



Christian to the Core

40 Days of Going
Deeper with God



Christian to the Core

40 Days of Going Deeper with God

Introduction

C. S. Lewis once said,

“If Christianity is not true, it is not important. If it is true, it is all-important. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

I submit to you that the great sin of the modern age may be our tendency to try to make Christianity “moderately important.” God desires that you develop deep roots, grow strong, and experience his full power and presence. A God-shaped life is illustrated in the Bible as a flourishing tree planted by God through the work of his hands. Those who trust in God and make him their confidence can be like a tree planted by a stream of water, whose leaves are always green and always bear fruit.

The following devotionals will help you go deeper with God and grow in your love for others. Our prayer is that you discover how to walk more closely with Christ, letting His Spirit guide and empower you on a daily basis. As you grow, may the strength you find help others grow into spiritual maturity as well.

We hope you are blessed, encouraged, and challenged by these words of hope and inspiration. We also hope you grow spiritually as you journey into a deeper walk with Jesus.

The Christian to the Core Team

Get Connected



Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter

“Like” us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ChristiantotheCore](https://www.facebook.com/ChristiantotheCore). Receive live updates by following us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/Christian2Core](https://twitter.com/Christian2Core).

Watch Us on Vimeo

Watch the latest videos with teachings, inspiring stories, and more at [Vimeo.com/ILITeam](https://www.vimeo.com/ILITeam).

Join the Christian to the Core Team

Visit [ChristiantotheCore.org](https://www.ChristiantotheCore.org) and click “Join” to receive email updates, new releases, links to inspirational videos, and more.

Visit Our Other Websites

To learn more about the International Leadership Institute (ILI), visit [ILITeam.org](https://www.ILITeam.org). To explore ILI’s global initiative for young leaders, visit [History-Makers.org](https://www.History-Makers.org).

Order Christian to the Core Resources

To order Christian to the Core notebooks, 40-Day Devotionals, and other resources, visit [ChristiantotheCore.org/Order](https://www.ChristiantotheCore.org/Order).

Christian to the Core

40-Day Devotional

Table of Contents

INTIMACY WITH GOD

Days 1 – 5 1

PASSION FOR THE HARVEST

Days 6 – 10 11

VISIONARY LIFE

Days 11 – 15 25

RELEVANT EVANGELISM

Days 16 – 20 37

MULTIPLICATION OF DISCIPLES

Days 21 – 25 51

FAMILY PRIORITY

Days 26 – 30 65

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

Days 31 – 35 79

INTEGRITY

Days 36 – 40 95

Week • Three

Day 11 - A Visionary Life

Core Value: God looks for men and women who discover God's vision for their lives, set goals, mobilize people and overcome obstacles in order to see God's purposes achieved.

When Esther's servant girls and her other servants told her what Mordecai was doing, she became very upset and sent Mordecai some clothes to wear in place of the sackcloth. But he refused to take them. Esther had a servant named Hathach, who had been given to her by the king. So she called him in and said, "Find out what's wrong with Mordecai and why he's acting this way." Hathach went to Mordecai in the city square in front of the palace gate, and Mordecai told him everything that had happened. He also told him how much money Haman had promised to add to the king's treasury, if all the Jews were killed.

Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the orders for the murder of the Jews and told him that these had been read in Susa. He said, "Show this to Esther and explain what it means. Ask her to go to the king and beg him to have pity on her people, the Jews!" Hathach went back to Esther and told her what Mordecai had said. She answered, "Tell Mordecai there is a law about going in to see the king, and all his officials and his people know about this law. Anyone who goes in to see the king without being invited by him will be put to death. The only way that anyone can be saved is for the king to hold out the gold scepter to that person. And it's been thirty days since he has asked for me." Esther 4:4-11 (CEV).

I love this story of Esther, a Jewish woman who was selected by the Persian King Ahasuerus to be his wife. He had banished his former wife and chose Esther through a contest. However, the king did not know she was a Jew. There was a law created that allowed the Jews to be murdered. When Esther's uncle, Mordecai,

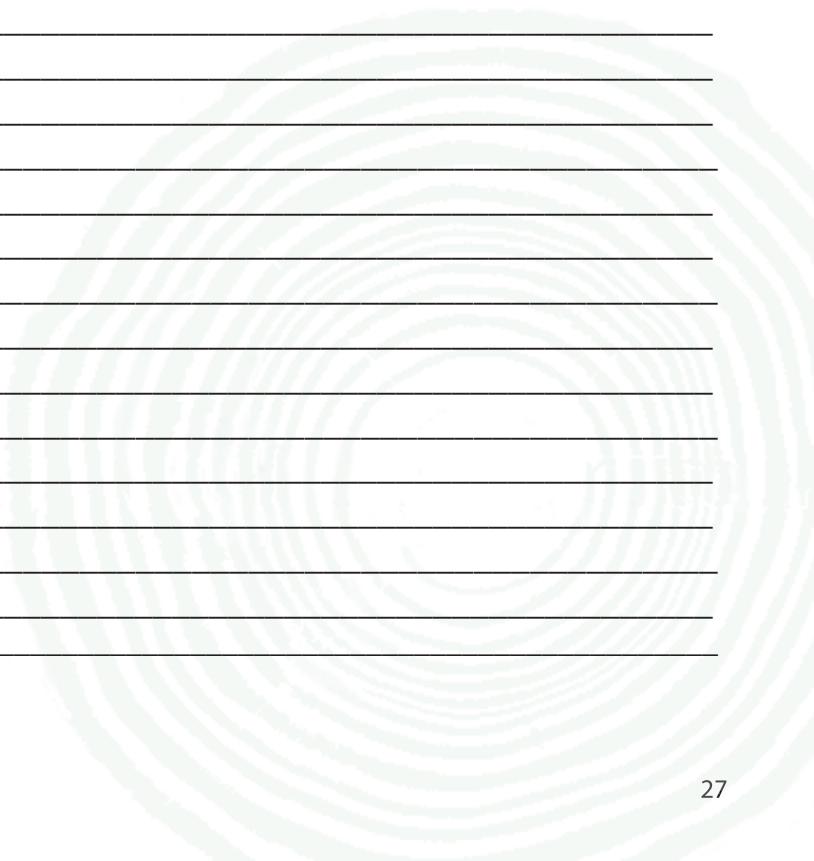
learned of the new law, he spoke with Esther about asking the king to reconsider. The king loved her, but she did not have the authority to enter into the king's chambers and talk with him at any time she pleased. Mordecai told her that God had allowed her to become the queen to help protect her people.

Though conflicted with the thought of perishing by the hand of the king or by the new law in place, she decided to let the king know she was a Jew and that his new law would require that she be killed. Long story short, Queen Esther saved her people.

Esther ended up being a heroine. Initially she shrugged off her duty to save the Jews by saying she could not approach the King, her husband, without an invitation because she could be killed. After much thought, prayer, and planning, she eventually did get her message across to the King and all was saved.

As you seek to be Christian to the Core, have you ever felt like you couldn't have that all-important conversation with someone? Have you ever felt like there was no way you could share God's Word with someone because it was "churchy" or even embarrassing? Do you have goals and dreams that mean the world to you but just haven't taken the time to achieve them? I submit that with prayer, planning, and lots of courage, you can get it done. You can sit down and confidently have a conversation with that someone you have been meaning to have. And you can share God's Word with that person who needs Jesus more than you will ever know. Finally, go achieve the dreams that God has put on your mind and in your heart. Just like Esther, you can do it.

Lined writing area consisting of 27 horizontal lines.



Week • Three

Day 12 - A Visionary Life

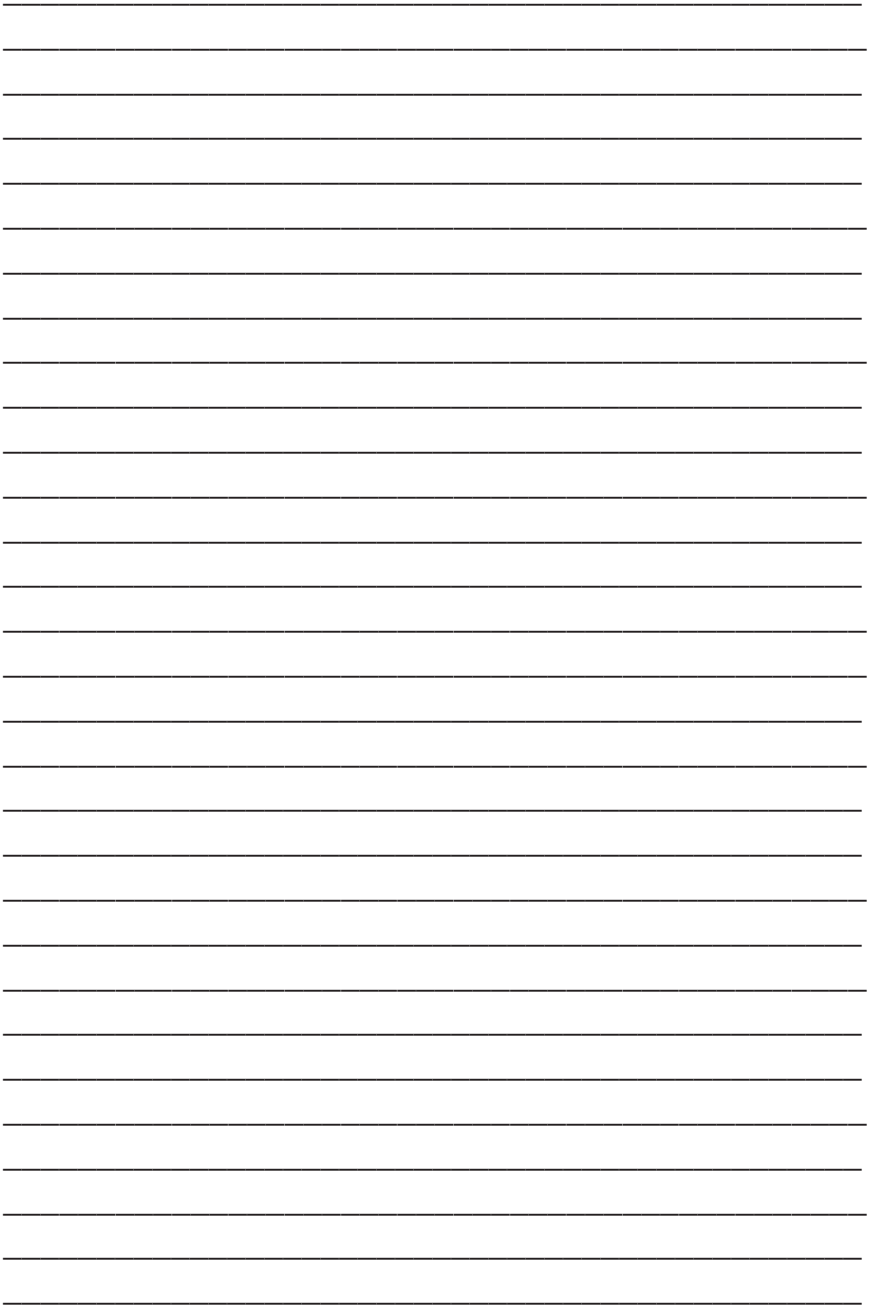
Core Value: God looks for men and women who discover God's vision for their lives, set goals, mobilize people and overcome obstacles in order to see God's purposes achieved.

Then the LORD told me: "I will give you my message in the form of a vision. Write it clearly enough to be read at a glance." — Habakkuk 2:2 (CEV)

God speaks. He speaks in many forms, including visions and those things we call "coincidences."

If you have spent time in Bible study, you probably realize there are no such things as "coincidences." God weaves events, people, and His plans together to make his visions happen. Go with it. Sometimes inexplicable things happen in our life and we wonder what in the world is happening through and in our lives. I know because I have been there. I have been the one crying "Why me, Lord?" and wondering how the next few years of my life will unfold. However, I continued going to church. I continued to actively listen to sermons and execute each premise. I also started to study and internalize the Bible. I started to become Christian to the Core. Guess what? I stepped out of my challenges, victorious and full of fervor for Jesus. Do you know what else? My life didn't unfold the way I planned—it unfolded the way Jesus planned, and that is all right with me!

As you seek to be Christian to the Core, continue to study God's Word, pray, and worship with other believers. You will begin to receive the Lord's message more clearly. Believe!



Week • Three

Day 13 - A Visionary Life

Core Value: God looks for men and women who discover God's vision for their lives, set goals, mobilize people and overcome obstacles in order to see God's purposes achieved.

During Jehoiachin's reign, the officers of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came up against Jerusalem and besieged it. Nebuchadnezzar himself arrived at the city during the siege. Then King Jehoiachin, along with the queen mother, his advisers, his commanders, and his officials, surrendered to the Babylonians.

In the eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he took Jehoiachin prisoner. As the LORD had said beforehand, Nebuchadnezzar carried away all the treasures from the LORD's Temple and the royal palace. He stripped away all the gold objects that King Solomon of Israel had placed in the Temple. King Nebuchadnezzar took all of Jerusalem captive, including all the commanders and the best of the soldiers, craftsmen, and artisans—10,000 in all. Only the poorest people were left in the land.

Nebuchadnezzar led King Jehoiachin away as a captive to Babylon, along with the queen mother, his wives and officials, and all Jerusalem's elite. He also exiled 7,000 of the best troops and 1,000 craftsmen and artisans, all of whom were strong and fit for war. — 2 Kings 24:10-16

We all experience situations that make us so mad we can't see straight. We all experience situations that upset us so much we cry until the tears come no more. We all experience situations that just aren't fair. Finally, we all experience situations that make us want to drop our Jesus like a hot potato. But you better not drop Jesus because if you are not careful, He may have to teach you and show you that only HE is your beginning and your end.

The Christian to the Core study tells us that harboring a passion for Jesus—so deep that it is fused into our bones—is the only way to live. I believe that strongly. However, sometimes we get so caught up in the minutia of our lives that we neglect to feed that passion for Jesus. We get caught up in the anxiety of daily living and that never-ending pursuit for happiness.

As you seek to be Christian to the Core, I want to encourage you to get caught up in Jesus and your family. Other believers want to help you be the Christian that God wants and expects you to be. They want to help you execute God's vision for your life. They do not want you to drive away from His grace or thrown into exile. After all, His love is too sweet to be missed. He is our All in All.

Week • Three

Day 14 - A Visionary Life

Core Value: God looks for men and women who discover God's vision for their lives, set goals, mobilize people and overcome obstacles in order to see God's purposes achieved.

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

—Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)

I deeply respect pioneers and trailblazers. As a matter of fact, one of my personal life goals is to read carefully selected biographies and autobiographies of people I admire. I love learning about individuals who overcome real and/or perceived adversities and plow through their trials and tribulations—there is no stopping them. I am also a firm believer that we can all be that person who jumps over obstacles and triumphs.

It is always exciting when we start a new project or begin a new journey. We all want to “create rivers in the dry wasteland,” and we can. But we must pray. Through prayer we will discover God's vision for our lives, which in turn will enable us to set goals, mobilize our circle of family and friends, and overcome obstacles.

This is not easy. However, with intense faith and the will to overcome, we can be who God wants us to be. We can be the servants God expects us to be and passionately pass on the Good News. Age, past circumstances, and financial capacity are not the criteria to begin your journey of spiritual growth. As you grow in God's Word, he will take care of you and fulfill your needs. As you seek to be Christian to the Core, remember this quote: “He may not come when you want him, but he'll be there right on time.”

Week • Three

Day 15 - A Visionary Life

Core Value: God looks for men and women who discover God's vision for their lives, set goals, mobilize people and overcome obstacles in order to see God's purposes achieved.

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. — Joel 2:28 (TNIV)

The day Jesus comes back to us is surely going to be joyful day! Just imagine, all who are weak will be strong and all those who cannot walk will jump up and walk towards him. Those who cannot speak will talk joyfully about Jesus, and those who are hearing-impaired will listen to our Savior's voice and rejoice.

Simply put, God has given us structure and vision for our lives. He has made it no secret that our job is to go out and spread God's Word and harvest in the mission fields. Our job is to go out and connect hearts to Christ.

In return for executing his vision, Jesus promises that life as we know it will cease, and a new and amazing life will begin! Joel 2:28 tells us that he will pour out his Spirit on all people—we just have to walk out in faith and follow him.

Even when times get rough, tough, and overwhelming, we must hold on to our faith, pray, and marinate in God's Word everyday. Not every now and then, but everyday. Continue to seek to be Christian to the Core.

