still spreading today.

The Lord wants to set your heart on fire as well, burning with a love that will spread throughout the world. How can this happen? The Lord is inviting you to embark on an incredible journey – the great adventure of knowing Him. You hold in your hands a Bible Study Workbook, *Journeying With Jesus Through the Basics*, that is going to take you on a journey with Jesus *Through the Basics* of the Christian life—these are what life is all about. And my encouragement to you would be to never step away from the basics—stay in the meat of these ‘basics’ and just go deeper and deeper into understanding them and living them out in your own life until you are face-to-Face with Jesus. *Journeying With Jesus Through the Basics*, written by Conni Hudson, is a journey you can take over and over again.

I have known Conni Hudson for ten years. When I met her, I knew I had found a friend for life. She has a heart that longs to know Jesus and be intimate with Him. She loves the Bible and knows what it says from cover to cover. Her knowledge of the Bible is extraordinary and this, along with her reliance on the Holy Spirit as her strength, makes her an amazing and powerful teacher of the Word of God. She has taught the Bible for many years and speaks at retreats and conferences. One of her greatest gifts is encouragement and exhortation and you will sense her cheering you on in your own race through every page of *Journeying With Jesus Through the Basics*. She has been my cheerleader these last ten years and has encouraged me in the writing of all my books. In fact, she has led most of the pilot studies of the ten books I’ve written. She is a Proverbs 31 woman and it may be said of her: *Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all* (Proverbs 31:29).

Conni shares my passion for God and His Word. You will discover who Jesus is, what He does, and what He says only as you open your own Bible and live in it. *Journeying With Jesus Through the Basics* will help you study the Bible each day. This amazing Bible Study is called a workbook but it is truly much more than that—it is a treasure chest, waiting to be opened by you—and when you bravely begin to lift the cover and engage in the journey—you are going to discover nuggets of gold in the Psalms, jewels in the hymns, pearls of wisdom in the illustrations, and rare coins as you walk with Jesus in the Word. When you complete this journey, you will be rich indeed! What an incredible opportunity you now have to engage in the great adventure with Conni Hudson as your guide leading you into an amazing journey with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Himself. May you draw near to your Lord Jesus, so intimate with Him that as He leads you on the path of life, you won't just walk, but your heart will dance with Him. God bless you as you continue on in this great adventure of knowing Him.

Catherine Martin
Founder and President
Quiet Time Ministries

PREFACE TO

Journeying With Jesus Through the Basics

Are you ready for an adventure – the adventure of the discovery of the Basics in God’s Word – the discovery of what it means to be a Christian? *Journeying With Jesus Through the Basics* is simply a tool. It will help you discover, for yourself, the Basics of the Bible concerning Jesus Christ, how to live as a follower of Christ, and reach the journey’s destination – heaven.

You may use this study tool alone or with a group. I suggest you gather with a group (2 or 200 smiley faces), so you can gain biblical insight from one another. However, remember – you plus God makes a group. Either way, He is longing to reveal Himself to you through His Word, and this study tool will help you travel through the Bible in a simple, step-by-step method.

There are eight weeks of study, each having its own theme. Then, the week is divided into five days of study, each day focusing on one aspect of the week’s theme. These lessons are not conclusive, in-depth, dissertations on the theme, but simply introducing the *basics*.

You will notice there is a pattern to each week’s lesson. In them you will be WALKING WITH HIM THROUGH THE WORD, WALKING WITH OTHERS, WALKING IN PRAYER, WALKING IN THE PSALMS, WALKING IN WONDER, and WALKING THROUGH TODAY: Journaling the Journey.

WALKING WITH HIM THROUGH THE WORD is your Bible Study time. You will be discovering for yourself what God’s Word has to say about each theme. This leads to WALKING WITH OTHERS which is a short summary of the lesson, along with occasional quotes by others, giving further insight into the subject. Always, when you study God’s Word, it should lead to a response of prayer, so you will be WALKING IN PRAYER. There you will respond to what you have just studied. WALKING IN THE PSALMS is the privilege of walking through what has been called “God’s Hymn Book” – the book of Psalms. Each day you will have a Psalm that in some way speaks to the theme being studied. This is time for you to meditate on Scripture, examining how to apply what you have just studied and learned.

So often while studying, questions will arise that are not answered in the lesson, so there is WALKING IN WONDER. This is a place to note all those questions you might have from the week’s lesson. We would like to answer those for you during or after class. Be sure to note any questions you might have in this section.

Finally, as you are studying or going through the lesson with a class, there may be added insights and prayers you would like to add to your day's lesson, so you can note them in WALKING THROUGH TODAY: *Journaling the Journey*. This is also a good place to record any notes you might want to make from the lecture.

This gives you a full day's study on a particular topic from the Bible. Each lesson is not all-encompassing, but it certainly gets you started by showing you the facts given in God's Word. Just follow the instructions each day and enjoy. Along with each week's study there is a teaching on CD to help with your understanding of the lesson.

There are many translations of the Bible. The New American Standard Bible (NASB) is used to form this study guide, as it is the translation used at the *Journeying With Jesus* retreats. The New King James Version (NKJV), and English Standard Version (ESV) are also excellent translations. The one you use is up to you. Just remember if you use a Bible other than the NASB you may notice phrases worded differently in the passage mentioned, so you might have to look for synonyms. You will want to avoid using a paraphrase version of the Bible, such as *The Message* or *The Living Bible*, though, when doing a Bible study. While you may enjoy a paraphrased Bible in your reading time, it is not a true translation (i.e. word for word, or thought for thought) and as such, is not adequate for actual study, research, or analysis of the Bible.

Also, as you are doing your lesson each day, please remember my motto: "Do your best and leave the rest." You may not be able to answer each and every question. That's O.K. Just keep going and don't give up. Answer what you can. Through the class discussion time and lecture, all the answers should be covered.

For those of you who may want to go through this study with a friend or group of friends, there is a Leader's Guide available. Please contact *Journeying With Jesus* Ministries to order a copy.

As you go through this workbook, you will find I have occasionally quoted the writings of others that speak to the subject being studied. Please understand, while approving that particular quote, I am not endorsing all of that person's writings.

I pray you will enjoy the adventure and will be blessed by the journey.

All for His glory,

Conni

Conni Hudson

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I am filled with much joy and gratitude for all who labored with me to walk this book into published form.

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Thank you to my Biblical Counseling Foundation friends and colleagues in the work of discipleship: Bob Schneider, Shashi Smith, Stuart Smith, Spencer Smith, and the office staff –my deepest gratitude for your servant’s hearts.

And thank you to my teachers, who taught me the “basics” and more: Deanna Campbell (my spiritual mother), Ellen Bingham (my Bible Study Fellowship Teacher), Joyce Hall (my Community Bible Study Leader), Shashi Smith and Bob Schneider (my Biblical Counseling Foundation instructors), Kay Arthur (Precept Ministries author and teacher), Catherine Martin (Quiettime Ministries founder and teacher), and my pastor, Jon Skramstad (New Life Community Church) who teaches the Word faithfully each week.

And to all my friends who have prayed, served, and loved me out of their love for Jesus. How can I ever thank you enough?

If I have forgotten anyone, it was not intentional. The Lord has blessed me with family and friends who love me beyond measure and who pray for the Lord to be glorified through this work. To you all I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Above all, I thank God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for choosing, calling, and saving me, and for the Holy Spirit’s guidance into all truth. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Eternally gratefully,

Conni Hudson

INTRODUCTION

I have a friend who is what we call, "directionally impaired." She has a hard time getting from point A to point B. Since she understands her plight, she keeps a binder of maps in



her car. And because I know this about her, when we go places together, I point and direct. As her friend, I have become her tour guide, not only keeping her going in the right direction but pointing out the interesting sights along the way. That's what I want to do for you. Since Jesus has commissioned us, not only to share the good news of the gospel but also to come alongside others to teach them how to walk in Him and with Him, I want to help you get from point A to point B in knowing and understanding the Bible and the Jesus of the Bible. This is what God calls discipleship (see Matthew 28:19-20).

I have been *journeying with Jesus* for 26 years now. We've made some steep, up-hill climbs - I struggled as He cheered me on. We've come to bends in the road I was afraid to make - He waited patiently. We've walked through the valley of the shadow of death - I mourned and He comforted. We've strolled through meadows filled with wild flowers - I sang for joy as He smiled in delight. We've been through dark places where the sun was shrouded by cloud - I could not see to walk, so He carried me.

During all of our journeying together, Jesus has had someone come alongside to hold my other hand - someone to walk with me and be my tour guide. Now, I would like to be yours. I will take your other hand and as you are *journeying with Jesus*, I'll walk alongside and point out the sights. You really don't need me, you need only Him, but He has called us to share with one another in the grand journey. And I am so happy for the privilege of walking together with you!

“Great are the works of the LORD;
they are studied by all who delight in them.”

Psalm 111:2

Section A

Journeying to Eternity



Week One

The Eternal Plan

Week Two

The Eternal Plan – Your Salvation


Section A
Journeying to Eternity

Week One

The Eternal Plan

Day One	Living with Eternity in Mind
Day Two	God's Plan for Eternity
Day Three	Created for Himself: The Eternal
Day Four	The Aim of Eternity
Day Five	The Promise of Eternity





Living with Eternity in Mind

Now set your heart and soul to seek the Lord your God...

1 Chronicles 22:19



Walking with Him through the Word

"I think I've discovered something" the man exclaimed as he walked into my friend's office. She was anxious to hear about his "aha moment." As he sat down and began to talk, she could see a difference in him, a determination. "I've been to two funerals of acquaintances in this past week. The first service was for a man who was religious in the sense that he went to church regularly, gave to worthy causes, and was a good provider for his family. The service was all about his business and educational accomplishments, his grand vacations, and great golf games. In fact, the remark was made something to the effect he was 'up in heaven playing his greatest golf game ever.' I left feeling miserable and humming the tune to Peggy Lee's golden-oldie, *Is That All There Is?*

What a contrast the second funeral was! This man's service was a celebration of his love for, and trust in, Christ Jesus. It was awesome! The family shared how he made all his decisions based on what Christ would want him to do and how he taught them to look to Christ for their direction. They smiled through their tears as they spoke of his being with the Lord, at home in heaven. The focus of the service reflected his life's focus – **he lived with eternity in mind.**

This was an "aha moment" for this man. "I realized this life is not all there is, and living is not about accomplishments or failure to accomplish the world's goals. Neither is it about looking to the world for approval. Life is all about eternity! All that matters are the eternal things –not striving to keep up with and surpass "the Joneses" nor finding one's passion or purpose in the things of the world. Life is about the things and Person of Eternity."

At last, this man grasped the truth and had come to my friend with the question he knew she could answer: "How do I live with eternity in mind?"

Old Testament Scripture:

1. Read Deuteronomy 4:29. What is the focus of our life to be?

2. How does I Chronicles 16:11 show us this is to be a lifestyle, a lifelong goal?

3. According to I Chronicles 22:19, when King David was giving instructions to build the temple of God in Israel to his son, Solomon, what exhortation did he give Solomon concerning his focus?

4. In I Chronicles 28:9, how does David explain to Solomon what it means to seek God? What would be the result of his choices? What does David tell Solomon about God?

New Testament Scripture:

5. In Matthew 6:32-33, what are you to seek? What are you to do, and what is the result?