



You may not be aware of it
but you have a magnifying glass
and you are using it all the time.

You are always making some things and people
more important than others – magnifying them.

But what is your magnifying glass focused on?

And does it matter?

Find out how to put it in the right place and see the
difference it makes in your life.

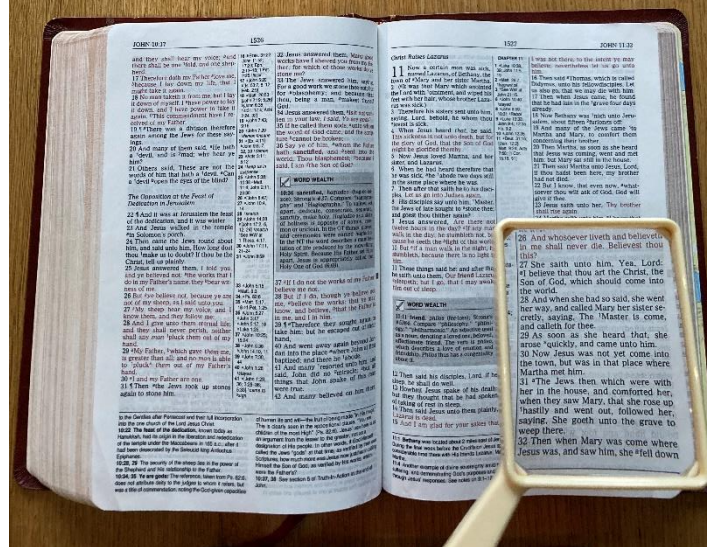


Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then she has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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HOW TO USE YOUR MAGNIFYING GLASS



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'How to Use Your Magnifying Glass'

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Unless otherwise indicated
all Scripture quotations are taken from
the World English Bible British Edition (WEBBE)
(Any words in brackets are not in the original text
but are included to help understanding)

Cover photo by Katherine Hilditch

things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you've done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you'll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

HOW TO USE YOUR MAGNIFYING GLASS

Did you know that you've got a magnifying glass? You may say, 'No, I haven't,' but that's not true – you do have a magnifying glass and you're using it all the time. You are always making something or someone bigger and more important than something or someone else. You are always prioritising things in your life.

When you look at some writing through a magnifying glass it appears bigger. In the same way, whatever you focus on in your life appears bigger to you, whether it's something positive or something negative.

Magnifying Someone or Something

Magnifying someone or something means placing a higher value on them; giving them higher worth; esteeming them; elevating them in your thoughts, words and actions; making them more important to you; making them your main point of reference when you are making decisions.

What is Your Magnifying Glass Focused on?

So what do you focus your magnifying glass on? Is it on yourself – do your own feelings or purposes dictate every decision you make and everything you think and do?

Or is your magnifying glass on something or someone else most of the time? Is it on your family, sport (a football team maybe), what's happening in the news, your favourite television programmes, technology, work, a hobby, money, shopping, clothes, a pet, health, exercise, food etc?

Or is it on the problems that you face?

Or do you move your magnifying glass around all the time? Maybe it's on one thing one day and something else the next depending on what's happening in your life and your emotional response to it.

Whatever or whoever it is on, the more you focus on it, the bigger that thing or person will become in your thinking and in your attitude to what's going on in your life.

Where Should It Be?

The only way to a truly joyful, peaceful, satisfying life is to live it with your magnifying glass focused on Jesus and you're only going to be able to do this successfully if you have accepted Him as your Lord and Saviour. It's when you do this that you become born-again. Jesus died in your place taking the punishment for all your sins – past, present and future. He did this for everyone. It means that you are forgiven and can receive your forgiveness and become God's child – a member of His family. He loves you so much and is always drawing you to Himself, but He won't force you. You have to take the step. (To read about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet.)

John 1:14 says – *'The Word became flesh, and lived amongst us.'* This is an amazing truth – the Word that God spoke, which have power and authority, became a baby in Bethlehem. So, as you focus on Jesus, you are focusing on the Word of God, and as you focus on God's Word, the Bible, you are focusing on Jesus.

It's so easy to say that you will focus only on Jesus while you're sitting in church or together with other Christians who want to do the same thing. But what happens when you watch the news

Decide to keep rejoicing in Jesus – He has a solution for the small things and the big.

Make a habit of exalting Him, glorifying Him, praising Him, thanking Him for who He is and all He has done and won for you.

Read His Word, especially the New Testament – meditate on it, allow the Holy Spirit to help you understand what it means and put it into action. Lay a firm and deep foundation of the truth of God's Word and all Jesus has done and won for you

Being with like-minded people helps. This means spending time with other Christians who are seeking to do the same. They will understand what you are wanting to do with your magnifying glass. You can encourage and support each other as you bring each other back to Jesus and the Word. Psalm 34:3 says – *'Oh, magnify the Lord with me. Let's exalt His name together.'*

Decide to take your magnifying glass off other things and other people and put it on Jesus. Give God's Word top priority in your life. And start to experience His perfect peace.

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong

Make Everything and Everyone Else Smaller

I'm not saying that other people, things and situations in your life are unimportant. I'm saying make them less important than Jesus. I mentioned family earlier. God is for families. He created the family unit – He made Adam and Eve as husband and wife and told them to have children. He is on the side of families. But family life functions best when you make Jesus your number one priority. When everything and everyone else is small in comparison it all falls into its right place and relationships are easier and more satisfying.

Magnify Jesus

Luke 1:46 says – “*My soul magnifies the Lord.*” Your soul is made up of your decision-making process, your thinking and your emotions. Sometimes keeping your focus on Jesus just comes naturally but there are many times when it takes a decision to keep your focus on Him. Your thoughts and your emotions may be crying out to you to focus somewhere else especially when a problem crops up. Make that decision there and then to magnify Jesus. Talk to Him about what's happening and ask Him to show you the way forward and He will guide you and bring you through.

And the sooner you discipline yourself to refocus on Jesus when something happens the easier it will be next time. Each time you turn to Jesus and His Word, you lay down more of a firm foundation of God's truth which you can stand on next time you are tempted to move your magnifying glass.

Practice in the small things of life and you will be better prepared if something big comes along. Determine not to get side-swiped by life, by your thoughts or by other people.

and hear and see the tragedy and conflict in the world and hear all the doom and gloom – will you keep your magnifying glass on Jesus then? What about when life gets too busy; when worry or fear threatens? What about if you get into financial difficulties or fall ill? What about when there is pressure at work or you are made redundant? What about when someone you love hits a problem? What about when trouble comes out of the blue?

When you focus on God's Word you will gradually build up a firm foundation of truth based on all that Jesus has done and won for you through His death and resurrection. This gives you a basis of truth to stand on when trouble comes. For example, if you fall ill the medical fact is that you are ill and you may have a doctor's diagnosis to tell you that. But the truth in God's Word is that you are already healed. 1 Pet 2:24 says – ‘*You were healed by his wounds.*’ You can put your magnifying glass on how you feel and what the doctor has said, or you can put it on this verse and refuse to think differently from it until the healing Jesus has won for you comes into your body.

Put your magnifying glass on Jesus and keep it there no matter what. That's the way to victory.

Everything Else Becomes Small

When you look at some writing on a page through a magnifying glass, all the writing around it appears small in comparison. Everyone and everything and anyone and anything needs to be less important in your life in comparison to Jesus. Yes, even your family. Jesus said in Luke 18:29-30 – “*Most certainly I tell you, there is no one who has left house, or wife, or brothers, or parents, or children, for God's Kingdom's sake,³⁰ who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the world to come,*

eternal life.” In some places around the world, choosing between your family and Jesus is a real life or death issue. Here in the West it may not be such a stark choice, but when it comes to it, you need to know where your first priority lies.

Why does it Matter?

There are lots of reasons why keeping your magnifying glass on Jesus is not only a good idea, but essential for you to live a fulfilling life.

Have you had a problem which you have tossed around and around in your mind and it’s got bigger and bigger the more you thought about it – you worry about it all the time until you can’t sleep and have difficulty concentrating? It’s taken over. We’ve all done it. But looking back you can see how out of proportion your thinking got. What you think is powerful. The more you think about it the bigger it gets until it can take over.

What dominates your thoughts colours everything you say and do and also the way you interpret what’s going on around you. Proverbs 23:7 says – ‘*As he thinketh in his heart, so is he.*’ (King James Version) What you think and the way you think becomes the person you are. And this applies to positive thoughts as well as negative. If you keep your magnifying glass on Jesus, He will start to colour everything you think and do and you will start to interpret what’s going on around you by His truth.

Keeping your magnifying glass on Jesus protects you as you have the truth in your mind and can stand on it when trouble comes, refusing to budge and be swayed into negative thought patterns.

Magnifying God helps you to keep experiencing His love, His

fullness and His presence. As a born-again Christian He is always with you, but you can lose sight of that if you make other things or people more important than Him.

God has given us a wonderful promise in Isaiah 26:3 – ‘*You will keep whoever’s mind is steadfast in perfect peace, because he trusts in you.*’ Keep your mind steadfastly on Jesus and all He has done and won for you and choose to trust Him in everything, and God will give you peace.

Keeping your magnifying glass on Jesus is so important in so many ways. It will help you to live your life better and you will experience so much more of God’s love and peace.

It’s Your Choice

It’s up to you where you put your magnifying glass each day of your life. God isn’t going to control where you put it. He will encourage you and guide you and show you where to put it, but He won’t force you – He will always honour the free will He made you with.

You have to decide where to put it and it is a black and white decision. Your magnifying glass can’t be in two places at the same time – it’s not possible. There is no option for compromise. It’s going to be on Jesus, or on yourself or someone or something else or what’s going on in your life.

How to Move Your Magnifying Glass

So how do you move your magnifying glass away from other things and other people and put it on Jesus. It’s not easy but the more you discipline yourself to do it, the easier it will get.