

JESUS WORKS THROUGH NURSES

It doesn't take much time or experience in nursing to realize that **being a nurse is a sacred ministry.** Those who receive good nursing care also come to appreciate the special nature of nursing. Nurses who follow Jesus understand that God wants to work through them to lovingly, even miraculously, care for others. **How can we be nurses, students, and educators guided by Jesus as we care for others? How do we best prepare to be nurses Jesus works through?**

In the first century, the apostle Paul wrote that Jesus' followers can think like him. He explained how believers have God's Spirit within them who reveals God's ways and thoughts! Paul summarized it like this:

*But **God has sent his Spirit to show these secrets to us.** God's Spirit looks carefully into everything. He even knows God's secret thoughts. Only a person's own spirit can know everything that is in his thoughts. And it is the same with God. Only God's Spirit knows everything that is in God's thoughts. **We have received God's own Spirit,** not a spirit that belongs to this world. As a result, we can understand all the good things that God has given to us... **We have God's Spirit with us.** So we can understand the true value of all things. But other people cannot truly understand us, who belong to God. As it says in the Bible [[Isaiah 40:13](#)]: "Nobody can know what the Lord God is thinking. Nobody can tell him what he should do." **But we think about these things in the same way that Christ thinks.***

1 Corinthians 2:10-12, 15-16* (EasyEnglish Bible)

This two part Bible study explores being a nurse who follows Jesus. We'll explore how Jesus can infuse the way we care for others—helping us think and work like him, hear his voice, and be his hands and feet.

Read real life stories of Jesus working through nurses at <https://ncf-jcn.org/blog/jesus-works-through-nurses>.

Share your own story by sending it to NCF@InterVarsity.org.

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BIBLE STUDY: JESUS WORKS THROUGH NURSES

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PART 1

WORKING LIKE JESUS

JOHN 14:12-17, 21, 25-27* (*The Message*)

The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am **giving you the same work to do that I've been doing**. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I'll do. **If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you**. I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!

The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that's who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him. I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you. **The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you**. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. **I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace**. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught.

*Scripture quotation taken from *The Message*, copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved. Represented by Tyndale House Publishers.

BACKGROUND

Jesus spoke these words at “the Last Supper” -- right after he washed his disciples’ feet and dismissed Judas to betray him. Jesus knew he would be arrested later that night and crucified the next day, and he gave a Farewell Discourse to his beloved followers that is recorded for us in [John chapters 13-17](#).

In this message, Jesus reassured his followers of his great love for them, and that even though he would be leaving, he was not abandoning them. Astonishingly, Jesus tells the disciples they are going to **do even greater works than he has done**. How? The Holy Spirit would come as Jesus’ emissary and live inside each one of his followers! They would know Jesus in a new and more powerful way—experiencing God’s presence even more than they had felt God being with them while they were with Jesus. This Friend would teach, guide, and help each of Jesus’ followers remember all Jesus taught, do everything Jesus did, and even more! Indeed, the Holy Spirit did come in a supernatural way at Pentecost, radically changing Jesus’ followers ([Acts 2](#)). **This same Holy Spirit comes and lives inside believers today**—teaching, guiding, giving Jesus’ peace, and enabling us to do the extraordinary work of Jesus.

DIG DEEPER

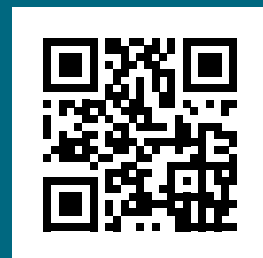
- Have you received the Friend, the Spirit of Truth, who Jesus offered in these verses? How do you know?
 - If yes, how has He made a difference in your day-to-day life and in your nursing? If you’re not sure, see the note below.*
- How would you describe the “work” Jesus did? Give a few examples. You can be general or offer specific situations from stories you know of Jesus.
- It’s hard to understand Jesus’ words that *the person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things*. New Testament stories help explain this sensational promise. For example:

EXTRA!

Jesus said if we love him, we will discover and do what he told us to do. What did Jesus tell his followers to do in these verses:

- [John 15:12-14](#)
- [Matthew 5:43-48](#)
- [Matthew 25:34-40](#)

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- What happened after Peter's first preached message about Jesus in [Acts 2?](#)**
 - What did the most educated leaders of the day in Jerusalem say about the illiterate disciples in [Acts 4:13](#) after talking with them?
 - How is the early Church described in [Acts 4:32-34](#)?
 - What instructions did Jesus give in [Matthew 28:19-20](#) that his followers have been carrying out the last two millennia?
- How have you experienced doing what Jesus did in your life experiences? In your nursing practice?
- In what ways could your nursing work be a part of doing greater things than Jesus did?

LIFE APPLICATION

- What about Jesus you would like to understand better? Are there things about your life or nursing you would like the Holy Spirit to "make plain" to you? In your own words, ask Jesus to help you understand.
- Jesus said, "whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it." What do you want to request of Jesus today? This can be personal or for your nursing.***
- Sit quietly and use the Breath Prayer in the sidebar for a few minutes.

*We receive the Holy Spirit through entering a personal relationship with Jesus. Do you have this relationship? Do you want to know about relationship with God? Ask God to help you learn more about him. Contact NCF@InterVarsity.org if you would like help exploring how to enter relationship with Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit.

**3000 people believed in Jesus after hearing Peter speak—more people than in Jesus' entire time of ministry on earth!

***Jesus is not saying we ask and always get what we want. He is saying that when we ask him for something that aligns with who he is and his mission, he hears us. In the now and not yet of following Jesus on this earth, we may or may not see what we ask for. But we know if our request is aligned with who Jesus is and his mission, ultimately, it will be done.

BREATH PRAYER

Breath prayers are short, simple prayers that can be repeated quietly during moments of quiet or hurry. Try this breath prayer:

BREATH IN:
Trust in Jesus.

BREATH OUT:
For He will do great things.



PART 1



STUDY 2

HEARING JESUS' VOICE

JOHN 10: 1-5, 11, 14, 27* (The Message)

Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good—a sheep rustler! **The shepherd walks right up to the gate.** The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and **the sheep recognize his voice.** He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and **they follow because they are familiar with his voice.** They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it... **I am the Good Shepherd.** The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary... **I am the Good Shepherd.** I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me... **My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me.**

BACKGROUND

The work of sheep herding has been around for millennia. First mentioned in [Genesis 4:2](#) where Abel was a shepherd, **the Bible relays the lives of many famous shepherds** (Abraham - [Genesis 12-25](#)), [Moses – the book of Exodus](#), [David – 1 Samuel 16-24](#)). Shepherds lived with their sheep, making sure the sheep were fed, watered, and kept safe. Then and now, shepherds talked with their sheep, even individually naming each one. Like beloved household pets, **sheep learn to respond to their shepherd's familiar dialog and callings.** This familiarity comes from being together in daily life, being fed and watered, and learning the shepherd protects them. The sheep also recognize when a voice is unfamiliar and maybe even hazardous.

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In his Word, the Bible, **God uses "shepherd" as a metaphor for himself** and his care for his people (i.e., [Isaiah 40:10-11](#); [Jeremiah 31:1-10](#)) as well as for Israel's kings and spiritual leaders who were both good ([2 Samuel 5:1-5](#)) and bad ([Ezekiel 34](#)) shepherds. Jesus used the traits of a good shepherd as **a model for how he cares for his followers**. He wants to have the kind of personal relationship with us where he talks, and we recognize and listen to his voice.

DIG DEEPER

- What piques your interest about a God who claims to act as a shepherd? What questions does this raise for you?
 - What are things you could do to become familiar with Jesus' voice? (Reading the Bible is a fantastic way to hear Jesus speak!)
- Recall a time when you experienced Jesus being a good Shepherd to you? It could be leading you into something or protecting you from something. What happened?
- Take a moment to read this nursing student's story of hearing Jesus' voice about touching patients, *Jesus Works Through Nurses' Touch* (<https://bit.ly/3PFuneQ>).^{*}
 - How did this student discover Jesus' healing touch?
 - What did she learn about touching patients, and how did she apply it?
 - What was the outcome?

^{*} Read more real-life stories of Jesus working through nurses at <https://ncf-jcn.org/blog/jesus-works-through-nurses>. Share your own story by sending it to NCF@InterVarsity.org.

EXTRA!

Dallas Willard offers an incredibly helpful easy-to-read book called *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

InterVarsity Press offers: *Hearing God Bible Study*

WWW.IVPRESS.COM/HEARING-GOD-BIBLE-STUDY

Hearing God Through the Year 365-Day Devotional

WWW.IVPRESS.COM/HEARING-GOD-THROUGH-THE-YEAR

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LIFE APPLICATION

The Bible is full of stories of people just like you hearing God's voice in a variety of experiences.

In the passages below God spoke through wise friends in a quiet time with God, and through processing a dream.

- Which story are you drawn to today? Read that passage:
 - An overwhelmed leader **hears God through wise friends** – [Exodus 18:13-26](#)
 - An anxious God-follower **hears God in the quiet** – [1 Kings 19:9-13](#)
 - A reluctant half-asleep activist **hears God's call in processing a dream** – [Acts 10:9-19](#)
- What stands out to you in the story you chose? What do you notice -- about the way God communicated? About what God said?
- Ask Jesus what he wants to say to you about your nursing. A word of encouragement? Help for weariness or fear? Guidance for a school or work situation? Leave this up to Jesus or ask for a specific need you have right now.
 - Sit quietly and use the Breath Prayer in the sidebar for a few minutes.

BREATH PRAYER

Breath prayers are short, simple prayers that can be repeated quietly during moments of quiet or hurry. Use this breath prayer as ask Jesus to speak to you in this moment:

BREATH IN:
Lord, you speak.

BREATH OUT:
I am listening.

