



JESUS-CENTERED JOURNAL

TO: _____

FROM: _____

DATE: _____



Foreword

Black holes in space are a bit of a mystery: They have a mass so great, and a gravitational pull so strong, that even light cannot escape them. When an object hurtles past a black hole's "event horizon" (an invisible boundary that marks a gravitational point of no return), that object will be irretrievably captured. There is no going back.

In Romans the Apostle Paul tells us that everything in the created world is a metaphor for God's "invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature" (Romans 1:20). So, what if the dynamics of a black hole are a metaphor for our relationship with Jesus? What if our intentional movement toward him propels us past his "event horizon," making the gravitational pull of his orbit feel like a tractor beam? And what if this close orbit of Jesus finally restores the intimacy with God we were created to enjoy?

When Jesus drove away all the crowds that had been following him by insisting that they "eat his body and drink his blood," he asked his closest friends if they were going to abandon him as well. Because Peter had already crossed his own event horizon with Jesus, he answered this way: "Lord, to whom would we go? You have words that give eternal life" (John 6:68).

This is the response of a black-hole disciple of Jesus—one who is "ruined by him, and ruined for him." That person's life, forever going forward, will be characterized by intimacy with Jesus. And that life is possible for you as well, if you will allow this journal to propel you past his event horizon.

Rick Lawrence

General Editor, *Jesus-Centered Bible*

Author, *The Jesus-Centered Life*

How to Use This Journal

Drawn closely into Jesus' orbit—that's where life is both happiest and most exciting.

Expect to meet Jesus in fresh ways as you ponder passages pointing to him from both the Old and New Testaments. Ask what these verses can help you discover about Jesus... yourself... and your growing friendship with Jesus.

Just as in the *Jesus-Centered Bible*, blue passages are those from the Old Testament that point to Jesus, and red passages are those from the New Testament.

So journal well. Think deeply... doodle playfully... let your imagination send you soaring.

It's all good—because the Jesus who holds words of life and truth is eager to meet you anywhere, anytime.





J. John 1:1-3—“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.”







J. Matthew 1:21—And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.



① 1 Corinthians 2:1-2—When I first came to you, I didn't use lofty words or impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except **Jesus Christ**, the one who was crucified.

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J. Matthew 8:20—But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”





J. John 1:14—So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.





Jesus-Centered Journal

New Living Translation

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