

365 DAYS
IN THE WORD

DAILY
DEVOTIONALS

CROSS POINTE

M A Y 1

LUKE 23:1 - 25

In Luke 23:1-25, we encounter a profound moment of divine paradox: Jesus, the King of kings, stands before Pilate, accused and condemned. His silent dignity amidst false accusations and mockery reveals a powerful truth about God's kingdom. Despite the unjust verdict, Jesus' choice to remain silent and accept the cross demonstrates His unwavering commitment to His mission of redemption.

This passage challenges us to reflect on our response to injustice and suffering. Are we willing to endure personal trials with the same grace and purpose as Jesus? He faced betrayal and ridicule, not with anger, but with profound love and obedience to His Father's will. In our own struggles, let us find strength in Christ's example, trusting that God's plan unfolds even through our darkest moments. May we embrace the cross daily, knowing that through suffering comes salvation.

MAY 2

LUKE 23:26 - 56

In Luke 23:26-56, we witness the profound sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. As He carries His cross to Golgotha, He endures not just physical pain but the weight of humanity's sins. The scene is somber: Simon of Cyrene is compelled to help Jesus, the soldiers are horrifically making fun of Jesus, and eventually the darkness that envelops the land. Yet, amidst this suffering, there is a powerful message of love and redemption.

Jesus' final words, "It is finished," signify the completion of His mission—He has paid the ultimate price for our salvation. His death and following resurrection reveal the depth of God's love and the promise of eternal life.

In our own lives, we may face trials and burdens, but let us remember that Jesus' sacrifice is the ultimate act of grace. As we reflect on this, may we find strength in His love and courage in our own struggles.

M A Y 3

LUKE 24:1 - 35

In Luke 24:1-35, we encounter the remarkable moment when the risen Jesus reveals Himself to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Initially, they are unaware of His presence, focusing on their disappointment and confusion. But as they walk, Jesus explains the Scriptures, connecting the dots between Old Testament prophecy and His resurrection. It is only when He breaks bread with them that their eyes are opened, and they recognize Him.

This passage teaches us about the importance of recognizing Jesus in our everyday lives. Often, we too might be walking through our struggles and uncertainties, unaware of His presence and guidance. Like the disciples, we may need to seek understanding through Scripture and open our hearts to His revelation. As we invite Jesus into our daily experiences and reflections, we will find Him more clearly and experience the joy of His presence.

M A Y 4

LUKE 24:36 - 53

In Luke 24:36-53, we encounter the resurrected Jesus appearing to His disciples. They are startled and troubled, struggling to believe their eyes. Jesus gently reassures them, showing His wounds and eating in their presence to confirm His physical resurrection. He then opens their minds to understand the Scriptures, revealing that His suffering, death, and resurrection were all part of God's plan for redemption.

This passage reminds us of the profound promise of Jesus' resurrection. Just as the disciples were initially doubtful, we too may face moments of uncertainty and fear. Yet, Jesus' appearance and His words serve as a powerful reminder of His victory over death and His ongoing presence with us. As we face our own challenges, let us hold onto the promise of His peace and the assurance that He is with us always. Embrace the hope and strength that comes from this divine promise.

MAY 5

JOHN 1:1 - 28

John 1:1-28 reveals the profound truth of Jesus as the Word, the eternal and divine meaning of life. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). This passage emphasizes the preeminence of Christ, who existed before time and creation, embodying both God and the means through which creation came to be.

John the Baptist's role in this narrative is pivotal. He acknowledges his own place in God's plan, not as the Light, but as a witness to the Light (John 1:8). His humility and purpose remind us of our call to point others toward Christ, the true Light of the world.

As we reflect on this passage, let us embrace the truth of Jesus' divine nature and His role in our lives. May we, like John, be faithful witnesses of His light, guiding others to the One who offers life and truth.

MAY 6

JOHN 1:29 - 51

In John 1:29-51, we witness the early encounters of Jesus with those who would become His followers. John the Baptist proclaims, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" This declaration sets the stage for a transformative journey. Andrew and Peter, Philip and Nathanael—each person's encounter with Jesus is personal and profound.

Their stories remind us that Jesus sees beyond our flaws. He knows our potential before we even recognize it ourselves. Just as Nathanael was astonished by Jesus' knowledge of him, we too are invited to see our lives through His eyes, discovering purpose and direction.

As we reflect on this passage, let's open our hearts to the invitation to follow Jesus more closely. May we find our place in His story, trusting in His guidance and embracing the new identity He offers.

MAY 7

JOHN 2

John 2 recounts the story of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, where He transforms water into wine. This event is not just a display of power but a profound symbol of the new covenant and transformation that Christ brings into our lives.

In our daily walk, we often find ourselves in situations where we feel empty or inadequate. Much like the wedding guests faced with a shortage of wine, we may experience moments of insufficiency. Yet, Jesus invites us to bring our ordinary, everyday challenges to Him. Just as He turned water into wine, He can transform our lives from a state of lack to abundance.

This miracle reminds us that Jesus is present in our lives, ready to fill our emptiness with His grace. As we face our own trials, let us trust in His ability to transform and enrich our lives beyond what we could imagine.

MAY 8

JOHN 3:1 - 21

In John 3:1-21, we encounter the profound conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, which unveils the heart of the Gospel. Jesus introduces the concept of being "born again" through the Spirit, a transformative experience that brings new life and understanding. Nicodemus struggles with this idea, reflecting our own doubts and questions about spiritual rebirth. Yet, Jesus reveals a message of hope and love: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."

This passage reminds us of the immense love God has for us, offering eternal life through Jesus. It calls us to embrace this new birth, not through our own efforts, but through God's grace and Spirit. As we reflect on this, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of God's love and live out this new life with gratitude and purpose.

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M A Y 9

J O H N 3 : 2 2 - 3 6

In John 3:22-36, we witness John the Baptist's profound acknowledgment of Christ's supreme authority. John, a revered leader, humbly declares, "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30). This passage invites us to embrace humility and shift our focus from self to the Savior.

John's ministry was marked by his commitment to pointing others to Jesus. He recognized that Christ's arrival signified a new era where Jesus, as the "one who comes from above," holds ultimate authority. John's words challenge us to examine our lives: Are we willing to let go of our desires for recognition and instead elevate Christ in all we do?

As we meditate on this scripture, let us seek to embody John's humility, celebrating Christ's greatness and allowing Him to be the center of our lives. In decreasing ourselves, we find true fulfillment in Christ.

MAY 10

JOHN 4:1 - 30

In John 4:1-30, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. As He asks her for a drink, He reveals a profound truth: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst" (John 4:13-14). This encounter illustrates more than a conversation about water; it speaks to a deeper spiritual need. Just as physical water is essential for life, Jesus offers a spiritual water that quenches our deepest thirst.

The woman's transformation from a seeker of earthly satisfaction to a proclaimer of the Messiah demonstrates how encountering Jesus changes us. When we come to Him with our empty, broken lives, He fills us with a love that satisfies beyond measure. Let us seek this living water daily, recognizing that only in Christ can our souls find true fulfillment and peace.

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M A Y 11

J O H N 4 : 3 1 - 5 4

In John 4:31-54, we see the profound moment when Jesus heals the royal official's son. While his disciples are focused on food and their immediate needs, Jesus teaches them a powerful lesson about faith and spiritual sustenance. The royal official, a man of high status, approaches Jesus with a desperate plea for his dying son. Despite the distance between them, Jesus simply speaks the word, and the healing occurs.

This passage invites us to reflect on our own faith. The royal official's belief in Jesus' power, despite the absence of immediate evidence, demonstrates a deep trust in God's word. Jesus reminds us that faith transcends physical presence and that our trust in Him can bring about miraculous changes, even when situations seem dire.

As we face our own challenges, let's embrace the royal official's unwavering faith and trust in Jesus' promises, knowing that His word holds the power to transform our lives.

MAY 12

JOHN 5:1-224

In John 5:1-24, at the Pool of Bethesda, we read how Jesus heals a man who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. This miracle is not just an act of compassion but a powerful revelation of Jesus' divine authority. He asks the man, "Do you want to be made well?" and then commands him to rise, take up his bed, and walk. This act of healing demonstrates that Jesus is the source of all life and restoration.

In our lives, we often find ourselves in places of brokenness and stagnation. Jesus' question to the man invites us to reflect on our own desires for healing and transformation. Just as He had the power to heal the paralytic, He has the power to renew and restore us. As we seek Him, let us trust in His authority and embrace the new life He offers.

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MAY 13

JOHN 5:25-47

In John 5:25-47, Jesus reveals His divine authority and the power of His words. He speaks of a time when the dead will hear His voice and live, illustrating that He is the source of both physical and spiritual life. Jesus emphasizes the importance of believing in Him, the Son, as the key to eternal life. He stands as the righteous judge, discerning our hearts and intentions.

Jesus directly states who He is and what He came to do in these verses. Instead of reflecting or embracing, today is different. Read Jesus' words slowly. As you think about what He said, take some time to repent of unconfessed sin in your life. Turn away from evil things in your life—words, relationships, influences, etc. Acknowledge who He truly is. By acknowledging Him as the giver of life and judge, you open yourself to transformation and grace.

MAY 14

JOHN 6:1 - 21

In John 6:1-21, we witness Jesus performing miracles that reveal His divine nature and His care for our needs. As He feeds the 5,000 with just five loaves and two fish, Jesus demonstrates that He is the Bread of Life, providing not just physical sustenance but spiritual nourishment. When the disciples face a stormy sea, Jesus walks to them, assuring them with His presence, "It is I; don't be afraid." This passage reminds us that Jesus is with us in both our abundance and our trials. He meets our physical needs and offers us peace amidst life's storms.

As we reflect on this passage, let us trust in His provision and presence. No matter how insurmountable our problems may seem, Jesus is the One who calms the storm and satisfies our deepest hunger. Let us turn to Him, finding comfort and hope in His constant care.

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M A Y 15

J O H N 6 : 2 2 - 4 4

In John 6:22-44, Jesus reveals profound truths about spiritual sustenance and the nature of true faith. The crowd, having witnessed the miracle of the loaves and fishes, seeks Jesus for more signs, but He redirects their focus to the eternal. Jesus declares Himself as the "Bread of life" (John 6:35), emphasizing that true fulfillment comes from believing in Him, not just from witnessing miracles or seeking temporary satisfaction.

When Jesus says, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them" (John 6:44), He highlights the divine initiative in our relationship with God. It is by God's grace that we are invited into a deep, life-transforming relationship with Jesus.

As we reflect on this passage, let us shift our focus from seeking signs to seeking Jesus Himself. May we find our true nourishment in Him, the eternal bread that satisfies our deepest needs and offers us everlasting life. Let's recognize that this everlasting life comes from Jesus Christ alone.

MAY 16

JOHN 6:45-71

In John 6:45-71, Jesus speaks of being the Bread of Life, offering eternal sustenance to those who believe. He challenges His followers to move beyond physical needs and grasp the spiritual truth of His message. Just as bread is essential for physical survival, Jesus is essential for spiritual life.

The crowd struggles with His teaching, finding it hard to accept the idea of eating His flesh and drinking His blood. Yet, Jesus is clear: this symbolism speaks to the intimate relationship He desires with us. Believing in Him means embracing His sacrifice and integrating His teachings into our lives.

In times of doubt or difficulty, remember that Jesus is the true source of life. Trust in Him, even when His ways seem challenging or beyond understanding. His words are true and life-giving, guiding us towards a deeper, everlasting relationship with God.

MAY 17

JOHN 7:1 - 31

In John 7:1-31, we witness the tension surrounding Jesus' identity and mission. Jesus, knowing the dangers that lay ahead, chooses not to go to Judea for the Feast of Tabernacles. His brothers, skeptical of His messianic claims, suggest He should make a grand appearance to gain followers. Yet, Jesus operates on a divine timetable, not swayed by human expectations.

This passage invites us to reflect on our own responses to Jesus. Are we like the crowds, marveling at His works but uncertain of His identity? Or are we more like His brothers, questioning His motives and methods? Jesus teaches us that true understanding comes from seeking His will rather than following popular opinion. In our own lives, may we trust in God's perfect timing and seek His guidance above all else, recognizing that His ways are not always our ways.

M A Y 18

J O H N 7 : 3 2 - 5 3

In John 7:32-53, we witness the tension and division surrounding Jesus' identity. The religious leaders are troubled by His teachings and seek to arrest Him, yet the people are divided. Some believe He is the Messiah, while others question His origins. Jesus boldly declares, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me" (John 7:33).

This passage highlights the conflict between human understanding and divine truth. Jesus' mission and identity challenge us to confront our own beliefs and assumptions. The crowd's division reflects the broader struggle between faith and skepticism.

In our daily lives, we too face moments of doubt and division. Let us remember that Jesus invites us into a deeper relationship with Him, urging us to look beyond the surface and trust in His divine plan. As we seek Him, may we find clarity and unity in His truth.

MAY 19

JOHN 8:1 - 20

In John 8:1-20, we encounter the story of the woman caught in adultery and Jesus' profound response. The scribes and Pharisees bring the woman before Jesus, seeking to trap Him with a question about the Law. Instead of condemning her, Jesus offers grace and challenges the accusers, saying, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." This powerful moment reveals Jesus' deep understanding of our human frailties and His commitment to mercy over judgment.

Jesus' response reminds us of the importance of compassion and forgiveness in our own lives. He doesn't dismiss sin but rather offers a path to redemption. As we reflect on this passage, let us embrace the grace that Jesus extends to us and extend that same grace to others. In our interactions, may we be quick to offer love and forgiveness, reflecting the heart of Christ.

MAY 20

JOHN 8:21-36

In John 8:21-36, Jesus reveals a profound truth: true freedom is found in Him. As He converses with the Pharisees, He underscores that knowledge of the truth is the pathway to liberation. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).

Jesus emphasizes that freedom is not merely the absence of external constraints but the liberation from sin's hold. Those who remain in sin are slaves, but through His teachings and sacrifice, Jesus offers a transformative freedom. This freedom isn't about the liberty to do anything but the grace to live as God intended—free from sin and empowered to live a life of righteousness. Embrace His truth, and let it guide you to true freedom and eternal life.

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MAY 21

JOHN 8:37-59

In John 8:37-59, Jesus challenges us with profound truths about our identity and freedom. He tells the Jews, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). This promise of freedom isn't just about liberation from physical chains but from spiritual bondage. Jesus declares Himself the "I AM" (John 8:58), affirming His divine authority and eternal presence.

Yet, the truth He offers sometimes confronts our deepest beliefs and traditions, revealing areas where we might be enslaved by misconceptions or sin. To embrace this truth is to accept Christ's authority over our lives, allowing His light to expose and heal our hidden wounds.

As we reflect on this passage, let us seek to align ourselves with Christ's truth. In His freedom, we find our true selves—liberated, redeemed, and transformed. May we continually surrender to the One who is the ultimate truth and source of true freedom.

MAY 22

JOHN 9:1 - 23

In John 9:1-23, we encounter a profound moment of healing and revelation. Jesus meets a man born blind, and instead of merely curing his physical ailment, He offers him a deeper vision. Jesus' act of healing challenges our understanding of sin and suffering, revealing that not all trials are direct results of personal sin but opportunities for God's work to be displayed.

As the man is questioned and scrutinized by the Pharisees, his steadfast faith shines through. Despite their doubts and accusations, the healed man acknowledges Jesus' divine power with courage and simplicity: "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

This passage encourages us to recognize and embrace the light of Christ in our own lives. No matter how dark our situations may seem, Jesus offers spiritual sight and transformation. May we, like the healed man, boldly proclaim the work of God in our lives.

M A Y 23

J O H N 9 : 2 4 - 4 1

In John 9:24-41, we witness a profound encounter between Jesus and the man born blind. When questioned by the Pharisees about his healing, the man's simple yet profound testimony reveals a truth many miss: Jesus gives sight to the blind and insight to those willing to see.

The Pharisees, despite their knowledge, are spiritually blind, unable to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. This passage challenges us to reflect on our own spiritual sight. Are we open to the transformative power of Jesus, or are we trapped in our own understanding?

The healed man's faith and newfound vision symbolize a deeper spiritual awakening. Jesus asks us to embrace this awakening, to see beyond the surface and recognize His presence and work in our lives. Let us pray for eyes to see and hearts to understand the truth of Jesus, the Light of the world.

M A Y 24

J O H N 10 : 1 - 21

In John 10:1-21, Jesus presents Himself as the Good Shepherd, a powerful metaphor for His relationship with us. He contrasts the Good Shepherd with a mere hireling who abandons the sheep in times of danger. Jesus, however, knows His sheep intimately and is willing to lay down His life for them. This passage reminds us of the depth of Christ's love and His commitment to protect and guide us.

As we navigate life's challenges, let's find solace in knowing that Jesus is our Shepherd, intimately acquainted with our needs and struggles. He leads us with wisdom and grace, ensuring that we lack nothing essential. When we feel lost or threatened, we can trust in His presence and protection. Embrace the peace that comes from being known and cared for by the Good Shepherd, who has laid down His life to ensure our safety and salvation.

MAY 25

JOHN 10:22-42

In John 10:22-42, Jesus reveals His divine identity amidst the Feast of Dedication, challenging the crowd's doubt with profound truths. He declares, "I and the Father are one" (v. 30), affirming His unity with God. This declaration is met with skepticism and hostility, yet Jesus responds with patience, pointing to His works as evidence of His divine mission.

Reflect on this passage as a call to recognize and trust in the unity of Jesus with God. In moments of doubt or confusion, remember that Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep but also the eternal Son of God who reveals the Father's love and purpose. Just as the crowd grappled with His identity, we too may face challenges in understanding His role in our lives. Let us anchor our faith in the certainty of His divine nature and the assurance of His promises.

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MAY 26

JOHN 11:1-16

In John 11:1-16, we find the story of Lazarus's illness and Jesus's delay in coming to his aid. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He didn't rush to Bethany but waited two more days before arriving. This delay, while puzzling to us, was intentional and filled with purpose. Jesus knew that Lazarus's death and subsequent resurrection would glorify God and strengthen the faith of those who witnessed it.

In our lives, we often face situations where God's timing seems off. We might wonder why our prayers go unanswered or why relief doesn't come when we expect it. Yet, Jesus's response reminds us that God's timing is perfect, and His plans are always for our good. In moments of waiting, trust in His wisdom and sovereignty. He is working all things together for a greater purpose, even when we don't see it.

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MAY 27

JOHN 11:17-44

In John 11:17-44, we witness the powerful story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. This passage reveals not only Jesus' authority over death but also His deep compassion for us. When Jesus arrived in Bethany, He was met with mourning and despair, yet He declared, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). This profound statement is a reminder of His power to transform our darkest moments into testimonies of His glory.

Jesus' delay in coming to Lazarus was not a sign of indifference but a divine timing to reveal His greater purpose. As He called Lazarus out of the tomb, He demonstrated that He holds the keys to life and death.

Today, in our struggles and waiting, we can trust that God's timing is perfect. He calls us to believe in His promises and to see beyond our immediate circumstances. Jesus is the resurrection and the life; in Him, we find hope and renewal.

M A Y 28

J O H N 11:45 - 57

In John 11:45-57, we witness a profound turning point. Jesus, having raised Lazarus from the dead, ignites a mixture of awe and fear among the people and the religious leaders. The miraculous act, intended to reveal God's glory and draw people to faith, instead triggers a conspiracy to eliminate Jesus. This passage exposes the tension between divine purpose and human resistance.

Yet, amid this plot, God's sovereignty remains unshaken. The actions of the Sanhedrin, though seemingly powerful, are merely instruments in a grander divine plan. Jesus' impending sacrifice on the cross will fulfill God's redemptive plan for humanity.

As we reflect on this passage, let it remind us of God's control over every situation, even those filled with opposition and confusion. Trust in His plan, knowing that what may seem like setbacks are often steps toward a greater purpose.

M A Y 29

J O H N 12:1 - 19

In John 12:1-19, we witness an important moment of worship and foreshadowing. Mary anoints Jesus with costly perfume, an act of deep devotion and love, illustrating that true worship is often sacrificial. Her act contrasts sharply with Judas's criticism, highlighting that genuine devotion comes from a heart fully surrendered to Christ, not from a place of calculated giving.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowds celebrate His arrival with joy and adoration, yet they misunderstand the nature of His kingship. They anticipate a political Messiah but are soon to face the reality of a suffering Savior.

This passage invites us to reflect on our own worship. Are we giving our best to Jesus, even if it means personal sacrifice? Are we willing to follow a Savior who might not fit our expectations but leads us to the true path of redemption? Let Mary's devotion inspire us to love Christ wholeheartedly, embracing His true mission in our lives.

M A Y 30

J O H N 12:20 - 50

In John 12:20-50, Jesus speaks about His impending sacrifice and the promise of new life through His death. As He approaches His final days on earth, He draws a clear line between living in the light of truth and remaining in the darkness of ignorance.

Jesus' statement, "The light is with you for a little longer" (John 12:35), is a clear reminder of the urgency to embrace His teachings and walk in His light. His sacrifice on the cross is not just a moment of suffering but a beacon of hope and salvation.

Reflect on the truth of His words: choosing to follow Jesus means stepping into the light where our path is illuminated by His love and grace. As we navigate our daily lives, let us commit to living in the light of His truth, bearing witness to His transformative power.

MAY 31

JOHN 13:1 - 20

In John 13:1-20, we witness a profound moment in Jesus' ministry—His act of humble service. As He washes the feet of His disciples, He sets a powerful example of love and servanthood. Despite knowing His hour had come, and with full awareness of His impending suffering, Jesus chose to serve. This act was not just about cleanliness but a deep demonstration of His mission: to serve others and to love unconditionally.

Jesus' words, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" challenge us to reflect on our own lives. Are we willing to embrace humility and serve others selflessly? The call to follow Jesus means adopting His heart of service, loving beyond comfort and status. As we go about our daily lives, let us remember this lesson and strive to be vessels of His grace, serving others as He served us.

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J U N E 1

J O H N 13:21 - 38

In John 13:21-38, Jesus reveals the coming betrayal by one of His closest followers, Judas. Even as His heart is troubled, Jesus demonstrates profound grace and composure. He knows what is about to happen, yet He continues to love and serve His disciples, including the one who will betray Him.

This passage reminds us that, even in moments of deep personal pain, we are called to trust God's plan. Jesus did not shrink back from the path set before Him, nor did He harbor bitterness. Instead, He focused on the greater purpose—the salvation of the world through His sacrifice.

When we face betrayal or hardship, we can take heart in Jesus' example. He calls us to love others as He has loved us, even when it is difficult. Trust in His perfect plan, and remember that His love is always steadfast, even in the darkest moments.

JUNE 2

JOHN 14

In John 14, Jesus comforts His disciples with a profound promise. He knows they will face fear and uncertainty, but He tells them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Our lives often seem filled with moments of anxiety, but Jesus reminds us that faith in Him overcomes all fear. He assures us that there is a place prepared for us in His Father’s house.

No matter how unstable life may feel, Jesus is preparing a place for us. This promise invites us to live with hope, trusting that the difficulties we face are temporary and that our ultimate home is with Him in heaven. Let this promise bring peace to your heart today.

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JUNE 3

JOHN 15

In John 15, Jesus calls Himself the true vine and urges us to remain in Him, emphasizing the importance of abiding. "I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit" (John 15:5). This relationship reveals our dependence on Christ for spiritual life and growth. As branches, we are called to stay connected, drawing strength from His love and Word.

When we remain in Jesus, He promises we will bear fruit—good works, godly character, and transformed lives. Apart from Him, we can do nothing of lasting value. This passage also calls us to trust God's pruning, which can be uncomfortable, but shapes us into vessels for His glory. Today, reflect on your connection to the vine. Are you abiding in Christ, trusting His care, and allowing Him to bear fruit in you?

[illegible]

JUNE 4

JOHN 16:1-15

In John 16:1-15, Jesus prepares His disciples for the trials ahead, reminding them of the Holy Spirit's coming. He warns them that persecution is inevitable, but they will not face it alone. The Holy Spirit will come to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Jesus comforts them with the promise that the Spirit will guide them into all truth.

In our daily walk, we face challenges that can shake our faith. Jesus knew we would need help, and He sent the Holy Spirit as our comforter and guide. Just as the disciples needed the Spirit to understand God's will, we too need His help to navigate life's uncertainties. When life feels overwhelming, remember that the Holy Spirit is with you, pointing you to Jesus, and guiding you in truth.

[illegible]

JUNE 5

JOHN 16:16-33

In John 16:16-33, Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure and the trials they would soon face. He assures them that though they will experience sorrow when He leaves, their sorrow will turn into joy when He returns. In verse 33, Jesus speaks one of His most comforting promises: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

As believers, we often face moments of uncertainty, fear, and pain. But Jesus reminds us that while challenges are inevitable, His victory is certain. He has already overcome the world through His death and resurrection, and He offers us a peace that transcends our circumstances.

When life feels overwhelming, we can rest in the truth that Jesus is with us and has already triumphed over every obstacle. Let His peace fill your heart today, trusting that He will turn your sorrow into joy.

JUNE 6

JOHN 17

In John 17, Jesus prays for His disciples and all future believers, asking for unity: "that they may be one, just as we are one" (John 17:22). This prayer reveals His heart for His followers—He desires for us to experience deep, spiritual unity with one another, just as He and the Father are united.

This unity is not merely about agreeing on everything but about sharing in the love of Christ, centered on His truth. Jesus knew that the world would be divided, and His prayer is for believers to stand as a testimony of God's love.

How do we live this out? By loving one another, showing grace, and staying rooted in God's Word. Our unity in Christ is a witness to the world of His transforming power. Let us strive to love as He loved and be united in purpose, drawing others to Him.

JUNE 7

JOHN 18:1 - 24

In this passage, we see the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. Judas, one of His disciples, leads the soldiers to Jesus. Despite knowing what is to come, Jesus steps forward willingly, demonstrating His unwavering obedience to the Father's plan. Peter, on the other hand, reacts impulsively, drawing his sword and cutting off the ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant. But Jesus rebukes Peter, showing us that God's plan unfolds in His time and way, not ours.

This moment teaches us about trust and surrender. Jesus willingly surrenders to God's will, even when it leads to suffering. Often, like Peter, we try to take control when things seem to go wrong, but Jesus reminds us to trust God's plan, even when we do not fully understand. Let us surrender our will to God's, trusting that He is working all things for our good.

J U N E 8

J O H N 18:25 - 40

In John 18:25-40, Peter denies Jesus for the third time, fulfilling Jesus' prophecy of his denial. While Peter is overwhelmed by fear, we also see Jesus standing boldly before Pilate, embodying truth, and strength in the face of injustice. This contrast highlights the frailty of human nature and the unwavering power of God's plan.

When Pilate asks, "What is truth?" (v. 38), Jesus remains silent. The truth is not a concept to be debated; it is a person—Jesus Christ. His silence speaks volumes. Pilate, though troubled, tries to avoid responsibility, but he still offers the crowd a choice between releasing Barabbas, a criminal, or Jesus, the innocent.

In this passage, we are challenged to reflect on our own lives. Are we like Peter, denying Christ in moments of fear? Or do we stand for truth, even when it is uncomfortable? Today, let us remember Christ's example and live boldly in His truth.

JUNE 9

JOHN 19:1 - 22

In John 19:1-22, we witness Jesus' suffering and humiliation as He is mocked, beaten, and crowned with thorns. Pilate presents Him to the crowd with the words, "Behold the Man!" Yet, behind the cruel spectacle is the profound truth of God's love.

Jesus, though innocent, willingly endured the shame of the cross. The inscription above Him, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," was meant to mock, but it declared the truth. He was not just King of the Jews, but King of all creation.

In our struggles and suffering, we can find hope in Christ's sacrifice. He bore the weight of sin, not for His wrongdoing, but for ours. His crucifixion is a reminder that God's love knows no bounds. No matter how broken we feel, Jesus' victory on the cross assures us of redemption and eternal life.

JUNE 10

JOHN 19:23-42

In this passage, we witness the ultimate sacrifice—Jesus laying down His life on the cross. The soldiers divide His clothes, unaware of the profound spiritual event unfolding. Even as Jesus suffers, He fulfills Scripture, showing that His death is not a tragic end, but the climax of God's redemptive plan.

Amidst the pain, Jesus shows love and concern. He entrusts His mother, Mary, to His beloved disciple, ensuring her care. In His final moments, He declares, "It is finished," not in defeat, but in victory. Jesus completed the work of salvation, opening the door for us to have eternal life.

As we reflect on this scene, let us remember the depth of Christ's love. His sacrifice calls us to live lives of gratitude and devotion, trusting that through His death, we are made new and restored to God.

JOHN 20

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JOHN 21

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

JUNE 13

ACTS 1

In Acts 1, we witness a pivotal moment in the early Church. Jesus, having risen from the dead, gives His final instructions to His disciples, promising them the Holy Spirit and urging them to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. His ascension signifies the completion of His earthly mission and the beginning of a new era for His followers.

Reflecting on this passage, we are reminded of our calling to be witnesses of Christ's love and power. Just as the disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel, we too, are equipped for our mission through the Spirit. In moments of doubt or uncertainty, we can find strength in the promise that Jesus is with us always, guiding and empowering us.

Let this passage inspire us to live boldly, trusting in God's promises and seeking to share His light with the world.

JUNE 14

ACTS 2:1 - 13

Acts 2:1-13 recounts the remarkable moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon the early church. In this passage, the disciples were gathered in one place when a sound like a violent wind filled the house, and tongues of fire rested on each of them. They began to speak in different languages, and people from various nations were amazed to hear their own tongues glorifying God.

This event underscores the power of unity and the Spirit's ability to transcend barriers. The disciples' unity in prayer and purpose opened the door for the Spirit's transformative work. As we gather in faith and seek the Spirit's presence, we too can experience a fresh outpouring of divine power. Let this passage remind us that when we unite in Christ, we become vessels through which God's love and truth flow freely, impacting those around us.

JUNE 15

ACTS 2:14 - 47

In Acts 2:14-47, we witness the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and the birth of the early church. Peter, emboldened by the Spirit, addresses the crowd, explaining that Jesus, crucified and risen, is the Messiah prophesied by Joel. His words cut to the heart, and 3,000 people were baptized in response.

This passage reveals the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in guiding, empowering, and uniting believers. It shows the importance of community as the early Christians devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Their unity and shared life drew others to the faith, with the Lord adding to their number daily.

As we reflect on this passage, let us seek the Holy Spirit's power in our own lives and strive to live in community, dedicated to the teachings of Christ and the fellowship of believers.

JUNE 16

ACTS 3

In Acts 3, Peter and John heal a lame man at the temple gate, highlighting the transformative power of faith. The man, who had been lame from birth, was restored to full health through the name of Jesus Christ. This miracle not only transformed the man's life but also drew attention to the power of faith in Jesus.

This passage teaches us about the boundless possibilities that faith in Christ can bring. Just as the lame man was healed and leaped with joy, our faith can lead us to experience profound changes and blessings. It reminds us that through Jesus, we are not confined by our limitations or circumstances. When we trust in His power and walk in His name, we open ourselves to extraordinary transformation.

Let us be inspired by this story to seek Jesus in our own lives, trusting that He can heal, restore, and uplift us in ways we never imagined.

JUNE 17

ACTS 4:1 - 22

In Acts 4:1-22, Peter and John face the Sanhedrin after healing a man in Jesus' name. Despite threats and imprisonment, their bold witness remains unshaken. They declare, "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that this man stands healed" (Acts 4:10). Their courage challenges us to consider our witness. Are we willing to speak the truth of Christ, even when it is uncomfortable or met with opposition?

The apostles' response reveals a powerful lesson: their ultimate authority was God, not human institutions. They prayed for boldness, and God responded by shaking the place where they were meeting (Acts 4:31). This reminds us that our strength to witness comes from reliance on God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us be inspired by Peter and John's example. May we, too, stand firm in our faith, empowered by God to boldly share the hope we have in Jesus.

JUNE 18

ACTS 4:23 - 37

In Acts 4:23-37, we see the early church's response to persecution and their powerful example of unity and generosity. After being released from imprisonment, Peter and John return to their fellow believers, who immediately turn to prayer. Their prayers are not for escape, but for boldness to continue proclaiming the message of Jesus. This prayer is met with a dramatic manifestation of God's power, and the believers are filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking the word of God with courage.

The passage also highlights their remarkable unity. They share everything they have, ensuring that no one among them is in need. This radical generosity stems from their deep commitment to Christ and each other.

Today, let us be inspired by their example. In our trials, let us seek boldness and trust in God's provision. And let our lives reflect the same spirit of generosity and unity, demonstrating the love of Christ to all around us.

JUNE 19

ACTS 5:1-16

Acts 5:1-16 recounts the story of Ananias and Sapphira, who, despite their outward show of generosity, lied to the Holy Spirit about the proceeds of a land sale. Their deceit led to their sudden deaths, serving as a stark reminder of the seriousness of truthfulness and integrity before God. The passage underscores the importance of sincerity in our relationship with God and our fellow believers. The early church's response—fear and reverence—highlights how crucial it is to maintain purity and honesty within the community. As we reflect on this story, let us examine our hearts. Are we fully transparent and honest in our dealings with God and others? May we strive to live with integrity, knowing that God values our sincerity above mere appearances. Let this story encourage us to align our actions with our faith, fostering a community marked by genuine love and trust.

[illegible]

JUNE 20

ACTS 5:17-42

In Acts 5:17-42, the apostles face arrest and persecution for boldly proclaiming the message of Jesus. Despite being imprisoned, they are miraculously freed by an angel and instructed to continue preaching. When brought before the Sanhedrin, they respond with unwavering courage, saying, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Their commitment to God's call, even in the face of threats and punishment, demonstrates profound faith and resilience.

This passage reminds us that our mission to share God's love and truth may come with challenges. Like the apostles, we are called to stand firm in our convictions, trusting in God's guidance and provision. Even when faced with opposition, let us find strength in our obedience to God and in the assurance that He is with us, equipping us to persevere. In our witness, may we reflect the apostles' boldness and unwavering faith.

JUNE 21

ACTS 6

In Acts 6, we see the early church facing a challenge: the distribution of food to widows was causing division. The apostles, focused on prayer and ministry, recognized the need for others to take on this vital role. They appointed seven deacons, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to handle this task. This decision highlights a crucial principle: effective leadership involves empowering others and delegating responsibilities.

The apostles' choice underscores that every role in the church, whether leading or serving, is essential and worthy of honor. The deacons, like Stephen and Philip, demonstrated that serving others is a path to spiritual growth and impact. As we reflect on this passage, let us consider how we can support and uplift those around us, recognizing the divine calling in every role and task. Embrace the spirit of servanthood in your daily life, and trust that God will use your faithfulness to further His kingdom.

JUNE 22

ACTS 7:1 - 19

In Acts 7:1-19, Stephen recounts the history of Israel, focusing on God's faithfulness and the people's recurring disobedience. This passage highlights the journey from Abraham to the oppression in Egypt. Through Stephen's speech, we see a pattern: God calls and blesses, yet His people often resist and forget His promises.

Reflecting on this, we are reminded of the importance of remembering God's past faithfulness in our lives. Like the Israelites, we can become discouraged and forget the miracles and provisions we have experienced. Stephen's reflection invites us to reassess our spiritual journey, recognizing both our moments of faithfulness and our struggles.

Let this passage inspire us to remain steadfast in our trust in God, knowing that even in our failures, His plan continues to unfold. May we hold onto the hope that God is always working, even when we cannot see it.

JUNE 23

ACTS 7:20-43

In Acts 7:20-43, Stephen recounts the history of Israel, highlighting how God's timing often diverges from human expectations. The passage details the life of Moses, who, despite his early struggles and seeming failures, was chosen by God to lead His people out of Egypt. This story reminds us that God's plans often unfold through unlikely and difficult circumstances.

When we face trials or feel like our efforts are unrecognized, we can trust that God's timing is perfect. Just as Moses' journey was filled with obstacles before deliverance came, our challenges are part of a larger divine plan. The same God who orchestrated Israel's exodus from Egypt is working in our lives, even when we cannot see it. Trust in His timing, remain faithful, and hold onto hope, knowing that deliverance and purpose are coming.

[illegible]

JUNE 24

ACTS 7:44 - 60

In Acts 7:44-60, we witness Stephen's unwavering courage as he faces persecution. Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, delivers a bold message before the Sanhedrin, recounting Israel's history and boldly accusing them of resisting the Holy Spirit. His vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God is a profound reminder of divine presence and support amidst trials.

Stephen's ultimate sacrifice—his martyrdom—becomes a beacon of faith for believers. His ability to forgive his persecutors, saying, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them," mirrors Christ's own words on the cross. This passage challenges us to stand firm in our faith, even when faced with immense difficulties. It encourages us to seek God's strength to forgive those who wrong us and to trust in His plan, knowing that His presence is with us through every trial.

J U N E 2 5

A C T S 8 : 1 - 2 5

In Acts 8:1-25, we witness a powerful moment in the early Church's expansion. Following Stephen's martyrdom, the disciples are scattered, but the Gospel spreads as they go. Philip, one of the deacons, preaches in Samaria, and many are healed and believe in Jesus. This passage highlights how God uses trials and persecution to further His Kingdom.

Simon the Sorcerer, who initially believes and is baptized, shows us that genuine faith is not about power or spectacle but a transformation of the heart. The apostles' arrival to impart the Holy Spirit reveals the need for a deep, sincere relationship with God, beyond superficial expressions of faith.

As we reflect on this passage, let us examine our faith. Are we truly transformed, or are we merely following the crowd? May our relationship with God be marked by genuine repentance, transformation, and a desire to live out His will in every area of our lives.

JUNE 26

ACTS 8:26-40

In Acts 8:26-40, we witness a profound moment of divine intervention and guidance. Philip, led by the Spirit, encounters an Ethiopian eunuch reading the Scriptures. Despite being in a desert, Philip meets this man right where he is, demonstrating how God orchestrates encounters for His purpose. The eunuch's heart is opened to understanding the Gospel, and Philip's obedience leads to a transformative moment of faith and baptism.

This passage reminds us of the importance of being sensitive to the Spirit's leadership. Like Philip, we are called to be ready to step out in faith and serve, even in unexpected places. Our willingness to follow God's direction can lead others to a life-changing encounter with Christ. Reflect today on how you can be attentive to the Spirit's guidance and ready to share the message of hope with those around you.

[illegible]

JUNE 27

ACTS 9:1-22

In Acts 9:1-22, we witness the dramatic transformation of Saul, a fierce persecutor of Christians, into Paul, a devoted apostle of Christ. Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus is a powerful reminder of God's grace and the transformative power it holds. Despite Saul's hostility, Jesus calls him by name and reveals His divine purpose for his life. This encounter not only changes Saul's direction but also his heart.

We, too, may feel unworthy or far from God's reach. Yet, this passage assures us that no one is beyond the redeeming grace of Jesus. Just as Saul was given a new identity and mission, we are invited to experience God's grace that can renew and repurpose our lives. Let us open our hearts to this transformative grace, trusting that God can make all things new.

[illegible]

J U N E 2 8

A C T S 9 : 2 3 - 4 3

In Acts 9:23-43, we witness a dramatic turning point in the early church. Saul's transformation from a persecutor to a proclaimer of Christ begins to unfold amidst danger and divine intervention. As threats loom large, Saul's life is spared by the courage of his disciples and the wisdom of a faithful leader, Barnabas. This passage also introduces the miracles performed by Peter, reinforcing the power and compassion of Jesus through His followers.

Reflecting on these verses, we are reminded of the transformative power of God's grace and the strength that comes from community support and divine protection. Just as Saul was given a new purpose and Peter performed miracles, God has a unique plan for each of us, often revealed during challenges. Let this passage encourage us to trust in God's guidance, embrace our transformation, and boldly step into the purpose He has for our lives.

JUNE 29

ACTS 10:1 - 24

In Acts 10:1-24, we witness a transformative moment in the early church. Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and Peter, a Jewish leader, are brought together by God's divine plan. Cornelius' vision calls him to seek Peter, while Peter's vision challenges his understanding of clean and unclean. Through these revelations, God teaches us that His love and grace extend beyond cultural and ethnic boundaries.

Reflect on the ways God might be calling you to embrace the unexpected in your life. Perhaps He is nudging you to step out of your comfort zone and build bridges with those who seem different. Like Peter and Cornelius, we are invited to see others through God's eyes, breaking down barriers and loving the way He has loved us. Let us be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance, trusting that God's plans are always greater than we can imagine.

JUNE 30

ACTS 10:25-48

Acts 10:25-48 recounts the pivotal moment when Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, breaks through the boundaries of cultural and religious norms to bring the gospel to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. This passage highlights the profound truth that God's love and salvation do not bend to human limitations. As Peter steps into Cornelius's home and proclaims the message of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descends upon the Gentiles, affirming that God shows no favoritism and welcomes all who seek Him.

In our lives, we often build barriers—whether intentional or not—that keep us from fully embracing others in genuine love for them. This story calls us to dismantle those walls, to embrace the grand vision of God's kingdom. Let us be open to the unexpected ways God is working and the people He is drawing to Himself. Reflect today on how you can break down your own barriers and extend love and compassion to those around you.

JULY 1

ACTS 11

Acts 11 tells the story of Peter explaining his actions to the believers in Jerusalem after he shares the gospel with the Gentiles. This chapter highlights the nature of God's salvation plan. Initially, the Jewish believers were shocked that Peter would associate with Gentiles, but Peter shared the vision God gave him, where he was shown that what God has made clean should not be called impure. The Holy Spirit's arrival upon the Gentiles confirmed that God's love and grace extend beyond ethnic and cultural boundaries. Salvation was not just for the Jews, but for all people.

This passage encourages us to understand God's salvation plan. As Peter learned, we are called to share the gospel with all people, regardless of their background. In Christ, there is no distinction—His love and salvation are for everyone who believes. Let us be bold in breaking barriers and sharing God's love freely.

JULY 2

ACTS 12

Acts 12 is a powerful reminder of God's sovereignty and the power of prayer. The chapter begins with King Herod persecuting the early church, even putting James to death and imprisoning Peter. The church, in response, earnestly prays for Peter's release. In a miraculous turn, an angel of the Lord frees Peter from prison, leading him safely past guards and iron gates. God's intervention displays His ability to rescue His people from impossible situations.

The chapter also shows the ultimate futility of opposing God's purposes. While Herod sought to harm the church, he faced judgment from God. This teaches us that no power on earth can thwart God's plans.

Acts 12 encourages us to trust in God's deliverance and to be persistent in prayer, even when circumstances seem dire. God hears our prayers, and His power to save and protect remains unmatched. Let us pray with faith, knowing that God is in control.

JULY 3

ACTS 13:1 - 12

Acts 13:1-12 marks a pivotal moment in the early church as Saul (Paul) and Barnabas are sent out on their first missionary journey by the Holy Spirit. The church in Antioch, guided by the Spirit, commissions these two leaders to spread the gospel. This passage emphasizes the importance of being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and the power of the church's support in fulfilling God's mission.

As Paul and Barnabas travel to Cyprus, they encounter opposition from a sorcerer named Elymas, who tries to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, rebukes Elymas, and he is struck blind. This dramatic event leads the proconsul to believe in the Lord.

This passage reminds us that when we step out in obedience to God's call, we will face opposition, but the Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome obstacles. God's truth prevails, and He allows His mission to advance through our faithfulness.

JULY 4

ACTS 13:13 - 52

Acts 13:13-52 recounts Paul's powerful sermon in Pisidian Antioch, where he presents the gospel to Jews and Gentiles. Paul traces God's faithfulness through Israel's history, culminating in the coming of Jesus, the promised Savior. He emphasizes that through Jesus, forgiveness of sins is offered to everyone who believes, fulfilling the prophecies and promises of God.

However, not all accept this message. While some Jews reject Paul's words, the Gentiles receive it with joy, leading to many conversions. The chapter highlights the widening reach of the gospel and the fulfillment of God's plan to include the Gentiles in His salvation.

This passage challenges us to boldly share our faith, trusting that God will work through our words, even when faced with rejection. Who do you know that is currently rejecting the message of Jesus? How can you share God's truth with them?

JULY 5

ACTS 14

Acts 14 details Paul and Barnabas's missionary journey as they boldly proclaim the gospel despite facing intense opposition. In Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, they preach the good news, perform miracles, and witness many conversions. However, they also encounter severe resistance, including attempts on their lives. Despite the dangers, they persist in their mission, relying on God's strength.

One striking moment occurs in Lystra, where Paul heals a man crippled from birth. The crowd, amazed by the miracle, tries to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods, but they quickly redirect the glory to God, emphasizing that they are mere humans. Later, Paul is stoned and left for dead, but he miraculously survives and continues preaching.

Acts 14 reminds us that following Christ requires courage and perseverance. It calls us to stay faithful in sharing the gospel, trusting that God is with us, even in the face of opposition. How does this give you comfort today?

JULY 6

ACTS 15:1 - 21

Acts 15:1-21 recounts the Jerusalem Council, where the early church addresses a significant issue: must Gentile believers follow the Jewish law to be saved? Some argued that circumcision was necessary, but Paul, Barnabas, and others disagreed, emphasizing salvation through grace alone.

The apostles and elders, led by Peter and James, concluded that Gentiles should not be burdened by the law. Peter reminded the council that God had already shown His acceptance of the Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit.

This passage teaches us about the unity of the church and the essential truth of the gospel: salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works. It reminds us to avoid placing unnecessary burdens on others and to focus on the heart of the gospel. God's grace is sufficient for all who believe.

JULY 7

ACTS 15:22-41

Acts 15:22-41 highlights the early church's unity and commitment to preserving the true gospel. After the Jerusalem Council's decision that Gentile believers need not follow the Jewish law to be saved, the apostles and elders sent a letter to Antioch, confirming this and encouraging the believers. This letter brings great relief and joy to the Gentile Christians, reinforcing that salvation is by grace alone.

The passage also introduces a sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over John Mark, leading them to part ways and pursue separate missions. Despite their conflict, the gospel continues to spread as Paul takes Silas to strengthen the churches and Barnabas takes John Mark to Cyprus.

This passage reminds us of the importance of clear communication and unity in the church. It also shows that even when believers disagree, God can use those situations for His purposes. Describe a time when you disagreed with someone that did not end well. How can you disagree in a more Christ honoring way?

JULY 8

ACTS 16:1 - 15

Acts 16:1-15 captures the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey, where he partners with Silas and recruits Timothy, a young disciple with a strong faith. Paul circumcises Timothy to avoid offending the Jews they plan to evangelize, showing Paul's commitment to removing obstacles to the gospel.

As they travel, the Holy Spirit guides them, closing doors to some regions and opening others. Paul receives a vision of a man from Macedonia pleading for help, which leads them to Europe, marking the gospel's first entry into that continent.

In Philippi, they meet Lydia, a worshiper of God whose heart the Lord opens. She believes and is baptized, becoming the first European convert, and her home becomes a base for the missionaries.

Have you been baptized? If so, why did you get baptized? If not, what would stop you from getting baptized?

JULY 9

ACTS 16:16-40

Acts 16:16-40 reveals the power of God's deliverance and the unexpected ways He works through challenging situations. Paul and Silas encounter a slave girl possessed by a spirit of divination, and after many days, Paul commands the spirit to leave her in the name of Jesus. This act of deliverance angers her owners, who were profiting from her condition. Paul and Silas are beaten and thrown into prison.

Instead of despairing, Paul and Silas pray and sing hymns, even in their suffering. At midnight, an earthquake shakes the prison, opening the doors and loosening the chains. The jailer, fearing the prisoners have escaped, is about to take his life, but Paul stops him. Moved by their integrity, the jailer asks how to be saved. He and his entire household believe and are baptized.

This passage teaches us that God can turn our darkest moments into opportunities for His glory. Our faith and worship in challenging times can lead others to Christ, showing that God is always at work, even when we least expect it.

Practice: In 10 words or less, explain the gospel message. What 10 words would you select?

JULY 10

ACTS 17:1 - 15

Acts 17:1-15 highlights the boldness of Paul and Silas as they continue their missionary journey, spreading the gospel in Thessalonica and Berea. In Thessalonica, Paul reasons with the Jews in the synagogue, explaining that Jesus is the Messiah. Some believe, but others, driven by jealousy, stir up a mob against them, forcing Paul and Silas to flee.

They then travel to Berea, where they encounter a different response. The Bereans are described as noble because they receive the word with eagerness and examine the Scriptures daily to see if what Paul says is true. Many of them believe, showing the importance of a heart willing to seek and understand God's truth.

This passage encourages us to be like the Bereans—eager to receive God's word and diligent in studying the Scriptures. What is one controversial issue in Scripture you want more clarity on?

Challenge: Ask your small group leader on Sunday!

JULY 11

ACTS 17:16 - 34

Acts 17:16-40 depicts Paul's impactful encounter in Athens, where he engages with a city full of idols and philosophical debates. Paul is deeply troubled by the idolatry he sees and seizes the opportunity to speak in the Areopagus, addressing the Athenian thinkers with respect and insight.

Paul begins by acknowledging their religiosity and introduces them to the "unknown god" they worship unknowingly. He boldly proclaims that this unknown God is the Creator of all, who has revealed Himself through Jesus Christ, calling all people to repentance.

The response to Paul's message is mixed. Some mock him, while others are intrigued, and a few believe, including Dionysius and Damaris.

This passage challenges us to engage thoughtfully and respectfully with those who may not share our faith. It encourages us to be prepared to share the gospel in diverse contexts and to trust that God works through our witness, even in places where His message is met with skepticism.

JUL 7 12

ACTS 18

Acts 18 records Paul's time in Corinth, where he works as a tentmaker and preaches in the synagogue, facing both encouragement and opposition. Despite challenges, Paul remains committed to his mission. In a vision, the Lord reassures him to keep speaking boldly, promising protection and that many in the city will come to faith.

Paul's ministry in Corinth bears fruit, with many conversions and the establishment of a strong church. He also encounters Apollos, an eloquent preacher with a partial understanding of the gospel. Aquila and Priscilla, Paul's fellow tentmakers, gently instruct Apollos, leading him to a fuller understanding of Jesus.

The chapter underscores the importance of perseverance, community, and mentorship in ministry. It shows that God equips and encourages His servants, even in challenging environments. Our faithfulness, combined with God's guidance and the support of fellow believers, can lead to significant impact and growth in His kingdom.

List 3 other believers that you can encourage today. Find a way to push them to be more like Jesus today!

JULY 13

ACTS 19:1 - 20

Acts 19:1-20 highlights the powerful work of the Holy Spirit through Paul in Ephesus. Paul encounters some disciples who only knew of John's baptism and introduces them to the baptism in Jesus' name, which brings them the Holy Spirit. This passage illustrates the importance of a complete understanding of the gospel and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Paul performs extraordinary miracles in Ephesus, demonstrating God's power and confirming the message of Jesus. However, some Jewish people attempt to invoke the name of Jesus without a genuine relationship with Him, only to be overpowered by an evil spirit. This event brings fear and reverence to the name of Jesus, leading many to publicly confess their sins and burn their magical scrolls.

This passage challenges us to embrace a full relationship with Jesus and to recognize His authority. It reminds us that true power comes from genuine faith and dependence on the Holy Spirit and not upon ourselves.

J U L Y 14

A C T S 19:21 - 41

Acts 19:21-41 describes a crazy period in Ephesus as Paul's ministry sparked significant upheaval. After a successful season of preaching and miracles, Paul decides to travel to Jerusalem, intending to revisit the churches he has established. However, his departure is followed by a growing disturbance caused by his teachings.

A silversmith named Demetrius, who makes a living crafting silver shrines of Artemis, stirs up the craftsmen against Paul. He argues that Paul's message threatens their livelihood and the temple of Artemis, leading to a riot in the city. The people, lead by Demetrius, seize Paul's companions, Gaius, and Aristarchus, and create chaos in the theater.

The city clerk eventually intervenes, calming the crowd and pointing out the legal and practical implications of their actions. The riot subsides, and Paul's companions are released.

This passage highlights the resistance the gospel can face when it challenges established systems and economic interests. It also demonstrates God's protection over His messengers and the importance of peaceful, lawful conduct in addressing conflicts. As we navigate opposition, we are reminded to trust in God's sovereignty and to seek His wisdom in challenging situations.

JULY 15

ACTS 20:1 - 16

Acts 20:1-16 covers a significant period of Paul's journey as he continues to strengthen the churches and prepare for his eventual return to Jerusalem. After the uproar in Ephesus subsides, Paul departs for Macedonia and then Greece, encouraging the believers and gathering support. He spends three months in Greece, possibly in Corinth, where he writes to the Romans and prepares for his journey back to Jerusalem.

During his travels, Paul experiences both blessings and challenges. In Troas, he delivers a long sermon that extends into the night, during which a young man named Eutychus falls asleep and falls from a window, but Paul miraculously revives him. Paul's actions and teachings demonstrate his dedication and the power of God at work through him.

The chapter concludes with Paul sailing past Ephesus to avoid delays, choosing instead to meet with the Ephesian elders in Miletus. Here, he gives a heartfelt farewell, warning them of future challenges and commending them to God's care.

This passage encourages us to remain steadfast in our mission, trusting in God's power and provision, even when facing difficulties. It reminds us of the importance of building up and encouraging others in their faith and of preparing ourselves and those we lead for the challenges ahead.

JULY 16

ACTS 20:17 - 38

Acts 20:17-38 presents Paul's touching farewell to the Ephesian elders in Miletus. He recounts his ministry among them, highlighting his commitment to teaching both publicly and from house to house, with a focus on repentance and faith in Jesus. Paul acknowledges the trials he has faced and forewarns them of future challenges, including the rise of false teachers who will distort the truth and seek to lead believers astray.

Paul's farewell is marked by heartfelt emotion as he commends the elders to God and to the word of His grace, which can build them up and give them an inheritance among the followers of Jesus. He reminds them of his example of selflessness and generosity, urging them to follow his lead in caring for the church.

This passage challenges us to lead with integrity and to shepherd others with a focus on God's word and grace. It encourages us to remain alert and faithful, knowing that God is our ultimate protector and guide. As we follow Paul's example, may we also be diligent in nurturing and safeguarding the faith of those entrusted to us.

JULY 17

ACTS 21:1 - 16

Acts 21:1-16 captures a pivotal moment in Paul's journey as he approaches Jerusalem. After leaving Ephesus, Paul and his companions sail through various regions, stopping in Tyre and Ptolemais, where they are warmly received by fellow believers. In Tyre, the disciples, through the Spirit, warn Paul of the hardships he will face in Jerusalem. Despite their concerns, Paul is determined to complete his mission.

In Caesarea, Paul stays with Philip the Evangelist, who has four of his daughters prophesying. There, the prophet Agabus delivers a dramatic message, binding his own hands and feet with Paul's belt, symbolizing how Paul will be bound by the Jews in Jerusalem.

Paul's resolve and the warnings he receives reflect his deep commitment to God's calling. This passage challenges us to discern and act on God's guidance, even when it involves personal sacrifice. It reminds us of the importance of perseverance in fulfilling God's purposes, trusting that He will sustain us through challenges and uncertainties.

JULY 18

ACTS 21:17 - 40

Acts 21:17-40 recounts Paul's arrival in Jerusalem and the ensuing trials he faces. Welcomed by the elders, Paul reports the successes of his ministry among the Gentiles. However, he faces criticism from Jewish believers concerned that he is teaching Jews to forsake the Law. To address these concerns, Paul participates in a purification ritual, aiming to demonstrate his respect for Jewish customs.

Trouble arises when some Jews from Asia stir up a mob, accusing Paul of teaching against the Law and defiling the temple by bringing Gentiles inside. Paul is seized and nearly beaten to death but is rescued by Roman soldiers. He is allowed to address the crowd, and his defense focuses on his transformation and the gospel message.

This passage highlights the cost of standing firm in faith and the importance of addressing misunderstandings with grace and truth. It encourages us to remain steadfast in our calling, trust in God's protection, and use every opportunity to share the hope we have in Christ, even amidst opposition.

JULY 19

ACTS 22

Acts 22 features Paul's defense before the Jerusalem crowd, providing a powerful testimony of his conversion and mission. Paul begins by recounting his background as a devout Jew and a persecutor of Christians. He describes his dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, where he was blinded and subsequently healed by Ananias, who baptized him. Paul emphasizes his calling to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, affirming that this mission was divinely appointed.

As Paul recounts his vision of Jesus telling him to leave Jerusalem and go to the Gentiles, the crowd reacts with hostility. They accuse him of blasphemy and threaten violence. However, Paul's Roman citizenship grants him the right to a fair trial, which halts the proceedings.

This passage encourages us to boldly share our testimony and the truth of the gospel. Take some time today and write out your testimony. How did you come to know Jesus and have a relationship with him? What has God done in your life?

JULY 20

ACTS 23:1 - 11

Acts 23:1-11 depicts Paul's trial before the Sanhedrin, where he boldly defends his faith amidst a hostile environment. Paul begins by addressing the council with integrity, declaring his clear conscience before God. His mention of the resurrection of the dead sparks division between the Pharisees, who believe in it, and the Sadducees, who do not, creating a heated dispute. The conflict intensifies, leading to a violent uproar.

In this chaos, Paul is taken to the Roman barracks for his safety. That night, Jesus appears to Paul, reassuring him and affirming that he will testify in Rome as he has in Jerusalem.

This passage reminds us of the importance of standing firm in our convictions, even when we might be scared. It encourages us to rely on God's reassurance and strength, knowing that He is with us in our trials and will guide us through challenges to fulfill His purposes.

JULY 21

ACTS 23:12-35

Acts 23:12-35 reveals a dramatic episode in Paul's journey, highlighting the tension and divine protection surrounding his mission. A group of more than 40 Jews conspire to kill Paul, vowing not to eat or drink until they have succeeded. Their plot is exposed by Paul's nephew, who bravely informs the Roman commander.

The commander acts swiftly, arranging for Paul to be transferred to Caesarea under heavy guard to ensure his safety. This transfer is crucial, as it places Paul under the protection of Roman authorities and away from the hostile environment in Jerusalem.

In this passage, we see God's hand in preserving Paul's life and ensuring the advancement of his mission. It teaches us about God's protection and providence in the face of threats and dangers. As we follow God's call, we can trust in His sovereign care, knowing He is with us and will guide us through even the most dangerous situations.

JULY 22

ACTS 24

Acts 24 recounts Paul's defense before Governor Felix in Caesarea, following his arrest and transfer from Jerusalem. Paul stands before Felix and his wife, Drusilla, calmly and confidently presenting his case. He speaks about his faith in Jesus, his commitment to living a righteous life, and the hope of resurrection that motivates him. Paul's testimony includes his obedience to the Law and his intention to worship God by following the Scriptures.

Felix listens but is troubled by Paul's message about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment. He postpones a decision, hoping for a bribe, and keeps Paul in custody for two years while occasionally talking with him about faith.

This passage highlights Paul's unwavering commitment to his mission and the importance of maintaining integrity even in challenging circumstances. It encourages us to remain steadfast in our witness, trusting that God can use our testimony to impact others, even when immediate results are not evident.

JULY 23

ACTS 25

Acts 25 details Paul's continued trial before the Roman governor Festus, who succeeds Felix. Festus inherits the complex case of Paul, who is accused by the Jewish leaders of various offenses. Paul, maintaining his innocence, asserts his right to be tried before Caesar, leveraging his Roman citizenship to appeal his case to the highest authority.

Festus consults King Agrippa, who visits to hear Paul's case. Paul's defense is marked by a clear telling of his conversion and mission, emphasizing his unwavering commitment to the message of Jesus. He boldly states that his trials are a result of his hope in the resurrection.

This passage illustrates the importance of standing firm in faith and using every opportunity to share the gospel, regardless of the circumstances. It reminds us that God's plan often unfolds through trials, and He can use our testimony to reach influential figures and advance His purposes.

JULY 24

ACTS 26

Acts 26 captures Paul's testimony, detailing his persecution of Christians, his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, and his call to preach the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles.

Paul emphasizes that his life and mission are rooted in the hope of the resurrection, a hope he believes is shared by the prophets and promises of God. He boldly asserts that his message is not just a reflection of his views but the fulfillment of God's promises.

King Agrippa's response reveals the power of Paul's testimony. Although Agrippa is almost persuaded, he does not embrace the faith. This passage reminds us that only God can truly save. Our job is not to "save" people—only God can do that. Our job is to tell everything that breathes about Jesus and leave the rest up to God!

JULY 25

ACTS 27:1 - 26

Acts 27:1-26 describes Paul's journey to Rome, which begins with his imprisonment but quickly turns perilous. Paul and other prisoners are transported by ship, but they encounter a fierce storm that drives them off course. Despite the danger, Paul remains calm and reassured, having received a divine message from an angel that all aboard will be saved, although the ship will be lost.

Paul shares this encouraging message with the crew and passengers, urging them to take heart and trust in God's promise. His faith in God's word becomes a signal of hope amidst the chaos, demonstrating his confidence in God's sovereignty even in dire circumstances.

This passage teaches us about the importance of maintaining faith and sharing hope during life's storms. It reminds us that God's promises are reliable and that even during trials, we can trust Him to guide and protect us, ensuring our safety and the fulfillment of His purposes.

JULY 26

ACTS 27:27-44

Acts 27:27-44 recounts the dramatic climax of Paul's journey to Rome, as the storm-ravaged ship approaches Malta. The crew, fearing shipwreck, attempts to escape by lowering lifeboats, but Paul warns them that all must stay on the ship to be saved. His confidence in God's promise proves true as the ship runs aground but all 276 people on board are safely brought ashore.

The shipwreck serves as a testament to Paul's faith and the reliability of God's promises. Despite the terrifying circumstances, Paul's unwavering trust in God's word brings hope and reassurance to everyone on board.

This passage teaches us about perseverance and the power of faith in God's promises. It encourages us to remain steadfast and to trust God's guidance, even in life's most tumultuous moments. As we face our storms, we can hold onto the assurance that God will see us through, fulfilling His promises and protecting us along the way.

JULY 27

ACTS 28:1 - 16

Acts 28:1-16 describes Paul's arrival on the island of Malta after a harrowing shipwreck. The islanders warmly receive Paul and his companions, and Paul demonstrates God's power by healing a local official's father from a fever and dysentery. This act of kindness leads to many on the island coming to Paul for healing, resulting in widespread thankfulness and respect.

Paul's experience in Malta highlights God's provision and protection even in challenging circumstances. Despite the trials he faced, Paul remains a vessel of God's healing and grace, turning adversity into an opportunity to serve and witness.

As Paul finally arrives in Rome, he is allowed to live under house arrest, continuing to proclaim the gospel with boldness. This passage reminds us that God is with us in every situation, using our trials for His purposes. It encourages us to trust in His guidance and to be a light in every circumstance, sharing His love and truth with those around us.

JULY 28

ACTS 28:17-31

Acts 28:17-31 describes Paul's time in Rome under house arrest, where he continues to boldly proclaim the gospel. Despite his confinement, Paul invites Jewish leaders to hear his message and explains how Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. He passionately shares his testimony and the hope of salvation, though his message is met with mixed reactions. Some are convinced, while others dismiss it.

Paul's resilience and dedication in the face of imprisonment highlight his unwavering commitment to his mission. He uses his situation as a platform to preach the kingdom of God and teach about Jesus Christ with all boldness.

This passage encourages us to remain faithful and active in our witness, regardless of our circumstances. It reminds us that even in challenging situations, we can be a powerful testimony of God's grace and truth. What platform has God given you to share Christ with other people?

JULY 29

ROMANS 1

Romans 1 introduces Paul's profound letter to the Romans, outlining the power and purpose of the gospel. Paul begins by expressing his eagerness to share the good news of Jesus Christ, which he views as the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. He emphasizes that the gospel reveals God's righteousness and invites us to live by faith.

Paul also addresses the universal human condition, noting that although God's attributes are evident through creation, people have chosen to reject Him, leading to a spiral into sin and unrighteousness. This rejection of God results in moral and spiritual decay, demonstrating the need for redemption through Christ.

This chapter challenges us to recognize the transformative power of the gospel in our lives and to acknowledge our need for God's righteousness. It calls us to live out our faith boldly, knowing that the gospel is the answer to humanity's deepest needs and longings.

JULY 30

ROMANS 2

Romans 2 continues Paul's exploration of righteousness, focusing on the accountability of both Jews and Gentiles before God. Paul addresses the self-righteous, emphasizing that merely hearing the Law or possessing religious knowledge is not enough. True righteousness comes from living according to God's commands and displaying genuine faith.

He underscores that God's judgment is impartial and based on deeds, not status. Both Jews and Gentiles will be judged according to their response to the truth they have received. God deals with people on the basis of the inward appearance of the heart, not on our outward appearance.

This chapter challenges us to examine our own lives and motives. It calls us to move beyond superficial religiosity and to embrace a deeper, heartfelt obedience to God. We are reminded that God values authenticity and integrity, and our relationship with Him is evidenced by how we live out His commands in our daily lives.

JULY 31

ROMANS 3

Romans 3 provides a pivotal explanation of justification and redemption through faith in Christ. Paul addresses the universal problem of sin, affirming that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Despite humanity's failure to meet God's standards, Paul presents the good news of justification: we are made righteous not by our works, but by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul emphasizes that this righteousness is available to everyone who believes, transcending the barriers of law and ethnicity. The Law reveals our sin but cannot save us; instead, it is through faith in Christ's redemptive work that we are justified.

This chapter reassures us that God's grace is sufficient and that salvation is a gift, not a reward for our efforts. It invites us to embrace this gift with gratitude and faith, knowing that our standing before God is secure in Christ alone and not by our own merits.

AUGUST 1

ROMANS 4

Romans 4 emphasizes the significance of faith in our relationship with God. Paul highlights Abraham's journey of faith, showing that he was counted as righteous not by his works but by his belief in God's promises. In verse 3, it says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." This teaches us that righteousness is a gift received through faith, not something we earn through our efforts.

As believers today, we can find comfort in knowing that our standing with God does not depend on our ability to live perfectly but on our trust in Christ. Just as Abraham believed in God's promises, we are called to place our faith in the finished work of Jesus. When we rely on Him, we, too, are declared righteous. This chapter reminds us that faith is the foundation of our relationship with God, and through faith, we receive His grace and forgiveness.

AUGUST 2

ROMANS 5:1 - 11

Romans 5:1-11 reminds us of the deep, unshakeable peace we have with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Verse 1 says that we are justified by faith, meaning our standing before God is secure—not based on our efforts, but on Christ’s finished work. This justification gives us peace, allowing us to face trials with hope. Verses 3-5 remind us that suffering is not wasted; it produces endurance, character, and hope. God’s love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, ensuring that we are never alone, even in our struggles.

In verses 6-8, Paul emphasizes the extraordinary nature of God’s love: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This love reassures us that, having been reconciled to God, we will be saved through Jesus’ life. Let this truth fill you with joy today. God's love and grace are powerful enough to sustain you through any trial you face.

AUGUST 3

ROMANS 5:12-36

In this passage, Paul draws a parallel between Adam's sin and the saving grace of Christ. Through Adam's disobedience, sin entered the world, bringing death and separation from God. Yet, the gift of Jesus reverses this curse. Where Adam's transgression led to death for all, Christ's sacrifice offers life to all who believe.

This reminds us that sin has serious consequences, but God's grace is far greater. His gift of salvation is not something we earn but a free offering through Christ's sacrifice. Today, let's reflect on the grace of God that conquers our failures and provides hope for eternal life. Rejoice in the fact that no matter how deep sin runs, God's grace runs deeper still!

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AUGUST 4

ROMANS 6

Romans 6 speaks powerfully about our transformation in Christ. In verse 4, Paul writes, “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.” This passage reminds us that through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we are no longer slaves to sin. Sin’s power has been broken, and we are invited to live in the freedom of grace.

Every day, we face choices. Will we live as if sin still controls us, or will we walk in the new life given to us through Jesus? Romans 6:11 encourages us to “count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

As you reflect today, consider: where do you need to experience the freedom of Christ? Surrender those areas and walk in the new life Jesus has already secured for you.

AUGUST 5

ROMANS 7

In Romans 7, Paul reflects upon the struggle between wanting to do good and the constant pull of sin. He writes, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing" (Romans 7:19). This passage resonates with our daily battles, where our best intentions often fall short. We may desire to live righteously, but sin wages war within us, pulling us away from God's perfect will.

Yet, Romans 7 does not end in despair. It points us toward our need for a Savior. Paul cries out, "Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25). Our hope lies not in our strength but in Christ, who frees us from the bondage of sin. Today, remember that through Christ, we can walk in freedom, even in our struggles.

[illegible]

AUGUST 6

ROMANS 8:1 - 18

Romans 8:1 says, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." This powerful promise means that through faith in Jesus, we are no longer bound by the weight of sin and shame. Christ has set us free! Verses 5-6 remind us to set our minds on the Spirit, not the flesh, because the Spirit brings life and peace.

We are no longer slaves to fear (v.15); instead, we are children of God. This passage emphasizes our identity as we inherit, like someone does under a will, to all the rights that Jesus is given. With Christ, we share in both His sufferings and in His glory.

In moments of struggle, these verses give us hope. Our present suffering cannot compare to the glory that will be revealed in us (v.18). Today, walk in the freedom and peace that comes from knowing that God's Spirit is within you, leading you to life and eternal hope!

AUGUST 7

ROMANS 8:19-39

Life can feel overwhelming. Whether it's pressure from school, sports, friendships, or your own struggles, it's easy to feel like the weight of the world is on your shoulders. But Romans 8 reminds us that we are part of a bigger story—a story of hope that doesn't quit.

The world is broken. You've probably noticed that, right? It's not just you—creation itself is waiting for something better. Paul writes that all of creation is eagerly waiting for God's children to fully step into who they were made to be. That includes you.

The coolest part? God's Spirit is working in your life right now, even when things feel out of control. Verses 28-30 promise that God is shaping all things for the good of those who love Him. That doesn't mean life will always be easy, but it means nothing—nothing—can separate you from God's love (v. 39).

So, when life feels hard, remember this: you're not alone. You're loved, and your story isn't over. God has a purpose for you, and He's writing it with love and power.

This week, take a moment to thank God for His love and ask Him to show you how to live out His hope in your life.

AUGUST 8

ROMANS 9

Romans 9 reminds us that God's sovereignty and grace are beyond our understanding. God's sovereignty simply means he has the right to exercise his ruling power over creation. In this chapter, Paul discusses God's sovereign choice in His dealings with Israel, revealing that God's mercy is not based on human effort but on His divine will (v. 16). Just as the potter has the right to shape the clay as he desires, God works His will in our lives, shaping us for His purposes (v. 21).

Though we may not always understand why some things happen, we can trust that God is working for good, fulfilling His plan. This passage challenges us to rest in His wisdom and trust that His ways are perfect, even when they do not align with our expectations.

Today, as you reflect on God's sovereignty, ask for a heart that surrenders to His will, knowing that His purposes are greater than our understanding. Trust Him for He is faithful.

AUGUST 9

ROMANS 10

Romans 10 teaches that salvation comes through faith, not by works or human effort. This passage emphasizes the simplicity of the gospel: confessing that Jesus is Lord and believing in His resurrection leads to eternal life. We are reminded that God's grace is available to all, regardless of background or past mistakes.

The act of confessing Jesus as Lord is not just about words; it is a declaration of surrender. When we submit to Christ, we acknowledge His authority over our lives. Belief in His resurrection brings hope—His victory over death is our victory.

As you go about your day, reflect on the power of this promise. Have you placed your full trust in Jesus? Reaffirm your faith, and rest in the assurance of His saving grace.

AUGUST 10

ROMANS 11:1 - 21

In Romans 11:1-21, Paul reassures us that God has not rejected His people, Israel, despite their unbelief. He reminds us of Elijah's despair, thinking he was the only faithful one left, but God had preserved a remnant. In the same way, God's grace remains available, even when many turn away.

Paul warns against pride for Gentile believers grafted into the olive tree of faith. This grafting in of the Gentiles is God's gracious act, but it should not lead to arrogance. Instead, it calls for humility and gratitude, recognizing that we stand by faith, not by our worth.

God's mercy is open to all—both Jew and Gentile—and He works out His purposes in ways beyond our understanding. Trust in His faithfulness, remembering that His grace sustains us and that He desires all to be drawn to Him. Keep your heart humble and full of praise.

AUGUST 11

ROMANS 11:22-36

In Romans 11:22-36, Paul speaks of the kindness and sternness of God. His kindness is extended to those who believe, while His sternness falls upon those who reject Him. But even in their disobedience, Paul reminds us of God's mercy. He holds out hope that those who have stumbled might return to Him.

This passage shows God's infinite wisdom and mercy. Though His ways are beyond our understanding, He works everything for the good of His people. We are reminded that we, as Gentiles, are like branches grafted into a tree—rooted in His grace.

Let this truth humble us, recognizing that salvation is a gift, not earned. We stand by faith, and just as God showed mercy to the Gentiles, He can show mercy again to the Jews. Praise God for His ways that are beyond what we can understand, His enduring faithfulness, and His matchless wisdom!

AUGUST 12

ROMANS 12

Romans 12:2 reminds us, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” This verse calls us to break free from the unwritten rules people put on us that often stray from God’s path and embrace a transformation that begins in our hearts and minds.

In this process of renewal, we align ourselves more closely with God’s will. This involves surrendering our desires and ambitions, seeking His guidance in every aspect of our lives. By doing so, we discover a new way of living that reflects His love and grace.

Verses 9-21 offer practical steps for living this out: loving genuinely, serving others selflessly, and responding to evil with good. As we embody these principles, we become living testimonies of God’s transforming power, drawing others to His incredible love.

We should renew our minds every day and live in His transforming love.

AUGUST 13

ROMANS 13

In Romans 13:1-2, Paul urges us to “let every person be subject to the governing authorities.” This passage reminds us of the divine order and the role of authority in maintaining peace and justice. It is easy to question or resist authority, especially when it seems flawed or unjust. However, Paul highlights that all authority is established by God, and to resist it is to resist God’s command.

Reflect on the call to respect and uphold the laws of our land while remaining faithful to our higher calling in Christ. By doing so, we can be a witness to God's order and peace. Our submission to authority should be guided by love, respect, and integrity, acknowledging that even imperfect systems can be instruments of God's will. Let’s pray for wisdom to navigate our roles as citizens and followers of Christ, embodying grace and truth in all we do.

AUGUST 14

ROMANS 14

In Romans 14, Paul addresses the different opinions and different ways people do things within the early church, urging believers to embrace unity even though we have differences. He reminds us that we are all accountable to God, and it is not our place to judge others for their convictions. Instead, we are called to live in love and grace, recognizing that each person's journey is unique. The passage emphasizes that what truly matters is not the outward practices but the sincerity of our faith and our respect for one another. As we navigate our differences, let's remember that our goal is to honor God and build each other up. By focusing on what unites us rather than what divides us, we reflect Christ's love and foster a community of acceptance and peace. Our lives should be marked by grace, knowing that God is the final judge and we are all beloved in His sight.

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AUGUST 15

ROMANS 15:1 - 13

Romans 15:1-13 encourages us to embrace unity through the strength and hope we find in Christ. As Paul writes, “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves” (v. 1). This passage challenges us to put others first, reflecting the selfless love of Christ who welcomed us despite our weaknesses.

By living in harmony, we create a space where God’s peace and joy can thrive. The ultimate goal is to glorify God with one mind and one voice. This unity is not merely about agreement but about celebrating our shared faith and the hope we have in Him. When we support and uplift each other, we represent the message of Christ’s acceptance and grace.

Let’s be diligent in nurturing this unity, knowing that our collective strength honors God and spreads His love to the world.

AUGUST 16

ROMANS 15:14 - 33

In Romans 15:14-33, Paul expresses his confidence in the believers' goodness and knowledge, encouraging them to be bold in their faith and to continue supporting one another. His words remind us of the strength found in unity and shared purpose. Paul's desire to visit the church in Rome and his mission to spread the gospel highlights the importance of personal connection and collaboration in ministry.

Reflecting on this passage, we are called to embrace our roles in building up the body of Christ. Like Paul, we should seek to encourage others, share our gifts, and support one another in our spiritual journeys. Let's be bold in our faith and committed to fostering unity in our communities. As we work together, relying on God's grace, we fulfill our mission to spread His love and truth. Pray for guidance to be a source of encouragement and strength to those around you.

AUGUST 17

ROMANS 16

In Romans 16, Paul extends heartfelt greetings to a diverse group of individuals, highlighting the rich tapestry of the early church. This chapter reminds us of the beauty and strength found in unity and diversity within the body of Christ. Paul's appreciation of each person's unique contributions underscores the importance of every member's role in the Kingdom.

As we reflect on this chapter, let's celebrate the varied gifts and callings among us. Whether you are a leader, a servant, or one who offers encouragement, your presence is vital. Just as Paul's letters were filled with gratitude and recognition, we too are called to uplift and honor one another. Embrace the differences and contributions of fellow believers, and let's build a community marked by love, support, and mutual respect, shining as a testament to God's grace.

AUGUST 18

1 CORINTHIANS 1

In 1 Corinthians 1:18, Paul writes, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." This verse invites us to reflect on the profound truth that divine wisdom often defies human logic. In a world that values status, wealth, and power, the cross represents a radical reversal—a symbol of sacrificial love and ultimate redemption.

As we navigate life's challenges, let's embrace the wisdom that comes from God. Rather than relying on our own understanding or the unwritten rules people put on us, we are called to trust in the power of the cross. It is through our surrender to God's wisdom that we find true strength and purpose. We should continually seek to live out this divine wisdom in our daily lives, embodying the love of Christ that changes lives.

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AUGUST 19

1 CORINTHIANS 2

In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul reminds us of the profound truth that God's wisdom goes above human understanding. Our minds, limited by earthly perspectives, cannot fully grasp the vastness of God's plans and promises. Yet, the Holy Spirit, sent by God, unveils these divine mysteries to us. As we navigate our lives, let's lean on the Spirit for guidance, trusting that God's wisdom far exceeds our own. Embrace the truth that God's plans for us are beyond what we can imagine and find peace in knowing that the Spirit reveals His deep and perfect love.

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AUGUST 20

1 CORINTHIANS 3

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul reminds us that our lives are like a building, and Jesus is the foundation. Paul emphasizes the importance of what we build upon this foundation. While Christ is the cornerstone, our choices—our actions, words, and attitudes—are the materials we use to construct our lives.

“Each one should build with care,” Paul advises (v. 10). What are we using to build? Are we choosing gold, silver, and costly stones, or are we opting for wood, hay, and straw? Our works will be tested by fire, revealing their true value.

Let’s focus on building with integrity and love, ensuring that our contributions reflect Christ’s teachings. When we build on the foundation of Jesus with care and faithfulness, our lives will withstand trials and glorify God, standing firm as a testament to His grace.

AUGUST 21

1 CORINTHIANS 4

In 1 Corinthians 4, Paul addresses the Corinthians with a call to humility and self-awareness. He reminds us that as stewards of God's mysteries, we are entrusted with a sacred responsibility. "It is required that those who have been given trust must prove faithful" (v. 2). This passage challenges us to look beyond our self-importance and to see our roles through the lens of servanthood.

Paul's message is clear: true greatness in God's kingdom is measured by faithfulness and humility, not by outward status or personal achievements. As we navigate our daily lives, let's strive to be faithful stewards of the grace we have received, embracing a humble spirit that reflects Christ's humility. In doing so, we align ourselves with the heart of God, living out His truth in both word and deed.

[illegible]

AUGUST 22

1 CORINTHIANS 5

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 (NIV) states, “Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let’s keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.”

In this passage, Paul calls us to cleanse ourselves from the “old yeast” of sin and corruption. Just as yeast permeates dough, sin can spread through our lives if left unchecked. Christ's sacrifice has made us new, and we are called to reflect this transformation in our daily lives. Let’s seek to live with sincerity and truth, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us away from the old patterns and towards a life of purity and righteousness. As we embrace this new identity, we honor Christ’s sacrifice and become a testament to His grace.

AUGUST 23

1 CORINTHIANS 6

In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul addresses the issue of believers suing each other in court. He challenges us to reflect on our identity as children of God and the implications this has for our interactions with one another. Paul reminds us that we are to judge and resolve matters within the community of faith, guided by God's wisdom and love.

Verse 19 says, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" This is a powerful reminder of our sacredness and the call to honor God with our bodies and actions. As we face conflicts and challenges, let's remember our higher calling and seek resolution with humility, grace, and integrity. Our lives are testimonies of God's holiness, and every action should reflect His love and righteousness.

[illegible]

AUGUST 24

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1 - 24

1 Corinthians 7:1-24 offers profound insight into living faithfully within our given circumstances. Paul addresses questions about marriage and singleness, emphasizing that our primary focus should be on serving God where we are. Whether married or single, each state has unique opportunities to honor God and grow in His grace.

Paul's message is clear: our relationship status or social position is secondary to our calling to live in devotion to Christ. If we are married, we should improve our relationships with love and faithfulness. If we are single, we have a special opportunity to dedicate our lives entirely to God's work.

Embrace your current situation as an opportunity to reflect God's love and purpose. Remember, whether in marriage or singleness, our goal is to honor God with our whole being, trusting Him to guide and use us for His glory.

AUGUST 25

1 CORINTHIANS 7:25 - 40

In 1 Corinthians 7:25-40, Paul offers guidance on marriage and singleness, emphasizing the importance of focusing on our relationship with God regardless of our marital status. He acknowledges the challenges and distractions that come with marriage but also highlights the unique opportunity for undivided devotion that singleness can provide.

Paul's advice invites us to reflect on our priorities. Whether married or single, our primary aim should be to serve and honor God with our whole hearts. For those who are single, this is a time to embrace the freedom to devote oneself fully to spiritual growth and ministry. For those who are married, it is a call to balance worldly responsibilities with a commitment to spiritual life.

Paul encourages us to seek what leads to peace and faithfulness in our relationship with God, trusting Him to guide us in every season of life.

AUGUST 26

1 CORINTHIANS 8

In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul reminds us that while knowledge is valuable, it can lead to pride if not accompanied by love. The Corinthian church was grappling with how to handle issues like eating food sacrificed to idols. They knew that idols were nothing, but their knowledge alone was not enough; it was crucial to consider the impact of their actions on others.

Paul emphasizes that love should guide our behavior. True wisdom is not about knowing what is permissible but about how our actions affect others. Let's seek to balance our knowledge with love, ensuring that our understanding builds up and encourages rather than divides or puffs up. We should always act in ways that reflect Christ's love and strengthen our community in faith.

[illegible]

AUGUST 27

1 CORINTHIANS 9

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (NIV)

In Paul's comparison of the race, he calls us to approach our spiritual journey with the same dedication and focus as an athlete striving for a prize. Just as runners discipline themselves to win a temporary prize, we are invited to pursue our faith with unwavering commitment for an eternal reward. Each day presents an opportunity to train our hearts, build our character, and strengthen our relationship with God. Let's run with purpose, embracing every challenge as a chance to grow and honor Him.

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AUGUST 28

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1 - 13

In 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Paul reminds us of the Israelites' journey through the wilderness and their struggles with temptation. He emphasizes that these stories are not merely historical accounts but serve as lessons for us today. Paul assures us that temptation is a common human experience, but it is not an impossible one.

God is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. Instead, He provides a way out, a path to stand firm and resist. In our daily lives, when faced with challenges or temptations, we are invited to trust in God's provision. By turning to Him in prayer and seeking His guidance, we can find the strength to overcome. Remember, no matter how intense the trial, God's grace is sufficient, and He will guide us through.

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AUGUST 29

1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-33

In 1 Corinthians 10:14-33, Paul urges us to flee from idolatry and live with a heart focused on glorifying God. He emphasizes that our actions should reflect our devotion to Christ, whether we are eating, drinking, or engaging in daily activities. Our lives are to be a testimony of God's grace, aiming to please Him and build up others, rather than seeking our benefit.

Paul's words challenge us to examine our choices and motivations. Are our actions in alignment with our faith? Are we considering how our decisions impact others and whether they reflect God's love? As we navigate daily decisions, let's strive to honor God and seek the good of others.

Remember that in everything, big or small, our goal is to glorify God and be a witness of His grace and love to those around us.

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AUGUST 30

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 - 16

In 1 Corinthians 11:1-16, Paul addresses the importance of order and respect in worship, emphasizing the roles and symbols of authority within the church community. Paul's message highlights that our outward expressions should reflect our inward understanding of God's design for relationships. The head coverings symbolize the honor and respect for the order established by God.

This passage invites us to reflect on how we honor God in our daily lives through our actions and relationships. Are we living in a way that acknowledges His authority and the structure He has set for us? Let's consider how we can align our lives with His principles, showing respect and love in our interactions. As we do so, we not only honor God but also encourage harmony and unity within our community. We should embrace and embody His design with grace and humility.

AUGUST 31

1 CORINTHIANS 11:17 - 34

In this passage, Paul addresses the Corinthians' approach to the Lord's Supper, emphasizing the importance of unity and reverence. The early church had begun to treat this sacred meal with disregard, leading to divisions and disunity. Paul reminds us that the Lord's Supper is not just a ritual but a profound act of communion with Christ and with one another.

As we partake in the bread and the cup, we are called to reflect on the unity we share in Christ. This meal is a celebration of His sacrifice, a moment to examine our hearts, and a reminder of our calling to love and support each other.

Let's approach the table with gratitude and humility, recognizing the profound significance of this sacrament. May it strengthen our bonds with one another and deepen our relationship with Christ.
