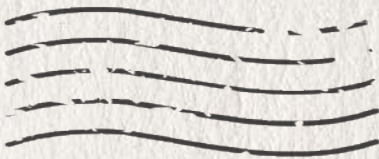


2 Chronicles 20:12 "Our God will not execute judgement on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

TALKING  
to  
GOD



M. de la...  
Paris

# STUDY INTRO

We believe prayer is a vital practice for all believers. It is a source of strength and guidance as we navigate life's circumstances. Through prayer, we can approach God with our hopes, fears, questions, and gratitude. Prayer allows us to be honest with our Creator and become desperately dependent on Him.

At Northwest Bible Church, we want to unite as one Body of Christ to grow and pray through this sermon series and Bible study. The Bible is full of prayers, so we want to model our own prayers after those of the people of God through the ages. We encourage you to make space in your week to study God's Word, reflect on these questions, and pray. As you do so, we pray you experience God's hope and healing.

What might God do as we pray? Let's find out together over these next nine weeks!

*2 Chronicles 20:12 "O our God, will you not execute judgement on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."*



Thank you!

The best things in life are made better by doing them together, and this study is proof. The book you hold culminated from a team effort, and they deserve credit and gratitude. Thank you to Neil Tomba for heeding the Spirit’s invitation for us to pray. We can’t wait to see what God does in our church through this series! Thanks to Dane Salter and Betsy Cruz, Co-Authors, who spent the summer creating this content with me. Thanks to Marit Gaspar, Editor, who took three people’s work and made it better, cohesive, and easy to understand. Thank you to Megan Schmidt, Graphic Designer, for bringing our words to life.

And to the people of Northwest Bible Church, together may we experience unexpected joy as we desperately depend on Jesus through prayer!

In Christ,

**ANGELA CIROCCO**

Group Life Minister

Northwest Bible Church

# prayer series

## How to Use This Study

**This study was designed to follow the sermon series at Northwest Bible Church from January 5–March 2, 2025.**

**Verses are quoted from the ESV Bible unless otherwise noted. Sermon video files can be found at [northwestbible.org/sermons](https://northwestbible.org/sermons). This guide is best used in conjunction with each sermon but can stand alone, if necessary.**

To help you grow in your prayer life, each week contains:

- Scriptural prayer to study and pray
- A simple prayer based on that week's Scripture prayer
- Reading and questions for five days of personal study and reflection
- Prayer practice to vary how you engage with prayer
- Written prayer on Day One to experience the beauty of praying prayers others have written
- Daily opportunities to pray according to the weekly simple prayer
- Prayer to study on Day Four to further unlock the beauty of prayers throughout the Bible
- Prompts on Day Five to journal according to that week's theme
- A postcard with the week's simple prayer. You can place it in a prominent spot as a reminder to pray or give it to someone you are praying for.

We created this nine-week guide to meet your spiritual growth needs. Please use this tool as you see fit. However, we pray you will embrace this for personal study, answering all the weekly questions and engaging with the prayer practices.

Because we are better together by growing in Christ, you will join your small groups in group discussions. In this way, you will experience the corresponding joys of time alone with your heavenly Father and time in fellowship with the family of God.

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### A NOTE TO SMALL GROUP LEADERS

We believe we are:

*Better Together by Growing in Christ*

It would be nearly impossible to discuss every question in a typical 90-minute group gathering, so don't try! Before your group meets, select a handful of questions from that week's study. Choose questions your group can have robust discussions about that will help you grow in **Truth, People, Healing, and Mission**. Many weeks demonstrate the power of praying in community, so prioritize prayer together!



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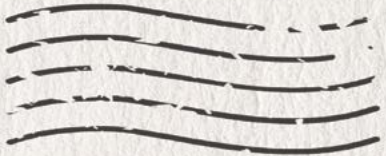
2 Chronicles 20:12 "Our God, will you not execute

judgement on them? For we are powerless against this  
great horde that is coming against us. We do not know  
what to do, but our eyes are on you."

LOOKING TO GOD FOR HELP



WEEK  
1



Madame  
M. Denis  
Boulogne, 9 novembre  
à Paris

week 1

## Looking to God for Help

**2 Chronicles 20:12: “O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”**

## introduction

How do we respond when we face impossible situations? When the cancer diagnosis comes right after the job loss, and then the car breaks down? When our spouse walks out or when someone eviscerates us on social media? Naturally, we worry and try to solve the problem with our own strength and resources.

King Jehoshaphat faced an impossible situation. But instead of trying to solve it alone, he looked to God for help, and we can do the same. Our God, the Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, knows we cannot face life's challenges alone. In our desperate dependence, He wants to help us.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** God, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You!

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** Write down five ways God has helped you in the past. Then pray, thanking God for how you have seen Him work in your life.

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**POSTCARD:** Remove this week's postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.



day 1



**READ 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-24**

1 | Summarize the passage in 2-3 sentences.

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2 | King Jehoshaphat was afraid (v. 3). What might it have been like for the leader to show fear? How might that affect the rest of the people?

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3 | In the ESV, v. 3 says Jehoshaphat “set his face to seek the LORD...” What does that mean?

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4 | How do you usually respond to fearful thoughts or worrisome situations? How can you “set your face to seek the LORD” as Jehoshaphat did?

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5 | What did all of Judah do in v. 4? Why is this significant after what their king did in v. 3?

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## PRAY

In the space below, copy this week's simple prayer: **We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.**

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After studying this passage, pray this prayer from "A Liturgy for Moments of Emergency" in *Every Moment Holy*. Pray it now and whenever needed:

**"O God our Rock, hold us in the chaos of this hard hour. O Christ our King, calm us in the storm of our distress. Oh Holy Spirit, intervene and intercede. We need you now, most merciful God."**

day 2

## READ 2 CHRONICLES 20:6-12

We can reflect on multiple elements of Jehoshaphat's prayer.

1 | What does Jehoshaphat say about God in v. 6? How would you categorize that type of prayer?

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2 | Why does Jehoshaphat recount what God has done (vv. 7-9)?

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3 | Why does Jehoshaphat tell God what is happening now (vv. 10-11)?

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4 | What does Jehoshaphat ask of God (v. 12)?

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5 | The situation seemed impossible. What does Jehoshaphat admit about himself and Israel (v. 12)? How is this significant?

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6 | Jehoshaphat is desperately dependent on God. In these verses, how do you see him demonstrate trust in God during his impossible situation?

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**PRAY**

End your study time today by praying our simple prayer for the week, like Jehoshaphat did: **God, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You!**

*day 3*

**READ 2 CHRONICLES 20:13-24**

1 | What did Jahaziel tell the nation (vv. 15-17)?

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2 | Describe a time you saw “the salvation of the LORD on your behalf” (v. 17). You can pick one from your weekly prayer practice if you’d like.

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3 | Jahaziel told the Israelites several times not to fear, and they worshipped and praised the Lord. How do praise and fear relate?

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4 | What was unusual about Israel's battle plan (v. 21)? What happened next?

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5 | Where are you currently desperately dependent on Jesus? How can praise help in this battle?

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## PRAY

Pray this week's simple prayer for someone else. We want to be people who pray for ourselves and also for others. Each week, we'll pray our simple prayer for a different demographic within our church body.

This week, pray for our young adults: **God, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You!**

- Pray for wisdom as they face life-changing decisions.
- Pray they will stand on God's Truth over their own opinions.
- Pray as they live out their faith in our current culture.

# day 4

## READ PSALM 70

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

1 | What similarities do you see between this prayer and Jehoshaphat's in 2 Chronicles 20:6-12?

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Let's walk through the elements of this prayer and see how we can use it to model our own prayers for help:

2 | What does David ask of God in vv. 1-3? What is his tone?

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3 | What does he say in v. 4? How is that different from the previous verses?

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4 | How does v. 4 help in times of desperate dependence?

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5 | David admits his limitations (v. 5) and asks God for help again. What limitations do you need to face? Admit them, and ask God for help.

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## PRAY

Write a prayer based on this week's simple prayer: **God, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You!**

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day 5

## READ 2 CHRONICLES 20:12

Horde (ESV): הַמּוֹן *hāmôn*

Multitude or crowd, but one with **tumultuous noise and confusion**.

Teeming throng, one which is disorderly and violent.

\*blueletterbible.org; Webster's Dictionary

1 | In what areas of life are you currently desperately dependent on Jesus?  
Like Jehoshaphat, in what situation do you not know what to do?

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2 | What is the “horde” you are currently facing?

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3 | We naturally try to solve our problems on our own. Yet, God often calls us to wait and trust Him to solve them. Do you find it hard to trust God and wait for Him to act? Why?

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4 | All of Judah gathered together to pray and seek the Lord. Why do we need to gather with people and seek God together? Who are the people you seek God with?

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**PRAY**

Regarding something you're facing right now, write and pray a prayer modeled after Jehoshaphat's prayer:

- Praise God!
- Acknowledge He is God over the exact scenario you face.
- Remember what God has done in your life.
- Ask God for help with what is happening now.
- Admit your limitations and God's power.
- Surrender your ideas about what should happen, and wait on God.

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2 Chronicles 20:12 "O our God, will you not execute judgement on them? For we are powerless against great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."





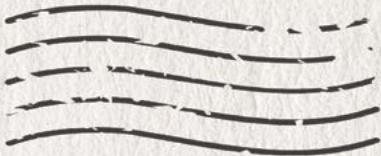
Mark 9:23-24 And Jesus said to him, "If you can!"

All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief."

THE POWER OF DESPERATELY DEPENDENT PRAYER



WEEK  
2



Madame  
M. Denis  
Boulogne-sur-Mer  
à Paris

## week 2

The Power of Desperately  
Dependent Prayer

**Mark 9:23-24: And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”**

## introduction

Belief is often misunderstood. We tend to believe in what we can prove, synonymizing belief with knowledge, believing in what we rationally know without a shadow of a doubt. But what about things we don't, can't, or won't know? What does it look like to believe when uncertainty abounds?

One inescapable constant throughout the New Testament is that Jesus meets people where they are. Whether resting at a well, hiding in a tree, or observing from the shadows, Jesus sees us where we are and draws near. Mark 9 displays one man's encounter with Jesus amid fear, uncertainty, and doubt.

Trust Jesus with your fears, doubts, and worries as you read and pray this week. Let His grace and hope shine on your areas of unbelief.

**SIMPLE PRAYER: I believe; help my unbelief!**

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** This week, we will wrestle with what it looks like to believe God's Truth over our opinions during struggles. Begin by listing areas where you struggle with God's Truth, whether you struggle to know, understand, act on, or believe it. Be honest with yourself, and trust that God can handle your doubts.

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**POSTCARD:** Remove this week's postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

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## day 1

### READ MARK 9:1-13

This passage describes an intimate moment between Jesus and His disciples where their beliefs about Jesus' true nature were challenged.

- 1 | Which of the disciples did Jesus take with Him on to the mountain? Because of this moment alone with Jesus, what did they get the privilege of witnessing (v. 2)?

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- 2 | What did Jesus charge the three disciples to do afterward (vv. 2, 9-10)? Why would He command this?

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- 3 | What did the disciples' response to seeing Jesus' full glory demonstrate about their belief regarding Jesus (v. 5)?

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- 4 | What two Old Testament figures were also present at the Transfiguration (v. 4)? What significance do they represent?

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## PRAY

In the space below, copy this week's simple prayer: **I believe; help my unbelief!**

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After studying this passage, pray this prayer from *Guerrillas of Grace* by Ted Loder. Pray it now and whenever needed:

### Remind Me of Your Steady Power

O God,  
this is a hard time,  
a season of confusion,  
a frantic rush  
to fill my closets,  
my schedule,  
and my mind,  
only to find myself empty.

Give me hope, Lord,  
and remind me  
of your steady power  
and gracious purposes  
that I may live fully.

Renew my faith  
that the earth is not destined  
for dust and darkness,  
but for frolicking life  
and deep joy  
that, being set free  
from my anxiety for the future,  
I may take the risks of love today.

Mark 9:23-24 And Jesus said to him. "If you can!" All things are possible for one who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said. "I believe; help my unbelief!"

# day 2

## READ MARK 9:14-29

Believe (NET): πιστεύω *pisteuō*

To consider something to be true and therefore worthy of one's trust, believe.

Unbelief (NET): ἀπιστία *apistia*

Unwillingness to commit oneself to another or respond positively to the other's words or actions, lack of belief.

\*BDAG, Greek Lexicon

Truth goes hand in hand with trust. In this passage, belief means entrusting oneself to something with complete confidence. This passage implies a total commitment to the one being trusted (Jesus).

The father in the story contrasts his desire to trust Jesus fully (πιστεύω) with his unbelief (ἀπιστία). His unbelief reveals his unwillingness to respond confidently to Jesus' ability to bring the healing He promised.

Today's passage is evidence of Jesus' power amidst a moment of great uncertainty.

1 | Why was the crowd arguing with the disciples?

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2 | Why weren't the disciples able to cure the possessed boy (vv. 17-19, 23, 28-29)?

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3 | How long had the boy been afflicted? What harm had he endured during that period (vv. 20-22)?

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4 | What does the father specifically ask of Jesus in v. 22? What surprising heart posture does the father ask of Jesus first?

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5 | What does the father's plea reveal about his own belief in Jesus?

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6 | How does Jesus respond to the boy's father (v. 23)?

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7 | Read the father's response from v. 24 in the NIV translation. What picture do his words paint?

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8 | Like the father in this passage, have you ever felt tension between doubt and faith?

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9 | What unbelief do you need Jesus to overcome with God's Truth?

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## PRAY

Pray this week's simple prayer aloud: **I believe; help my unbelief!**

# day 3

## READ MARK 9:33-49

Today, we look at another instance where Jesus intentionally stresses the importance of belief in the Kingdom of God.

1 | Those who wish to be the greatest in the Kingdom must become like what, according to Jesus (vv. 35-37)? What is it about a child's belief that makes it special to Jesus?

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2 | Why did the disciples try to stop someone from casting out demons in the name of Jesus? Under whose authority did they think the man should submit (v. 38)?

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3 | What does Jesus' response to the disciples demonstrate about His authority (vv. 39-41)?

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4 | Mark records some vivid imagery (vv. 42-49). What does this language communicate about the severity of causing others to stumble into sin?

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## PRAY

This week, pray for the children of our church as you pray our simple prayer:  
**I believe; help my unbelief!**

- Pray that the Gospel would take root early and sincerely in their hearts.
- Pray that they would discern God's Truth from deception from an early age.
- Pray for belief in the areas they struggle to see God's Truth as good, beautiful, and right.

# day 4

## READ PSALM 62

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

1 | How does David characterize his enemies in the psalm?

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2 | What is David's response to the chaos he feels (vv. 1-2)?

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3 | Read vv. 5-8 aloud slowly. What words does David use to describe God?

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4 | Who is David addressing in vv. 5-8?

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5 | Where do you need to remind yourself of God's protection and deliverance from your doubts, fears, and disbelief right now?

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## PRAY

Write a prayer based on this week's simple prayer: **I believe; help my unbelief!**

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# day 5

## READ MARK 9

1 | What role does spending time with Jesus play in cultivating your belief? What gets in the way of making this a regular rhythm in your life?

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2 | Mark 9 contains shocking examples of Jesus' power and authority (Transfiguration, casting out demons, prophecy). What elements discussed in this chapter make you uncomfortable or confused? What makes these aspects harder for you to believe?

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3 | Have you ever had to endure a chronic affliction? How did that experience affect your own beliefs about Jesus and what He is capable of?

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4 | Like the disciples, we sometimes doubt that Jesus can do what He says. Have you ever "missed out" on an opportunity to be part of God's work because of your unbelief?

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5 | We live in a rational world ruled by our reasoning. Yet, sometimes, God calls us to do or believe things that seem impossible. How do you wrestle with belief in a world of opinions?

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6 | Who do you trust with your areas of unbelief?

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7 | What is an area of unbelief God is calling you to trust Him in?

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**PRAY**

Go back to the list of areas in your life where you struggle to believe in God's Truth from this week's Prayer Practice (pg. 18). Pray over the list, trusting that God delights in being known and revealing His Truth.

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Choose one area from your list. Share this area with a trusted friend or mentor, and ask them to pray that your belief will be strengthened.







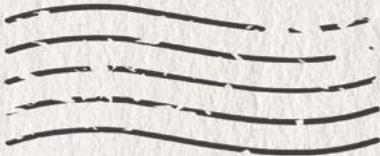
1 Samuel 3:9 NIV So Eli told Samuel. "Go and

lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

LISTENING TO GOD



WEEK  
3



BOULOGNE-STE-...  
9  
MAY 1881  
Madame  
Paris  
a Paris

## week 3

## Listening to God

**1 Samuel 3:9 NIV: So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.**

## introduction

Jesus assured His disciples that His sheep would hear His voice. Yet, listening to God and discerning His voice might be one of the most misunderstood facets of the Christian life. Most of us have never heard an audible voice, and we're not sure we recognize the voice of our Shepherd.

God speaks in many different ways: through creation, the prophets in times past, the coming of Jesus, His written Word, and the Holy Spirit. Many have also sensed His leading through circumstances, people, and church.

This week's passage depicts God calling Samuel, Israel's judge and prophet, who would anoint the first two kings of Israel. While God speaks in an audible voice to the boy He was raising as a prophet, this passage offers encouragement to us: God cares about the character, disposition, and relationship of the listener with Himself. Our part is to cultivate a teachable heart that desires to honor and obey God; His part is to lead us in ways we can understand.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** This week, each time you open Scripture, pause for a moment and pray the words of 1 Samuel 3:9, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.” Ask the Lord to speak to you and give you a willing heart to hear and obey Him.



**POSTCARD:** Remove this week's postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

# day 1

## READ 1 SAMUEL 3

As you begin studying this chapter, remember the passage's general context. Samuel was born during the judges' time when no king ruled Israel.

### Consider 1 Samuel 3:1-9.

1 | What repeated words or phrases seem significant to you? Jot them down here:

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2 | How does v. 1 describe the general situation in Israel? Read the summary statement of the period of the judges in Judges 21:25. How does this verse give context for what is not happening, as described in 1 Samuel 3:1?

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3 | How would you summarize what happens in vv. 4-6?

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4 | How does v. 7 explain Samuel's assumption that Eli is the one calling him?

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5 | What do we learn about Samuel's character and disposition from his repeated words and actions in verses 4-8? (Note: The lamp not going out yet in the temple signifies this happened sometime in the night, before dawn, when Samuel was most likely sleeping.)

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## PRAY

In the space below, copy this week’s simple prayer: **Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.**

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Turn your heart to God as you pray along with these words from *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer:

“Lord, teach me to listen. The times are noisy, and my ears are weary with the thousand raucous sounds which continuously assault them. Give me the spirit of the boy Samuel when he said to You, ‘Speak, for your servant hears.’ Let me hear You speaking in my heart. Let me get used to the sound of Your Voice, that its tones may be familiar when the sounds of earth die away and the only sound will be the music of Your speaking Voice. Amen.”

day 2

## READ 1 SAMUEL 3

Hear (ESV): שָׁמָא *shama*

To hear, to listen to, to obey or heed; to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention and obedience). “Shama” is used 66 times in 1 Samuel.

[\\*blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org)

### Consider 1 Samuel 3:10-21.

1 | Returning to Samuel’s prayer (v. 10), what kind of heart attitude does Samuel model concerning God and the words God might speak?

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2 | The central focus and hinge of this passage is the word the Lord speaks to Samuel (vv. 11-14). (vv. 1-9 lead up to it, and vv. 15-21 describe the aftermath of the message.) What does the Lord say? What reason does He give for the action He will take against Eli the priest?

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3 | Read 1 Samuel 2:12-17 and 1 Samuel 2:22 to understand the context behind the Lord's message to Samuel. What do you learn about Eli's sons?

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4 | For the backstory on Eli's sons, Leviticus 7:30-31 specified that priests would burn the fat as an offering and could take the breast and right thigh of sacrificed animals. How does this contrast with Eli's sons' behavior in 1 Samuel 2:12-17 and 22? What do you deduce about their character and heart attitude toward God's commands?

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5 | How does Samuel's attitude toward the Lord's words contrast with the attitude of Eli's sons toward God's revealed commands?

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6 | Sometimes, we struggle to heed God's voice or direction. Like Eli's sons, have you ever been tempted to do something you knew would not please God? How did you handle it?

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## PRAY

Pray Samuel's words: **Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.**

Pray for a receptive heart toward God, sensitivity to His voice through His Word, and awareness of His Spirit's prompting.

## day 3

### **LISTEN TO 1 SAMUEL 3 ON YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE APP, AND FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR BIBLE.**

1 | After receiving the message from the Lord, why is Samuel afraid to tell Eli the vision or word he received (v. 15)? Does his fear deter him (v. 18)?

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2 | At Northwest, one of our core values is "God's Truth over our opinion." How is this related to God's message and the situation of Eli and his sons?

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3 | Can you think of a time when you had to share God's Truth with someone and weren't sure how they would receive it?

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4 | How does Samuel's example encourage you when it comes to taking risks for Jesus or standing for God's Truth?

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5 | How does Eli respond (v. 18), and what does this tell you about Eli?

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6 | How is Samuel described (vv. 19-20)?

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7 | How does v. 21 relate to v. 1? How does the ending of the narrative contrast with the beginning?

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## PRAY

This week, pray for the leaders of our church as you pray our simple prayer: **Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.**

- Ask God to make their hearts humble and open before Him.
- Pray they would be sensitive to God's leading through His Spirit and Word.
- Pray for someone you know who might need to hear and heed God's voice.

day 4

## READ PSALM 119:1-18

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

Word (ESV): דְבַר *dabar*

Word, speech, speaking, thing.

\*blueletterbible.org

The Hebrew word "dabar" occurs seven times in 1 Samuel 3. (It is most often translated as "word," but in v. 11, it is rendered "thing," and in v. 17, Eli says, "What was 'it' that he told you?") The same word "dabar" is used 23 times in Psalm 119, referring to the written Word of God.

Written to exalt the Word of God, Psalm 119 is an acrostic poem that includes one stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In Hebrew, the first word of each line in a given stanza starts with the same letter.

1 | This psalm begins with a general description of the blessed life. What are some important keys to a life blessed by God (vv. 1-3)?

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2 | Besides “dabar,” which refers to general revelation from God, Psalm 119 uses at least 8 other synonyms to describe God’s Word. List some of them (vv. 1-18).

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3 | How does the psalmist describe his response to God’s Word? List some verbs (action words) indicating his actions or attitudes toward God’s Word (vv. 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16).

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4 | What does the psalmist ask God (vv. 12, 18)? What heart posture does he convey?

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5 | How does the psalmist’s prayer in Psalm 119:18 relate to Samuel’s prayer in 1 Samuel 3:9? How does this encourage you to learn to discern and listen for God’s voice?

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**PRAY**

Write your own simple prayer that flows from your thoughts on Psalm 119:18 and **Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.**

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# day 5

## REFLECTION ON 1 SAMUEL 3

1 | Can you remember a time when you struggled to hear God's voice and weren't sure you understood what He was saying?

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2 | God speaks to us through His creation, Scripture, circumstances, events, the Holy Spirit, and other people, particularly His Church. Besides Scripture, which of these ways does He most often use in your life?

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3 | Thinking over 1 Samuel 3, how does this chapter relate to the importance of community as we seek to discern God's voice? How does the interaction in v. 18 lead to the confirmation of God's words to Samuel?

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4 | What distracts you from hearing God's voice? What competing voices do you often struggle to resist?

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5 | Read Jesus' reassuring words in John 10:27-28. How does this encourage you when it comes to your ability to recognize the voice of the Shepherd? (See also John 10:1-5.)

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**PRAY**

Write a prayer to your Shepherd. Ask Jesus to help you discern His voice, follow His leading, and trust He can make His voice known to you.

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**TEACHING NOTES**

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Psalm 25:4-5a "Make me to know your ways."

O P P D: teach me your paths. Lead me  
in your truth and teach me...

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE



WEEK  
4




Madame  
St Denis  
Brest, 9 rue  
à Paris

week 4

# Prayer for Guidance

**Psalm 25:4-5a: “Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me...”**



## introduction

Have you ever agonized over a decision and feared that making the wrong choice might mess up, or even ruin, your life? We have all faced great challenges when we could not even fathom how to move forward. Instead of spinning our wheels to solve our problem alone, we must stop, look to God, and entrust our situation to Him. We must remind ourselves what we already know about His character and faithfulness.

While we're concerned about specific guidance on our circumstances and decisions, we lose perspective on God's desires. God cares most about our heart toward Him and our willingness to follow His guidance (or path) laid out in Scripture.

Sometimes, our challenges reveal how we fail to trust God and demonstrate our poor choices. In this psalm of lament, David provides a vivid example of choosing God's healing over our hiding as he pours out his heart before God and confesses his sin. Psalm 25 offers us hope because we have a God who hears our prayers when we come to Him, and He delights in forgiving us and showing us the way.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me.

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** Go on a prayer walk around your neighborhood block. As you step down the familiar path, thank God for His guidance through His Word, which gives believers a well-tried and trustworthy path. Ask God to help you keep your feet on His path and to lead you in your specific decisions and challenges.





**POSTCARD:** Remove this week's postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

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day 1

**READ PSALM 25**

This week, pray that God will enliven the words in this psalm so they become your own prayer.

1 | What repeated words or phrases do you notice as you read this psalm?

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2 | What clues do you see about David's situation and state of mind when he wrote this psalm (vv. 2-3)? What affirmation does he make as he approaches God in prayer (vv. 1-2)?

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3 | In general, what are the 3 main requests David makes in this psalm?

**In vv. 4-5:**

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**In v. 7 and 11:**

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**In v. 20:**

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4 | What difficulties or decisions are you currently facing? Where do you need to turn to God for wisdom and guidance?

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## PRAY

In the space below, copy this week's simple prayer: **Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me.**

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Bring your circumstances to God as you pray these words from *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Summertime* by Phyllis Tickle:

**"O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your servant who calls upon you, and grant that I may know and understand what things I ought to do, and that I also may have the grace and power to faithfully accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."**

Psalm 25:4-5a "Make me to know your ways.  
O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me  
in your truth and teach me..."

## day 2

### READ PSALM 25 ALOUD

1 | How does v. 5 reflect David's heart attitude toward God?

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2 | As David asks for mercy and forgiveness (vv. 6-7), to what characteristics of God does he appeal?

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3 | Vv. 8-10 transition to a meditation on God's nature. What affirmations does David make about God's character and actions toward the humble? How do these affirmations relate to his prayer in vv. 4-5?

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4 | We see a rhetorical question in v. 12: "Who is the man (person) who fears the LORD?" Scan vv. 1-11 again. What words or phrases describe the heart attitude of a person who fears God?

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5 | What benefits come to the person who fears the Lord (vv. 12-14)?

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### PRAY

Ask God to guide you in your life and circumstances as you pray this week's simple prayer: **Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me.**

# day 3

**LISTEN TO PSALM 25 ON YOUR BIBLE APP, AND FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR BIBLE.**

Way (ESV): דֶּרֶךְ *derek*

Road, way, journey, direction; also a manner or habit; figuratively, a course of life or mode of action.

*\*blueletterbible.org*

The Hebrew word “derek” refers not only to a literal road, but also to a “direction, manner, habit, and a course of life.” The word “way” is mentioned four times in this psalm, and the related word “path” is used twice.

1 | On Day 2, we saw that God would instruct the person who follows Him in the “way” that he or she should choose (v. 12). How is God’s Word related to His general guidance in showing us the path of life He has for us?

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2 | How does following God’s guidance and commands better prepare us to discern His specific guidance in our situations?

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3 | Look up Psalm 25:4 in the New Living Translation, and write the verse here:

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4 | When it comes to discerning God's specific guidance, we are rarely 100% sure we understand His leading. Instead, we take tentative steps based on our understanding and trust that God will straighten our path, if needed. Has God ever guided you on a particular decision or path you felt He wanted you to choose? How did He guide you? Was it difficult to trust that God was leading you?

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5 | In closing this psalm (vv. 16-22), David expands on the troubles of his heart that he mentioned at the beginning of his prayer. What words or phrases does he use to describe his situation and his feelings?

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6 | We do not know when David wrote this psalm, but based on what you know of David's life, what are some possible troubles, afflictions, or enemies he might have faced? How does this encourage you to seek God in your current situation?

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## PRAY

This week, pray for parents at our church as you pray our simple prayer: **Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me.**

- Pray that God would give them wisdom.
- Ask God to show them the way forward in difficult situations with their children.
- Pray for someone you know who needs God's guidance.

# day 4

## READ PSALM 86

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

### Lament

Lament expresses grief, despair, or pain due to loss or a difficult situation.

Psalms of lament typically have these parts:

- Turning to address God
- Expression of complaint, trouble, or grief
- Confession of trust in God
- Petition or prayer for God to intervene
- Expression of praise

*\*\*Psalms,\*\* The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

Scholars classify Psalm 25 as a psalm of lament because David pours out his grievances to the Lord. Today, we'll read another prayer of lament written to express discouragement and entrust circumstances to God. As you read, think about how lament enables us to choose healing over hiding in our relationship with God.

1 | Many of the ideas expressed in Psalm 86 parallel those of Psalm 25. What words does David use to describe his troublesome situation in Psalm 86:1, 14, and 17?

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2 | What echoes from Psalm 25 do you see in the petitions presented in Psalm 86:2, 11, and 16?

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3 | As we consider David's prayer in Psalm 86:11, the phrase "unite my heart" sounds strange. The NIV says, "Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." What do you think it means to have a divided heart? Why is this prayer important to our growth in Christ?

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4 | Even in trouble, David praises the Lord. How does he characterize God in Psalm 86:5, 8, 10, and 15?

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5 | Psalm 86 ends with an affirmation: "...because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me." How has God helped and comforted you, either in your current situation or in the past?

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**PRAY**

Based on Psalm 25:4-5a or Psalm 86:11, write a simple prayer asking God for guidance.

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# day 5

## READ PSALM 25, MAKING IT YOUR PRAYER AS YOU DO SO.

1 | This week, we saw David pouring out his troubles to God, asking God to “consider” his afflictions and forgive his sins (vv. 18-19). Why should we pour out our problems to God if He already knows them? What is the benefit of explaining to God a situation He already knows?

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2 | Make a quick bullet point list of a few concerns or circumstances where you need God’s wisdom. Take a minute to lift them to God in prayer. In living out our Northwest value of choosing God’s Healing over our hiding, consider sharing one of these concerns with a friend or small group member. Ask them to pray for you this week.

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3 | Even in his struggle, David affirms, “My eyes are ever on the LORD” (v. 15, NIV). He declares his confidence that God will deliver him. In your current situation, what are some ways you could seek to keep your eyes on the Lord?

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4 | In the New Testament, the Greek word for “way” also refers literally to a traveled road or journey and figuratively to a course of conduct. Jesus affirms, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). As you consider your current circumstances and need for direction, how does it encourage you to remember that Jesus Himself is the way?

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**PRAY**

Direct your heart to Jesus. Write a prayer asking your Savior to help you navigate the challenges you are facing.

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*Psalm 25:4-5a "Make me to know your ways.  
O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me  
in your truth and teach me..."*

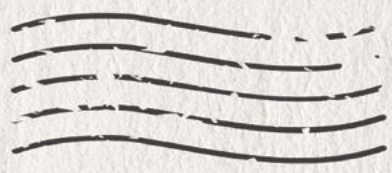


Acts 4:29 "And now, Lord, look upon their threats  
and grant to your servants to continue to speak your  
word with all boldness..."

BOLDNESS TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT JESUS



WEEK  
5



BOULOGNE-STE...  
NOV 1881  
Madame...  
Paris

## week 5

# Boldness to Have Conversations About Jesus

**Acts 4:29: “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...”**

## introduction

In our country, we experience religious freedom. We will not be arrested for talking about Jesus or experience physical harm from the government for sharing our faith. However, believers in other parts of the world do not experience this luxury.

Despite our freedom, we sometimes struggle to engage in conversations about Jesus. Social pressure and workplace restrictions add to our angst. It's easy to tell everyone around us about our favorite sports team's win or the latest online sale. If Jesus has changed our lives, wouldn't we want more people to know about Him than about the Aggie's unbelievable comeback? What keeps us from speaking about Jesus boldly?

In Acts 3, Peter and John go to the temple and encounter a crippled man. They tell him about Jesus and tell him to walk in the name of Jesus. He not only walks, but he leaps and praises God. This attracts a large crowd, and Peter preaches about Jesus at the temple. This week, we'll pick up the story in Acts 4 to see what happens next.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** Gather with 1-2 people this week. Pray together for the Holy Spirit to bring you into conversations about Jesus. Ask for boldness in those conversations as you speak of what Jesus has done in your life.



**POSTCARD:** Remove this week's postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

# day 1

## READ ACTS 4:1-31

1 | Summarize the passage in 2-3 sentences.

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2 | Imagine you are Peter and John in vv. 1-12. What would you be thinking and feeling?

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3 | Peter has a surprisingly easy-to-start conversation when the rulers ask him, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" (v. 7) How did Peter respond?

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4 | Restate v. 12 in your own words.

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5 | Peter had answers when asked about his faith, both for the crowd (ch. 3) and for the rulers (ch. 4). How would you explain your faith if asked?

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## PRAY

In the space below, copy this week’s simple prayer: **God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!**

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After studying this passage today, pray this prayer adapted from *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Summertime*. Pray it now and whenever needed:

**“Almighty God whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give me courage to speak about and follow Him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”**

day 2

## READ ACTS 4:13-22

Boldness: *παρρησία parrēsia*

Spirit-inspired courage and confidence to speak despite any danger or threat.

Free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, assurance.

\*blueletterbible.org; ESV Study Bible; Logos

1 | How did Peter and John demonstrate boldness (v. 13)? Review Day 1 and use the definition above to help with your answer.

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2 | The rulers recognized that Peter and John “had been with Jesus” (v. 13). What do you think the rulers saw in them?

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3 | The rulers were “astonished” at their boldness because they were “uneducated, common men” (v. 13). This doesn’t mean they were ignorant or unintelligent. Rather, they did not have formal rabbinic training. Where do you feel “uneducated and common”? What made the difference for Peter and John? How does that encourage you?

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4 | What did the council ask Peter and John to do (v. 18)? What was their response (vv. 19-20)?

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5 | How do people recognize that you have “been with Jesus”?

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6 | What has Jesus done in your life that, like Peter and John, you “cannot but speak of what [you] have seen and heard” (v. 20)?

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### PRAY

End your study time today by praying our simple prayer for the week: **God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!**

*Acts 4:29 “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...”*

# day 3

## READ ACTS 4:23-31

1 | Upon release from the council, what did Peter and John immediately do (vv. 23-24)?

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2 | What different parts of prayer do you see represented (vv. 24-30)?

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3 | Why is it significant that they started praying by acknowledging God's sovereignty?

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4 | Remember, Peter and John had just been released from prison and told not to speak about Jesus. What did they ask for (vv. 29-30)? What did they not ask for that you may have expected?

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5 | The believers prayed this prayer together. What happened when they were done (v. 31)? What do you think is the significance of them praying this prayer together?

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## PRAY

Pray this week's simple prayer for the women of our church: **God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!**

- Pray for opportunities in their everyday lives to have conversations about Jesus.
- Pray for confidence in their Divine Platforms — how God has shaped them and where He has placed them.
- Pray for courage to tell others how Jesus has changed their lives.

day 4

### READ EPHESIANS 6:18B-20

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

- 1 | Scholars differ on whether the Apostle Paul wrote Ephesians from prison or under house arrest. Paul experienced a loss of freedom, whether in a dank, vermin-infested place with no indoor plumbing or a rented house he couldn't leave. What does Paul ask for in prayer? Why is this significant?

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- 2 | Immediately before this prayer request, Paul talks about spiritual warfare with the Ephesians (vv. 10-18). How do conversations about Jesus relate to spiritual warfare?

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- 3 | Read Ephesians 6:12. How do you see this at work in Acts 4? How does this verse help as you talk about your faith?

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4 | We often think of Paul as a “super-apostle.” He wrote half the books of the New Testament and preached throughout the known world at the time. And yet, he asked people to pray that he would boldly have conversations about Jesus. How does this help as you think about your conversations?

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**PRAY**

Write a prayer based on our simple prayer: **God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!**

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*day 5*

**READ ACTS 4:29**

1 | You may not get arrested for your faith, but what risks do you face speaking boldly about Jesus?

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2 | When you face threats or danger, what do you typically pray for? What can you learn from the prayer in v. 29?

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3 | We believe God has given everyone a Divine Platform: Where He has placed you (family, job, neighborhood) and how He has shaped you (including personality and background.) What does boldness in conversations about Jesus look like for you with your Divine Platform?

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4 | In Acts 4, the believers prayed together for boldness. In Ephesians 6, Paul asks other believers to pray for him. We are meant to support each other in community while having the conversations that God has for us. Who can you gather with to pray for boldness? Who can you pray to have a conversation about Jesus with?

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## Northwest Bible Church's Vision

"By 2026, we will be having thousands of surprisingly easy-to-start conversations about Jesus all over our city because we are convinced, where God has us is where Jesus is."

### PRAY

We spent this week learning and praying about boldness in our conversations about Jesus. We cannot do this alone. We need our community of believers to pray with us and to encourage us. We depend on the Holy Spirit to bring opportunities and to give us words and boldness. Spend time journaling a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to bring you into conversations about Jesus. Use what we learned in Acts 4 as a guide.

- Praise God for who He is and what He has done.
- Thank Him for the gift of salvation and how Jesus has changed your life.
- Ask Him for boldness (courage) to have easy-to-start conversations about Jesus.
- Pray that you can naturally and authentically share what Jesus has done for you.

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Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy

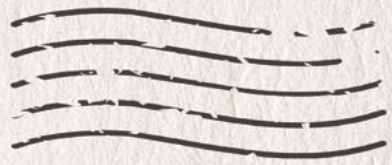
and peace by the power of the Holy Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ

and in hope

HOPE, JOY, AND PEACE FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD



WEEK  
6

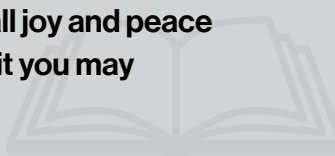


Madame  
M. Denis  
Boulogne, 9 rue  
a Paris

## week 6

Hope, Joy, and Peace  
for the Family of God

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



## introduction

When life brings us hardship or heartache, we naturally look for encouragement. In those moments, God desires to renew our hearts. The God of Hope longs to fill us with joy and peace amid struggle. God's Word contains a wealth of precious prayers and promises to give us the encouragement we desperately need.

However, sometimes we lift verses out of context and slap them on our problems like Band-Aids. (Who doesn't need a bandage when they are bleeding?) For good reason, many Christians love the prayer of Romans 15:13, which we put on our coffee mugs and wall art. However, we forget our beloved verse has context that can provide us with a richer understanding of its truths.

Originally, Paul penned this prayer for a church body experiencing division over disagreements. Paul wrote to Roman believers not only to give them a logical, systematic explanation of God's plan of salvation, but also to address the division between Jews and Gentiles in the church. This week, we'll consider the context of this prayer and the personal encouragement it offers us.

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

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** Ask a friend to be your prayer partner for the week. Pray Romans 15:13 for each other, and connect for a 10-minute phone call. During the call, each person can briefly share a concern that is robbing them of peace and joy. Pray Romans 15:13 over each other. At the end of your prayer time, take a moment to pray for unity in the body of Christ.



**POSTCARD:** Remove this week’s postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

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## day 1

### READ ROMANS 14:1-7

To fully understand the context of this beautiful prayer for hope, peace, and joy, we need to go back to the pesky disagreements — largely between Jewish and Gentile believers — Paul addressed in Romans 14. This will help us understand the opening verses of Romans 15 tomorrow.

As you read, keep in mind that all meat sold in Roman markets would have been sacrificed to pagan gods and not slaughtered according to Jewish law. Remember also that Jewish believers would have observed the Jewish feasts and holy days their entire lives, while Gentile believers had no context for these special days.

1 | What command is given in v. 1? What do you think Paul meant by the phrase “weak in faith?”

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2 | What are the Roman believers arguing over (vv. 2, 5)?

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3 | What is Paul’s viewpoint on these differences of opinion? Does he hold one side as more correct (vv. 3, 5-6)?

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4 | While the ESV translates the Greek word “dialogismos” in v. 1 as “opinions,” the NIV renders it as “disputable matters.” What are some disputable matters that Christians today argue or hold different opinions about?

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5 | In the first eight chapters of Romans, Paul spent considerable time reviewing the doctrine of salvation for Jews and Gentiles alike. How are the disputable matters mentioned in chapter 14, as well as the ones we argue about today, different from central tenets of the Christian faith? How does quarreling over opinions rob us of hope, joy, and peace?

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6 | What directions does Paul give to Roman believers who struggle to accept others with different opinions on disputable matters (vv. 3-4)? How does this encourage us today as we seek to preserve unity, joy, and peace in the body of Christ?

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



## PRAY

Consider Paul's prayer for Roman believers, and write it out here: **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

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Pray this prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer*. Pray it now and whenever needed:

**"Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."**

day 2

## READ ROMANS 15:1-13

Don't be concerned if you do not understand everything yet. Instead, focus on what you do understand in this first reading.

1 | What stands out to you about this passage? Jot down a few words or phrases that seem important or that catch your attention.

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2 | The thought of pleasing our neighbor may cause confusion since other passages in the Bible ask us to please God rather than please people. Also, modern psychology warns us about the dangers of people-pleasing. Let's unpack vv. 1-3 to explore what Paul means by pleasing others:

What are we instructed to do instead of pleasing ourselves (v. 1)?

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What is the purpose of pleasing your neighbor (v. 2)?

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Who is our model (v. 3)?

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3 | After quoting a Messianic Psalm (Psalm 69:9) to illustrate that Jesus did not live to please Himself – and before quoting more Old Testament verses – Paul makes a powerful statement about the purpose of God’s Word. According to v. 4, why were the Scriptures written?

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4 | Can you remember a situation in your life when you needed endurance? How did the Bible give you hope?

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5 | After praying for the Roman believers (vv. 5-6), Paul gives a command (v. 7). How does this verse mirror Romans 14:1 and 3b?

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**PRAY**

Consider either a situation or relationship difficulty where you need hope. Pray Romans 15:13 for yourself: **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

# day 3

## READ ROMANS 15:1-21

1 | Remembering the believers in Rome who had disagreements based on dietary laws and the observance of holy days, Paul pens a prayer for them (vv. 5-6). What are Paul's petitions for these believers?

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2 | After exhorting them to imitate Christ in welcoming each other, Paul unpacks how the servant ministry of Christ impacted both Jews and Gentiles (vv. 8-9a). What were the two reasons Christ "became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness"?

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3 | Next, Paul quotes four verses from the Old Testament (vv. 9-12). What word do they have in common? What point might Paul be making to Jewish Christ-followers who have reservations about the outsiders God brought into His family?

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4 | What do you think the phrase "in him will the Gentiles hope" actually mean (v. 12)? What does it mean to hope in Christ? How would a lack of welcome from Jews due to differing opinions affect the Gentiles' ability to hope in Christ?

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5 | In his prayer for both Jewish and Gentile believers (v. 13), Paul amplifies the theme of hope he mentioned in vv. 4 and 12. How does the Holy Spirit empower us to abound in hope? How do you think this prayer for hope, joy, and peace relates to unity in the body of Christ?

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6 | After mentioning his purpose in writing (v. 15), Paul describes his ministry (vv. 16–21). According to vv. 16 and 18, what was the purpose of his ministry? How does this purpose further confirm his admonition for Jewish believers to welcome newcomers?

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## PRAY

This week, pray for the senior adults at our church as you pray our simple prayer: **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

- Pray that God would spark hope, joy, and peace in their hearts as they face the unique challenges of their life stage.
- Pray that God would use them as catalysts for unity in the Body of Christ.

day 4

## READ ROMANS 15:1-22

Hope (ESV): ἐλπίς *elpis*

Favorable and confident expectation. It has to do with the unseen and the future.

*\*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*

The Greek word “elpis” is used more in the Book of Romans than in any other New Testament book. It conveys the happy expectation of good and indicates a joyful and confident expectation of salvation.

*Unger's Bible Dictionary* clarifies Romans 15:13 with these words: “Because of God's manifested salvation in Christ, and because He is the source of all the believer's expectations, He is called the ‘God of hope.’”



1 | Paul's prayer in Romans 15:13 mentions two fruits the Holy Spirit produces in us. These were also mentioned in Romans 14:17 when he addressed arguments over dietary laws. Read Romans 14:17. What are these two fruits, and how do they take priority over proving your point in disputable matters?

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2 | Romans 15:13 links joy and peace with believing. The NIV uses the phrase, "...fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him," and the NET Bible translates it, "as you believe in Him." What are some things we need to remind ourselves about God so we can strengthen our belief, especially during circumstances that cause pain?

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Let's investigate Paul's use of the words "peace" and "hope" in an earlier passage in Romans.

**READ ROMANS 5:1-5**

3 | What is the most foundational reason for the peace with God that we can enjoy (v. 1)?

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4 | How does living at peace with God enable us to experience more peace with others and with our circumstances? Where do you find yourself struggling to live in peace with certain people or with your current situation?

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5 | What do we learn about future and present hope for Christians (vv. 3-5)? How do these verses encourage us to remember the unexpected joy of desperate dependence on Jesus?

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**PRAY**

Write a prayer based on our simple prayer: **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

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*day 5*

**LISTEN TO ROMANS 15:1-22 ON A BIBLE APP LIKE YOUVERSION, AND FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR BIBLE.**

1 | How can we carry out the command to “welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you” (vs. 7)? Practically speaking, how can we welcome a brother or sister who holds different opinions than we do on disputable matters?

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Now let’s consider the two prayers for the Roman church — and for us! — in Romans 15:5-6a and Romans 15:13. Ultimately, we will enjoy God’s gifts of hope, joy, and peace as we live in harmony with the family of God.

2 | How does Paul’s prayer for unity (vv. 5-6a) encourage you to seek harmony with other believers, especially in a difficult relationship or with a particular group who holds a different opinion than you? Stop for a moment and pray Romans 15:5-6a for yourself and those with whom you desire to live in harmony.

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3 | How does pursuing unity despite different opinions reflect our Northwest value of putting people over programs? What does it look like to put people over programs?

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4 | Paul prays for harmony among believers and encourages them to welcome each other so they will bring glory to God (vv. 6-7). How does unity between brothers and sisters in Christ relate to God's glory?

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5 | Although God's gifts of hope, joy, and peace through the Holy Spirit find their most full expression in the united family of God, God also desires that we experience them as individual believers. What current challenge threatens to rob you of hope, joy, and peace?

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**PRAY**

Write a prayer to lift your situation to the God of hope. Ask Him to enable you to trust Him and fill you with all joy and peace.

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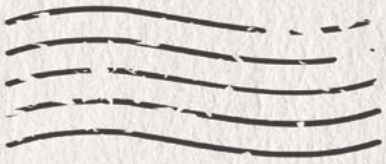
2 Thessalonians 3:5 May the Lord direct your hearts

to the love of God, and to the steadfastness of Christ.

FOCUS FOR FAITHFULNESS, LOVE, ENDURANCE



WEEK  
7



Madame  
Paris  
Gigot, 9 rue  
& Paris

week 7

# Focus for Faithfulness, Love, Endurance

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

## introduction

The Christian life is counter-cultural to the world we live in. The Bible tells us to love our enemies, store up treasures in heaven, expect suffering in this life, and remember that the first shall be last and the last shall be first. All the while, we're surrounded by toxic cancel culture, self-promotion, social media comparison, and prosperity. We need constant encouragement to seek God and reminders that His ways are better than what we see around us.

Paul wrote his second letter to the Thessalonians to encourage them to remain faithful to Jesus amidst persecution and to refute false teachings. As we look at one of his prayers for the Thessalonians, we learn a way to help each other focus on Jesus for faithfulness, love, and endurance.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** God, direct my heart to Your love and Christ's steadfastness!

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** Ask someone to pray for your spiritual growth. Refrain from asking for physical or material needs to be met. Rather, focus on an area of spiritual growth you would like to see. (Examples: time with Jesus, a breakthrough in a sin struggle, trusting God's Truth over your opinion.) This takes vulnerability, but let's trust and see what God does with our requests to grow in Christ!



**POSTCARD:** Remove this week's postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

# day 1

## READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

1 | What did Paul ask the Thessalonians to pray for (vv. 1-2)?

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2 | What did he have confidence God would do for the Thessalonians (vv. 3-4)?

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3 | Paul wrote to the Thessalonians amidst persecution for their faith. Knowing that, how would you have expected him to pray for them (v. 5)? What do you think is missing from Paul's prayer?

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Direct: **κατευθύνω** *kateuthynō*

Guide, to straighten fully, to clear away obstacles.

To point undeviantly, to follow a specified line or course.

\*blueletterbible.org and Merriam Webster's Dictionary

4 | Based on the definition of "direct," why do you think Paul uses that specific word to pray for the Thessalonians regarding God's love and Christ's steadfastness?

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5 | Why would Paul pray v. 5 for the Thessalonians? How is this prayer different from the things we often pray for?

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**PRAY**

In the space below, copy this week’s simple prayer: **God, direct my heart to Your love and Christ’s steadfastness.**

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After studying this week’s passage, pray this prayer from *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Summertime* now and whenever needed:

**“Lord, make me have perpetual love and reverence for Your holy Name, for You never fail to help and govern those whom You have set upon the sure foundation of Your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”**



# day 2

## READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:5

Paul prays that the Thessalonian believers' hearts be directed toward God's love. Today, we'll examine God's love more closely.

Love: ἀγάπη *agape*

Affection, goodwill.

Faithful and benevolent self-giving to a person.

Warm attachment, devotion.

"Love is the central attribute of God, the primary fruit of followers of God, and the defining characteristic of the kingdom of God announced in Jesus."

*\*blueletterbible.org, Merriam Webster's Dictionary, Lexham Theological Wordbook*

### 1 | What do the following passages say about God and love?

1 John 4:7-10

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Romans 5:8

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1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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### 2 | How would you define the love of God? (Hint: use the above definition and what you read in the verses from question 1 to help with your answer.)

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3 | Look back at Day 1 and the definition of “direct.” Why do our hearts need to be directed to the love of God?

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4 | Read 1 John 4:11 and John 13:35. What happens to us as our hearts are directed to God’s love? Why does that matter?

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### PRAY

End your study time today by praying our simple prayer for the week:  
**God, direct my heart to Your love and Christ’s steadfastness!**

day 3

### READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:5

Paul prays that the Thessalonian believers’ hearts will be directed toward Christ’s steadfastness. Today, we will examine Christ’s steadfastness in more detail.

Steadfastness: ὑπομονή *hypomonē*

Patience, endurance, perseverance.

Firmly fixed in place; immovable; not subject to change; firm in belief or determination; loyal.

The capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty.

\*blueletterbible.org, Merriam Webster’s Dictionary, Lexham Theological Wordbook

1 | What is the steadfastness of Christ? (Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and the above definition to help with your answer.)

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

2 | Read Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4. What is the relationship between suffering and steadfastness/endurance? What is the result?

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3 | Look back at Day 1 and the definition of “direct.” Why do our hearts need to be directed to the steadfastness of Christ?

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4 | How does Christ’s steadfastness encourage you to be steadfast in your faith?

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## PRAY

Pray this week’s simple prayer for the men of our church: **God, direct my heart to Your love and Christ’s steadfastness.**

- Pray God will ignite courage in their hearts.
- Pray they will remain loyal to Jesus despite cultural pressure.
- Pray God will remove obstacles so they can experience and show His love.

# day 4

## READ EPHESIANS 3:16-19

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

1 | Rewrite this prayer in your own words.

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2 | Compare this prayer to 2 Thessalonians 3:5. What similarities and differences do you see?

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3 | What does it mean to be "rooted and grounded in love" (v. 17)? How do we become rooted and grounded in love?

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4 | Scholars differ on what each measurement listed in verse 18 refers to, but it's safe to say together they imply the sheer immensity of Christ's love. Describe a time you have been overwhelmed by Christ's love. How did that impact your faith?

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5 | What happens when we know (really understand personally and intimately) Christ's love (v. 19)?

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**PRAY**

Write a prayer based on this week's simple prayer: **God, direct my heart to Your love and Christ's steadfastness.**

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*day 5*

**READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:5**

1 | How has God's love changed your life?

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2 | Where do you need His love today?

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3 | Where do you need Christ's steadfastness?

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4 | What are the things in your life that threaten to steal your focus, faithfulness, love, and endurance in Christ?

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5 | Despite the Thessalonians having very real physical needs, Paul prays for their spiritual life, not their material needs. When people ask for prayer for their physical needs, how can you incorporate prayer for spiritual needs?

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6 | Choose someone, and pray for their spiritual growth.

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**PRAY**

Use your answers to the above questions to write a prayer based on what we have studied this week. In your own words, ask God to direct your heart to the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ. Pray you can endure through hardship and comprehend His love more so you grow in your love for Him and others. Pray below as the Spirit leads you.

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





Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but yours, be done."

THE POWER OF SURRENDER



WEEK  
8



Madame  
J. Davis  
Bisect. 9 rue  
à Paris

## week 8

## The Power of Surrender

**Luke 22:42: “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”**

## introduction

Life is full of choices. Some of these choices are fun: ketchup or mustard, A&M or Baylor, iPhone or Android. We like options because these choices ultimately have very little impact on the grand scope of our lives. Yet, there also comes a time to make difficult choices that will shape the trajectory of our story. At the heart of such choices lies the most important choice, “Whose will am I going to follow?”

Famed musician Bob Dylan poignantly described this reality in his song, “Gotta Serve Somebody.” Every decision we make stems from our choice of master. We may choose family, money, political leaders, or ourselves. The world has no shortage of eager voices ready to lead us, but Scripture is clear that only one voice can lead us to the life our souls long for. This week, we’ll study a moment when Jesus Himself faced this same great choice. As you read, pray about the choices you face, and listen for the voice of true Life.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** Not my will, but Yours, be done.

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** One of the hardest parts about hearing God’s will is quieting our thoughts. This week, we will intentionally focus our minds and hearts on God’s presence by beginning each prayer time with two minutes of silence. If you find your mind wandering, feel free to repeat the phrase, “Be with me, Lord.”



**POSTCARD:** Remove this week’s postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

# day 1

## READ LUKE 22:7-20

Today, we will examine a moment between Jesus and the disciples before His arrest. We will see Jesus introduce a new practice for His followers as a way of preparing their hearts for the turmoil ahead.

- 1 | What was the occasion for which the disciples are gathered in this passage? What is the significance of this celebration? (see Exodus 12:21-28)

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- 2 | Why was Jesus especially concerned about this particular Passover meal? (see Luke 22:15-16)

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- 3 | When did Jesus say He would drink of the Passover cup again?

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- 4 | How did Jesus redefine the representation of the bread and cup for His disciples?

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- 5 | Knowing His betrayal and crucifixion are close at hand, why do you think Jesus chose to institute this new spiritual rhythm for His followers?

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## PRAY

Write out this week's simple prayer from Luke 22:42: **Not my will, but Yours, be done.**

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After studying this passage, pray this prayer from Ted Loder found in *Guerrillas of Grace*. Pray it now and whenever needed:

### Help Me Listen

O Holy One,  
I hear and say so many words,  
yet yours is the word I need.  
Speak now,  
and help me listen;  
and if what I hear is silence,  
let it quiet me,  
let it disturb me,  
let it touch my need,  
let it break my pride,  
let it shrink my certainties,  
let it enlarge my wonder.

Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."



# day 2

## READ LUKE 22:39-46

Today, we will look at one of the most human depictions of Jesus in Scripture. As He prepares to endure the agony of the cross, we witness a moment of agony in His soul. In this moment, the Son's human will conflicts with His divine will. As you read, reflect on moments when your own will has come into conflict with God's, and pray for the ability to respond like Jesus.

1 | The text indicates that the Mount of Olives was a regular place for Jesus to pray. Where is your "Mount of Olives," your regular place to discern God's will?

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2 | What did Jesus instruct the disciples to pray for? Considering what was about to happen, why do you think Jesus instructed this?

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3 | Describe Jesus' emotional state (vv. 42-44).

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4 | Have you ever experienced a deep dread regarding a choice you had to make? How did you wrestle through it?

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5 | What does Jesus ask of God (v. 42)? What is comforting for us about His request?

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6 | Whose will does Jesus reaffirm (v. 42)? What does this mean for us as His followers?

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7 | What did Jesus tell His disciples to pray for when He returned? Why do you think He told them to pray for this again? What role does temptation play when making a decision?

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Willing (NET): Βούλομαι *boulomai*

Want, desire, wish.

To desire to have or experience something with implication of planning accordingly.

To plan on a course of action.

Will (NET): θέλημα *thelēma*

What one wishes to happen, objective sense.

What is willed.

\*BDAG, Greek Lexicon

**“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Yet not my will but yours be done.” (v. 42, NET)**

With these two phrases, we see the distinction between God’s will (a desire according to a planned course of action) and Jesus’ personal will (a wish for a desired outcome). Jesus surrendered His personal wish for Himself and submitted to the reality God’s plan would bring about.

One of the major themes of this passage is God’s will. Human will is fairly straightforward. We desire something and work to make it happen, thus enacting our will. God’s will is more complex. It is divided into three categories:

- Desired will
- Effective will
- Sovereign will



God's desired will encompasses all that God wants to be true of His creation. This will is revealed throughout Scripture. 1 Timothy 2:4 describes God's desired will for all to be saved and to walk in the light of His Truth.

This is different from God's effective will, the will He actively exerts over His creation. God desires for all to be saved, but He does not impose His effective will over us, which would remove our responsibility of choice.

God's sovereign will reigns over all creation. Nothing in existence is outside the scope of God's power. He is the rightful Master over everything. This sovereign will is often hidden from us until it is revealed as it unfolds.

For example, the life of Joseph demonstrates God's sovereign will as He moves in the background to work out events for His ultimate good purpose. This sovereign will is both permissive and active. It is permissive because it allows certain events to unfold even though they go against God's desired will, such as Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery. Sovereign will is also active in how God uses the tragic events of Joseph's life to bring about His ultimate rescue plan for Egypt (Genesis 37-50).

**8 |** In light of what you have read this week, are there any areas of your life where you have been resisting God's will?

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**9 |** Where might God be calling you to follow Him in His mission, even though it may be uncomfortable?

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**PRAY**

Pray this week's simple prayer from Luke 22 aloud: **Not my will, but Yours, be done.**

# day 3

## READ LUKE 22:47-71

Today, we'll see a moment where one disciple's will is tested as he witnesses the outcome of Jesus' loyalty to God's will. As you read, think about areas where God might be calling you to surrender your own will to His.

1 | Who followed Jesus as He was led away to the high priest's house? Describe this person's disposition in this passage.

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2 | What choices does Peter make (vv. 54-62)? What prompted him to respond in this way? What was the result of his choices in this moment (v. 62)?

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3 | Have you ever intentionally walked away from God's will? What resulted from that choice?

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4 | What happened to Jesus as a result of His choice to submit to God's will?

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5 | Read Isaiah 53:5. How does this Old Testament prophecy give context to the surrender of Jesus in Luke 22?

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6 | In a given moment, following God's will can lead to discomfort, struggle, and pain. Have you ever experienced this reality as a result of following God's will? How did God bring you through it?

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Sometimes, surrendering to God's will means submitting to suffering at the hands of humanity. There are times we wish we could make our own way, set our own circumstances, and shape our own destiny. Yet we believe God's will is always better, and all suffering can be redeemed. Jesus is our prime example, as He experienced ultimate suffering on the cross so we might experience ultimate redemption through Him.

### PRAY

In light of this truth, pray this week's simple prayer for the students in our church body: **Not my will, but Yours, be done.**

- Pray they will trust that God's will is good and beautiful.
- Pray they choose God's will over their own.
- Pray they will be bold and courageous to follow Jesus in a world of competing options.
- Pray they will experience God's presence as they face challenges in a world opposed to God's will.

*day 4*

### READ PSALM 139

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

1 | What is the overall theme of this psalm?

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2 | What does this psalm communicate about God's knowledge? His power? His will?

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3 | Read vv.14-18. How do these verses portray God's knowledge about you?

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4 | What does the wickedness of the world prompt David to ask of God (vv. 23-24)?

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**PRAY**

Write a prayer based on this week's simple prayer: **Not my will, but Yours, be done.**

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*day 5*

**READ LUKE 22:7-71**

1 | What things are you desperately dependent on to get through the day (coffee, Amazon, DoorDash, exercise, bank account, alcohol, etc.)?

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2 | How do you tend to navigate making hard choices in your life?

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3 | How do you discern God's will for your life? What role does prayer play in your decision-making?

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4 | Have you ever felt your will clash with God's will? Whose will did you follow? What was the result?

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5 | What does it look like for you to choose God's mission over your comfort in this season?

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6 | What tempts you to follow another's will over God's? Who is one person you can ask for help and prayer in this?

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7 | Is there an area in which God is calling you to step out of your comfort zone, trust His will, and engage with His mission right now?

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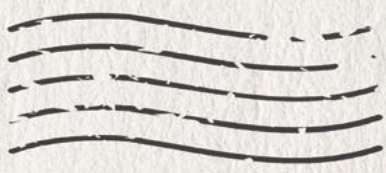
Numbers 6:24-26: The LORD bless you and keep

you. The LORD make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his  
countenance upon you and give you peace.

BLESSED TO BLESS



WEEK  
9



Madame de ...  
Paris

week 9

## Blessed to Bless

**Numbers 6:24-26: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**

## introduction

It is no secret that the Christian life is not easy. The path to glory runs through the valley of pain. Yet we must always remind ourselves of the beauty of our end goal. Our goal is not to have successful programs, booming services, a life of ease, or even to find “our people.” Our goal as the family of God is to know our Lord and make Him known, experience His blessing, and be conduits of that blessing to a hurting world. To know God is to experience the blessing of walking in a relationship with our Creator.

In this final week, we’ll examine a specific Old Testament blessing. We pray that you remember the simple yet profound truth that God is on your side and in your corner. He is always for your good.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** Blessings are meant to be spoken. When a trusted mentor, friend, or loved one speaks a word of encouragement or blessing over us, we feel it down in our souls. Elevation Worship’s song, “The Blessing,” has beautifully put the blessing at the end of this week’s passage to music. We encourage you to listen to these words as they’re sung.



**POSTCARD:** Remove this week’s postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

# day 1

## READ NUMBERS 6:1-12

Today, we will study the Nazirite vow from the Old Testament. This vow was taken by men and women who desired to be set apart unto God in a unique way. This was not an attempt to curry special favor with God; the purpose was to be used as an instrument of His blessing among His people.

1 | Who are the instructions of the Nazirite vow directed to in the passage?

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2 | According to Moses, what was the point behind taking a special religious vow (v. 2)?

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3 | What were the requirements of the Nazirite vow (vv. 3-6)?

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4 | Why were such strict prohibitions placed on someone wishing to take a Nazirite vow (v. 8)?

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5 | If someone under the vow became defiled, what was required for purification (vv. 9-12)? What does this process say about what the Law required for purification before God?

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## PRAY

In the space below, copy this week's simple prayer: **The Lord bless you and keep you.**

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After studying this passage, pray this prayer from *Guerrillas of Grace* by Ted Loder. Pray it now and whenever needed:

Give Me Ears to Hear

Lord,  
I believe  
my life is touched by you,  
that you want something for me  
and of me.  
Give me ears to hear you,  
eyes to see the tracing of your finger,  
and a heart quickened by the motions  
of your Spirit.

day 2

### READ NUMBERS 6:13-17

We will look at some of the physical acts required of those taking the Nazirite vow. Remember, this vow was taken so that one might be an intentional blessing to others. As you read, think about what specific acts others have taken to be a blessing to you.

1 | Once their time of separation was completed, what was the first act a Nazirite should take (vv. 13-15)? What did this act represent?

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2 | What was the significance of the tent of meeting for the people of Israel (see Exodus 33:1-11)?

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3 | What role does having a regular meeting with God play in being a blessing to others?

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4 | What offerings were made? Who performed them (vv. 16-17)?

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5 | Read Numbers 18:1-7. What was the significance of the priests making the offerings on behalf of the Nazirites?

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## PRAY

Pray this week's simple prayer from Numbers 6 aloud: **The Lord bless you and keep you.**

*Numbers 6:24-26: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

# day 3

## READ NUMBERS 6:18-27

Bless (NET): בָּרַךְ *bārak*

To endue with special power (by God).

Spoken by God to Aaron as an example of how to bless God's people, Israel.

Denotes God's favor and purpose.

Keep (NET): שָׁמַר *šāmar*

To watch over, observe.

Denotes a sense of watchful protection.

*\*The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*

Today, we look at the fulfillment of the Nazirite vow, which culminates in God's blessing to Aaron and the priests. This blessing served as a demonstration of how they, in turn, were to bless Israel. As you read, consider God's generosity toward His people.

1 | After the offerings, what must the Nazirite do at the entrance to the tent of meeting? How is this act significant in light of v.5?

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2 | Vv. 19-21 describe the process of making a "wave offering," symbolizing the end of the Nazirite vow. If you had taken such specific steps to bless others, how would you view God differently?

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3 | Who ordains the blessing for Aaron and his sons (v. 22)?

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4 | What is significant about God Himself teaching His people how to bless others?

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5 | Underline the verbs in vv. 24-26. Who is the one performing these actions?

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6 | List the elements of the blessing in the space below. What do the elements of the blessing convey about God's heart for His people?

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7 | The Nazirite vow and priestly blessing serve as a reminder of the ways God intentionally shapes His people to bless the world. In what ways has God intentionally shaped you?

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## PRAY

Pray this week's simple prayer for those who are single and those who are married in our church body: **The Lord bless you and keep you.**

- Pray they will be reminded of God's presence where they are.
- Pray they will see their current season as a gift from God.
- Pray they will seek the purpose and beauty God intends for both singleness and marriage.
- Pray their singleness/marriage will embolden them to be conduits of God's blessing to others.



# day 4

## READ EPHESIANS 1:15-23

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

1 | Summarize the theme of Paul's prayer in one to two sentences.

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2 | For what reason is Paul moved to pray for the Ephesian believers (v. 15)?

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3 | What emotion does the faith of others evoke in Paul? How does Paul model what it looks like to bless others in this passage?

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4 | What specific things does Paul pray for his fellow believers (vv. 17-19)? How do these desires lead us to a deeper experience of the Gospel?

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5 | Both Numbers 6 and Ephesians 1 focus on the blessings God bestows on His people. In what way does reflecting on the blessing of the Gospel in our lives enable us to be conduits of blessing to others?

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**PRAY**

Write a prayer based on this week’s simple prayer: **The Lord bless you and keep you.**

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*day 5*

**READ NUMBERS 6**

When we hear “God’s blessing,” we sometimes think strictly about physical or financial things. What surprising ways has God blessed you?

1 | Have you ever had an experience that seemed difficult at the moment but that you now look back on as a blessing?

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2 | Who are the unique people God has put in your path that you can be a blessing to?

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3 | Do you know your Divine Platform (where God has placed you and how He has shaped you)? How has God uniquely gifted you that can be a blessing to others?

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4 | Do you find it easy or hard to believe that God is really for your good? What experiences have shaped your thoughts about God being for you in all things?

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5 | Where do you need to be reminded that God is with you and in your corner?

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6 | What word of blessing do you need to hear from someone today?

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**PRAY**

- Begin your time by listening to the song “The Blessing” by Elevation Worship.
- List ways God has blessed you in the past.

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- List five ways He has blessed you in your current season.

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- Take time to thank God that He is FOR His people.
- Choose one other person who needs to know the blessing of Jesus. Take time to pray that God would use you to bless them with the Hope of Jesus.

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