



RIDGELINES

A SIX-DAY GOSPEL STUDY



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OPENING LETTER

Imagine a ridgeline in the distance—a high crest revealing both the terrain below and the trail unfolding ahead. For hikers, ridgelines offer clarity and perspective amidst disorienting landscapes. In the same way, this devotional, *Ridgelines: A Six-Day Gospel Study*, serves as a ridgeline, enabling readers to navigate the Gospels with greater confidence. We invite you to discover their depth and beauty in a new and meaningful way.

Following Jesus demands we immerse our minds and hearts in His teachings. Being His disciple means aligning our lives more closely with His example through the help of the Holy Spirit. The four Gospels serve as a practical and enriching guide to sustain us along this journey. Each Gospel offers a unique lens on Jesus' story, and together they form a unified picture of His mission, message, and love.

This devotional is designed to guide you through the Gospels in six days. Each day involves reading about fourteen chapters, which may seem daunting. But this approach allows you to see the bigger picture—grasping the overarching narrative and themes of Scripture. By immersing yourself in the flow of the Gospels, you'll begin to see connections and truths bubble to the surface in ways a slower pace might miss.

We pray this devotional inspires you to see the Gospels with fresh eyes, gain new perspective on the life and ministry of our Savior, and awaken a deeper hunger for Him in your heart. Prayerfully linger with these words and stories; they are life to your bones (Prov. 3:8)!

Respectfully,
Joe Riddle
Founder, Chief Researcher

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

This study spans six days, with each day covering about fourteen chapters. This brisk pace offers a broad view of Jesus' life and ministry within a single week of devotional reading. By engaging with so much Scripture in a short time, you'll gain a clearer perspective on overarching themes while recognizing both the shared elements and unique features of each Gospel.

Each day's reading includes the following components:

- 1) **Brief Insight:** Start with a thought-provoking insight to prepare your heart for Scripture.
- 2) **Daily Reading:** Engage with approximately fourteen chapters each day to capture the full arc of Jesus' ministry.
- 3) **Key Verse:** Highlight a verse or passage that deeply resonates with you, as led by the Holy Spirit.
- 4) **Reflection Question:** Conclude with a question to help internalize the Gospel message and encourage spiritual growth.

Reading fourteen chapters in a day may feel daunting, so consider breaking it into manageable portions, such as morning and evening sessions. Alternatively, you can listen to an audio Bible during your daily routine. Find a rhythm of engagement with God's Word that fits your schedule.

At the conclusion of the study, you'll find a printable checklist to track your progress and celebrate each step completed.

Commit wholeheartedly to this journey, and may it deepen your love for Jesus while rekindling your passion for His Word.



SIX DAY READING PLAN

DAY ONE

Today's reading begins with Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, affirming Him as the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and David. These opening chapters reveal the Kingdom of Heaven breaking into the world. From John the Baptist's call to repentance to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the message is clear: *God's rule is not about earthly power but transformed hearts.* Jesus calls His followers to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16), demonstrating the profound influence we are meant to have in the world. Embracing this identity means reflecting God's character in every area of life, bringing hope, restoration, and the light of the Gospel wherever we go.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1-14

KEY VERSE:

Identify and write out the key verse that stood out to you in today's reading. *Why does it arrest your attention?*

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How do the "Kingdom of Heaven" teachings challenge your assumptions about God's power and priorities?

DAY TWO

As the shadow of the cross looms larger, Jesus calls His disciples—and us—to confront the true cost of following Him (Matthew 16:24). Taking up the cross means surrendering our plans, comforts, and even our lives to align with His will. Glory is not found in evading suffering but in embracing it through obedience to the Father.

As we turn to Mark's Gospel, a sense of urgency propels us forward (Mark 1:15). His ministry—healing the sick, casting out demons, and teaching with authority—reveals His mission to restore and redeem. Yet, His authority compels us to examine our hearts: *Do we fully submit to His lordship, or do we cling to the fleeting security of worldly comforts?* The kingdom demands our response, and the call is clear—complete trust and surrender.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 15-28, Mark 1-4

KEY VERSE:

Identify and write out the key verse that stood out to you in today's reading. *Why does it arrest your attention?*

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Where in these readings do Jesus' surprising priorities and urgent calls to trust Him catch you off guard? What makes them so challenging for you?

DAY THREE

Mark's Gospel paints a vivid picture of Jesus' relentless ministry. He heals the sick, teaches with authority, and confronts spiritual darkness, demonstrating His dominion over both physical and spiritual realms. Through His care for individuals we discover His deeply personal nature. *Jesus is not only powerful—He is compassionate and attentive to the brokenhearted.*

At the heart of Mark's narrative lies the profound paradox of the Servant King. He declares His mission plainly (Mark 10:45). His selfless love reaches its ultimate expression at the cross, where Jesus' humility and sacrifice shine in full measure. His example challenges us to sacrificially serve others and embrace humility.

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 5-16

KEY VERSE:

Identify and write out the key verse that stood out to you in today's reading. *Why does it arrest your attention?*

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How does Jesus' unwavering resolve in Mark 5-16 challenge you to persevere in faith despite obstacles and opposition?

DAY FOUR

Luke's Gospel unfolds with a breathtaking vision of God's redemption plan. Mary's song of praise sets the tone, celebrating God's mercy and justice: the arrival of Jesus is Good News for the humble and overlooked. *Salvation has come for all—not just the powerful or privileged.*

Jesus' ministry heals lepers, forgives sinners, and restores those who are broken. Through parables like the Good Samaritan, He challenges perceptions of mercy and neighborliness. As Jesus sets His face toward Jerusalem, His teachings grow more urgent, calling followers to take up their cross daily. *His words leave no room for half-hearted faith.* True discipleship demands surrender—aligning our lives, priorities, and comforts with God's redemptive mission.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1-12

KEY VERSE:

Identify and write out the key verse that stood out to you in today's reading. *Why does it arrest your attention?*

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How does Luke's portrayal of Jesus's compassion for all people deepen your understanding of God's grace and influence how you relate to others each day?

DAY FIVE

As Luke draws to a close, we see Jesus approaching Jerusalem, His compassion and resolve shining through. He weeps over the city, grieving its blindness to the peace He offers. This poignant moment captures His heart: to seek and save the lost.

John's Gospel presents Jesus as the light of the world, piercing the darkness with truth and grace. Through His encounters, we see a Savior who does more than address physical needs—He transforms hearts. *This transformation is neither casual nor accommodating but marked by holiness and purity.* His work is saturated with steadfast love and defined by unwavering holiness. In a culture eager to remake Jesus in its own image, John's Gospel confronts us with a Savior who calls us to conform to Him, not the other way around.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 13-24, John 1-4

KEY VERSE:

Identify and write out the key verse that stood out to you in today's reading. *Why does it arrest your attention?*

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How does John's proclamation of Jesus as the Word made flesh change the way you see God's closeness and live for Him?

DAY SIX

In John 5-21, Jesus reveals His divine authority through powerful signs that confront both physical and spiritual realms. His miracles spark intense opposition from religious leaders who reject His claim as the Son of God. But Jesus cuts through the opposition, declaring that belief in Him offers not just healing but eternal life. Each encounter shows that He is the source of true life, calling all to trust in Him for restoration that transcends the physical and reaches the eternal.

Salvation is a sovereign work of God. Jesus' call to believe is not an invitation but a divine command that demands a response. *Have you surrendered to His authority and embraced the eternal life He offers?*

SCRIPTURE READING: John 5-21

KEY VERSE:

Identify and write out the key verse that stood out to you in today's reading. *Why does it arrest your attention?*

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How does Jesus' claim as "the resurrection and the life" and His victory over death shape your hope for now and eternity?

READING TRACKER

ADDITIONAL REFLECTION PROMPTS:

As you journey through the Gospels, reflect on these questions.

1) In each Gospel, Jesus faces distinct conflicts and criticisms. How do these confrontations clarify His authority and reshape your view of true righteousness?

2) What unique themes or emphases in each Gospel surprise you, and how do they together form a more complete picture of Jesus' identity and purpose?

3) As you move rapidly through the four accounts, how do the various calls to follow Jesus (obedience, urgency, surrender, abiding) collectively reshape your day-to-day discipleship?

READING TRACKER:

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
<input type="checkbox"/> MT 1	<input type="checkbox"/> MT 15	<input type="checkbox"/> MK 5	<input type="checkbox"/> LK 1	<input type="checkbox"/> LK 13	<input type="checkbox"/> JN 5
<input type="checkbox"/> MT 2	<input type="checkbox"/> MT 16	<input type="checkbox"/> MK 6	<input type="checkbox"/> LK 2	<input type="checkbox"/> LK 14	<input type="checkbox"/> JN 6
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<input type="checkbox"/> MT 8	<input type="checkbox"/> MT 22	<input type="checkbox"/> MK 12	<input type="checkbox"/> LK 8	<input type="checkbox"/> LK 20	<input type="checkbox"/> JN 12
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				<input type="checkbox"/> JN 3	<input type="checkbox"/> JN 19
				<input type="checkbox"/> JN 4	<input type="checkbox"/> JN 20
					<input type="checkbox"/> JN 21

MEET

JOE RIDDLE



Joe Riddle, Founder & Chief Researcher

LIFE & CAREER

Joe launched Danger Close Consulting in 2022. He currently serves as a preaching & teaching pastor at Wave Church where he has served in varying roles since 2010.

He completed a masters degree of divinity at Regent University in 2023. His area of specialty is Biblical language studies.

He regularly speaks in church, conference, and intensive lecture settings.

His four children keep him on his knees believing for God's wisdom and protection.

When Joe isn't serving churches through the efforts of Danger Close, you are likely to find him on a date with his wife, Rachel, or enjoying a long distance run somewhere in the woods.

Feel free to drop Joe a message at joe@dangercloseco.com. He'd love to hear from you!



About Danger Close Consulting

There are more demands on pastors than ever before. In this ever-changing world, one thing remains: you are called to preach and teach the Word of God boldly and without compromise. Here at Danger Close Consulting, we know balancing ministry life with the demands of regular sermon preparation can feel about as safe as a knife fight in a phonebooth... and we are here to help! Danger Close Consulting specializes in coming alongside you amid the ministry fight to provide support, encouragement, and equipping so you can stay the course in all Christ has called you to do for His name and renown.

Danger Close Consulting Objectives

- 1 Provide a faith filled, professional, & external sounding board for Gospel communicators committed to improving their craft.
- 2 Offer a full spectrum of services that enable Gospel communicators to focus on the elements of preaching and teaching that bring them true joy and fulfillment.
- 3 Through consultation and research, Danger Close accelerates the efforts of Gospel communicators to serve in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.



THE RESEARCH TEAM YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD.

For more information about how we can support
your ministry efforts, please email Joe at
joe@dangercloseco.com



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