

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

True North

SERIES

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Various scriptures

SYNOPSIS

VBS follow-up message.

HIGHLIGHTS





## ☞ TRUE NORTH

### ☞ VBS recap video

Let's take a little mental trip. Imagine you're in the middle of a snowy forest in the Yukon. It's beautiful; peaceful; quiet. But then snow starts falling... harder and harder. The trail behind you? Gone. You turn around, but it's all trees; snow; silence. And your phone? No signal. Now what? You feel that slow rise of panic, trying to remember the way you came, but all the paths look the same. There's no one around. And every step you take feels like it could be the wrong one. Sometimes, life feels just like that.

Maybe you're trying to figure out who you are. Maybe you're facing a major decision. Maybe something unexpected happened... an illness, a breakup, a loss... and now everything familiar is buried under a fresh layer of uncertainty. But here's the good news that VBS is shouting from the rooftops this year: We don't have to figure life out alone. We have a True North. We have Jesus. He's not just a faraway star in the sky, He's close. He walks with us. And today, we're going to talk about five moments in life where we can trust Jesus to lead the way.

### ☞ 'Tis' so sweet video

#### ☞ Slide 1. WHEN WE WONDER... WE CAN TRUST JESUS

Let's start with something we all deal with... questions. Even little kids ask deep things: "Why do people die?" "If God is good, why is the world so sad?" "Does God even see me?"

We all wonder. In John 1, people were wondering too. John the Baptist was baptizing crowds in the Jordan River. People came with their questions... about the kingdom, about the Messiah, about what was coming. And then one day, Jesus showed up. John pointed to Him and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" And then something amazing happened. Jesus was baptized, and in that moment: The heavens opened; The Holy Spirit descended like a dove; A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

Can you imagine hearing God speak out loud? That moment was God's way of saying, "You don't have to guess what I'm like anymore. You don't have to wonder who I am. Look at Jesus. He's the full picture." So, when life gets confusing and the big questions start rolling in, we don't have to panic.

#### ☞ Slide 2. Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

When we wonder—we can trust Jesus. He's the answer when we're unsure. He's our True North when we're asking, "Which way should we go?"

#### ☞ Slide 3. WHEN WE FEEL ALONE... WE CAN TRUST JESUS



Let's shift gears a little. Some of us have felt something even heavier than confusion – loneliness. Have you ever been the one not invited? Have you sat in a room full of people and still felt invisible? Maybe your family feels distant. Or maybe you're in a season of life where no one seems to check in.

Jesus told a story for moments like that. He said, *"If a shepherd has 100 sheep and one wanders off, won't he leave the 99 and go after the one?"* And when he finds it—he doesn't scold it. He throws a party. That's what Jesus is like. He doesn't forget you. He doesn't say, "Well, at least I still have 99." He says, "I see you. I'm coming for you. You matter." Even when the world forgets you, Jesus doesn't.

☞ Slide 4. Deuteronomy 31:8 says, "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

When we feel alone—we can trust Jesus. Because He always comes looking for us.

☞ Slide 5. **WHEN WE FEEL POWERLESS... WE CAN TRUST JESUS**

What about when you're not just lonely or confused, but you've hit a wall? You're out of energy. Out of options. You feel like you've tried everything, but nothing works.

There's a man in Mark 2 who knew exactly how that felt. He was paralyzed. Couldn't walk. Couldn't work. Couldn't help himself. But he had friends who believed Jesus could help. So, they carried him; literally. They pushed through crowds. They climbed a roof. They tore it open. And they lowered him down right in front of Jesus.

And what did Jesus do? First, He looked at the man and said, "Your sins are forgiven." Wait—what? Jesus saw a deeper need than even his legs. Then, He said, "Get up. Take your mat. Go home." And the man walked out of that house completely healed. You see, Jesus brings spiritual *and* physical restoration. He steps into our weakness and brings His strength.

☞ Slide 6. Isaiah 40:28-29 says, "The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus. Because He doesn't just lift us, He *heals* us.

☞ Power Shuffle video

☞ Slide 7. **WHEN WE NEED HOPE... WE CAN TRUST JESUS**

Now let's talk about one of the darkest moments imaginable. Jesus had been crucified. The disciples were devastated. They'd left everything to follow Him, and now He was gone. Hope felt buried in a tomb. But Luke 24 tells us the story didn't end there.



Two disciples were walking down the road, heavy with grief and Jesus joined them. They didn't recognize Him at first, but as He talked, something in them stirred. Later, as He broke bread with them, they realized: "It's Him!" Jesus had risen. Hope wasn't dead; hope was walking beside them.

Listen: If Jesus can come back from the grave, He can handle what you're facing. If He can breathe life into death, He can resurrect your hope too.

☞ Slide 8. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

When we need hope—we can trust Jesus. Because He conquered the darkest day in history and He's still doing it today.

☞ Slide 9. **WHEN WE NEED HELP... WE CAN TRUST JESUS**

One last truth. What about when we want to follow Jesus, but we just don't feel capable? That's where the disciples were after Jesus ascended to heaven. They knew what He told them to do... go make disciples, change the world, be the church... but they were scared. Unequipped. In over their heads.

And then Pentecost happened. The Holy Spirit came. There was a sound like a rushing wind. Flames appeared over their heads. And suddenly they were empowered. They preached boldly. They loved radically. They healed, served, and gave. And here's the best part: That same Holy Spirit is still with us today. Jesus didn't just save us, He equipped us. He didn't just say "Follow me," He gave us the power to do it. He's right there with us to help us.

☞ Slide 10. Psalm 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

When we need help—we can trust Jesus. Because He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us every step of the way.

So, let's bring it all together.

When we wonder, we can... trust Jesus... because Jesus is the answer.

When we feel alone, we can... trust Jesus... because Jesus is our friend.

When we feel powerless, we can... trust Jesus... because Jesus is our strength.

When we need hope, we can... trust Jesus... because Jesus is our resurrection.

When we need help, we can... trust Jesus... because Jesus gives us His Spirit.

☞ Slide 11. In every moment, **Jesus is our True North**, the one who guides us when the trail disappears, who steadies us when everything feels uncertain. **He doesn't just give us direction; He walks the path with us.**

☞ Let's Trust Jesus video