



MOMENTS 

SERIES



EXPLORING THE WORDS
OF JESUS TEN MINUTES
AT A TIME

by Scott Rubin



simply for students

10-Minute Moments: The Red Stuff

Exploring the Words of Jesus Ten Minutes At a Time

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INTRODUCTION

Hey!

What you hold in your hands is some powerful stuff. And I'm not saying that because I wrote it. I say it because this daily devotional is packed full of the words of the one and only, real-life original, master of the universe, Jesus. And he spoke words that heal, words that challenge, words that convict, and words that fill us with the knowledge and wisdom of God.

See? Powerful stuff! Like eating jalapeños coated in hot sauce and dipped in lava.

The whole point of this book is very simple: Give God 10 minutes a day for one month, and let him into your life. Let him speak to your heart. And let him show you all the cool stuff he has in store for you.

Too big a promise? No way! God's good for it. After all, he wants you to experience life to the fullest, one day at a time.

Just 10 minutes a day. 10 minutes! (Some of you spend more than 10 minutes trying to find where you put your other flip-flop. You might spend more than 10 minutes pounding on the bathroom door trying to get your sister to let you in. Or maybe you spend more than 10 minutes flipping channels and watching basically nothing on TV. But you could also spend 10 minutes with God—and see what he does with it.)

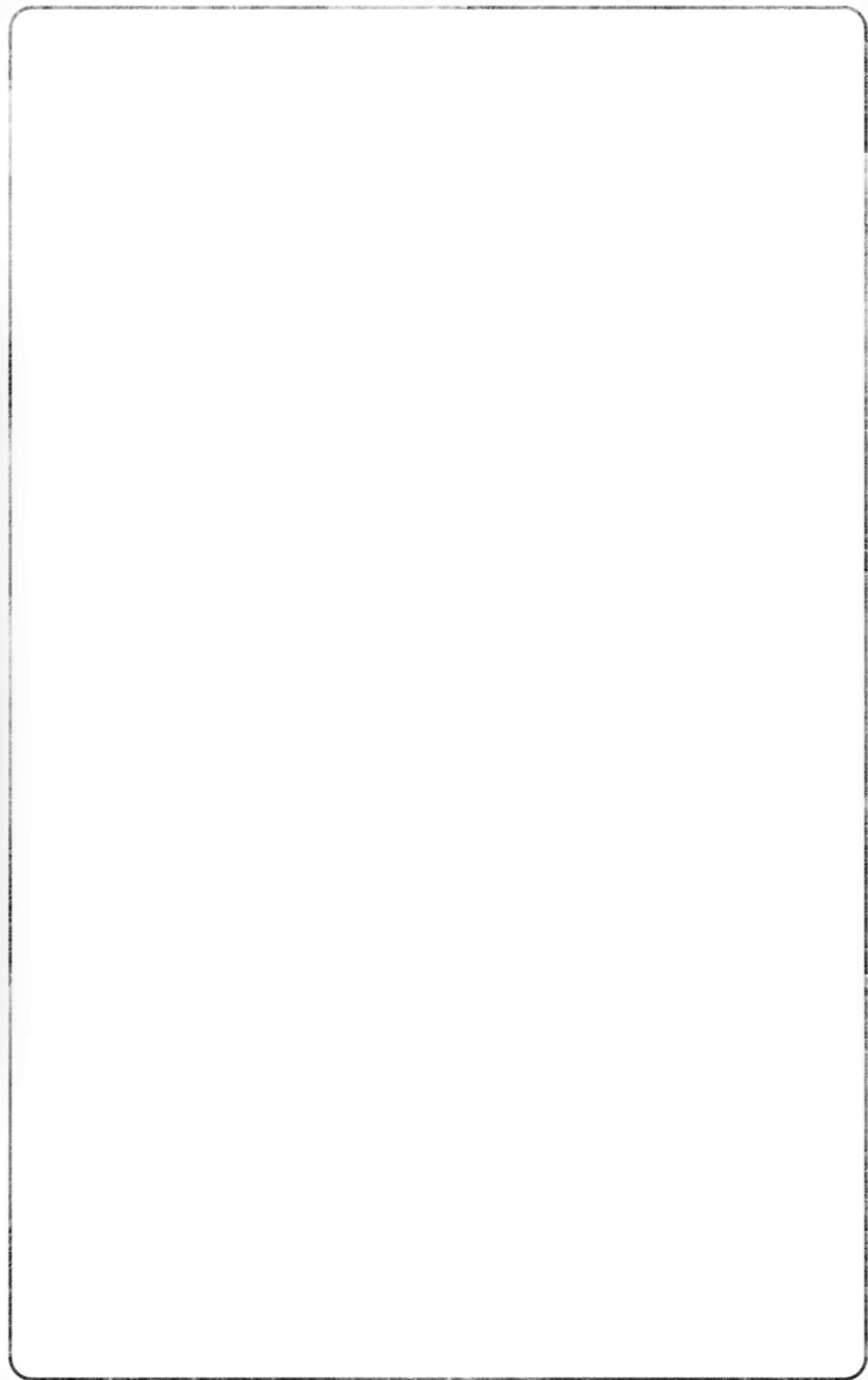
These 10-minute moments are going to invite you into the very words that Jesus spoke when he was on the planet. These words are so important that lots of Bibles printed them in red, so that we wouldn't miss them. And my good friend Leah Gleason, who's super smart and knows a TON about the Bible, worked really hard to make sure that each of these 10-minute moments would be worth your time and help you understand Jesus a little bit better. I think you're going to be amazed with what God can do when you focus on his words for even 10 minutes.

So dig in!



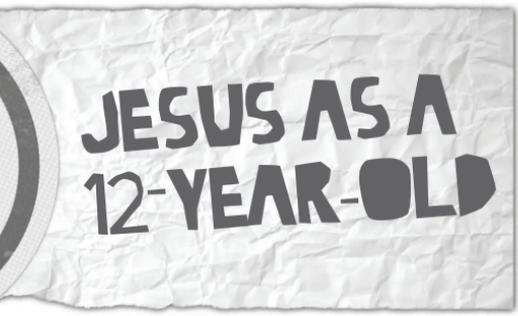
Scott Rubin







Day 1



JESUS AS A 12-YEAR-OLD

The first written record of Jesus' words ("The Red Stuff!") is when he was 12 years old. How cool is that?! Jesus really did experience life as a teenager.

And—interestingly—this first episode shows Jesus seeing things differently than his parents did. (I bet that's happened to you at least once, huh?) But even though Jesus was a human 12-year-old in a tense moment with his parents, there are strong clues that this Jesus was no "regular kid."



2 MINUTES

Read the passage below. Circle or underline any words/phrases/verses that you feel are important to remember.

Luke 2:41-52 (NLT)

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. ⁴² When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. ⁴³ After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, ⁴⁴ because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵ When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. ⁴⁶ Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. ⁴⁷ All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ His parents didn't know what to

think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."

⁴⁹ "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they didn't understand what he meant.

⁵¹ Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart.

⁵² Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

5 MINUTES

Think about the following questions and how they might apply to your life.

- After reading Luke 2:41-52, what are some of the clues that Jesus was no "regular kid"?
- Verse 46 says Joseph and Mary found Jesus sitting among the religious teachers in the temple. The teachers were amazed at his understanding and his answers. What do you think Jesus might have been talking about with them?
- Can you imagine being in Jesus' shoes, sitting among a bunch of church leaders who are amazed at your understanding and answers about the Bible? How do you think you would feel?
- When Jesus' parents confronted him about where he'd been, Jesus replied, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" What do you think Jesus meant? What makes you think that?
- Verse 51 says Mary "stored" these thoughts in her heart, meaning that she kept them in her memory. What do you think Mary specifically "stored" in her heart about Jesus? Why do you think the verse mentions that?

3 MINUTES

Hanging out with God

- What is something about Jesus that you have stored or kept close to your heart?
- Is it something he has done or something he has said in Scripture that has been really meaningful to you?
- Spend a minute reflecting on a memory you have about Jesus, and then share it with God in prayer.

THOUGHTS

This space is here for you to jot down some thoughts, write out a prayer, draw a picture, or do whatever you want to help you remember your 10-minute moment.

Day 2

NICODEMUS REBORN!

So there was this guy named Nicodemus—he was kind of a big-deal religious leader. The religious leaders were mostly concerned with making sure everybody followed all the rules they'd made. But Nicodemus heard about Jesus, and he wanted to know more about him. He sneaked out to meet Jesus at night and ask him some questions. Look for one of the most famous (and important!) verses in the Bible, toward the end of this section.

2 MINUTES

Read the passage below. Circle or underline any words/phrases/verses that you feel are important to remember.

John 3:1-17 (NLT)

¹ There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ² After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

⁴ "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

⁵ Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind

blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? ¹¹ I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. ¹² But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

5 MINUTES

Think about the following questions and how they might apply to your life.

- Verse 1 reveals that Nicodemus is a Pharisee. What do you think a Pharisee is?
- Why do you think Nicodemus sneaked out at night to meet Jesus? Do you think he was worried about being caught? Why or why not?
- In verse 3, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born again. How does Nicodemus respond? Why do you think he responded that way?
- If someone asked you, how would you describe what it means to be born again?
- Did you catch one of the most famous verses in the Bible? What is it? Do you agree this verse is important? Why or why not? (Hint: It's verse 16!)

3 MINUTES

Hanging out with God

- Is there something that you've always wanted to ask Jesus? Maybe it's something you've been afraid to say out loud or in front of others because of what they might say. Take some time and write/journal a letter to God and ask him anything that might be on your mind.

THOUGHTS

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Day 3

JESUS CALLS MATTHEW

Matthew (also called Levi) was a tax collector, not a job that attracted many friends—kind of like ticketing parked cars or towing them away. Even though tax collectors were looked down upon in those days, Matthew was one of the first people Jesus invited to follow him, and the religious leaders had a real problem with that! They thought that Jesus hung out with “sinful people” way too much. But in this Red Stuff, Jesus made it clear why he came. And it wasn’t to only hang out with “church people.”

2 MINUTES

Read the passage below. Circle or underline any words/phrases/verses that you feel are important to remember.

Mark 2:13-17 (NIV)

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi’s house, many tax collectors and “sinners” were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the “sinners” and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: “Why does he eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?”

¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

5 MINUTES

Think about the following questions and how they might apply to your life.

- Matthew is one of the first people Jesus called to follow him. Why do you think Jesus might have chosen him to be one of the first disciples?
- What was Matthew's response to Jesus? If you were Matthew, what do you think you would have done?
- Why do you think the religious leaders had such a problem with Jesus eating with tax collectors and "sinners"? Why was this such a big deal?
- If asked to explain what Jesus meant in his response to the religious leaders (verse 17), what would you say?
- Think about where you sit for lunch at school; who are the people you sit with? Are they all church people? Or does anyone at your lunch table even know that you follow Jesus?

3 MINUTES

Hanging out with God

- Have you ever thought that God might have placed you at the exact lunch table, classroom, sports team, or extracurricular activity for a reason? Maybe it's not just an accident! Pray and ask God if there's anyone he wants you to befriend.

THOUGHTS

This space is here for you to jot down some thoughts, write out a prayer, draw a picture, or do whatever you want to help you remember your 10-minute moment.