



Grab Gather Grow  
Week of Sunday, Sept. 9th  
Relationship with God: An Upward Focus

Today's Question:  
Is Jesus real to me?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR TODAY:

1. When has Jesus seemed the most real to you in your life? The least real? What were those circumstances?
2. How can you make Jesus seem more real to you now? What discipleship practices can you put into place in your life to become a more deeply committed Christian?
3. Who has been the Philip in your life, helping you to understand the good news about Jesus? Are you fulfilling that role in someone else's life?

PERSONAL APPLICATION IDEAS

1. Review the ways in which you are experiencing spiritual growth. Is it time to add additional dimensions to your journey to help deepen your faith and make Christ more real to you? Chose one practice that you don't typically engage in, such as fasting, or serving on a team every 5th Sunday. Investigate your options and incorporate this practice more regularly into your spiritual life.
2. Make a pilgrimage to a holy place or a place of Christian significance. If the Holy Land isn't a feasible option for you, brainstorm a destination that might be. Perhaps locally visit the Cathedral in St. Paul or maybe St. John's Abby near St. Cloud and visit the St. John's Illustrated Bible there. Or perhaps the birthplace of people who dedicated themselves to living as Christ lived would be interesting. Use your imagination.

Scripture

(read over together the following scripture)

God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. John 3:16

Story: Acts 8 (the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip)

## PRAYER (pray together)

Everlasting God, Who is your beloved Son, Who is the King of the whole world, Who wills to restore all things to be made new; Who gives mercy to all the people of all the nations, Who with you, God, lives and reigns for ever, we ask that we find Jesus to be more real every day. Amen.

## TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Make Jesus real for someone you come in contact with today. Notice the needs of people around you with a heightened awareness, and then bravely act as Christ would act.

## SERVICE

Our Change 4 Change offering the 16th will be the Emma Norton Center. This United Methodist Ministry provides housing and support for women of the Twin Cities Metro. Visit their web page ([emmanorton.org](http://emmanorton.org)) for ideas of items they need as donations or how you can volunteer. Collect them and bring to worship with you the 16th. Also save your change and plan to make a special donation on the 16th for this ministry. Your gathering may also feel called to volunteer at Emma Norton.

**Sunday, September 30th** is a **5th Sunday** and at Brooklyn UMC we spend the day in service. Consider having your gathering join us for our 10am worship service that Sunday, stay for the fellowship and potluck and then join us as a group for a service project starting at 1pm. Your group can develop your own service project that day or join others in ongoing projects.

What could your gathering do this week that would make Jesus real for someone else? Brainstorm together and then act!