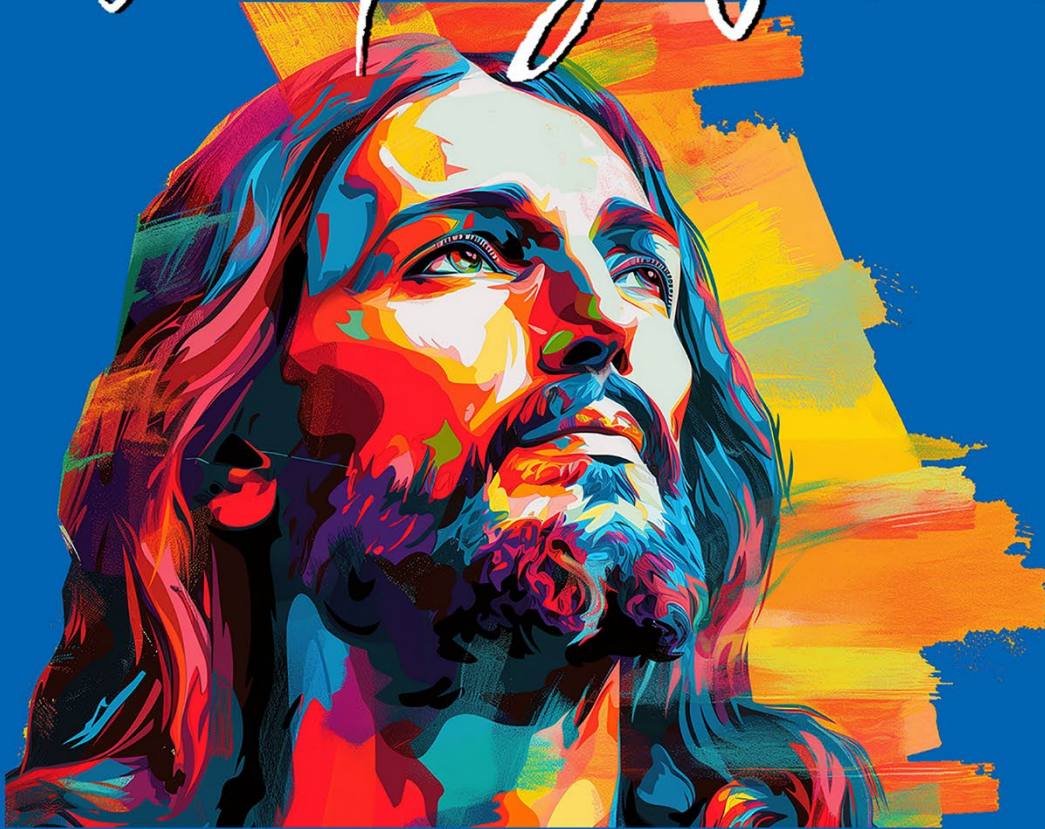


Finding Jesus



Embracing the Complete
Gospel of Jesus, the Christ.

Study Guide

CHARLES S. STUART

Let's Just Imagine!

Let's just imagine what might happen in our family, community, church, nation, and world if all believers **KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH!** helped usher in the

When people embrace their role in the Kingdom of God here on earth, their **EYES, EARS, MIND, HANDS, FEET & VOICE** will be used to reflect their faith.

They will use their **EYES** to look for needs that are unmet, and to watch over those in positions of authority.

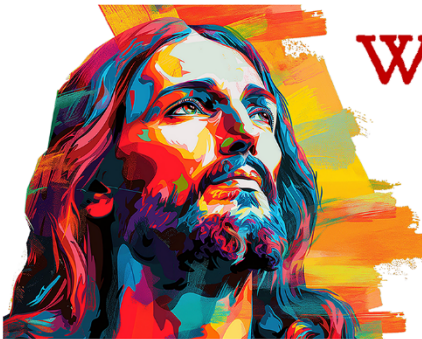
They will use their **EARS** to listen for the cries of those in pain, and to hear and address comments that demean those in need.

They will use their **MIND** to think of ways to get involved and to question for themselves what God would have them do for Him.

They will use their **HANDS** to do what is needed, remembering that it is through their hands that Jesus touches the "least of these."

They will use their **FEET** to go where needed...overseas, across the street or into the voting booth...to bring the Kingdom of God to those in need.

They will use their **VOICE** to speak up and out for those without a voice, and to hold those with power accountable to remember "the least of these" when making decisions.



**Wouldn't it be lovely to live
in a world like that!?!**

Charles Stuart

Charles S. Stuart | Charlie@TheGospelofJesustheChrist.org
(407) 230-2125 cell/text | www.TheGospelofJesustheChrist.org
523 Bryn Mawr Street | Orlando, FL 32804

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Charles Stuart

523 Bryn Mawr Street

Orlando, Florida 32804

(407) 230-2125

Charlie@TheGospelofJesustheChrist.org

www.TheGospelofJesustheChrist.org

About the Author.

Charlie Stuart was raised in the church by faithful, loving parents whose lives of service to “the others” inspired Charlie and his five siblings to purpose their lives to serve others, particularly the “least of these.”



Charlie has been active in the local church all his life serving as: Deacon, adult Bible study leader (20+ years), member of a pastor search committee and all the other committees in the local church.

Charlie graduated from the University of Florida in 1973 with an undergraduate degree in Marketing, with a focus on Economics. He worked in the family's office products company for 16 years and spent the following 20 years as a professional speaker, author, and consultant.

He also made time to volunteer for 25+ years with the YMCA as a local board member and on national task forces for the YMCA of the USA.

Charlie and his wife Barbara have three grown children and six grandchildren. They live in Orlando (College Park), Florida.

Charlie can be reached at:

(407) 230-2125 mobile or text

Charlie@TheGospelofJesustheChrist.org

www.TheGospelofJesustheChrist.org

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FIRST FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

Jesus is the Son of God.

Foundational Truth.

I. Jesus is the Son of God.

The Gospel of Jesus is clear on this point. Jesus of Nazareth was born as a human with the divinity of God. Jesus is the Son of God. This is stated clearly in Apostle John's first words about Jesus; by God Himself saying it about His Son; and when Simon, to be later named Peter, declared He is the Son of God.

From the Beginning.

1 ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5 ¹

Unlike the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the Gospel of John does not begin with a recounting of the birth of Jesus. John prophesized, in verses 1-5, the origin and nature of Jesus in words that are not just beautiful, they are true.

Read the full context, found in John 1:1-18, and decide the meaning for yourself. Take your time. Discuss it with friends, teachers, and pastors, and pray for guidance and understanding.

The Word from the Son of God is the latest Word from God.

This leaves us with a challenge. If this is true, do we believe with complete faith that Jesus is, and has been, the Son of God? On this answer rests the entirety of what the Gospel of Jesus teaches.

¹ Additional scriptural background found at John 1:1-18.

I. Jesus is the Son of God.

His Baptism.

1 ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:9-11 ²

Mark's version of Jesus's baptism is simple, direct, and powerful. Note this was the voice of God, the Father, blessing His only child with what all children long to hear: "You are My Son, the Beloved; with You I AM well pleased."

This was the first act of Jesus's adult ministry, and it set the stage for the rest of His life for...

 When in times of doubt, He knew His Father was with Him. When He was tempted, He knew His Father was with Him. When He was too tired to go on, He knew His Father was with Him. When followers came and left, He knew His Father was with Him. At the point of trial and death, He knew His Father was with Him.

Simon Says it Out Loud.

16 ¹⁵He (Jesus) said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." Matthew 16:15-18 ³

² Other versions found at Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-22 & John 1:29-34.

³ Additional scriptural background found at Matthew 16:13-20.
Other versions found at Mark 8:27-30, Luke 9:18-21 & John 6:67-69.

Foundational Truth.

Matthew records that Jesus asked His disciples, later in His ministry, two questions (See Mark and Luke versions). “Who do people say that I am?” followed by “But who do you say that I am.”

The first question allowed the disciples to search their memory for what they heard. The second question searched their soul for what they believed. And Simon (later known as Peter) said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Simon became the first person to figure out who Jesus was, and he would never be the same again. Even Jesus knew that this answer came from somewhere deep inside this fisherman, somewhere that God revealed.

With his answer, Simon, now Peter, became the first to decipher what Jesus had been teaching, even though later actions would indicate Peter didn’t yet fully understand the import of what he said. Jesus knew Peter.

That’s part of the reason why Jesus said, “I will build My church,” rather than “My church is completed.” Peter, like all of us, was a work in progress, but he already knew the foundation — Jesus was the “Son of the living God.”

CONCLUSION.

The Gospel of Jesus is based on what Jesus said and did. It is based on what He said and did because of who He was and is — the Son of God. Before Jesus, God spoke through leaders like Moses and prophets like Isaiah.

Jesus, though, was completely human **AND** completely God. God had decided to speak directly to the people through the words and deeds of Jesus, and, as such, His words are the latest we have heard from God.

Because Jesus is the Son of God, we can hear directly from the heart, mind, and spirit of God.

I. Jesus is the Son of God.

So, it is paramount that we study His words and deeds to glean what Jesus expects of His Followers so that we can establish the Kingdom of God on Earth. Let's start with pledging to know, understand, and obey what Jesus, the Son of God, said and did.

Would that we all know what Peter knew. "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Where do you stand?

Do you believe that what Jesus said is the Word of God? Why?

--

Do you also believe that what Jesus said is the latest Word from God? Why?

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Foundational Truth.

The words that Jesus, the Son of God, spoke are equal in authority with those of God, His Father.

When Jesus said, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” and “...for I was sent for this purpose,” His followers should take Him at His Word.

CHARLES STUART