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**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 (Read, Examine, Apply, Pray) 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.

For each day of the week, you will conclude your time with the Lord by focusing on one foundational aspect of a life with Jesus. These focus areas provide space for us to think, pray, listen, and respond to the Spirit's leading to form us into the image of Christ for the sake of others.

**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 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

## Week 18

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When you read the New Testament and hear about the first-century Church, it's easy to build the image that it was pure and pristine – the ideal for us to follow to become a “perfect” church. That is – until you read 1 & 2 Corinthians.

The church in Corinth, which most likely had under 200 people, was messy. Divisions plagued them. Sexual immorality was present in the lives of the believers. The worship of idols from their past religions and their questioning of authority rose against their leaders and even the Lord Jesus Christ. How could a group of Christ followers, identifying as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, survive the sway of the pagan world around them?

Paul likely wrote multiple letters after emergency visits to the church in Corinth, but God inspired these two letters to encourage and exhort them, and now us, to live in the grace and peace of God in the midst of a pagan and secular culture. Over the next several weeks, we will see how Paul sought to encourage and challenge the church in Corinth to leave the way of the world behind and to find their significance and value in the way of Jesus.

**Monday:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

**Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

**Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-11

**Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 2:12-16

**Friday:** 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

**Saturday:** 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

### **What to Look for in the Word**

As you read 1 Corinthians 1:1-4:13 this week, you will be introduced to the mess of the Corinthian church. After providing a clear foundation for a vision for the church, Paul calls every believer to fellowship with Christ, holiness in Christ, and service for Christ. Even so, they remained divided on many issues. Rather than read it with a judgmental eye, consider that the same things that divided them divide us, and humble yourself to Paul's exhortation to us. Take note of the comparisons Paul makes between what is wise and foolish in the eyes of God, and be open to the leading of the Spirit in your life – the same Spirit at work in the church in Corinth.

### **Big Idea**

A church divided cannot stand.

### **Memory Verse:**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

# April 29

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## Prepare

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

*I receive your Word today, Lord, to be satisfied by it. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The Apostle Paul calls the church in Corinth to faithfulness in Christ.

## Read

1 Corinthians 1:1-17

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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

## You are loved.

**May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 3:5**

*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 and form me by your Spirit to live today in your love.*

# April 30

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## 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 place you, God, as first and best in my life and calibrate my heart to your Word. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God has chosen the weak to become strong in him.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Pray with your church family today** for international students in America.

## Walk by faith.

**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 is something in your life that you cannot see or do not understand, but you are willing to believe God and walk by faith?

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

# May 1

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## Prepare

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

**Luke 1:46**

*Open my heart, Lord, to rejoice in you.  
Amen..*

## Receive the Word

Paul came to the Corinthians in weakness to reveal the power of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Read

1 Corinthians 2:1-11

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

to be thankful and to live with contentment.

## 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?

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

# May 2

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## 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**

*God, please work in my heart to see the height and depth of the blessing of Jesus. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

As a believer, you have the mind of Christ.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 2:12-16

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Pray with your church family today** for healthy marriages at Fellowship.

## 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.

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



# May 3

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## Prepare

**But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. Psalm 147:20**

*I turn from all the places that are false and turn to the One true God who is my only hope. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Some of us plant. Others water. But God causes spiritual growth.

## Read

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for an appetite to learn and live God's Word.

## 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. Guide my heart not to worship the things you have given me but to worship you with the things you have given me. Amen.*

# May 4

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## Prepare

**Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his excellent  
greatness! Psalm 150:2**

*May this be a day to make you greater  
in my life and in the world. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Jesus is the foundation of all the work  
of the church.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for revival among Christians in  
America.

## Forgive others.

**bearing with one another and, if one  
has a complaint against another,  
forgiving each other; as the Lord  
has forgiven you, so you also must  
forgive. Colossians 3:13**

Who do you need to let go of your  
desire for revenge against, or your  
withholding of love for, to forgive as  
you have been forgiven?

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

# May 5

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## Prepare

**And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

**Luke 1:50**

*Lord, work in me and my generation to fear you and walk in mercy. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Followers of Christ are servants of Christ and stewards of the gospel.

## Read

1 Corinthians 4:1-13

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for faithfulness with our time, talent and treasure.

## 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?

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*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

## Week 19

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Having addressed the things that divided the church in Corinth, Paul turns to the news he had received about their lack of teaching and discipline of sexual immorality within it. Much like us, the Corinthian believers came from a cultural background of sexual brokenness and destruction. Some even believed their bodies were not part of their spiritual identity and therefore they could do whatever they wanted with them. Paul speaks with boldness as a father to his children, to convey that everything about them had been redeemed by Christ, including their sexuality. Their lives and bodies were not their own – they had been bought out of sin and transferred into the righteousness of God by the blood of Jesus on the cross. With Christ as Lord, their bodies were to be no longer used for sin and self-gratification but rather to bring glory to God.

This is a message that we, as the Church in the 21st century, need to hear. In a culture that says “you should be free to live any way you choose as long as you don’t hurt anyone,” and “everyone has the right to decide what is right or wrong for themselves,” believers are to stand for sexual integrity with confidence and compassion. God has placed us in this world to reflect the beauty and glory of Jesus in all things.

**Monday:** 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

**Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

**Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

**Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**Friday:** 1 Corinthians 7:1-11

**Saturday:** 1 Corinthians 7:12-24

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

### What to Look for in the Word

You are going to read the teaching from Paul to the Corinthians about sexual identity. Paul confronted their failure to address the sexual immorality in their midst. Not only were they to confront the immoral person, they were to teach why sexual integrity under Christ restores each person to their created value. Men and women were created in the image of God to reflect Him in all things. When believers lived by the Word in their sexuality, the early Church was seen as a place of acceptance and encouragement for those who had been broken by sexual immorality. Rather than viewing sex as an appetite to be fulfilled, Paul taught that sex is a reflection of commitment and intimacy within the covenant of marriage. Rather than taking from another to get for oneself, biblical sexual integrity calls a man and woman within the bond of marriage to give their whole lives to each other. When we live under the lordship of Jesus with sexual integrity, we will be both offensive and attractive to the world around us. It will offend those who practice it without restraint but it will also be an attractive refuge to those who are enslaved by it or have been abused by it.

### Big Idea

Your body is the temple of the living God. Glorify Him in it.

### Memory Verse:

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

# May 6

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## Prepare

**O you who love the LORD, hate evil!  
He preserves the lives of his saints;  
he delivers them from the hand of the  
wicked. Psalm 97:10**

*Turn my eyes away from sin so that I  
might have a clear and beautiful view  
of you, O Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The leaders of the church are to provide an example for others to imitate.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Pray with your church family today**  
for campus ministries.

## You are loved.

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

Take a moment to allow the reality of God's love for you to sink into your heart and soul. You are loved more than you can imagine.

*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.*

# May 7

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## Prepare

**There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might. Jeremiah 10:6**

*Shine your goodness and greatness into my heart so that I might see you and listen to you today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Sexual integrity is the way for every believer in Christ.

## Read

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our hospitality volunteers to welcome guests with kindness.

## 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**

What would you say to someone who asks what you believe about Jesus?

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

# May 8

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## Prepare

**Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. Daniel 2:20**

*Lord, today I look to you for wisdom and strength. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

How believers settle disputes reveals the gospel to those who are watching.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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

## 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?

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



# May 9

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## 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 you Lord, for your righteousness in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

You are not your own; you have been bought with a price to glorify God in your body.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for us to live with an eternal perspective.

## Speak and act in grace.

**But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

## 2 Corinthians 12:9

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

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*I recognize and rely on your grace today, Lord. I trust your power in my life today. Amen.*

# May 10

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## Prepare

**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 15:4**

*In Christ, you have provided righteousness. Help me to long for and live in your holiness. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Sex is a gift from God within marriage between a husband and wife.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 7:1-11

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for us to authentically live Christ in our workplaces.

## 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**

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

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

# May 11

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## 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**

*Move in me through your Spirit today, Lord, and guide me in your truth. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God is aware of and has a purpose for every circumstance of our lives.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 7:12-24

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for personal discipline to grow in Christ.

## Forgive others.

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

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

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

# May 12

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## Prepare

**The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation. 2 Samuel 22:47**

*You are my rock and I rest under the refuge of your salvation in Christ.  
Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Live in anticipation of the imminent return of Christ and the work of God before us.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for Christians worldwide who are persecuted for their faith.

## 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 you need to stop striving so hard, and rest in the provision of Christ?

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*God, today I surrender from worrying and processing things only you can do. Help me to trust, rest, and rely on you. Amen.*



# Weekly Overview

## Week 20

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In this section of his letter to the Corinthians, Paul is going to defend his authority to call the Corinthian church away from the worship of idols and into the exclusive worship of Jesus. Idols were all around Corinth. Under the claim of “Caesar is Lord,” the people worshipped gods attached to the things they admired or wanted more of. Thus there was literally a god to worship for everything you wanted in life. When believers came to Christ, they turned from serving many gods to worship the One true God. How they dealt with their present world and past lives of worshipping other gods becomes the focus of Paul’s letter to them. When Paul initially addressed this, the church pushed back. They made critical comments about his stature or capacities. In chapter 9, Paul shares with them about his right to speak boldly to them as an Apostle, yet he prefers to give up his rights to “be all things to all people so that some might believe” in the gospel. Paul shares Israel’s past history as a warning for present obedience. In the wilderness, after the children of Israel had been delivered from slavery in Egypt, the people worshipped false gods rather than the One who delivered them. As a result, they fell under the judgment of God. In Corinth, believers were tempted to worship the idols of the world around them. Paul compared the Corinthian believers in their worship of other gods with the Israelites in the wilderness. Like Moses warned the Israelites, Paul warned the Corinthians “let anyone who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (10:12).

**Monday:** 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 9:1-18

**Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

**Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

**Friday:** 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

**Saturday:** 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

### What to Look for in the Word

Paul speaks boldly in humility as he calls the church away from idols. Take some time as you read this section of 1 Corinthians to consider the idols you have turned from so that you might follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Earlier in his letter, Paul told the Corinthians they should regard him as a “servant of Christ and steward of the mysteries of God” (4:1). Think about how you view yourself and what it could look like for you to regard yourself as a servant and steward like Paul. As Paul called the Corinthian church to be sensitive to other believers as they purchased meat sacrificed to idols, humbly consider your own life and how it influences and affects others. Paul’s challenge to them and us is: “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (10:31).

### Big Idea

You are free to become more like Christ.

### Memory Verse:

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

# May 13

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## 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**

*As your beloved child, help me to walk in your steadfast love today, Lord. Amen..*

## Receive the Word

Mature believers are called to be sensitive to new believers.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for love for the Lord to deepen in each of us.

## 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 to express 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 come back to you. Thank you. Amen.*

# May 14

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## 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

*I offer you my heart, mind, and hands to be used for your glory today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The gift of the gospel is our greatest reward.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 9:1-18

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Pray with your church family today** for the work of missions in India.

## 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 an area of your life where you cannot yet see the outcome but are willing to live by faith?

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



# May 15

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## Prepare

**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it. Psalm 96:11**

*Like creation reflects your glory, help me to think, speak, and act in a way that brings you glory today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul became all things to all people that he might lead some to Christ.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for faithfulness in sharing Christ with our family and friends.

## 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?

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

# May 16

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## 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**

*I surrender the things that worry me and bring me stress, and I turn them over to you, for nothing is too difficult for you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Cultivate a humble heart when you are tempted and run to the shelter of God.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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

**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, is there someone in your life with whom you have been harsh when you should have spoken with grace?

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

# May 17

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## Prepare

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

*You are good, Lord. Lead me in your love and goodness today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Flee idolatry.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those in our church family serving our country in the military.

## 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. Point out things in the "good measure" he has given you.

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

# May 18

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## 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**

*Move in my heart and mind to worship you in every circumstance today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Do everything to the glory of God.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for us to bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

## 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**

Who is someone in your life whom you need to forgive?

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

# May 19

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## 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? Psalm 8:3-4**

*Lord, thank you for your caring hand over everything in my life. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God created men and women in his image to reflect his glory.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to surrender to the Spirit's leading in our lives.

## 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. In what area of your life do you need to find your rest in Jesus, who liberated you from slavery to sin?

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



# Weekly Overview

## Week 21

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Order in the church! Paul will address this with the Corinthian church over this week's passages. From practicing the Lord's supper together to exercising their spiritual gifts to ordering their worship services, Paul would give them principles for order and focus in their worship of Jesus together. Think about the spaces in which you live. If those spaces are disordered or messy, it keeps you from finding what you need to get things done. Now, think about what others think when they enter your messy places. Although you may be able to endure the disorder without much effect on your life, it will likely bring confusion and, in some cases, chaos into others' lives. The church in Corinth was so disordered that when outsiders visited, they missed the point of the practices. They only experienced the chaos. From celebrating communion to using the spiritual gift of tongues, guests who observed the church left in confusion. Paul addresses the importance of ordering the church so that it is clear about Christ in all it does.

**Monday:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

**Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

**Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**Friday:** 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

**Saturday:** 1 Corinthians 14:13-19

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

### **What to Look for in the Word**

As Paul addresses the mess, take note of the "why" of what he is teaching the Corinthians. He is careful to lay the foundation for the "why" behind the church's practices, so read them with a desire to refresh your practice of them in the church today. Paul will also highlight the most important practice of the church: love. In the great description of chapter 13, Paul elevates love to instruct everything we do in the worship of Jesus.

### **Big Idea**

The fruit of the Spirit must guide the gifts of the Spirit.

### **Memory Verse:**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

# May 20

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## Prepare

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

*Lord, today I seek you to know, understand, and follow you. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The church celebrates communion to proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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

## 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?

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



# May 21

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## Prepare

**For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Psalm 57:10**

*Guide me in love and faithfulness today, O Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God has given every believer spiritual gifts to build up the church in love and service.

## Read

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our children to grow in wisdom and favor with God and man.

## 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 14:12**

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

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*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.*

# May 22

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## Prepare

**Tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. 1 Chronicles 16:30**

*You are my foundation, Lord. Help me to build my life upon you. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The church is one body with many members.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for us to be generous with the gospel, the goodness of God, and the gifts we have for his glory.

## Live in joy.

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

What brought you joy this week?

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*I rejoice today, Father, in the reality of being your child through Christ. Amen.*

# May 23

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## Prepare

**My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.**

**Psalm 34:2**

*Humble me from my pride in the things  
of the world to find my strength and  
make my boast in you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

All spiritual gifts are to be exercised in love.

## Read

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our elder team as they lead with servants' hearts.

## 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?

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

# May 24

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## 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

*I run to you, Lord, that you might be my stronghold. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The church is the dwelling place of God's Spirit, who is at work in us.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our young adults as they faithfully follow Christ and serve our church.

## 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?

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*Father, work through me today to generously respond with time, attention, and resources to those you place in front of me. Amen.*

# May 25

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## Prepare

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! Psalm 57:11**

*I lift you up as my first and best this day, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul establishes principles to guide believers' speaking in tongues.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 14:13-19

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our senior adults as they leave a godly legacy in the lives of others.

## 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 whom you need to forgive? Someone you may be withholding love from or taking out anger on? Forgive them as you have been forgiven.

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*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.*

# May 26

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## 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**

*Build in me a longing to seek you and follow you today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul calls the church to give consideration to outsiders in their gatherings.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our deacon team as they serve the needs and people of our ministries.

## 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?

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



# Weekly Overview

## Week 22

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Listen up! Paul says, “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he also appeared to me.”

Paul was appealing to the Corinthian church that doubted the reality of the resurrection of Jesus. He states that without the resurrection, everything he and the people of God do is for nothing. The resurrection was part of God’s master plan to confront and destroy the power of sin and death. From the resurrection, we can look back to see that Jesus is really the One sent from God to save us. The light of the resurrection reveals the cross as the payment for our sin and the way of Jesus as the way of life and liberty. The resurrection is also our reference point for the future. This Jesus who died and rose will return and receive his church for eternity.

**Monday:** 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

**Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

**Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

**Friday:** 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

**Saturday:** 1 Corinthians 16:1-11

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 16:12-24

### **What to Look for in the Word**

Take a look at all the effects that Paul draws from the resurrection. Death is no longer our greatest fear – we have victory through Christ. Our lives have power – the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Our future is certain – from the moment of death to the restoration of all things in the return of Christ, we have hope and confidence looking forward to that day. There is not a day we live without the hope of the resurrection.

### **Big Idea**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our greatest remedy for vanity.

### **Memory Verse:**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31



# May 27

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## Prepare

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

**Psalm 63:3**

*Father, help me to love others as you have loved me. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul calls the church to orderly worship.

## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Read

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

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## Examine

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## Pray with your church family today

for our LifeCare ministries as they serve people in crisis.

## You are loved.

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

Who or what in your life do you need to endure with in love?

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## Apply

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*Father, I need more of your love in my life 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.*

# May 28

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## Prepare

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

Psalm 150:6

*Today, I offer all that I am to bring you praise and glory. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul clarifies the importance of the resurrection of Christ.

## Read

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our marriage ministries to lovingly lead engaged and married couples in Christ.

## 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.

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*God, I turn to you, my hope and my help, with the challenges of life. I believe in you and trust through Christ for more faith to walk with you when I am troubled. Amen.*

# May 29

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## 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**

*Lord, I open my eyes and tune my ears to hear from you and respond in faith. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The resurrection is a declaration of the return of Christ.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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

## Live in joy.

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

What good things are you asking for from God?

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*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.*

# May 30

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## 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**

*I surrender my attention to you to lead and guide me in your Word, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul gives insight into the physical and spiritual resurrection of the dead.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those in our church family who serve in law enforcement.

## Speak and act in grace.

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

**Titus 2:11**

Who in your life is in need of the gospel? Pray for them.

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*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.*

# May 31

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## Prepare

**Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Psalm 96:6**

*I lift up my eyes to you, Lord, and seek your presence and power through your Word. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The resurrection secures victory over death for everyone who believes.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our children's ministry as they disciple our children in the ways of Jesus.

## Give generously.

**One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Proverbs 11:24**

Pray for God to grow generosity in your heart and hands.

*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.*

# June 1

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## Prepare

**Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. Psalm 20:7**

*I turn away from all the things that I have placed my trust in, and choose to trust only in you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Be steadfast, immoveable, and abounding in the work of the Lord.

**Read** 1 Corinthians 16:1-11

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to grow in love and joy in Jesus.

## Forgive others.

**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.

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

# June 2

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## Prepare

**For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

**Luke 1:49**

*In Christ, you have done great things for me, God. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul's final instructions to the church in Corinth call them to stand firm in Christ.

## Read

1 Corinthians 16:12-24

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## Examine

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our worship ministries to lead us in joyful surrender to the Lord.

## 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.

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*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

## Week 23

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The church in Corinth continued to have issues with Paul. Because Paul was delayed in his journeys, some accused him of not caring enough for them. Others didn't like that Paul's speaking skills were not as dynamic as those of other speakers who came through their city and attracted large crowds. And then there were the many times Paul was arrested and imprisoned for boldly preaching the gospel. The world's rejection of Paul made him vulnerable to accusations by the church in Corinth. As our journey through the mess of the Corinthian church continues, we will read Paul's defense of his authority and suffering for Christ by sharing that his life is modeled after the life of Jesus. He counted his sufferings as sharing in the ministry of Jesus and trusted in the power of God to work through his vulnerable life.

In weakness, there is strength. This is Paul's theme to those who based their strength on their abilities and accomplishments. Have you noticed that you feel more confident in yourself when things go well for you? And yet, where do you find your strength when the floor drops out? Because Paul was committed to advancing the gospel to the ends of the earth, his faith was consistently on the edge. Far from safe, his life was risky. He had to train his life and faith to be totally dependent on the power of God.

**Monday:** 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

**Tuesday:** 2 Corinthians 1:12-22

**Wednesday:** 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11

**Thursday:** 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

**Friday:** 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

**Saturday:** 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

**Sunday:** 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

### **What to Look for in the Word**

As you begin reading 2 Corinthians this week, take note of Paul's response to those believers who were skeptical and critical of him. His loving yet firm correction of them reveals a long history of patience and endurance with them. He ultimately wanted to build them up rather than tear them down. As he shares his heart for the gospel ministry, look into your heart and consider how God might want to deepen your love for Christ. Paul equates the gospel to the "light of the glory of Christ." Let the gospel shine through you.

### **Big Idea**

With the gospel, you are a living letter from Christ to the world.

### **Memory Verse:**

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

# June 3

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## Prepare

**My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. Psalm 7:10**

*Help me to rest in you today, Lord.  
Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul details the reasons why he was unable to visit the Corinthian church.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who are being developed as leaders at Fellowship.

## 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?

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

# June 4

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## Prepare

**He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light. Job 33:28**

*I turn from darkness to look upon and live in the light of Christ. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul defends his ministry before a skeptical church in Corinth.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 1:12-22

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who are navigating cancer in our church family.

## 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.*

# June 5

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## Prepare

**He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. Psalm 23:2**

*Lord, lead me to the living water and restoration of your Word. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul's confrontation of the Corinthian believers caused him pain.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who are struggling with mental illness.

## Live in joy.

**Rejoice always. 1 Thessalonians 5:16**

Take a moment to thank the Lord for whatever he brings to your attention.

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

# June 6

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## Prepare

**But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." Psalm 31:14**

*Guide me in your Word today, Lord.  
Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God commissioned Paul to proclaim Christ in grace and truth to the ends of the earth.

## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Read

2 Corinthians 2:12-17

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## Examine

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who have lost a loved one recently.

## Speak and act in grace.

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

**Numbers 6:25**

Remember today that in Christ, God smiles on you and receives you in love.

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## Apply

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

# June 7

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## 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**

*Open my eyes to see your glory today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The church in Corinth was to be a living “recommendation letter” for Christ.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for us to respond to our enemies with a remarkable love.

## 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 in the world. Amen.*

# June 8

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## Prepare

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

**1 Chronicles 16:31**

*As you are King over all, Lord, I submit my life to you. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Through Christ we have hope in the glory of God.

## Read

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to authentically live out the gospel with truth and grace.

## Forgive others.

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

Take a moment to be silent before the Lord and ask him to identify anything in you that is not like Jesus. Seek his forgiveness and freedom in Christ.

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

# June 9

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## Prepare

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

*Build in me an appetite to trust and follow you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Believers shine light in darkness.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for a spirit of humility and repentance in each of us.

## Rest in the Gospel.

**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!  
Let your face shine, that we may be saved! Psalm 80:19**

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

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*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 24

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“Death is at work in us, but life in you.” These words describe the sacrificial love and ministry of Paul for the Corinthian believers. Corinth celebrated human strength and skill: victory over defeat and power over weakness. Their critical spirit pointed out his speaking style, suffering, and stature, and questioned if he really should be their leader anymore. Paul told them that the message of Jesus matters most – far more than the messenger. In your reading this week, Paul goes to great lengths to show the raw reality of what it looks like to follow Jesus. The humiliating and exhausting circumstances he endured to follow the crucified and resurrected Savior were his defense against their accusations.

**Monday:** 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

**Tuesday:** 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

**Wednesday:** 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

**Thursday:** 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

**Friday:** 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

**Saturday:** 2 Corinthians 7:2-12

**Sunday:** 2 Corinthians 7:13-16

### **What to Look for in the Word**

If you are weary and burdened with life, you will be encouraged by Paul’s words in the readings this week. Unlike the expectation of some, who think life with Christ is safe and comfortable, look at all the negative circumstances, challenges, and persecutions Paul shares. His confidence and courage come from Christ. He lived in the promises of Christ and was controlled by the love of Christ (5:14) to persevere in participating in God’s reconciling work in people’s lives.

### **Big Idea**

The wider the heart, the deeper the experience.

### **Memory Verse:**

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

# June 10

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## Prepare

**By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. Psalm 33:6**

*Father, form in me the image of Christ by the power of your Word. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The light, momentary afflictions of this life cannot compare to the weight of glory in Christ.

## Read

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

## 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 today

for an eternal perspective to guide our thoughts, desires, and actions today.

## 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. Through your Spirit, work in me to bear fruit in keeping with my new life through you today. Amen.*

# June 11

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## Prepare

**For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. Psalm 33:4**

*Guide me in your Word to be a faithful follower of you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

We walk by faith, not by sight.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for patience in our church family amidst the temptations of an impulsive world.

## 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.*

# June 12

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## Prepare

**To declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. Psalm 92:15**

*Lord, I calibrate my life to your truth and stand on the Rock of my salvation. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for anger and bitterness to stay far away from our church family.

## 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 in control of a broken and rebellious world. Help me to be a joyful person. Spirit, fill me to overflow with joy to others. Amen.*

# June 13

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## Prepare

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4**

*I seek you today, Lord, and place my trust in you. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul's ministry displays the power of God in spite of human weakness.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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

**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 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 and unlimited love of Jesus to others. Amen.*

# June 14

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## Prepare

**But for you, O Lord, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.**  
**Psalm 38:15**

*I turn my attention to hear and respond to you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

We are the temple of the living God.

## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Read** 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

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## Examine

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## Pray with your church family today

for us to turn from comparison with others to dependence on Christ.

## Give generously.

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

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

## Apply

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# June 15

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## Prepare

**Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 32:11**

*Fill me with your truth today, Lord, that I might stand for you. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The gospel was furthered by Paul's affliction.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 7:2-12

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to seek the mind of Christ and present our bodies as offerings to the Lord for his glory.

## 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 anyone in your life with whom you are bitter or angry? Trust them to the Lord and forgive them as you have been forgiven in Christ.

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*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 in the circumstances of life for your glory. Amen.*



# June 16

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## Prepare

**Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength!  
We will sing and praise your power.**

**Psalm 21:13**

*In weakness I come to you, Lord, to be my power and strength. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Titus reported the spiritual response of the Corinthians to Paul.

## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Read

2 Corinthians 7:13-16

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## Examine

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to see the needs of others around us and be available for them.

## 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.

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## Apply

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



# Weekly Overview

## Week 25

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Why talk about money, especially when there are more important spiritual things to address? This was the posture of Corinth and many in the church today. Paul doesn't back down and addresses faithful and joyful generosity. There was a famine in Jerusalem, and the church there needed financial assistance. Paul shared this need with the churches he planted, and some responded generously. The Jerusalem church was made up primarily of Jews, and they had a history of resistance to Gentile believers not converting to Judaism first after they became Christians. By Paul seeking help from primarily Gentile churches for the Jerusalem church in their time of need, there was a great opportunity to deepen love and acceptance between the churches. When Paul first mentioned it to the Corinthians, they gave the nod of approval but were slow to follow through in actual giving. This passage is his extra encouragement and exhortation to give joyfully to the Lord.

**Monday:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

**Tuesday:** 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

**Wednesday:** 2 Corinthians 9:1-9

**Thursday:** 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

**Friday:** 2 Corinthians 10:1-12

**Saturday:** 2 Corinthians 10:13-18

**Sunday:** 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

## What to Look for in the Word

As you read this passage, realize Paul's instructions to the Corinthians are also for us today. Giving joyfully to the Lord through your church family is one of the greatest opportunities and blessings of the Christian life. By giving joyfully, you reflect the most generous person who ever walked the earth: Jesus. Paul desired that the church in Corinth would grow in grace by giving because he knew it would deepen their hearts in love, provide for a need, and overflow gratitude and contentment in Christ.

## Big Idea

Growing in generosity will grow you in grace.

## Memory Verse:

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

# June 17

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## Prepare

**O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Psalm 8:9**

*Lord, help me to live for the name of Jesus today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul calls the Corinthians to give generously to the Jewish believers in Jerusalem who are enduring a famine.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

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

## 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 to you 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.*

# June 18

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## 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; Nehemiah 9:6**

*You are the Creator of all things, Lord, and I surrender my life to you today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul called the Corinthians to the gift of generosity to reflect God's glory to the Jewish believers.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

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## Examine

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who are healing from brokenness or loss.

## 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.*

# June 19

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## 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**

*Through Christ, you have put a new song in my mouth. Help me to praise you today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Whoever gives sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever gives generously will also reap generously.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 9:1-9

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those in our church family dealing with parenting challenges.

## 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 forevermore. Psalm 16:11**

In what area do you need to seek the Lord's direction?

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*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 in all things for good. Amen.*

# June 20

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## Prepare

**Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the  
peoples! Psalm 96:3**

*May my life declare your greatness to  
others today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Giving recognizes that God is the  
owner and giver of all things.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those in our church family who are  
fostering children with the love and  
truth of Christ.

## 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**

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

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*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.*

# June 21

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## 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 just and upright God, to heal and restore my broken life. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Take every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 10:1-12

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our church to shine the truth and grace of Jesus in our community.

## Give generously.

**They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves 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?

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*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.*



# June 22

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## 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**

*I thank you, Lord, for your righteousness in my life. I seek to align my life to your will and way. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Our approval in life is based on the Lord's commendation, not man's.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 10:13-18

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for love to deepen for the people and city of Topeka and to boldly share Christ.

## 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 his forgiveness and cleansing of your sins through Jesus.

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# June 23

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## Prepare

**Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. 1 Chronicles 29:11**

*I seek you in your greatness, Lord.  
Guide me in your ways today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul calls the Corinthians to humble themselves and to defend against false teachers.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our neighbors to find and follow Jesus.

## 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?

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*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 26

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Pride is the enemy of faith. It directs our eyes, minds, and hearts to find significance through personal performance and accomplishment. Pride keeps us comparing ourselves with others to level up or tear down. The Corinthian believers were saved from a culture of personal honor, glory, and strength. They navigated a Roman city where pride and honor were celebrated, and humility was seen as weakness. This thinking is confronted by Paul in his final remarks of his letter.

**Monday:** 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

**Tuesday:** 2 Corinthians 12:1-6

**Wednesday:** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**Thursday:** 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

**Friday:** 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

**Saturday:** 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

**Sunday:** 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

## What to Look for in the Word

Paul uses the word “foolishness” seven times in this week’s readings. That’s the word he uses to describe the prideful and selfish way of the world. Although he is defending his own ministry, Paul is more concerned about the congregation in Corinth. He wanted them to be free from the world’s corruption and see the wisdom and significance to be found in the humble, selfless way of Jesus.

## Big Idea

The building up of your faith requires the dismantling of pride.

## Memory Verse:

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

# June 24

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## Prepare

**He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Psalm 33:5**

*Work in my heart to love your righteousness, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul boasts of his weakness to focus on the power of God.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to live by faith in the things that are causing us to fear.

## You are loved.

**We love because he first loved us.**  
**1 John 4:19**

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

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*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.*

# June 25

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## Prepare

**I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.**

**Psalm 40:1**

*I come to you, Lord, with anticipation to hear from and respond to you. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul shares the “thorn” in his flesh.

## Read

2 Corinthians 12:1-6

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our hearts to obey God no matter the cost.

## 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 is in need of salvation?

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*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.*

# June 26

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## Prepare

**You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you! Psalm 40:5**

*I turn my thoughts to you, Lord, and align my life to your Word. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for reconciliation in relationships that are in crisis.

## 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.*

# June 27

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## Prepare

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! Psalm 100:4**

*I thank you for all that you are, O Lord, and all that you have done. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul makes his final appeal to the rebellious ones in Corinth.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

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## Examine

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for the hearts of our children to love and serve Jesus.

## Speak and act in grace.

**For 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.*



# June 28

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## Prepare

**Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. Psalm 57:1**

*I seek to find in you my shelter and strength, O Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The power of God was moving through Paul to correct the church in Corinth.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for the physical and spiritual safety and health of our mission partners.

## Give generously.

**And my 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.

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

# June 29

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## Prepare

**All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name. Psalm 66:4**

*I come before you, Lord, and offer my praise to you. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Paul's desire was to build up, rather than to tear down, believers.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our words to be encouraging to the people around us today.

## Forgive others.

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

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

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

# June 30

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## Prepare

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

**Psalm 71:14**

*I place my hope in you, O Lord, guide me in your truth.*

## Receive the Word

Paul's final exhortation to the Corinthian church.

## Read

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for us to have a humble and teachable spirit with God and His Word.

## 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**

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*Help me, Father, to place you as first and best in my life and to rest in you - your perspective, your truth, your love, your way. Amen.*



# Weekly Overview

## Week 27

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Over the next four weeks, we will consider the importance of the family in making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our families have such a powerful and significant influence on our lives. None of us chose the family we have, but each of us can be intentional with our role in our family to allow God to work for his good pleasure through us. If you are a parent, God has called you and entrusted you with priceless and eternal children to be the primary disciple-maker in their lives.

Whenever we do a message series on the family, we cannot cover “all there is to know and do.” Rather, we examine a few principles to be intentional with, provide instruction from God’s Word, and share stories of families practicing them. This series will emphasize four key areas for families to take initiative in their time together, joining with God in forming each member to look more like Christ. Making disciples is not optional for our families. It is the role of every follower of Christ. God’s highest priority for parenting is to help their children to find and follow Jesus Christ.

**Monday:** Genesis 1:26-31

**Tuesday:** Psalm 139:1-24

**Wednesday:** 1 John 3:1-18

**Thursday:** Ephesians 2:1-22

**Friday:** Ephesians 5:1-14

**Saturday:** 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

**Sunday:** 1 Peter 2:9-12

## What to Look for in the Word

This first week, we will look at the importance of the family in affirming each person’s God-given identity. As the surrounding culture celebrates individuality and burdens each person to discover and advance their perceived identity, believers must remain anchored to the Word of God. Rather than perceived, our identity is received from God as a gift. God places each child into a family with inherent value and dignity. Each passage that you read this week reveals how identity is lovingly created by God and is to be received and reflected in the family.

As you spend time in the Word and seek the mind of Christ, be available to the leading of the Holy Spirit to help you understand, receive, and live in your God-given identity in Christ. Pray also that you will be a truth-affirming voice in the lives of your family members.

## Big Idea

God has ordained the family to cultivate loving, life-giving relationships that disciple children to find and follow Jesus Christ.

## Memory Verse:

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

# July 1

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## Prepare

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

**Psalm 90:2**

*I seek you first and place you as my highest joy today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Your identity is received from God rather than perceived by self.

## Read

Genesis 1:26-31

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Pray with your church family today** for those struggling with addiction.

## You are loved.

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

**Psalm 63:3**

*Help me, Father, to live today out of my identity as your beloved child.*

# July 2

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## 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**

*Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love. Help me to live today as your beloved child. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God has the deepest understanding and insight to your ways.

## Read

Psalm 139:1-24

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those experiencing financial stresses.

## 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**

What do you believe about the forgiveness of God in your life?

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# July 3

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## Prepare

**Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!**

**Psalm 34:3**

*I seek you today, Lord, to lift you up over all things in my life and to seek you first. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

You, by faith, are a beloved child of God.

## Read

1 John 3:1-18

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to drive reflecting the grace and patience of Jesus today.

## Live in joy.

**For you are our glory and joy.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:20**

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

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# July 4

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## Prepare

**Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty!**  
**Psalm 93:4**

*I seek your strength to become strong in you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

In Christ you are brought near to God and placed in his family.

## Read

Ephesians 2:1-22

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our ABLE classes to equip believers in the Word.

## Speak and act in grace.

**Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 4:6**

Who is in your life that is in need of words of grace from you?

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*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.*

# July 5

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## Prepare

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Psalm 95:7**

*I seek you to lead and guide me, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Live reflecting the love of God in the way of Christ.

## Read

Ephesians 5:1-14

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our student ministry to equip Christ-centered leaders. Think of a name and pray for them.

## 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?

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

# July 6

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## Prepare

**Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

**Psalm 96:2**

*Thank you, God, for your salvation in  
Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Our bodies are to glorify God.

## Read

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for self-control in our thoughts, words,  
and actions.

## Forgive others.

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

Is there anything in your attitude or  
actions that is stacking debts against  
others? Forgive them, clear the debt,  
and live in the freedom of forgiveness.

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# July 7

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## Prepare

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Psalm 96:11

*I join with creation to reflect your power and glory today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

As God's people, we live as sojourners on the earth.

## Read

1 Peter 2:9-12

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for hope to guide us in our disappointments today.

## 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?

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*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 28

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Every moment counts in making disciples in your family. Compared to the hour a week the church has with your children to teach and encourage them in the way of Jesus, the time they have with you is far more and has a greater influence on their lives. Although we love our church gatherings, they simply cannot be the only space where your children are discipled. This principle is why we, as a church, do not try to take the role of disciple-maker from you; instead, we partner with you in ministry to your children.

The tasks and activities of modern-day families will crowd out anything that is not prioritized and planned. Routines are repeated activity patterns within your week that help you stay organized to live out your values and accomplish your objectives as a family. Almost everyone follows routines, so what if we were to look at some pivotal ones that, if you were intentional with your family, could help develop Christ-like character together.

**Monday:** Deuteronomy 4:1-24

**Tuesday:** Deuteronomy 4:25-40

**Wednesday:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**Thursday:** Deuteronomy 6:10-25

**Friday:** Deuteronomy 11:18-25

**Saturday:** Deuteronomy 11:26-32

**Sunday:** Deuteronomy 14:22-29

## What to Look for in the Word

When we are passive with spiritual routines, we will be conformed to the world around us. Without intention, screen time becomes a dominant influence and environment of formation in our families. Our schedules and tasks hurriedly converge to get the kids to their activities on time or out of the door to catch a bus. Hurry is the enemy of the Christian life. And so, it plays out in the family – those who have been given the role of making disciples are crazy-busy doing activities but passive with the most important practices that lead to our children becoming more like Jesus.

It will take some challenging yet rewarding conversations to determine how to disciple your family in the way of Jesus amidst your family's activities. As you read the Word this week, take a look and identify what God is calling you to in your role in your family. Deuteronomy was written for families who were about to enter the Promised Land. Their relationship with God was not to be placed on the sidelines of their lives. God was to be at the center, as all of life was sourced and supplied by Him.

## Big Idea

Making disciples in your family requires intentional decisions to cultivate gospel conversations and experience in your daily routines.

## Memory Verse:

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

# July 8

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## Prepare

**O you who love the LORD, hate evil!  
He preserves the lives of his saints;  
he delivers them from the hand of the  
wicked. Psalm 97:10**

*Turn my eyes away from sin so that I  
might have a clear and beautiful view  
of you, O Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The family has been designed by God  
to develop children in their walk with  
God.

**Read** Deuteronomy 4:1-24

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to live by faith and not  
by sight.

## 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  
listed above that you are to "put on"  
in Christ, and pray for God to form it  
in you.

Compassion: \_\_\_\_\_

Kindness: \_\_\_\_\_

Humility: \_\_\_\_\_

Meekness: \_\_\_\_\_

Patience: \_\_\_\_\_

# July 9

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## Prepare

**For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**Psalm 100:5**

*I thank you today, Lord, for your faithful love. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God's blessings flow through families that are set on him.

**Read** Deuteronomy 4:25-40

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## Examine

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to speak and act with gentleness to those around us.

## Walk by faith.

**And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31**

What in your life right now makes you afraid?

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



# July 10

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## Prepare

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Psalm 100:1-2**

*I find joy in your presence with me today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Faith is planted and cultivated through the family.

**Read** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our church facilities staff as they serve our ministries.

## 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.*

# July 11

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## 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**

*I submit to your will and way for me today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Parents are to explain the “why” behind the “what” of their faith.

**Read** Deuteronomy 6:10-25

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to speak and act with gentleness to those around us.

## 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 help me live in balance with grace and truth as I navigate the people and situations of today. Amen.*

# July 12

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## Prepare

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works. Psalm 104:31

*I welcome you this day, Lord, to work and form in me the image of Christ. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Parents model a love for the Lord to their children.

**Read** Deuteronomy 11:18-25

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## Examine

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our parking team as they faithfully welcome people this weekend.

## 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 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 Jesus' "emptying" himself for us.

*Jesus, work through your Spirit to help me follow your lead in being generous. Amen.*

# July 13

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## 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 your wisdom to guide me in your truth and grace today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

There are consequences of obedience and of rebellion to the Lord.

**Read** Deuteronomy 11:26-32

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who serve in our city and county government.

## Forgive others.

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

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

# July 14

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## Prepare

**Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:4**

*I humble myself to be led by you, Lord.  
Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Giving recognizes that God is the owner and giver of all things.

**Read** Deuteronomy 14:22-29

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for the spiritual condition of our country.

## 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 29

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In the previous passages, we have seen how God has established the family to affirm identity and establish routines that lead to authentic disciples of Jesus Christ. God also empowers parents to interpret reality and call their children to live by faith during major transitions and challenges. This week we look at the power of defining moments in those key transitions of your children's lives. Being intentional with a defining moment means speaking loving, encouraging, and affirming words to your children as they face these key times in their lives.

If you think back over the course of your life and consider the words that others spoke to you when you needed them most, you will see how valuable and powerful those words were to you. They saw something in you that you could not see yourself. They called you into something greater than yourself, and you got a glimpse of the presence and work of God in your life. On the other hand, you may also be able to recall when you needed someone to encourage or speak into your life, but instead, there was silence. Being intentional at key moments in the lives of people around you will have a powerful influence on them. You will reflect the presence of God with them to see what He sees and help them see His call on their lives.

**Monday:** Genesis 50:15-21

**Tuesday:** Esther 4:1-17

**Wednesday:** Jeremiah 1:1-19

**Thursday:** Acts 9:1-43

**Friday:** Acts 15:36-16:5

**Saturday:** Philippians 2:19-30

**Sunday:** Titus 2:1-15

### What to Look for in the Word

When Moses was leading the children of Israel in the wilderness, he commanded them to be intentional in their spiritual routines. God called families of God's people were called into defining moments like feasts and festivals to celebrate His presence, power, and work. They were to remember and teach them to their children, passing on the miraculous works of salvation by the Lord. Scriptures you read this week highlight defining moments when a family member or leader spoke to a younger person and called them to live courageously by faith amid challenges or transitions. Joseph's words to his brothers, years after they sold him into slavery, show his godly maturity and forgiveness that released them from revenge, shame, and guilt. Mordecai's words to Esther moved her from scared and alone to the center of God's plan of deliverance for the Jewish people. God's word came to Jeremiah, who lived in a dark era in Judah's history, to build a path to restoration. And the advancement of the gospel in the world moved through the exhortation and encouragement of Paul and Barnabas to Timothy, Titus, and John Mark.

### Big Idea

A defining moment can encourage families and children to follow Jesus during a time of challenge or transition.

### Memory Verse:

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

# July 15

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## Prepare

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Psalm 123:1

*I turn my eyes to see and respond to you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Defining moments recognize the working of God in all things.

## Read

Genesis 50:15-21

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

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

## 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.*



# July 16

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## Prepare

**For I know that the LORD is great,  
and that our Lord is above all gods.**

**Psalm 135:5**

*You are above everything in my life,  
Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Defining moments affirm people of  
their role in the work of the Lord.

## Read

Esther 4:1-17

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who serve in our children's  
ministry - choose a name and pray for  
them.

## Walk by faith.

**Because, 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.*

# July 17

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## Prepare

**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 15:4**

*You are great and mighty, Lord. I humble my heart to your will and way. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Defining moments remind people of God's design for their lives.

## Read

Jeremiah 1:1-19

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our homes to be available for the gospel through hospitality.

## 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 deliver disappointment and trust you to fill me with your joy and peace. Work powerfully through your Spirit to deepen hope in me. Amen.*

# July 18

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## Prepare

**I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place. Psalm 8:3**

*You are the creator and sustainer of all things in my life, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Defining moments encourage people in the work of the gospel.

## Read

Acts 9:1-43

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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

**Speak and act in grace.**  
**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**

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

# July 19

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## 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**

*I open my life to reflect your name and righteousness, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Defining moments endure with people to restore them to their calling.

## Read

Acts 15:36-16:5

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our ministry to refugees in our community.

## 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 does your life consist of?

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*Father, remind me that I am worth far more than the things I have or money I make. I have been given the gift of Jesus who restored me back 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.*

# July 20

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## Prepare

**They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. Psalm 145:6**

*Work your will and way into my life, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Defining moments equip people to serve the Lord.

## Read

Philippians 2:19-30

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who have been affected by an emergency or disaster recently.

## 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 grace. Amen.*

# July 21

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## Prepare

**He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. Psalm 145:19**

*I seek you to be found and fulfilled by you, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Defining moments instruct people to faithful leadership for Christ.

## Read

Titus 2:1-15

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for each of us to be available with the gospel.

## 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.

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



# Weekly Overview

## Week 30

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No matter our age, each of us longs for a blessing from God and the people in our lives. The word blessing is a keyword in the book of Genesis, as the promise of blessing by God moves from Abraham to Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. God's blessing to Abraham that extended to Israel and finally to us through Christ is an undeserved, unconditional gift of love and acceptance. The result is that God, our Heavenly Father, smiles on us when he sees us. According to Gary Smalley in his book, *The Blessing*, biblical blessing includes the following:

- 1) meaningful and appropriate touch
- 2) a spoken message
- 3) attaching high values to the one being blessed
- 4) picturing a special future for him or her
- 5) an active commitment to fulfill the blessing

What happens in the relationships of husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters is foundational to all our relationships. The family has been entrusted to live in and give the blessing of God to each other. When parents take pleasure in their children, it bestows a powerful force of approval and acceptance on them and empowers them to live and give a blessing to others. When parents and families are passive or conditional with blessing, their children will look for it elsewhere. What could it look like for your family to be a place for the bountiful giving and receiving of blessings?

**Monday:** Genesis 12:1-9

**Tuesday:** Genesis 27:1-46

**Wednesday:** Numbers 6:22-27

**Thursday:** 1 Kings 2:1-46

**Friday:** Matthew 3:13-17

**Saturday:** Ephesians 1:1-14

**Sunday:** Colossians 3:18-21

### What to Look for in the Word

This week, you will read through some of the greatest blessings ever given to the people of God, and if you listen and respond to the Word, you will grow in your desire for and enjoyment of the pleasure of God over you.

Begin this week with this prayer: Lord, may our children never have to search for words or be left wondering if they are of value to us or to you. Help us bless them, Lord—with our words, actions, and whole lives. Remind us not to leave our words to chance but to choose to bless our sons and daughters every day. In the name of Jesus, from whom all blessings flow, Amen.

(Trent, John; Smalley, Gary. *The Blessing: Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance*, 251. Thomas Nelson.)

### Big Idea

God has blessed you for you to be a spiritual blessing in your family.

### Memory Verse:

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



# July 22

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## Prepare

**All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! Psalm 145:10**

*I bless your name, O Lord, and give thanks to you for all you are and all you have done. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God's blessing to Abram.

## Read

Genesis 12:1-9

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

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

## 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.*

# July 23

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## Prepare

Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Psalm 145:2

*I praise you, Lord, for your kindness to me in Jesus. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The stolen blessing by Jacob.

## Read

Genesis 27:1-46

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for college students in our church family to grow deeper in their faith amidst the distractions and resistance around them.

## 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?

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*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 live on the firm foundation of you. Amen.*

# July 24

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## Prepare

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

Psalm 97:12

*I turn from projecting my name to  
reflecting your holy name, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The priestly blessing over the people  
of God.

## Read

Numbers 6:22-27

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

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

## Live in joy.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but  
joy comes in the morning.

Psalm 30:5b

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

# July 25

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## Prepare

The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation. 2 Samuel 22:47

*I place my trust in you, Jesus, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

David's blessing of Solomon.

## Read

1 Kings 2:1-46

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for children in our church family who are navigating trauma.

## 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

As the Spirit reveals it to you, confess any pride in the view you hold of yourself or the way you treat others.

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

# July 26

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## Prepare

**Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! Psalm 95:6**

*I bow down to you and submit my life to your will, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The Father's blessing on Jesus, the Son.

## Read

Matthew 3:13-17

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for victory over temptation through the leading of the Spirit in our lives.

## Give generously.

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

*Lord, protect me from the love of money, through the practice of generosity. Turn my eyes and mind from comparing what I have to what others have and set them on Jesus, who has richly provided me with so 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.*

# July 27

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## Prepare

Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore. Psalm 93:5

*Lord, work in my heart to make me more like Jesus. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Our spiritual blessings in Christ.

**Read** Ephesians 1:1-14

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for a major spiritual awakening in Topeka.

## 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 to forget sins through forgiveness.

*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.*

# July 28

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## Prepare

**The Mighty One, God the Lord speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

**Psalm 50:1**

*I welcome your presence and power in my life today, Lord. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The roles and responsibilities in the family.

## Read

Colossians 3:18-21

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our nursery ministries as they love parents and children.

## 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 31

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Week One in Prayer: **Moving from Distracted to Desire**

Over the next three weeks, we will look into the Scriptures to deepen our prayer lives. Rather than being our last resort, we believe prayer is our first and best option for navigating the realities of our lives with God. Prayer is the most we can do. Amidst a hurried, hurting, and self-absorbed world, every Christian will struggle with prayer. So, our focus will be on three key shifts that need to happen in our lives for prayer to be central in our walk with Jesus.

The first shift that needs to happen in us is in the area of our desire – we must move from distraction to desire. Distraction when we pray is at the top of the list of why people neglect prayer. We're used to noise around us, images flashing before us, and a sense of urgency to get things done within us. When we slow down to pray, it feels awkward and strange. And yet the exact opposite happens when you think about the things you desire. You clear schedules, find the money, make a way to get to the concert, show up at the game, or arrive at the doorstep of someone or something you desire. What you desire gets the first and best of you. This is why your desire for God is so important to your prayer life. If God is just an accessory to your life, prayer will be optional. But if he is your desire, prayer will be essential.

**Monday:** Psalm 8:1-9

**Tuesday:** Psalm 20:1-9

**Wednesday:** Psalm 37:3-19

**Thursday:** Psalm 62:1-12

**Friday:** Psalm 73:1-28

**Saturday:** Psalm 107:1-43

**Sunday:** Romans 8:18-30

### **What to Look for in the Word**

As you spend time with God in the Word and through prayer this week, ask the Spirit to show you what you truly desire. You will only see them if you allow the Spirit to reveal them to you, and you can only desire more of God if the Spirit deepens your love and trust.

As you begin this week, pray this simple prayer: *Lord, I come, open and available for you to reveal the idols I desire in life and ask you to restore and deepen my desire for Jesus – to be with him and become like him. Amen.*

### **Big Idea**

A desire for God will clear away distractions to prayer.

### **Memory Verse:**

Pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17

# July 29

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## Prepare

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

*I turn to you, Lord, to find fulfillment and joy in my life. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God is worthy of our desire.

## Read

Psalm 8:1-9

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

that we would be sensitive to sin and passionate for more of God.

## You are loved.

**“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”**  
John 15:12

Are you withholding love from anyone in your life? Take some time to consider God's love for you and ask the Spirit to reflect forgiveness through you.

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# July 30

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## 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**

*Above all things, Lord, you are good and your faithful love is my delight. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God takes delight in to those who desire him.

## Read

Psalm 20:1-9

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for the health of those who are sick in our church family.

## 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**

Take time to pray for those in your life who are suffering.

# July 31

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## 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

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

## Receive the Word

Delight yourself in the Lord.

## Read

Psalm 37:3-19

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our love for one another to deepen.

## 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 when I'm tempted today. May I find my greatest joy in you. Amen.*

# August 1

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## Prepare

**Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD,  
O my soul! I will praise the LORD as  
long as I live; I will sing praises to my  
God while I have my being.**

**Psalm 146:1-2**

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

## Receive the Word

For God alone, my soul waits.

## Read

Psalm 62:1-12

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for the work of missions in Europe and  
Asia.

## 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. Through your Spirit,  
help me to speak and act in grace.  
Amen.*

# August 2

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## Prepare

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Psalm 95:7

*I look to you, Lord, as my Shepherd and leader for my life. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

## Read

Psalm 73:1-28

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for the president and national leaders.

## Give generously.

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

## Romans 12:13

Over the next few weeks, who can you practice hospitality with? Take a moment to consider reaching out to a neighbor or friend with whom you could reflect the kindness of Christ through hospitality.

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# August 3

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## Prepare

**Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his excellent  
greatness! Psalm 150:2**

*I seek your power and greatness to  
make you greater in my life today.  
Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Give thanks to the Lord for his  
enduring love.

## Read

Psalm 107:1-43

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

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

## 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 by the  
power of your Spirit, grow in me the  
willingness and capacity to forgive  
others who have hurt or offended me.*

# August 4

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## 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 righteousness. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

The Spirit intercedes for those who place their hope in God.

## Read

Romans 8:18-30

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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

## Rest in the Gospel.

**Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29**

How are you doing with resting in Jesus? Is there an area of your life where you are striving and exhausted? Take a moment to find your rest in Jesus and to lean on His gentle and lowly heart.

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# Weekly Overview

## Week 32

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Week Two in Prayer: **Moving from Doubting to Desperate**

Desperation is a condition few of us cultivate or want to stay in for any length of time. It's a condition of being needy, overwhelmed, and weak; at the end of yourself. Few resources give insight into this condition except to provide guidance to get out of it or stay away from the things that lead to it. And yet, to be desperate is the condition of the most powerful and effective prayers. Desperate hearts may not know how their help will come, but they know who it will come from. The eyes of the desperate look to the Lord as their only help and hope.

Did you know that the daily practice of prayer is a movement away from doubting? Doubting keeps you on the sidelines of recognizing and responding to God. Prayer connects to God, listens to his voice, and responds in faith. It is a healthy practice to confess your doubts to God in prayer because it gives him an opportunity to deepen your faith.

**Monday:** 2 Kings 19:14-19

**Tuesday:** 2 Chronicles 20:1-34

**Wednesday:** Psalm 42:1-11

**Thursday:** Psalm 46:1-11

**Friday:** Psalm 51:1-19

**Saturday:** 2 Chronicles 7:11-22

**Sunday:** Hebrews 10:19-31

### **What to Look for in the Word**

As long as you are operating out of your own strength, you will be weak in prayer. As you read the prayers of the desperate this week, seek the Spirit to show you your own desperate condition and need of God. It is quite common to mask our need for God with positions of power, possessions, or privileges we have in the world, but the eyes of God can clearly see our weaknesses and shortcomings.

### **Big Idea**

A desperate heart for God will melt away doubts in prayer.

### **Memory Verse:**

Pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17

# August 5

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## Prepare

**Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. Daniel 2:20**

*In your wisdom and mighty, Lord, direct my words and my steps. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Hezekiah's prayer of desperation to God.

## Read

2 Kings 19:14-19

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for love and joy in Jesus to grow in each of us.

## You are loved.

**Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8**

Take a moment to list a few things about someone close to you that you love about them. Take the initiative to tell them today.

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# August 6

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## Prepare

**For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

**Luke 1:49**

*I praise you today, Lord, for your mighty works in Christ Jesus for me. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Jehoshaphat's desperate prayer to the Lord when threatened by Edom.

## Read

2 Chronicles 20:1-34

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for those who faithfully serve at Fellowship.

## 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**

Which of these five areas do you need to grow in being an example?

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# August 7

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## Prepare

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

**Psalm 63:3**

*May this day be one that discovers afresh that your love is better than life. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

My soul thirsts for the living God.

## Read

Psalm 42:1-11

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for Young Life Topeka and their ministry to students.

## Live in joy.

**Yet will I rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.**

**Habakkuk 3:18**

*Father, I take joy in you today and thank you for your salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

# August 8

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## 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

*I stand on you, Jesus, as my rock and fortress. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God is a very present help in trouble.

## Read

Psalm 46:1-11

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for an eternal perspective to guide our thoughts, desires, and actions today.

## Speak and act in grace.

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

*Lord, reveal your steadfast love through my thoughts, words, and actions today. Amen.*

# August 9

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## 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**

*Father, deepen my knowledge and understanding of you through your Word today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

David's desperate prayer for mercy.

## Read

Psalm 51:1-19

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for opportunities for personal evangelism.

## Give generously.

**And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2:45**

*Lord, grow in me a spirit and practice of giving to others as they have needs. Amen.*

# August 10

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## 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**

*I turn to you, Lord, to lift you up and glorify you through my life. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

God's message to Solomon after completing the temple in Jerusalem.

## Read

2 Chronicles 7:11-22

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our state and local leaders and affairs.

## Forgive others.

**Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. Luke 17:3**

*Help me to be very aware of the destruction of gossip, revenge, and envy in my life, Lord. Work in me to keep short accounts with others when they sin against me and to seek reconciliation without delay. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



# August 11

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## Prepare

**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 15:4**

*Open my eyes to see your Word and open my heart to follow in the way of Jesus. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Draw near in prayer with full assurance of faith.

## Read

Hebrews 10:19-31

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for our parents and families to raise the next generation of spiritual leaders.

## Rest in the Gospel.

**So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Hebrews 4:9-10**

*Jesus, you are the rest for my soul that I long for. Thank you for making a way for me to enter Sabbath with God. Amen.*



# Weekly Overview

## Week 33

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### Week Three in Prayer: **Moving from Demands to Dependence**

Sometimes, the prayer lists we bring before God look more like demands than requests. Within each request is an expectation that God will work according to our interests and plans. When we get the outcomes we want, we call them “answers,” and when things don’t turn out the way we want them to, we try harder the next time, or get discouraged and go passive with prayer because it’s not effective enough for us.

We must allow the Holy Spirit to change how we see prayer and move us from transactional to relational with God. This work of the Spirit will radically change how we view God and ourselves, and rather than demanding God to do what we want him to do, we can depend on God to do what he wills in and through us.

**Monday:** Psalm 40:1-17

**Tuesday:** Psalm 56:1-13

**Wednesday:** Matthew 11:25-30

**Thursday:** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

**Friday:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Saturday:** Philippians 4:5-9

**Sunday:** Hebrews 4:1-16

### **What to Look for in the Word**

This week in the Word, we will look into prayers of dependence. Rather than prayer being a transaction or performance, it is a relationship of dependence. Prayer aligns our minds, hearts, and bodies to the will and way of Jesus. We don’t change God through prayer; prayer changes us to become more like Christ.

Since we live in a hyper-individualistic culture where independence is celebrated far above dependence on God, this movement of God in your life will require the power of the Spirit to transform the way you see God and see yourself in prayer. It is only in our weakness that we find the strength of God. Paul boasted of his weakness because it served as a platform for the power of God. Dependence on God through prayer is the posture to receive God’s power and mighty working on our behalf. And God can 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.

### **Big Idea**

A dependent heart for God will eliminate our demands on God in prayer.

### **Memory Verse:**

Pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17

# August 12

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## 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 open my life to you, Lord, to reflect your glory through my thoughts, words, and actions today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

David's desperate prayer for help.

## Read

Psalm 40:1-17

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Pray with your church family today** for international students in America.

## 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**

*Help me, Father, to live as your beloved child today. I embrace your truth and grace to reflect Jesus. Amen.*

# August 13

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## 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 seek you, that I might become more like you, God. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

David's desperate prayer for deliverance from his enemies.

## Read

Psalm 56:1-13

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

to be thankful, living with contentment.

## 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**

*Help me, Father, to live by faith in who you are and what you are doing in my life. Amen.*

# August 14

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## Prepare

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! 1 Chronicles 16:29

*I offer my life for you to mold and make me more like Jesus. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Jesus invites us to come to him in prayer and find rest for our souls.

## Read

Matthew 11:25-29

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Pray with your church family today** for healthy marriages at Fellowship.

## Live in joy.

**In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials.**

**1 Peter 1:6**

Is there anything that brings you grief in life right now? Take a moment to find joy in Christ in the midst of your trials.

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# August 15

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## Prepare

**Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. 1 Chronicles 29:11**

*I seek you in your greatness, Lord.  
Guide me in your ways today. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Dependence on the Lord is far stronger than self-sufficiency. delieverance from his enemies.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

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## Examine

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for an appetite to learn and live God's Word.

## Speak and act in grace.

**Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36**

*Father, grow in me a deeper heart of mercy and help me to live mercifully.*

# August 16

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## 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**

*Lord, draw my heart to seek and follow you throughout this day. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Christ is our great hope and our peace with God.

**Read** Ephesians 2:11-21

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for revival among Christians in America.

## Give generously.

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

How has being generous enriched your life? Take a moment to write down one experience where God has enriched your life through giving.

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# August 17

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## 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**

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

## Receive the Word

Dependence through prayer brings peace.

## Read

Philippians 4:5-9

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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## Pray with your church family today

for faithfulness with our time, talent, and treasure.

## Forgive others.

**But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. Psalm 130:4**

*Lord, I seek your forgiveness today and ask you to cleanse my life through the forgiveness of Jesus. Amen.*

# August 18

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## Prepare

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

*Give me eyes to see and ears to hear your everlasting Word for me. Amen.*

## Receive the Word

Draw near in prayer and receive mercy and grace in time of need.

## Read

Hebrews 4:1-16

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## Examine

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## Apply

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## Pray

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## Requests

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

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**Pray with your church family today** for campus ministries.

## 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**

*I rest, content and safe in the arms of my loving and faithful God. Amen.*

