

Who is Jesus is such a wonderful devotional. It really accomplishes its purpose, to help aid in studying scripture so that we may draw closer to Christ. It is concise and every word has a purpose. The book draws out of the depths of scripture while still keeping things easy to understand. It is quite accessible for all ages. The devotional shines a beacon upon Jesus so that we may focus on Him, learn from Him, and depend on Him more and more in our lives.

The devotional takes upon itself the task of going through the gospel of John with a focus purely on Christ so that the reader can also be encouraged to have this same focus. It is very successful in directing our eyes to see the wonder-work of Christ's grace for us so that we are drawn more and more to want to see that light even as a moth is attracted to a lightbulb. This reorienting of our attention is accomplished by each day's meditation and the bold words in each day's text to consider. The focus never wanders away from where we ought to focus. The devotional helps build true bible studying skills by keeping our eyes solely on Christ. It is clearly an intentional effort as can be seen throughout the book, such as on page 33 when speaking of Jesus first miracle the author encourages us not to focus on minor details, but "rather our focus should be on what each miracle teaches us about Jesus." In chapter seven, the prompts for prayer include "ask for strength to fix your eyes on your Savior instead of the things of this world."

While having the reader's eyes trained on Jesus the devotional points the reader to learn from Jesus. The devotional encourages readers to be humble as Jesus was humble, to be filled with zeal as Jesus was when he cleansed the temple, and to reflect Jesus' love to those around the reader. These encouragements are fitting for anyone, but especially a good encouragement to teens trying to commit themselves to Christ in a world that is so against Him.

These encouragements would only become discouraging without pointing the readers to Christ for the strength to live in the light. Chapter 2 especially highlights how Jesus is the Light and we must ask him for strength. The book appropriately recognizes that we must look to Christ in all things. If we trust in our own strength our belief will be weak, so in chapter 20 the encouragement is again sounded to "ask the petition of Mark 9:24, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!""

Overall, Who is Jesus by Abby Van Solkema is a book that I loved to pick up. It is a very easy and quick read that helps to grow a greater desire to be close to Christ. I never once felt that I stumbled on overly technical or difficult language to understand, yet I also felt like I was able to learn a lot and grow. I enjoyed taking a closer look at Jesus during this advent season when he is already on our minds so much.