



# I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

Leader's Notes and Bible Passages Available Online

By Shari Miller

*(Please do NOT use the "if time permits" sections when your study session time is limited. These sections could possibly be done by the participant in private before or after the study.)*

*(Leaders and participants are encouraged to look up Bible passages for most effective study. Passages are printed below for ease in presentation.)*

The "trust" game is one where all participants are blindfolded, except the leader. The leader then guides the blindfolded who have to trust that their leader will not lead them into harm. Variations of the game have evolved over the years, but in all the "trust games," someone blindfolded and with their eyes closed, must rely on someone who can see to safely pilot them. Discuss with a partner or your small group what feelings the "blindfolded" participant in this exercise might have to overcome. What could cause mistrust for the blindfolded participants? **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share. Make it clear that everything confided within the group stays within the group. The leader should start to begin discussion. Feelings could include: uncertainty, suspicion, faith, fear, anxiety, or being out of control. Mistrust answers could include: if someone jokes about the exercise, then the leader's integrity could be in question; if the leader leads into an obstacle; or if the leader loses either physical or vocal contact.**

Trust is not a game to our loving Lord. As God's redeemed and dearly loved children through Christ, He leads and guides us throughout life. In Proverbs 3:5–6, we read: <sup>5</sup>*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.* <sup>6</sup>*In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.* We can trust that our Triune God will navigate us through the path of life. Let's look at trust in the Lord as described in God's Word and also through phrases of our theme hymn: "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" (LSB #729 Public Domain).

**Opening Prayer:** Dear Guiding and Leading Lord, we praise You for Your goodness and giving us all that we need. However, our sin makes us Your enemies and separates us from You. Thank You for sending our Savior Jesus to serve us by living a perfect life, suffering, and dying for the sins of the world. We are clothed with His robes of righteousness. For His sake and trusting in His saving work, forgive our sins and lead us on the right path. Thank You for giving us Your Spirit in Word and Sacrament so that when we step off the path or stray from You, He keeps us in the faith, trusting in You for salvation and a new and glorious life in heaven! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Trusting Only Thee

We are commanded, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding* (Proverbs 3:5). That trust is Spirit-infused in us when He gives us faith in the waters of Baptism. We trust our God because He has done great things for us. Let's explore what God has done for us.

Read **Exodus 20:3–5b** and **Habakkuk 2:18**. What *other gods, carved images, and idols* do we sinners put before our Lord? Make a list of those below. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share. See if the group can come up with at least 10 (i.e., ourselves, money, power, other people, time, priorities, children, activities, job, pleasure, entertainment).**

**Exodus 20:3-5b:** <sup>3</sup>**"You shall have no other gods before me.** <sup>4</sup>**You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.** <sup>5a-b</sup>**You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God ...**

**Habakkuk 2:18:** <sup>18</sup>**"What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!**

Read **Romans 3:23–25** and **1 Timothy 1:12–15**. Why can we trust Jesus and Him alone? **Even though we all sin and break God’s commands, Jesus – through His perfect life, suffering, and death – became sin for us, and rose victorious from the dead. He gives us faith and love and came to save all sinners – even me!**

**Romans 3:23-25:** <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

**1 Timothy 1:12-15:** <sup>12</sup> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup> though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Read **Jeremiah 17:5–8**. In this Word-picture, identify at least five differences of trusting in man compared to trusting in the Lord? **Trusting in man = cursed, heart turns away from the Lord, like a shrub in the desert, will see no good, will dwell in parched places; trusting in the Lord = like a tree planted by water, sends out roots, does not fear when heat comes, leaves remain green, does not cease to bear fruit.**

**Jeremiah 17:5-8:** <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup> He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup> Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup> He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

**Faith Talk:** The words of our theme hymn use the following phrases to describe the salvation we receive in Christ: “full salvation,” “Thy grace and tender mercy,” “cleansing in the crimson flood,” and “make me holy by Thy blood.” Share with a partner or the small group which description you like best and why? Share in one phrase how *you* would describe Christ’s salvation. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**If time permits:** Look up the following Bible passages from the Book of Psalms and specifically identify what God did in the Psalmist’s life to bolster trust in Him, and what He does in your life to strengthen your trust in Him: **9:10; 13:5, 20:7, 25:2, 28:7, and 31:14–16.** **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**Psalm 9:10:** **And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. He does not forsake us**

**Psalm 13:5:** **But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. He steadfastly loves us and saves us**

**Psalm 20:7:** **Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. He fights for us, better than an army**

**Psalm 25:2:** **<sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. He keeps us from shame before our enemies**

**Psalm 28:7:** **<sup>7</sup>The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. He is my strength and shield against my foes**

**Psalm 31:14-16:** **<sup>14</sup> But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.” <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors! <sup>16</sup> Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love! He keeps my times in His hand; He saves me from my enemies; He shines His face upon me**

## Never Let Me Fall

Step by step in our lives, the Holy Spirit gives us faith and keeps us in that faith. How does the Spirit engender and keep us believing and trusting in our Lord Jesus? See **John 14:16–17, 1 Corinthians 11:23–26, Galatians 3:27, and Hebrews 4:12. Means of Grace (Word and Sacraments)**

**John 14:16-17:** <sup>16</sup>“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” **The Holy Spirit**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-25:** <sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **The Lord's Supper**

**Galatians 3:27:** <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **Baptism**

**Hebrews 4:12:** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Word of God**

According to **Acts 1:8**, what does the Lord want us to do in the world? **Tell the Good News about salvation to a world that needs to hear; witness to what God has done in my life**

**Acts 1:8:** <sup>8</sup> “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Faith Talk:** One of the verses of our theme hymn uses these phrases: “trusting Thee for power” and “words which Thou Thyself shalt give me must prevail.” Share with a partner or the small group how the Holy Spirit works in your worship life, but also how He works in your daily life.

**Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

Phrases from the theme hymn declare: “Never let me fall. I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead.” Proverbs 3:6 reads: *In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.* Read the beautiful descriptions of the Good Shepherd in **Psalm 23** and **John 10:11, 14–15**. List as many trust-strengthening characteristics of Jesus, our guiding Shepherd, as your group can find. **He is the Good Shepherd; He lays down His life for us, the sheep; He knows His sheep and we know Him; He takes care of us; we lie in green pastures (with enough to eat — spiritually and physically) and beside still waters (restful waters — a place of rest, trust, and confidence); He conquers evil and our enemies and stays with us; He anoints us with oil (heals and binds us up); He gives goodness and mercy; we dwell with Him forever in heaven**

**John 10:11, 14-15:** <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Psalm 23:** <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Approximately 700 years before Christ was born, the prophet Isaiah spoke the words of an Old Testament canticle in **Isaiah 12**. Read these words (also found sung on *LSB* #261-262 and #927). Note the use of the word “trust” in the canticle’s refrain.

**Isaiah 12:** <sup>1</sup>You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. <sup>2</sup> Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” <sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is

exalted. <sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup> Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Note **Isaiah 12:1**. How does our God *comfort* us (see **2 Corinthians 1:3–5**)? Note **Isaiah 12:2–3**. How does He bring us *strength* and *joy* (see also **Nehemiah 8:10b**)? **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**2 Corinthians 1:2-5:** <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. **Nehemiah 8:10b:** And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

According to **Isaiah 12**, what is our response to our saving God? **Give thanks, trust in Him, call upon His name, proclaim His deeds among the nations, exalt His name, sing praises to His name, shout and sing for joy**

The last phrase of our theme hymn states emphatically: “I am trusting Thee forever and for all.” What do you think is meant by the phrase “for all”? Read **Isaiah 26:3–4**. How would you describe “perfect peace”? **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**Isaiah 26:3-4:** <sup>3</sup> You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. <sup>4</sup> Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

**Faith Talk:** In **John 14:1–6**, Jesus promises His followers something out of this world! What does that mean for you right now? **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**John 14:1-6:** <sup>1</sup> Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going. <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**Faith Talk:** Read **Revelation 21:5**. How do those words inspire you as you step out in faith into an often-hostile world? Share with a partner or the small group. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**Revelation 21:5:** <sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

#### **Faith Walk:**

1. Thank, praise, and sing for joy to Jesus for His grace and mercy in your life.
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides you and gives you the power and boldness to speak the Good News of salvation in Jesus alone to those you meet in your daily life.
3. Share the joy of Jesus with one special person you know.
4. Do research on the hymn, “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,” and its author, Frances R. Havergal.
5. Ask the Spirit to keep you faithful and trusting in Jesus as your Savior until the end.

**Closing Prayer:** Speak or sing the words of “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus” (*LSB* #729).

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