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YHWH DEVOTIONAL

BY JAMIE BENNETT

RE-*Introducing* GOD



You will never do what God says until you know who God is.

We all have moments where obedience to God feels hard—or even impossible. We know the right thing, but we stall, make excuses, or simply choose our own way. At the heart of that hesitation is almost always a gap in our understanding of God. If we saw Him clearly—His power, His love, His wisdom, His presence—obedience would no longer feel like a burden, but the obvious and joyful response.

This devotional is designed to help you close that gap. Over the next eight weeks, we'll explore eight characteristics of God that are essential to knowing Him deeply:

- **God has a Name** – He reveals Himself personally.
- **God is Holy** – He is set apart in purity and majesty.
- **God is Eternal** – He has no beginning or end.
- **God is Immutable** – He never changes.
- **God is Omnipotent** – He is all-powerful.
- **God is Omnibenevolent** – He is perfectly good.
- **God is Omnipresent** – He is everywhere at once.
- **God is Omniscient** – He knows everything.

Each day's reading will help you see that these aren't just theological terms to memorize—they are truths that change how you see the world, how you understand yourself, and how you live your everyday life. You'll find stories, Scripture, and reflection questions that invite you not just to study about God, but to actually meet Him in the pages.

The goal isn't simply to know more facts *about* God; it's to *know Him*. Once you see Him as He is, you won't just want to obey—you'll want to follow Him anywhere.

GOD HAS A NAME

We begin with one of the most staggering truths in all of Scripture: God is not a vague force, an unnamed deity, or an abstract concept. He has a name. He has made Himself known. And in Jesus, we see Him face to face.

This week's devotionals will show how God's name reveals His heart, His authority, and His unshakable power to save. We'll see that Jesus doesn't just point us toward God—He is God, bearing the divine name and demanding our whole allegiance. We'll wrestle with the truth that no other name can rescue us, reshape our prayers, or reach the people we've written off. And we'll be reminded that His victory is already secured, even as we await its full arrival.

By the end of this week, you'll not only know God's name—you'll know why it matters for every part of your life, every person you meet, and every prayer you pray. When you know God's name, you know who He is - only then will you trust Him enough to obey.

Day One

GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE

Scripture:

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. - 2 Corinthians 4:6

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Genesis 1 records God's voice speaking all of reality into being. His voice is so powerful that it brought existence itself into being. He spoke the sun and stars into being. He speaks and people are consumed, leaving only ashes. When Moses asked to see God's face, he was only allowed to see God's back—and even then, his own face shone with God's reflected glory. Isaiah becomes a weeping mess upon seeing the *hem of His robe*. Over and over again, God's glory overwhelmed anyone who saw it. Then, in the greatest event in history, God poured His glory into human form and became one of us. He lived as we do, felt what we feel, faced our struggles, and gave Himself a name: Jesus. God showed us exactly who he is in Jesus; everything we know about God is seen in Christ. Then, God places His glory in our hearts by sending Holy Spirit to live in everyone who calls Christ Savior.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

Have you ever prayed, "God, I'd trust you if you would just show up. I'd obey if I just heard your voice. I'd never doubt if you'd just ring my doorbell and let me know you're real." Buckle up, buttercup, because *he did*. In Jesus, we look fully and completely on God's glory. We see God's heart, kindness, strength, and love literally made flesh and blood in Jesus. When we say "God, if you'd just..." we're

asking him to do again what he already did in spectacular fashion. Those who believed saw God's glory in Christ's face, teaching, and life. He fed the hungry. He forgave those who attacked him. He worshipped God continually. He shared meals with outcasts and defended the defenseless. He gave his life up to see others live. This is God's glory turned loose for us to see.

WHAT CHANGES

We don't live life guessing what God wants us to do or how God wants us to live. He's shown us what it looks like to live in his glory. Ultimately, we have an example, not a set of rules. Christ is the light of God set before us. Have you spent enough time studying the life of Jesus to follow his example? Do you give Holy Spirit permission daily to shine the light of God's glory through your heart? Reflecting God's glory isn't an act of imagination, its an act of imitation!

1. IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING FOR GOD TO "SHOW UP" WHEN HE ALREADY HAS THROUGH JESUS?
2. WHAT PART OF JESUS' LIFE MOST CLEARLY SHOWS YOU WHAT GOD IS LIKE—AND HOW DOES THAT CHALLENGE OR ENCOURAGE YOU?
3. ARE YOU LETTING THE HOLY SPIRIT REFLECT GOD'S GLORY THROUGH YOUR LIFE, OR ARE THERE AREAS WHERE YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO LIVE BY YOUR OWN LIGHT?

Today, read Matthew 5–7 and choose one trait or teaching of Jesus to imitate (like mercy, humility, or generosity). Set an hourly reminder for the next 12 hours with a one-word prompt (e.g., "Forgive" or "Bless") to help you actively live it out and let God's glory shine through you.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Jesus, thank You for showing me exactly who God is through Your life, words, and actions. Help me walk so closely with You that my life reflects Your light to others."

Day Two

A DEMANDING GOD

Scripture:

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"
- John 8:58

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Abraham was the founding father of the Jewish faith. Abraham was the beginning of their identity, their culture, and their self-worth. He was the most important figure in their life, with Moses the Lawgiver coming in at a close second. Moses had led their Hebrew ancestors out of slavery in Egypt after meeting God. In one of the most famous stories in the Old Testament, God speaks to Moses through a burning bush, giving him his history-shaping mission. Moses doubts and asks to know the name of the god who speaks to him. God's answer is simple, profound, and has been debated for the last 3,500 years. "I Am." Maybe He was telling Moses that He was existence itself, creator of all. Maybe He was refusing to give Moses His name. Maybe He was asserting that He was too complex and glorious to be named. Maybe all of this is true. What was certainly true was that every Jew viewed that name - I Am or YHWH - as belonging to God alone. Jesus isn't misunderstood here, and it isn't a slip of the tongue. Before Moses or even Abraham, I Am God, God is me, and I will not pretend otherwise.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

Jesus was looking into the eyes of the most influential people in His culture. These were the leaders of the villages He entered, the heads of the synagogues He taught in, the friends and neighbors who had helped raise Him. These people

were asking who He thought He was, and Jesus was answering in no uncertain terms: I Am GOD. I am equal to Him, the same as Him. His name is my name. Jesus was refusing to be seen as anything but God made flesh.

WHAT CHANGES

Jesus still makes the same claim on us today - He is God, and He asks for all of us. You cannot make him “just” savior, “just” a teacher, or “just” a really good guy. He will not quietly agree to be the founder of your religion or a very important historical figure. If you are going to follow this Jesus, He will not stop until you make Him what He really is: God. He will not allow you to give Him pieces or sections of your life - that is an insult to Him. He will not be Lord of your marriage but ignore your wallet - He demands it all. He will not smile at your skill and ignore your addiction. He will not allow Himself to be tucked neatly into a corner of your life, he insists on the whole thing. He is “I Am”, and he won’t settle for anything less. What area of your life have you kept locked away from his control? Where are you protecting your sin rather than your soul? Set that before him today and give him control of it.

1. HOW DOES YOUR VIEW OF JESUS SHIFT WHEN YOU FULLY ACCEPT THAT HE CLAIMED TO BE GOD—NOT JUST A TEACHER, HEALER, OR SAVIOR?
2. WHAT PART OF YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU TRIED TO KEEP UNDER YOUR OWN CONTROL INSTEAD OF SURRENDERING IT TO HIS AUTHORITY?
3. ARE THERE WAYS YOU’VE UNINTENTIONALLY MADE JESUS SMALLER OR SAFER THAN HE TRULY IS?

Today, name one area of your life that you’ve withheld from Jesus—whether it’s a habit, relationship, thought pattern, or desire. Write it down, pray honestly about why you’ve held onto it, and say aloud: “Jesus, I surrender this to you—not as a helper, but as my God.” Then take one practical step toward giving Him control in that area.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Lord, You are not just my helper or guide—you are my God. I surrender every part of my life to Your authority today.”

Day Three

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Scripture:

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. - Acts 4:12

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Israel was cautioned over and over against placing its trust in the wrong places. They were warned not to trust their own army, horses, skill, religion, the walls around their cities, or the king who sat on the throne. None of these things would save them when the time came. There was only one place their trust should be placed, and that was in God. Simon Peter made it clear that placing faith in anyone other than Christ was foolishness and would end in defeat, humiliation, and enslavement.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

What names do you trust? Maybe you bought that paperback because you trust the author - his work is always great. Maybe you refuse to drive anything but a vehicle with a bow tie, blue oval, or three stars on the front because you trust that brand. What is your favorite chicken restaurant, and why is it Chick-fil-a? Because that name focuses on consistency. Names are powerful. Scripture is explicit - only one name has real power. Only one name can save you from your failures, your mistakes, and your own brokenness. Only one name is stronger than our sin. Only one name defeated death, offered to take our punishment, and declared our sin-debt paid by His own righteousness. That name is Jesus, and no other name has the power to save us.

WHAT CHANGES

You are not saved by your church, your pastor, your parents, or your own goodness. No teacher or theologian can do the work needed to set you free. Many alternatives exist, but only one option has the power to save. If those things are your planned plea when God asks why He should welcome you into his kingdom, you'll be out of luck. We only have one choice, because only one name has the power, authority, and holiness to forgive us. Just as importantly, no name has the power or authority to undo what Christ has done.

1. WHAT NAMES OR SOURCES DO YOU FIND YOURSELF TRUSTING IN WHEN LIFE FEELS UNCERTAIN—YOUR OWN ABILITY, RELATIONSHIPS, SECURITY, SUCCESS?
2. WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S TEMPTING TO RELY ON THINGS *OTHER THAN JESUS* FOR PEACE, IDENTITY, OR SALVATION?
3. HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOUR CONFIDENCE TO KNOW THAT *NO ONE* CAN UNDO WHAT CHRIST HAS ALREADY DONE FOR YOU?

Write down three things you often trust more than Jesus—things you look to for comfort, worth, or security. Then next to each one, write a sentence explaining why Jesus is better, stronger, and more trustworthy than that source. Keep this list where you can pray over it and revisit it when you're tempted to rely on something else.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Jesus, remind me that no other name can save or satisfy me. Help me place my full trust in You instead of anything else.”

Day Four

BETTER PRAYERS

Scripture:

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. - John 14:13

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

To the people hearing Christ speak, the idea of a “name” represents the entire person. To them, your name represented who you were. To do something in someone’s name was to do it in their honor, in accordance with their wishes, and in a way that was consistent with their character. Christ was telling them that when they asked God to do something that was consistent with his plan, his desires, and his character, it would happen because God would be honored and given glory. This was Christ’s only mission and his highest priority.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

We’re often tempted to either abuse or downplay the truth at the center of this verse. We downplay this truth when we flippantly end a prayer “in Jesus’ name.” Little thought is given to the power of that request. At its worst, we believe this truth is a way to manipulate reality. I can ask to pass the test I didn’t study for, ask for someone to be humiliated, to beg not to be caught in my tax evasion as long as I invoke Jesus’ name like some kind of magic spell. The deep truth of this verse is much more demanding and beautiful. Jesus is saying that our hearts should be so transformed that we are praying the same prayer He is. We are praying over the same situations as Jesus. Our hearts are breaking with His heart and rejoicing when He does. In other words, Christ’s prayers should be coming from our lips. When we pray with the heart of Jesus, we can rest assured

God will move because God will get glory, fame, and the world will be a step closer to being one with His Kingdom.

WHAT CHANGES

This is an incredibly demanding passage. Your heart should be so deeply changed and transformed that you want what Jesus wants. Your ambition should be His ambition and you should be dreaming His dreams. This is a process that begins the instant you commit to following Him, and takes a lifetime to complete. The Christian life is - at its core - a constant rewriting of our own souls so that they mirror Jesus' more closely. That doesn't mean its necessarily wrong to pray for a new Corvette or a lake house or to get into the school of your dreams, but it does mean that one day, our desires will be reshaped to want what He wants.

1. HOW OFTEN DO YOUR PRAYERS REFLECT JESUS' DESIRES—OR ARE THEY MORE OFTEN FOCUSED ON YOUR OWN WANTS AND COMFORT?
2. WHAT MIGHT CHANGE IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE IF YOU BEGAN EVERY REQUEST BY ASKING, "IS THIS SOMETHING JESUS WOULD WANT?"
3. IN WHAT AREAS OF LIFE DO YOU NEED GOD TO RESHAPE YOUR DESIRES TO BETTER ALIGN WITH CHRIST'S HEART?

This week, start each prayer by asking: "Jesus, what are you praying for in this situation?" Pause to listen, then shape your words to reflect what you believe aligns with His will. Write down any themes or patterns you notice over time.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, reshape my desires so they line up with Yours. Teach me to pray the kind of prayers that bring You glory."

Day Five

NO ONE

WEEK 1:
GOD HAS A NAME

Scripture:

... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- Romans 10:13

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

To review what we covered yesterday, doing something in someone's name does not mean using their name to get what we desire. It is acting with the intent of doing what they would do. It means we act as if their desires are our desires. That changes the complexion of this verse as well. God's desire is that everyone would come to Him and trust in Him. If we come to him, he will rescue us. It is good and right and his deepest desire that we come and ask him to rescue us and put us back in relationship to him. He will never ignore that request.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

When my wife asks me to load the dishwasher, I will occasionally roll my eyes. Once or twice I've pretended to be asleep when one of our kids came into our bedroom in the middle of the night. But if she sees a spider and screams, I leap to action. I LOVE to save the day for her. I will run from one end of the house waiving my shoe like King Arthur waiving Excalibur - your knight in shining armor has arrived to slay the beast! I want to be the hero to my bride. I want to save her from the danger, real or perceived. I relish the chance to rescue her and show her my love. In a much more deep and real way, God delights in rescuing us. He is waiting for that first cry to step in and save us from our sin. He is anxious for us to turn control over to Him so He can work out what we are missing and where we fall short. God delights to save everyone who comes to him.

WHAT CHANGES

This should change how we pray for others and how we treat others. There is no one we'll meet that God doesn't want to save from their sin. There is no one God doesn't rush to give eternal life to. There is no one that God doesn't leap to bring back into a good relationship. Who do we refuse to pray for? No one - we're praying in God's name, and his heart is to save everyone. Who can we write off? Not a single soul. We can't give up because he doesn't. Today, decide on the name of one person who has hurt or attacked you and begin to pray for their salvation or restoration with God daily. The darkest, most wicked person you've ever met is one broken-hearted cry from God ripping them out of Hell's jaws.

The best news? That means he's just as eager to save you.

1. DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT GOD IS EAGER TO SAVE *EVERYONE*—INCLUDING THE PEOPLE YOU STRUGGLE TO LIKE OR FORGIVE?
2. HOW DOES IT CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF GOD TO SEE HIM AS A RESCUER WHO DELIGHTS IN ANSWERING CRIES FOR HELP?
3. WHO IN YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU STOPPED PRAYING FOR OR GIVEN UP HOPE ON?

Identify one person who has hurt you, disappointed you, or seems far from God. Write down their name and commit to praying for their salvation or restoration every day this week. Ask God to give you His heart toward them.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Father, thank You for being eager to save anyone who calls on You. Give me Your heart for the people I’m tempted to give up on.”

Day Six

ALREADY, NOT YET

Scripture:

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. - Philippians 2:9-11

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Jesus' victory and ascent to the throne is assured - its a done deal. We find ourselves in the awkward space between "He's won" and "He's taken control." Theologians call this the "Already/Not Yet". God has lifted him up over all things, and everything is going to recognize his rule. But everything will fall into two camps: those who recognized Him willingly and became allies, and those who recognized Him after rejecting Him and being separated from Him for eternity. That first group will live in unending reward, the second group will live in unending defeat. In this space, we decide what that eternity looks like.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

The Civil War officially ended on April 9th, 1865 when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his command to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. The last battle of the Civil War ended on May 13th near Brownsville, TX and is known as the Battle of Palmito Ranch. For those of you keeping score, the battle ended a month after the war was over. In much the same way, we're in a war that has already been won. Satan is still fighting (and fighting dirty) despite the fact that Jesus has won.

WHAT CHANGES

First, we must remember that victory is only one more fight away. Satan delights in making us think that the situation is hopeless when he's on his last leg. Secondly, most of us will find parts of our life where we are still in rebellion even though we've given Jesus control of our lives. Our job is to purposely start to bring these areas to Christ and surrender them. Because the war is won, obedience is never wasted.

1. IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU STILL "FIGHTING A BATTLE" EVEN THOUGH YOU BELIEVE JESUS HAS ALREADY WON THE WAR?
2. HOW DOES KNOWING THAT EVERY KNEE *WILL* BOW TO JESUS—WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY—SHAPE THE URGENCY OF YOUR FAITH AND RELATIONSHIPS TODAY?
3. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE AS SOMEONE ON THE *WINNING* SIDE, EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T ALWAYS FEEL LIKE IT?

Identify one area of your life that still resists full surrender to Jesus—whether it's fear, control, addiction, or pride. Write it down, pray over it, and tell someone you trust that you want to begin surrendering it to Christ starting today.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Jesus, thank You that the victory is already Yours. Help me live each day in confident surrender, fighting the battles that remain with hope."

*Sabbath Quote
to Reflect On:*

**“HE DID NOT
SAY, ‘BEFORE
ABRAHAM WAS,
I WAS,’ BUT, ‘I
AM.’ FOR HE
IS EVER THE
SAME, WITHOUT
BEGINNING OF
DAYS.”**

– AUGUSTINE

GOD IS HOLY

If God's name reveals who He is, His holiness reveals how unlike anyone else He is. To say God is "holy" isn't simply to call Him good or moral—it's to say He is set apart, gloriously different, and beyond comparison. His thoughts are not our thoughts, His ways are not our ways, and His presence changes everything it touches.

This week, we'll explore how God's holiness shapes our worship, our access to Him, and our calling to live differently in a world that prefers comfort over conviction. We'll see that His holiness isn't cold or distant—it's active, inviting, and costly. Through Jesus, the perfectly holy High Priest, we have an open door into God's presence. Through the Spirit, we have a personal Coach training us to live with His set-apart character.

Holiness is not optional for God's people—it's the standard. Sometimes it means being different in ways the world won't understand. Sometimes it means receiving God's loving discipline so that we can share in His holiness. And always, it means trusting His way over our own. By the end of this week, you'll see that God's holiness is both awe-inspiring and life-shaping—and that His call for us to be holy is an invitation into the best and truest life possible.

Day One

WHAT HEAVEN SEES

Scripture:

Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come." - Revelation 4:6-8

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Stop me if you've heard this one: A lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man walk into the throne room... This isn't the setup to the most awkward joke ever; this is a glimpse at how eternal, unimaginably powerful beings view God. The passage above describes a scene from God's throne, and the first thing you'll notice is how hard it is to wrap your head around. Heaven is full of images that are just completely foreign to our senses and our reality, like these angels. The Bible describes them as beasts covered in eyes and having six wings. In short, they're unsettling in how strange and different they look. The really interesting thing is what these indescribably strange beings are saying as they look at God - He's holy, holy, holy. In the Bible, repeating something once meant "Pay attention!" Repeating it three times means "Don't miss this!" Holy, by its strictest definition, means different, set apart, or reserved for a very specific purpose. They are saying that He is different, different, different. He's unique, unique, unique. He's strange, strange, strange. That repetition is meant to drive the point home - God is absolutely nothing like what we would imagine, and that is *wonderful* news.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

These heaven-dwellers could have picked any characteristic of God to celebrate. They look at the one who painted the first sunrise, but they do not call him creative. They gaze on the one who pulled the mountains out of the fields, but they don't call Him powerful. He set into motion ALL laws of physics, thermodynamics, nuclear fusion, and even knows all of those oxidation levels that caused you to fail high school chemistry, but they don't mention wisdom or knowledge. They're in awe of how beautifully different He is. Different, different, different. He doesn't think like me, feel like me, behave like me, or react like me - isn't that wonderful news? The disciples were constantly surprised by how Jesus responded to situations because of how holy, different, and set apart He is. When they expect Him to get mad, He shows mercy. When they expect Him to fight, He is silent. When they expect Him to walk away, He charges in. He is holy, and no one completely understands Him.

WHAT THIS CHANGES

It's foolish to assume you know how God would respond, what He feels, or what He would say in any situation. He is different. The next time you think He is mad at you, ashamed of you, done with you, *take a breath*. You don't know. When you feel like He'd give you permission to tell someone off, give them a piece of your mind, or let them know where they've come up short, think again. He is different from you - that is what makes Heaven stand in awe. It should leave us in awe too.

- 1. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE SURPRISED BY HOW GOD WORKED IN A SITUATION?**
HOW DID THAT MOMENT CHALLENGE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHO HE IS?
- 2. WHAT ASSUMPTIONS DO YOU REGULARLY MAKE ABOUT HOW GOD THINKS OR FEELS ABOUT YOU?**
ARE THOSE ASSUMPTIONS ROOTED IN TRUTH OR IN YOUR OWN HUMAN REASONING?
- 3. IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU TEMPTED TO ACT BASED ON YOUR NATURAL INSTINCTS INSTEAD OF PAUSING TO CONSIDER GOD'S HOLY, DIFFERENT RESPONSE?**
WHAT MIGHT CHANGE IF YOU TRUSTED HIS WAY OVER YOUR OWN?

This week, intentionally pause before reacting to a difficult situation or person.

In that pause, pray: *“God, you’re not like me. Help me respond in a way that reflects your holiness, not my habits.”*

PRAYER PROMPT

“God, You are holy—completely different from me in every way. Teach me to stand in awe of who You are instead of assuming I already understand You.”

Day Two

ALL ACCESS

Scripture:

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever. - Hebrews 7:26-28

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

The primary job of the high priest was to speak to God on behalf of the people. Once a year on the Day of Atonement, he entered the most holy (set apart, unique, other) part of the temple. Literally, this was called the “Holy of Holies” or “The Most Holy Place.” It was the place where God allowed his glory to show up here on earth. If he had properly prepared, he was permitted to offer a blood sacrifice that enabled the people to be in relationship with God. If he did not prepare himself thoroughly, the glory of God would overwhelm and kill him, like a moth flying headlong into a bug zapper. Later tradition says that a rope was tied around the high priest’s ankle and putting bells on his robe. If the bells went quiet, they would drag the (now dead) high priest out by the rope. It wasn’t that God was vindictive, it was that God’s holiness is overwhelming to sin. Every year this stressful cycle repeated.

Until Jesus. Jesus doesn’t just enter the Most Holy Place, he grabs us by the arm and brings us with Him. He is so perfect, so holy like His father, that His perfect holiness covers us. Because we are with Him, we belong.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

I had friends who were major donors and season ticket holders for UK basketball. They took me to a game once, sitting me right over the top of the chute where the team entered the arena. What was more impressive was what happened when they took me to the VIP room. I was ducking past state legislators, brushing up against B list celebrities, and grabbing concessions I could neither pronounce nor afford. On any other occasion, I would have been thrown out of that room, but because I walked in with Theresa, I was treated like royalty. I belonged because I was with her.

Entering God's presence became less about the process and more about the presence - we are covered in Christ's holiness, so God's holiness is no longer a danger - it's a delight. We aren't covered for just one year, we're covered forever. We are welcomed in because we're with Him.

WHAT CHANGES

Praying is entering God's presence. We often carry a feeling of insignificance or unworthiness. When we pray, we need to do it with the understanding that Jesus is grabbing us by the arm. He is saying to us, "Come on! Let's go talk to My Father." This means that we belong there. Do not let feelings of discomfort, guilt, or unworthiness make you forget that you belong in God's throne room because Jesus has carried you there. Your High Priest has pulled back the curtain and welcomed you into the most holy place. You belong not because of what you've done, but because of who you're with.

1. WHEN YOU PRAY, DO YOU TEND TO APPROACH GOD MORE LIKE AN OUTSIDER HOPING FOR MERCY OR A WELCOMED GUEST CONFIDENTLY ENTERING A PLACE YOU BELONG? WHY?
2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU THAT JESUS DOESN'T JUST MAKE A WAY TO GOD, BUT BRINGS YOU WITH HIM?
3. HOW DOES UNDERSTANDING JESUS AS YOUR PERFECT HIGH PRIEST CHANGE HOW YOU VIEW YOUR ACCESS TO GOD TODAY?

Before your next prayer time, pause for a moment and visualize Jesus taking

your hand and walking you into God's throne room. Then, pray boldly — not like a visitor, but like a beloved family member who belongs there.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Jesus, thank You for taking me by the hand and bringing me into the Father's presence. Help me pray with confidence, knowing I belong there because of You.”

Day Three

A HIGHER STANDARD

Scripture:

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." - 1 Peter 1:14-16

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Of course, it is true to say that God is holy. It's also easy to see Christ as holy - something unique, unusual, and even unsettling marked His life. The Jewish listeners in these churches would have especially recognized that the priests of their faith were called to be different. Peter was quoting from the book of Leviticus in verse 16. But here is the twist: Peter is writing to both Jews and non-Jews. The non-Jews wouldn't have had a clue what God's law was. Peter calls them to live holy lives—pure, unique, and set apart for God's purposes—even though they were just ordinary folks. In short, following Jesus meant leaving behind old desires and beginning to live like God, like Jesus, like the priests were supposed to. They were leaving the broken desires of their past and beginning a life living imitating God, as Jesus had done and the priests were supposed to do.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

We often excuse ourselves by saying we are not extraordinary. I can't slam dunk a basketball from the free throw line because I am not Michael Jordan. I can't paint a once in a thousand year masterpiece because I am not Leonard DaVinci. I cannot come up with a billion dollar idea because I am not Steve Jobs or Jeff Bezos. God knows my limits—but He still gives this incredible command: "Be holy like Me." Thankfully, He also gives His Spirit to make it possible. But notice what he's saying: don't conform to your evil desires. Don't give in to the darkest

parts of yourself. Fight against those parts of you that are unholy, unjust, unkind, unspiritual. You aren't in the dark now - you know Jesus and his example. Tell yourself "No" and follow his example. You don't have to be like Jordan, you have to be like Jesus. That is both much easier and much more difficult.

WHAT CHANGES

When your mind wanders, where does it go? What does your imagination dwell on? Do you think about the ways you'll act that are like God, or do you think about the ways you'll fail? Do you imagine what could happen on a business trip with that person from work you're attracted to, or do you imagine yourself walking through the door and throwing your arms around your spouse? Do you fantasize about telling off the guy that works three stations down, or do you replay the conversation imagining how Jesus would have spoken to him? Do you look around your town grateful for the opportunities you have, or do you think about how lucky everyone else is that you are here? Do you dream of being the most powerful person in town one day, or are you thinking through how you can best serve your neighbor? Our standard is impossibly high, but impossibly noble: "Be holy because I am holy".

1. IN WHAT SPECIFIC AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU STILL "CONFORMING TO YOUR OLD DESIRES" INSTEAD OF LIVING LIKE SOMEONE SET APART?
2. HOW DOES IT CHALLENGE YOU TO REALIZE THAT GOD CALLS *ORDINARY PEOPLE* TO LIVE HOLY LIVES LIKE JESUS?
3. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE IF YOUR THOUGHT LIFE AND IMAGINATION STARTED TO REFLECT GOD'S HOLINESS?

Today, choose one unholy thought pattern or habit—bitterness, jealousy, lust, pride—and commit to interrupting it each time it shows up. Instead, ask the Holy Spirit to help you build a holy imagination and begin to plan how you can respond in more Christ-honoring ways.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, You call me to be holy like You. Give me the strength to say 'no' to my old desires and 'yes' to the life You've set me apart for."

Day Four

A SUPER MAN

Scripture:

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.
- Acts 3:13-15

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Peter is addressing a crowd that gathered after he healed a lame man.. They were gathered just outside the Temple Mount, where the religious people often gathered. Why was Peter doing this? Because he knew, followed, and believed in the Holy and Righteous One—Jesus. Jesus had been different, set apart, outside. That holiness marked His power—He raised the dead, fed the hungry, cast out demons. But that same holiness also exposed sin, which is why the world hated Him. It's why He was crucified. But God raised him to life, and Peter saw it happen. Now Peter himself couldn't help but live like Jesus—holy, different, set apart.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

Superman was written from the beginning to give hope to Jewish kids who felt hated. For Jewish kids reading about Nazis murdering their people, Superman offered hope—an otherworldly savior sent from above by his father. I love the monologue from the 1978 Superman Movie, where Superman's father explains why he has sent Superman to Earth. "Live as one of them... Discover where your strength and your power are needed. Always hold in your heart the pride of your special heritage. They can be a great people... they wish to be. They only lack the light to show them the way. For this reason above all, their capacity for good, I have sent them you, my only son."

In the same way, God sent Jesus to be different—holy, set apart, even strange among us. He would shine the light in places where people preferred darkness. He would love the unlovely. He would stand for truth and justice and God’s kingdom even when God’s people lost their way. He could be the light because he was different from us. The problem is that people often resist what is different, other, even holy—because it exposes how unholy we are. Jesus was fully human like us, yet completely different from us. And because of that, God used Him to save the world.

WHAT CHANGES

Jesus is Jesus - there is no one else like him. We must accept that He is holy, different, set apart—and only then do we see that He alone can save. We must also accept that in following Jesus, we will be seen as he often was. It will leave us feeling alone, left out, and “other” at times. That won’t always feel okay—but it is part of the plan. Following Jesus means carrying light into darkness and love into a world that is sometimes very, very hateful.

1. WHY DO YOU THINK THE WORLD OFTEN REJECTS WHAT IS HOLY, EVEN WHEN IT BRINGS HOPE AND HEALING?
2. IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU FELT “DIFFERENT” OR “OUTSIDE” BECAUSE OF YOUR DECISION TO FOLLOW JESUS?
3. ARE THERE AREAS WHERE YOU KNOW THE RIGHT THING TO DO, BUT YOU’VE BACKED AWAY FROM DOING IT BECAUSE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT OR MAKE YOU UNPOPULAR?

Today, choose one small way to carry Christ’s light into a dark place—whether it’s a word of kindness to someone difficult, a moment of integrity when no one’s watching, or giving your attention to someone who is often overlooked. Embrace being “different” like Jesus, even when it feels uncomfortable.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Jesus, You are unlike anyone else who has ever lived. Help me embrace the calling to be different like You, even when it feels uncomfortable or costly.”

Day Five

AN ACT OF LOVE

Scripture:

They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. - Hebrews 12:10-11

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

The writer of Hebrews is addressing Christ-followers who had grown up in the Jewish faith. Because they had joined this sect, they were often exiled from their families, excluded from the Jewish community, and ended up losing all social and economic ties. It was costly to follow Christ. That might sound harsh, the writer encourages them: these hardships are God's discipline—His way of shaping them into who they need to become. Their difficulties were evidence of God loving them enough to grow them. It is not pleasant, and no one wants it to happen, but they will understand when they finally see the end result: God's holiness in themselves.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

My first paying job was mowing the church yard. I usually did this on Saturdays—no school, and the lawn looked fresh for Sunday. One week, I mowed late and did not bother blowing the clippings off of the sidewalk or parking lot. On his way home from work early Sunday, Dad checked my work. At 7:30 a.m., he yanked the cover off me and tossed me my clothes. "We don't do 'half-way.'" He sat in the parking lot after a long night of work and watched me blow every blade of grass off of every parking space. I never skipped clean up

again. I learned to value my work and do it well—not by choice, but because my parents loved me enough to discipline me.

Because He loves us, our Father sometimes leads us through difficult circumstances to make us like Him—different, set apart, holy. Through His discipline, He makes you and me holy. This isn't something we can do halfway—God loves us too much to leave us unfinished.

WHAT CHANGES

Suffering is not a path we would choose willingly. Still, it is the path God often uses. It is in our most difficult circumstances that we make a choice: will this make me better, or bitter? To make us bitter, we just have to resent the hardship. But to make us better, we have to trust that God is using the pain for a purpose. Rather than trying to wriggle out of the hurt, our call is to stay with it until God has finished His work. In the end, his discipline makes us holy in ways we never would have seen through comfort and ease.

1. CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN GOD USED A DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE TO SHAPE YOUR CHARACTER OR GROW YOUR FAITH?
2. HOW DOES VIEWING HARDSHIP AS *DISCIPLINE FROM A LOVING FATHER* CHANGE YOUR RESPONSE TO CURRENT STRUGGLES?
3. IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE MIGHT GOD BE LOVINGLY CALLING YOU TO SOMETHING GREATER—EVEN IF IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE?

Today, write down one hard thing you're currently facing. Then, underneath it, write: "God, if You're using this to make me holy, I don't want to miss it." Commit to praying that phrase every time frustration, fear, or bitterness starts to rise.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Father, thank You for loving me enough to shape me through discipline. Help me trust that even my hardest moments are producing holiness in me."

Day Six

GETTING STRONG NOW

Scripture:

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. - Jude 20-21

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God's call for us to be holy flows directly out of His own holiness. We're called to be holy like Him. We're called to be holy like Him. Jesus is the perfect image of holiness, and God disciplines us to help us grow into it. All of this leads us to one frustratingly beautiful truth - our holiness is a partnership. Holy Spirit moves into our lives to quietly guide us, direct us, and discipline us into our holy, unique, set apart identity. We cannot become like Christ on our own power. But we do have to exercise willpower in response to His leading. The Spirit tells us what to do—and what not to do. He leads us toward holiness, but we have to listen and obey. We must build ourselves up by listening to his leadership.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SHOWS

Every great sports movie has a training montage, but the king of all of them is Rocky. In Rocky II, we get that iconic image of Sylvester Stallone running up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, fists raised in triumph. It's so famous they even put up a statue. Rocky needed an external voice—his coach Mick—pushing him to run faster, hit harder, eat better, jump more rope, all to the backdrop of iconic '70s and '80s rock. You're humming "Eye of the Tiger" right now, aren't you? But Mick couldn't train in Rocky's place, and he couldn't step into the ring for him. Holy Spirit speaks within us, coaching us in righteousness. Pray today. Read your Bible. Forgive your enemy. Give from your blessings. Talk

to your neighbor. Serve others. Gather with other believers. On and on, he gives us instruction. If we don't follow his lead, we'll never be ready for the fight we're up against. Holiness comes when we listen to our coach and obey His advice.

WHAT CHANGES

You'll never reach holiness on your own, but God didn't ask you to. You aren't fighting in your own strength, but you do have to fight! Our job is to wake up every day and obey Holy Spirit as he trains us to be righteous. If we follow his lead, we'll be amazed at the battles we can win.

1. WHERE IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU EXPECTING TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS WITHOUT ACTUALLY LISTENING TO OR OBEYING THE HOLY SPIRIT?
2. HOW WOULD YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH CHANGE IF YOU SAW IT AS DAILY TRAINING GUIDED BY A PERSONAL, PRESENT COACH?
3. WHAT IS ONE AREA WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS BEEN PROMPTING YOU—BUT YOU'VE BEEN SLOW TO ACT?

Today, pick one "training rep"—a small act of obedience the Holy Spirit has been nudging you toward (prayer, forgiveness, generosity, service, etc.). Commit to do it before the day ends, not perfectly, but intentionally, trusting the Spirit to make you stronger through it.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Holy Spirit, thank You for being my constant coach and guide. Give me the courage to obey Your promptings today so I can grow in holiness."

*Sabbath Quote
to Reflect On:*

**“THERE IS NO
SHORTCUT TO
HOLINESS; IT
MUST BE THE
BUSINESS OF OUR
WHOLE LIVES.”**

– WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

GOD IS ETERNAL

We measure life in moments—birthdays, deadlines, anniversaries, seasons. But God’s existence can’t be measured. He has no beginning, no end, and no expiration date on His power, love, or purposes. From before “In the beginning” to long after the last day, God is, and always will be.

This week, we’ll explore how God’s eternal nature shapes everything we see and everything we hope for. We’ll see that the One who holds forever uses His endless life to give life, that Jesus Himself is eternal and present at the very first moment of creation, and that God’s perspective stretches far beyond our limited view. We’ll wrestle with the reality that His timing—though sometimes frustrating—is always perfect, that He calls us to value the unseen over the temporary, and that He has planted eternity itself in our hearts.

When we see God as eternal, our priorities begin to shift. We stop clinging so tightly to the fleeting “sandboxes” of comfort and recognition, and we start living with a forever focus—trusting His plan, investing in what lasts, and inviting others into the life that never ends.

Day One

ETERNALLY GENEROUS

Scripture:

"In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen." - 1 Timothy 6:13-16

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God is the fountain of life. All life comes from Him. He is immortal, unending, eternal. Life began in Him, is held together by Him, and He will remain after this thing we call life is over. God is bigger than our lives, our world, the oldest and darkest and farthest parts of reality and creation. *He was before before*. He existed before existence. He defines every definition. God is endless and eternal, and we'll spend the rest of our lives straining to wrap our imagination around it.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

In the '80s, there was a TV show and movie series called *Highlander*. The plot was the stuff of every 10 year old boys' dreams: a race of immortals roamed the earth in secret. They would battle other Highlanders with swords until only one was left. There can be only one. It was cheesier than you can imagine—and my pre-teen self loved every seco They used their immortality to gain power for themselves. Scripture shows us how very different God is from that picture. The One who is immortal took on mortality by becoming a man in Jesus Christ. The One who is unending life stepped into death to free us—and then walked

out of the grave to prove He is the source of power, life, and eternity. Instead of becoming the only one, He offers us the chance to join Him in perfect union, peace, and love. His deepest desire is for there to be many.

WHAT CHANGES

Just as the eternal God welcomed us into His forever life, we should use the power and influence we have to bring others in. God has called us from a spirit of scarcity - there can be only one - to a spirit of generosity. We are called to bring as many into eternal life as we can. The One who holds forever—and is forever—has given us the gift of forever. The question is: what will we do with it?

1. HOW DOES IT IMPACT YOU TO REALIZE THAT GOD—WHO IS ETERNAL AND IMMORTAL—*CHOSE* TO EXPERIENCE DEATH SO YOU COULD LIVE?
2. ARE YOU LIVING WITH A MINDSET OF SCARCITY OR *ETERNITY* WHEN IT COMES TO SHARING YOUR FAITH AND RESOURCES?
3. WHAT WOULD CHANGE IF YOU TRULY BELIEVED YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF FOREVER?

Identify one person this week you can invite into a conversation about eternal things—whether through sharing your story, offering prayer, or inviting them to church. Don't hoard forever. Offer it.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Eternal God, thank You for stepping into death so that I could live forever with You. Help me live with an open hand, sharing the life and hope You've given me with others.”

Day Two

DOMINOES

Scripture:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." - John 1:1-3

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Yesterday we saw that God is eternal. Today, John shows us that Jesus is too. He was before everything, and through Him everything was made. All things exist because of Him; without Jesus, nothing would exist at all.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Sometimes I stop and watch videos of elaborate domino setups falling. Domino enthusiasts spend hours lining up pieces—over furniture, across ramps, riding RC cars, even jumping gaps—until they form dazzling patterns of color and shape. The charting of what dominoes go where can take days to lay out. The complexity proves there was a designer—it didn't just randomly happen. The best part, for me, is when someone flicks that first domino and the whole plan comes alive. All of that setup and preparation and work immediately springs to life with one single motion. Each domino hits the one in front of it until the process and picture are complete.

Our world is not random. It is intricately designed and laid out. Nothing is random; nothing is overlooked. Behind it all is Christ, the Word through whom God made everything—the One who set the first domino of history in motion. That same level of precision, of beauty, of intentionality was used to save you. That same craftsmanship rules over your workday schedule and watches over you at 3 a.m. The same foresight and power that created yesterday are guiding you into tomorrow.

WHAT CHANGES

Your life and its events are not random. God sees and knows. He has always seen and known. As your circumstances change, you can face anything knowing God truly has a plan. That plan is as well thought out and executed as our ecosystem, our galaxy, the swirling of protons and electrons around the nucleus of our atoms. You are not random, and neither is what you are facing. God has a plan!

1. WHAT'S ONE AREA OF YOUR LIFE THAT HAS FELT RANDOM OR CHAOTIC LATELY? HOW DOES IT CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE TO BELIEVE JESUS IS BEHIND IT WITH A PLAN?
2. DO YOU TRUST THAT THE SAME GOD WHO DESIGNED GALAXIES WITH PURPOSE ALSO DESIGNED YOUR STORY WITH INTENTION?
3. HOW DOES KNOWING JESUS WAS PRESENT AT THE FIRST MOMENT OF CREATION AFFECT THE WAY YOU VIEW HIS ROLE IN YOUR LIFE TODAY?

What are the five hardest things you've ever faced? Name them now. Look back through them and notice the circumstances and people God used to bring you through them. Now, what present circumstance has you scared, stressed, or doubtful in your life? Every time you think of that circumstance today, quietly repeat, "He is still with me. He is still with me. He is still with me." Picture his hand on your shoulder. Breathe deeply every time your anxiety jumps.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Jesus, thank You for designing my life with the same care You used to create the stars. Help me trust that nothing in my story is random, but part of Your perfect plan."

Day Three

THE 30,000 FOOT VIEW

Scripture:

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." - 2 Peter 3:8

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God stands outside of time. Every moment is fully visible to Him at once. Every second is completely accessible at once. Right now, He sees creation's beginning and the final judgment equally clearly. For God, nothing is a mere memory or a prediction—it is all present before Him and under His power. He sees every move you make and how it ripples far beyond your lifetime. He already knows your choices and has planned and prepared His purposes accordingly. Everything He does, He does to move us back into a relationship with Himself.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

I am afraid of heights, but I love to fly. I've flown over the European countryside, and from the sky it's beautiful beyond words. What on the ground looks like a pretty field of grain or flowers looks like a giant square on a giant quilt. One flower is beautiful—but a million in a field is breathtaking. From the plane, you can simultaneously see where you've been, where you are, and miles ahead to where you're going. In a similar way, God views your life from a higher perspective than you ever could. He doesn't just see the moment you're in—He sees your entire lifetime and beyond. He's aware of the moment you're celebrating or struggling with, but he also sees the months and years behind and ahead all at once. Everything is laid before the Eternal God at once.

WHAT CHANGES

We can hold today loosely—whether it’s the greatest, worst, or most ordinary day we’ve ever had. We only see the pressure and potential of today. God sees it all. We can trust Him, knowing He sees so far beyond our vision. He acts with insight beyond our capacity—for Him, a day is like a thousand years. He is moving everything toward His good purposes, because to Him a thousand years is like a day. We can trust Him with where we are, because He clearly sees where we’ve been and where we’re going.

1. WHAT CURRENT SITUATION ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND OR CONTROL THAT MIGHT LOOK VERY DIFFERENT FROM GOD’S ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE?
2. HOW WOULD YOUR STRESS OR ANXIETY SHIFT IF YOU REMEMBERED THAT GOD ALREADY SEES HOW TODAY FITS INTO THE BIGGER PICTURE OF YOUR LIFE?
3. ARE YOU WILLING TO TRUST GOD’S TIMING, EVEN WHEN HIS PACE DOESN’T MATCH YOURS?

Map your journey. Create a timeline of 3–5 major moments in your life—good or hard—and write how you see God’s hand at work in each. Then leave space at the end labeled “*What’s next?*” and write: “*God already sees this.*” Post it where you’ll see it this week as a reminder of His eternal view.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Lord, You see the beginning, the middle, and the end of my story all at once. Teach me to rest in Your perspective when my own vision is limited.”

Day Four

DIVINE TIME

Scripture:

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." - 2 Peter 3:9

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God's timing is perfect. He doesn't think only in terms of what seems best now—He is working with a perspective that stretches thousands of years. He also works in light of things that happened thousands of years ago. God plays "the long game," with the focus on the end result, not the immediate appearance. When He moves in a way that seems slow, we can trust there is a reason. Whether He moves in ways that seem slow or impossibly fast, we can trust there is a reason. Very often, that central reason is the salvation of a person, a family, a city, or even humanity. God waited about two thousand years between His promise to Abraham and Christ's birth.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Paul tells us in Galatians that God sent Christ in the fullness of time. This contrasts with many moments when people accused Jesus of not moving quickly enough. Mary and Martha were frustrated that Jesus arrived after their brother had been in the grave four days. When the synagogue ruler's daughter died, messengers told him not to bother Jesus anymore—He was too late. Jesus walks in and tells her to rise up, giving her back to her grieving parents. Over and over, Jesus seems slow—but every time, what could have been amazing becomes miraculous. Jesus often delays to give God greater glory.

WHAT CHANGES

We often feel God has moved too slowly for our comfort—and sometimes think His delay has made victory impossible. God is looking further in every direction than we can comprehend. We can be sure His timing is aimed at salvation—ours or someone else's. This calls us to trust His timing. If it hasn't happened yet, He has a reason. If it has not happened yet, he probably has a reason. It's also a great reminder that God may be making us wait so he can do something amazing in someone else's life. Our comfort is not His primary concern. We may have to be okay with that from time to time, as inconvenient as that may be.

1. WHERE IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW DO YOU FEEL LIKE GOD IS MOVING TOO SLOWLY? WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO TRUST HIS TIMING?
2. CAN YOU THINK OF A PAST SITUATION WHERE A "DELAY" FROM GOD ENDED UP LEADING TO SOMETHING BETTER THAN YOU EXPECTED?
3. HOW WOULD YOUR ATTITUDE SHIFT IF YOU BELIEVED THAT GOD'S TIMING—EVEN WHEN INCONVENIENT—IS ALWAYS AIMED AT SOMEONE'S SALVATION?

Encourage someone else who's waiting. Identify one person who's in a season of delay (waiting for healing, provision, answers). Reach out with 2 Peter 3:9 and a note that says, "God's delay is not His denial. He sees you."

PRAYER PROMPT

"God, I confess I struggle when You seem to move slowly. Give me patience to trust Your timing, especially when You're working for someone's salvation."

Day Five

BETTER THAN IKEA

Scripture:

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Because He sees and is concerned with everlasting outcomes, God often allows us to walk through hard circumstances and suffering. God promises He will never waste our suffering when we entrust it to Him. What we have, achieve, and acquire in this life is temporary, flimsy, and never satisfies. Instead, Paul says we should be concerned with our treasures in eternity. It is the eternal that God calls us to focus on. The rewards God gives in eternity will last forever. Though our nature focuses on what we can see, God calls us to invest in the unseen work of His kingdom—because those rewards last forever. They last forever.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Ikea furniture is inexpensive, easy to assemble, and a breeze to move around the room. If you get tired of it, you could drag it to the curb and light it on fire—it would be gone before you could blink. It's just sawdust and glue. If your toddler stands up on it or jumps on it, it will break into a thousand pieces. If you spill water on it, it warps and bubbles like a mutant from a 1950s drive-in movie. Real furniture made of real wood is expensive, heavy, and will still be usable for your great-great grandchildren. Ikea furniture is a cheap knock off of the real thing, but it's a lot easier to get.

In the same way, the “glories” of this life are cheap, easy to get, and immediately make us feel special. The problem is, they’re knock-offs. They won’t survive this life. God doesn’t value these shallow glories—and He often allows circumstances that strip them away. Why? He wants us to invest in eternal things, things we can enjoy forever. God won’t let us settle for Ikea glory—He wants the real thing for His children!

WHAT CHANGES

We can pass on the nicest car or the biggest house, knowing they will fall apart. Our generous giving to those in need, those at risk, and those who have been forgotten secures a reward that never collapses. We put little stock in our degrees, awards, and praise, because none of them follow us past this life. The love, kindness, and forgiveness we extend to others will follow us into eternity and outlive us on this earth. The power we gain on earth will one day be taken by someone more ruthless or more clever. The service we give here earns rewards and power that no one will ever take away, because it is given by the Lord of Lords who holds all power. Don’t settle for a knock-off. Invest in the real thing.

1. WHERE IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU MOST TEMPTED TO CHASE TEMPORARY “IKEA GLORY” INSTEAD OF ETERNAL REWARD?
2. HOW DOES KNOWING THAT GOD NEVER WASTES YOUR SUFFERING RESHAPE HOW YOU VIEW YOUR CURRENT CHALLENGES?
3. WHAT “UNSEEN” THINGS—LIKE LOVE, GENEROSITY, OR FORGIVENESS—MIGHT GOD BE ASKING YOU TO VALUE MORE DEEPLY TODAY?

Make one intentional shift today from temporary to eternal: give away something valuable (money, time, attention) that you would usually spend on yourself, and offer it instead as a gift to someone in need or someone often overlooked. As you do, pray: *“Lord, help me invest in what lasts.”*

PRAYER PROMPT

“Father, help me invest in what lasts forever, not in what fades away. Redirect my desires toward eternal treasures instead of cheap imitations.”

Day Six

VIEW FROM THE SANDBOX

Scripture:

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." - Ecclesiastes 3:11

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

We began Week 3 with this thought from 1 Timothy 6:16: God alone is immortal. Ecclesiastes 3:11 is one of my favorite verses because it highlights an often-overlooked gift God has given humanity. We, who are by our very nature temporary and dying, have been given the gift of insight by God. He has set eternity in our hearts. He has invited us beyond our realm to enter His. He built us to last forever. Even though He has drawn us beyond our own world, we cannot fully grasp what He has done or what He is doing. We won't really understand it in this life.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

C.S. Lewis used a powerful metaphor I won't even try to improve upon. We are like children sitting in our backyard, playing in a sandbox. We are perfectly fine with where we are and what we are doing because we don't know anything else exists. God is trying to take us by the hand and lead us out of our sandbox to the beach. He wants to show us the ocean of eternity—something so awe-inspiring we cannot imagine it. Jesus has seen it and described it as "The Kingdom of Heaven," a reality far deeper, broader, and more incredible than anything we can imagine on our own. Life is full of moments when Christ tries to lift our eyes to eternity—the undying Kingdom He has already established. Far too often, we stay content in our sandbox, blind to the amazing things He has waiting if we will lift our eyes and follow Him.

WHAT CHANGES

Living with “eternity in our hearts” changes the way we see the world. When eternity is our focus, we can stop clinging to the “sandbox” of immediate reward and trust God to make everything beautiful in its time. It frees us from demanding that our children and grandchildren be the best, that we have the biggest house, or that our lives be free from suffering. Eternity frees us from demanding everything now and reminds us that God has forever to fulfill the deepest desires of our hearts.

1. WHERE IN YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU SETTLED FOR THE “SANDBOX” WHEN GOD MIGHT BE TRYING TO LEAD YOU TO SOMETHING GREATER?
2. HOW DOES KNOWING YOU WERE MADE FOR ETERNITY SHIFT THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT SUCCESS, SUFFERING, OR TIMING?
3. WHAT’S ONE AREA WHERE YOU’RE STRUGGLING TO WAIT FOR GOD TO MAKE THINGS “BEAUTIFUL IN ITS TIME”?

Interrupt an “instant reward” habit today. Choose one thing you typically do for immediate gratification—scrolling social media, impulse shopping, overscheduling for success—and skip it today. Replace that time or energy with an act of eternal investment: prayer, encouraging someone, reading Scripture, or giving to someone in need.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Jesus, lift my eyes from the sandbox to the ocean of eternity You’ve prepared for me. Give me courage to follow You into the bigger, more beautiful life You offer.”

*Sabbath Quote
to Reflect On:*

“FIGHT FOR US, O GOD, THAT WE NOT DRIFT NUMB AND BLIND AND FOOLISH INTO VAIN AND EMPTY EXCITEMENTS. LIFE IS TOO SHORT, TOO PRECIOUS, TOO PAINFUL TO WASTE ON WORLDLY BUBBLES THAT BURST. HEAVEN IS TOO GREAT, HELL IS TOO HORRIBLE, ETERNITY IS TOO LONG THAT WE SHOULD PUTTER AROUND ON THE PORCH OF ETERNITY.”

– JOHN PIPER

GOD IS IMMUTABLE

Everything around us shifts—trends fade, people change, seasons come and go. We live in a world where even the most reliable things eventually wear out or drift. But God is different. He is immutable—unchanging in His character, His promises, His love, and His plans.

This week's readings will remind us that the God who spoke the sun into being is more steady than the stars, and that His Word will outlast heaven and earth. We'll see that He isn't caught off guard by our failures, doesn't revoke His calling, and never lets go of those He has saved. We'll discover that His plan to rescue us was never a last-minute fix but His intention from before time began. And we'll wrestle honestly with the question: if God's mind doesn't change, why pray?

Through it all, we'll be invited into a deeper confidence—resting in a God who is always who He has been, and will forever be who He is. His constancy isn't just a theological idea; it's an anchor for our identity, a shield for our security, and a reason to trust Him in every circumstance.

Day One

SUNSHINE

Scripture:

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. - James 1:16-17

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Genesis 1 tells us that on the fourth day God spoke the sun, moon, and stars into existence. At this moment is a vivid picture of His incredible power. He speaks, and the source of light and life springs into being. The sun nourishes the trees, which produce oxygen and food for us. The moon's pull brings the tides in and out. The sun and earth's rotation mark day and night. We look to the stars for direction. For centuries, they've guided people in knowing where and when they are. James reminds us that God is their Father. If sun, moon, and stars seem steady, God is even more steady and reliable. The moon waxes and wanes through the month, the sun is sometimes eclipsed, and the stars shift throughout the seasons. God is constant, unmoving, unchanging. We'll never go astray when we navigate by Him, and never miss His timing when we follow His lead. He has always been good—and always will be.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

One of the joys of my life is waking and walking out to sit on my deck first thing each morning. At first it's nearly dark. Twenty minutes later, hazy light lets me read. Forty minutes later, the sun is blinding. An hour after that, it's tucked behind the eave of the house. The sun hurtles through space at 450,000 mph, yet it governs when I wake and when I sleep (mostly!). I think of it as constant and build my entire life around it. But by contrast, God never moves. He never

changes. He will never run or hide, even when I wander away. He will never budge on his holiness, his love, his justice, or his authority. For all my faith in the sun and moon, the only true constant is God.

WHAT CHANGES

God's standards of right and wrong haven't changed in the last 2,000—or 200, or even 20—years. He is the same. His feelings about you did not change overnight because you messed up yesterday. He hasn't decided you're worthless because you fell back into that bottle, that needle, or that website for the hundredth time. He didn't change—you did. Stop assuming His heart for you has changed. It never will.

1. HOW DOES IT COMFORT OR CHALLENGE YOU TO KNOW THAT GOD *NEVER* CHANGES—NOT EVEN WHEN YOU FAIL?
2. WHAT ARE SOME "SHIFTING SHADOWS" IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU'VE WRONGLY TREATED AS YOUR SOURCE OF DIRECTION OR STABILITY?
3. IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU DOUBTED GOD'S CONSISTENCY IN YOUR LIFE—ESPECIALLY AFTER A MISTAKE OR FAILURE?

Today, write down one area where you've been assuming God's love or presence has changed based on your behavior. Cross it out and write beside it: *"He does not change like shifting shadows."* Let that be your anchor every time insecurity or shame tries to speak louder.

Day Two

FLY WORDS

Scripture:

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

- Matthew 24:35

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God's words hold power beyond what we can begin to understand. Just as His words created the sun, moon, and stars, they also laid the foundation of right and wrong, good and evil, possible and impossible. God's words don't just state what is true—they create truth because He said it. What he says will never become untrue or be undone. God's words outlast fads, trends, relevance, or popularity contests. Jesus told His disciples that the ground beneath their feet would give way and the stars fall from the sky before God's words would ever fail. Everything else will crumble before God's Word changes. His Word is the foundation of everything real.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

I submit to you a history of the 90s in a few forgotten phrases: "What up, home skillet? Those shades are da bomb! They make you look fly - no scrubs, yo!" That was a perfectly normal exchange in 1996—but today, it makes little sense. Go on and laugh - your kids will be lost when you look at them in 30 years and say "No cap, that fit is bussin'." Unlike pop culture, God's words never lose meaning. What He said 2,000 years ago, He still means today.

WHAT NEVER CHANGES

Here are some things God said about you that will always be true:

- He loves you. (John 3:16)
- He will *always* love you. (Romans 8:38-39)
- He created you on purpose. (Psalm 139:13-14)
- He has a plan for your life. (Ephesians 2:10)
- He chased after you when you were abandoned. (Ephesians 1:5)
- He wants to make you complete. (Colossians 2:10)
- He will never leave you alone. (Hebrews 13:5)
- He will bring you victory. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Anything else you hear is a lie—these words will never pass away.

1. WHAT VOICES OR OPINIONS HAVE YOU LET CARRY MORE WEIGHT THAN GOD'S UNCHANGING WORD?
2. HOW WOULD YOUR IDENTITY OR OUTLOOK SHIFT IF YOU FULLY BELIEVED THAT GOD'S WORDS ABOUT YOU WILL *NEVER* BECOME UNTRUE?
3. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S UNSHAKABLE TRUTH?

Pick one of the Scripture truths listed (e.g., *He will never leave you alone* – Hebrews 13:5). Make it the lock screen on your phone. Every time you see it, repeat it out loud and let it ground your thoughts in God's unchanging Word.

Day Three

NO SURPRISES

Scripture:

...for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. - Romans 11:29

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Here Paul is writing about promises to two very different groups in very different situations. To Israel, God's call will not be taken away. He will use them to be a light to the world. He promised and called their ancestors, and he will not go back on his word. To the Gentiles—the non-Jewish followers of Jesus—the promise was that the gift of salvation would never be taken away. Once God has given something, he gives it completely and without strings. Taken as a whole, Paul's point is that just as God's character never changes, neither will the gifts He has given His children.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

I used to try to surprise my mom with birthday gifts. The problem was she had to pay for them—I was five. It was hard to surprise her when she already knew what was in the bag. In much the same way, God is never surprised by our choices, failures, or shortcomings. When God promised Abraham He'd bless the world through his descendants, He already knew exactly how unfaithful and troubled they would be. When He sent His Son to die for us, He knew exactly how fickle and unreliable we'd be. He knew all of this before He moved to save us. Your mistake six weeks from now—or your failure twelve years from now—won't change these two truths:

- He has called you to make him famous and bring him glory.
- When He frees you from your sins, He has saved you no matter what.

WHAT CHANGES

We can live confidently in our relationship with God. It doesn't depend on us being faithful—it depends on God's unchanging love. It depends on God's love never changing. God's love will never change because he knew everything we would and would not do before he offered to save us. It also means we don't need to fear our past or our failures. Friends who knew us "back when" will see God's glory through our changed lives. People we've failed recently will see God's grace through our willingness to ask for forgiveness. God knew exactly what He was doing when He saved you from your past and when He called you to serve Him.

1. HOW DOES KNOWING GOD *ISN'T SURPRISED* BY YOUR FAILURES HELP YOU FACE YOUR PAST OR YOUR PRESENT WITH MORE COURAGE?
2. WHAT CALLING OR GIFT FROM GOD HAVE YOU BEEN HESITANT TO EMBRACE BECAUSE YOU FEEL UNWORTHY OR DISQUALIFIED?
3. WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO SEE GOD'S GLORY IN YOUR *TRANSFORMATION* AND GOD'S GRACE IN YOUR *HUMILITY*?

Today, choose one person who knows your past or has recently seen your flaws. Reach out with honesty and humility—whether by apologizing, sharing your testimony, or offering forgiveness. Let your life declare this truth: *God's love doesn't change, and neither does His call on my life.*

Day Four

STEADY HANDS

Scripture:

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." - John 10:28-30

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God is unchanging. He never gets bored, distracted, careless, or sloppy. That's important when you notice how Jesus phrases these verses. "No one can snatch them out of my hands." Then "No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." This is a powerful image: what Jesus takes under His protection—especially your soul—can neither slip out by accident nor be pried away. Then He says the same of the Father. His hands are steady, strong, and watchful. Nothing can pull us away, and He will not let us fall. My picture of this verse will always be drawn from an experience in my teenage years.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

In my late teens I was serving as a youth minister in a small church under the watchful and encouraging influence of an older pastor nearing retirement. He had **gigantic** hands. His fingers could have wrapped all the way around my head. When preaching this passage one Sunday, he called me to the front of the church. "Pretend this handkerchief is your heart. Jamie, wad it up and hold it tight in your hands. Jamie's hands represent Christ's. Your heart is safe when you trust Him. But then, Jesus goes further..." He took both of his giant bear paws and wrapped them around mine. My hands completely disappeared. "My hands represent the Father's. When you make Him your Lord, your soul is

surrounded by both God and Jesus together. To lose that salvation, you'd have to slip out of both Christ's and God's hands—and that is impossible.”

Friend, you are safe when you repent and ask God to be in control of your life.

WHAT CHANGES

We never need to take God's grace for granted, but we do not need to live in fear of losing that relationship. We are safe in the hands of the one who created the universe and the one who saved it. That will never change.

1. DO YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF FEARING THAT YOU'VE SLIPPED TOO FAR FROM GOD'S GRACE OR OUT OF HIS REACH?
2. WHAT DOES IT DO FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE AND PEACE TO KNOW THAT YOUR SALVATION IS HELD BY *BOTH* JESUS AND THE FATHER?
3. HOW WOULD YOUR DAILY CHOICES CHANGE IF YOU LIVED FULLY ASSURED OF YOUR SECURITY IN CHRIST?

Take a quiet moment today to physically cup your hands together and imagine your soul held safely there—then picture God's hands surrounding yours. As you pray, thank Him for His unshakable grip on your life, and write down one fear or doubt you're ready to let go of because you are *secure in His hands*.

Day Five

PLAN B

Scripture:

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. - 1 Peter 1:18-20

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Peter makes it clear: the death and resurrection of Christ was not Plan B. God's decision to offer His Son on the cross and raise Him three days later was not a reaction to shifting circumstances. Jesus was chosen to set things right before a word was spoken in Genesis 1. God knew the price of creating humanity, and He knew the cost of saving humanity. His plan is as unchanging as He is. God knew Adam and Eve would rebel and side with Satan, desiring to take His place. He still chose to create. He knew restoring the relationship and giving humanity a way home would cost His Son. He moved to restore us anyway. God's plan has never changed—it was always meant to be the ultimate expression of love.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Your salvation was not a knee-jerk reaction. God is not sitting in Heaven thinking, "I wish I hadn't forgiven her. I wish I hadn't restored him. This wasn't worth it." God's plan to set you free from the enemy so you could follow His Son has not changed. It will not change tomorrow. This was always the plan. He was certain when He saved you, and nothing you've done—or will do—can change His mind or His heart.

WHAT CHANGES

Insecurity wrecks relationships. While we should never take a parent, spouse, child, or friend for granted, no healthy relationship thrives when “Do you still like me?” is always at the center. I have had the same “best friend” since the third grade. I’m well aware that grown men shouldn’t say that, but there isn’t a better phrase for it. He knows both the darkest parts of my heart and the brightest moments of my life. He’s been told of the things I’m most ashamed of and celebrated my greatest victories with me. I am willing to tell him everything, because I know he will still be my friend at the end. In the same way, God is not changing His mind about you. You were always part of the plan. Don’t approach Him in insecurity—run to Him in both your best and worst moments, knowing His heart for you will never change. Saving you was the plan all along.

1. HOW DOES IT CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF GOD TO REALIZE THAT SAVING YOU WAS ALWAYS *PLAN A*—NEVER A BACKUP PLAN OR MISTAKE?
2. IN WHAT WAYS HAS INSECURITY AFFECTED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD—ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU FAIL OR FALL SHORT?
3. WHAT WOULD YOUR PRAYER LIFE LOOK LIKE IF YOU TRULY BELIEVED GOD HAS NEVER REGRETTED CHOOSING YOU?

Reach out to someone who feels disqualified—someone stuck in shame or failure—and tell them: “*God hasn’t changed His mind about you.*” Encourage them with the same unshakable truth God has used to restore you.

Day Six

WHY PRAY?

Scripture:

Going a little farther, [Jesus] fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." - Matthew 26:39

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Jesus knew, even before the earth was created, that His death on the cross would be required. He would have to surrender Himself to Roman soldiers and to the forces of evil. He told his disciples exactly what was going to happen on numerous occasions. Despite knowing the plan and that it had to happen, He still entered Gethsemane and prayed for God to change His mind—to change the plan.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

With all we've said about God's immutability, it's tempting to think prayer has no purpose. If God cannot change, why ask Him to? If He already knows the plan, why pray at all? I believe a few reasons should draw us to prayer:

1. IT CHANGES US. SOMETIMES OUR CONVERSATION WITH GOD CHANGES US WITHOUT US REALIZING IT. JESUS' OWN PRAYER SHIFTS FROM "TAKE THIS CUP" TO "MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE." PRAYER DOESN'T CHANGE GOD—IT CHANGES US.
2. GOD VALUES THE DIALOGUE. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD CONVERSES WITH ABRAHAM ABOUT SODOM AND GOMORRAH. GOD REVEALS HIS PLAN, THEN LISTENS AS ABRAHAM PLEADS AND BARGAINS: "WHAT IF THERE ARE FIFTY RIGHTEOUS? FORTY? THIRTY?" SOMETIMES MY DAUGHTER ASKS FOR A LATER BEDTIME. I MIGHT INITIALLY SAY NO—NOT BECAUSE I WON'T ALLOW IT, BUT BECAUSE I VALUE THE DIALOGUE. "MY FRIENDS GET TO. I DON'T HAVE SCHOOL.

I'LL BE QUIET." WHEN I FINALLY RELENT, MY PLAN WAS ALWAYS YES. WHAT I WANTED MOST WAS THE RELATIONSHIP.

3. IT BUILDS TRUST. WE DON'T ALWAYS GET THE YES WE WANT, BUT PRAYER LETS US DISCOVER THAT GOD'S PLAN IS BETTER THAN OURS. OVER TIME WE LEARN THAT GOD'S "NO" CAN BE TRUSTED AS GOOD, LOVING, AND KIND.

WHAT CHANGES

God has asked us to come to Him with everything, always (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The more we bring requests to Him, the more we learn that His "Yes," His "No," and even His "Wait" can all be trusted.

1. HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED PRAYING FOR SOMETHING BECAUSE YOU ASSUMED GOD HAD ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND? WHAT DID THAT REVEAL ABOUT YOUR VIEW OF PRAYER?
2. WHEN HAS GOD'S "NO" OR "NOT YET" TURNED OUT TO BE BETTER THAN YOUR ORIGINAL REQUEST?
3. HOW MIGHT YOUR PRAYER LIFE CHANGE IF YOU SAW PRAYER LESS AS PERSUASION AND MORE AS RELATIONSHIP?

Today, bring one unresolved situation to God in prayer. Don't filter it. Ask boldly, but end by saying, "Yet not my will, but Yours. I choose to trust you."

*Sabbath Quote
to Reflect On:*

**“GOD WRITES
WITH A PEN THAT
NEVER BLOTS,
SPEAKS WITH A
TONGUE THAT
NEVER SLIPS,
ACTS WITH A
HAND THAT
NEVER FAILS.”**

– CHARLES SPURGEON

GOD IS OMNIPOTENT

If you've ever felt powerless—trapped in a problem you couldn't solve, facing a need you couldn't meet—this week is for you. God is omnipotent, meaning He holds unlimited power and authority over everything He has made. No situation is too broken for Him to restore, no heart too hard for Him to soften, no storm too violent for Him to silence.

This week's readings will take us from the impossible to the unshakable: Jesus doing what no one else can, holding the entire universe together, driving out sickness and darkness with a single word, and working in ways beyond our imagination. We'll be reminded that even the wind and waves obey Him—and that He sends us out to represent Him with the full authority of heaven behind us.

God's power isn't just something to admire from a distance; it's a reality to trust in, a force to depend on, and a gift to share. The question this week isn't whether God is able—it's whether we will trust, obey, and live as though we believe He is.

Day One

WITH GOD...

Scripture:

"Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." - Matthew 19:26

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

At the time, wealth was often assumed to mean God's special favor. After all, why else would God pour out blessings on someone if they weren't His favorite? (Aren't you glad we've outgrown this attitude and have completely moved past such shallow thinking?!? No?) Jesus flips the assumption on its head: it's nearly impossible for the rich to trust God for salvation. To them, Jesus was saying even the supposed "favorites of God" might not be saved. Who then could possibly be saved? Jesus answers with words that echo across Scripture and into our hearts: God can do what is impossible when it aligns with His perfect will. Nothing is beyond Him.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Don't miss who is saying this—Jesus Himself. He will turn water into wine, walk on water, calm storms, give sight to the blind, make the lame walk, drive out demons, raise the dead, then rise from the dead Himself. Over and over again, God makes it clear: salvation is impossible for people to achieve, but He is all-powerful—doing the impossible again and again. When it brings God glory and matches his will, nothing is beyond Him. If Jesus is alive, nothing is impossible.

WHAT CHANGES

Faith often feels like a fading gift. More and more, we struggle to believe God can overwhelm our reality. Today, you face circumstances and situations that seem impossible. There is no way that loved one can come to faith. We all face circumstances that feel impossible: a loved one who seems too far gone, a past too dark to forgive, a body, marriage, family, or addiction too broken to heal. It is impossible with men, but with God, everything is possible.

1. WHAT IS ONE "IMPOSSIBLE" SITUATION IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW THAT YOU'VE STOPPED PRAYING ABOUT BECAUSE IT FEELS HOPELESS?
2. HOW DOES JESUS' TRACK RECORD OF DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGE YOUR CURRENT LEVEL OF FAITH?
3. IN WHAT WAYS MIGHT YOU BE LIMITING GOD BY ASSUMING HE WON'T OR CAN'T ACT IN A CERTAIN AREA OF YOUR LIFE?

Ask God to reveal something beyond the ability of any human that He wants to do in your life. Maybe its a relationship to restore, a disease to heal, or a person he wants to save who is very far from Him. Commit to praying daily over what he reveals: pray for His intervention, for direction on how He wants you involved, and for help in achieving what He puts in front of you.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, remind me that nothing is impossible for You—not my deepest hurt, my greatest fear, or the person who seems farthest from faith. Give me courage to pray bold prayers and trust Your limitless power."

Day Two

COMING UNGLUED

Scripture:

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." - Colossians 1:16-17

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Jesus was present from the very beginning. He existed with God and was actively involved in everything that was made. Heaven and earth exist because he crafted them. Kingdoms rise and fall because he lifts them up or throws them down. One of the harder parts of this truth is that everything happens because He either directly wills it or permits it. Still, everything we see and everything we live within is held together by His unlimited power.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Scripture makes clear that Christ was deeply involved in creation—and His role didn't end once creation was "finished." He is the power that holds everything together and makes it function. Ecosystems, water tables, gravity, the laws of physics—and even grandma's brownie recipe—all function because Jesus sustains reality.

But consider this: when Jesus dies on the cross, Matthew 27 describes reality coming unglued. *"And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people."*

But even this unraveling was temporary. Three days later, the King rose and began restoring the broken reality Adam had fractured. That restoration continues even now through His sacrifice, His love, and His power. Jesus is still the glue that holds our reality together.

WHAT CHANGES

Jesus is the glue that holds our lives together too. When we push Him out, things inevitably fall apart. But the all-powerful God can also restore what death and sin have torn apart. Nothing in your world is beyond His ability to reassemble and resurrect if you entrust it to Him.

1. WHERE IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW DO YOU FEEL LIKE THINGS ARE “COMING UNGLUED” OR FALLING APART?
2. HOW DOES KNOWING JESUS NOT ONLY CREATED EVERYTHING BUT ALSO HOLDS IT TOGETHER CHANGE THE WAY YOU APPROACH YOUR PROBLEMS?
3. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO FULLY ENTRUST A BROKEN AREA OF YOUR LIFE TO HIS RESTORING POWER?

Repair with intention. Identify one “cracked” relationship in your life. Take one tangible step this week toward restoration—send a text, make a phone call, or set up a meeting. Pray beforehand: *“Jesus, You hold all things together—hold this relationship together, too.”*

PRAYER PROMPT

“Jesus, You are the glue that holds my life together. I place every broken piece in Your hands, trusting You to restore what I cannot.”

Day Three

WORD OF MOUTH

Scripture:

"When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.'" - Matthew 8:16-17

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Jesus walked into Peter's house expecting to rest, but instead found Peter's mother-in-law sick in bed. He touched her hand, spoke, and the fever left immediately—she was soon slapping sandwiches together. Clearly, word spread quickly about what happened. By nightfall, the house is full of people battling demons and illness, desperate to be set free of what holds them back. Isaiah had promised a Messiah centuries earlier—one who would take up our burdens and carry them as His own. Jesus not only cured diseases and cast out demons, but ultimately bore our greatest sickness—sin—on the cross.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

The people in Capernaum faced problems they couldn't fix on their own. But when Jesus took away this woman's illness, everyone found out. Anything that didn't have a fix was brought to Jesus. Friends went to incredible lengths—like ripping open a roof to lower someone down to Him (Matthew 9). It excited them to share something that might help - good news travelled quickly. How fast does it travel with you?

WHAT CHANGES

When something works, you tell people. Maybe it's an amazing gadget: "Try this can opener—it works on everything!" Sometimes it's a medicine or supplement. I cannot count the number of times someone has whispered the word "melatonin" when they find out I have trouble sleeping. Let an area get an amazing doctor who is skilled and attentive, and their practice will be full in six months. Everyone talks about how amazing they are.

So why isn't the phrase "Jesus can help with that" on our lips more? He can redeem marriages, heal bodies, free from addiction, restore hope in depression, and even guide us through everyday problems like anger or work stress. Despite this, we're more likely to recommend a lip-balm or a pair of shoes than the Forgiver of Sins. When Jesus changes our lives, praise should naturally flow—and others should be drawn to seek that same help. When was the last time you prayed for, listened to, or invited someone to church so they could encounter Jesus' help?

1. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TOLD SOMEONE ABOUT SOMETHING JESUS HAS DONE FOR YOU, AND WHAT WAS THEIR RESPONSE?
2. WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S OFTEN EASIER TO RECOMMEND A PRODUCT OR SERVICE THAN TO SHARE ABOUT CHRIST'S POWER TO HELP?
3. WHO IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW IS STRUGGLING WITH SOMETHING YOU KNOW JESUS CAN HELP WITH?

Identify one person in your life who is facing a problem—physical, emotional, or spiritual. Reach out to them this week and share a personal story of how Jesus has helped you in a similar situation. Offer to pray with them right then and there.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, make me quick to tell others about what You've done in my life. Let my words and actions point hurting people toward Your healing power."

Day Four

A LACK OF IMAGINATION

Scripture:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." - Ephesians 3:20-21.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

This verse offers a powerful insight. God is able to do anything in our lives according to his power. He can free us from anything and free us for anything. He places that same power into the lives of anyone who follows Christ. His unlimited power then begins to make the changes needed to make us like Him - to make us holy. We tend to focus only on the problems and solutions we can see, but God is working in ways and on things we can't even begin to imagine. Our limit is not His power, it is our imagination. The beauty is in surrendering to God's will rather than our own. He can solve our problems in ways so far beyond us that we can't begin to picture Him.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Green Lantern is a unique comic book hero. He's like a cosmic marshal, given a green power ring. When fully charged, this ring can do anything he can imagine. The only limit to his power is his imagination. We often fail to see God's omnipotence in our lives because our imagination is too small. God may be using this problem in ways you can't understand or foresee to fix or prepare you for a much greater issue down the road. Because we can't imagine what He's up to, we imagine He's just not going to do anything. Paul wants us to let God be God—because His power is beyond words, and His strategy is too complex and complete for us to grasp.

WHAT CHANGES

The wisdom of Christ is an example to us all: "Not as I will, but your will be done." You're up to more than I can imagine. It will involve surrendering control at a level we won't like, but the end result is far greater than anything we could dream of. This is the power of praying, "Let your will be done!" God has unlimited power, and that means an unlimited imagination to envision a future for you more rich, satisfying, and God-glorifying than you would even plan for yourself.

1. WHERE IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU LIMITING YOUR PRAYERS TO ONLY WHAT YOU CAN SEE OR UNDERSTAND?
2. HOW WOULD YOUR FAITH GROW IF YOU REGULARLY EXPECTED GOD TO WORK IN WAYS BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION?
3. WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM FULLY SURRENDERING A SITUATION TO GOD'S WILL, EVEN KNOWING HIS PLANS ARE GREATER THAN YOURS?

Pick one situation this week where you've been asking God for a specific, limited outcome. In prayer, release it entirely by saying: *"Lord, I trust You to do more than I can ask or imagine. Have Your way."* Then begin to watch for God to do things you never expected.

PRAYER PROMPT

"God, forgive me for limiting my prayers to what I can see or understand. Expand my faith to trust You for more than I can ask or imagine."

Day Five

THE STORM KNOWS

Scripture:

"A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?' He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'"

- Mark 4:37-41

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Jesus and the disciples are traveling from one spot to another on Lake Galilee. Many of them were lifelong fishermen, used to storms on this very lake. That they are afraid speaks volumes about the storm they find themselves in - this wasn't a gusty shower. Jesus - as only He could - rebukes and stills. They've seen Jesus preach and teach, heal the sick and lame, cast out demons, and do things they never thought they'd see. But suddenly, they're afraid of his power. They realize that he can do more than they understood. They're beginning to see they don't have a handle on the One who has a handle on the storm.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Let's start with the simple truth: Jesus can calm your storm. Whatever chaotic mess your body, your finances, your marriage, or your career is in, Jesus can make it all be still. It may overwhelm you, but it never overwhelms Him. This is easy to say when you're standing on the shore; this is very hard to remember when you're in a boat in the middle of a hurricane.

Here's the tougher lesson: you may have grown far too familiar with Jesus. You've assumed you know everything about him. The man you're imagining is far too bland,

far too small, and far too weak. Storms recognize him as the ultimate authority. When you casually dismiss His commands, assume He's fine with whatever you're doing, and live like there are no consequences to disobedience, you forget who you're dealing with. The storm knows. When you fear your cancer, your friends, your bills, or your disappointment more than you fear Him, you've missed the headline. None of us fully understands this Jesus, and we should all stand in awe of Him with holy fear. To quote C.S. Lewis, "He isn't tame, but He IS good."

WHAT CHANGES

God delights in an intimate relationship with us. He wants us to come to Him gleefully, joyfully, and often. But we would also be wise to remember: demons and storms tremble before this God and obey his command. They know what He is capable of. We should never forget the power He holds, what He can do, and live with the knowledge that He is worthy of respect. When we enter His presence, it should be with the awareness that the same power that created, defends, and frees us is also to be revered with holy fear.

1. HAVE YOU GROWN SO FAMILIAR WITH JESUS THAT YOU FORGET THE SHEER POWER AND AUTHORITY HE HOLDS?
2. WHAT "STORM" IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW FEELS BIGGER THAN JESUS' POWER—AND HOW MIGHT THIS PASSAGE CHALLENGE THAT VIEW?
3. HOW WOULD YOUR APPROACH TO PRAYER AND OBEDIENCE CHANGE IF YOU TRULY BELIEVED THAT EVEN THE WIND AND WAVES RECOGNIZE AND OBEY HIM?

Practice obedience in a small area today. Pick one specific area where you've been ignoring a nudge from God—something simple but clear. Act on it today as a reminder that if even the wind and waves obey Him, you should too. Then OBEY and carry out what He's asking you to.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, help me never to forget the power You hold over all creation. Teach me to trust and obey You, even when the storms feel overwhelming."

Day Six

MIC DROP

Scripture:

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" - Matthew 28:18-20

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

The Bible contains four short biographies of Jesus called Gospels. Each is told from a different perspective, and each has a slightly different main point. We've looked at several passages from Matthew this week because Matthew's main idea is that Jesus is the rightful and all-powerful King Israel was waiting for. It is the Gospel most concerned with showing Him as all-powerful. His finish is a mic drop: "I defeated death. All authority now belongs to Me. Here's what I want from you: go and bring more people to follow Me." It ends with the promise that this One with all authority is helping us carry out the mission. His power is protecting and leading us.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

God has defeated all His enemies, and He has called and commanded us to carry that message out into the world. He has repeatedly defeated the demons who rebelled against Him, He has overturned governments that refused to acknowledge Him, He has thrown down rulers who tried to take His throne, and He destroyed death from the inside out when He walked out of the tomb.

This God now commands His children to go and share His victory and His love. Who are we to refuse Him?

He has also promised us that He is going with us. This world is a dangerous place. Pastors and missionaries are imprisoned and murdered. Churches are disbanded in

some places, while in others they are targeted by terrorism and mass shootings. We are often mocked, slandered, and opposed for living by God's commands. Yet God promises we won't face any of this without His power behind us.

WHAT CHANGES

Jesus is sending us out in His full blessing, with the full might of His Kingdom behind us. While it may not always go the way we want, we will never face danger or opposition without His authority. The promise is that the power of God's Kingdom will never be overcome.

Our kindness will make a difference. Our service will change lives. Our obedience will light dark places. Our love will melt hearts. Our deaths will point others back to Him. He is all-powerful, and when we obey, that power cannot be overcome. *Mic drop!*

1. HOW DOES KNOWING JESUS HAS ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AFFECT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN LIVING OUT YOUR FAITH?
2. WHAT FEARS OR EXCUSES HAVE KEPT YOU FROM FULLY OBEYING JESUS' COMMAND TO "GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES"?
3. HOW DOES HIS PROMISE TO ALWAYS BE WITH YOU CHANGE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO STEP INTO DIFFICULT OR UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATIONS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL?

Serve as a Kingdom representative. Pick one place this week to show Christ's love in a tangible way—a workplace, school, gym, or neighborhood. Do one intentional act of kindness there and, if asked why, point to Jesus as the reason you love and serve.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Jesus, You have all authority in heaven and on earth—send me wherever You will. Give me boldness to live, speak, and love with the confidence that You go with me."

*Sabbath Quote
to Reflect On:*

**“THE GREATEST
SINGLE
DISTINGUISHING
FEATURE OF THE
OMNIPOTENCE OF
GOD IS THAT OUR
IMAGINATION GETS
LOST THINKING
ABOUT IT..”**

– CHARLES SPURGEON

GOD IS OMNIBENEVOLENT

When we talk about God's power, wisdom, or holiness, it's easy to picture Him as distant or unapproachable. But this week reminds us of a truth that brings all the others into focus—God is good. Not just "mostly good" or "good when it suits Him," but perfectly, eternally, and unshakably good in all He is and all He does.

This week's readings show us that God's goodness isn't an abstract concept—it's a reality that touches every part of our lives. We'll see that His goodness is the standard for all goodness, that He gives only good gifts, that His discipline is an act of love, and that His mercy extends even to those we'd rather avoid. We'll remember that He is able to weave good from even the most painful seasons, and that His heart is to welcome every one of His children home.

God's omnibenevolence isn't just something to appreciate; it's something to imitate. As we experience His goodness, we're called to reflect it—offering mercy, pursuing restoration, trusting His heart in hard times, and inviting others to take their place at His table. By the end of this week, we'll see that to know God's goodness is to be changed by it—and to become a living display of it in a world that desperately needs to see His heart.

Day One

DOODLING A MASTERPIECE

Scripture:

"A certain ruler asked him, 'Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good—except God alone.'" - Luke 18:18-19

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Jesus is approached by a wealthy, powerful young man and asked a direct question. Jesus answers by first redirecting his question and asking one of His own: "Why do you call me good? Only God is good." Part of this exchange gave the young ruler a chance to confess faith in Christ on a much deeper level—*I recognize You as God*. Jesus is also making a crucial point: nothing is good apart from God. God is the definition of good. No one can be good apart from Him.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Ruth Oosterman is an incredibly talented artist who carved out an unusual niche for inspiration. She gained fame for her collaborations with two unexpected artists: her toddlers. She would give them a blank canvas and let them paint, color, or doodle until they lost interest. When they set the brush or pen down, she would go to work. From their randomness she called forth great beasts, beautiful flowers, towering trees, and the silhouettes of great warriors. When she touched what they did, it became good.

Jesus makes a bold claim here—only God is good. Without God, goodness is imaginary. Our work, efforts, and deeds never get past shapeless blobs apart from Him. If we want our lives to embody goodness, we must go to God. *God*

alone brings goodness. When we yield ourselves to the One who is good, we find our novice efforts turned into something beautiful.

WHAT CHANGES

This requires a constant willingness to bring everything we are to God's examination and intervention. We have to come to God to get to good.

As Jesus hinted, this always leads to two places:

- We will find ourselves short of good on our own. Self, sin, appetites, and laziness will always hold us back. God enables us to go beyond ourselves and our broken natures when we return to Him and submit to Him.
- We discover our undeniable and unending dependence on grace. We will never outgrow grace. Grace is the only way we can be made good, but God's grace through Christ makes us good. It is an act of grace when He picks up the brush and fills in the parts we've messed up, bringing something priceless from our efforts.

1. WHERE IN YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU BEEN TRYING TO BE "GOOD ENOUGH" WITHOUT BRINGING IT TO GOD FIRST?
2. HOW DOES THE IMAGE OF GOD TAKING YOUR IMPERFECT "SKETCH" AND TURNING IT INTO A MASTERPIECE SHAPE THE WAY YOU SEE HIS GRACE?
3. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO RELY ON GOD'S GOODNESS INSTEAD OF YOUR OWN EFFORT IN A SPECIFIC AREA OF YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK?

End with a daily goodness "check-in." For the next 7 days, end your day by asking yourself: *"Where did I try to create goodness on my own today? Where did I invite God to shape it?"* Write down at least one example of each, and pray for God's grace in the areas where you left Him out.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, I bring You the unfinished, messy parts of my life and place them in Your hands. Shape them into something good and beautiful that reflects Your grace."

Day Two

GOOD GIFTS

Scripture:

"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" - Matthew 7:9-11

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Good parents provide for the needs of their children—physically, spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and relationally. No parent is perfect, but most of us will make an effort to give [their → **our**] children what is needed to grow and prosper. Strikingly, Jesus sets the bar very, very low in this passage. A good parent will not hand a hungry child a cobra and wait for it to strike - that would be cruel. Who would look at their hungry child, hand them a rock, and say, "Good luck!?" But then Jesus drops the bomb—if even sinful people like us can occasionally do good by our children, how much better will the gifts of perfectly-good God be?

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

A few years ago, my wife's father called me and kindly offered a large wooden swing set that had been sitting for years on his farm. It was in good shape, except for a roof on one side that needed replacing and a rotten main beam. I got the lumber, the stain, and the shingles and went to work. What I forgot was anchors. After a couple of months of playing happily on it, a wind storm blew through and sent it flying. Rosie fell to her knees, fists in the air, screaming "NO!" in horror I cannot give words to. The moral of the story - obviously - is that anchors make a good gift into a better gift. I thought nothing of spending those hours refurbishing that old swing set, and my father-in-law thought nothing of

giving it to us. Why? In our imperfect way, we each wanted to give our children a good gift.

God has no drop-off between effort and execution. Every gift He gives is good. Everything he offers us is for our good. We can trust that what comes from Him is for our benefit. We can go to Him asking with complete confidence that He will only give us what is good for us. In the same way, we can trust that the gifts He refuses to give us will not be good for us. Though we never imagine it is good for God to deny our desires, we know we shouldn't let our children eat an entire gallon of ice cream. God's heart is always for our good, even when we struggle to find peace with what He will and won't give.

WHAT CHANGES

When you ask God for something, how do you ask for it? Do you come fearfully, afraid that if you ask for the wrong thing in the wrong way God will curse you? (I'm looking at you, people who say to never pray for patience.) Or do you get resentful and angry when God's answer is "No," assuming He must be holding out on you in spite? What would it mean for you to trust God to give you good gifts, and only good gifts?

1. HOW DOES YOUR VIEW OF GOD SHIFT WHEN YOU SEE HIM AS A PERFECT FATHER WHO ONLY GIVES WHAT IS GOOD FOR YOU?
2. CAN YOU RECALL A TIME WHEN GOD SAID "NO" TO SOMETHING YOU WANTED—AND LATER YOU SAW IT WAS FOR YOUR GOOD?
3. HOW WOULD YOUR PRAYER LIFE CHANGE IF YOU TRUSTED THAT GOD'S ANSWERS (YES, NO, OR WAIT) WERE ALWAYS ACTS OF LOVE?

Today, revisit a "No". Think of one time you felt God denied your request. Pray over it again, asking Him to show you how He used that "no" for good—or for help to trust His reasoning even if you still can't see it.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Father, help me trust that what You give is always for my good, and what You withhold is an act of love. Teach me to receive both with gratitude."

Day Three

THE GHOST OF HOLINESS YET TO COME

Scripture:

"Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness." - Hebrews 12:9-10

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Discipline is a gift. Our parents shaped us into better people when they disciplined us in love (very different from lashing out in anger.) God corrects us and lets us face consequences with the intention that it will help us to become holy, other, and different from the world around us. It is one of the tools He uses to reshape us from our twisted and sinful impulses into the beautiful handiwork he intends us to be.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

I take time every year to watch or read some version of "A Christmas Carol." I consider it an incredible love story. A man so hopelessly lost in his own greed, pain, and self-righteousness is visited by three spirits who lead him through increasingly painful and terrifying revelations. Essentially, they show him his greatest failures, the reality he's presently missing, and the horrifying place his actions will lead him to. Most of us are familiar with the story, but rarely think of it this way. Why do the spirits offer Ebenezer Scrooge these visions? Are they into emotional torture? By the end of the movie, it is clear that the visions are

a gift. He ends the experience as a changed man. What an entire lifetime of success and opportunity couldn't show him, one night of correction made clear. The painful truth becomes a good gift.

In the same way, God disciplines us not because He hates us, but because He loves us. There are lessons and insights we just won't get from walking the easy path. He sometimes allows us to walk into hard places - places that are scary, places that make us face the consequences of our actions. Here, we lean into Him, face our own darkness, and learn how desperately we need grace. When God disciplines us, it trains us to share in his holiness.

WHAT CHANGES

We avoid discipline. We do everything we can to avoid it. We want God to make our failures go away without consequence. Failure is inevitable - perhaps we should pray that God would use our failures rather than blot them out. Perhaps we should be begging Holy Spirit to teach us the hard lessons rather than helping us avoid them. Maybe it's time we start thinking of discipline the way the writer of Hebrews did - as a very good thing.

1. WHEN HAS GOD'S DISCIPLINE IN YOUR LIFE LED TO LASTING CHANGE THAT YOU NOW SEE AS A GIFT?
2. HOW DOES THINKING OF DISCIPLINE AS AN EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE SHIFT YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SUBMIT TO IT?
3. IN WHAT AREA OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU RESISTING GOD'S CORRECTION RIGHT NOW?

Today is a difficult invitation. What failure or mistake have you avoided facing or dealing with? Sit with God and bring it out, asking him what you need to learn from it. Invite His discipline into your life along with the prayer "God, don't let me waste my failures! Use them to teach me holiness."

PRAYER PROMPT

"God, don't let me waste my failures—use them to teach me and make me more like You. Give me the courage to submit to Your loving discipline."

Day Four

YEAH... BUT...

Scripture:

"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." - Luke 6:35-36

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

In Jesus' day, many limited "neighbor love" to their own group, even though the Law also commanded love for the stranger. Jesus clarified and raised the standard, as He often does. His question: how did God treat you? Were you greeted with kindness and mercy? Has He forgiven you? Yes, He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Act as He does.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Be honest - when you hear the word "enemy," you picture someone. You're thinking of the guy who double parks in your space at work, or the neighbor who blows his leaves into your yard. Maybe it's your ex who fights about custody agreements just because. Perhaps it's the person at work who has been there so long that nobody says anything to them, but who checked out and quit trying long ago. We hear God say that He is merciful and kind and we think that's great for us. Then God tells us that we have to be kind and merciful to our enemies. Immediately we respond with "Yeah... but" and explain to God why there is some person or group beyond our need to show grace.

"Yeah... but he cheated on me."

"Yeah... but she robbed me of my share of the inheritance."

“Yeah... but he abused me.”

“Yeah... but they wounded me.”

“Yeah... but they didn’t show me the respect I deserved.”

“Yeah, but she never apologized.”

We all have a “Yeah... but” person or group. God’s answer to us is straightforward and unapologetic. I showed you mercy and I will show them mercy. I was kind to them, and you are to reflect Me. Be good as I am good. Do good as I have done good for you.

WHAT CHANGES

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Paul wrote those jarring words in a letter to the church in Rome. He died for us while we denied we knew Him. He died for us while we called Him a liar, claiming to be God’s Son. He died for us while we worshipped the idols of self, pleasure, wealth, ease, and power. He died for us while we were living in open rebellion against Him, then He brought us home. What has changed? If we weren’t too far gone to receive God’s grace, then no one is. That is gloriously good.

1. WHO IS THE “YEAH... BUT” PERSON IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW—THE ONE YOU FEEL LEAST WILLING TO SHOW KINDNESS OR MERCY TO?
2. HOW HAS GOD SHOWN YOU MERCY IN MOMENTS WHEN YOU DIDN’T DESERVE IT?
3. WHAT WOULD CHANGE IN YOUR HEART IF YOU TREATED THAT PERSON THE SAME WAY GOD TREATED YOU?

Choose one “Yeah... but” person this week and do a specific act of kindness for them—write a note, pray a blessing over them daily, or meet a tangible need—without expecting anything in return.

PRAYER PROMPT

*“Lord, help me show mercy to the ones I least want to forgive.
Remind me of the grace You gave me when I least deserved it.”*

Day Five

FOR GOOD

WEEK 6: GOD IS OMNIBENEVOLENT

Scripture:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." - Romans 8:28

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God is never passive. He is always at work—moving, weaving, and wisely orchestrating the way things are so that they move closer to the way they are supposed to be. He is pushing everything toward His own heart - toward good. For everyone who loves and serves Him, there is this promise: God is working *everything* toward good. In context, that "good" is ultimately our being made into the image of His Son.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

This verse is often taken out of context. Very, very often, it is misquoted as a promise that God will never put more on you than you can handle, and that everything will end in a "happily ever after" by the end of the day, like some 60s sitcom.

That reflects reality in no way. It is dishonest and damaging to say that God will make everything pleasant if you follow Him. There is a much deeper, more amazing truth to be seen in this verse. God will take everything and use it to accomplish good. Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years. That was not good. He was often mistreated while in prison. That was not good. He became the face of oppressive racial tension in South Africa, not something anyone would choose. But through that sentence and those difficulties, God called him to use that time to reflect, to study, and to grow as a man. He brought relationships that reshaped his views and took him from a leader in anger

to the model of reconciliation and forgiveness in a deeply divided country. Through his leadership, apartheid was dismantled and the nation moved toward reconciliation. He would not have been the same man without those trials. God worked even those evils for good purposes, without calling evil “good.” He will do no less for you and me. Everything God gives is good because He is good; and He can also work good from what He does not author.

WHAT CHANGES

Rather than resenting or avoiding the more difficult parts of our lives, Christians are uniquely blessed to be able to bring them to God with deep trust. God will work good from this and use this to do good if I trust Him. What has happened and where we have been may not be good, but we are promised that what God does with it will be good.

1. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR MOST PAINFUL EXPERIENCES, WHERE CAN YOU SEE GOD BRINGING GOOD FROM THEM?
2. HOW DOES KNOWING GOD WORKS ALL THINGS FOR GOOD CHANGE THE WAY YOU VIEW YOUR CURRENT STRUGGLES?
3. WHAT WOULD TRUSTING GOD'S GOODNESS IN HARDSHIP LOOK LIKE IN YOUR ACTIONS AND WORDS THIS WEEK?

Encourage someone else in the storm. Reach out to someone in prison, someone facing a serious illness, someone walking through the loss of a close family member, a career, or a friendship. Be a friend to someone walking through church hurt. Be a voice of God's goodness, and a reminder that He will not waste what they are facing.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Father, I give You the hard and painful parts of my story. Work them for Your good purposes, and help me trust You while I wait to see the outcome.”

Day Six

WEEK 6: GOD IS OMNIBENEVOLENT

A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Scripture:

"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." - 1 Timothy 2:3-4

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God has done everything necessary to save His sons and daughters. He became a man and lived as one of us for thirty-three years. He gave His life on the cross to pay our sin debt. He walked out of the grave three days later, defeating death completely. He has saved us through His sacrifice and offers us an unimaginable future. This is the greatest evidence of God's deep and inexhaustible goodness. Nonetheless, Paul adds one more layer to God's incredible benevolence: God pursues relentlessly after every single soul. His heart is that no one dies apart from Him, and that everyone would spend eternity in His perfect company. Neither you, nor I, nor anyone we have ever met nor will ever meet is outside His good and perfect love. His deepest desire is to have His children together.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

My parents both come from large families. In particular, major holidays with my mother's family were full of laughter, food, games, and could be incredibly overwhelming. We would pack sixty people into a two bedroom farmhouse and all nearly pass out when the thermostat hit 85. As we got older, it got harder and harder to find dates that worked for everyone. An endless text thread would begin in September trying to find a time that everyone could be there. My Grandmother would inevitably ask where all of the missing faces were, understanding not everyone could be there. Still it was her deep desire to have everyone with her. She never gave up on getting everyone together again. This

is God's heart as well, though with a much greater level of urgency. The stakes are eternal. God looks around the table, grateful for the faces that are there, but heartbroken at the children who have not come home. It is his will that none should perish, and his will is good.

WHAT CHANGES

For your dearest friend, your deepest enemy, and for you there is this undeniable truth: God is waiting. He looks eagerly - as any good father would - to see if His lost child is making their way home. He has made a way and issued the invitation, but so many have not accepted. Have you? There is a seat prepared, a place set. He stands at the door waiting and watching. The God of Heaven longs to welcome you home. Once we have returned, God asks one favor of us - that we go and find His children who are still out and wandering in the far country. We carry the broken heart of our God, hoping that all will be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth that God loves and forgives them.

1. WHO IN YOUR LIFE FEELS FAR FROM GOD, AND HOW DOES KNOWING HIS HEART FOR ALL PEOPLE CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE THEM?
2. HOW HAVE YOU PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED GOD'S RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF YOU?
3. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO CARRY GOD'S LONGING FOR THE LOST INTO YOUR DAILY LIFE?

Write a personal invitation. Handwrite a short, encouraging note to someone far from God, inviting them to church or a small group. Make it personal—share why they matter to you and to God.

PRAYER PROMPT

“God, thank You for relentlessly pursuing me. Break my heart for those still far from You, and give me boldness to invite them home.”

*Sabbath Quote
to Reflect On:*

**“GOD IS THE MOST
JOYOUS BEING IN
THE UNIVERSE.”**

-DALLAS WILLARD

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

We've all experienced the ache of absence—missing someone we love, longing for help we can't find, or wishing we could be in two places at once. God never faces that limitation. He is omnipresent—fully present everywhere, all the time. There is no place too far, too hidden, or too broken for Him to be there.

This week, we'll see God's presence in its fullness: high above us in majesty, right beside us in our struggles, and even dwelling within us through the Holy Spirit. We'll be reminded that His presence is both a comfort and a call—He walks with us in the darkest valleys, but He also goes wherever we take Him. We'll face the sobering truth that the only place God chooses not to be is in the eternal separation of Hell, and the incredible hope that one day His glory will surround us so completely that it will light our forever home.

The omnipresence of God changes how we live. It keeps us humble before His greatness, courageous in His closeness, attentive to His guidance, and mindful of our witness. It fuels our hope for eternity and strengthens our faith for today. This week, let's practice living every moment with the deep awareness that wherever we are, He already is.

Day One

GOD IS BEYOND

Scripture:

"However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?" - Acts 7:48-50

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Israel had built an impressive temple, designed to wow travelers from great distances. They would stare at its gleaming, golden splendor for miles upon miles as they approached Jerusalem, wondering, "What magnificent god or king lives there?" As grand as it was, Stephen reminds the Jewish leaders of this single truth: their greatest effort could not hold God. Heaven and Earth combined are too small for Him. Mankind cannot make anything that He can fit in. He is bigger than our churches, does not fit on our planet, and cannot be held by our universe. God is both beyond creation and not contained by it; He is not limited to any place. That is called God's transcendence - that He is above and beyond all He made. He is bigger and over anything you can begin to imagine.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

There is a moment in *The Lion King* that hits this concept hard. The cub Simba has just spent a five minute musical break celebrating his power as king-in-waiting. He is convinced he is the biggest thing there is, then he finds himself surrounded by hyenas and in desperate need of rescue. Mufasa, his father and current King of Lions, rescues him and scolds him. Simba walks behind his father with his head hung low with shame when he steps into his father's paw print. It dwarfs his own, and he realizes again how small he is. He's also reminded of how

big his father is. In the same way, we should be continually looking up to this God who is too big for our reality. We should never forget how small we are, and how dependent on Him we will always be.

WHAT CHANGES

Part of following God is humbling. We constantly find ourselves lost in situations we cannot control. I caught a cold and am dependent on God to heal me. I lost everything and am dependent on God to provide. I'm dependent on God to make a sun rise that is millions of miles away to warm me and grow my food and control my gravity. We are entirely too small to be useful to Him (and yet He loves to use us!), and completely dependent on Him to carry us through each moment. We are so small, and yet so blessed to have our great God. He is bigger than anything you will confront today, and he is with you. We are protected by the God who is beyond the greatest things we can conceive of.

1. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE TRULY AWED BY GOD'S GREATNESS? WHAT TRIGGERED THAT SENSE OF WONDER?
2. HOW DOES REMEMBERING GOD'S "BEYONDNESS" CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE YOUR CURRENT PROBLEMS?
3. IN WHAT WAYS MIGHT YOU BE TRYING TO "FIT" GOD INTO A BOX OF YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS OR LIMITS?

Tonight, walk out and look up. Spend 15 minutes staring at the vastness of the stars in the sky. Consider that the God you worship whispered to each to light up, that the moon obeys his commands, and that the sun set because he said to. Sit in quiet awe that this vast God is standing watch over you in love.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, remind me daily how small I am and how great You are. Help me trust in Your power that stretches beyond anything I can imagine."

Day Two

GOD IS CLOSE

Scripture:

"At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth."

- 2 Timothy 4:16-17

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Yesterday, we looked at how God was completely above and beyond us. His strength, power, and sheer all-encompassing size are way, way beyond us. He *transcends* us and this world. Here, Paul says God is very close to him in a very difficult season. He has been betrayed and abandoned in a time of great difficulty. In all of this, the same God who uses Heaven as a chair and Earth as a footstool comes close to Paul and gives him strength and encourages him. God gives him everything he needs to face the trials in front of him. God walks through every difficulty with Paul. We call this the immanence of God - His closeness. God was not just standing beside Paul, He stands beside all of His children.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

We hear stories like Daniel surviving the lions' den, Moses parting the Red Sea and so Israel could cross, or the disciples seeing Jesus alive after being murdered, and we think, "If God had been with me like that, I'd never doubt Him." We miss that God has been beside us. He is ready to give us far more help than we realize.

My oldest daughter likes to cook, but she does not like to use recipes. She's convinced that she will find the next great cake or meal by throwing things together. One day, frustrated by her failures, she threw the spatula down and started to walk away. I quietly turned her around and walked her to the stove. We took out an egg, butter, and a slice of bread, and I stood over her as she made an "egg in a basket," a three

ingredient breakfast. I helped her prep, flip, and season it. My hand held hers as she held the skillet and the spatula, showing her what the motions felt like. I was with her, helping her through all she needed to learn and do to complete the mission at hand. In time, we stepped up to scrambled eggs, omelets, and continue to add to what she can do. In the same way, God never takes His hands off of ours. He is right beside us, helping us navigate our call, our struggles, our relationships in ways we cannot on our own.

WHAT CHANGES

Whatever you face today, it is with the help of the Immanent God. He wants to show you the way through. He intends to sustain you and work toward good. You are not in this alone, He is in the trenches with you. Do not pull your hands from His, and do not ignore Him. He is eager to work with you and lead you to doing things that bring Him glory.

1. WHEN IN YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU FELT COMPLETELY ALONE, YET LATER REALIZED GOD WAS WITH YOU?
2. IN WHAT CURRENT STRUGGLE DO YOU NEED TO REMIND YOURSELF THAT GOD IS HOLDING YOUR HAND?
3. HOW MIGHT GOD'S CLOSENESS CHANGE THE WAY YOU APPROACH CHALLENGES OR DECISIONS TODAY?

Today, practice communion for one. Communion is a unique way we remind ourselves that God is close. It reminds us that Jesus sat beside us at the table and ate a meal with us - that he will do so again some day. When we take bread and cup, we are reminded of his presence with all of our senses - the softness of bread or hardness of the wafer, the crunch of the bite or gulping sound of a swallow, the sweetness of the liquid as it hits our tongue, the smell of the bread. Find a quiet moment to take your own communion and experience God's closeness with all of your senses.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Father, thank You for standing beside me in every trial. Teach me to keep my hands in Yours and follow Your lead through each challenge.”

Day Three

GOD IS WITHIN

Scripture:

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.." - 1 Corinthians 6:19

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

The tabernacle, and then the temple after it, was the place on earth where God's glory was present. In the Old Testament, there were very strict rules on how a priest prepared and then entered these areas of the temple. Paul makes a claim that would have shocked a Jewish audience. God, who is both far away from us and so close to us, has also chosen to live within us when we take Christ as our savior. The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, is present in us to lead, convict, and empower.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Israel thought of God as incredibly distant in many ways. The idea that He would allow His glory to be present anywhere but the Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies), the innermost room in the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, would have been strange, bordering on offensive. To look around and say, "God is living in me right now." would have been viewed as heresy, likely ending in death. But here Paul says it. God isn't just close to us, he is in us. He dwells in all believers and can speak, lead, and strengthen. He actively forming us into the image of Christ.

WHAT CHANGES

Israel's most sacred site on Earth is the Temple Mount. Even now, they go to the last remaining wall and pray while touching it, pouring their hearts out to God. They believe this makes them closer to him. The Bible teaches us that Holy Spirit lives within us, giving us a constant connection to God. We can still connect with God, hear His voice, and know His heart even when we're far from a church. God is constantly present with you.

But this also leads us to another question: what kind of a home are you providing to God? Are you filling your mind with thoughts that honor Him? Are you getting the proper nutrition and exercise to keep His home in good shape? Are you trashing God's dwelling place like a frat house, treating it like a brothel, or treating it as the palace He says it is? God is over you and next to you, but He is also in you. Treat your body kindly!

1. HOW DOES IT CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF YOURSELF TO REALIZE GOD'S SPIRIT LIVES INSIDE YOU?
2. IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU CURRENTLY HONORING — OR DISHONORING — THE "TEMPLE" GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU?
3. HOW COULD YOU MAKE MORE SPACE IN YOUR DAILY LIFE TO LISTEN FOR HOLY SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE?

Do a "temple audit" today — assess one area of your life (physical health, thought life, habits, or environment) and take one specific step to better honor God's presence in you.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Holy Spirit, help me remember that You dwell within me. Guide my thoughts, words, and actions so that my life honors the One who lives in me."

Day Four

GOD IS ALWAYS PRESENT

Scripture:

"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" - Hebrews 13:4-5

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

The author of Hebrews lists many false comforts people run to for relief and control. Sexual immorality, wealth, and material comforts are all ways we try to find escape and ease in this life. The argument here is that we should not seek satisfaction from these things. Our contentment should come from God's own words, spoken in the book of Deuteronomy: I will never leave you and I will never turn my back on you. You can trust Me. You can count on Me. You can rely on Me. I will be with you through everything.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

There is both a promise and a warning here: God is promising to stay with us through our best and our worst. You can't do anything so bad that He will give up on you. He is with you no matter the situation you find yourself in (or get yourself in!). This is incredible comfort when we are hurting, lonely, and broken. Even if everyone else gives up on you, the God of Heaven and Earth will stay beside you, close to you, and even live within you if you are a Christ-follower.

There is a warning here as well: wherever we go and whatever we do, God goes with us. When we enter the bed of someone other than our spouse, we're dragging His name with us into that sin. When we get sloppy at the office Christmas party, we're dragging God's reputation there, too. When we're willing

to compromise our integrity and our witness to get a nicer car, a bigger house, or a better title, we're compromising our ability to show others who God is. The promise is that God is always with us. The warning is the same: God is always with us.

WHAT CHANGES

We should live every moment with the understanding that God can see us and God is walking with us. Where are you taking Him? How are you honoring - or dishonoring - Him? Do the ways you talk to and about people make Him beam or blush? Do you fill Him with pride or pain? Nothing is hidden from Him, and even Christians will have to explain the things we've done some day.

1. HOW DOES THE PROMISE THAT GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU BRING COMFORT IN YOUR CURRENT SEASON OF LIFE?
2. HOW DOES THE REALITY THAT GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE CHALLENGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR CHOICES?
3. ARE THERE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU WOULD ACT DIFFERENTLY IF YOU WERE PHYSICALLY AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE NEXT TO YOU?

Pray a morning Prayer of Presence. Before you start your day, pray: *"God, remind me of Your presence in every place I go today. Keep me mindful of honoring You in all I do."*

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, make me aware that You are with me in every moment. Help me live in a way that brings You honor in both my private and public life."

Day Five

WHERE GOD ISN'T

Scripture:

"He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you." - 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God is present everywhere, except one place. God has created a place where we can go to be apart from his blessing. In this place, we are free from His direction, influence, and intervention. That also means we are separated from His love, hope, and comfort. We are left to the results of our own appetites and decisions. This place, where God has created space for us to be separated from Him, is called Hell.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

God is everywhere all at once. His creation is constantly in His view and under His influence and protection. While this should be good news of great joy, we are a broken and sinful people. Our sin always expresses itself in one overwhelming way: idolatry of self. We want to be our own god. We want to call the shots, make the decisions, and lay down the commands. For many of us, we only want God to have controlled, gated access to our lives. For some, we want no part of God at all.

I remember scheming in high school to sneak some friends over to swim while my mother was at work and my father - who worked nights - was asleep. I was delighted with my own sneakiness. What I did not take into account was that my parents both worked for large organizations in a town where they had both gone to school, gone to church, and been involved in the community. In short, my parents knew *everyone*. My father came home that morning, looked at me with a sly grin, and asked if I was

planning on having any company. I flushed, studded, and asked why. He worked twenty feet from one of the girls' father, and she had asked for a ride. At that moment, I desperately wanted to be somewhere that my parents didn't know everyone, didn't know everything, and didn't have any influence over my life. I was going to have to find another county if I wanted that to happen.

God is so great, so glorious, and so powerful that there is nowhere we can go to get away from Him. Hell was created as a place to punish Satan and his demons (Matthew 25:41). It is the place he created for anyone who refused to let Him be God. As such, anyone who rejects him and refuses to come to Christ to have that relationship restored is given what they insist on. In Hell, God's glory does not shine. There is no hope, no light, no love, no kindness. Why? Because God is the source of all of these things.

WHAT CHANGES

Jesus made a way to return to a relationship with God. Grace brings us back under God's loving protection, and forgiveness places us back under God's rule. That means we can have hope, light, and life through Jesus.

1. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT BEING "SHUT OUT FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD," WHAT EMOTIONS OR IMAGES COME TO MIND?
2. HOW DOES THE REALITY OF HELL CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN FAITH AND THE URGENCY OF SHARING IT WITH OTHERS?
3. ARE THERE ANY AREAS OF YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU'RE TRYING TO KEEP GOD AT A DISTANCE?

Pray for one lost person. Identify one person who doesn't know Christ, and pray for them every day this week — for their heart to be softened and for an opportunity to share.

PRAYER PROMPT

"God, thank You for making a way for me to be in Your presence forever. Give me the courage to share that hope with others so they can avoid an eternity apart from You."

Day Six

WHERE GOD WILL ALWAYS BE

Scripture:

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. - Revelation 21:22-24

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God is everywhere in a very real - though somewhat veiled - sense. John sees a day when that presence will be obvious. There will be no temple to contain His glory - the God and Jesus *are* the temple, and we dwell in **Their** immediate presence. His might and love and power will flood our senses like sunshine and moonlight.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

A few weeks ago, I ran out of the house in a rush. I wanted to stain and seal the deck, and I had one day to knock it out before summer came to an end. It was cloudy and not terribly hot, so I completely forgot to put on sunscreen until mid afternoon. No problem! I could not see the sun, so I was sure it wouldn't give me any issues. When I came in that night, I was tomato red. I could not see the sun, but I could see its effect on me!

We live in a strange place in history where we know God is there and often see the effects, but we are not fully aware of His presence. We cannot see it clearly, like the sun on a cloudy day. We know He didn't disappear, but His presence is hard to perceive. It is beyond our senses. John writes to the churches of Asia

and gives them a promise that gets more exciting the longer you consider it: a day is coming when we will be able to perceive the fullness of God's glory constantly. "He is always with us," will go from something we speak in faith to something we see plainly. Hope, joy, love, peace, and comfort will radiate on our faces like the sun. I can't help but wonder if - like Moses - I'll finally be able to get a good, godly tan.

WHAT CHANGES

It is easy to pick up on the brokenness of the world. With each passing day, we become more divided, more suspicious, more afraid, and more manipulative. Addiction, abuse, and greed seem to fuel most of what we see in our world. Right now, we have to work at being aware of God's glory. It is absolutely here, but often invisible to our eye. We can walk in the hope of a day when it is as obvious as the sun in the sky.

1. HOW DOES THE PROMISE OF SEEING AND EXPERIENCING GOD'S PRESENCE FULLY AND CONSTANTLY GIVE YOU HOPE TODAY?
2. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU CURRENTLY SEE THE "EFFECTS" OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T ALWAYS PERCEIVE HIM DIRECTLY?
3. HOW MIGHT KEEPING YOUR FOCUS ON ETERNITY RESHAPE THE WAY YOU HANDLE TODAY'S CHALLENGES?

Today, go on a scavenger hunt. Don't stop until you find one example of God's glory in:

NATURE

PEOPLE

YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

YOUR HEART

What surprised you? What struck you? Did you find any examples of His glory that you've been missing?

PRAYER PROMPT

"Father, help me live in anticipation of the day I will see Your glory with my own eyes. Let that hope shape the way I live today."

*Sabbath Quote
to Reflect On:*

**“GOD’S WHOLE
BEING IS PRESENT
IN EVERY PART OF
SPACE, OR AT EVERY
POINT IN SPACE, IT
IS ALSO NECESSARY
TO SAY THAT
GOD CANNOT BE
CONTAINED BY ANY
SPACE, NO MATTER
HOW LARGE”**

– WAYNE GRUDEM

GOD IS OMNISCIENT

We all like to think we're good at hiding things. We hide our mistakes, disguise our weaknesses, and try to cover the mess we'd rather others didn't see. But there's no hiding from God. He is omniscient—He knows everything. Not just the facts and events of history, but the secret motives of the heart, the unspoken fears in the mind, and the details of creation that no microscope or telescope could uncover.

This week, we'll see that God's perfect knowledge isn't just a fact to memorize—it's a reality that reshapes how we live. We'll learn that since He already knows our sins, we can run to Him in confession instead of hiding in shame. We'll be reminded that He knows Himself perfectly, acts in total wisdom, and understands His creation far more deeply than we ever could. We'll take comfort in the truth that He knows us personally and completely—our needs, our hopes, our hurts—before we can even put them into words. We'll discover that nothing surprises Him, not even our future failures, and that it actually delights Him to share His wisdom with His people.

God's omniscience is both a warning and a comfort. It humbles us, because nothing is hidden from His sight, and it lifts us up, because nothing about us is unknown to His love. By the end of this week, you'll see that God's all-knowing nature isn't meant to intimidate us into distance—it's an invitation to walk with the One who knows you completely and loves you still.

Day One

ALL-KNOWING

Scripture:

"If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." - 1 John 3:20

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God knows everything. He has always been here, so He is present for it all. He made everything, so He has power over it all. He is everywhere, so He has seen it all. Nothing we try to hide is hidden from God. Nothing we try to erase is beyond His knowledge. We will not fool Him and we cannot distract Him.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

It was murder, and murder most foul. The blood was on my hands, and no amount of washing was going to get it off. I had only been doing laundry for two for a month, and I'd destroyed one of my wife's favorite shirts. I'd splattered bleach onto one of her favorite black dress shirts, leaving white dots all over it. In a panic, I took the evidence and buried it in the bottom of the delicates basket. She'd do the next load and think she had ruined it, and I wouldn't get yelled at. It was the perfect crime. Later, she went downstairs to put a load in the wash. I found the shirt in the trash moments later. I was found out! I braced myself for the well earned chewing I would get, but it never came. She knew what I'd done, but she forgave it.

Adam and Eve hid in the garden. Cain hid Abel's body. Achan hid the gold he'd taken. David hid his night with Bathsheba. Over and over, we convince ourselves that we can hide our sins from the God who knows everything. He calls out Adam and Eve for eating from the tree. He tells Cain that Able's blood is crying out to Him. He exposes Achan's sin to the entire Israelite army. He confronts

David through Nathan, and David's house suffers the painful consequences God foretold. Please hear me - we can't hide our sins, our failures, or our offenses from the God who is all-knowing. We don't have to. 1 John 1:9 says that if we confess our sins to God, He is faithful to forgive them. God asks us to do the opposite of our nature. Trust the one who already knows and come to Him with the blood on your hands.

WHAT CHANGES

When your crime is already known, and your forgiveness is assured, it ought to change how we react to our failures. Rather than hiding what we've done, we should run to God and own our failures. We should beg for forgiveness. We should celebrate His grace without abusing it. What have you shoved in the bottom of the hamper? God is waiting for you to drag it out and bring it to Him.

1. WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU'VE TRIED TO HIDE FROM GOD (OR OTHERS) THAT YOU KNOW HE ALREADY SEES?
2. WHY DO YOU THINK WE STILL TRY TO CONCEAL OUR FAILURES WHEN GOD ALREADY KNOWS EVERYTHING?
3. HOW DOES KNOWING GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS CERTAIN CHANGE THE WAY YOU DEAL WITH YOUR SINS?

Make a "laundry list." Write down anything you've been trying to hide — habits, choices, or thoughts. Pray over the list, confess each one, and tear it up as a reminder of God's forgiveness. If appropriate, go and confess to other people who may have been harmed.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, help me to stop hiding my sins and failures from You, knowing You already see and know them completely. Give me the humility and courage to bring them into Your light and receive Your forgiveness."

Day Two

KNOW THYSELF

Scripture:

"For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

- 1 Corinthians 2:11

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

One of the things we should see from the collective list of God's characteristics is that He is complex - completely beyond our ability to fully understand. This verse from 1 Corinthians gives us an underappreciated characteristic of God. Being all-knowing means that He knows himself. Holy Spirit knows God's thoughts in a way that we never can. God has total knowledge and understanding of Himself.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Socrates was among the most respected teachers and philosophers in ancient Greece. Whatever his flaws, one of his most quoted lessons was pretty simple and pretty profound. "Know thyself," is so often quoted that we forget where it came from. Socrates taught that until you understand yourself and why you do things, you can never start to change and do better. Paul echoes this in Romans 7 when he confesses that he doesn't understand why he can't do what he wants to do. He is confused by his habit of doing exactly what he doesn't want to do. We all struggle with this. We want to be patient parents, but we yell at our kids over petty things. We want to be honest employees, but we charge personal expenses on the company card and hide the receipts. We want to be kind and considerate, but talk about ourselves rather than asking others how they are. Here's the kicker - *we have no idea why.*

God knows Himself perfectly. Nothing is a mystery to Him. He knows why He created mankind. He knows why He sent his son to die for them. He knows why He allows the world to keep limping along in its broken state. He knows why He made mosquitoes. He is the only being in all of existence who understands Himself perfectly. He moves and acts in total confidence because He has complete self-knowledge.

WHAT CHANGES

When we know that God knows everything, and as such knows Himself, it calls us to strive to be like Him. We are called to spend time examining our own hearts and understanding how God made us, how God wants to change us, and how God wants to use us. These are all stops on the journey to self-knowledge and obedience that God has put us on.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU STOPPED TO ASK YOURSELF *WHY* YOU REACTED THE WAY YOU DID IN A SITUATION?
2. HOW DOES KNOWING THAT GOD UNDERSTANDS HIMSELF PERFECTLY HELP YOU TRUST HIM MORE?
3. WHAT AREA OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU SUSPECT GOD WANTS YOU TO UNDERSTAND BETTER SO HE CAN GROW YOU?

Take time to learn thyself! Take the time to complete a reputable personality test like Myers-Briggs or The Enneagram. Take a spiritual gifts inventory or a Love Languages quiz so you can begin to understand who you are. These inventories can be helpful in understanding how God wants to use you.

PRAYER PROMPT

“Father, reveal the parts of my heart and habits I don’t yet understand so that I can grow in Your likeness. Teach me to see myself as You see me, with both honesty and hope.”

Day Three

GOD KNOWS HIS CREATION

Scripture:

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

Hebrews 4:13

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God has intimate knowledge of His creation. He was present in the creation of all things and continues to be "hands on" in its management and maintenance. He sees and knows everything happening in this world. This is an encouragement and a warning - we will also have to answer for our actions some day.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Job 38-41 is a stunning illustration of God's power. Job has questioned God's character and wisdom for 37 chapters. Chapter 38 is God "rolling up his sleeves" and defending Himself—not with explanations, but with questions. God's only defense is his perfect knowledge. He laid the foundations of the earth and set the boundaries of the seas. He drags the sun from its slumber and knows the first songs creation ever sang. He wraps the clouds around the earth and causes them to rain. He makes the earth quake and the thunder roar. He knows where death and life live, and where the snow and wind are stored away. He arranges the stars and watches the lions hunt. He orders the ox, the donkey, the giant squid and the rhinoceros, and they are terrified to disobey him. God's argument is that His total knowledge of everything He has made puts Him beyond the knowledge and judgement of Job. Job can only collapse in humility at the end and beg forgiveness.

Two things happen here. First, Job is so utterly defeated that he doesn't even bring the argument back up. Secondly, because he debated God, Job walks away with a deeper knowledge of God and his ways than anyone before him. Creation is uncovered before God, but God has a special relationship with His children. No one else can praise Him the way we do when we witness his wonders.

WHAT CHANGES

Our understanding of God's knowledge of creation should cause us to approach Him with humility and wonder. When we understand the extent of His design, we should be lost in worship. We should also walk away feeling great peace. The God who keeps the universe humming is also aware of us and loves us. He wants a relationship with us, even when it is sometimes contentious. That should also bring us to a place of humility and wonder!

1. HOW DOES KNOWING GOD SEES EVERYTHING IN CREATION CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN ACTIONS?
2. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE TRULY IN AWE OF SOMETHING GOD CREATED?
3. IF GOD CAN ORDER THE STARS AND FEED THE LIONS, HOW SHOULD THAT SHAPE YOUR TRUST IN HIM FOR YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS?

Name five things God is managing for you right now. List five specific ways God is sustaining your life (breath, heartbeat, relationships, provision, opportunities) and thank Him for each.

PRAYER PROMPT

"God, when I look at Your creation, fill me with humility and awe at Your power and wisdom. Let my wonder at Your works lead me to deeper trust in Your care for me."

Day Four

GOD KNOWS YOU

Scripture:

"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:7-8

"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." Luke 12:7

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

God knows your heart. Nothing that occurs to you, no desire, no godly appetite, no sinful urge is a mystery to God. What is more, because He became a man in Christ, God sympathizes with all of these conflicting feelings and desires. Before you ask it, think it, or realize it, God has already accounted for it. This extends beyond the spiritual to the physical. He literally knows the smallest details of your biology, like the number of hairs left on your head. (Mine is decreasing, so I require a little more attention here than most!) He knows everything that is right and everything that is wrong, and again, He has already seen and considered it.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

When my wife was pregnant with both of our daughters, we were given the opportunity to have a series of prenatal genetic tests. This would have checked for dozens of different things and let us know what was going well, as well as alert us to any abnormalities so that we could begin to prepare ourselves. It is stunning what medical science is able to do, but it has its limit. We can detect early stage cancer in most situations, map the blood vessels in your body to check for blockages, and watch your neurons firing to analyze your responses to certain situations. But medicine can't tell us everything, the mysteries are still endless.

They can tell us the cocktail of neurochemicals that influence your brain, but they can't tell us why we love someone. We can measure the force and timing of a heartbeat, but we cannot heal heart break. With the proper application of chemicals, we can treat the symptoms of depression, but we cannot give purpose to life. God alone is able to know what is happening to us body and soul because God is all knowing.

WHAT CHANGES

God was present for your conception (dwell as deeply on that as you'd like), and He knows the moment of the last breath you'll breathe on this earth. He knows every single heartbeat between the two and how you'll feel in every moment. He knows everything you'll ever celebrate and everything you'll mourn in this life. God knows all, and He chose to come to earth to save you from your own decisions. He gave His life for you. He wants to give you a life of meaning and purpose *if you'll let Him.*

1. HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW GOD UNDERSTANDS YOU BETTER THAN YOU UNDERSTAND YOURSELF?
2. IN WHAT AREAS OF LIFE ARE YOU TEMPTED TO THINK GOD DOESN'T FULLY "GET" WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH?
3. IF GOD ALREADY KNOWS YOUR NEEDS, HOW SHOULD THAT SHAPE THE WAY YOU PRAY?

Turn your filter off and pray. Spend 10 minutes in prayer where you say exactly what you feel — fears, hopes, sins, gratitude — without editing for "spiritual correctness."

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, thank You for knowing every detail of my life and still loving me fully. Help me rest in the truth that nothing about me is hidden from You."

Day Five

GOD IS NOT SURPRIZED

Scripture:

"Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him."

- John 6:64

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

This scratches the surface of one of the great mysteries of the New Testament. God knows everything. Jesus, in perfect unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, chose twelve apostles. Yet Judas Iscariot was chosen. One of the twelve men Jesus selected betrayed him for thirty pieces of silver. He led a crowd from the chief priests and elders with a kiss placed on Christ's cheek - betrayed by a show of love. Jesus knew that He would be betrayed and He knew Judas was the one who would do it. Why would He do this? He wanted to show you that you are loved and that he would go to any length to save you. Why? Scripture says the Son of Man would go "as it has been determined" (Luke 22:22). Jesus' foreknowledge and the Father's plan for redemption were never in doubt; God would use even Judas's wicked choice to fulfill Scripture and accomplish the cross and resurrection for our salvation.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

Take a deep breath and accept what I am about to say: you are going to mess this up. It is inevitable. You will fail to be the man or woman God made you to be at some point. Your character will come up short. You will sin in some way that is deeply harmful to yourself and to the kingdom. God already knows it and God has already made provision for it in Christ. He already has the grace set aside to cover it. He has chosen and loves you because it suits His purposes, not

because you will complete the mission flawlessly. The death of Jesus has taken our poor judgement into account, and victory is already assured. You will be surprised when it happens; Heaven will not be.

WHAT CHANGES

We can live without paralyzing fear. We are called to be holy and set apart, but God knew the moment He saved us that we'd mess it up. He factored that in. Move forward and don't live your life in fear of failure. Live your life in awe of grace and love that have already covered that failure. Learn from it, move forward, and do better, but don't let your missteps paralyze you. God is not surprised!

1. HOW DOES KNOWING THAT GOD HAS ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR YOUR FUTURE FAILURES CHANGE THE WAY YOU APPROACH YOUR MISTAKES?
2. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU TEND TO LIVE IN FEAR OF FAILING GOD, AND HOW CAN GRACE FREE YOU FROM THAT?
3. HOW CAN JUDAS' INCLUSION AMONG THE TWELVE SHAPE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S PURPOSES AND HIS ABILITY TO WORK THROUGH BROKEN PEOPLE?

Face your fear. Name one area where fear of failure has kept you from trying and giving your all. Before this week is over, take the first step to obedience and moving beyond fear to faith that God's plan has accounted for your failures.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Father, thank You that my failures do not shock or push You away. Give me the faith to live boldly in Your grace, trusting that You have already made a way for my redemption."

Day Six

GOD'S DELIGHT

Scripture:

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." - Colossians 2:2-3

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

Paul's prayer for the people of the church in Colosse is pretty lofty: that they would work together to understand Christ. If they understand Christ, they will receive the gift of wisdom and knowledge. If they continue to develop their relationship with God, they will grow in knowledge of the most mysterious things. This is a gift from the All-Knower, God. This is made possible by Christ, the All-Knower made into flesh and blood. This is a delight to God and to the church.

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS

I love to give my family gifts that I know will benefit them. It makes me happy to teach my daughters a new word. I enjoy the grin on their sticky faces when they bite into a watermelon we grew or the excitement when they carve a pumpkin from our garden. I love Saturday mornings on the back porch ripping an idea apart with my wife over coffee. It is a joy to share knowledge and experience with someone you love. It is a joy to walk with them as they grow in understanding and maturity. It is a joy to share what you know. It delights God to give us wisdom. He is overjoyed when His children receive understanding, particularly of who He is and what He does. He loves to reveal Himself.

WHAT CHANGES

We were made for a relationship with God our Maker. To know the one who calls us, sustains us, and gives us purpose fills a void that lives in all of our hearts. It also draws us into a common mission and focus that results in a deep love and appreciation for one another. In short, when God shares His knowledge with us, we experience a fullness and a peace that no circumstance in this life can take away.

1. HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED GOD'S JOY IN REVEALING SOMETHING NEW ABOUT HIMSELF TO YOU?
2. WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO GROW IN WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST THIS WEEK?
3. HOW CAN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD DRAW YOU INTO DEEPER UNITY AND LOVE WITH OTHERS IN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY?

Reach up and out. Schedule a lunch or coffee meeting with a more mature believer and discuss what God is showing both of you about himself. Pray for God to use the time to deepen and strengthen you both.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Lord, thank You for delighting to share Your wisdom with me. Open my heart and mind to receive the knowledge You want to give so I can grow closer to You."

*Sabbath Quote
to Reflect On:*

**“HIS POWER IS
INFINITE, AND SO IS
HIS SOVEREIGNTY;
THE SAME HAND
THAT MADE THE
WORLD STILL
UPHOLDS AND
GOVERNS IT.”**

– JONATHAN EDWARDS

KEEP KEEP

Looking, Following

Eight weeks ago, we began with a simple but life-shaping truth: *You will never do what God says until you know who God is.*

Along the way, we've seen that God is not a distant concept or an abstract force—He is personal, holy, unchanging, eternal, all-powerful, perfectly good, everywhere present, and all-knowing. We've watched His character unfold in Scripture and in our own reflections. We've seen that His nature isn't just something to admire from a distance; it's an invitation to trust, obey, and walk closely with Him.

But this is not the end of the journey. Knowing God is not a box you check—it's a lifelong pursuit. The more clearly you see Him, the more naturally obedience flows. The more you trust His heart, the more boldly you will follow His voice. And the more you love Him, the more you'll find yourself living for His glory rather than your own.

So keep looking. Keep asking. Keep opening His Word with curiosity and humility. Keep talking to Him in prayer as if He is right there with you—because He is. Let what you've learned here fuel a lifetime of knowing Him better and following Him closer.

And remember: you will never do what God says until you know who God is... but once you do, you'll never want to do anything else.

