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THE BIBLE. IT'S MORE THAN A PLAYBOOK OR A PIECE OF LITERATURE.  
IT'S MORE THAN THE BEST SELLING BOOK IN THE WORLD.  
IT'S MORE THAN A PAPER WEIGHT OR A DECORATION ON OUR SHELVES.  
IT'S THE LIVING, BREATHING, INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.

The Bible directly connects us to the creator of the universe as His words jump from the pages and teach us how to be in relationship with our God. It also clarifies who God is and what He does. Yet, statistics show that only 61% of Christians have read the entire Bible. As a people who are called by God to be in relationship, we believe that it's not only important, but vital to be consistently in His word and to do what it tells us to do. Join us on the journey as we walk through the entire Bible in 2021.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We've developed this guide to be a tool and asset for you in diving into scripture and setting aside time for prayer and devotion with God. Each week you'll find a Personal Growth Guide with opportunities to dig into the scriptures and themes that will be taught during the next Sunday's message. Each week there is a specific study method to help you open up the scripture and develop a relationship with God's word. You will find space for prayer journaling for each week of the personal study. You will also find a Community Growth Guide each week. This guide will highlight important questions for you to discuss in your own community group or Bible Study. These are meant to be used after Sunday's message in the context of group conversation.

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RESOURCES FOR THIS GROWTH GUIDE:

As we work through the messages as a church, we want to provide you with some extra resources to guide you through this journey. Take advantage of RightNow Media, apps, websites, and books as you encounter Jesus throughout this series.



**RIGHTNOW MEDIA**

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE  
*by Tim Mackie*

TORAH SERIES  
*by The Bible Project*


READ THE BIBLE  
*by Don Carson*

THE BIBLE FOR GROWN UPS  
*by Andy Stanley*

WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE  
*by John Piper*

JESUS IN ALL OF GENESIS  
*by David Bowden*

JESUS IN ALL OF EXODUS  
*by David Bowden*



**APPS AND WEBSITES**


YOUVERSION BIBLE APP

READSCRIPTURE APP

VERSESAPP

BLUELETTERBIBLE

STEPBIBLE



**BOOKS**

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE FOR ALL IT'S WORTH  
*by Gordon Fee*

EAT THIS BOOK  
*by Eugene Peterson*

READING THE BIBLE SUPERNATURALLY  
*by John Piper*

HOW TO ENJOY READING YOUR BIBLE  
*by Keith Ferrin*

THE EXPLICIT GOSPEL  
*by Matt Chandler*

Find all of the resources at [gracespringchurch.org/thejourney](https://gracespringchurch.org/thejourney)

My Bible Reading Covenant

I, \_\_\_\_\_ commit to reading more of the Bible in 2021 than I did in 2020. This might look like reading through the entire Bible with gracespring or it might look like committing to a slower journey of growth and contemplation. I realize that the motive behind this is to draw closer to God, His word, and the work that He is doing in the world around me. This is not an obligation or something I have to do, but have the opportunity to hide God's word in my heart. If I fall behind or miss days, I won't beat myself up, but rest wholly in God's grace. I am joining together with God to deepen my relationship with Him and I can't wait to get started!

(Signature and Date)

\_\_\_\_\_



POTENTIAL PATHS THROUGH THE BIBLE

As we work through the messages as a church, we want to provide you with some extra. While we will be teaching in a specific pathway through the Bible, we want to encourage you to follow a path that is comfortable to you! You will find through the different weeks and messages in the series that you might be reading faster than we are covering scriptures. That’s totally ok! Below are several different methods for reading through the entire Bible in a year. Maybe you have tried before and gotten

STRAIGHT THROUGH THE BIBLE

1/1 Genesis 1-3	1/23 Exodus 18:1-21:21
1/2 Genesis 4-7	1/24 Exodus 21:22-25:9
1/3 Genesis 8:1-11:9	1/25 Exodus 25:10-27:21
1/4 Genesis 11:10-14:13	1/26 Exodus 28-29
1/5 Genesis 14:14-18:8	1/27 Exodus 30-32
1/6 Genesis 18:9-21:21	1/28 Exodus 33:1-35:29
1/7 Genesis 21:22-24:27	1/29 Exodus 35:30-37:2
1/8 Genesis 24:28-26:35	1/30 Exodus 38:1-40:16
1/9 Genesis 27-29	1/31 Exodus 40:17-38;
1/10 Genesis 30:1-31:42	Leviticus 1-4
1/11 Genesis 31:43-34:31	2/1 Leviticus 5-7
1/12 Genesis 35:1-37:24	2/2 Leviticus 8:1-11:8
1/13 Genesis 37:25-40:8	2/3 Leviticus 11:9-13:39
1/14 Genesis 40:9-42:28	2/4 Leviticus 13:40-14:57
1/15 Genesis 42:29-45:15	2/5 Leviticus 15:1-18:18
1/16 Genesis 45:16-48:7	2/6 Leviticus 18:19-21:24
1/17 Genesis 48:8-50:26;	2/7 Leviticus 22-23
Exodus 1	2/8 Leviticus 24:1-26:13
1/18 Exodus 2:1-5:9	2/9 Leviticus 26:14-27:34;
1/19 Exodus 5:10-8:15	Numbers 1:1-41
1/20 Exodus 8:16-11:10	2/10 Numbers 1:42-3:32
1/21 Exodus 12:1-14:20	2/11 Numbers 3:33-5:22
1/22 Exodus 14:21-17:16	2/12 Numbers 5:23-7:59

bogged down in details or have missed a few days and couldn’t get caught back up. That’s ok! Give yourself some grace. This is a journey and the heart behind it is truly to connect more with God through His word and to connect with one another. It’s not a guilt trip! Here are three different potential reading lists to get you in the word each day through Easter. We will release the next Growth Guide with continued plans at Easter to continue along the Journey.

2/13 Numbers 7:60-10:10	Joshua 1:1-9
2/14 Numbers 10:11-13:16	3/7 Joshua 1:10-4:24
2/15 Numbers 13:17-15:21	3/8 Joshua 5:1-8:23
2/16 Numbers 15:22-16:50	3/9 Joshua 8:24-11:9
2/17 Numbers 17-20	3/10 Joshua 11:10-14:15
2/18 Numbers 21-23	3/11 Joshua 15-17
2/19 Numbers 24:1-26:34	3/12 Joshua 18:1-21:12
2/20 Numbers 26:35-28:31	3/13 Joshua 21:13-23:16
2/21 Numbers 29:1-31:47	3/14 Joshua 24; Judges 1-2
2/22 Numbers 31:48-33:56	3/15 Judges 3-5
2/23 Numbers 34-36;	3/16 Judges 6-7
Deuteronomy 1:1-15	3/17 Judges 8-9
2/24 Deuteronomy 1:16-3:29	3/18 Judges 10-13
2/25 Deuteronomy 4:1-6:15	3/19 Judges 14-16
2/26 Deuteronomy 6:16-9:21	3/20 Judges 17:1-20:11
2/27 Deuteronomy 9:22-12:32	3/21 Judges 20:12-21:25;
2/28 Deuteronomy 13:1-16:8	Ruth 1:1-2:13
3/1 Deuteronomy 16:9-19:21	3/22 Ruth 2:14-4:22;
3/2 Deuteronomy 20:1-23:14	1 Samuel 1
3/3 Deuteronomy 23:15-27:10	3/23 1 Samuel 2-4
3/4 Deuteronomy 27:11-28:68	3/24 1 Samuel 5:1-9:10
3/5 Deuteronomy 29:1-32:14	3/25 1 Samuel 9:11-12:18
3/6 Deuteronomy 32:15-34:12;	3/26 1 Samuel 12:19-14:42

DAILY READINGS IN 4 DIFFERENT THEMES

1/1 Genesis 1, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 1 Chronicles 1, Luke 1:1-25
1/2 Genesis 2, Psalm 1, 1 Chronicles 2, Luke 1:26-56
1/3 Genesis 3, Psalm 2, 1 Chronicles 3, Luke 1:57-80
1/4 Genesis 4, Psalm 3, 1 Chronicles 4, Luke 2:1-21
1/5 Genesis 5, Psalm 4, 1 Chronicles 5, Luke 2:22-52
1/6 Genesis 6, Psalm 5, 1 Chronicles 6, Luke 3:1-22
1/7 Genesis 7, Psalm 6, 1 Chronicles 7, Luke 3:23-4:13
1/8 Genesis 8:1-19, Psalm 7, 1 Chronicles 8, Luke 4:14-44
1/9 Genesis 8:20-9:19, Psalm 8, 1 Chronicles 9, Luke 5:1-6:16
1/10 Genesis 9:20-10:32, Psalm 9, 1 Chronicles 10, Luke 6:17-49
1/11 Genesis 11, Psalm 10, 1 Chronicles 11, Luke 7:1-35
1/12 Genesis 12, Psalm 11, 1 Chronicles 12, Luke 7:36-8:3
1/13 Genesis 13, Psalm 12, 1 Chronicles 13, Luke 8:4-21
1/14 Genesis 14, Psalm 13, 1 Chronicles 14, Luke 8:22-56
1/15 Genesis 15, Psalm 14, 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:3, Luke 9:1-50
1/16 Genesis 16, Psalm 15, 1 Chronicles 16:4-43, Luke 9:51-10:24
1/17 Genesis 17, Psalm 16, 1 Chronicles 17, Luke 10:25-42
1/18 Genesis 18:1-15, Psalm 17, 1 Chronicles 18-20, Luke 11:1-36
1/19 Genesis 18:16-33, Psalm 18, 1 Chronicles 21:1-17, Luke 11:37-12:12
1/20 Genesis 19, Psalm 19, 1 Chronicles 21:18-22:19, Luke 12:13-48
1/21 Genesis 20, Psalm 20, 1 Chronicles 23-24, Luke 12:49-13:9
1/22 Genesis 21:1-21, Psalm 21, 1 Chronicles 25, Luke 13:10-35
1/23 Genesis 21:22-34, Psalm 22, 1 Chronicles 26, Luke 14
1/24 Genesis 22, Psalm 23, 1 Chronicles 27, Luke 15
1/25 Genesis 23, Psalm 24, 1 Chronicles 28, Luke 16:1-17:10
1/26 Genesis 24, Psalm 25, 1 Chronicles 29:1-22, Luke 17:11-37
1/27 Genesis 25:1-18, Psalm 26, 1 Chronicles 29:23-30, Luke 18:1-30
1/28 Genesis 25:19-34, Psalm 27, 2 Chronicles 1, Luke 18:31-19:27
1/29 Genesis 26, Psalm 28, 2 Chronicles 2, Luke 19:28-46

1/30 Genesis 27:1-40, Psalm 29, 2 Chronicles 3, Luke 19:47-20:44
1/31 Genesis 27:41-28:9, Psalm 30, 2 Chronicles 4, Luke 20:45-21:38
2/1 Genesis 28:10-22, Psalm 31, 2 Chronicles 5, Luke 22:1-46
2/2 Genesis 29:1-30, Psalm 32, 2 Chronicles 6, Luke 22:47-23:25
2/3 Genesis 29:31-30:43, Psalm 33, 2 Chronicles 7, Luke 23:26-56
2/4 Genesis 31, Psalm 34, 2 Chronicles 8, Luke 24
2/5 Genesis 32, Psalm 35, 2 Chronicles 9, Acts 1
2/6 Genesis 33, Psalm 36, 2 Chronicles 10, Acts 2
2/7 Genesis 34, Psalm 37, 2 Chronicles 11, Acts 3:1-4:31
2/8 Genesis 35, Psalm 38, 2 Chronicles 12, Acts 4:32-6:7
2/9 Genesis 36, Psalm 39, 2 Chronicles 13, Acts 6:8-7:60
2/10 Genesis 37, Psalm 40, 2 Chronicles 14, Acts 8
2/11 Genesis 38, Psalm 41, 2 Chronicles 15, Acts 9:1-31
2/12 Genesis 39, Psalm 42-43, 2 Chronicles 16, Acts 9:32-43
2/13 Genesis 40, Psalm 44, 2 Chronicles 17, Acts 10:1-11:18
2/14 Genesis 41:1-36, Psalm 45, 2 Chronicles 18:1-19:3, Acts 11:19-30
2/15 Genesis 41:37-57, Psalm 46, 2 Chronicles 19:4-11, Acts 12
2/16 Genesis 42, Psalm 47, 2 Chronicles 20, Acts 13-14
2/17 Genesis 43, Psalm 48, 2 Chronicles 21, Acts 15:1-35
2/18 Genesis 44, Psalm 49, 2 Chronicles 22, Acts 15:36-17:15
2/19 Genesis 45, Psalm 50, 2 Chronicles 23, Acts 17:16-34
2/20 Genesis 46:1-47:12, Psalm 51, 2 Chronicles 24, Acts 18:1-22
2/21 Genesis 47:13-26, Psalm 52, 2 Chronicles 25, Acts 18:23-19:22
2/22 Genesis 47:27-48:22, Psalm 53, 2 Chronicles 26, Acts 19:23-20:16

PENTATUECH/HISTORY  
PSALMS/WISDOM  
CHRONICLES/PROPHETS  
GOSPELS/EPISTLES



2/23 Genesis 49, Psalm 54, 2 Chronicles 27, Acts 20:17-21:16	3/8 Exodus 12:31-13:22, Psalm 67, Ezra 3, Romans 5:1-11
2/24 Genesis 50:1-14, Psalm 55, 2 Chronicles 28, Acts 21:17-23:11	3/9 Exodus 14, Psalm 68, Ezra 4, Romans 5:12-21
2/25 Genesis 50:15-26, Psalm 56, 2 Chronicles 29, Acts 23:12-24:27	3/10 Exodus 15:1-21, Psalm 69, Ezra 5, Romans 6
2/26 Exodus 1:1-21, Psalm 57, 2 Chronicles 30, Acts 25-26	3/11 Exodus 15:22-16:36, Psalm 70, Ezra 6, Romans 7
2/27 Exodus 1:22-2:22, Psalm 58, 2 Chronicles 31, Acts 27:1-28:15	3/12 Exodus 17, Psalm 71, Ezra 7, Romans 8:1-17
2/28 Exodus 2:23-3:22, Psalm 59, 2 Chronicles 32, Acts 28:16-31	3/13 Exodus 18, Psalm 72, Ezra 8, Romans 8:18-39
3/1 Exodus 4, Psalm 60, 2 Chronicles 33, Romans 1:1-17	3/14 Exodus 19, Psalm 73, Ezra 9, Romans 9:1-29
3/2 Exodus 5:1-6:9, Psalm 61, 2 Chronicles 34, Romans 1:18-32	3/15 Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 74, Ezra 10, Romans 9:30-10:21
3/3 Exodus 6:10-7:13, Psalm 62, 2 Chronicles 35:1-19, Romans 2:1-16	3/16 Exodus 20:18-21:11, Psalm 75, Nehemiah 1, Romans 11
3/4 Exodus 7:14-8:19, Psalm 63, 2 Chronicles 35:20-27, Romans 2:17-3:8	3/17 Exodus 21:12-22:15, Psalm 76, Nehemiah 2, Romans 12
3/5 Exodus 8:20-9:12, Psalm 64, 2 Chronicles 36, Romans 3:9-20	3/18 Exodus 22:16-23:9, Psalm 77, Nehemiah 3, Romans 13
3/6 Exodus 9:13-10:29, Psalm 65, Ezra 1, Romans 3:21-31	3/19 Exodus 23:10-33, Psalm 78, Nehemiah 4, Romans 14
3/7 Exodus 11:1-12:30, Psalm 66, Ezra 2, Romans 4	3/20 Exodus 24, Psalm 79, Nehemiah 5, Romans 15:1-13
	3/21 Exodus 25, Psalm 80, Nehemiah 6, Romans 15:14-33
	3/22 Exodus 26, Psalm 81, Nehemiah 7, Romans 16

CHRONOLOGICALLY THROUGH THE BIBLE

1/1 Genesis 1-3	1/22 Genesis 30-31	2/12 Exodus 39-40	3/4 Numbers 21-22
1/2 Genesis 4-7	1/23 Genesis 32-34	2/13 Leviticus 1-4	3/5 Numbers 23-25
1/3 Genesis 8-11	1/24 Genesis 35-37	2/14 Leviticus 5-7	3/6 Numbers 26-27
1/4 Job 1-5	1/25 Genesis 38-40	2/15 Leviticus 8-10	3/7 Numbers 28-30
1/5 Job 6-9	1/26 Genesis 41-42	2/16 Leviticus 11-13	3/8 Numbers 31-32
1/6 Job 10-13	1/27 Genesis 43-45	2/17 Leviticus 14-15	3/9 Numbers 33-34
1/7 Job 14-16	1/28 Genesis 46-47	2/18 Leviticus 16-18	3/10 Numbers 35-36
1/8 Job 17-20	1/29 Genesis 48-50	2/19 Leviticus 19-21	3/11 Deuteronomy 1-2
1/9 Job 21-23	1/30 Exodus 1-3	2/20 Leviticus 22-23	3/12 Deuteronomy 3-4
1/10 Job 24-28	1/31 Exodus 4-6	2/21 Leviticus 24-25	3/13 Deuteronomy 5-7
1/11 Job 19-31	2/1 Exodus 7-9	2/22 Leviticus 26-27	3/14 Deuteronomy 8-10
1/12 Job 32-34	2/2 Exodus 10-12	2/23 Numbers 1-2	3/15 Deuteronomy 11-13
1/13 Job 35-37	2/3 Exodus 13-15	2/24 Numbers 3-4	3/16 Deuteronomy 14-16
1/14 Job 38-39	2/4 Exodus 16-18	2/25 Numbers 5-6	3/17 Deuteronomy 17-20
1/15 Job 40-42	2/5 Exodus 19-21	2/26 Numbers 7	3/18 Deuteronomy 21-23
1/16 Genesis 12-15	2/6 Exodus 22-24	2/27 Numbers 8-10	3/19 Deuteronomy 24-27
1/17 Genesis 16-18	2/7 Exodus 25-27	2/28 Numbers 11-13	3/20 Deuteronomy 28-29
1/18 Genesis 19-21	2/8 Exodus 28-29	3/1 Numbers 14-15, Psalm 90	3/21 Deuteronomy 30-31
1/19 Genesis 22-24	2/9 Exodus 30-32	3/2 Numbers 16-17	3/22 Deuteronomy 32-34, Psalm 91
1/20 Genesis 25-26	2/10 Exodus 33-35	3/3 Numbers 18-20	3/23 Joshua 1-4
1/21 Genesis 27-29	2/11 Exodus 36-38		



Every story  
in Scripture  
whispers the  
name of  
JESUS

# From Antagonism to Anticipation

## PSALM 19:7–11

**TURN THE PAGE BY PRESSING THROUGH THE SKEPTICISM  
AND ALLOWING YOURSELF TO SEE THAT EVERY STORY  
IN THE SCRIPTURES WHISPER THE NAME OF JESUS.**

If you ask the average person about the Bible you might get a variety of answers. From a book that truly changes the life of the reader to a book that you find in hotel desk drawers, there are myriad opinions. It's amazing that a book that came together over the course of 1300 years, consists of 2 testaments, 66 books, written by 40 different authors, contains many different genres, and was written through the illumination of the Holy Spirit can draw so many different opinions. For a believer, the Bible is our very connection to God. Interestingly, we often forget its importance in the busyness of our lives. We can rest assured that God has a message for His people and that when we read the Word of God, it also reads us. The challenge this year is to read through the entire Bible in a year. The deeper challenge for you is to embrace reading and studying your Bible more this year than you ever have before. Each week, we will be providing a key verse

from the Sunday message, give you a start on a practical spiritual discipline and then some questions to consider as you walk through your scripture reading. Each week, use one of the reading plans at the beginning of the guide or find one that fits your rhythm and then use the questions to consider and prayer prompts in each personal guide to dig deeper into the truth of God's word. Let's journey together!

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: THE ART OF READING

Do you enjoy reading? Sometimes it can feel like a chore. In our super-busy society, it can also feel like it's distracting us from what's going on in the world around us. That's precisely why this spiritual discipline is important. Every single day, every single breath, the creator of our souls is calling out to us to spend time with Him, to spend time in His word, and in His presence. When we read His word, we read His heart. This week, take time to secret away into a quiet place. Leave your phone in another room or turn it off. Pick a time where there isn't anything else

going on around you and the distractions of life are minimal. Pick a small chunk of scripture and read it several times. Observe what it's saying, interpret the meaning behind it, and begin to apply the truth that you've read. Now add in more scripture. Try to focus on scripture reading for 20-30 minutes a day at first if it's not a normal rhythm. Once you get that down, add more time. In no time, you'll find that your soul thirsts for more.

## PRAYER

Take time this week to write out a prayer. How has the scripture that you've read impacted you and what do you want to share back to God? How has He provided for you? How has He shown up in your life? What do you need to ask Him for? Write it all out below and take time to come back to the prayer and offer it to God throughout the week.

# MY PRAYER

[illegible]

KEY VERSES:

Take a stab at memorizing these verses this week. Or write them in a prominent place that you can see it as you go about your week. Let them sit with your soul and take time to pray and meditate through them. Use the space underneath the verses to write them out again or to paraphrase them in your own words.

THE LAW OF THE LORD  
IS PERFECT,  
REVIVING THE SOUL;  
THE TESTIMONY OF THE  
LORD IS SURE,  
MAKING WISE  
THE SIMPLE;  
THE PRECEPTS OF  
THE LORD ARE RIGHT,  
REJOICING THE HEART;  
THE COMMANDMENT OF  
THE LORD IS PURE,  
ENLIGHTENING THE EYES;  
THE FEAR OF THE LORD  
IS CLEAN,  
ENDURING FOREVER.  
PSALM 19:7-9

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Take time to write out some of your thoughts each day surrounding the verses you’ve read.

Purpose: Why do you think this passage was written? Why is it important enough to be in the Bible? What do you think the overall theme or topic is?

Primary Verse: Which verse seems to be the most important thought in this passage? Why? Take time to write out the entire verse and the reference

Promises: Make a list of the promises you find in the passage. How do these apply to your life?

Problems: Is there anything that didn't make sense in the verses you read this week?  
Any words, thoughts, or concepts you have trouble wrapping your brain around?  
Take time to look up the answers - you could use some of the resources provided on the series page.

Practical Application: What does this passage mean to you? What actions should you take based on the reading and journaling you did this week? What are your next steps today?



BELONG

Look at the information at the beginning of this guide regarding options for reading through the Bible.

Discuss the following as a group:

Will you commit to following the reading plan with gracespring Bible Church this year?

Why or why not?

How can you read through the Bible in a meaningful way over the next year?

Discuss your plan, including how often per week and when during the week you will read the Bible.

Consider committing as a group to following a plan to read through the Bible this year.

GROW

Read Psalms 19:7-11, 23:3 and 111:7 together.

What are some of the names given to God’s Law?

What descriptions are given of His Law? Which of these descriptions is your favorite description? Why?

Which is your least favorite description? Why? Which description(s) rings true for you?

Considering Psalm 19:9, how is ‘fear of the Lord’ described? Is this how you would usually describe ‘fear?’ Why or why not? How is fear of the Lord different from other types of fear? How do you, as a believer, express fear of the Lord?

Look at Psalm 19:7-11. What warnings does this passage contain? What reward is promised?

Is this reward conditional or unconditional?

If conditional, what are the conditions for experiencing this reward?

Read Psalms 19:7-11 and the article

*Does the Bible contain errors, contradictions, or discrepancies?* found at

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-errors.html>

Discuss the following:

Do you consider yourself to be skeptical

regarding the accuracy of the Bible?

Why or why not?

What are some of the common debates regarding the Bible? How can you counter these?

How might you respond to someone who claims that the Bible contradicts itself or that there are contradictions between various manuscripts?

How could you respond to someone who says that the Bible is culturally outdated, irrelevant or even offensive?

REACH

Consider Psalms 19:7-11 and the article

*Does the Bible contain errors, contradictions, or discrepancies?* How does your confidence in

the accuracy of the Bible affect your ability to witness for Christ?

GOING DEEPER

Read Psalm 19:7-11 together. Do you value scripture as described here? Does the amount of time you spend reading, studying, and reflecting upon scripture adequately represent the value that you place on God’s Word? Why or why not? If not, how can you change this in 2021?



“ HOW DOES YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST? ”



# From Apprehension to Conviction

## PSALM 119

TURN THE PAGE BY ALLOWING THE WORDS OF  
SCRIPTURE TO DO WHAT GOD HAS INTENDED FOR  
THEM TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS  
OF THE READER.

The Bible is primarily the story of God's deeds and a record of God's promises, giving us a picture of who He is and how He operates. Putting God's Word as our first priority is hard, but absolutely necessary if we're going to thrive. Take some time to audit your calendar. Think about how much time you spend on a variety of activities: social media, games, television, relaxation, work, etc. What would happen if we moved spending time in God's word and presence up, even a couple spots on the list?

Psalm 119 tells us in a beautiful way how important God's word is. Do we truly believe it or do we think that it's a nice platitude? So what will you do this week to embrace God's word more in your lifestyle?

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: PRAYER IN ALL THINGS

Psalm 119 kind of reads like a prayer. It's an earnest cry to the Lord about His word and His work in the world. Sometimes it's easy to relegate prayer to meal time or when we really need something, but this week, we want to practice the spiritual discipline of praying about everything! Take time to list out some of the following: things you're grateful for, things you've seen God do in your life recently, favorite scriptures, people who you love, people who have wronged you, things you need, people you care about who are struggling, times recently that you have blown it, etc. Now look through your list and start to pray! Thank God for the things He's given you and tell Him why they're important. Use whole scriptures to tell God who He is and why that's important to you. Ask for forgiveness for the times you've blown it and the people you struggle with. Ask God to bless people in their struggles and explain why. You see - we can overcomplicate prayer, but it's really as easy as having a conversation with God. Try saying your prayers out loud even if it feels awkward. Then take some time still yourself in silence and ask God to move in your heart.

## PRAYER

Take time this week to write out your prayers. Use the exercise from Practicing Spiritual Disciplines to enrich your time spent with the Lord. Did you feel God speaking anything back to you during your time of silence? Use this space to write anything and everything that you're praying or feeling.

[illegible]

## KEY VERSES

WITH MY WHOLE HEART I SEEK  
YOU; LET ME NOT WANDER FROM  
YOUR COMMANDMENTS I HAVE  
STORED UP YOUR WORD IN MY  
HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN  
AGAINST YOU. BLESSED ARE YOU,  
O LORD TEACH ME YOUR  
STATUTES!

## PSALM 119:10-12

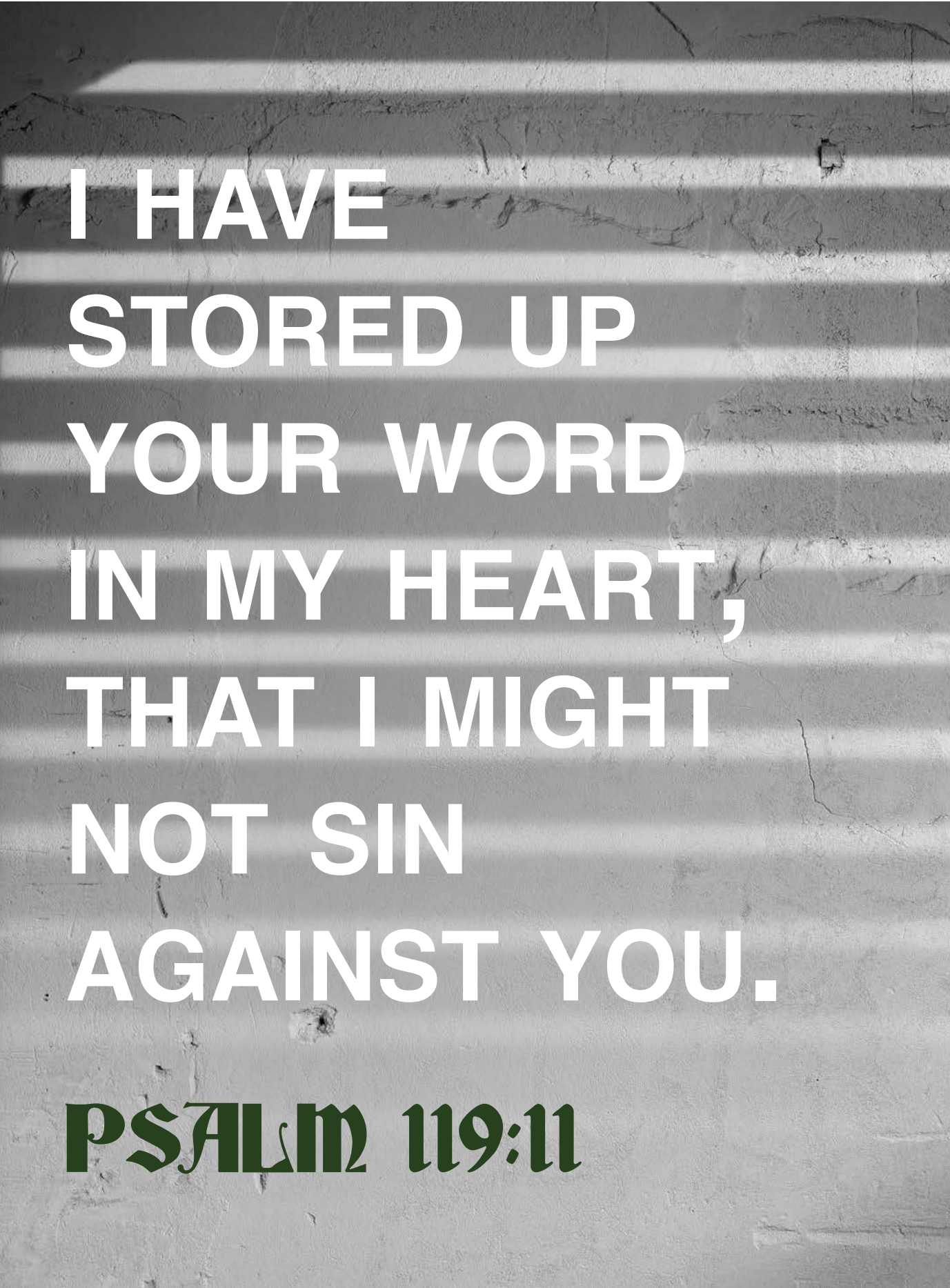
Take time to answer these questions each day surrounding the verses you've read from your reading plan.

What is the biggest Truth that you pulled from your reading today? Why did it stand out to you?

What made it an important truth for you to cling to? How can you apply it to your life?

Write down the scripture and the truth that you gleaned. What lie are you believing or are tempted to believe that stands in the way of these truths?

Take time to refute that lie with the truths that you've learned. Claim victory over the lie. Write down a sentence that says something like this, "The lie I've believed is \_\_\_\_\_, but God's word says that \_\_\_\_\_."



## BELONG

What is the difference between knowing about someone and actually knowing someone? How do you know when you actually know someone?

## GROW

READ PSALM 119:1–8

What are the different terms used to describe the Word of God?  
Identify all the instances where God’s Word is mentioned.  
List the responses we are supposed to have to God’s Word.

READ 1 PETER 1:13–16.

Where does the ability to follow God’s Word come from?

READ JOHN 14:15.

What does obedience to God’s Word say about us?  
What are the outcomes of following God’s Word?

## REACH

How can daily time focused on God’s Word help you love your neighbor?  
What priorities would you be willing to change so your daily life can be more centered around God’s Word?

## CHALLENGE

As a group, commit to reading through Psalm 119 over the next 30 days.

# Psalm 119

## an acrostic poem

IT IS DIVIDED INTO TWENTY-TWO PARTS OR STANZAS, DENOTED BY THE TWENTY-TWO LETTERS OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET. EACH STANZA CONTAINS EIGHT VERSES, AND THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH VERSE IS THAT WHICH GIVES NAME TO THE STANZA. ITS CONTENTS ARE MAINLY PRAISES OF GOD'S WORD, REVERENCE FOR IT, PRAYERS FOR ITS PROPER INFLUENCE, AND COMPLAINTS OF THE WICKED FOR DESPISING IT. THERE ARE ONLY TWO VERSES (PS. 119:122 AND 132) WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN SOME TERM OR DESCRIPTION OF GOD'S WORD. THE PSALM DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY RELATION TO ANY SPECIAL OCCASION OR INTEREST OF THE JEWISH CHURCH OR NATION, BUT WAS EVIDENTLY "INTENDED AS A MANUAL OF PIOUS THOUGHTS, ESPECIALLY FOR INSTRUCTING THE YOUNG, AND ITS PECULIAR STRUCTURE WAS PROBABLY ADOPTED TO AID THE MEMORY IN RETAINING THE LANGUAGE."  
(FROM GOTQUESTIONS.ORG)



# From Nothing to Something

## GENESIS 1-2

TURN THE PAGE BY RECOGNIZING THE TRUTH OF AN INNOVATIVE GOD WHO  
SPECIALIZES IN MAKING SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING.

God announces Himself in grandeur in Genesis 1 and 2. He uses His creative power to speak everything we know about the world into existence and to fill it with flourishes of beauty and glimpses of His glory. We serve the God who created the majesty of waterfalls and mountains and also the peculiarities of sloths and duck billed platypuses. This creating God speaks words of life and love and power into the world and then does the same in the lives of His creation.

Perhaps the most momentous moment is God bending over into the dirt and creating man in His own image. He gives man a name and puts Him to work stewarding the creation that God has seen as good. And today even in the midst of the fall and the curse of sin, God is still whispering His goodness into the life of His creation. You are made in His image. God beckons to you with a name that means life eternal and life with God. This creative God has written His story of redemption and it is woven into the fabric of our hearts. This creating God still writes His creativity into our breath and pushes us to walk in His footsteps - creating and sowing His redemption into the world around us.

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: RADICAL SUBMISSION

We see from the Genesis account that we were created in God's image. He didn't create Adam and Eve to lounge around the earth, but gave them a job - to care for the earth, multiply, and take dominion over the creatures of the earth. Submission in the garden was easy until the fall. Because of the curse of sin, we struggle to submit to anything or anyone other than ourselves. God has created us to be beings who fall under His natural pattern of authority. We often try to wrestle this away (look at the curses in Genesis 3), but when we fall into alignment in our hearts and minds with God's natural order, all the kinks seem to unravel and we see the beauty of God's sovereignty. We do this through submitting our minds and thoughts and through practicing the other spiritual disciplines. As you walk through your day, pay attention to your thoughts - are they submitting to God and glorifying Him or are they set on other pursuits? Take each moment to

capture your thoughts and crucify your flesh through prayer and practicing the presence of God. You might have to do this several times an hour, but the practice turns into a beautiful reminder that we are the image of God moving about the fallen world. We can sow peace and love and joy into the world around us when we walk in a way that submits fully to God.

## SUBMISSION

- defined -

**NOUN//**

**THE ACTION OR FACT OF  
ACCEPTING OR YIELDING**

## TO A SUPERIOR FORCE

## OR TO THE WILL

OR AUTHORITY OF

## ANOTHER PERSON

## PRAYER

Take time this week to think about times where you have and haven't submitted to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. How did you feel when you walked in submission? How did you feel when you didn't? Take time to practice confession in the times that you didn't offer prayer to God to ask for forgiveness and ask Him to show you how to better embrace His guidance. Similarly, take time to offer thankfulness for the times that you walked in submission. Thank Him for reforming you and giving you His restoration. Write these thoughts and prayers down below as a reminder.

## KEY VERSES

*Memorize, Rephrase, or Meditate on  
these verses this week*

**SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS  
OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF  
GOD HE CREATED HIM; MALE  
AND FEMALE HE CREATED  
THEM. AND GOD BLESSED  
THEM. AND GOD SAID TO THEM,  
"BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY  
AND FILL THE EARTH AND  
SUBDUE IT, AND HAVE  
DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF  
THE SEA AND OVER THE BIRDS  
OF THE HEAVENS AND OVER  
EVERY LIVING THING THAT  
MOVES ON THE EARTH."  
GENESIS 1:27-28**



*Take time to write out some of your thoughts each day surrounding the verses you've read.*

Encouragement: What is this passage encouraging us to do?  
What is the truth and wisdom in that encouragement?

## BELONG

When was the last time you attempted to tackle a task without the appropriate tools or equipment needed? How did things turn out?

Have you ever seen an artist work with non-conventional materials, such as recycled or discarded items (tires, driftwood, etc.)? Why do you think there is such an intrigue and interest in these “art from junk” or “something from nothing” projects?

## GROW

In Genesis 1, we witness (through the author’s account) the most incredible “something from nothing” art project ever undertaken. Have a member of your group read Genesis 1, while the rest of the group listens on, focusing on imagining the Creator as He spoke each molecule, hair, leaf, stone, droplet, mountain, valley, planet into existence... What part(s) of God’s creation speak to you most clearly in terms of God’s creativity and innovation?

After the initial stage is set, God then introduces the first characters of His eternal “production” – Adam & Eve. And not only does God personally form and breathe life into Adam, but He creates a specific habitat for Adam to enjoy and commune with God directly. Have a member of your group read Genesis 2:7-14, spending time to specifically envision the forming of Adam and the beauty of Eden.

With so much intentionality and creativity put into every detail of the universe, why do you think God created the world? And what is the purpose that each of us hold in the narrative?

Hint: it’s for HIS benefit and HIS glory.

With the knowledge of God’s divine, intentional plan, how does this impact your view of your current circumstance? Do you ever question why certain events have taken place in your life? Do you ever feel that your circumstances are unfair or illogical? How can you rethink this perspective in light of the knowledge of God’s control, purpose, and plan?

## REACH

What “role” do you feel like God has cast you to play in the lives of your family/friends/neighbors? Are you filling this role in the best way you can?

How can you intentionally enjoy and appreciate God’s creativity this week?

WRITE A POEM/ DRAW A PICTURE

MAKE A PLAYLIST OF SONGS

GO ON A WALK IN NATURE

SEND A TEXT TO THREE PEOPLE SHARING WHY YOU’RE THANKFUL HE CREATED THEM

MAKE AN ALBUM OF PHOTOS THAT YOU FIND BEAUTIFUL

MAKE A MEAL WITH YOUR FAVORITE FRESH FOOD

SOME IDEAS



# From Rebellion to Relationship

## GENESIS 3-4

TURN THE PAGE BY TURNING FROM SIN AND RETURNING TO GOD.

God created Adam and Eve perfectly in His image. He gave them freedom to populate the earth and to live under His provision with one exception. They weren't to eat from one tree. When they were lured in by the serpent and ate from the tree, we see an upheaval of the created order that God put in place. They hid in their nakedness and were ashamed.

The key moment happens when God comes looking for them and finds them in their fallen state. He kills animals to provide clothing for them. We see now through the scope of history that our sins cannot be forgiven without the blood shed by Jesus on calvary. What Adam and Eve saw in that moment was blood shed to provide relationship even through the actions that should have separated them from a holy and perfect God. This perfect God provides a way back into relationship with His fallen creation, first through the shed blood of animals and ultimately through the shed blood of the perfect sacrifice - Jesus Christ who was fully God and fully man.

## KEY VERSE

*Memorize, Rephrase, or  
Meditate on this verse  
this week*

**And the  
Lord God  
made for  
Adam and  
for his wife  
garments  
of skins  
and clothed  
them.  
Genesis  
3:21**



PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES; CONFESSION AS A LIFESTYLE

Confession is a radical spiritual discipline. It’s not one that is easy to master, but it’s so important for a believer. 1 John 1:9 makes us a promise - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” What a promise! The question for us is what role does confession really play in our lives as believers? Do we treat it like a simple apology or do we come to the Lord and others with contrite hearts asking for deep forgiveness as we confess our sins?

CONFESSION HAS THE POWER TO ROB OUR SIN AND SATAN OF THE POWER OF SECRECY AND PRIDE.

When we open ourselves up in humility and with a contrite heart, we acknowledge that we aren’t perfect and we’re certainly not god. We break ourselves in honesty and follow Jesus in crucifixion to the point of the death of ourselves. So how can you practice confession this week and in the future? The next time you need to seek forgiveness from someone else or from God, try confessing what you did instead of simply saying sorry. Maybe this looks like acknowledgement of hurt even if you didn’t mean to. Try to pepper this into the way that you interact with others. Our confession frees us to live a deep and more meaningful life.

PRAYER

Take time this week to think through the idea of confession. God saved us from rebellion and entered into a relationship with us. This is massive! We have so much to be thankful for, but still so much in our humanness that rebels against the one, true, living God. Remember that He has already saved us from the penalty of sin, He is currently saving us from the power of sin (already and not yet), and He will save us from the presence of sin. This means that we have a lot of room for confession. What are the elements of confession? Take time to write out your thoughts and write a prayer of confession. This might be for a bigger sin or even a practice prayer for you to use in the future.

Take time to answer these questions each day surrounding the verses you've read from your reading plan. Put away distractions and ask God to prepare your heart for your time in the Word today.

What does this passage have to teach me today? Write down lessons that characters learned or principles that are present that you can glean from this passage.

What don't you understand about the passage? Take time to write down these questions. What could be illuminated through further study? What principles should you discuss with those around you?

What are some of the nuggets of truth from this passage that you can learn from? What truths do you need to take away and put into practice?

What will you do with what you've read? How can you put the lessons and truth into action this week? Write out your steps and follow them!

BELONG

Would you rather everyone be allowed to ignore stop signs or be allowed to pass anyone at any time? Why? When you love someone, how are you more likely to respond:

- INTENTIONALLY DO THINGS TO PLEASE THEM
- SPEAK KIND WORDS ABOUT THEM
- GIVE THOUGHTFUL GIFTS
- SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH THEM
- GIVE THEM A HUG
- INTENTIONALLY DO THINGS TO HURT THEM
- SPEAK HURTFUL WORDS ABOUT THEM
- GIFT INSIGNIFICANT THINGS YOU DO NOT WANT
- HAVE A LACK OF TIME FOR THEM
- KEEP THEM AT ARM’S LENGTH

GROW

Stand and read Genesis 3:1-7 aloud as a group.

What was truthfully stated regarding the rule God declared in Genesis 2:15-17?

Read Genesis 3:8-13.

How did sin impact our relationship with God? With other people?

Have someone read Genesis 4:6-7 aloud.

Have you ever had someone encourage you to make wise choices, yet find yourself making bad choices?

Why do you think people sin against God?

Each sin came with a consequence due to the broken relationship.

Identify the consequences of sin for:

- The serpent? (Gen. 3:14-15)
- Eve? (Gen. 3:16, 23-24)
- Adam? (Gen. 3:17-19, 23-24)
- Cain? (Gen 4:10-16)
- Lamech? (Gen. 4:23-24)

Though the names of Cain’s sons are mentioned, who is our attention drawn to at the end of Genesis 4?

What is the significance of Seth’s birth over Abel’s and Cain’s? (Luke 3:23-38)

We are already ‘like God’ (created in His image) though our sin (the Fall) damaged our relationship with Him. God desiring to have a relationship with us, restored that connection through Jesus Christ. Read each of the following passages aloud:

- PROVERBS 19:2
- ROMANS 3:23
- HEBREWS 10:8-10
- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21
- JOHN 3:16

REACH

Who in your life do you need to be more intentional about restoring a relationship with?

What specific things will you do this week to show others you care about them?

Did you know there are a variety of ‘behind the scenes’ ways you or your group may support those who are daily building relationships with others? Here are just a few ways you or your group could get plugged in right away:



get plugged in

ALONGSIDE

Bill Witters  
Bill@Alongsidecares.net  
Making beds, helping with laundry, stocking suites, tidying up the ministry center, also in the spring/summer months, there are always outdoor projects!

GRACESPRING CHURCH

Anita Ollila  
Anita.Ollila@gracespringchurch.org  
Letter writing, prayer, phone calls!

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Scott McCloughan  
scott@kalamazooyfc.org  
Cooking meals, cleaning the new ministry center, serving at Taste of Heaven, becoming a prayer partner and more!



# From Ruin to Restoration

## GENESIS 6-9

**TURN THE PAGE BY RECOGNIZING GOD'S EXCLUSIVE PLAN OF SALVATION**

Our sins separate us from the holy and perfect God. We have to realize that we have no recourse on our own to save us from our imperfection. Our God who is loving and just in the same breath offers the restoration of our broken relationship through the gift of His son. In Genesis, Noah found himself in the situation where the world around him needed rescuing. The sin of his day was so rampant that God decided to flood the earth and start over. Noah and his family were the only ones deemed righteous enough to be saved.

People like to ask how a loving God could send sinners to hell. What we have to realize is that God offers His salvation freely to anyone who would follow Him, but He also sealed the door of the ark when the time had come. Jesus reminded His followers that He was the only way into relationship with the Father. This can sound like a harsh truth, but His gift is inclusively exclusive. There's no other way. This should catalyze us to spread the Gospel like wildfire instead of sitting inside and simply rejoicing that we've made it into the ark!

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: SELF-EXAMINATION

Paul reminded us in Philippians 2:12-13 to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” From time to time it is helpful to consider where we are in our story with God. While salvation is a free gift, it is important to regularly have a check up and see how we are doing in love and in good works. In the same way that employers do performance reviews, it is always helpful to examine ourselves in light of the Gospel with the help of the Holy Spirit to keep our motives, actions, and theology in proper perspective. This week, take time to ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate these things to you. Open your heart and mind to the areas of your life that might be lax or lacking. Take time also to celebrate areas that you are growing well in. Try to set this for a time without distractions where you can

## SELF REFLECTION

GET ALONE  
INVITE HIM IN  
REFLECT

**WRITE IT DOWN**

**ASK FOR HIS HELP**

**PRAY OVER IT**

be honest with yourself. It might help to journal through this time to set benchmarks for growth. Be as honest as possible. This is never to induce shame, but to continue growing on the vine of Jesus.

## PRAYER

Take time this week to lean into the practice of self-evaluation. Take time alone to reflect on your current spiritual life. Invite the Holy Spirit into the space and ask Him to help you evaluate. What are some areas of strength? How about areas of weakness? Take time to write them out. Write out a prayer that both asks for strength in weaker areas and celebrates the areas that you're growing strongly in - thanking God for both. Make a top 3 list of the areas that you feel like you can grow in and ask the Holy Spirit for specific steps in growth. Write these out. Pray the prayer throughout the week.

[illegible]

KEY VERSE:  
MEMORIZE  
REPHRASE  
MEDITATE  
ON THIS  
VERSE  
THIS WEEK

FOR BEHOLD, I WILL BRING A FLOOD OF WATERS UPON THE EARTH TO DESTROY ALL FLESH IN WHICH IS THE BREATH OF LIFE UNDER HEAVEN. EVERYTHING THAT IS ON THE EARTH SHALL DIE. BUT I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT WITH YOU, AND YOU SHALL COME INTO THE ARK, YOU, YOUR SONS, YOUR WIFE, AND YOUR SONS' WIVES WITH YOU. AND OF EVERY LIVING THING OF ALL FLESH, YOU SHALL BRING TWO OF EVERY SORT INTO THE ARK TO KEEP THEM ALIVE WITH YOU. **GENESIS 6:17-19**

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Take time to answer these questions each day surrounding the verses you've read from your reading plan.

Make a list of any sins, wrong actions, or attitudes mentioned in this passage. How can you avoid these areas in your life?

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Make a list of any promises - either stated or inferred in this passage. Which of these promises can you claim this week?

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What examples do you see in this passage? Is there an example you should take to heart and use in your own life?

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Write it down.

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Write out any commands that you find in your reading. If the passage encourages you to take a specific action, view that as a command.

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What does the passage tell you about God that you can apply to your daily life? God's character shines through these passages as an example for you.

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How do  
these  
promises  
change the  
way you  
interact  
with  
others?

BELONG

Describe a time when you stood up for something you believed in even though it was unpopular?

GROW

Gen. 6:5-6 describes the condition of men and their relationship to God at this time. How is this description similar to our world today? What does it mean that “the Lord was sorry He had made man”?

Gen. 7 describes the flood itself. What details stand out to you? What do you find difficult to understand or believe about this event?

Gen. 9:8-17 is an account of God’s promise to Noah and his descendants. What did God promise?

Read Gen 9:14-15.  
What is the purpose of a rainbow?

REACH

Noah remained faithful to God while living in the midst of extreme wickedness. How can you find the strength to remain faithful in the midst of a sinful culture?

What promises of God are most meaningful to you? How do these promises change the way you interact with others?

Summary:

– GEN. 6 –  
THE SINFULNESS OF MAN, GOD’S DETERMINATION  
TO JUDGE AND HIS PROVISION TO SAVE

– GEN. 7 –  
GOD’S JUDGEMENT OF MAN IMPACTS ALL OF CREATION,  
BUT GOD ALSO PROVIDES SALVATION

– GEN. 8 –  
GOD BRINGS NOAH SAFELY THROUGH THE FLOOD AND  
NOAH RESPONDS WITH THANKFULNESS

– GEN. 9 –  
GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES TO NOAH’S FAMILY  
EVEN THOUGH THE FLOOD DID NOT ELIMINATE  
SINFULNESS FROM THE WORLD.



## GENESIS 11:1-9

Have you ever tried to earn your salvation? Seems like a silly question, right? We know from Ephesians 2:8-10 that our salvation is a gift from God and that we can't take credit for it. While we might acknowledge that truth with our mouths readily, sometimes we still act like we can do enough to add to or earn our salvation. We act like if we just tithe a little more or volunteer a little extra that we can earn it.

are always the fruit of our salvation and never the root. When we work out of a place of salvation and glorifying God, we show others His goodness. When we work out of a place of trying to earn, we pat ourselves on the back instead. Let's glorify Him together!

# PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE

the Sunday morning experience is a big part of worship, the idea of embracing worship as a lifestyle is a much bigger part of a believer's life. Worship in its simplest form is to ascribe worth to something. To proclaim that something is worthy of our attention, finances, time, or energy. We worship every day, all day. We were created with a need inside of each of us to be worshipful creatures and yet our attention is often split in many different ways. Embracing worship as a lifestyle is a key practice in becoming more focused on the lives that Jesus calls us to live. Try to take a mental inventory of where your thoughts go each day. How often is Jesus at the center of your desires? Practice reframing this week to invite Jesus into every single aspect of your life - from driving to conversations to studying. This will take a constant effort, but see how much more fulfilled life is after even a day of reflection.

## PRAYER

Take time this week to listen to one or two specific worship songs. What are some of the common phrases found in the songs? What lines stick out to you? Take time to write a prayer surrounding the concepts that mean the most to you. Spend time worshiping Him through your prayer as you listen to the songs.

## SONGS:

[illegible]



Take time to write out some of your thoughts each day surrounding the verses you've read.

Write down some of the facts found in this passage. You should be able to write down a bunch of observations. Start with simple thoughts and then write down bigger and more broad observations about the passage.

Next, draw out some principles from the observations that you made. What is God teaching his people through this passage? What are guiding principles that God might want to teach readers as they take in the words of this passage? What is God trying to teach you?

How will you apply these principles to your life? Be as specific as you can. What will you do today to make these principles and lessons stick?

## KEY VERSES Memorize, Rephrase, or Meditate on these verses this week:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God,** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Ephesians 2:8-10**



## BELONG

Are you a person who likes step by step instructions or do you like to figure things out on your own? Describe a time when your preference didn't work out well for you.

## GROW

After the flood, God gave the people of the earth some specific commands (Gen. 9:1-7).

Gen. 11:1-4 gives an account of how these people responded. What specific commands were the people disobeying? Why do you think they disobeyed? What specific commands of God do you find difficult to obey?

Gen. 11:5-6 describes the Lord's concern over what the people of the earth were doing? Why do you think this concerned God?

What would have potentially happened if God had not intervened? When has God intervened in your life to stop you from accomplishing something?

Knowing what we do about history since these events, how has the scattering of all people helped and/or hindered God's plan to rescue the world from sin?

## REACH

Who do you know that needs to be encouraged in their Christian walk?  
How can you help them persevere through difficult times?

Who do you know would benefit from correction?  
How can God use you to help this person?



# From Blessed to Blessing

## GENESIS 12-21

**TURN THE PAGE BY RECOGNIZING WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN AS A BLESSING INTENDED TO BLESS THE WORLD**

The story of Abram is inspiring. God looked at a dusty shepherd, made him a promise, changed his name, and created a nation out of his descendants. That's a very brief paraphrase, but God's promise to Abram was that he would bless him in order for him to be a blessing - not only to the people directly around him, but to all of the nations. When was the last time that you stopped to consider that your salvation has implications for others?

God impacts our heart with the Gospel, forges a new path for our lives, and sends us out to help others see His glorious light. Just like Abraham, we are the walking embodiment of God's promise that He will use His people to show others His goodness. We have the Gospel as good news for our lives, but we are also empowered to broadcast the exact same Gospel as good news into the lives of everyone around us.

## KEY VERSES

*Memorize, Rephrase, or Meditate on this verse this week.*

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

## GENESIS 12:1-3

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: EVANGELISM

If God blesses us to be a blessing, what are we doing about it? Do the people in our lives truly see us as an extension of the Gospel or would they ever guess that God is in our lives? Take time this week to think of one person that you regularly interact with who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus. Begin with praying for them. Ask the Lord to soften their hearts. Then take time to invite them to share their story. Listen to their story and ask them questions. Don't share your story just yet. This often happens best when breaking bread together. Take time to serve them. Show up in their life in unexpected ways with unexpected blessings. After you have built a solid relationship, share your story with them. Oftentimes people don't need deep theological truths, but a listening ear and an example. This might be a longer process than one week, but take time to begin in prayer today.

## I WILL PRAY FOR

## THIS WEEK

## PRAYER

Start this week praying that God would illuminate someone in your life that needs to hear the truth of the Gospel. When He has done so, begin by writing prayers for them. Do you know of specific needs they have? What are attributes you admire about them? How can you show up in their life? Write a prayer asking for God to use you to shine the light of the Gospel in their life. Make a plan to meet with them and begin the process of BLESSing them that was shared in the Practicing Spiritual Disciplines section above.



Take time to answer these questions each day surrounding the verses  
you've read from your reading plan.

Make a list of all of the major  
characters in the passage.

What are the actions of  
each character?

Where is the action taking place?

Why is that important?

What is significant about  
the timing of this passage?

Why do you think this passage  
was important enough to be  
included in the Bible?

How does this passage apply  
to your life?

How are you going to live  
differently today because of  
what you read?

and I will bless you and  
make your name great,  
**SO THAT YOU WILL  
BE A BLESSING**



# BACKGROUND

GEN. 12–21 GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE BEGINNING OF ABRAM’S WALK OF FAITH WITH GOD (ABRAM IS ABRAHAM’S NAME BEFORE GOD CHANGES IT IN GEN 17:5). IN THIS ACCOUNT WE SEE THAT ABRAHAM HAS MANY FAULTS AND WE SEE HOW GOD INTERACTS ON A VERY PERSONAL LEVEL WITH HIM.

THE KEY VERSE THAT SUMMARIZES THIS PASSAGE IS GEN. 15:6  
THEN HE (ABRAHAM) BELIEVED IN THE LORD AND HE (GOD) RECKONED IT TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

## BELONG

What are your favorite memories? What are your least favorite?

## GROW

God made promises to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) and then restated them several times (Gen 13:14-17, 15:1-5, 15:18, 17:1-8, 22:16-18).

List the things God promised to Abraham.

How have these promises been fulfilled?

What promises has God made to you?

Abraham believed God, but he also lived an imperfect life. Gen. 12:10-20, 16:1-6, 20:1-13 are accounts of moral failures on the part of Abraham.

Describe what Abraham did and why it was not right?

What were the consequences of each failure?

How have you experienced consequences for your failures?

In Gen. 15:6, it states that Abraham believed God and He credited it to him as righteousness. What is righteousness and why is belief so important to it?

(see also Heb. 11:6)

What is the role of belief (or faith) in our salvation? (see Romans 5:1-2)

## REACH

How can you help encourage others in their faith in spite of their failures?

Which of God’s promises are most encouraging to you?

How can you live in a way that shows you believe these promises?



# From Trying to Trusting

GENESIS 27–30

TURN THE PAGE BY TRUSTING GOD’S PLAN EVEN WHEN  
IT APPEARS THAT HIS PLAN NEEDS HELP.

The stories of Jacob in Genesis 27-30 show us an example of taking matters into his own hands. Not only did he deceive his father to receive the blessing that wasn’t his to take, but he worked hard in Laban’s fields only to marry the wrong daughter and have to do it all over again. Sometimes life just doesn’t stack up the way we think it should and it can be really tempting to believe that God blinked and needs our help to figure situations out.

Sometimes God’s timing doesn’t seem right. Sometimes the decisions that come don’t seem fair or right. Will we lay down our preferences and desires in order to trust God or will we force our hand to get the outcome we want? Trusting in God doesn’t always look smart to the world around us, but we can rest assured that God has a perfect plan that we can rest in.

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: SIMPLY SIMPLE

Trusting in God even in the hardest circumstances takes an inward revolution.

SIMPLICITY IS AN  
INWARD ACTION  
THAT HAS OUTWARD  
MANIFESTATIONS.

When we realize that God is everything that we need, it makes it easier to shed ourselves of the unnecessary planning and striving and helps us to trust in who He says He is. This week practice living a more simple inward life. When feelings and emotions of conflict arise, ask God to illuminate what is causing these thoughts. Picture yourself isolating them and moving them into a place of trust and wholeness. Replace the thoughts with relevant scriptures. If you’re having issues with trust, find the root of the issue, make it captive to the Lord and then use Proverbs 3:5-6 as a reminder that God is trustworthy. Try this exercise this week to add simplicity to your inner life.



TRUST IN THE  
LORD WITH ALL  
YOUR HEART, AND  
DO NOT LEAN ON  
YOUR OWN  
UNDERSTANDING.  
IN ALL YOUR WAYS  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
HIM, AND HE WILL  
MAKE STRAIGHT  
YOUR PATHS.  
PROVERBS 3:5-6

### KEY VERSES

Memorize  
Rephrase  
Meditate  
on these  
verses this  
week

# LIES PROMISES

## PRAYER

Ask God to illuminate areas in your life where it's more difficult for you to trust in Him. Spend some time writing reasons why it might be difficult to trust. Then spend time in an internet search to find promises of God that directly combat lies that we might often tell ourselves about God and write them out. Write out your prayers to combat the areas that get in the way of trusting God with everything inside of you. Use the scriptures to combat the thoughts and emotions that might come up.

*Take time to write out some of your thoughts each day surrounding the verses you've read.*

What does this passage have to teach me today? Write down lessons that characters learned or principles that are present that you can glean from this passage.

What don't you understand about the passage? Take time to write down these questions.

What could be illuminated through further study? What principles should you discuss with those around you?

What are some of the nuggets of truth from this passage that you can learn from?

What truths do you need to take away and put into practice?

What will you do with what you've read? How can you put the lessons and truth into action this week?

Write out your steps and follow them!





## BELONG

What are some common superstitions that people believe in that you either do or don't believe in? Why or why not?

Do you think trust is given or trust is earned? Explain.

## GROW

As a group, take time to read all of Genesis 27-30, taking turns for each chapter. Make sure to note any specific words or sentences that stick out to you. Take time to share these thoughts.

Was it right for Jacob to steal Esau's birthright? Why do you think that God blessed it and allowed it to happen?

Who showed the most trust in God throughout chapter 27? Are there times that we can list as a group that highlight our own desires to force God's hand instead of fully trusting Him?

Do you think that the situation with Rachel and Leah was a direct result of Jacob's deception? Why or why not?

Talk about situations where God's plan didn't look like you thought it would. Did it work out? Are you still waiting? How can we pray for each other right now?

## REACH

How can learning to trust God help us to make His message more clear to the world around us?

Are there any aspects of trusting God that have made their way into your personal testimony?

Is there someone in your life who needs to hear the message of trusting instead of trying?

Brainstorm some ways that you might be able to share this message.

**praying in the  
waiting**



# From Chaos to Courage

## GENESIS 37-50

**TURN THE PAGE BY RECOGNIZING THAT SOME OF LIFE'S TOUGHEST TRIALS  
PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR GOD'S GREATEST TRIUMPHS.**

Joseph's story in the Bible is one of the biggest cases of "wrong place at the right time" that has been documented. From being sold into slavery by his brothers, to being arrested for resisting the advances of his boss' wife, to languishing in prison while prophesying over others, it can seem ridiculous that one man would go through so much. We see God's promise through the chaos as He shines His favor on Joseph's faithfulness. He is entrusted with the care of Egypt and is ultimately in the position to save his family from starving to death.

If we could see the behind the  
scenes of our lives, sometimes

we might be amazed at all of the plans that God was working out for us while we felt like we were in absolute chaos. We serve a God who hasn't promised easy roads, but He has promised His presence. In the midst of the chaos of life, we serve a God who promises that He will never leave or forsake us.

# PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD AND PRESENCE

When chaos swarms, there  
is seldom a better remedy than  
meditating in God's

presence. Meditation has often been confused because of other religions hanging their hats on the practice, but for Christians, we shouldn't fear healthy meditation in the presence of God. Sometimes the best thing we can do is quiet our minds and fears and sit in God's presence. Using simple phrases to slow our breathing and focus on who God is can be helpful. Try inhaling while thinking "Be still," and exhaling while thinking, "And know God." Clear your schedule, eliminate distractions, and posture yourself in a way that will help you focus. Imagine you are taking all of your thoughts and putting them in hot air balloons, then release them to drift away. Ask God to be present in the place that you are in and cast your cares upon Him. Spend time in silence with God and allow Him to calm your heart and mind. When you have finished, take the feelings and emotions that you felt and carry them with you throughout your day.

## PRAYER

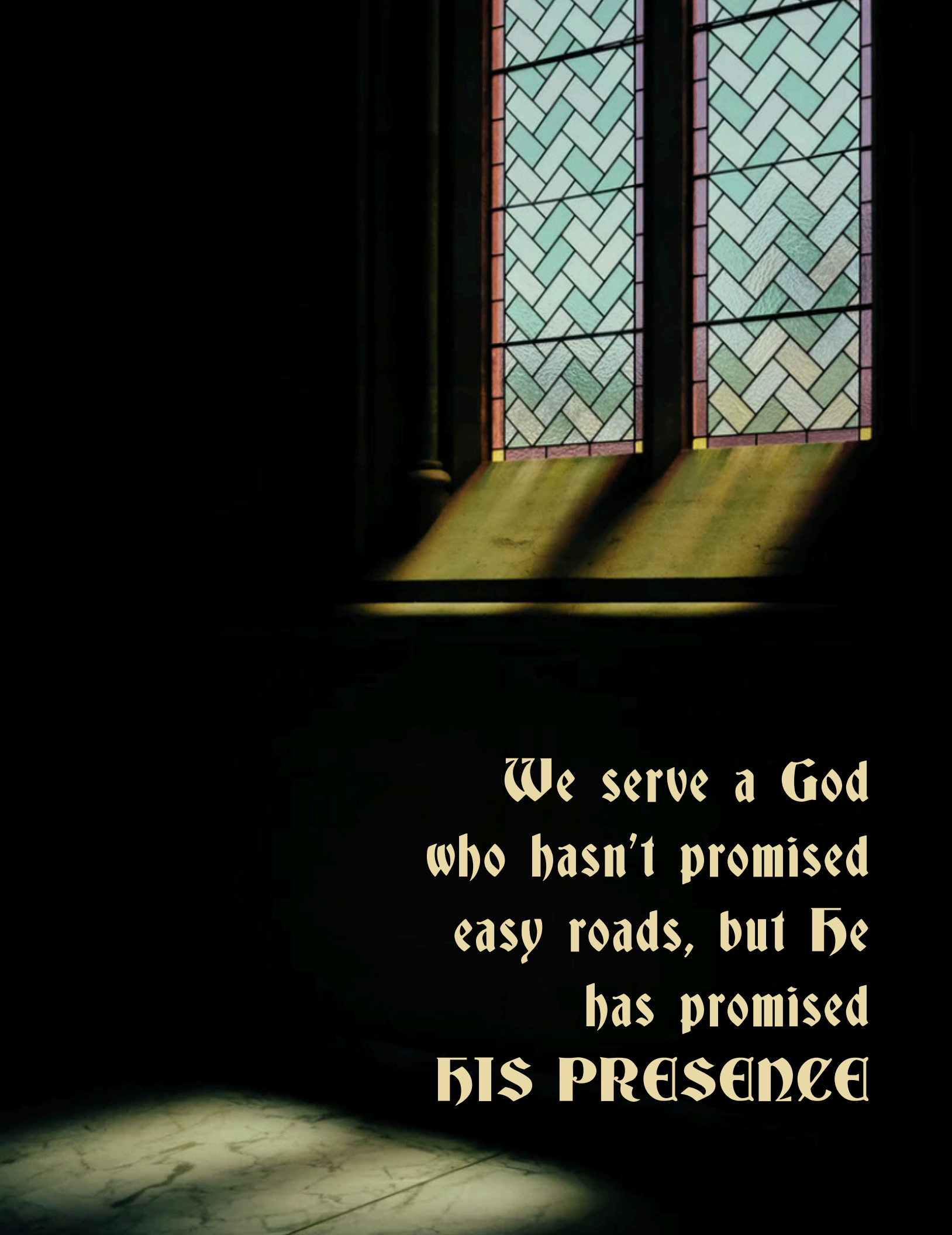
Practice the meditation from the Practicing Spiritual Disciplines section above. How did the time make you feel? Write out a prayer expressing your thoughts and feelings afterward.

[illegible]

## KEY VERSES

**“DO NOT FEAR, FOR  
AM I IN THE PLACE OF  
GOD? AS FOR YOU, YOU  
MEANT EVIL AGAINST  
ME, BUT GOD MEANT IT  
FOR GOOD, TO BRING IT  
ABOUT THAT MANY  
PEOPLE SHOULD BE  
KEPT ALIVE, AS THEY  
ARE TODAY.”**

**GENESIS 50:19-20**



We serve a God  
who hasn't promised  
easy roads, but He  
has promised  
**HIS PRESENCE**

*Take time to write out some of your thoughts each day surrounding the verses you've read.*

What is happening in this passage? What should you learn from it?

What truth is this passage directing you to see? How can you see it better?

What is this passage encouraging you to do? What is the truth and wisdom in that encouragement?

How can you personally apply the truth and wisdom in this passage this week?

BELONG

Have you ever found yourself in the wrong place at the wrong time?  
Tell the story.  
Tell a story about a time that you were absolutely right but were treated like you were wrong. How did it make you feel?

GROW

Without reading in Genesis first, try to recreate the story of Joseph from beginning to end as a group.  
Have different people chime in if details are missed.  
Which aspect of Joseph’s story is the most frustrating to you? Why?  
What do you think the theme of Joseph’s story is?  
How does that apply to our lives?  
Are there specific points in Joseph’s life that you can relate to? Explain.  
Do you think it was easy for Joseph to turn around and bless his family?  
How do you think he could do that without harboring bitterness?  
Is there anything you’re hanging on to that God wants to release you from? Share as you feel comfortable.  
Pray for each other.

REACH

Is there someone in your life that you need to extend grace to and forgive?  
Make a plan for how you might do that before the next time we meet.  
Does anything from Joseph’s story bring up emotions or feelings that God can resolve? How can we pray for each other in these areas this week? Who will reach out and encourage each other?

From Captive to Calling

EXODUS 3-4

TURN THE PAGE BY BEING USED BY GOD TO HELP SET CAPTIVES FREE.

God had to get Moses’ attention in a pretty big way. As we rewind we see that Moses was living in exile as a shepherd for killing an Egyptian guard. God’s message as the burning bush couldn’t come as more of a surprise as He was asking Moses to risk his life going right back into the place where he was a wanted man. God was asking Moses to travel back to Egypt with a message that God would free His people from hopeless slavery and provide them with a new home.

Moses had seen and heard God. He was tasked with being His messenger and spreading the good news of freedom to God’s people. Does this sound familiar? We have been freed from the oppression of sin and the enemy in order to proclaim the good news of God’s freedom to a lost and dying world. The Gospel is too good of news to keep to ourselves!

PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: SERVING OTHERS

Serving others is an opportunity to share the Gospel. When we share our time, talent, and treasures with those around us, we are heralding the kingdom of God into the world around us and declaring God’s good news. We crucify our flesh that would like to keep us bound to our own routines and resources and proclaim God’s goodness by stepping out in faith and offering

KEY VERSES

Memorize,  
Rephrase, or  
Meditate on this verse  
this week

THEN THE LORD SAID, ‘I HAVE SURELY SEEN THE AFFLICTION OF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN EGYPT AND HAVE HEARD THEIR CRY BECAUSE OF THEIR TASKMASTERS. I KNOW THEIR SUFFERINGS, AND I HAVE COME DOWN TO DELIVER THEM OUT OF THE HAND OF THE EGYPTIANS AND TO BRING THEM UP OUT OF THAT LAND TO A GOOD AND BROAD LAND, A LAND FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY”

Exodus  
3:7-8



hope to those in the world around us. This can look like signing up to volunteer at a ministry, dropping off cookies or other treats to neighbors, or any number of opportunities. Pray this week that God would illuminate at least 2-3 ways that He would like for you to serve someone else and then do it.

## PRAYER

Start with Adoration or praising God by reflecting about who He is and why He is worthy of praise. Second, write prayers of Confession. When we recognize who God is and come face to face with His holiness, we realize that we have sinned against him in our imperfection. It's important to Confess these sins and ask for His forgiveness. Third, write a prayer of Thanksgiving - this is a chance to thank God for how he has worked in your life with gratitude and thankfulness. This begins with thankfulness for His forgiveness, but works through all aspects of our lives. Last, write down a prayer of Supplication. Once we have a clear perspective about who God is, how sinful we are, and realize why we are thankful, we can approach God with requests.

[illegible]

*Take time to answer these questions each day surrounding the verses you've read from your reading plan.*

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What is the biggest Truth that you pulled from your reading today? Why did it stand out to you?

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What made it an important truth for you to cling to? How can you apply it to your life? Write down the scripture and the truth that you gleaned.

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What lie are you believing or are tempted to believe that stands in the way of these truths? Take time to refute that lie with the truths that you've learned.

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Claim victory over the lie.  
Write down a sentence that  
says something like this,  
“The lie I’ve believed is  
\_\_\_\_\_, but God’s word  
says that \_\_\_\_\_.”

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## BELONG

In Exodus 3:1-3, Moses witnesses the miracle of the burning bush. Ask each member of the group the following questions:

- Do you believe miracles still occur today? Why or why not?
- If you could be part of any miraculous happening described in the Bible, what would it be? Why did you choose this miracle?
- What modern day miracle would you like to witness? Why?

## GROW

Read Exodus 3:1-5 together.  
In Exodus 3:5, God told Moses that he was standing on ‘holy ground.’ Why is the ground holy? How does His appearance as a burning bush signify His holiness? How have you experienced God’s holiness?

Look at Exodus 3:7-10.  
What is the condition of the Israelites? What was the Lord’s response? What have you been held captive to now and/or in the past? What would it take or did it take to be set free? What encouragement might you provide to another person who is held captive to something and needs to be set free?

Read Exodus 3:13-14.  
What name for God is used? What is the significance of this name? What does this name reveal about God’s character? How have you experienced this aspect of God?

Read Exodus 4:1-17 together.  
How did Moses respond at first to God’s calling in his life? Why do you think Moses replied this way? What was the Lord’s reply? What has God called you to do? How have you responded?

Consider Exodus 4:1-17.  
Do you think Moses’ response was driven by insecurity, fear, or selfishness? Does insecurity or fear ever influence your response to God’s calling in your life? Does selfishness ever limit your ability to respond appropriately to His call? In what ways have you been selfish? What steps can you take to remedy this? Is selfishness a sin? Why or why not?

## REACH

Read Exodus 3:7-10 and the article at <https://warinternational.org/understand-the-risks/>.

Is slavery only a problem of the past or is slavery still a problem today? Who is most vulnerable? As a Christian, do you believe that you have a role in addressing modern day slavery? Why or why not?

# Going Deeper

LOOK AT EXODUS 4:1-17.  
HOW DID MOSES’ REPLY INDICATE HIS FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY?

DO YOU EVER FEEL INADEQUATE?

IF SO, IN WHAT AREA(S)?

DID YOU EVER ASK "WHO AM I TO.." IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S CALLING IN YOUR LIFE?

PRAY AS A GROUP OVER ANY FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY AND/OR ANY ONGOING PROBLEMS IN RESPONDING TO THE LORD’S CALLING DUE TO FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY.





## EXODUS 5-11

Moses faced his fears and became the mouthpiece for God in the exodus of God's people from Pharaoh and Egypt. Despite his speech impediment and fear of being imprisoned or killed, Moses stepped out in faith to declare God's word and perform God's miracles. Think of the boldness that this took.

Now think about your life. The same God who sent plagues and declared freedom for the captives lives inside of you. The same God who gave Moses the words to speak and the authority to speak it opens your mouth and speaks truth. So what fears can rationally stand up to that kind of God? We are the sons and daughters of the King and we have His presence and authority to defeat our fear and to stand in the faith that topples the obstacles in our path.

Did you know that celebration is a spiritual discipline? God gave His people a lot to celebrate after their liberation from Egypt and they sang songs and worshipped Him with their lives. This week, let's practice celebration. Our God is the conquering God who looked at our sin and provided a way for us to enter back into relationship with Him. Our God has trampled our enemies under His feet. Find a song of celebration and play it loud, singing along, and declaring the goodness of God. Then join us at church and celebrate His goodness with your brothers and sisters.

Write a prayer of celebration.

What has God done in your life to show you His goodness? What has He brought you through? Write out your praises and thoughts as a prayer and thank Him for the ways that He has moved.

[illegible]

*Memorize, Rephrase, or Meditate on these verses  
this week*

[illegible]

God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant."

EXODUS 6:2-5

what fears can  
rationally stand  
up to that  
kind of God?



Take time to write out some of your thoughts each day surrounding the verses you’ve read.

Try to answer the Who, What, When, Where, and Why questions about this passage.  
Who wrote it, What is it about, When was it written, Where did it take place, and  
Why did they include this passage in scripture? What do these observations teach you about God?

How is this passage relevant to your life today? In what ways is it applicable and how can you immediately put to use what you're learning through reading?

Write out any promises that you've gleaned from these portions of scripture, whether explicitly stated or inferred. Declare these promises over your life in prayer. Ask God for his will and his timing in these promises.

BELONG

Watch this video from gotquestions.com about the significance and meaning of the ten plagues described in Exodus chapters 5 through 11: [https://youtu.be/eG1AtT\\_d1kl](https://youtu.be/eG1AtT_d1kl)

GROW

Read the article at <https://www.gotquestions.org/ten-plagues-Egypt.html> .  
Consider Exodus chapters 5 through 11.  
What was the significance and meaning of the ten plagues described in Exodus 5 through 11?

Read Exodus 5:10-23. What happened? How were the Jewish people feeling? Who did they blame? Was this fair? What was Moses’ response? Have you ever been asked by the Lord to do something difficult or something that was misunderstood by others? What was your response?

Look at Exodus 6:1-9 together. What were the circumstances of the Jewish people? What was God’s promise to them? Why did they have difficulty listening to Moses when he described God’s promise to them? Have you ever had difficulty believing in God’s promises to you? When? Why?

When have you experienced doubt and/or fear? How have you turned doubt and/or fear into faith?

Read Exodus 7:1 and 2 Corinthians 3:18.  
Who would Moses appear to be like to Pharaoh? As Christians, how are we to be becoming more like the Lord? What is the difference between appropriately becoming more like God and trying to be God? Do you ever feel that you do not want to be like God? Why?

REACH

According to Exodus 11:3, how was Moses regarded by the Egyptian people and officials? Do you find this surprising? Why? Why was he regarded this way by the Egyptians? How did this influence his ability to show God’s power to the Egyptians? Have you ever asked for this type of favor to improve your witness for Christ? Why or why not? Would this be beneficial to your ability to share the Gospel with nonbelievers?

GOING DEEPER

Consider Exodus 7:13-14, 22; 9:7, 12, 34; (For deeper study, also see Exodus 8:15,19, 32; 10:1, 20, 27, and 11:9-10.)

How was Pharaoh’s heart described? Who hardened Pharaoh’s heart? Did he harden his own heart? Or did God harden his heart? Have you ever hardened your heart toward God, now or in the past? If so, when? How? What was the result? Pray together, confessing any areas of hardening of the heart towards God, and asking for a soft heart towards Him.

# From Guilt to GRACE

**EXODUS 12:1-32; 14:1-31** \_\_\_\_\_

TURN THE PAGE BY RECEIVING THE RANSOM THAT WAS  
PAID FOR YOUR GUILT.

The story of the nation of Israel's rescue from Egypt is dramatic and full of God's provision. During the Passover, God provided for salvation for His people through the sacrificial blood of a lamb painted on the doorposts of their homes. These lambs hearken back to the blood that was shed to provide Adam and Eve garments after their fall, but also foreshadow the blood that was to be shed by Jesus Christ to provide new life for anyone who would believe and obey. Jesus, the Lamb of God, provides an escape from our guilt and shame by paying the price for our death once and for all.

Because the presence and power of sin still nip at our heels, it's easy to fall into guilt, shame, and fear. As the people of God, we are covered like the Israelites in Egypt who painted their doorposts with the

blood of the lamb. Let's worship God and rest in the radical love of Jesus who would provide such a gift for His people.

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: GRATITUDE

Sometimes the feelings of shame and guilt can bind us up and make us believe things about ourselves that are no longer true in the light of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. One practice that can help us to cease our striving and rest in God is to live a life of gratitude. When we focus on the things that we're thankful for, we have a tendency to forget the things that keep us bound up. Take time this week to make a gratitude list. What are the things in your life that you have been blessed with? Start with big things and work your way down to even miniscule things. When you start to feel anxious or feel your attention slipping towards the negative, recall your list and say a prayer of thanksgiving.

[illegible]

## PRAYER

Focus on gratitude this week. Each day take the list that you put together from Practicing Spiritual Disciplines and write a prayer thanking God for 2-3 of the items. Don't just thank Him, but put detail into it - why are you grateful? What about the things makes your life better? Where would you be without them? Express your thoughts and gratitude to God.

This image shows a single sheet of cream-colored 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.

## KEY VERSE

*Memorize, Rephrase, or Meditate on these verses  
this week*

For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast."

EXODUS 12:12-14

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. On the left side, there is a vertical yellow margin strip. The paper appears to be part of a notebook or a set of loose-leaf papers.

Take time to answer these questions each day surrounding the verses you've read from your reading plan.

Why do you think this passage was written? Why is it important enough to be in the Bible? What do you think the overall theme or topic is?

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Which verse seems to be the most important thought in this passage? Why? Take time to write out the entire verse and the reference.

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Make a list of the promises you find in the passage. How do these apply to your life?

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Is there anything that didn't make sense in the verses you read? Any words, thoughts, or concepts you have trouble wrapping your brain around? Take time to look up the answers - you could use some of the resources provided on the series page.

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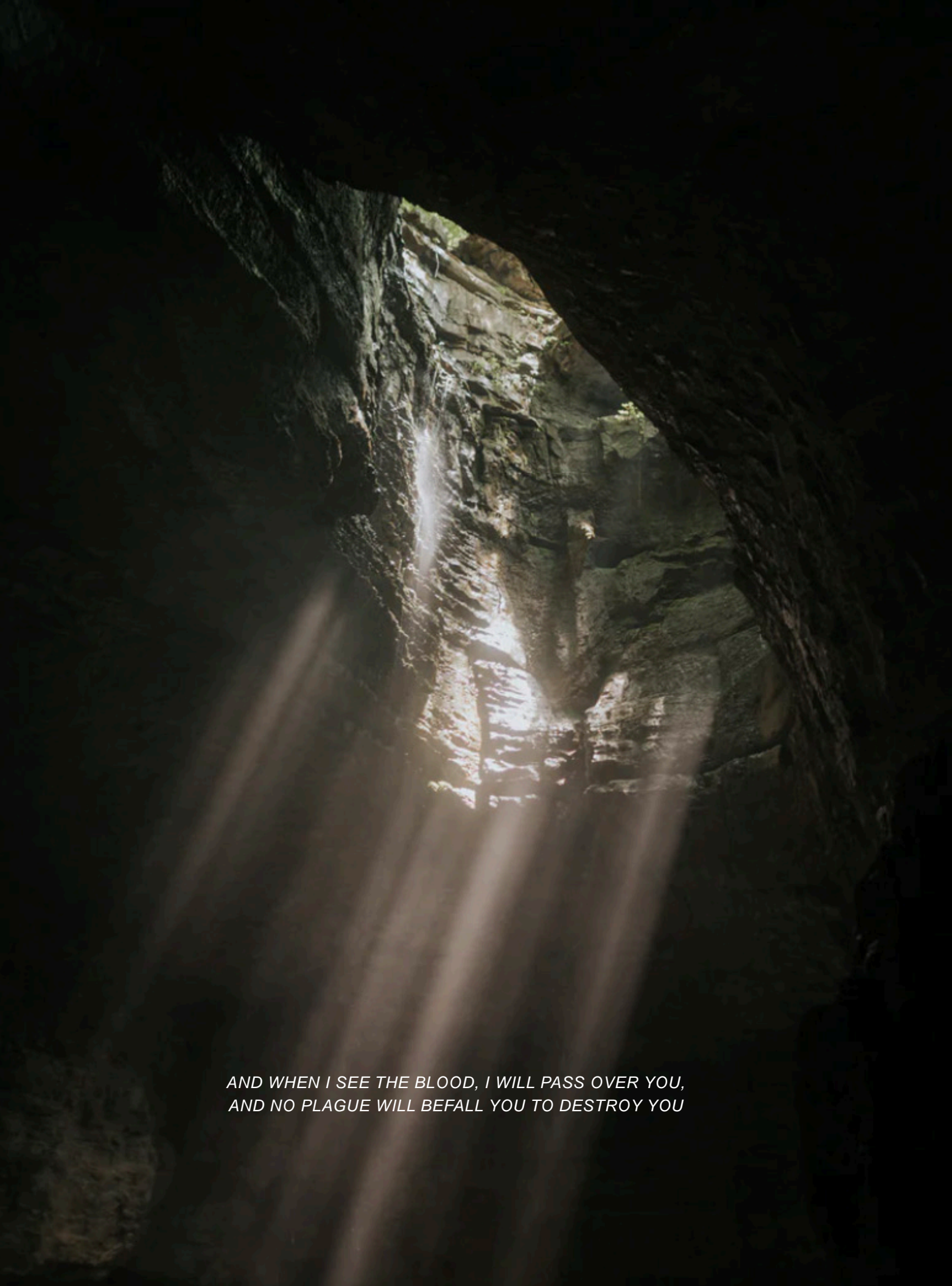
What does this passage mean to you? What actions should you take based on the reading and journaling you did this week? What are your next steps today?

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AND WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD, I WILL PASS OVER YOU,  
AND NO PLAGUE WILL BEFALL YOU TO DESTROY YOU



BELONG

Think of a time where you’ve felt guilty over a misunderstanding or silly situation. Share it with the group if you’re comfortable.

What purpose does guilt serve? Is there anything positive that comes from it?

GROW

In Exodus chapters 11 & 12, we read about the final plague, the Passover. Following nine terrible plagues to punish Pharaoh’s stubbornness and commitment to enslaving God’s people, God takes one final, decisive action to change Pharaoh’s mind. However, before that, God gives His people a rather odd command...to ask their Egyptian neighbors for their gold and silver jewelry. Have a member of your group read Exodus 11:1-3, and discuss the following thoughts/questions:

What must have been the relationship between the Israelites and the Egyptians for them to be willing to share their valuable jewelry?

Why do you think God had the Israelites do this prior to their departure? (Exodus 3:21-22 & Genesis 15:14)

After God, through Moses, warns Pharaoh of the upcoming punishment that will be dealt against Egypt, He then gives detailed instructions to the nation of Israel about how they are to celebrate the Passover in perpetuity (which is still done to this day). Have your group read Exodus 12:1-28, having each member read a few verses, focusing on the following points:

God does not take the Passover lightly; it was a costly punishment for Egypt, but was also a powerful reminder of the might of the God of Israel, and a very clear picture of Christ’s sacrifice to come and the power of the blood of the Lamb to save those who believe.

The Passover was actually such a big event that the Hebrew calendar begins its year with the Passover month

The importance of unleavened bread is tied to the haste with which Israel left Egypt, as shown in Exodus 12:33-34, 39.

Then, in Exodus 12:29-32, God carries out the Passover, which impacts every single household in Egypt. Have a group member read these verses and discuss your thoughts freely.

Does this punishment seem excessive, unjust, harsh?

Do you think this was in response to Pharaoh’s actions in Exodus 1:15-16?

Do you think that a lesser plague would have changed Pharaoh’s mind and heart?

At this point in the story, although the punishment was severe, we see a glimpse of hope for Pharaoh’s heart, as he requests that Moses and Aaron bless him before they depart...

REACH

What is the purpose of remembering in scripture?

What are some practical steps we can take to remember God’s provision as a group?

How can we share the beauty of God’s salvation with those around us this week?

Who will you tell and how will you do it?



# From Scapegoat to Salvation

LEVITICUS 10:1–3; 16:1–29

TURN THE PAGE BY REALIZING THE  
IMPORTANCE OF JESUS' FINAL  
WORDS, "TETELESTAI"

Jesus was fully God and fully man. He lived a perfect life despite temptation and walking the earth for 33 years. This is important because only a perfect, unblemished sacrifice can stand in the gap to forgive us of our sins. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection rescued us from our sin and provided a future hope for us as adopted sons and daughters of God. Because of this we have been saved from the penalty of sin. We no longer have to fear death or separation from God.

We are in the process of being saved from the power of sin. While sin is defeated, we still fall into old habits and heart issues that stand in between us and

God. When Jesus returns he will banish sin from the world and we will be saved from the presence of sin. As Jesus died on the cross, He declared the word Tetelestai - meaning It is Finished. In that moment He stood in the gap to rescue us from the penalty of sin and to provide us new life. This is at the heart of the Gospel - while we were still sinners, Christ died for us to give us new life.

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: CONTEMPLATION

In preparation for Holy Week, the spiritual discipline of contemplation is an effective exercise. Jesus' work on the cross provided new life for us and that should sit as a heavy weight as we realize that our sins aren't simply taken from us, but cost Jesus every-

thing. When He spoke the words, "it is finished," he bore the weight of the sin and death that we deserved, and provided new life for us. The art of contemplation is to sit within simple thoughts and allow your heart and mind to feel the emotions that come without trying to push them away. Allow yourself to think about your sin. Allow yourself to think about separation from God. Invite the Holy Spirit to sit with you in the emotions. Contemplate what the sacrifice of Jesus truly means and open your heart and mind to the weight that comes with these thoughts. When you have sat in contemplation for a while, offer a prayer of gratitude to God, thanking Him for restoring relationships and providing new life.

# TETELESTAI IT IS FINISHED



KEY VERSES

Memorize, Rephrase, or Meditate on these verses this week

AFTER THIS, JESUS, KNOWING THAT ALL WAS NOW FINISHED, SAID (TO FULFILL THE SCRIPTURE), "I THIRST." A JAR FULL OF SOUR WINE STOOD THERE, SO THEY PUT A SPONGE FULL OF THE SOUR WINE ON A HYSSOP BRANCH AND HELD IT TO HIS MOUTH. WHEN JESUS HAD RECEIVED THE SOUR WINE, HE SAID, "IT IS FINISHED," AND HE BOWED HIS HEAD AND GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT. JOHN 19:28-30

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PRAYER

Write out as many details about Christ's life, death, and resurrection as you can think of. Take time to write prayers thanking God for bringing new life and providing the sacrificial lamb of Jesus Christ. Spend time writing what it means to you and how you should respond in your daily life.

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Take time to answer these questions each day surrounding the verses you've read from your reading plan.

What does this passage have to teach me today? Write down lessons that characters learned or principles that are present that you can glean from this passage.

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What don't you understand about the passage? Take time to write down these questions. What could be illuminated through further study? What principles should you discuss with those around you?

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What are some of the nuggets of truth from this passage that you can learn from? What truths do you need to take away and put into practice?

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What will you do with what you've read? How can you put the lessons and truth into action this week? Write out your steps and follow them!

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APRIL 4

PERSONAL GROWTH GUIDE

# From LAW to LIFE

EXODUS 20:1–21: 32:1–35: NUMBERS 21:4–9

DESPITE MAN’S FAILURE TO KEEP THE LAW, THERE IS A GREATER HOPE IN CHRIST.

Easter is the season of hope. This hope is that while we can never truly follow the law of God because of our imperfection, God saw it fit to send His son to write the law on our hearts and provide us with life everlasting.

While we constantly break the covenant with our sin, Jesus steps through and takes the punishment for us and provides us with new life. Easter is the season to remember that we have a great Savior who comes to take the sins of the world and provide a new relationship with the loving and perfect God. What a Savior, What a God!

## PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: CELEBRATION

Jesus is alive! He died for our sins and rose again to conquer death, hell, and the grave! We are in a season of celebration. Find songs to sing, people to break bread with, and come to church to celebrate His resurrection!

## PRAYER

Write out a prayer thanking God for giving new life and for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Think about what Easter means to you and how you can celebrate in this season because of what Jesus has done. Pray this prayer throughout the week.

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PERSONAL GROWTH GUIDE

Take time to answer these questions each day surrounding the verses you’ve read from your reading plan.

What is happening in this passage? What should we learn from it?

What truth is this passage directing us to see? How can we see it better?

What is this passage encouraging us to do? What is the truth and wisdom in that encouragement?

How can we personally apply the truth and wisdom in this passage this week?





IF YOU ARE MEETING  
THIS WEEK, FORGET  
THE QUESTIONS!

PLAN AN EASTER MEAL  
TOGETHER AND SPEND  
TIME IN CELEBRATION  
OF THE NEW LIFE THAT  
JESUS GIVES.

# HONEY GARLIC BUTTER ROASTED CARROTS

PREP TIME	COOK TIME	TOTAL TIME
10 MINS	25 MINS	35 MINS

EASY, SIMPLE, WONDERFULLY DELICIOUS GLAZED ROASTED CARROTS PREPARED WITH A GARLIC BUTTER AND SWEET HONEY SAUCE.

## INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds carrots
- diagonally cut into about
- 2 to 3-inch pieces
- 5 tablespoons butter
- 4 garlic cloves minced
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh
- ground pepper
- chopped fresh parsley
- for garnish

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 425F.
- Grease a rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray and set aside.
- Cut up the carrots and set aside.
- Melt butter over medium-heat in a large nonstick skillet.
- Add garlic and cook for 3 minutes, or until lightly browned, stirring very frequently.
- Remove from heat and stir in the honey;
- stir until thoroughly combined.
- Toss the carrots with the prepared sauce either in the skillet, or pour the sauce over the carrots in a mixing bowl.
- Season with salt and pepper, and mix until well combined.
- Transfer carrots to previously prepared baking sheet.
- Arrange in one layer and bake for 22 to 25 minutes, or until carrots are browned and tender.
- Remove from oven and transfer to a serving plate.
- Garnish with fresh chopped parsley.
- Serve.



# Thank You

FOR STUDYING GOD'S  
WORD WITH US!

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