

The Water's Edge

FUN

MONTH

The word 'MONTH' is rendered in large, bold, block letters. Each letter is a different color and contains a simple line drawing of a human sense organ. The 'M' is pink and contains an eye. The 'O' is yellow and contains a hand with fingers spread. The 'N' is green and contains a nose. The 'T' is light blue and contains a tongue sticking out. The 'H' is purple and contains an ear.

Coming to your Senses - Interactive Guide



SEE THE WORLD AND PEOPLE LIKE JESUS DOES



EXPERIENCE JESUS' HEALING TOUCH



DEVELOP A SWEET CHRIST-LIKE AROMA



EXPERIENCE A FLAVORFUL LIFE



HEAR THE VOICE OF JESUS CLEARLY

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A picture is worth a thousand words.
Touch is the most powerful form of connection.
Smell is the memory that never fades.
Taste tells a story.
Sound has the power to stir the soul.

Our senses are powerful. They shape how we understand the world, feel connection, and find joy. Our senses not only help us explore the world but also experience God. Through our senses, God reaches us in ways words alone never could. This Fun Month, we'll connect with God through our five senses.

Join us for this full-sensory sermon series as we come to our senses together!





WEEK 1: SEE

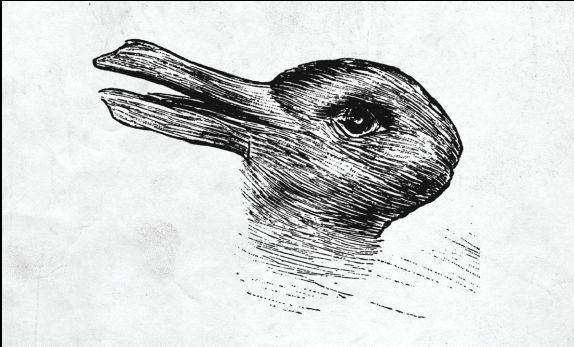
We see the world more clearly when we view it through the eyes of Jesus.

Matthew 6:22-23

The **eye** is the lamp of the body. If your **eyes** are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your **eyes** are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

What do you think Jesus means by “the eye is the lamp of the body”?

VISION TEST



- What animal do you see? (*Hint: There are two!*)

What we focus on directly shapes our perceptions.

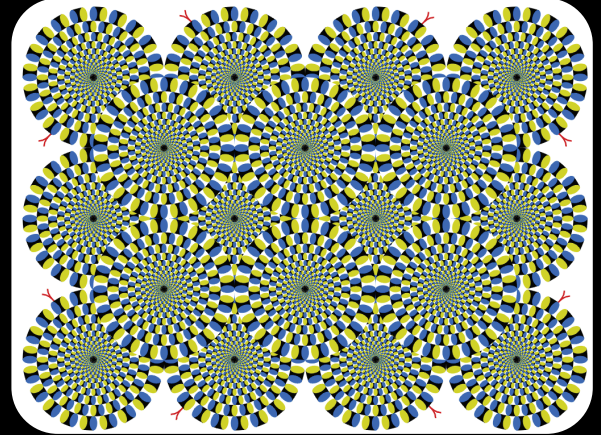
- Just like this image can be seen in two different ways, how might our spiritual focus change the way we see people, situations, or even ourselves?
- What does it mean to see with “healthy eyes” in your everyday life?

- Is this image moving? (*Hint: No!*)

The Rotating Snakes image stops moving if you stare at one part of it. It continues to rotate as your eyes scan around. The image isn't actually moving at all. Our eyes are just tricking us.

We don't always see things accurately – factors like pride, anger, fear, distraction, or cultural biases can cloud our vision.

- What makes our eyes “unhealthy”? What else can cloud or distort our spiritual vision?
- Can you recall a time when you realized you were seeing someone or something inaccurately? What cleared your perspective of the situation?
- How can we enhance our vision and see the world and God's people the way Jesus does?
- What would change in your life if you consistently viewed others through the eyes of Christ?



SEEING LIKE JESUS

*Choose one of the following practices to try out during the upcoming week.
Share with your group or a partner which practice you intend to try.*


When Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

-Matthew 9:36

PRACTICE #1: Seeing People like Jesus

Choose one day in the week to intentionally slow down and look for people you would usually overlook. Make it your goal to see someone as Jesus would and do one small act of kindness or speak one word of encouragement.

Reflect: How did it feel to notice someone in this way?



Then the One sitting on the throne said, “See! I am making all things new.”

-Revelation 21:5



PRACTICE #2: *Seeing the World Like Jesus*

Slow down and intentionally observe creation through Jesus' eyes—notice beauty, value, and purpose. Take a 30-minute walk in a local park, neighborhood, or scan the QR code for our **Five Senses Prayer Path Devotional**. As you walk, observe the natural world and people with this prayer in mind: “*Jesus, help me see what You see.*”



Reflect: *What beauty or detail did you notice?*



FILL IN THE BLANK PRAYER

Jesus,

I recognize I often see the world through a lens clouded by _____.

Help me to see the beauty and goodness of this world through Your eyes.

I admit I have looked at people with a lens distorted by _____.

Help me to see people the way You see them.

Clear my vision so I can see like You and renew my mind so I can be like You.

Amen.



**“YOU NEVER LOCK EYES WITH
SOMEONE GOD DOESN'T LOVE.”**

—Rick Warren





WEEK 2: TOUCH

We are never beyond Jesus's reach to be restored

Luke 5:12-16

In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. "Lord," he said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean."

Jesus **reached out** and **touched him**. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. Then Jesus instructed him not to tell anyone what had happened. He said, "Go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed."

But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

What stands out to you about the way the man with leprosy approaches Jesus?

What did he say and why? The man asked to be "healed" and "made clean". What's the difference?

TOUCH TEST

Feel the textured strip on the page.

- How would you describe how the sticker feels to someone who can't touch it?

Touch conveys feelings that words cannot accurately describe.

- Why do you think Jesus used touch to heal this man with leprosy instead of words?

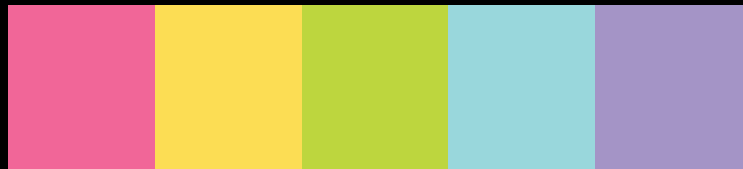
Feel the textured strip again. It's rough to the touch. The bumps keep it from being smooth. Jesus does not avoid the rough or bumpy parts of our lives. He reaches out to touch them.

- A man with an advanced case of leprosy wouldn't have been touched by anyone for a long time, out of fear of catching his disease. Jesus still reached out and touched him. What are some "diseases" or wounds today that make people feel like they are beyond Jesus' reach or unworthy of His healing touch?

- The man didn't doubt Jesus's power, only His willingness. Have you ever wondered, "Is Jesus willing to heal me?"

- What do you think it means to be "restored" by Jesus, beyond physical healing? Have you ever experienced a kind of restoration in your own life?

- Describe a time when you experienced Jesus reaching out to touch you spiritually or emotionally. What was it like for you?



REACHING FOR JESUS

Choose one of the following practices to try out during the upcoming week. Share with your group or a partner which practice you intend to try.

They brought the sick and laid them before Jesus, and He placed His hands on each one and healed them.”

-Luke 4:40

PRACTICE #1: Close Enough to Touch

The sick and hurting would often seek after Jesus, hoping to get close enough for Him to touch them and heal them. Plan to spend some time intentionally getting closer to Jesus this week. Take 30 minutes to go to a place where you feel close to Jesus – watch a sunrise, visit a place meaningful to you, or walk the Prayer Path. Pray: “Jesus, help me to feel Your presence.”

Reflect: What did you experience during this time?

PRACTICE #2: Reach Out like Jesus

Think of someone in your life who may feel overlooked, isolated, or “untouchable” emotionally or socially. Take the initiative to reach out to them through a visit, a text, a hug, or an act of kindness.

Reflect: Who did you reach out to this week? What was it like for you?

I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

-John 13:15



FILL IN THE BLANK PRAYER

Jesus,

Even when I feel _____.

I know You are willing to reach out and touch my life with healing.

Thank You for _____ and for reminding me
that I am never out of Your reach.

Help me extend Your love by _____

and being Your hands to those in need.

Amen.



**“THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS
A LIFE GOD CANNOT REDEEM.”**

—Beth Moore





WEEK 3: SMELL


We are the aroma of Christ—we make His presence known to others.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a **sweet perfume**. Our lives are a **Christ-like fragrance** rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are **a life-giving perfume**. And who is adequate for such a task as this?

Why do you think Paul chose the metaphor of scent to describe the way Christians impact the people around them?

SMELL TEST



You have two scratch-and-sniff stickers: one smells pleasant, and the other does not. Scratch and sniff the pleasant sticker.

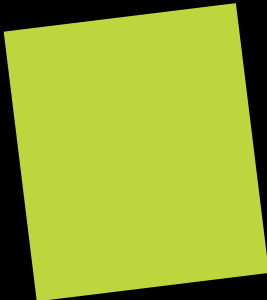
- Describe someone you know whose life emits the “sweet perfume of Christ.”

What makes it noticeable? How does being around them affect you?

- If your life gives off a “scent” to others when you’re in the room, what would people say it smells like?

Examples: peace, joy, impatience, stress, etc.

Now, scratch and sniff the stinky sticker.



Some people might actually like this smell. It depends on the person. Paul writes, “To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom” (v. 16). Why might the aroma of Christ smell bad to some people?

- Paul talks about God “spreading the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere” (v.14). What does it look like to do this in real life? How do we spread the knowledge of Jesus?
- An appealing smell can be attractive and inviting. How does the “scent” of our life invite and bring others closer to Jesus?
- What’s one space (home, workplace, school, etc.) where you want to be more intentional about carrying the aroma of Christ? What might that look like this week?

SMELLING LIKE JESUS

Choose one of the following practices to try out during the upcoming week. Share with your group or a partner which practice you intend to try.

Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

-Ephesians 5:2

PRACTICE #1: *Being a Pleasing Aroma*

Choose one place you frequent—your workplace, home, or school—and aim to be a kind, peaceful, and Christ-like presence there all week. Bring the “aroma of Christ” not just through what you say but how you act.

Reflect: What did you do or say to be a pleasing aroma in this place? How did it feel?

*The sweet smell of incense can make you feel good,
but true friendship is better still.*

-Proverbs 27:9

PRACTICE #2: Speaking Words that are Sweet

Spend one day this week intentionally offering words that “smell sweet”—encouragement, gratitude, or praise. Write three handwritten notes, send texts, or make calls that speak life into someone’s day. Let your words leave behind the sweet aroma of Christ.

Reflect: Who did you encourage? How did it feel to send these?





FILL IN THE BLANK PRAYER

Jesus,

I recognize that my life sometimes gives off the scent of _____ instead of the fragrance of You. Help me to carry the fragrance of Your love and grace wherever I go.

This week, I hope to be a sweet perfume to others by _____.

Make my life a pleasing aroma to You—one that invites others to know You, trust You, and follow You.

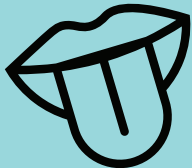
Amen.



**“THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST IS
NOT SOMETHING WE WEAR FOR AN
HOUR ON SUNDAY. IT’S THE SCENT
OF A SURRENDERED LIFE.”**

— Christine Caine





WEEK 4: TASTE

Jesus makes life more flavorful—He turns the ordinary into extraordinary.

John 2:1-11

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

When the master of ceremonies **tasted** the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!" This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

This was Jesus' first miracle. He didn't heal or preach – He turned water into wine.
Why do you think He chose to "reveal His glory" in this way?

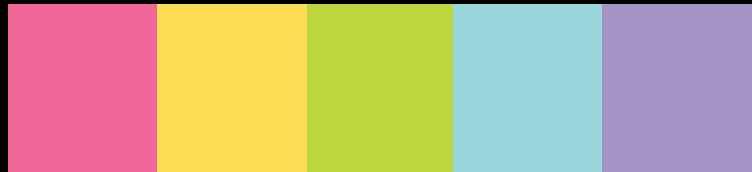
TASTE TEST

- Describe the best meal you've ever had. What made this meal extraordinary and different from other meals?

Jesus uses our physical senses to guide us to spiritual truths. The extraordinary quality of the wine symbolized how Jesus transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary.

- Have there been times when you've "tasted" the goodness of God?
- The wine Jesus made wasn't just sufficient — it was the best. What does it say about Jesus that He doesn't provide the bare minimum, but He provides the best? How have you experienced this to be true?

- Jesus transforms the ordinary (water) into something extraordinary (wine). What ordinary parts of your life do you think He wants to transform — relationships, work, faith, etc.?
- Jesus tells the servants to fill the jars with water — an ordinary task. How might Jesus use your everyday actions as a setup for something miraculous?



A BETTER FLAVOR

Choose one of the following practices to try out during the upcoming week. Share with your group or a partner which practice you intend to try.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

-Psalm 34:8

PRACTICE #1: Savor God's Goodness

Each day this week, take a moment to slowly savor one ordinary thing or moment— a bite of food, a moment of quiet, a conversation, a beautiful sight — and thank Jesus for it. Acknowledge how the ordinary can be extraordinary. Practice gratitude for the “flavor” of simple blessings.

Reflect: What small moment or simple joy felt flavorful this week? How did intentionally savoring it change your perspective?

PRACTICE #2:

Bring the Good Wine

Go above and beyond in one area of your life this week — whether it's how you serve, listen, or give. Surprise someone with unexpected kindness or generosity, showing how Jesus makes life richer.

Reflect: What did you do to “bring the better wine” to someone’s life? What impact did it have on them and you?

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

-Acts 2:46





FILL IN THE BLANK PRAYER

Jesus,

I admit that I often consume things of this world without thinking of You. Help me to recognize Your extraordinary work in _____. I believe You can take my ordinary and make it extraordinary. Help turn my _____ into _____. Give me opportunities and courage to _____ so that through me, others might taste and see that You are good.

Amen.



**“JESUS DOESN'T JUST CHANGE WHAT
WE DO-HE CHANGES HOW WE SEE.
SUDDENLY, ORDINARY MOMENTS
BECOME DIVINE APPOINTMENTS.”**

—Bob Goff





WEEK 5: HEAR

*When we recognize the sound of the Shepherd's voice,
we can trust and follow Him.*

John 10:1-6

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep **hear** his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know **his voice**. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

What do the different characters in this passage (*the shepherd, sheep, gatekeeper, thief, and stranger*) represent? How do they help us understand Jesus' message?

HEARING TEST

Scan the QR code to play the Guess That Sound game individually or with your group.



- Which sound from the Guess That Sound game was easiest for you to recognize? Why do you think that is?

The more often we hear a sound, the more easily we recognize it.

- How can we grow in our ability to recognize Jesus' voice more clearly and consistently?
- Share about a time when you felt confident that God was speaking to you. What did it sound like or feel like? What helped you recognize it as God?
- Jesus says the sheep won't follow a stranger's voice because they don't recognize it. What are some of these stranger voices that try to get us to follow them?
- When you're seeking guidance or clarity, how do you tell the difference between God's voice and your own thoughts or outside influences?
- The sheep don't just recognize the voice; they trust and follow it. Is there an area in your life right now where you hear Jesus' voice but are struggling to follow? What's holding you back?



HEARING LIKE JESUS

Choose one of the following practices to try out during the upcoming week. Share with your group or a partner which practice you intend to try.

Be still, and know that I am God.

-Psalm 46:10

PRACTICE #1: *Quiet the Noise*

Choose a 15-minute window to sit in silence without music, phone, or distractions. Use the time to pray simply: “Jesus, help me hear Your voice today.” Let your mind settle and be attentive to God’s voice.

Reflect: What distractions were hardest to let go of? How did you hear from God during this time?

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”

-Isaiah 30:21

PRACTICE #2: Follow the Voice

What is something you’ve been hearing from God lately, but haven’t acted on? It could be reaching out to someone, speaking something you’ve been nervous to say or making a courageous decision. Follow the voice this week and act on it.

Reflect: What was it like to respond to God’s voice? How did it affect you or others?





FILL IN THE BLANK PRAYER

Jesus,

I recognize that I often listen more to _____ than to Your voice.

Help me to quiet the noise and tune in to what You are saying.

I am praying to hear Your response to this question or situation:

Help me to trust Your voice enough to follow where You lead.

Train my ears to hear You clearly, and shape my heart to follow You fully.

Amen.



**“THE VOICE OF THE LORD IS
GENTLE AND FIRM. IT DOES NOT
DRIVE OR CONFUSE; IT LEADS.”**

—Priscilla Shirer





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