

The logo consists of a black cross symbol positioned to the left of the word "FELLOWSHIP" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below "FELLOWSHIP" is the phrase "BIBLE CHURCH" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH

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Daily Devotional 2024

Welcome to another season of growing deeper in God's Word with your church family. The Daily Devotional was prepared to intentionally guide your time in God's Word, cultivating your soul each day as you spend time with God in His Word, prayer, thought, and response throughout the day.

Each devotional will take you into scripture, followed by a brief commentary, but this devotional is designed for you to engage personally with God's Word, the Bible. You and God, with His Word, under the Holy Spirit's guidance - this is where we believe you will have the best opportunity to hear from Him and respond through daily worship.

The daily pattern will begin with your heart. From your heart flows "the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23). In preparing your heart for God's Word, you will practice cultivating your soul to be the "good soil" (Mark 4:20); one who hears the Word, accepts it, and allows the Spirit to bear fruit through your application of it. This time gives you the opportunity to clear away the distractions of your life to listen and respond to the Lord.

After preparing our hearts to receive the Word, we will use the REAP pattern for biblical response to engage what you have read. As a church family, we have used this for many years as an intentional practice to process the Word thoughtfully, listen to the Spirit, and respond by applying it to experience what it means to follow Jesus throughout your day.

Monday - You are loved: through Christ, you are a beloved child of God

Tuesday - Walk by faith: you live by faith, not by sight

Wednesday - Live in joy: recognizing joy and rejoicing amid your circumstances

Thursday - Speak and act in grace: Receiving, living, and giving grace

Friday - Give generously: you have the gospel, the goodness, and the gifts of God to be generous in every way

Saturday - Forgive others: as you have been forgiven by Christ, forgive others

Sunday - Rest in the gospel: ceasing, centering, and delighting in the Lord

Each weekend's message will be based on the passages you read the week leading up to them. Your daily time with the Lord will prepare you for time with your church family in worship and response on the weekend.

Blessings as you follow Jesus daily,

Joe Hishmeh

Weekly Overview

The Story of All Stories

God is writing His story. It's the story of all stories, and He's invited you to be in it. Unlike other stories of the world, you are not at the center of this story, nor has it been curated by your mind or imagination. His story is not about you; it's all about Jesus, and the only way to be a part of the story is to place your trust in Christ and allow Him to write you into the story.

Before the creation of the world, the Creator has woven this story, and it will continue throughout eternity. As you enter the story through faith, you realize you are never alone. Through "the end of the age," Jesus promised his presence with us as we invite others into his story and make disciples.

Over the next several weeks, we will get our minds and hearts around what it means to live missionally by Christ. Each week will focus on an important aspect of the Missional Life. The Missional Life is a life that lives out the great commission through dependence and trust in the person and work of Christ.

This week will be foundational to understanding the major chapters of God's story, how you were invited into the story, and your purpose in it. By covering the major acts of God's grand story through creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration, we will remember and reflect on God's invitation to each of us to join the story by faith in Christ and to live as part of His story in the power of the Spirit to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Monday: Genesis 1:27-2:25

Tuesday: Genesis 3:1-24

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 15:21-28

Thursday: Ephesians 1:3-10

Friday: Revelation 21-22

Saturday: Romans 10:9-17

Sunday: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

What to Look for in the Word

In your time in the Word this week, you will read about God's intention for His creation and how Adam and Eve's fall into sin corrupted the world and devastated humanity. Out of his great love for us, the Father did not walk away, but he sent the Son into the world to bring salvation through faith in Christ. The final act of God's story will be the eternal state of restoration with humanity in the future events after the return of Christ. You live during a time of God's redemption through Christ, and your life is to be calibrated to the call of Christ to bring the beautiful and good news to others so they will be reconciled to God.

Big Idea

The Missional Life is united to the person and work of Christ. When my life is joined to Jesus, it becomes part of the greatest story I could ever live.

Memory Verse:

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

January 1

Prepare

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8

Lord, I welcome your presence with me today. I recognize that you are good and ask you to build my trust in you as I seek your will and follow your way. Amen.

Receive the Word

Humanity is created in the image of God, male and female, living in loving fellowship with God, each other, and creation.

Read Genesis 1:27-2:25

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for hearts that joyfully join God's story and live a missional life for Christ.

You are loved.

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Jeremiah 31:3b

Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithful, enduring love. I remember and rest in the reality that I am your beloved child. I receive your love to fill me. Form me by your Spirit to live today in your love.

January 2

Prepare

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. ...he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. Daniel 2:20a-21b

Father, open my eyes to see what is good and best for me and help me to run to you when I am tempted today. Amen.

Receive the Word

The fall into sin caused separation and alienation between God, humanity, and creation.

Read Genesis 3:1-24

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family that we would be sensitive to sin and quick to seek forgiveness from God through Christ.

Walk by faith.

...for we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Is there a situation in your life that is beyond your understanding that could lead you to a deeper trust in the Lord as you walk by faith?

Father, when I could be distracted by worry and fear, I chose today to follow you by faith. Amen.

January 3

Prepare

Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually! Psalm 105:4

Father, I look to you today to reveal the work of Christ and move in me through your Spirit to respond in willing obedience. Amen.

Receive the Word

By Adam's sin, death came to all. And by Christ's resurrection, now life comes to all who believe.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-28

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray for your brothers and sisters at Fellowship to experience the joy and freedom of their salvation.

Live in joy.

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. Psalm 5:11

What is one thing in your life that brought you joy this past week?

Jesus, Giver of life from death, I live in the joy of my salvation. Amen.

January 4

Prepare

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Psalm 93:1

Jesus, Lord of the universe, I come to you today in submission to your will and way for me. Spirit of God, lead me to the truth. Amen.

Receive the Word

We live in redemption, the plan of God to unite all things to himself through the person and work of Jesus.

Read Ephesians 1:3-10

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray for our church family to live as the redeemed of the Lord.

Speak and act in grace.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Think of a person or situation you need to be patient with.

Father, please supply my life with love to forgive and reconcile with people like you have reconciled with me. Spirit, direct my words and actions to glorify Christ. Amen.

January 5

Prepare

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

Revelation 4:11

Father, you have created all things, and I look to you today to recreate the likeness of Jesus in me. Amen.

Receive the Word

As you live in a broken and messed up world, remember things are not as they will be forever. Refresh your eyes and heart to God's future and final restoration.

Read

Revelation 21-22

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our hearts to long for the return of Christ and our love to deepen for one another.

Give generously.

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:25

Father, you have given me the gospel, your goodness, and gifts to worship you. They are not mine but yours. I am a steward of each of them. Rather than worshipping the things you have given me, guide my heart to worship you with the things you have given me. Amen.

January 6

Prepare

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1:3

Father, I ask you today to remind me and refresh my heart with all that you have given me and all that I can be through Christ. Amen.

Receive the Word

It is beautiful to bring the good news of the gospel to others.

Read

Romans 10:9-17

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to authentically live the gospel with truth and grace to the people in our lives today.

Forgive others.

Bear with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgive each other. Colossians 3:13

Is there a relationship in your life where you could extend the forgiveness of God that you have experienced yourself?

Father, as you have been patient with me, I need your patience to reflect you through my life. Spirit, fill me and give me gentle words to speak and actions to do that are kind. Amen.

January 7

Prepare

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Revelation 15:3

In the name of Jesus, I come to you, Father. May I answer your call for my life and live out the commission have given. Amen.

Receive the Word

God is reconciling the world through Christ. We are commissioned as ambassadors for Christ and his kingdom.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the president and national leaders.

Rest in the gospel.

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26:3

What have you been striving for over this past week that you can cease from to set your mind on the beauty and glory of Jesus?

Jesus, you are over everything in my life. I cease from my work today to rest in you and the comfort you bring to my life. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Jesus is Lord

To the early Christians living in the Roman empire, the pledge, “Caesar is Lord!” placed them in a tough spot. For patriotic and loyal citizens who lived in respect for the king and country, this was the greeting at the market that sealed the deal, the shout at the amphitheater or coliseum that united the differing tribes of the Roman empire. Christians knew this was at odds with their faith and refused to say it. They refused because of their unwavering faith that “Jesus is Lord!” This declaration became the shout of all Christians, even beyond the Roman Empire, spanning to the ends of the earth. This was unacceptable and impermissible to the Roman officials who demanded all Christians submit and say it. Their steadfast resistance and bold proclamation of “Jesus is Lord” caused them to suffer. Many lost their places in society and their jobs in the marketplace. Some even lost their lives. “Jesus is Lord” was a statement of praise and worship. It proclaimed their faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world.

“Jesus is Lord” continues to be a central profession of a Missional Life. Jesus is not in our lives to be a life coach, to make us the best versions of ourselves. Jesus is Lord of all.

Monday: Acts 3:13-26

Tuesday: Romans 8:31-39

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Thursday: Philippians 2:1-11

Friday: Colossians 1:15-23

Saturday: 2 Peter 1:3-15

Sunday: 2 Thessalonians 1:5-11

What to Look for in the Word

As you read the passages this week, lean into what it means to worship Jesus as Lord. Certainly, it means loyalty and allegiance. But it is also a statement of priority and placement of first and best in your life. Saying “Jesus is Lord” is easier than living under the lordship of Jesus, so consider what this means for you practically as you live a life that reflects the glory and honor of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Big Idea

The Missional Life lives in the reality of the lordship of Jesus. Everything in my life must submit and respond to the reality that Jesus is Lord.

Memory Verse:

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

January 8

Prepare

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers... what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Psalm 8:1, 3-4

Father, open my eyes this week to see Jesus as Lord over all areas of my life. Amen.

Receive the Word

Peter explains to the Jews in Jerusalem how Jesus is Lord.

Read

Acts 3:13-26

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the financial needs of our church family to be met.

Forgive others.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end. Lamentations 3:22

Thank you, Father, for never giving up on me amidst my failures and imperfections. Tune my heart to your grace this day, and may your Spirit guide me in love. Amen.

January 9

Prepare

Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 2 Samuel 7:22

Jesus, you are the Lord of love. Reach into the depths of my heart and remind me today that nothing can separate me from your love. Amen.

Receive the Word

Nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Read Romans 8:31-39

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the needs of the poor in Topeka.

Walk by faith.

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Think about a situation or circumstance where you need to live more by faith than sight, and express that to the Lord.

Father, I trust you with this person or situation and I want to live by faith in you and reflect the love of Jesus. Amen.

January 10

Prepare

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. Psalm 96:2-4

Today, Lord, I bless your name and ask that you open my eyes to see and respond to you in your Word. Amen.

Receive the Word

We live to proclaim to others the gospel and glory of Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those who faithfully serve at Fellowship.

Live in joy.

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Luke 2:10

What brought you joy this past week?

Thank you, Father, for blessing me and the ability to see your grace and goodness in my life. Spirit, fill me with joy in Jesus. Amen.

January 11

Prepare

Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

Psalm 97:11-12

*Father, today I rejoice in you and thank you for the joy of being your child.
Amen.*

Receive the Word

Every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Read

Philippians 2:1-11

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the planting and growth of the gospel in our city.

Speak and act with grace.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:9

What is an area of weakness in your life where you need the power of God? Ask God for His power to work in your weakness.

I recognize and rely on your grace today, Lord. May I lean on your power and not my strength. Amen.

January 12

Prepare

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. Deuteronomy 32:4

I look to you, My Rock, to be the foundation of my life today. Reflect your justice and righteousness through my words and actions. Amen

Receive the Word

In Jesus, all things are held together.

Read

Colossians 1:15-23

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for Young Life Topeka and their ministry to students.

Give generously.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

What have you decided to give joyfully to the Lord? What is God teaching or forming in you through your obedience?

Father, I recognize you as the Owner and Giver of all I have. May I reflect your generosity to me through giving generously to you. Amen.

January 13

Prepare

...O LORD, the God of Israel,
enthroned above the cherubim, you
are the God, you alone, of all the
kingdoms of the earth; you have
made heaven and earth. **2 Kings 19:15**

*Father, I lift you up in my life and place
you over all the things of this day.
Amen*

Receive the Word

Faith will become sight at the
revelation of Jesus Christ.

Read

2 Peter 1:3-15

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of
your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each
of us to reflect the goodness of God in
our lives today.

Forgive others.

**Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32**

Confess any sin in your life and rest in
the forgiveness of Christ.

*Jesus, I thank you for living, dying, and
rising from the dead to forgive and
save me for eternity. Amen.*

January 14

Prepare

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him!
1 Chronicles 16:28-29

Fill me with your strength to live a life that reflects your holiness today, Lord. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus Christ is glorified in us.

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-11

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for practical opportunities to share our faith with those far from God.

Rest in the gospel.

So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. Genesis 2:3

Is there an area of life in which you need to stop striving so hard and rest in the provision of Christ?

God, today I give up worrying about things only you can change. Help me to rest and rely on you. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Church – Casual to Committed

What does being connected and committed to a local church mean to you? It's normal to view the church as a place you attend to worship and be challenged by the Word God. In a culture skeptical of organizations and authority, it's common to hold the church at arm's length rather than lean in and commit. This week, we will consider what could happen in your life and the world if you viewed the church as who you are rather than where you attend.

God did not design and commission the church as a loose affiliation of casual attendees. He empowers it with His Spirit under the authority of Christ to be His presence in a community. The church is v to proclaim the gospel and to reflect the flourishing of the gospel of Jesus Christ. **We do not go to church; we are the church.** Fellowship Bible Church has been established in the Topeka area to participate in God's mission of making disciples who make disciples.

Collectively and individually, we are part of the body called the church. No believer is to sit and watch. God invites all to partner with him and make disciples. Every believer is a minister, and every place is a ministry opportunity. The church is God's "Plan A" to send people to places where people need to hear the good news. There is no "Plan B." Out of a love for Jesus, we share the gospel with all through authentic relationships and compassion.

Monday: Ephesians 3:1-13

Tuesday: Ephesians 3:14-21

Wednesday: Philippians 1:1-18

Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-20

Friday: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Sunday: 2 Corinthians 13:5-14

What to Look for in the Word

The passages you read this week should refresh your mind and heart with a compelling vision for your church. Far more than a static organization entrenched in programs and resources, the church is a community of Christ-followers who are deep in their love and strong in their commitment.

As you read, consider what it could look like **if you believed** what the Word says about your church **and partnered** with the church to live by grace in response to the gospel of Jesus Christ. These passages are foundational to your understanding of the church. Yet, they will interact with the brokenness of our church. Because a church is made up of broken people who are being formed into the likeness of Christ, we must be sourced by Jesus, the head of our church. We are far from perfect, but our mission is to follow someone who is.

Big Idea

We have been called out of the world and into the life-giving community of the Church.

Memory Verse:

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

January 15

Prepare

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! 1 Chronicles 16:34, 36

From everlasting to everlasting, you are good and merciful. Father, today I receive your goodness and mercy into my life.

Receive the Word

Through the church, the manifold wisdom of God is made known to all.

Read Ephesians 3:1-13

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our state and local leaders.

You are loved.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Take a moment of silence before God in gratitude for his unconditional love for you.

Father, in love, you sent Christ for me. Even before I could turn from my sin, you loved me and made a way for me to return to you. Thank you. Amen.

January 16

Prepare

Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 1 Chronicles 29:12

Father, amidst all the distractions and concerns of my life, I turn to you now. I seek you and exalt you as head over all. Amen.

Receive the Word

Throughout all generations, the church is to bring glory to God through the love of Christ.

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for parents and families to raise the next generation of spiritual leaders.

Walk by faith.

Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed. John 20:8

What is a situation in your life where you cannot yet see but are willing to live by faith?

Father, through your Spirit, form in me a heart that trusts you when I don't understand what you are doing. Amen.

January 17

Prepare

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! Psalm 100:3-4

Father, you are the Good Shepherd. Help me to follow your leading today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Christ is to be proclaimed in every way.

Read Philippians 1:1-18

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for international students in America.

Live in joy.

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11

Abiding in Christ brings joy to your life. What about Jesus brought you joy this week?

Jesus, you bring joy to my heart. Fill my heart with your love so that it overflows with joy. Amen.

January 18

Prepare

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. Psalm 104:1-2

I recognize your majesty and reign over my life today, Jesus. You are the King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

Receive the Word

Walk in a manner worthy of God.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:9-20

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family to be thankful and to live in contentment.

Speak and act in grace.

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14

As someone who lives with the grace of God, how can you show grace to someone else with your words when you may have been harsh in the past?

Father, I look to you through Christ to make me a person who speaks and acts in grace. Amen.

January 19

Prepare

You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. Nehemiah 9:6

Father, I invite you to form me into the image of Christ today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Set your hope on the living God, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for healthy marriages at Fellowship.

Give generously.

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38

Take time to reflect on the generosity of God to you. List some things in the "good measure" he has given you.

I receive what you have given me, Lord, and praise you for generously giving me the gospel, your goodness, and your gifts. Amen.

January 20

Prepare

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1-2

Lord, you are over everything in my life. May this day be a day I reflect you in all I think and do. Amen.

Receive the Word

The body of Christ has been given many gifts to make Jesus greater.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for an appetite to learn and live God's Word.

Forgive others.

And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive your trespasses. Mark 11:25

Are there individuals in your life whom you can forgive with the same measure of forgiveness that you have received from the Lord?

Lord, I give you the person/people above and seek your grace to forgive them. Only through your love and forgiveness that you have given me can I forgive them. Help me see them and treat them as you have me. Amen.

January 21

Prepare

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:1-2

As the fortress and stronghold of my life, I find my power and strength in you, Jesus. Amen.

Receive the Word

The body of Christ is called into loving and peaceful relationships together.

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-14

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for revival among Christians in America.

Rest in the gospel.

My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. Exodus 33:14

God offered rest to the Israelites as they were liberated from slavery in Egypt. Is there an area you need to find your rest in Jesus, who liberated you from being enslaved to sin?

Father, through your Spirit, I seek rest and recovery from the things that distract me from following you. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Vocation – Career to Calling

This week, we share a biblical perspective of work. Your work matters to God. In a world of hyper-individualism, one's career path is seen as self-determined, leading to self-fulfillment. God calls believers to rethink and reorder their view of work.

What if you viewed what you do to earn income less like a job and more like a calling? You may have heard of the word vocation, from the Latin *vocare*, meaning “to call.” Your vocation, and the things you do at work, can bear eternal significance for Christ through recognizing and responding to the presence of God. With God and the gospel at the center of our lives, our work is not an outlier but a platform of our faith. And if it is true that we spend more of our waking hours working than doing anything else, then it could be a powerful integration of your faith.

We believe that every believer is a minister and every place you are is a ministry opportunity. Therefore, your work is a powerful place to live out your faith. Paul was a tentmaker called by God, and he advanced the gospel using that profession to the ends of the earth. Whatever your profession, it can become your calling with Christ at the center of it.

Monday: Proverbs 16

Tuesday: Genesis 41

Wednesday: Esther 4

Thursday: Matthew 8:5-13

Friday: Acts 16

Saturday: Acts 18:1-17

Sunday: Philemon 1

What to Look for in the Word

God's Word is pretty clear about how it refers to our work. Although professions and procedures have changed throughout generations, work remains a response to God's calling for us. This week, you will explore some key passages where stories and callings invite people into using their work to bring glory to God. Your life and work are not the total of the life you will live. As a believer and follower of Christ, you will live forever. Therefore, when you respond to the calling of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit, even the simplest tasks at work can matter forever.

Big Idea

The Missional Life engages work as a calling from God. Work is a platform to reveal God's presence and provide an example of a flourishing life in Christ.

Memory Verse:

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

January 22

Prepare

As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

Psalm 48:10

Father, I look to you for wisdom and guidance today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Your career is a calling from God to reflect him in all ways.

Read

Proverbs 16

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for faithfulness with our time, talent, and treasure.

You are loved.

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Jeremiah 31:3

God's love for you is faithful and everlasting. What thoughts come to your mind as you consider this reality?

Thank you, Father, for your unfailing love for me. Amidst my failures and lapses of faith, you have been faithful. Amen.

January 23

Prepare

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! Psalm 57:5

Take time to praise the Lord for his work in your life.

Receive the Word

Providing financial accounting and management, Joseph was used by God to bring provision for many nations.

Read

Genesis 41

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for ministries on the campuses of our schools and universities.

Walk by faith.

Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do. John 14:16

God responds to your faith by working through you. What do you need God to do for you today?

Father, I need you to lead and guide me today to live with truth and grace. I trust you to work through me today. Amen.

January 24

Prepare

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Psalm 104:33-34

Today, Father, I find my joy and take pleasure in you. Amen.

Receive the Word

Esther courageously used her position to advocate for the people of God.

Read

Esther 4

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our hospitality team to welcome guests with kindness.

Live in joy.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice. Philippians 4:4

What brought you joy this week?

I rejoice today, Father, in being your child through Christ. Amen.

January 25

Prepare

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Psalm 105:1

I call to you, Lord. Guide me this day to be available for you to work through me. Amen.

Receive the Word

The faith of a Roman military leader brings glory to God.

Read

Matthew 8:5-13

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for local churches around the nation.

Speak and act in grace.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Who in your life needs words of grace spoken to them?

Father, may I reflect your grace to the people in my life who are struggling to live by grace. Amen.

January 26

Prepare

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Psalm 63:1-2

I look to you today, Lord, to reflect your glory through my life. Amen.

Receive the Word

Lydia, a successful businesswoman, uses her gifts and resources to advance the gospel.

Read

Acts 16

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for us to live with an eternal perspective.

Give generously.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

How is grace abounding in you?

Father, work through me today to generously respond with time, attention, and resources to those you place before me. Amen.

January 27

Prepare

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Psalms 63:3

As I consider your lovingkindness, I open my life to be loved by you and to love others with the love you have for me. Amen.

Receive the Word

As a tentmaker, Paul established himself in relationships to proclaim the gospel respectfully.

Read

Acts 18:1-17

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for us to shine Christ in our workplaces.

Forgive others.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14

Is there a person in your life in need of your forgiveness? Someone you may be holding love from or taking out anger on? Forgive them as you have been forgiven.

Father, please help me forgive the person I thought of above. I need you to work in me to show me how to think, speak, and act towards them with the forgiveness you have shown to me. Amen.

January 28

Prepare

Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.” Psalm 66:3-4

Father, the word “awesome” is one to describe you. I seek you, the awesome God, and worship you today. Amen.

Receive the Word

As a slave owner, Philemon is called to receive and liberate Onesimus, his runaway servant.

Read

Philemon 1

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today’s needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for personal appetite and discipline to grow in Christ.

Rest in the gospel.

He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Psalm 23:3

How do you make space in your life for God to restore your soul?

Father, through Christ, you restore my soul. My life finds rest not in performing but in trusting Christ’s work for me. I rest in Jesus. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Transformation – City and Streets

According to Ray Bakke in his book, *Theology as Big as the City*, the word “city” is used about 1250 times in the Bible. From Jerusalem to Babylon and Rome, the Word shares the heart of God for cities. They represent concentrations of people, political decisions, power struggles, and a diversity of beliefs and behaviors from the people who reside in them. The spiritual condition of Jerusalem moved the heart of Christ to weep and pray for it (Matthew 23:37-39).

The Apostle Paul wrote to entire congregations of believers who met in cities across the Roman Empire. Christians who live in cities are to pray for and work for the flourishing of the gospel within them. There is also attention in the Scriptures to our responsibility for caring for and being hospitable to our neighbors. As we continue our journey of the Missional Life, we will consider what our cities and neighborhoods could be if we were intentional and available for them.

Monday: Nehemiah 2

Tuesday: Isaiah 58:6-12

Wednesday: Isaiah 65:17-25

Thursday: Matthew 9:35-10:15

Friday: Matthew 10:16-42

Saturday: Acts 17

Sunday: Acts 19

What to Look for in the Word

The passages this week cover the work of God in and around cities. As we follow Jesus, who “went throughout all the cities and villages,” proclaiming the kingdom and healing the sick, we are invited to proclaim the gospel and serve our cities with the love of Christ. As you read and respond to the Word this week, ask God to open your eyes to the needs of your city and neighbors and pray for a responsive heart towards people in need.

Big Idea

The Missional Life is intentional with my neighborhood and community.

Memory Verse:

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. Isaiah 58:10

January 29

Prepare

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Psalm 90:14

As I engage the world you created, Lord, help me to worship you throughout this day. Amen.

Receive the Word

Nehemiah used his position of authority to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Read

Nehemiah 2

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for Christians worldwide who are persecuted for their faith.

You are loved.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:7

What person or situation in your life do you need to endure with in love?

Father, I need more of your love to believe, hope, and endure in your love with the people and circumstances I face today. Please fill me and overflow my heart to love as you love. Amen.

January 30

Prepare

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Psalm 145:13

You are God – you always have been, and you always will be. Help me today to live faithfully for your kingdom. Amen.

Receive the Word

Those liberated by God are called to bring the flourishing of His grace and truth to their cities.

Read

Isaiah 58:6-12

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the Lord to deepen love for others in each of us.

Walk by faith.

Let not your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God; believe also in me.

John 14:1

Is there something troubling you today? Turn it over to God, and he will increase your faith.

I turn to you, God, for you are my hope in life's challenges. I believe in you and ask for more faith to walk with you when I am troubled. Amen.

January 31

Prepare

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. Psalm 147:5

I turn my attention to you, Lord, to gain wisdom, guidance, and understanding for the day ahead. Amen.

Receive the Word

God's vision for Jerusalem is the restoration of all things.

Read

Isaiah 65:17-25

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the work of our missionaries in India.

Live in joy.

Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:24

Make a list of some of the things that brought you joy this week:

Father, thank you for giving me joy in life. Keep my heart set on you to live with your joy as I face the realities of life. Amen.

February 1

Prepare

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Romans 11:33

Help me, Father, to trust you when I don't understand the things that come my way today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers.

Read

Matthew 9:35-10:15

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for faithfulness in sharing Christ with our family and friends.

Speak and act in grace.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.

Titus 2:11

Thank you, Jesus, for appearing in this world, and living, dying, and rising for me. I receive your grace for today and pray to reflect your love in my words and actions to others. Amen.

February 2

Prepare

But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.

Psalm 71:14

I draw near to you, Jesus, and place my hope in you. Amen.

Receive the Word

There will be resistance to the gospel of Christ in our cities.

Read

Matthew 10:16-42

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for us to be peacemakers in the world.

Give generously.

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Proverbs 11:24

How has God provided a richer experience with him through giving?

Thank you, Father, that you form a greater joy in my heart when I am generous than when I spend it all on myself. Amen.

February 3

Prepare

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night... Psalm 92:1-2

Give me eyes to see and ears to hear you in your Word, Father. Amen.

Receive the Word

Paul advanced the gospel in key cities.

Read

Acts 17

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those in our church family serving our country in the military.

As you have been forgiven.

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37

Confess any sin or attitude that is unlike Christ, and he will forgive you.

Father, I receive your forgiveness through the person and work of Christ. Please help me to give forgiveness when I am offended. Amen.

February 4

Prepare

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Psalm 72:18

Lead me to your will and way as I seek you today, Lord. Amen.

Receive the Word

The gospel takes root and faces resistance in Ephesus.

Read

Acts 19

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for us to bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Rest in the gospel.

Restore to me the joy of my salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51:12

Is there any tension or conflict in your relationship with Christ? Confess it and rest in the work of Christ for you.

Thank you, Jesus, for restoring the joy of my salvation. Thank you that salvation is not earned or deserved but freely given to me. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Kingdom – Present to Future

You were created for a greater kingdom. God created humanity to live in His kingdom of righteousness, peace, and love. Adam and Eve rebelled from this calling from God and turned to establish their own kingdoms. No longer was God the source and center of their lives. Sin and suffering entered and infected every corner of the world and inhabitant of the world.

This world is not as God intended it to be. Humanity is not what God created us to be. There is a longing for a better life – a more loving and righteous world. In the face of this rebellion, the steadfast love of God endured through generations of resistance, holding to his promise to send a Messiah, a Savior, who would live, die, and rise to defeat the power of sin and redeem all those who believed in Him. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus inaugurated the rule and reign of God over everything. The glorious beauty of the gospel declares those who believe in Christ can live their lives as God meant them to be: in His family, as His beloved children, joining with him in Kingdom work. Jesus is our Savior, the King of the Kingdom. Through his forgiveness of our sins, we are welcomed and restored into the kingdom of God.

As the church, we are the beloved children of God who live and bear witness to the character of God in all of life. One day, our King will return, recreate a glorious Kingdom without end, and welcome his children into a restored and resurrected creation.

Monday: Joshua 2

Tuesday: Matthew 4:12-25

Wednesday: Matthew 5:1-12

Thursday: Matthew 5:13-20

Friday: Matthew 5:21-48

Saturday: Matthew 6:1-34

Sunday: Matthew 7

What to Look for in the Word

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the greatest sermons ever spoken on earth. In the passages in Matthew, Jesus is sharing kingdom vision and values that oppose the course of this world. Amidst the world's kingdoms, Jesus will teach us, as the church, to be a faithful presence of truth and grace in a dark world. As you read the Word this week, you will notice the stark contrast between the kingdom of the earth and the kingdom of God. Take note and ask the Spirit to guide you to align with the kingdom of God.

Big Idea

The Missional Life longs and lives for the Kingdom of God.

Memory Verse:

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. Isaiah 58:10

February 5

Prepare

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Psalm 93:1

Every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that you, Jesus, are Lord. I recognize who you are and submit to your way for me today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Rahab hides Israelite spies in Jericho.

Read

Joshua 2

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to surrender to the Spirit's leading in our lives.

You are loved.

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. 1 Peter 1:8

What do you look forward to when you will see Jesus face to face in heaven?

Thank you, Father, for the promise and hope of eternity with you. Tune my heart and mind to live for your kingdom today. Amen.

February 6

Prepare

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Psalm 96:1-2

Thank you, Jesus, for living, dying, and rising to bring salvation to me. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus went throughout all of Galilee, preaching and proclaiming the gospel.

Read

Matthew 4:12-25

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to depend on the power of God and live boldly for Christ.

Walk by faith.

Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

Jesus, you are the way for me to follow today; you are the truth and will never lead me astray; you are the life, and I will live forever with you; you are the one to follow as an example. Build a deeper faith within me. Amen.

February 7

Prepare

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Luke 1:46-47, 49

Quiet my heart, Lord, to receive what you have for me today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus taught the beatitudes in his Sermon on the Mount.

Read

Matthew 5:1-12

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our children to grow in wisdom and favor with God and man.

Live in joy.

Rejoice always. 1 Thessalonians 5:16

What can you rejoice about today?

I rejoice in you, Jesus. You source my life with joy to be a joy to others. Amen.

February 8

Prepare

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:3-4, 9

Thank you, Father, for your ever-present mindfulness and work in my life. I open myself to your Spirit to guide me into truth. Amen.

Receive the Word

You are salt and light.

Read

Matthew 5:13-20

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for generous hearts – giving the gospel, the goodness of God, and the gifts we have.

Speak and act in grace.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

I praise you today, Lord, for your grace in my life. Amen.

February 9

Prepare

**Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!**

Psalm 97:12

I rejoice in you, Lord. Thank you for the joy of being your child and following you today. Amen.

Receive the Word

The kingdom of God confronts the relational brokenness of the world.

Read

Matthew 5:21-48

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our elder team as they lead as servant leaders.

Give generously.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Corinthians 9:6

Father, I look to you as I give to you. Use what I give to you to reap a great harvest of the gospel in the lives of people in the church and the world. Amen.

February 10

Prepare

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:2-3

I recognize you as Lord over all in my life and surrender my life to be led by you, my God. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus calls us to respond to him in faith, giving, and prayer.

Read Matthew 6:1-34

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our young adults as they faithfully follow Christ and serve our church.

Forgive others.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

What areas of my life do I need to release to the Lord for him to create a clean heart in me?

Only through Jesus can you create a clean heart in me, O God. I turn to him and trust in his finished work to cleanse me of all my sin. Amen.

February 11

Prepare

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works... Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD! Psalm 104:31, 35b

Your glory, O Lord, will endure forever. May my life praise you today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Warnings against judging others.

Read

Matthew 7

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our senior adults as they leave a godly legacy in the lives of others.

Rest in the gospel.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:19

What in your life needs God's restoration? Surrender it to his loving care.

I look to you and rest in you, my God. Please restore what I turn over to you and write your story in me. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Week 7

From today through Easter, we are going on a daily journey of reading and reflecting on the book of Mark to follow the way of Jesus. Mark's account begins with the baptism of Christ and concludes with his victorious resurrection from the dead. As we begin our study of Mark's account, I'm looking forward to how God will form us into the image of Jesus through reading and reflecting on His Word. If you recall the life of John Mark, shown in Acts, he was a follower of Jesus who, for some reason, deserted Paul on a missionary journey. He was later reinstated after Barnabas restored him to gospel ministry. This broken follower of Jesus gives us hope that our imperfect lives can be restored to our Savior and used for His glory.

You may be facing a significant health, financial, or relational challenge. I pray that the gospel of Mark will comfort you in the reality of who Jesus is and what Jesus did for those who suffered. As the Son of God, we take heart in the authority of Jesus over all things in the universe and creation. Mark shares more miracles of Jesus than any other account. As the suffering servant, God in the flesh will bring you comfort and empathy as he shares in our suffering and defeats death and the power of sin in our lives. As Lord, Jesus invites us to "follow him" and make disciples of all people.

Monday: Mark 1:1-8

Tuesday: Mark 1:9-13

Wednesday: Mark 1:14-20

Thursday: Mark 1:21-34

Friday: Mark 1:35-45

Saturday: Mark 2:1-12

Sunday: Mark 2:13-17

What to Look for in the Word

As you begin reading through the gospel account of the life of Christ in Mark, be aware of both the identity of Jesus and the call of Jesus. Both are important as you live a life that follows him. The first words of Jesus in Mark are, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Soon after that, Jesus invites some obscure fishermen along the beaches of the Sea of Galilee to "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." As you read through Mark, consider answering two questions: 1) Who is Jesus in this passage? 2) What is he calling me to do?

Big Idea

Following Jesus is a loving response to who he is and what he has done.

Memory Verse:

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. Isaiah 58:10

February 12

Prepare

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Psalm 104:33-34

Out of everything that connects to my heart and desires today, I seek you to find gladness and joy. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus is the Son of God.

Read

Mark 1:1-8

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our deacon team as they serve the needs and people of our ministries.

You are loved.

In this the love of God has been manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9.

Thank you, Jesus, for coming into the world and revealing the love of God to us. Work in me through your Spirit to live through you today. Amen.

February 13

Prepare

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!
Psalms 105:3-4

I rejoice to know you and understand you, Lord. I seek to find and follow you. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus is baptized to his Father's pleasure and then tempted by his enemy.

Read

Mark 1:9-13

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our LifeCare ministries as they serve people today in the name of Jesus.

Walk by faith.

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. John 6:40

Father, remind me today that I am yours for eternity. Help me to live in this confidence and to love the people in my day as priceless and eternal image-bearers of you. Amen.

February 14

Prepare

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 63:1

The world cannot satisfy the longings of my soul, so I turn to you and seek your refreshing truth and love today. Amen.

Receive the Word

By following Jesus, fishermen become fishers of men.

Read

Mark 1:14-20

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our marriage ministries to lovingly lead engaged and married couples in Christ.

Live in joy.

The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. Proverbs 10:28

I take joy today, Father, in the reality that you are sovereign over a broken and rebellious world. Help me to be a joyful person. Spirit, fill me to overflow with joy to others. Amen.

February 15

Prepare

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Psalms 147:5a, 11

As I turn to you, Lord, I find my hope and trust. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus has power over spirits and sickness.

Read

Mark 1:21-34

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our staff marriages and families.

Speak and act in grace.

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Romans 5:20

The gospel reminds you: You are worse off than you think but loved more than you can imagine.

Father, work in me through your Spirit to help me be an example of the unconditional love of Jesus to others. Amen.

February 16

Prepare

Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD, or declare all his praise?

Psalms 106:1-2

Thank you, Father, for your goodness in my life. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus preaches in Galilee.

Read

Mark 1:35-45

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those in our church family who serve in law enforcement.

Give generously.

Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

Father, help me to see that through Christ I am blessed beyond measure. In Christ, I have all that I need for life and godliness. With Christ I have a blessed eternity with you forever. Amen.

February 17

Prepare

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! Psalm 108:3-5

You are high above and at work within me through your Spirit, Lord. I live to make you greater today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Friends bring their friend in need to the feet of Jesus.

Read

Mark 2:1-12

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our teachers and educational administrators.

Forgive others.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Romans 12:19

Is there any circumstance that has caused a root of bitterness within you? Surrender it to the just and righteous hands of God.

I turn to you, Father, the righteous and true God who will bring justice and righteousness on the earth. I turn away from revenge to allow you to work in me and my circumstances for your glory. Amen.

February 18

Prepare

Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. Psalm 111:3

As I turn to your Word today, Lord, teach and guide me in your way. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus engaged tax collectors and sinners to call them to salvation.

Read

Mark 2:13-17

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for love and joy in Jesus to grow in each of us.

Rest in the gospel.

Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. Psalm 116:7

What have you been striving for or worrying about that has distracted you from following Jesus? Return to rest in the Lord.

I return to you, Lord. I seek your will for me and praise you that your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Week 8

At this point in his ministry, crowds are forming to listen to Jesus' teachings, to be healed by his power, or to receive what he can provide for them. At the same time, Jewish religious leaders were afraid of the growing crowds and the controversial teachings of Jesus and started to form opposition against him. Even his own family would turn against him. Eventually, the crowds would disperse, and just a few followers would remain. The narrative of Mark begins to focus on the words and works of Jesus with his closest followers - his beloved but broken disciples. Despite their flaws, imperfections, and pettiness, Jesus faithfully trained and prepared them for life after his resurrection. His goal for them was nothing less than to become like him. Amidst the rejection of his own family, he would teach his disciples that they were his true family. This time of his ministry was less celebrated by crowds and more focused on developing faithful followers, who receive the Word and endure with Christ to bear spiritual fruit.

Monday: Mark 2:18-28

Tuesday: Mark 3:1-6

Wednesday: Mark 3:7-21

Thursday: Mark 3:22-30

Friday: Mark 3:31-35

Saturday: Mark 4:1-9

Sunday: Mark 4:10-20

What to Look for in the Word

As you read the Word this week, consider the three audiences that intersect with Jesus. His disciples are a key group because they represent every follower of Jesus who is committed to him. The crowds sought Jesus more for what he could give them than to follow him. The religious leaders rejected him and were planning to kill him. As you consider who Jesus is and what he has done, ask the Spirit of God to move you towards being a faithful follower of Jesus.

Big Idea

Following Jesus endures through resistance, rejection, and suffering.

Memory Verse:

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. Isaiah 58:10

February 19

Prepare

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:3

As the sun rises today, I praise your name and look to you. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus responds to questions of the law.

Read

Mark 2:18-28

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our worship ministries to lead us in joyful surrender to the Lord.

You are loved.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8

Praise the Lord for his grace, patience, and unlimited love shown in Christ.

Thank you, Father, for your merciful, gracious, patient, and unlimited love. Spirit, remind me that I am loved and that nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ. Amen.

February 20

Prepare

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

1 Chronicles 16:29

Fill my mind and heart with your Word, that I may reflect you in my life. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath and draws criticism.

Read

Mark 3:1-6

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those being developed as leaders at Fellowship.

Walk by faith.

Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. John 6:47

Thank you, Father, that I do not have to perform to be accepted by you. I simply trust in the completed work of Christ for me. Thank you, Jesus, for building faith in me to live as your child today. Amen.

February 21

Prepare

By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. Psalm 42:8

You are the God of my life, and I recognize your love and presence with me this new day. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus, as the Son of God, has authority over all powers.

Read

Mark 3:7-21

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those who are fighting cancer in our church family.

Live in joy.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures evermore. Psalm 16:11

Where are you currently seeking the Lord's direction?

Lord, I do not know what to do, but I turn my eyes toward you with this issue. Fill me with joy and contentment, knowing you are working all things together for good. Amen.

February 22

Prepare

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! 1 Chronicles 16:34

I give thanks to you, Lord. Help me to see your goodness today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus explains to skeptical religious leaders that he is not from Satan.

Read

Mark 3:22-30

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those who are struggling with mental illness.

Speak and act in grace.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. Psalm 86:6

What are you seeking the grace of God for in your life?

Lord, I seek to live out your grace and truth with this challenge before me. I trust you to work in my mind, words, and actions to reflect your love. Amen.

February 23

Prepare

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!

Psalm 128:1

I seek you today, Father, to follow your ways. Open my eyes and heart to see and understand your calling on my life. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus faces resistance from his own family.

Read

Mark 3:31-35

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those who have lost a loved one recently.

Give generously.

We are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for ourselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

How are you being generous with what God has entrusted to you?

Lord, I want to take hold of that which is truly life - what matters and lasts forever. Work in me through your Spirit to make me generous and ready to give freely. Amen.

February 24

Prepare

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God. Psalm 146:5

You are my help and my hope, O Lord. I seek you today to guide me in truth and grace. Amen.

Receive the Word

The parable of the soils reveals four responses to the gospel message.

Read

Mark 4:1-9

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for us to respond to our enemies with remarkable love.

Forgive others.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Take a moment to thank and praise God for cleansing and forgiving your sins through Jesus.

February 25

Prepare

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. Psalm 148:13

I turn from the things of this world to seek and exalt you in my life. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus explains the purpose of teaching in parables.

Read

Mark 4:10-20

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to authentically live the gospel with truth and grace.

Rest in the gospel.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Psalm 127:2

Where in your life are you in need of rest?

I seek your rest with the things in my life that exhaust and overwhelm me. Thank you for being the rest for my soul, Jesus.

Weekly Overview

Week 9

The region of Galilee was off the grid from the Roman cities around it, but this was the area Jesus based his ministry from and formed his disciples. As Mark continues his account of the life of Christ, we will see Jesus heal the sick, command demons, and calm storms with the same voice and power that created the universe. Because John Mark was not one of the twelve disciples, he most likely received the account shared here from Peter as his primary source. Peter was with Jesus in the boat on the Sea of Galilee during the storm. Peter and the others cried out and questioned the care of Jesus. After Jesus calmed the storm, they all remarked, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” From calming a storm to casting out demons, Jesus demonstrates his authority as Lord of all. If you’re going to follow Jesus boldly, it is essential that you recognize and respond to his power and authority over all things. The forces that opposed the person and work of Christ on the earth continue to oppose us. The power to stand with Christ against evil requires you to trust and obey the One who is in authority over heaven and earth. Only in Christ can we find peace in a storm. Only in Christ are we able to stand against the spiritual forces of evil. Only in Christ can we live in the world and shine His light.

Monday: Mark 4:21-34

Tuesday: Mark 4:35-41

Wednesday: Mark 5:1-20

Thursday: Mark 5:21-34

Friday: Mark 5:35-43

Saturday: Mark 6:1-13

Sunday: Mark 6:14-29

What to Look for in the Word

Supernatural forces and demons are mentioned in the passages this week. Remember, we are not just living in the seen world but also in an unseen world. There may not be a demon in every corner of our lives, but demonic powers are at work around us. Take some time to learn things about the supernatural world that you may not have fully grasped until you opened the Word and read about it. Take comfort in the power, authority, and command of Jesus.

Big Idea

Following Jesus requires us to live by faith in the supernatural as we engage the natural world.

Memory Verse:

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

February 26

Prepare

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!!

Psalm 150:6

I recognize even my next breath comes from you. It is a gift. Thank you, Father, for giving me breath to live and praise you today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus teaches more parables about the kingdom of God.

Read

Mark 4:21-34

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for a spirit of humility and repentance in each of us.

You are loved.

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

Before you ever thought about God, and even before the world was created, he loved you.

Father, I praise you and receive your eternal love through Christ. Help me through your Spirit to live and give your love to others without waiting for them to love me first. Amen.

February 27

Prepare

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Psalm 115:1

Move my desires away from myself so that I may see and reflect your glory today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus calms a storm. Wind and waves obey him.

Read

Mark 4:35-41

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for an eternal perspective to guide our thoughts, desires, and actions today.

Walk by faith.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25

Who in your life is far from God and needs salvation?

Father, comfort my soul and build faith in me to share the reality that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. I pray they would believe in you, Jesus. Spirit, work to turn their hearts to Christ. Amen.

February 28

Prepare

**I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my
mouth. Psalm 34:1**

*Lord, remind me of your presence with
me in every situation and circumstance
of life today. Amen.*

Receive the Word

Jesus heals a man with a demon and
calls him to share what God has done
for him.

Read

Mark 5:1-20

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of
your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for
patience amidst the temptations of an
impulsive world..

Live in joy.

**This is the day that the Lord has
made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24**

*Thank you, Father, that all days are not
the same but that your joy is for every
day of my life. Amen.*

February 29

Prepare

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Psalm 84:2

As I seek you in your Word, Father, grow my desire to make you my highest joy. Amen.

Receive the Word

With compassion, power, and authority, Jesus heals a woman and raises the daughter of a leader to life.

Read

Mark 5:21-34

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for anger and bitterness to stay far away from us.

Speak and act in grace.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1:16

Jesus, you have given me the grace of God. Spirit, work in me to be a person who speaks and acts in your grace today. Amen.

March 1

Prepare

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. Psalm 123:1-2

Lift my eyes, O Lord, to see you and rest in your mercy today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Faith in Jesus opens the door to the power of God.

Read

Mark 5:35-43

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for contentment and thankfulness to be the posture of our hearts.

Give generously.

God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Is there any doubt that is preventing you from being a generous person? Turn from doubt by practicing faith in being generous to the Lord.

Lord, I seek you to supply my spiritual and physical needs as I give. Amen.

March 2

Prepare

Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD. Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! Psalm 135:1, 3

I praise you, Lord, for who you are and what you have done in my life. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus endures through the rejection of his hometown and sends his disciples out to preach the gospel.

Read

Mark 6:1-13

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for us to turn from comparison with others to dependence on Christ.

Forgive others.

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44

Love for enemies is unique to the Christian faith. It makes us look more like Christ to a watching world.

Lord, only you supply the resources and can teach me how to love my enemies through your Spirit. I seek you and surrender to your will and way in my life. Amen.

March 3

Prepare

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Psalm 145:15-16

I look to you, Lord, to be filled and satisfied in you. Amen.

Receive the Word

John the Baptist is arrested and killed for his faithful preaching of repentance.

Read

Mark 6:14-29

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to seek the mind of Christ and present our bodies as offerings to the Lord for His glory.

Rest in the gospel.

The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.

Proverbs 19:23

Weekly Overview

Week 10

Two miraculous feedings of people occur as bookends to our daily readings this week. The feeding of the 5,000 takes place on the Jewish (western) side of the Sea of Galilee, and the feeding of the 4,000 takes place on the Gentile (eastern) side. By including both, Mark shares the compassion of Jesus for all people – Jews and Gentiles – and his ability to satisfy spiritual hunger in everyone who turns to him.

As Jesus continues to walk through life and ministry with the twelve disciples, you will see their failures exposed in raw form. The beauty of the account of Mark is that nothing is held back. It's not the faithfulness of the disciples that is celebrated, but rather Jesus, who showed himself to be faithful and enduring as he called them to follow him amidst their failures. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, the disciples will experience testing under the caring and mindful eyes of Jesus. He was with them and called them to believe in him above their fears and doubts.

Monday: Mark 6:30-44

Tuesday: Mark 6:45-52

Wednesday: Mark 6:53-56

Thursday: Mark 7:1-13

Friday: Mark 7:14-23

Saturday: Mark 7:24-37

Sunday: Mark 8:1-10

What to Look for in the Word

As you read the Word this week, is there a circumstance in your life causing you to be crippled by fear or cautious with doubts? This passage reminds you that you are not alone in this life. Jesus invited his disciples to trust and depend on him, and that invitation extends to you. Like them, the tests you face are opportunities to recognize the presence and power of Christ with you and for you. Also, like the disciples, you can look within to find the answers, solutions, or possibilities to your problems, challenges, or failures, or you can turn to God and trust and obey.

Big Idea

In following Jesus, we are invited to recognize and surrender our hard hearts to him, to see what he sees, and to do what he calls us to do.

Memory Verse:

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

March 4

Prepare

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:8-9

Thank you, Father, for your grace and compassion to me. Move in my heart today to reflect your goodness and mercy. Amen.

Receive the Word

God will provide in every situation.

Read

Mark 6:30-44

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family that we would see the needs of others around us and be available for them.

You are loved.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
Psalm 63:3

Think about what it means for you to hold the steadfast love of God that is better than life.

I need you, Father, and the power of your Spirit to receive and reflect your love in my life. Amen.

March 5

Prepare

Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17

As I look to you today, Father, I believe nothing in my life is too difficult for you. Build a deeper faith and trust within me. Amen.

Receive the Word

Hardness of heart will keep us from seeing and trusting Jesus for who he is and what will do in our lives.

Read

Mark 6:45-52

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for business leaders in our community to reflect the goodness and grace of God in Christ.

Walk by faith.

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Acts 10:43

Everyone who believes receives - that means everyone. Is there anyone in your life who is challenging to love that you could pray that they would believe in Christ?

Pray for them.

March 6

Prepare

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Psalm 145:3-4

Father, please let me be part of a generation of believers who declare your greatness to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Receive the Word

The faith of the Gentile communities resulted in healing by Jesus.

Read

Mark 6:53-56

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those healing from brokenness or loss.

Live in joy.

For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 2:20

Pray that God would use you to be a joy in the lives of the people around you.

March 7

Prepare

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. Psalm 146:8

I seek you today, Lord, to open my eyes to your will and way for me. Amen.

Receive the Word

When we focus on the external, we ignore the internal condition of the heart.

Read

Mark 7:1-13

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those in our church dealing with parenting challenges.

Speak and act in grace.

Let your speech always be gracious. Colossians 4:6

Father, I need your help, through the power of your Spirit, to move in my mind to think and speak grace. I trust your leading with the words I use today. Correct me before I speak, and reflect your love through me. Amen.

March 8

Prepare

He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. Daniel 2:22

I open my life to you, Lord, to search for hidden things within me and to guide me in the truth. Amen.

Receive the Word

Faith and humility are marks of a follower of Jesus.

Read

Mark 7:14-35

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those are fostering children that they may do so with Christ's love and truth.

Give generously.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21

Connect the things you have worried about or wanted this week with the things you treasure. Do you see a pattern?

Today, Father, I place my greatest treasure on you as the first and best in my life. Through giving, I reflect this truth. Work in my heart to be a blessing with what you have entrusted to me. Amen.

March 9

Prepare

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Luke 1:46-47, 49

*I seek you in your Word today, Lord.
Please let my life make you greater in all things. Amen.*

Receive the Word

Jesus heals and restores gentiles.

Read

Mark 7:24-37

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our church to shine the truth and grace of Jesus in our community.

Forgive others.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6:12

Is there anyone against whom you are stacking debts? Forgive them, clear the debt, and live in the freedom of forgiveness.

March 10

Prepare

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Revelation 15:3

Father, I recognize you and respond to your greatness in my life today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus feeds the 4,000.

Read

Mark 8:1-10

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for a deeper love for the people and city of Topeka, and to boldly share Christ.

Rest in the gospel.

My people will abide in peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. Isaiah 32:18

How are you finding the time and a place to rest in your week?

Lord, please work in me to value resting over striving so that in resting, I might know and trust your will and way for my life. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Week 11

The religious leaders around Jesus could see it and ordered their lives around addressing it. People are unclean before God. Jesus also taught (in last week's readings) that in our fallen state, we cannot approach God. People who listened to their religious leaders and then heard the teachings of Jesus found a distinct difference, however, in how to address sin. Jesus pointed to the self-centeredness of the human heart as the problem, and the only solution for us would be to allow him to make us clean. The religious leaders thought and taught that salvation could be earned through righteous living and obedience to the law. Jesus countered that the issue was too deep and beyond cure. We cannot save ourselves; we must be saved. The passages for this week provide a shift in emphasis on the life of Christ. Jesus, with his eyes set towards Jerusalem, began to teach his disciples "that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again." This turn from Galilee to Jerusalem was a clear and defining moment for Jesus and those following him. The only path to forgiveness is through his death and resurrection.

Monday: Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday: Mark 8:22-26

Wednesday: Mark 8:27-9:1

Thursday: Mark 9:2-13

Friday: Mark 9:14-29

Saturday: Mark 9:30-37

Sunday: Mark 9:38-50

What to Look for in the Word

Take time to notice and remark this week on the distinct teaching of Jesus to his disciples that marked the turning point of his ministry on earth. Jesus said, "The Son of Man MUST..." signaling that it was the primary focus and culmination of his time on the earth. Halfway through Mark's gospel account, we have Peter's famous confession, "You are the Christ." This is of utmost importance to a follower of Jesus: the moment when we, by faith, confess and embrace Christ for ourselves.

Big Idea

The cross is the example for all who follow Christ. In our culture, our "cross to bear" is often used of our trials or difficulties. But it is more than that - taking up our cross means laying down our own ways to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, embracing his will and way for us.

Memory Verse:

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

March 11

Prepare

Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? Exodus 15:11

I praise you today, Lord, for your holiness and power. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus warns his disciples of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

Read

Mark 8:11-21

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our neighbors to find and follow Jesus.

You are loved.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Colossians 3:12

Underline and explain each value you are to "put on" in Christ listed above, and pray for God to form it in you.

Compassion: _____

Kindness: _____

Humility: _____

Meekness: _____

Patience: _____

March 12

Prepare

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. Deuteronomy 32:4

In an imperfect world with an imperfect life, I come to you, Lord, to guide me in justice and righteousness. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus is the healer who can bring sight to the blind.

Read

Mark 8:22-26

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to live by faith in the things that are causing us to fear.

Walk by faith.

Jesus said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" Mark 4:40

What right now makes you afraid?

Confess it to the Lord and seek him to deepen your faith.

March 13

Prepare

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. Psalm 145:21

I thank you today, Lord, for salvation in Christ and ask that you empower me to make His name greater in all things today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus begins to share about his future suffering, death, and resurrection.

Read

Mark 8:27-9:1

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our hearts to obey God no matter the cost.

Live in joy.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! Psalm 126:5

Father, I trust you with the things in my life that have broken my heart. Work through your Spirit to remind me you are with me and are working for your good. Bring your joy that I may be encouraged in you. Amen.

March 14

Prepare

Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last. My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together. **Isaiah 48:12-13**

Father, I recognize you as the first and the last who guides and directs me in life today. Help me to cultivate a heart to follow you joyfully. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus reveals his identity through the Transfiguration.

Read Mark 9:2-13

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for reconciliation in relationships that are in crisis.

Speak and act in grace.

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

Father, you are filled with grace and truth. Please work through your Spirit to live in balance with grace and truth as I navigate the people and situations of today. Amen.

March 15

Prepare

O LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. 2 Kings 19:15

Open my eyes, Lord, to see and recognize that you are over all the kingdoms of the earth and to place you first in my life. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus confronts unbelief.

Read

Mark 9:14-29

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the hearts of our children to love and serve Jesus.

Give generously.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

Going from rich to poor is something few people desire, yet when you give to the Lord, you model the very way of Jesus in the gospel. You have the riches of God because of the "emptying" of Jesus.

Jesus, work through your Spirit in me to follow you in being generous. Amen.

March 16

Prepare

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High. Psalm 7:17

Receive the Word

Good leaders are great servants.

Read

Mark 9:30-37

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our mission partners' physical and spiritual safety and health.

Forgive others.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. Ephesians 1:7

Guide me today, Father, to live out forgiveness by how I forgive others. Amen.

March 17

Prepare

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
1 Chronicles 16:36

*I join heaven in praising you today,
Lord. Let me receive and reflect your
goodness to others. Amen.*

Receive the Word

God uses trials to shape and form us
into faithful followers.

Read

Mark 9:38-50

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of
your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our
words to encourage the people around
us today.

Rest in the gospel.

**Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that
we may be restored! Renew our days
as of old. Lamentations 5:21**

Take two minutes of silence to rest in
the reality of the gospel of Jesus in
your life.

Weekly Overview

Week 12

As his disciples followed him to Jerusalem, Jesus was preparing them to navigate life after his death and resurrection. The ramifications of the gospel of Jesus would influence every area of their lives. As their Lord, they would teach about him and instruct others to follow him as they advanced the gospel to the end of the earth. Not long after his final teachings, Mark shares the final days of Jesus before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Mark's narrative is like "the grand finale" of a fireworks display, filled with prophetic symbols and object lessons shared by Jesus as final warnings and pleadings to turn back to God and believe in his appointed Messiah. As the account of Mark emphasizes the authority of Jesus, so also the final week of the life of Christ presents his authority over the religious leaders and an unrepentant, unfruitful Israel. Mark shows us that, using the cornerstone of Christ, God would build a new faith structure grander than the temple, greater than a religious structure. Jesus is the foundation upon which we can build our faith and lives.

Monday: Mark 10:1-12

Tuesday: Mark 10:13-31

Wednesday: Mark 10:32-52

Thursday: Mark 11:1-11

Friday: Mark 11:12-26

Saturday: Mark 11:27-12:12

Sunday: Mark 12:1-27

What to Look for in the Word

As you read this week's passages, it seems clear and simple - Jesus is the Messiah. Yet, blinded in sin and without the life-giving power of the Spirit within them, people cannot see the light of the glory of Christ. Rejection builds to the point where Jesus will ultimately be arrested, tried, and crucified. The final week of the life of Christ provides the boldest picture of the identity of Christ and the hardness of the hearts of those who rejected him. Within this heightening drama, God is bringing salvation. Jesus is the one who saves.

Big Idea

Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. Accepting his identity and work for us allows him to bear spiritual fruit in our lives.

Memory Verse:

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

March 18

Prepare

Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. Nehemiah 9:5

I turn from all the things that could be idols to me today to trust and worship you, Lord. Amen.

Receive the Word

Marriage is a life-long covenant before God.

Read

Mark 10:1-12

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for us to have a humble and teachable spirit with God and His Word.

You are loved.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

I look to you, the Author of Love, to fill my life with love so that I can see myself as your beloved child and love others as you have loved me. Amen.

March 19

Prepare

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? **Psalm 8:1, 3-4**

Thank you, Father, for your steadfast love and care. Lead me today in your ways. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus welcomed and received children.

Read Mark 10:13-31

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those struggling with addiction.

Walk by faith.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

I believe in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for me and confess Jesus is Lord! Thank you, Father, for saving me. Amen.

March 20

Prepare

He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen. Deuteronomy 10:21

I open my heart to receive your will and way for me today, Father. Amen.

Receive the Word

For the third time, Jesus talks about his suffering, death, and resurrection with his disciples.

Read

Mark 10:32-52

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those experiencing financial stress.

Live in joy.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

Father in heaven, I turn from all the things that promise joy, yet ultimately deliver disappointment. I trust you to fill me with your joy and peace. Work powerfully through your Spirit to deepen hope in me. Amen.

March 21

Prepare

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

1 Chronicles 16:29

Reflect on the beauty of the Lord and give him praise.

Receive the Word

Jesus enters Jerusalem, being hailed as a king.

Read

Mark 11:1-11

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to reflect the grace and patience of Jesus today as we drive and navigate traffic.

Speak and act in grace.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8

Lord, guide my mind and heart to speak things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy today. Amen.

March 22

Prepare

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:9-10

I turn to you this day, Lord, and surrender my troubles to your loving hands. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus curses an unfruitful tree and cleanses the temple.

Read

Mark 11:12-26

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our ABLE classes to equip believers in the Word.

Give generously.

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

What, then, does your life consist of?

Father, remind me that I am worth far more than the things I have or the money I make. I have been given the gift of Jesus, who restored me to you, and I live in his blessings, which overflow to others. I live in the power of your Spirit, who is alive and at work in me. Thank you! Amen.

March 23

Prepare

I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation.

Psalm 18:3, 46

Thank you, Father, for sending your Son, Jesus, to live, die, and rise for my salvation. I turn to your Spirit to reveal your Word to me today. Amen.

Receive the Word

The priests and scribes question the authority of Jesus.

Read

Mark 11:27-12:12

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our student ministry to equip Christ-centered leaders. Think of a name and pray for them.

Forgive others.

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled. Hebrews 12:15

Father, bitterness will cloud the glory of the gospel in me. Through your Spirit, guide me out of bitterness and into your joy. Amen.

March 24

Prepare

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Psalm 34:8

Father, build in me an appetite of desire for you that leads to a deeper trust. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus teaches about the parable of the stewards of a vineyard.

Read

Mark 12:1-27

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for self-control in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Rest in the gospel.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

What has burdened or overwhelmed you? Share it with the only One who can give you rest.

I surrender my burdens and struggles to find rest in you, Jesus. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Week 13

What Jesus had shared with his disciples about his arrest, crucifixion, death, and resurrection culminated in the final days of his earthly ministry. This week is the “longest” of the Bible; the gospel writers spend most of their accounts detailing this final week, known as passion week. As you prepare for Easter, slow down to see and glean the richness of the suffering and death of Jesus for you. Our readings begin with the two major commands of Jesus – to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus shares these two commands to love God with all we are and to love others out of the love he has given us. The final days of Jesus on this earth would also focus on the future of the world. Jesus will foretell the temple’s destruction, which would happen in many of their lifetimes. He would also predict future events preceding his physical return and final judgment of the world before he recreates a new heaven and earth where believers will live with him forever. During the Passover celebration, Jesus offered his life as the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. His death and resurrection vindicated him in his suffering as Savior and glorified him as God in the flesh. Those who follow Jesus will experience suffering and rejection but are promised victory, reward, and full restoration in heaven with him.

Monday: Mark 12:28-44

Tuesday: Mark 13:1-27

Wednesday: Mark 13:28-14:9

Thursday: Mark 14:10-72

Friday: Mark 15:1-47

Saturday: Mark 16:1-13

Sunday: Mark 16:14-20

What to Look for in the Word

Those who followed Jesus during his last week had a rollercoaster experience. As you read the account, think about what it must have felt like to follow Jesus to his death when your experience with him affirmed his life, power, and authority. You will see stark contrasts and shifting loyalties. The crowds receiving him in Jerusalem would shout for his crucifixion a few days later. His closest followers ran away and were scattered during his hour of deepest sorrow. But our faithful God would encourage their faith with the incredible news of the resurrection. This scattered group united and took the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Big Idea

God chooses humble and lowly servants who model the likeness of Christ to accomplish his great work.

Memory Verse:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

March 25

Prepare

We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness. Psalm 48:9-10

I look to you today, Father, to see you in your Word and to follow your way for me. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus shares two great commandments to love God and love others.

Read Mark 12:28-44

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for hope to guide us in our disappointments today.

You are loved.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:12

As I abide in you and love others, perfect your love in me, Lord. Amen.

March 26

Prepare

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. Deuteronomy 32:4

I come to you, the righteous and perfect God, to align my life to your will and way. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus shares the future judgment of the temple and those who reject him.

Read

Mark 13:1-27

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family that we would live by faith, not by sight.

Walk by faith.

For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." Romans 10:11

What does the good news about Jesus teach you about your shame?

I praise you, Jesus, for working through your Spirit to help me believe in you and to remove the shame of my sin. Build in me a faith that turns from self-dependence to living on the firm foundation of you. Amen.

March 27

Prepare

“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you. Isaiah 54:10

Father, thank you for your steadfast and faithful love. Please fill me with your love to see you, faithfully follow you, and long for your return. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus continues to teach his disciples about the future events of his return.

Read

Mark 13:28-14:9

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today’s needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to speak and act with gentleness to those around us.

Live in joy.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning. Psalm 30:5

I turn to you, Lord, with the things that bring me sorrow and sadness. Restore my heart and refresh your joy within me. Amen.

March 28

Prepare

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. **Psalm 116:1-2**

Thank you, Father, for hearing my voice and listening to my prayers. I seek to understand who you are so that I might live in your likeness. Work in me to deepen my faith and solidify my devotion to you. Amen.

Receive the Word

As Jesus prepares for Passover, Judas is preparing to betray him.

Read

Mark 14:10-72

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our church building staff as they serve and set up each room for ministry.

Speak and act in grace.

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6

Confess any pride that the Spirit reveals to you in your view of yourself or how you treat others.

Thank you, God, for giving me grace through the forgiveness of Christ. Spirit, work your humility in me as I follow Jesus. Amen.

March 29

Prepare

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalms 63:3-4

Father, your loving kindness was shown in the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus. Humble my heart this weekend as I reflect and respond to your death and resurrection. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus is delivered to Pilate, and the crowd demands his crucifixion.

Read

Mark 15:1-47

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Examine

Pray with your church family for our connections team as they welcome, listen, and invite guests to their next step with Christ.

Give generously.

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf. Proverbs 11:28

Apply

Lord, protect me from the love of money by practicing generosity. Turn my eyes from comparing what I have with others and set them on Jesus, who has richly provided me with many spiritual and physical things. Build my security not in how much wealth I have but in how much love you have given me in Christ. Amen.

March 30

Prepare

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." Psalm 66:3-4

Father, the death of Jesus on the cross brought me back to you. It is finished. I can turn from trying to trusting, from doing to placing my faith in Christ's work. Thank you. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus resurrects from the dead.

Read

Mark 16:1-13

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our parking team as they faithfully welcome people this weekend.

Forgive others.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
Psalm 25:7

God chooses not only to forgive our sins, but also to remember them no more.

Lord, thank you for your goodness and kindness in Christ Jesus. Work through your Spirit to remind me of your forgiveness and to reflect it to others today. Amen.

March 31

Prepare

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Psalm 95:2-3

Father, Jesus Christ is risen. Hallelujah! May I boldly live in light of a living Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Receive the Word

Jesus appears to his disciples after the resurrection.

Read

Mark 16:14-20

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those who serve in our city and county government.

Rest in the gospel.

Repent, therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, and times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus. Acts 3:19-20

Lord, as you erase my sins, you refresh my life. Thank you for clearing the slate of sins that stood against me through the work of Christ on the cross. I rest in you today as your forgiven and restored child. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Week 14

Over the next four weeks, we dedicate our time in the Word to the letter of Paul to the Philippians. Although imprisoned at the time of writing, Paul loved this church dearly and called them to model Christ's character through their lives together joyfully. His own life would attest to the unapologetic, unrestrained, and unlimited joy that comes from a relationship with God through the grace of Christ. This joy was reflected in Paul's relationship with God and the partnership he shared with the Philippian believers in ministry. It resulted from a deep and rich bond of love so that he was filled with joy whenever he thought of them.

As a prisoner, most likely in Rome, the Philippian church cared about and was concerned for Paul. His letter not only shared an update on his condition but gave them a perspective that God was using his imprisonment as a platform to advance the gospel. His circumstances seeing the Philippians again was at risk because of his imprisonment, but this did not discourage him because he was confident in Christ and the firm conviction that "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Monday: Philippians 1:1-5

Tuesday: Philippians 1:6-8

Wednesday: Philippians 1:9-11

Thursday: Philippians 1:12-14

Friday: Philippians 1:15-18

Saturday: Philippians 1:19-26

Sunday: Philippians 1:27-30

What to Look for in the Word

"To live is Christ, and to die is gain."
All of Paul's life was focused on the reward before him with Christ. Nothing on this earth held him back. Even persecution and suffering could not prevent the gospel from advancing through his life.

Did you know that you can live with the same certainty as Paul? As you study and respond to this first chapter of Philippians, process what it could look like for you to live with such a certainty of eternity with Christ that it would move you to risk all that you are and all that you have been given to advance the gospel in the lives of others.

Big Idea

In the hands of God, what may look like a hindrance can become a highway for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

April 1

Prepare

My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day. But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.

Psalm 71:8, 14

I turn from all the things besides you, Father, that I have placed my hope in to find my hope in you. Amen.

Receive the Word

Paul greets the Philippian church and blesses them.

Read

Philippians 1:1-5

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the spiritual condition of our country.

You are loved.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:12

Is there anyone in your life today who you are withholding your love? Turn from this and love them as Jesus has loved you.

April 2

Prepare

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night. Psalm 92:1-2

Lord, I receive your grace today through Christ and make my life available for your loving kindness. Amen.

Receive the Word

Paul considers the Philippians partners in the gospel.

Read

Philippians 1:6-8

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to take hold of the real purpose of our lives - to make Jesus greater in all things.

Walk by faith.

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake. Philippians 1:29

What are you suffering with in your life? Is anyone in your life suffering? Ask God for deeper faith within you and them.

April 3

Prepare

Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! Psalm 3:8

Today, Father, I live in the joy of my salvation. Amen.

Receive the Word

Paul prays for love to grow more and more.

Read

Philippians 1:9-11

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those who serve in our children's ministry. Choose a name and pray for them.

Live in Joy.

Restore to me the joy of my salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51:12

Lord, form in me a willing spirit to follow you. May your Spirit remind me of all you are and have done for me so that in joy, I may follow you when things are difficult. Amen.

April 4

Prepare

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed. Revelation 15:3-4

Form in me, Lord, a mind and heart that reflects you today. Amen.

Receive the Word

What has happened to Paul has advanced the gospel.

Read Philippians 1:12-14

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our homes to be available for the gospel through hospitality.

Speak and act in grace.
Let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Because of your grace, Father, I can live confidently in you. I seek you in the challenges and opportunities I will face today. Work in me through your Spirit to speak and act in grace. Amen.

April 5

Prepare

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.

Psalm 93:1-2

I seek you, the everlasting God. Form in me the likeness of Jesus. Amen.

Receive the Word

Some preach Christ for personal gain.

Read

Philippians 1:15-18

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the needs of the poor and under-resourced in our community.

Give generously.

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:13

Lord, work in me through your Spirit to see the needs of people around me and share with them what you have entrusted to me. Rather than worshipping the things you have given me, help me to worship you with them. Amen.

April 6

Prepare

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. Psalm 5:11

I place you over all the challenges of my life today and seek you, Lord, as my first and best. Amen.

Receive the Word

Paul longs to be with Christ yet sees his purpose ministering in people's lives.

Read Philippians 1:19-26

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our ministry to refugees in our community.

Forgive others.

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. Luke 7:47

Father, open my heart to consider the depth of your forgiveness, and work in me, by the power of your Spirit, the capacity to forgive others. Amen.

April 7

Prepare

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High. Psalm 7:17

Thank the Lord for his righteousness and seeks his righteous way in your life today.

Receive the Word

Let your life reflect the glory of the gospel.

Read Philippians 1:27-30

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those affected by an emergency or disaster recently.

Rest in the gospel.

For we who have believed enter that rest, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works. Hebrews 4:3,10

Thank you, Father, that through Christ, I can find rest for my soul. Teach me to turn from performing to trusting in Jesus as the only basis on which you accept me. Work through your Spirit to empower me to live as a follower of Christ. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Week 15

From the style and form of how Paul wrote about the humility of Christ in Philippians chapter 2, most biblical scholars believe this is one of the earliest hymns of the church. The words are rich and describe the marvelous descent of Christ from the highest position in the universe to the lowest - death on a Roman cross for our sin. In these beautiful words that describe what God has done through Christ to save us, we are called to follow the example in stepping down from the positions we hold to exalt Christ in our lives. When Jesus Christ is Lord in your life, other things fall into their appropriate place. Ordering your life around Christ will change how you speak, act, think, and feel.

Following Christ as Lord is about yielding to God and allowing his Spirit to lead and direct you in the way of Jesus. As Paul shared the theology of what God is forming in us, he also provided human examples of how this looks in life. His own life, as well as those of Timothy and Epaphroditus, is detailed to the Philippians as models of surrendered followers of Christ.

Monday: Philippians 2:1-4

Tuesday: Philippians 2:5-11

Wednesday: Philippians 2:12-13

Thursday: Philippians 2:14-18

Friday: Philippians 2:19-24

Saturday: Philippians 2:25-27

Sunday: Philippians 2:28-30

What to Look for in the Word

Take some time today to slow down to move from reading these words with your eyes to letting them sink into your mind and heart. These verses detail the foundation of our faith and teach us many things about God and his love for us through Christ. We see the divinity of Christ and his existence with the Father before the world was created. We read about the incarnation, his identity and role as a servant, and his willingness to offer himself as a sacrifice for sins on the cross. Ultimately, we see his victorious defeat of sin and death to be glorified by the Father for all eternity. Every knee will bow. Every tongue in all creation will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. These words describe the ultimate destiny of all things is to bring glory to God through Christ. Jesus is Lord. Following Jesus as Lord is best done in community. As Paul shares the example of his own life and those of Timothy and Epaphroditus, he invites us to follow Christ in the fellowship of believers.

Big Idea

Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Alpha and Omega, who created and ordered all of life. He is King of all kings and Lord of all other lords. My life is to be ordered and calibrated to Jesus as Lord of all.

Memory Verse:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

April 8

Prepare

Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

Psalm 97:11-12

Receive the Word

Humility looks after others' interests with greater significance than our own.

Read

Philippians 2:1-4

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for each of us to live available with the gospel.

You are loved.

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:5

Remember your first calling. You are a beloved child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Lord, work through your Spirit in me to remind me of Jesus, who loved me before the foundation of the world. As I live today, move in me to be your faithful child. Amen.

April 9

Prepare

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:1-5

Receive the Word

Jesus is the standard and model of humility.

Read Philippians 2:5-11

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those in our church who are recovering from surgery.

Walk by faith.

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Lord, work in me to be an example to others of what it means to be a Christian in this world. Amen.

April 10

Prepare

Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? Exodus 15:11

No one is like you, Lord. Therefore, I turn from all idols in my life to set you in your rightful place. You are first and best. Amen.

Receive the Word

As God wills and works in you, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

Read Philippians 2:12-13

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for college students in our church to grow deeper in their faith amidst the distractions around them.

Live in joy.

Yet will I rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:18

Lord, as I look around and see brokenness, heartbreak, and evil, deepen my faith to trust in you and make a difference in the world for the name and glory of Jesus. Amen.

April 11

Prepare

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. Deuteronomy 32:4

I turn from my brokenness and flaws to trust you as the righteous and upright God. Calibrate my life to your Word and way. Amen.

Receive the Word

Obey Christ in a crooked generation.

Read

Philippians 2:14-18

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those in our church who are currently on a military deployment.

Speak and act in grace.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end. Lamentations 3:22

Thank you for your ceaseless grace in my life, O Lord. Open my eyes, heart, and mind to see your love for me and to love others well today. Amen.

April 12

Prepare

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works... Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD! Psalm 104:31, 35b

I bless you, Lord. Spirit, guide me as I lean into the Word and open my life to be led by you. Amen.

Receive the Word

Timothy was a partner in the gospel with Paul.

Read Philippians 2:19-24

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for children in our church who are navigating trauma.

Give generously.

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2:45

Lord, I recognize you as the owner and giver of everything. Help me to be a good steward of what is yours in giving to your church and helping meet the physical needs of the people you put in my life. Amen.

April 13

Prepare

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104:24

I seek you, the God who owns all things, and look to you for contentment. Amen.

Receive the Word

Epaphroditus risked his life for the gospel.

Read

Philippians 2:25-27

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for victory over temptation through the leading of the Spirit in our lives.

Forgive others.

Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. Luke 17:3

Father, let nothing but your love guide me in forgiving those who offend me today. Amen.

April 14

Prepare

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Psalm 105:1-2

Thank you, Lord, for speaking to me through your Word. Open my mind and heart to be filled with your knowledge and understanding. Amen.

Receive the Word

The Philippians are to receive Epaphroditus as a minister in their church.

Read Philippians 2:28-30

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for a major spiritual awakening in Topeka.

Rest in the gospel.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High. Psalm 91:1

What song comes to your mind when you think about God? Sing it and worship him.

Weekly Overview

Week 16

Paul viewed his arrest and imprisonment as participation in the sufferings of Christ. Rather than a curse, he counted it as an honor and privilege. His afflictions were not a result of his poor choices but rather hardships experienced because of his testimony for Christ. His daily perspective was fed by the promise of God for eternity.

In Philippians chapter three, we will read how his imprisonment moved him to share the gains and losses of life. After he came to Christ, Paul looked back on his gains and accomplishments of his past identity. He was a studied and zealous Pharisee and highly respected among the Jews. Yet, Paul's success and accomplishments meant nothing to him because they did not lead him to Christ. Although his lifestyle, passion, and heritage gave him a foundational knowledge about God, they did not reveal Christ to him. Now, with faith in Christ and saved by grace, his new goal was to know and experience Christ Jesus, his Lord, through his sufferings. The things the world counts as losses, Paul counted as gains. This is refreshing and liberating news for us in a world with clear measures and deep opinions on what your best life could be.

Anything that leads us to a deeper knowledge and understanding of Christ is considered a gain in the kingdom of God. Anything that hinders or distracts us from Christ is considered a loss.

Monday: Philippians 3:1-3

Tuesday: Philippians 3:4-7

Wednesday: Philippians 3:8-9

Thursday: Philippians 3:10-11

Friday: Philippians 3:12-14

Saturday: Philippians 3:15-19

Sunday: Philippians 3:20-21

What to Look for in the Word

In this chapter, take note of Paul's "gains and losses." As you reflect on your gains and losses, consider how God worked in each circumstance to draw you closer to him. The ultimate goal of life's situations and circumstances is to "know Christ and the power of his resurrection." We are not to be stuck in the past, burdened by shortcomings, or trying to relive the good old days. We are called to continually press on to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Take note of who you are and what you have as a child of God through faith in Christ. In a world that points out the things you don't have but think you need, remember you live in abundance with the mind and resources of Christ. You are called to be children of God who reflect the excellence and greatness of God through all things in your life.

Big Idea

Joy is the inner quality of delight in God despite your circumstances. This gift from God is available to every believer in any circumstance or situation. Happiness is for those whose reality aligns with their expectations. Joy is for all who trust God amidst blessings and burdens.

Memory Verse:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

April 15

Prepare

Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD, or declare all his praise?

Psalm 106:1-2

Turn my eyes away from distractions to see and hear from you today, Lord. Amen.

Receive the Word

Place confidence in Christ, not in your flesh.

Read Philippians 3:1-3

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our nursery ministries, as they love parents and children.

You are loved.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5

Thank you for seeing my sins and transgressions and loving me, Father. Thank you for Jesus, who acted out your love for me in his life, death, and resurrection. Guide me by your Spirit to love you and others today. Amen.

April 16

Prepare

My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being! I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.
Psalm 108:1, 3

Receive the Word

Paul counts his gains as losses.

Read Philippians 3:4-7

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family that we would be sensitive to sin and passionate for more of God.

Walk by faith.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you have learned it. 2 Timothy 3:14

Guide me, Father, to continue today to live by faith. From your Word to your world, move me to be a person of faith. Amen.

April 17

Prepare

Tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" 1 Chronicles 16:30-31

Lord, please give me a view of yourself in your Word that humbles me and makes me look more like Jesus. Amen.

Receive the Word

True gains will result in a deeper understanding in life.

Read Philippians 3:8-9

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the health of those sick in our church.

Live in joy.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by my various trials.

1 Peter 1:6

What trials are you facing right now?

I trust in you, Father, to walk by faith during the trials in my life. Build faith and joy within my heart and mind. Amen.

April 18

Prepare

But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. Jeremiah 10:10a

You are truth, and I seek your Spirit, Lord, to be led to truth and to follow by faith. Amen.

Receive the Word

Knowing Christ leads to becoming like Christ.

Read

Philippians 3:10-11

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our love for one another to deepen.

Speak and act in grace. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36

Is there someone in your life who needs mercy? Pray for God, for his Spirit, to give you an idea of how to express mercy to them.

April 19

Prepare

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! Psalm 111:10

I place you as the first and best in my life. I seek you, Lord, to know wisdom and to grow in understanding. Amen.

Receive the Word

Press on to the upward call of God in Christ.

Read

Philippians 3:12-14

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the work of missions in Europe and Asia.

Give generously.

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:25

How has your life benefitted from others giving to you?

Father, I recognize and thank you for all the people you've placed in my life over the years who were generous with their time, energy, money, and kindness. Help me to be a person that is a blessing to others through generosity. Amen.

April 20

Prepare

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? Psalm 113:3, 5-6

As the sun rises today, I praise your name and order my life under the Lordship of Jesus. Amen.

Receive the Word

Hold fast to what Christ has given you.

Read Philippians 3:15-19

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the president and national leaders.

Forgive others.

But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. Psalm 130:4

Father, thank you for your forgiveness through the person and work of Jesus. I praise you for being a God who forgives and teaches me, through Christ, to forgive others. Amen.

April 21

Prepare

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Psalm 115:1

I turn from the emphasis I place on myself to give you glory and praise, Lord. Let the result of my time with you result in me giving you glory in all things. Amen.

Receive the Word

Believers are citizens of heaven.

Read Philippians 3:20-21

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the financial needs of our church family to be met.

Rest in the gospel.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 91:1

Lord, today I rest in you, the Almighty God. Help me to recognize your presence with me and your protection over me as I navigate the situations I face. Amen.

Weekly Overview

Week 17

As Paul stood for Christ as a prisoner in Rome, he wrote the closing of his letter to the church in Philippi like a Roman general to his troops. His command was clear, “stand firm in the Lord.” If you read Paul’s command to the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 6:11-14, you will find a detailed charge of what it looks like to stand using the resources God has provided. The language of this chapter does not place the responsibility on us to take new ground but rather to hold the ground that Christ has already taken for us. James Montgomery Boice, in his commentary on Philippians, writes: “By the resurrection, God proclaimed his Son victor over the whole realm of darkness, and the ground Christ won he has given to us. We do not need to fight to obtain it. We only need to hold it against all challenges.” It’s ironic that as Paul writes his words to “stand” with military terms, he is also held as a prisoner in Rome. In many cases of a leader being held as a prisoner, there would be a call for their followers to rebel and conquer the government or forces holding the leader. Yet, Paul commands his fellow Christ followers to stand in Christ’s completed work for them.

Monday: Philippians 4:1-3

Tuesday: Philippians 4:4-6

Wednesday: Philippians 4:7-9

Thursday: Philippians 4:10-12

Friday: Philippians 4:13-17

Saturday: Philippians 4:18-19

Sunday: Philippians 4:21-23

What to Look for in the Word

As you read about what it looks like to “stand firm,” take some time to detail what Christ has already won for us. These realities apply to our views of ourselves and how we relate to others. Standing firm is not a command to do on your own. The church, your brothers and sisters in Christ, are gifts from God to stand with and by each other as we follow the example of Christ. Setting our minds on Christ, seeking contentment in Christ, and practicing together what we learn and see in each other’s lives are gifts from God to help us as we stand firm in Christ.

Big Idea

God calls me to live in contentment within the context of community. Contentment in Christ is learned by recognizing and relying on the completed work of Christ for me. Rather than scarcity, God has provided an abundance of grace and goodness in Christ.

Memory Verse:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

April 22

Prepare

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. Psalm 123:1-2

I look to you, Lord, to lead me in your truth and grace today. Amen.

Receive the Word

Stay true to the Lord.

Read

Philippians 4:1-3

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for the needs of the poor in Topeka.

You are loved.

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! 1 Chronicles 16:34

Thank the Lord for specific ways he has been good to you.

Father, your love endures forever. I thank you for your love in my life and how it overflows from you to me and from me to others. Amen.

April 23

Prepare

For I know that the LORD is great,
and that our Lord is above all gods.
Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
your renown, O LORD, throughout all
ages. Psalm 135:5, 13

*I consider your greatness, O God, and
order my life under you. Guide me in
your truth. Amen.*

Receive the Word

Be full of joy and anxious for nothing.

Read Philippians 4:4-6

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of
your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our
staff's marriages and families.

Walk by faith.

**And without faith it is impossible to
please him, for whoever would draw
near to God must believe that he
exists and that he rewards those who
seek him. Hebrews 11:6**

*I believe, God, that you exist and have
brought me to faith in Christ through
the drawing of your Spirit. I follow you
today as a person of faith and seek to
bring glory to your name. Amen.*

April 24

Prepare

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed. Revelation 15:3-4

Receive the Word

Think about these things.

Read

Philippians 4:7-9

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for those who faithfully serve at Fellowship.

Live in joy.

When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalm 94:19

Is anything robbing you of joy? Ask the Spirit to guide you to the joy of the Lord.

Father, I open my mind and heart through your Spirit to rejoice in you. Fill me with your love and joy so I can endure life's challenges today. Amen.

April 25

Prepare

O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart. 1 Kings 8:23

From all the things that are the same in my life, I turn to you, the One and Only God, to seek and worship you. Amen.

Receive the Word

Contentment is learned dependence on God.

Read Philippians 4:10-12

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for Young Life Topeka and their ministry to students.

Speak and act in grace.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

Thank the Lord that because of his grace, he is not against you but is for you.

I thank you, Lord, for your grace that knows everything about my life - my failures, flaws, and motivations - and yet you chose to love me anyway. Thank you for being with me and for me. Help me through your Spirit to live for you today. Amen.

April 26

Prepare

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Psalm 145:3-4

As I approach your Word, I praise you as the Lord over everything in my life and the universe. Amen.

Receive the Word

The Philippians generously shared to meet Paul's needs.

Read Philippians 4:13-17

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our children to grow in wisdom and favor with God and man.

Give generously.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

I trust you, Lord, by giving generously to you. Remove the reluctance and obligation I may feel about giving and develop joy and contentment in you. Amen.

April 27

Prepare

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:8-9

I look to you, gracious God, to teach me and guide me today. Amen.

Receive the Word

God will supply every need of yours.

Read

Philippians 4:18-19

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus with words and actions with others today.

Forgive others.

Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. Proverbs 17:9

Thank you, Father, for covering my sins with the blood of Jesus. His once-and-for-all sacrifice redeemed me and restored me to you. We are now united through Christ. Amen.

April 28

Prepare

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Psalm 145:10-12

I seek you and your kingdom in my life today, Father. Amen.

Receive the Word

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus guide and guard our lives.

Read Philippians 4:21-23

Examine

Apply

Pray

Requests

Lift up your prayers, the concerns of your heart, and today's needs to the Lord.

Pray with your church family for our state and local leaders and affairs.

Rest in the gospel.

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Psalm 55:22

What do you need to "cast on the Lord?"

Lord, I cast my burdens, my heart's worries, and my mind's anxieties on you to rest in you. Amen.

