



MAX LUCADO

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

In the
FOOTSTEPS
of the **SAVIOR**

**FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH
THE HOLY LAND**

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

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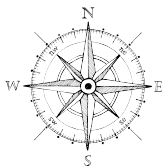
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CHAPTER 1

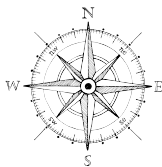
THE ARRIVAL

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. This chapter opens with a bustling scene in the town of Bethlehem.
 - What was Bethlehem like?
 - What was happening in the city the day Jesus was born?
 - Why did Mary and Joseph's arrival in Bethlehem and Jesus' birth go unnoticed?

2. Max points out that not much has changed—we are still too distracted to stop and notice Christ in our midst. Our world offers a lot of distractions: social media, endless Netflix series, online shopping, and texting, to name a few.
 - What diverts your attention most throughout the day?
 - Which of these distractions keep you from noticing Jesus' presence in your life?
 - What helps you notice Jesus' presence in your life?

3. Read Mark 10:45 and Luke 19:10. According to these verses, what was Jesus' mission on earth?
- How did he achieve this mission?
 - Do you believe you have a mission or purpose in life? If so, what is it? If not, why not?
 - Jesus' mission was accomplished. We know this because he said, "It is finished" right before his death on the cross. What do you hope to finish or achieve in your life?
 - What is distracting you from this purpose?
4. Max lists four questions that can help guide you in becoming more like Christ and staying on course. Reflect on those questions below.
- Am I fitting into God's plan? (2 Peter 3:9)
 - What are your longings, the desires of your heart? This question may be difficult to answer. Consider why that is before attempting to answer it. Acknowledge any tension you feel.
 - What are my unique strengths and abilities? As above, if this question is difficult to answer, pause and consider why. Or ask someone who knows you well to help you.
 - How did Jesus serve God before his public ministry began? (Luke 2:51–52) How could I serve God where I am today with the people around me?



CHAPTER 2

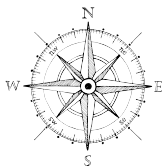
LIVING IN A CARPENTER'S FAMILY

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Joseph wasn't expecting his son to be born away from home in Bethlehem, in a cave filled with animals, and placed in a trough as a makeshift bed. He was "caught between what God says and what makes sense" in human terms.
 - What circumstance in your life has you standing where Joseph stood—caught between what you believe God told you and what makes sense to you?
 - What did Joseph do in the midst of his doubt and uncertainty?
 - What would it look like for you to do the same?
2. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, but he grew up in Nazareth, farther north in the region of Galilee. Even

- though Nazareth was home, that didn't mean his family and neighbors supported his ministry. Read Mark 3:20–21.
- How did Jesus' family feel about his ministry?
 - Think about a time your family didn't support you or didn't understand something you felt passionate about or believed in.
 - How did this questioning or lack of support make you feel?
3. Jesus returned to Nazareth to preach during his ministry. Read in Luke 4:28–30 how his community responded to his sermon.
- The mob likely took Jesus to a place called Mount Precipice, which looks over the city of Nazareth. Imagine Jesus looking down at his home, on the streets where he played as a child. Have you ever felt rejected by a community you were a part of? How did that rejection affect you?
 - How does it feel to know that Jesus also was rejected by both his family and his community?
4. Max explained there are differences in accepting God as your Lord, accepting God as your Savior, and accepting God as your Father. What are those differences?
- Do you believe you've accepted God as your Father? Why or why not?
 - Fill in the blanks: "Ideally, a father is the one in your life who ____ and ____."

- Has your earthly father done this for you? If so, how? If not, how has that affected your relationship with him? Has it affected your view of God? If so, in what way?
- What would it look like to let God fill any voids left by your family, whether that's your father, mother, or siblings?



CHAPTER 3

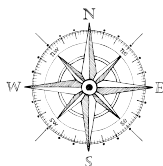
LEAVING HOME

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Mary knew her son was both human and divine. Do you think Mary raised Jesus differently than her other children or the same? Why?
 - What do you think it was like for Jesus growing up in a normal village, Nazareth, with a normal family, knowing what God's ultimate plan for him was?
 - Do you tend to think of Jesus as fully human, or do you more often picture him as a divine being? Why do you think this is? Why were both essential for him?
2. Read Hebrews 12:1–2. What is the race that has been set out for us? How do we stay focused on this journey?

3. Even Jesus was tempted to stray from finishing the race. After being baptized in the Jordan River, Jesus was led into the Judean Desert to be tested. Read Luke 4:1–13.
- How did Satan tempt Jesus?
 - How did Jesus respond to each temptation?
 - What are some of your greatest temptations, ones that get in the way of the race you're trying to finish?
 - What is a temptation that has reoccurred in your life? What has given you strength to overcome it?
 - Have you ever considered sharing a personal victory over temptation with someone else who is struggling? If so, how did that person receive your story?
4. Jesus finished his race on a cross on a large, skull-shaped rock called Golgotha outside of Jerusalem's gates. (*Golgotha* is an Aramaic word that means "skull.") While he hung there, he took on the sin and shame of man. The New Century Version translation of Hebrews 12:2 says, "[Jesus] accepted the shame as if it were nothing."
- What does shame feel like for you?
 - Describe a time you felt shame.
 - Why is it important that Jesus felt shame just as you have felt it?
 - Has shame held you back in some way from this long journey of faith? If so, how can you overcome it?

5. According to Hebrews 12:2, why did Jesus endure this shame on the cross?
- Do you experience joy in Christ? If so, describe the experience.
 - How could this joyful moment encourage you on your race today?
 - How does the joy that has been set before all of us—being united with the Father in heaven—encourage you in your faith journey?



CHAPTER 4

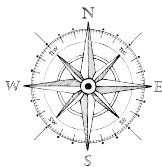
CONFRONTING WORRY

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What worries are you carrying today?
 - How long have these worries weighed on you?
 - How often do you think about them?
 - Max emphasizes that feeling anxious is human. As he said, “It does not mean you are not a Christian.” What do you think about this statement?
2. Jesus also felt worried. Scripture describes Jesus’ most anxious moments in the garden of Gethsemane. This garden overlooks the walled city of Jerusalem, where Jesus would be put on trial the following day. Read the story in Matthew 26:36–44.
 - How do we know Jesus was having anxious thoughts in the garden?
 - What did he do with these thoughts?
 - What physical effect did Jesus’ anxiety have on him?

- What physical effect does anxiety have on you?
 - How does it affect you to know that Jesus felt anxiety too?
3. On the Mount of Beatitudes, Jesus gave a sermon about worry. The Mount of Beatitudes overlooks rolling hills and valleys, lush with green grass and flowers. Keep this in mind as you read Matthew 6:25–34.
- According to verses 30–34, why shouldn't we worry?
 - Since worry is a natural part of life, how can we know the difference between what Max called "legitimate concern" and "pathetic panic"?
 - When have you felt legitimate concern about something? What did you do as a result?
 - When have you felt pathetic panic? What did you do as a result?
4. Read Philippians 4:6. What should we do with our worries according to this verse?
- How did the disciples fail to do this with the hungry crowd in Matthew 14?
 - What do you typically do when you start to worry about something?
 - What is one worry you are carrying that you need to hand over to Christ?
5. What are Max's eight worry stoppers?
- Which one of these worry stoppers could you use to stop the worries you're carrying today?

- How will you use it?
- Which one of these worry stoppers could you incorporate into your everyday life so that when worries come up, you know what to do with them?



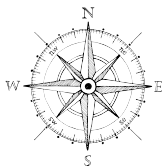
CHAPTER 5

MAKING FISHERS OF MEN

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What is unique about the location and size of the Sea of Galilee? Consider this as you read Matthew 14:24–32.
 - What kind of storm were the disciples experiencing?
 - What storms in life have tossed you around like the disciples in the boat?
 - What did Jesus say to the disciples when he appeared to them on the Sea of Galilee?
 - When has Jesus showed up in the middle of your storm?
 - How did Christ's presence in that moment affect you or your circumstance?
2. When did Peter begin to sink into the water?
 - When you're in one of life's storms, what is your focus?
 - What would change if you focused on Jesus instead?

3. While Jesus and his disciples were in Capernaum, a major center of trade on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, he told them a parable about forgiveness. (You can read the full parable in Matthew 18:21–35.)
- Considering the location where Jesus told this parable—a trading town with merchants and businessmen—how do you think Jesus’ audience would have connected to this story?
 - How did the man whose debts had been forgiven by his master react to that gift?
 - How do you feel about God’s forgiveness toward you? Do you believe he has forgiven you? Why or why not?
 - How does this belief affect the way you forgive, or struggle to forgive, others and yourself?
4. In the midst of battle Joshua led the Hebrews into the Valley of Shechem to “read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is written in the Book of the Law” (Josh. 8:34).
- How is this valley uniquely suited for a communal reading of God’s Word?
 - What role does God’s Word play in your life today?
 - How could obedience to God’s Word help you in whatever battle or storm you are facing?
 - Consider writing a favorite scripture on a stone, as Joshua did. Place it where you’ll see it daily as a reminder.
 - Think about your scripture stone: why you chose it, what it means in your walk with the Lord, and how it strengthens your faith.



CHAPTER 6

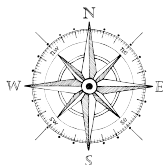
TEACHING, TEACHING, TEACHING

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Jesus' human story begins in Bethlehem, but his lineage, detailed in the first chapter of Matthew's gospel, began long before that with ancestors such as Abraham in Ur, David in Jerusalem, and Rahab in Jericho—a long list of what Max called “not-so-great grandparents.”
 - What imperfections do you have in your family history? What effect has that had on you or your family?
 - What does Max say is the purpose of Matthew's opening his gospel in this way?
 - How could this encourage you, considering your family's imperfect history as well as your own?

2. We revisited the storm on the Sea of Galilee in this chapter. Read the story again in John 6:16–21. The disciples had obeyed Jesus, who told them to cross the sea and go to the city of Capernaum. Yet, they found themselves in a storm.
 - Describe a time you obeyed God only to find yourself in a storm.
 - How did this affect your faith?
 - Where was Jesus when the disciples were rowing through the storm?
 - When did he eventually appear to them?
 - What does this tell you about where Jesus was in storms you've weathered in the past or where he is if you are weathering one today?
3. When the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, where did God direct them to go?
 - Why did he take them this way?
 - When has God led you on an indirect route to a final destination he had planned for you?
 - How did he provide for you on this journey?
 - How did this journey prepare you for what you faced next?
4. As you wait for a storm in your life to subside or as you wait to arrive at a destination you know God has promised you, how can you keep “rowing”?

5. Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples the night before his crucifixion. They ate in what is traditionally called the upper room, a room in a home located in Jerusalem, where many people had come to celebrate Passover.
- What did Jesus do for the disciples in the upper room?
 - Think about someone who has hurt or betrayed you. How would it feel to serve that person by washing his or her feet?
 - How would it feel to be in the upper room with Jesus that night and let him wash your feet, knowing you've sinned and betrayed him?
 - How could you show grace to the person you mentioned earlier or to another person who has hurt you?



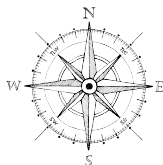
CHAPTER 7

PERFORMING MIRACLES

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Back in the bustling seaside city of Capernaum, we meet Jairus, a city official whose daughter is dying. Jesus promised to help him but was distracted by a woman who touched his cloak, and Jairus, desperate for his daughter to be healed, began to wonder if Jesus would make good on his promise.
 - When you're in need, what is hardest to believe about Jesus: that he can, that he cares, or that he'll come?
 - How did Jesus show Jairus that he could, that he cared, and that he would come? (Mark 5:40–41)
 - What does this tell you about how Jesus will answer your prayers?

2. In need of strength? In hope of a miracle? Max urges us to recall “one of the sweetest promises” of Scripture: Hebrews 4:15–16.
 - What does this promise mean to you?
 - Remember a time you held on to this promise. What challenge were you facing? How did recalling the promise make a difference?
 - “The one who hears your prayers understands your pain.” Have you experienced the truth of this claim? How did it recalibrate your faith?
3. Jesus promised eternity to those who trust their souls to him. “Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life” (John 5:24).
 - Where do you turn when life turns dark? Do you find it natural to seek God’s voice in your pain?
 - When you imagine Jesus, how do you picture him? The sleepy Savior in a storm-rocked boat? The confident healer at a dead girl’s bedside? The teacher speaking to thousands on a Palestine hillside? What image comforts you? Why?
 - “The One who hears your prayers understands your pain.” Why do you know this is true?
4. Max said, “Trust God’s hold on you more than your hold on God. His faithfulness does not depend on yours. His performance is not predicated on yours. His love is not contingent on your own.”
 - How do you feel about these statements?
 - Do you find them difficult or easy to believe? Why?



CHAPTER 8

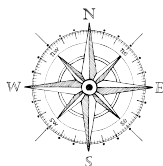
FACING DOUBTERS, DENIERS, AND DEFENDERS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does the Greek word *monogenes* mean? How can this definition help us understand the phrase “one and only” when used to describe Jesus, the Son?
 - What is the Son’s relationship to the Father?
 - How is their relationship different from an earthly father and his son?
2. How is Jesus our one and only ruler?
 - Which Jesus do you need today?
 - The ruler who is the ultimate authority in your life?
 - The one whose ways are higher than your ways?

- Or the one who knows the Father more intimately than anyone else?
 - Why?
3. In Jerusalem as Jesus was teaching a group of men in the temple, a woman was brought before him who had been “caught in the act of adultery” (John 8:4). The Pharisees were calling for her death.
- What hope did this woman have, shamed by the group of men around her, hearing her death sentence publicly announced?
 - How did Jesus’ presence change the situation and bring hope for the woman?
 - What is something you feel shame about in your life?
 - How could this story bring you hope in this shame?
4. Read Matthew 11:28–29.
- What is Jesus teaching you right now?
 - What do you need him to teach you?
5. What reasons did Max offer that could explain why Jesus stooped to write in the dirt when the woman was brought to him?
- Why do you think Jesus began to write in the dirt?
 - What do you think he wrote?
 - Considering what you just learned about Jesus’ relationship to the Father, why is it significant that he would stoop in the presence of the woman caught in adultery?

- What do you think the men who gathered at the Temple thought of Jesus' behavior?
 - What do you think of his behavior?
6. What does the voice of your accuser sound like?
- What does this voice tell you?
 - How does this voice affect you in your work, relationships with others, and relationship with God?
 - Read Romans 8:33–34. Why can no one accuse you or call you guilty?
 - Silence the voice of your accuser and spend a few moments listening for the voice of Jesus, your Advocate. What is he telling you?



CHAPTER 9

SPEAKING ETERNAL TRUTH TO EARTHLY POWERS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. As you were growing up, what did your parents, teachers, or pastors teach you about death?
 - How do you view death now?
 - What do you think happens to our spirits when we die?
 - What do think happens to our bodies?
 - How certain are you of this?
2. While the exact location of Jesus' tomb is unknown, some believe it may be located in what is today called the Garden Tomb, a small garden just outside the old city walls of Jerusalem and near a large, skull-shaped rock, believed by some to be Golgotha. The tomb has a small entrance carved

into the side of a rock that leads into a low-ceilinged cave. On one of the walls of the cave is a painted cross from the Crusader era, indicating Christians have been observing this site as the site of Jesus' tomb for hundreds of years.

- Read Matthew 28:2–6.
 - What happened to Jesus' body after the crucifixion?
- Read Philippians 3:20–21.
 - What will happen to our bodies after we die?
 - How do you feel about your body? Do you appreciate your body because it's strong and healthy? Do you dislike your body because it has been sick for a long time? Or do you wish your body was different in some way? If so, how?
 - What would have to change for your body to be "completely whole"?
 - What promise for the future does this Philippians passage offer?
 - How could it change the way you feel about your body today?

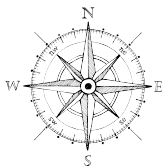
3. Read Matthew 24.

- What imagery stands out to you in this passage?
- Scholars and theologians have various interpretations for this chapter. What does Max say are the two things we can know for sure about it?

4. The temple was the center of the city of Jerusalem until it fell in AD 70.

- What was the significance of the temple for the Jews?

- What is your “temple”—a cornerstone in your life that should it break, so would you?
 - Perhaps your temple has already come down—a life-shattering event that changed everything. What was that experience like for you?
5. What three promises did Jesus give in Matthew 24:13–14? How can these promises give you hope either for a temple-shattering event you’ve already experienced or a battle you’re facing today?



CHAPTER 10

GARDEN MOMENTS

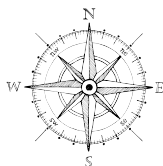
QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What is your worst fear?
 - Why is this your worst fear?
 - When did this fear begin?

2. Read Mark 14:32–35. How was Jesus feeling in the garden of Gethsemane, the garden that overlooked the city of Jerusalem?
 - When is the last time you felt the way Jesus did—deeply troubled, distressed, or crushed by grief?
 - How does it make you feel to know that Jesus felt the same way?

3. What does a cup symbolize in biblical terminology?
 - What did it represent for Jesus specifically?
 - What did Jesus do with the cup he had been given?
 - Fill in the blank: “Jesus’ garden prayer is a ____ prayer.”

- What “cup” do you want taken from you today?
 - Is this cup related to your worst fear from question 1?
 - How could you pray for your cup in the same way Jesus did in the garden?
4. Read John 14:1–3. How would Jesus’ first-century audience understand this differently than we do?
- What do you think about the imagery of Jesus as our bridegroom, preparing a home for us?
 - How could this passage give you hope in the face of your greatest fear?



CHAPTER 11

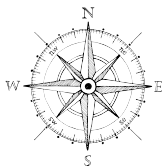
GRIEVING AND HOPING

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Jesus performed three resurrection miracles in Scripture (not including his own resurrection). You've already learned about Lazarus at Bethany and Jairus's daughter in Capernaum. Read about the widow's son Jesus raised to life near the city of Nain, a town southeast of Nazareth and only mentioned once in the Bible. Read Luke 7:11–17.
 - The woman was a widow, so she had already lost her husband. What would be the consequences if her son also died?
 - Have you experienced multiples losses in a row, whether that was losing people you loved or another type of loss? What was that experience like for you?

- Unlike Jairus, who pleaded with Jesus to heal his daughter, and unlike Mary and Martha, who already had a relationship with Jesus, Jesus seemed to not know the widow in this story, and she didn't ask Jesus for help. Why do you think Jesus decided to raise her son from the dead?
 - What does this story tell you about how Jesus feels about the losses we experience in life and what he can do with our loss?
2. How would you gauge your level of trust in Jesus today? Do you trust him all the time? Sometimes? For certain things but not for others? Explain your answer.
- Why is it important to have people in our lives we can trust?
 - When has your trust in someone been broken?
 - What was that experience like?
 - How did it affect your relationship with him or her?
 - Has your trust in Jesus ever been broken? If so, when, and how has this affected your relationship with him?
3. While Jesus hung on the cross at Golgotha, he was offered wine mixed with myrrh.
- Why was he offered this?
 - Why did he refuse it?
 - Does knowing that Jesus experienced life on earth and the physical and emotional pain that comes with it affect your trust in him? If so, how?

4. How many prophecies did Jesus fulfill and why does this matter?
5. What do you need in order to trust Jesus more?



CHAPTER 12

DEATH DEFEATED

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. We know what Jesus brought to the cross on the Hill of Calvary (*Calvary* is the Latin translation for skull): forgiveness for all mankind.
 - What is on your list of sins or grievances you need to bring to the cross?
 - What is on your list of anxieties?
 - What holds you back from bringing these before Christ?
2. After his resurrection, Jesus met two of his disciples while they were walking to Emmaus, a town seven miles west of Jerusalem. Jesus asked them what they were talking about. Read their response in Luke 24:19–24.
 - How did the disciples feel about the death of Jesus?
 - What did they think about his rumored resurrection?
 - When have you experienced doubt in your faith, whether that was in Christ's resurrection or something else?

- Read Luke 24:27–31. What did Jesus do in response to the disciples' doubt?
3. Jesus appeared to his disciples in Jerusalem soon after he had appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Read Luke 24:35–45.
 - How did Jesus respond to the disciples' fear and doubt in this passage?
 - Why do you think he asked the disciples for food?
 - How does this story parallel the story from Emmaus?
 4. How can we still touch Jesus' body and ponder his story?
 - Why is community helpful during seasons of doubt?
 - What role has community played in your experiences with doubt in the past?
 - Do you currently have any doubts about your faith? If so, what are they?
 - If so, how could community help support you in those doubts? If not, how could you help someone who has doubts?