

JESUS-CENTERED DEVOTIONS



CENTER YOUR LIFE ON *Jesus*

**A 40-DAY
DEVOTIONAL**

Mikal Keefer

CENTER
YOUR LIFE
ON
Jesus

**A 40-DAY
DEVOTIONAL**

Mikal Keefer

Jesus-Centered Devotions

Center Your Life on *Jesus*

A 40-Day Devotional

Copyright © 2016 Group Publishing, Inc.

group.com

Inspired by *The Jesus-Centered Life* by Rick Lawrence. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit **group.com/permissions**.

Scripture quotations marked CEB are taken from the Common English Bible®, CEB®. Copyright © 2010, 2011 by Common English Bible™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked CEV are from the Contemporary English Version. Copyright © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked GNT are from the Good News Translation © 1994 published by the Bible Societies/HarperCollins Publishers Ltd UK, Good News Bible © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992. Used with permission.

Scripture quotations marked GW are from *God's Word*, a copyrighted work of God's Word to the Nations. Quotations are used by permission. Copyright 1995 by God's Word to the Nations. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible®. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked TLB are from The Living Bible copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. The Living Bible, TLB, and The Living Bible logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers.

ISBN 978-1-4707-4274-4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16

Printed in the United States of America.

DURING HIS LIFE ON EARTH, JESUS ASKED LOTS OF QUESTIONS.

That was true then...and it's true now.

The Gospels are packed with Jesus' questions.

Questions that prompted conversations.

Raised issues. Opened eyes to flashes of
discovery and insight.

And Jesus' questions tended to
follow people home, to roll around in their minds,
to insist on answers.


So...here are 40 opportunities to answer them.

You'll respond to questions Jesus posed to people
around him. And as you do, you'll invite Jesus into
conversations about what his questions reveal
about him...and what your answers
reveal about you.

So come hear his voice.

Feel his presence.

And experience time with Jesus that
refreshes your spirit, sparks fresh
insight, and draws the two of you
closer together.



Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat.

But Jesus was sleeping.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!'

He replied, 'You of little faith, **why are you so afraid?**' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

—Matthew 8:23-26, NIV



WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID ?

Jesus' disciples never seem to have accused him of asking a stupid question.

But if it ever did happen, it happened here.

Late in the day, a sudden squall caught Jesus and his followers in open water on the Sea of Galilee.

The wind rose, the sky darkened, rain slashed the disciples' faces. And as calm water roiled into white-capped waves, the disciples knew: This is where they'd die.

Water cascaded over the hull of the wooden boat, swamping the already-floundering vessel.

And then the full fury of the storm crashed in on them.

Shaken awake, Jesus looked into the faces of his terrified disciples and shouted over the screaming gale: "Why are you so afraid?"

Why were they *afraid*? *Afraid*? Wasn't it *obvious*?

The disciples stared at one another, thinking, *Even a carpenter's kid should see what's happening here.*

But they'd misunderstood the question.

Jesus was really asking, "Why are you so afraid...*when I'm with you?*"

Fair question.

They'd gotten to know Jesus. Heard him teach. Seen him perform miracles.

Sort of like you.

You've gotten to know Jesus. Heard him teach. Perhaps seen his power shine in your life and the lives of people you know.

So why are you afraid? Of loss. Death. Living a life of Jesus-centered abandon?


Given that Jesus is with you... why are you so afraid?

And what might set you free from your fear?

WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID

AS YOU SPOKE WITH JESUS,
WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER ABOUT HIM?





AS JESUS SPOKE WITH YOU, WHAT DID HE
HELP YOU DISCOVER ABOUT YOURSELF?

