

A **BELIEVE** BIBLE STUDY GUIDE | 8 SESSIONS

# ACT LIKE JESUS



*How Can I Put  
My Faith Into Action?*

RANDY FRAZEE

# ACT LIKE JESUS



*How Can I Put  
My Faith Into Action?*

STUDY GUIDE | EIGHT SESSIONS

RANDY FRAZEE

 ZONDERVAN™

ZONDERVAN

*Act Like Jesus Study Guide*

Copyright © 2020 by Randy Frazee

This title is also available as a Zondervan ebook.

Requests for information should be addressed to: Zondervan, 3900 Sparks Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, 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.

Any Internet addresses (websites, blogs, etc.) and telephone numbers in this book are offered as a resource. They are not intended in any way to be or imply an endorsement by Zondervan, nor does Zondervan vouch for the content of these sites and numbers for the life of this book.

Portions of this guide were adapted from the *Believe Study Guide* (9780310826118) and from *Think, Act, Be Like Jesus* (9780310250173) by Randy Frazee.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other — except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

ISBN 978-0-310-11903-6 (softcover)

ISBN 978-0-310-11904-3 (ebook)

First printing April 2020 / Printed in the United States of America

# CONTENTS

How to Use This Guide .....	v
Session 1 How Do I Worship God? .....	1
Session 2 Why Do I Need to Pray? .....	19
Session 3 How Do I Study the Bible? .....	37
Session 4 How Much of My Life Does God Want? .....	53
Session 5 How Do I Develop Healthy Relationships? .....	69
Session 6 What Spiritual Gifts Has God Given to Me? .....	87
Session 7 How Do I Use My Money to Serve God? .....	105
Session 8 How Do I Communicate My Faith? .....	123
Leader's Guide .....	141

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

## Scope and Sequence

The goal of every follower of Jesus Christ is to become more like him, but how do you know where to start? What does it really mean to be a disciple of Jesus? The objective of *Act Like Jesus*—the second in a series of three small-group studies—is to start the process toward transforming your behaviors so your actions will more closely match the actions of Christ. This study guide (and the related video) will help you assess your spiritual life, pinpoint areas that need special attention, and give you tools to help you grow. The previous study in this series, *Think Like Jesus*, focused on the core beliefs of the Christian faith. This study will focus on the foundational practices of the Christian life. The final study, *Be Like Jesus*, will focus on Christlike virtues. May God bless you as you seek him through this experience!

## Session Outline

Each session is divided into two parts. In the group section, you and your group will begin by watching a short video teaching from Randy Frazee and follow along with the

note-taking outline that has been provided. You will then recite the key verse, the key idea, and engage in some guided group discussion through the questions provided. At the end of the group time, you will be given real-life scenarios of people who struggle with their faith. Using the key applications from your study guide, your group will be challenged to think of ways to encourage the people within these case studies. Finally, you will close the group with a time of prayer.

## Personal Study

At the end of the group section, you will find a series of readings and study questions for you to go through on your own during the week. Each of these sections will challenge you to consider a key question about the topic, think through a key idea, and then consider a key application regarding the difference it should make in your life. You will also be given four statements to help you evaluate the alignment of your life with the key idea and asked to take action by memorizing each session's key idea and key verse. **The personal study is a critical component in helping you see how the beliefs you are studying are reflected in the pages of the Bible, so be sure to complete this study during the week before your next group meeting.**

## Group Size

*Act Like Jesus* is designed to be experienced in a group setting such as a Bible study, Sunday school class, or any small-group gathering. To ensure everyone has enough time to participate in discussions, it is recommended that large groups watch the video together and then break up into smaller groups of four to six people for discussion.

## Materials Needed

Each participant should have his or her own study guide. Although the course can be fully experienced with just the video and study guide, participants are also encouraged to have a copy of *Believe: Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus*, which includes selections from the *New International Version* that relate to each week's session. Reading *Believe* as you go through the study will provide even deeper insights and make the journey even richer and more meaningful.

## Facilitation

Each group should appoint a leader who is responsible for starting the video and for keeping track of time during discussions and activities. Leaders may also read questions aloud and monitor discussions, prompting participants to respond and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate. (For more thorough instructions, see the Leader's Guide included at the back of this guide.)



## Session 1

# HOW DO I WORSHIP GOD?

---

### WELCOME

---

A simple definition for the practice of worship is “attributing worth to someone or something.” Worship is not an earthly event you attend but rather a heavenly activity in which you take part. As a Christian, in your personal and corporate worship of God, you are attributing or ascribing worth to him . . . and to him alone. Regardless of the method of praise—whether singing, speaking, or other expression—you are both believing of him and communicating to him, “God, you are worthy.” You are declaring he is worthy—and everything and anything else is not. Worship is the catalyst that moves you from believing in God with your head to a belief that sits deep in your heart. It changes who you are and your knowledge of who God is.

## VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

Welcome to session one of *Act Like Jesus*. If this is your first time together as a group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. As you watch the video, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- **Key Question:** How do I honor God in the way he \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- **Key Idea:** I worship God for \_\_\_\_\_ he is and what he has \_\_\_\_\_ for me.
- **Key Verse:** “Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with \_\_\_\_\_ and extol him with music and song” (Psalm 95:1-2).
- **(Key Application #1):** I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge God for who he is and what he has done for me.
- **(Key Application #2):** I worship God, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, with the songs I sing, the words I speak, and the way I live my life.
- **(Key Application #3):** When I attribute \_\_\_\_\_ to God as a child of God, unmerited worth is attributed to me.

---

## GETTING STARTED

---

Begin your discussion by reciting the key verse and key idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.



**KEY VERSE:** “Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song” (Psalm 95:1-2).

**KEY IDEA:** I worship God for who he is and what he has done for me.

---

## GROUP DISCUSSION

---

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging? Why?

- I thank God daily for who he is and what he is doing in my life.
- I attend religious services and worship with other believers each week.

- I give God the credit for all that I am and all that I possess.
- I am not ashamed for others to know that I worship God.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the two to three questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's key idea.

1. What are some ways you can list of how worship can be expressed to God?

---

---

---

---

2. What about God's character compels you to give him your worship?

---

---

---

---

3. Which worship song lyrics best describe your thoughts and feelings about God?

---

---

---

---

4. In what ways do you see your fellow group members expressing worship to God?

---

---

---

---

---

Read Matthew 23:1-28 and choose one to two questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

1. In what ways can worship become a heartless ritual?

---

---

---

---

---

2. What do you learn from Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees? How can you keep from making the same mistake?

---

---

---

---

---

3. What has God done in your life that has produced a desire to worship him?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## CASE STUDY

---

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's key idea into practice.

You became friends with Tiago three years ago when your sons started playing soccer together. As you cheer on the boys, your conversations often lead to serious topics, such as faith, politics, and college football. Tiago describes himself as a spiritual person who keeps his beliefs private. He occasionally says, "I've never felt the need to make my faith public. What's the point?"

Using the following key applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Tiago?



**KEY APPLICATION #1:** I daily acknowledge God for who he is and what he has done for me.

**KEY APPLICATION #2:** I worship God, privately and corporately, with the songs I sing, the words I speak, and the way I live my life.

**KEY APPLICATION #3:** When I attribute worth to God as a child of God, unmerited worth is attributed to me.

---

---

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

---

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's key idea into practice.

---

## **FOR NEXT WEEK**

---

Before your next group meeting, be sure to read through the following personal study and complete the exercises.

### **VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY**

deserves / who, done / thanksgiving / daily / privately, corporately / worth

# PERSONAL STUDY



Every session in this guide contains a personal study to help you make meaningful connections between your life and what you are learning each week. Take some time after your group meeting each week to read through this section and complete the personal study. In total, the personal study should take about one hour to complete. Some people like to spread it out, devoting about ten to fifteen minutes a day. Others choose one larger block of time during the week to work through the entire personal study in one sitting. There is no right or wrong way to do this! Just choose a plan that best fits your needs and schedule from week to week, and then allow the Scripture to take root in your heart.

---

## KEY QUESTION

---

### HOW DO I HONOR GOD IN THE WAY HE DESERVES?

True worship honors God in the way he deserves. It declares our belief that God is the one true God. It expresses our belief in God's care and acknowledges he has provided the way for us to be made right with him. Our worship is based on the fact that the Bible directs our beliefs and actions and that our worth and significance come from God. As we recognize him as the head of the church and believe he loves all people, we respond to others with compassion—because that is who God

is. We honor him as the one who is the owner of all things, including us.

Worshiping God can be expressed in many different forms and diverse environments, but it is what we believe in our hearts that matters to God. Throughout the Bible, God's people demonstrated their devotion to him with singing, dancing, sacrifices, and public and private prayer. But what is most important to God is the motivation that directs our actions.

God wants us to put him before all else and honor him above everything else—including ourselves. Of course, putting God first can be challenging, because there is a cost involved. However, we must acknowledge that God *deserves* our worship, and we must choose to honor him at all times in every situation. Our motivation for worship is based on who God is and what he has done for us. This is the heart of worship that honors God in the way he deserves.

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song (Psalm 95:1–2).*

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:19–23).*

1. What attitude should you have when you worship God?

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why does God deserve your worship?

---

---

---

---

---

---

### KEY IDEA

---

#### I WORSHIP GOD FOR WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR ME

Jesus said, “True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth” (John 4:23–24). True worship is not about being at a precise location but about having an intimate spiritual longing. God seeks worshipers who, through the power of his Spirit, will attribute worth to him in any location and for the right reasons—because he is truth.

In the psalms, we read that we are to “ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name” and “worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness” (Psalm 29:2). We are to “extol the LORD” and “praise him” (Psalm 109:30). Our motivation for this

centers around what God had done for us and our response to his grace. God, not our circumstances, drives true worship. We are not called to merely go through the motions but to *authentically* worship God from our hearts.

Worshiping the one true God for who he is and what he has done is something we can share with the world. We can worship God from our hearts through every single breath, expression, thought, and activity of our lives. Doing this habitually—and also in community—will surely lead us closer to the great and gracious God of the universe.

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:15–17).*

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*

*Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the LORD is God.*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture  
(Psalm 100:1–3).*

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thesalonians 5:16–18).*

1. What attitudes and actions constitute proper worship?

---

---

---

---

---

2. What are the benefits of worshipping with other believers?

---

---

---

---

---

---

### KEY APPLICATION

---

#### WHAT DIFFERENCE THIS MAKES

Since the fall of humankind in the garden of Eden, our greatest struggle has been the desire to be our own god. While most of us would not wish to have the responsibility and burden of calling the shots for the entire world, we *do* want to be the god of our own lives. We want to do what we want, when we want, where we want, and with whom we want.

When we engage in worship, we crawl off the *throne* of God (where we do not belong) and crawl onto the *altar* of God (where we do belong). In this exchange, we surrender control and attribute worth to God—and he, in turn, attributes his worth back to us as his children. Worship expresses the relationship we have with God. The stronger the relationship and

the deeper the intimacy, the greater the worship. This leads to us having a deeper love for God.

Worship is connected to our hearts as believers. Our deep respect, awe, joy, gratitude, and relief at God's blessings may overwhelm us to the point where we don't care about anyone or anything except worshiping God in the Spirit and in truth. The point is not about how we worship but about our hearts! It is about how much love and devotion exist in our lives for God. Someone in quiet meditation can be just as deep in adoration of God as the one whose voice is raised—and vice versa. True worship is simply a reflection of our hearts as believers.

*Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.*

*As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart. . . . When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"*

*David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD (2 Samuel 6:14–16, 20–21).*

*May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer (Psalm 19:14).*

1. How do you see the hearts of other believers displayed through worship?

---

---

---

---

---

2. What happens when your focus is on the *means* of expressing worship rather than the *content* of your worship?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## EVALUATE

---

As you conclude this personal study, use a scale of 1–6 to rate how strongly you believe the following statements (1 = no belief at all, 6 = complete confidence):

- \_\_\_ I thank God daily for who he is and what he is doing in my life.
- \_\_\_ I attend religious services and worship with other believers each week.
- \_\_\_ I give God the credit for all that I am and all that I possess.
- \_\_\_ I am not ashamed for others to know that I worship God.

---

## TAKE ACTION

---

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week's key verse to memory.



**KEY VERSE:** “Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song” (Psalm 95:1-2).

Recite this week's key idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, *Does my life reflect this statement?*

**KEY IDEA:** I worship God for who he is and what he has done for me.



Answer the following questions to help you apply this week's key idea to your own life.

1. How could this practice express itself in your life?

---

---

---

---

---

2. What visible attributes can be found in someone committed to the practice of worship?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. What impedes your ability to make worship part of your everyday activity? How can you overcome this obstacle?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. What step can you take this week to give God more honor and praise?

---

---

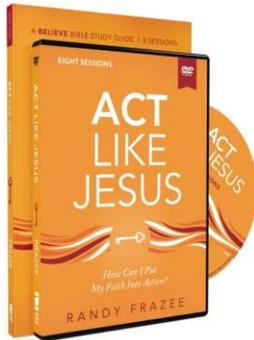
---

---

---

---

---



# ACT LIKE JESUS

by RANDY FRAZEE

## Believe in Your Heart, Not Just in Your Head

There is a difference between believing something and allowing those beliefs to shape your actions. To become like Jesus, your beliefs need to not only inform you but also transform you. It is the practice of reaching up to God and out to others that will drive beliefs from your head to your heart. *Act Like Jesus* teaches you the life-giving spiritual disciplines that will lead you in fulfilling your mission to love God and love your neighbor.

[LEARN MORE](#)