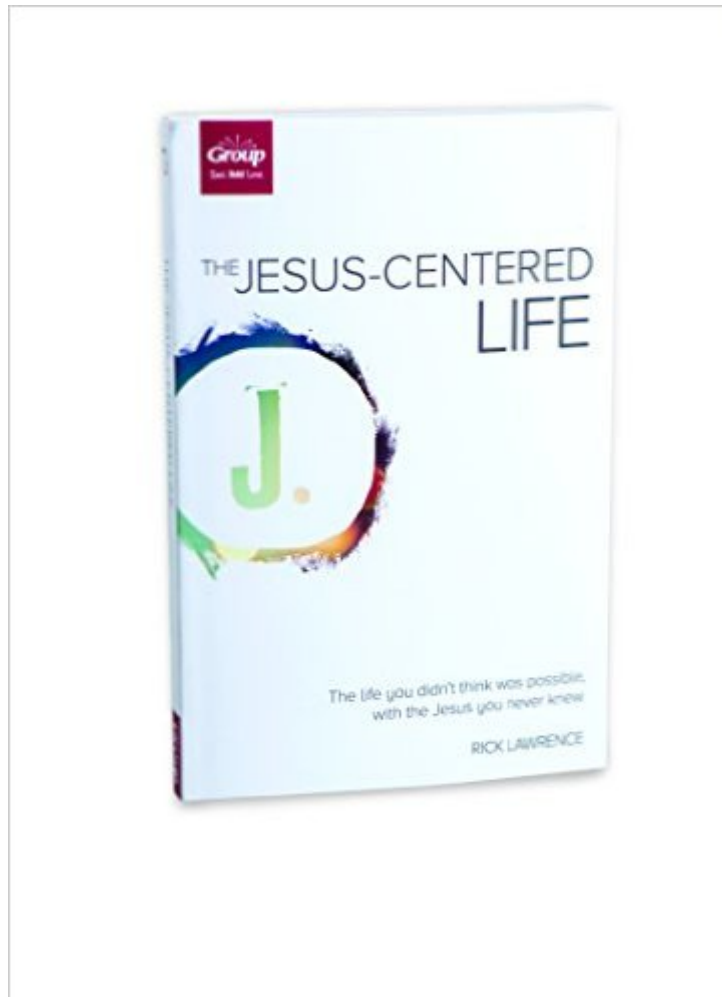


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# The Jesus-Centered Life: The Life You Didn't Think Possible, With The Jesus You Never Knew



## Synopsis

The Jesus-Centered Life: The Life You Didn't Think Was Possible, With the Jesus You Never Knew Rick Lawrence You know Jesus, think he's a nice guy, and you never forget his birthday. But the truth is you want more than that. You're bored. Exhausted. Tired of the grind. You're done with hearing about Jesus in sermons. Reading about Jesus in devotions. You want to encounter Jesus and know him for who he really is. You want to experience Jesus' love, not just admire him. To become a follower, not just a fan. The Jesus-Centered Life | invites you into wonder as you explore the magnetic force of the real Jesus. Frees you from a trying harder to get better lifestyle, so you can follow Jesus instead. Walks you through one-of-a-kind practices that lead you into actual encounters with Jesus Packed with easy, natural, everyday life practices that transform how you see Jesus, The Jesus-Centered Life is the perfect companion to Group's new Jesus-Centered Bible. Written by Rick Lawrence, the driving force behind the Jesus-Centered Bible, this book helps you chart a clear, fulfilling path straight to the Jesus who loves you. The Jesus-Centered Life is the perfect antidote for a ho-hum connection to Jesus a fresh invitation for you to make Jesus the center of your life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you are like me you've been following Jesus for a long time. I am a Biola Graduate, I have a minor in Biblical Studies, have worked in ministry full time, lead missions trips and work in Christian Publishing. But LIFE it's so consuming. All the priorities and messages. Social media telling you all the things you need to strive to, live organically and mindfully, reduce your global footprint, be

excellent in your career, be excellent in fitness, be a perfect parent. It's soooo consuming and I let it all get in the way. I read this book in 48 hours and I had to take breaks to go on LONG walks with Jesus. We had to talk about stuff. Some of it made me uncomfortable and I had to ask him WHY. Because what I heard at church, all the theologies and teachings in my head were cluttering my view and perspective and this book was turning it upside down. My prayers were always about blessing me and my priorities. About blessing the good things I was doing. But here's what they are now: Jesus, what are my priorities? Jesus what is my meal plan this week? Jesus, who do I need to see this month? What relationships do I need to focus on? Jesus who am I? Jesus what is my calling? And the answers were RADICALLY different than what I thought and what he said was radically different than what I thought. This book is going to make you feel uncomfortable. Before you jump to some theological point of view, stop and ask Jesus- why does this make me uncomfortable? Jesus what about my life do you want me to ruin for total abandonment for you? Jesus do you want this to be successful? Women one thing for me is that I have had this incredible mean girl in my head. She tells me I am not enough. She tells me I am not beautiful. She tells me I need to try harder. She tells me I need to be more. She tells me I need to be more disciplined. She tells me I just need to know more about Jesus. And I ALWAYS thought Jesus thought the same thing. He didn't. He thought different things. Open this book, read the whole thing. When you get to a part that makes you uncomfortable, don't throw it down. Talk to Jesus and ask him why. Wrestle through it. And then join me on this quest. Because so few people choose to abandon themselves to Jesus. Let's do this together.

Review of Jesus Centered Life This is the first book review I've done on and I say that to give you a sense of how meaningful this book, The Jesus-Centered Life, has been and still is to me. I am an avid reader and have been reading what some might consider Christian self-help books for years...books that give you lists, steps and methods of how to experience transformation in the Christian life...an approach Rick Lawrence (the author) calls the "understand and apply" approach, which doesn't work (hasn't worked) for me. This book is different...it is about being attached to Jesus as the branch is to the Vine (John 15), being "ruined" for Him and being abandoned to Him. Getting a taste for this life, as this book has done, makes me totally dissatisfied with anything less. There are so many truths and paradigm shifts in this book that I could go on for a while (and I would have to declare "spoiler alert"). But I will share two specific ones that are making a tremendous difference in my life. One is along the lines of being ruined for Jesus. Rick Lawrence uses the metaphor of how the chicken makes a contribution with providing eggs but the pig is

abandoned completely for his part. Like the pig, I want to be "all in". Side note: As a visual daily reminder to be "pig abandoned", I bought a soft pig that I keep in my quiet time area. (See picture of the pig with the book). The second big "ah ha" truth came in answer to years of praying to know Jesus more and asking Him why he comes across so harsh at times in the events I read in the New Testament. Not having a perspective on this has been a real stumbling block moving forward in my relationship with God. This book was literally the answer to my prayers. Rick Lawrence teaches to "assume whatever He did or said was the most loving thing He could do in that moment, and consider Him in that light." Wow! I now plan to re-read the New Testament, looking at everything Jesus did from that perspective. I believe it will change so much in my relationship with Him to see Him in that light. Again, I could say more, but just suffice it to say... The Jesus Centered Life is a timely, Jesus focused book that I believe God has given to the Body of Christ to rekindle our relationship with Him and to show that transformation into Christlikeness comes through that relationship. The truths shared put a fresh light on old perceptions. This is a book I will read again and again and buy for others to encourage them in their walk with the Lord. I am thankful to have been led to this book and to Rick Lawrence being sensitive to the Holy Spirit to write it. I highly recommend you purchase and read this book.

I read this book as a companion to the Jesus Centered Bible. I related to many of the chapters in the book, but especially to the chapter entitled "Rejecting the Culture of Should." The "Culture of Should", as the author calls it, has been much of my experience with various churches, and I appreciated the author's take on this topic. As a writer and note taker, I also used the Jesus Centered Journal to enhance the book and devotional experience.

I don't write book reviews much at all unless I deeply appreciate what I just read. Rick Lawrence did not just write this book but the Holy Spirit with Jesus sitting next to him did. This is one of those books you can't put down, and you look forward to reading more. Don't let the first part discourage you, it's there to provide perspective to a relationship centered around Jesus as you read part two. Many thought provoking examples that are backed up by scripture. I keep going back and forth with the Jesus-Centered Bible to learn more. A definately re-read. Thank you Rick, you are incredibly ruined for Jesus.

This book reminds us how dynamic life can be when it finally becomes "bored by everything but Jesus". Through engaging illustrations and thought-provoking questions, through exploration of

scripture and personal stories, The Jesus-Centered Life disrobes us of our false-attachments and clothes us in a vibrant walk with God. I've had the privilege to work with Rick closely on several projects-- and I'm constantly disarmed by his refreshing and patiently powerful way of writing. This book invites the reader to step into a masterful conversation that authentically reflects the way Jesus works in our lives.

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