

WHEN PEOPLE LAY EYES

ON

Jesus



A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY
ON ENCOUNTERS THAT

Change Everything.



We know that no one has seen God at any time. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

1 JOHN 4:12

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When People Lay Eyes on Jesus

This study explores the transformation that happens when a person truly sees Jesus. Scripture tells us in Exodus 33:20, “No one may see God and live.” Yet Jesus did a new thing. In the Old Testament, He appeared at times as the Angel of the Lord—often unrecognized for who He truly was. In the New Testament, He came in bodily form and allowed Himself to be touched, embraced, and yes, even mishandled by the very people He created. The truth remains: everyone needs to see Jesus and enter a living relationship with Him. Once you truly see Him, your life will never be the same. So we’ll look at moments when people encountered Jesus face to face—how He changed them—and we’ll reflect on our own hope: when we shall behold Him. Selah.

Someone wrote a song that says: I just want to see Jesus, in all I say and do. I just want to see Jesus, how about you?

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Lesson I

July 9, 2026

Every Body Needs Jesus - Matthew 8:1-17 NLT

Discussion Starter: Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Is there anyone He excludes from His compassion or power?

Many followed after Jesus - Matthew 8:1-4 NLT

¹ Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. ² Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." ³ Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. ⁴ Then Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed."

Discussion Questions 1 & 2

- What do you think the leper meant by, 'Lord, if you are willing....'?
- Why would Jesus tell him to wait to share his testimony until after the priest examined him?

The Gentile's Faith - Matthew 8:5-13 NLT

⁵ When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, ⁶ "Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain." ⁷ Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I

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tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel! ¹¹ And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. ¹² But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.” And the young servant was healed that same hour.

Discussion Question 3

- What stands out to you when Jesus says many Gentiles will believe, while many Israelites will not?

Jesus healed her and she cooks Jesus a hot meal - Matthew 8:14 – 17 NLT

¹⁴ When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. ¹⁵ But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him. ¹⁶ That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. ¹⁷ This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, “He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases.”

Discussion Question 4

- Our needs often drive us to seek Jesus. Would you like to tell of a situation He resolved in your life?

Applying the Text

Jesus is amazing; He can handle any and every issue we may encounter. We need to trust Him like the leper who said Lord, if it is your will and the Roman Officer who said; just say the Word?

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Memory Verse: Matthew 8:1 NLT

Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside.

Learning Activity:

One of the best ways to remember what God has taught us is to actively engage with His Word. As you reflect on today's Scripture, identify each person or group who encountered Jesus. Then record their need, Jesus' response, and the spiritual lesson you learned from each encounter.

Who Came to Jesus?

Person	Need	Jesus' Response	What This Teaches Me
Leper			
Roman Officer			
Peter's Mother-in-law			
Crowds			

What need am I bringing to Jesus today?

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Lesson II

July 16, 2026

Is this Jesus; the Messiah? - Matthew 11: 1-15 NLT

Discussion Starter: As Jesus goes on His preaching and teaching circuit, what do you notice about His different audiences?

John's Question, Jesus' Answer - Matthew 11:1-6 NLT

¹ When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region. ² John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ³ "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" ⁴ Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— ⁵ the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor." ⁶ And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.

Questions 1 & 2

- Why might John have had reservations and asked if Jesus is Christ?
- What does Jesus mean when he says; God blesses those who do not fall away because of me?

Jesus Honors John the Baptist - Matthew 11:7-15 NLT

⁷ As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind?" ⁸ Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. ⁹ Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. ¹⁰ John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ "I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the

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Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is! ¹² And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. ¹³ For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come. ¹⁵ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

Questions 3 & 4

- What's your assessment of John the Baptist's appearance and style?
- What is Jesus saying in verse 12 about the Kingdom advancing?

Applying the Text

It is easy for us to see Jesus as The Messiah now. But even John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus had doubts. Jesus met those doubts with proof; lives changed, prophecy fulfilled.

Memory Verse: Matthew 11:3-5 NLT

³ "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" ⁴ Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— ⁵ the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor."

Reflection Activity:

Even when I don't understand, I choose to believe because...

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Lesson III

July 23, 2026

Religion and Tradition - Matthew 15:1-20 NLT

Discussion Starter: Are there traditions within your personal belief system that scripture teachers aren't actually helpful?

Religious people need Jesus, Tradition vs. Command - Matthew 15:1-3 NLT

¹ Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, ² "Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat."³ Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God?"

Discussion Questions 1

- Did these religious people act like they knew the law while missing the lawgiver?

Lip Service Isn't Enough - Matthew 15:4-9 NLT

⁴ For instance, God says, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.'⁵ But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.'⁶ In this way, you say they don't need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition.⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ⁸ 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'⁹ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.

Discussion Question 2

- How does Jesus describe leaders who teach man-made rules as if they're from God?

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As a Rule; the Blind Don't Make Good Trailblazers - Matthew 15:10-14 NLT

¹⁰ Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand. ¹¹ It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth." ¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?" ¹³ Jesus replied, "Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted, ¹⁴ so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch."

Discussion Questions 3 & 4

- Washing hands is healthy, but making it ceremonial?
- Did Jesus seem concerned about offending the Pharisees?

The Heart of the Matter - Matthew 15:15-20 NLT

¹⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Explain to us the parable that says people aren't defiled by what they eat." ¹⁶ "Don't you understand yet?" Jesus asked. ¹⁷ "Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer. ¹⁸ But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you. ¹⁹ For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. ²⁰ These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you."

Discussion Question 5

- Jesus gives us a biology lesson and a heart lesson. Does it sound like Jesus is saying there is more to our hearts than what meets the eye?

Applying the Text

Jesus doesn't want us hung up on traditions and religious practices that do not help us grow our love and obedience to Him.

When People Lay Eyes on Jesus

Memory Verse: Matthew 15:18-20

¹⁸ But the words you speak come from the heart—that’s what defiles you. ¹⁹ For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. ²⁰ These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you.”

Heart Check Activity:

What attitudes or traditions do I need to surrender?

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Lesson IV

July 30, 2026

Beware the Yeast of the Pharisees - Matthew 16:1-20 NLT

Discussion Starter: Did the Pharisees and Sadducees really think they could trap Jesus?

Seriously; they are making demands of God! - Matthew 16:1-4 NLT

¹ One day the Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus, demanding that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority. ² He replied, “You know the saying, ‘Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; ³ red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.’ You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the signs of the times! ⁴ Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign, but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.” Then Jesus left them and went away.

Discussion Question 1

- They could forecast weather missed the Messiah. Cite a few scriptures that spoke of Jesus which they missed?

Misunderstanding the Warning - Matthew 16:5-12 NLT

⁵ Later, after they crossed to the other side of the lake, the disciples discovered they had forgotten to bring any bread. ⁶ “Watch out!” Jesus warned them. “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” ⁷ At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn’t brought any bread. ⁸ Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, “You have so little faith! Why are you arguing with each other about having no bread? ⁹ Don’t you understand even yet? Don’t you remember the 5,000 I fed with five loaves, and the baskets of leftovers you picked up? ¹⁰ Or the 4,000 I fed with seven loaves, and the large baskets of leftovers you picked up? ¹¹ Why can’t you understand that I’m not talking about bread? So again I say, ‘Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’” ¹² Then at last they understood that he wasn’t speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

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Discussion Question 2

- The disciples were confused at first. How did Jesus make His warning clear to them?

Who Do You Say Jesus is? - Matthew 16:13-20 NLT

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” ¹⁵ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly warned the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Discussion Question 3 & 4

- Do we get it right when asked; who Jesus is?
- Where did Peter’s answer come from?

Applying the Text

Some things are spiritually discerned. In our flesh there is uncertainty! But when The Spirit of The Living God speaks to us; we get a good understanding.

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:15-17 NLT

¹⁵ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

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Word Study:

"Study to show yourself approved unto God..." — 2 Timothy 2:15

One of the best ways to grow in your understanding of Scripture is to slow down and study the words God chose to reveal His truth. Throughout this lesson, certain words may have captured your attention, challenged your thinking, or deepened your understanding of Jesus.

Using the space below, select three words or phrases from this lesson that stood out to you. Look up their biblical meaning using a Bible dictionary, concordance, or trusted study resource. Then write why each word is significant and how it strengthens your understanding of God's Word.

Word #1:	Meaning:
Word #2	Meaning:
Word #3	Meaning:

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Lesson V

August 6, 2026

The Shunned and Outcast Need Jesus - St. John 4:1-26 NLT

Discussion Starter: Do you find yourself a little apprehensive around some folk? Are you reluctant to sit down over a meal and share in conversation?

The Word is Out. - St. John 4:1-6 NLT

¹ Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John ²(though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). ³So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. ⁴He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.

Discussion Questions 1 & 2

- Could the popularity of Jesus cause the Pharisees to push harder to cancel Him? Cancel Culture is not new.
- Do we see Jesus' humanity in verse 6?

God is not a Hater, He is Love. - St. John 4:7-10 NLT

⁷Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. ⁹The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" ¹⁰Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

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Discussion Question 3

- The Samaritan Woman did not know Jesus. What piqued her interest?

You must choose which well to draw from - St. John 4:11-15 NLT

¹¹ “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?” ¹³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” ¹⁵ “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

Discussion Question 4

- Do you think the descriptions like; (fresh, bubbling spring and eternal life) influence the Samaritan Woman’s choice for Jesus?

Known and Not Rejected - St. John 4:16-19 NLT

¹⁶ “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. ¹⁷ “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!” ¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet.

Discussion Question 5

- How did you feel when you realized Jesus knows everything about you?

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It is not where but how you worship The Lord - St. John 4:20-24 NLT

²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?" ²¹ Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

Discussion Question 6

- The truth can sometimes hurt, but why is it necessary for healing?

Jesus says; I Am the Messiah! - St. John 4:25-26 NLT

²⁵ The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

Discussion Question 7

- Can you imagine how she felt when Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah"?

Applying the Text

This is beautiful; this woman is told that she is talking to the Messiah. Jesus Christ is talking to the Samaritan Woman and He isn't condemning her for the bad reputation she has.

Memory Verse: St. John 4:25-26 NLT

²⁵ The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

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Looking in the Mirror:

God's Word reflects who we are and reveals who He is calling us to become. Take a moment to honestly evaluate your heart in light of today's lesson. As the Holy Spirit speaks to you, check each statement that applies and prayerfully consider how God is inviting you to grow in your faith, obedience, and relationship with Jesus.

I need to trust Jesus more.

I struggle with doubt.

I need healing.

I have relied on tradition more than Scripture.

I have been afraid of what others think.

I need to surrender control.

I need to forgive.

I need to obey immediately.

What is God asking me to do this week?

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Lesson VI

August 13, 2026

We shall Behold Him - 1 John 3:1- 10 NLT

Discussion Starter: For sure; there are many wonders we long to see in this life. However, is there any sight more precious to see than our Lord and Savior?

Children of God. - 1 John 3:1-3 NLT

¹ See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know Him. ² Dear friends, we are already God's children, but He has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like Him, for we will see Him as he really is. ³ And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as He is pure.

Discussion Question 1

- John is emphatic about God's love. What kind of excitement does knowing we are God's children generate?

Understanding Sin - 1 John 3:4-10 NLT

⁴ Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. ⁵ And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in Him. ⁶ Anyone who continues to live in Him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know Him or understand who He is. ⁷ Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. ⁸ But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. ¹⁰ So now we can tell who are children of God and

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who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.

Discussion Questions 2 & 3

- Sin stinks in God's nostril, it carries the penalty of death and God sent His Son Jesus to pay that price. We do not practice sinning! How do we respond when we recognize that we have sinned?
- We are Family, children of God, born again, and Spirit-led/filled believers. What does John say about this new way of living and the way it looks?

Applying the Text

Because God's Holy Spirit lives in us, sin pains us. But we must be honest, we do sin, but we must not make it a habit. Thank God for His great love for us and that Jesus makes intercession for us. I am so glad that when the Father looks at us, He sees His Son's Blood covering us!

Memory Verse: 1 John 3:9-10 NLT

⁹ Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. ¹⁰ So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.

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Looking Back... Looking Ahead

Congratulations on completing *When People Lay Eyes on Jesus*. Throughout this study, you have journeyed through Scripture and witnessed lives transformed by an encounter with Jesus Christ. You have seen His compassion for the broken, His patience with those who doubted, His challenge to those who were religious yet without relationship, His call to genuine faith, His love for the outcast, and His promise that one day we will behold Him face to face.

Now take a few moments to reflect on what God has revealed to you during this study. Prayerfully answer the questions below, allowing the Holy Spirit to remind you of the truths He has written in your heart. Remember, the goal of studying God's Word is not merely to gain knowledge, but to experience lasting transformation as we become more like Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. Which lesson or biblical encounter impacted you the most, and why?

2. What new truth about Jesus did you discover during this study?

3. How has your understanding of yourself changed because you have spent time in God's Word?

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4. What is one area of your life where God is calling you to grow in faith, obedience, or trust?

5. Which Scripture from this study will you continue to carry with you, and why?

6. What is one commitment you are making to the Lord as a result of this study?



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