



THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF

KING DAVID

**THIS
BOOK
BELONGS
TO**

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SERIES BOOKLET OVERVIEW.

Welcome to **The Incredible Life of King David** series booklet! We've designed this resource to be a valuable companion as we journey together through the life of one of the most remarkable figures in the Bible. Whether you're studying on your own, with your family, or in a small group, this booklet is here to enhance your experience, deepen your understanding, and help you apply the lessons from David's life to your own.

Overview of Contents:

Bible Reading Plan:

At the heart of this booklet is a daily Bible reading plan that guides you through the same passages our entire church will be studying each week. By committing to this plan, you'll cultivate a daily habit of engaging with God's Word, and you'll find yourself better prepared to understand and apply each week's sermon. With everyone reading the same Scriptures from Monday to Friday, you'll also have the added benefit of connecting with others in our church through this shared experience.

Weekly Sections:

- **Sermon Overview:** This concise summary helps you grasp the main themes and takeaways from each sermon. Use it as a reference before, during, and after the message to reinforce your understanding.
- **Sermon Notes:** We've provided space for you to jot down your thoughts and key points during the sermon. Taking notes not only helps you stay engaged but also provides a handy reference for later use.

- **Worship Playlist:** Each week's section includes a QR code that links to a curated worship playlist on YouTube or Spotify. These songs are chosen to align with the themes of the week's message, offering you a personal worship experience that complements what you're learning.
- **Discussion Questions:** These discussion questions are designed to spark meaningful conversations in a variety of settings—family devotions, small groups, or even with coworkers. The questions are directly related to the sermon and will help you explore the message further with others. Additionally, a QR code to the previous Sunday's sermon is provided at the top of the discussion page so you can easily revisit or catch up on the series if needed.
- **5-Day Devotional and Journal:** This section is a helpful tool for your personal devotional time. It includes a daily Scripture reading, a reflection on the passage, practical application, prayer prompts, suggested worship songs, and a journal prompt.

Additional Resources:

At the end of the booklet, you'll find two appendixes designed to deepen your study and prayer life:

1. **Study Resources:** Here you'll find links to YouTube videos, such as those from the Bible Project, and recommendations for further reading that will take you deeper into the life of David.
2. **Prayer Resources:** This section offers practical tools to help enrich your prayer life. You'll find guides like the ACTS prayer model, insights into The Lord's Prayer, tips for praying through Scripture, instructions on how to fast, and practices for listening to God in prayer.

We encourage you to use this booklet fully—let it guide your Bible reading, enhance your worship, deepen your discussions, and strengthen your prayer life as we explore the incredible life of King David together.

SERIES

INTRO.

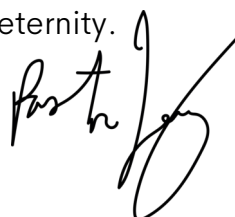
The Incredible Life of King David will take us on a journey through the life of one of the most iconic figures in the Bible, King David. From his humble beginnings as a young shepherd to his rise as the anointed King of Israel, David's story is one of courage, failures, and redemption.

David is often celebrated as a man after God's heart, yet his life was far from perfect. He faced overwhelming challenges, made grievous mistakes, and endured deep personal pain. However, what stands out in David's story is not his perfection, but his relationship with God—a relationship marked by repentance, humility, and a deep trust in God's unending mercy. Through David's victories and failures, we see a man who sought after God, even after falling short. His life is a reminder no matter how far we stray, God's grace is always within reach.

As we explore David's life, ultimately, we will see how his story points to someone even greater: the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who came from David's lineage to redeem and restore all who are lost. See, David's life is a shadow of the ultimate King, who not only rules with justice but also offers us the grace we so desperately need.

Whether you've been walking with Christ for years or are just beginning your faith journey, this series will help you learn how to live a Christ-centered life, lead with a humble heart, improve your earthly relationships, and leave a legacy that honors God for eternity.

May God give you a heart after His own!



Pastor Jeremy

READING PLAN.

In addition to the following reading plan, we encourage you to read through the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, at least once, to get familiar with the stories of Samuel, Saul, and King David. If you do not have a Bible please let your campus pastor know and we will provide one.

WEEK 1

9/23 Psalm 139:1-12
9/24 Psalm 139:13-24
9/25 Psalm 19
9/26 Psalm 78
9/27 1 Cor. 1:26-31

WEEK 2

9/30 Psalm 27
10/1 Psalm 18:1-15
10/2 Psalm 18:16-30
10/3 Psalm 18:31-50
10/4 Psalm 91

WEEK 3

10/7 Matt. 28:16-20
10/8 Acts 1:1-8
10/9 2 Cor. 5:14-21
10/10 Romans 10:13-17
10/11 Luke 10:1-12

WEEK 4

10/14 Psalm 23
10/15 Psalm 47
10/16 Psalm 95:1-7
10/17 Psalm 99
10/18 Rev. 19:11-16

WEEK 5

10/21 Psalm 42
10/22 Psalm 43
10/23 Isaiah 41:8-13
10/24 Romans 8:28-39
10/25 James 1:2-4

WEEK 6

10/28 Psalm 25
10/29 Psalm 34
10/30 Isaiah 40:28-31
10/31 Hebrews 10:23-25
11/1 Proverbs 3:5-6

WEEK 7

11/4 Psalm 46
11/5 Psalm 66
11/6 Psalm 61
11/7 Psalm 121
11/8 Psalm 138

WEEK 8

11/11 Psalm 88:1-18
11/12 Psalm 89:19-37
11/13 Psalm 89:38-52
11/14 2 Samuel 7:18-29
11/15 Romans 4:13-25

READING PLAN CONT.

WEEK 9

11/18 Matt. 11:25-30
11/19 Psalm 51
11/20 Eph. 2:1-10
11/21 Luke 15:11-32
11/22 2 Samuel 9

WEEK 10

11/25 Psalm 38
11/26 Psalm 51
11/27 Psalm 6
11/28 Matt. 5:27-30
11/29 1 John 1:5-10

WEEK 11

12/2 Psalm 39
12/3 Psalm 32
12/4 Hebrews 12:5-11
12/5 2 Samuel 12:1-14
12/6 2 Samuel 12:15-31

WEEK 12

12/9 Psalm 22
12/10 Psalm 77
12/11 Psalm 103
12/12 2 Samuel 22:1-20
12/13 2 Samuel 22:21-51

"Some people like to read so many [Bible] chapters every day. I would not dissuade them from the practice, but I would rather lay my soul asoak in half a dozen verses all day than rinse my hand in several chapters. Oh, to be bathed in a text of Scripture, and to let it be sucked up in your very soul, till it saturates your heart!"

– Charles Haddon Spurgeon

SERMON OVERVIEW.

1 SAMUEL 16

David was an unlikely king: He didn't look or play the part; He was the youngest of his brothers; He wasn't even initially considered for the crown when Samuel arrived at Jesse's house. Yet, in 1 Samuel 16, God chose David anyway. *Why?*

One of the things that David's life shows us is that God values inner faithfulness over outward status. David did not have the outward status Saul did. Saul looked the part and was outwardly impressive. David was the complete opposite of Saul but David had what Saul did not—a heart focused on God. The whole reason David was anointed king is that Saul neglected God.

God had warned the Israelites of the consequences of having a king like the other nations (see 1 Samuel 8). Rather than listen to God, they insisted on being like everyone else. Instead of being satisfied with their heavenly king, they desired an earthly king to rule over them. So, God gave them what they *wanted* even though it wasn't what they *needed*.

The story of David being anointed as king teaches us several things about God:

- God is faithful to the unfaithful - After the first king they wanted didn't work out, God still provided a new king for his people (One that foreshadows the ultimate King to come—Jesus!)
- God looks beyond outward appearances - Stop trying to look the part and cultivate a heart for God.
- God is always preparing us for what's ahead - Even when life feels mundane, God is working his plan!

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(ANNOINTING)

(FAITHFULNESS)

(INNER LIFE)

WK1 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



01	AVAILABLE	ELEVATION WORSHIP
02	PSALM 23	PHIL WICKHAM
03	EVIDENCE	JOSH BALDWIN
04	SAME GOD	ELEVATION WORSHIP
05	YOUR HEART (DAVID)	CHRIS TOMLIN
06	CONFIDENCE	SANCTUS REAL
07	MADE FOR MORE	JOSH BALDWIN

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 1.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. Reflecting on 1 Samuel 16:1, how might dwelling on past disappointments or failures prevent us from recognizing God's new work in our lives today? Can you share an example from your own experience?
2. In 1 Samuel 16:6-7, God reminds Samuel that He looks at the heart, not outward appearances. How do we sometimes fall into the trap of judging ourselves or others based on external factors? What steps can we take to cultivate a heart that aligns with God's perspective?
3. David was overlooked by his own family and was tending sheep when Samuel called for him. How does this part of David's story encourage us to be faithful in the "pasture seasons" of our lives? How might God be preparing you during a season of waiting or obscurity?
4. God anointed David as king, setting him apart for a unique purpose (1 Samuel 16:12-13). How does understanding God's anointing in our own lives shape the way we approach our daily tasks and challenges? In what ways can we seek and rely on the Holy Spirit's anointing more fully?

DAY 1 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Read and Reflect: Psalm 139:1-12

Psalm 139:1-12 is a great reminder of God's intimate knowledge of our lives: He knit us together in our mother's womb; He knows the number of hairs (or lack thereof) on our heads; every thought, word, and action is known by God! David's words in this Psalm invite us to rest in the assurance that we are never alone. God's presence surrounds us in every moment and every season of our lives. Knowing this truth brings us comfort, especially in times of uncertainty or fear.

Apply: Remind yourself today that God knows you, God is with you, and God is for you!

Pray:

1. Pray for an awareness of God's constant presence.
2. Ask Jesus to give you trust in God's sovereignty over all aspects of your life.
3. Pray that our church would be more aware of God's presence in every worship gathering and interaction with each other.

Worship:

Psalm 23 by Phil Wickham

Journal: Reflect on a moment when you sensed God's presence. How does this awareness influence your approach to today's tasks and interactions?

JOURNAL NOTES.

DAY 2 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Read and Reflect: Psalm 139:13-24

David continues to explore God's involvement in our lives—From our creation in the womb to the thoughts we think in our head, God's hand is evident. There is no doubt, that we are *intimately* and *intentionally* created by God. As seen in David's prayer for God to search and know his heart, David's deepest desire is for God's guidance in his life. The same should be true for us—Because we are fully known by God, let us examine our hearts and seek His guidance in all aspects of our lives.

Apply: Spend some quiet time with the Lord and ask Him to examine your heart and guide your actions.

Pray:

1. Pray for God to examine and reveal your motives.
2. Ask for guidance in the areas you need to align more closely with His will.
3. Pray that as a church, we would learn to be more open and vulnerable with one another—sharing our weaknesses and asking for God's strength.

Worship:

Evidence by Josh Baldwin

Search Me, Know Me by Kathryn Scott (not on the playlist)

Journal: How can you be more intentional in examining your heart before the Lord? What is God revealing to you as you've asked him to search your heart?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Read and Reflect: Psalm 19

Psalm 19 shows God's revelation to us, seen through His creation and His Word. Scripture says the heavens declare His glory, and creation reveals His handiwork. God, revealing Himself through nature and Scripture reminds us that God is a speaking God who loves to reveal His will for our lives. When was the last time you paused your busy life and pondered the beauty of creation and the wisdom of His Word? Having a great awareness and passionate pursuit of God through his Revelation deepens our appreciation for God's sovereignty and majesty over our lives.

Apply: Spend time in nature praying to God and reading His Word. Remember, a change of *place* and *pace* often results in a change of *perspective*.

Pray:

1. Thank God for how the beauty of creation reflects His glory.
2. Pray for a deeper love for God's Word and Its application to your life.
3. Pray for a deeper passion in our church for the Word of God. We are a church striving to be passionate about God's Word!

Worship:

Same God by Elevation Worship

Take You at Your Word by Cody Carnes (not on the playlist)

Journal: Reflect on how God reveals himself through creation and Scripture. How can you incorporate a greater appreciation of both into your daily life?

JOURNAL
NOTES.

Dotted lines for journal notes

DAY 4 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Read and Reflect: Psalm 78

Psalm 78 tells of God's faithfulness to the nation of Israel. David recalls how God performed miracles and provided for His people—yet they often suffered from amnesia! They forgot His works and disobeyed the Lord. One of the things this Psalm invites us to reflect on is all the ways that God has been faithful in our lives. He has been so good to us. This is why we are called to teach God's promises and deeds so that the next generation understands and appreciates His mighty works.

Apply: Reflect and Share. Spend time today reflecting on God's past faithfulness and share these stories with others (on social media, over a cup of coffee).

Pray:

1. Thank God for His faithfulness in your life and the lives of those around you.
2. Ask for wisdom in sharing His works with others.
3. Pray for our church to be a light of God's faithfulness to the next generation. Pray that our Next Generation Ministries (KZ and Roots) thrive!

Worship:

Available by Elevation Worship

Been So Good by Elevation Worship

Journal: Write about a specific instance of God's faithfulness in your life. Consider how you plan to share this testimony with others to encourage them in their faith.

JOURNAL NOTES.

Dotted lines for journaling.

DAY 5 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Read and Reflect: 1 Corinthians 1:26–31

Paul reminds the Corinthians to consider their calling and how God chose them—not because of their wisdom, strength, or nobility, but because of His grace. God delights in using what the world considers foolish, weak, and lowly to shame the wise and strong. This ensures that no one can boast in their abilities, but only in the Lord. We must remember that our identity and worth are found not in our achievements but in Christ, who has become our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30).

Apply: Develop the habit of reflecting glory to God when you do something good. Boast only in the Lord and recognize that our worth and purpose come from Him alone.

Pray:

- Thank God for choosing you and giving you a new identity despite your weaknesses.
- Ask God to help you find your worth in Him, not in achievements or status.
- Pray that our church would be a community that reflects Christ's wisdom, righteousness, and humility to the world. May unbelievers notice a difference.

Worship:

Confidence by Sanctus Real

Journal: Reflect on a time when you felt inadequate or unworthy. How does knowing that God chose you despite your weaknesses change your perspective on that situation?

JOURNAL NOTES.

SERMON OVERVIEW.

1 SAMUEL 17

David and Goliath!!! How do you talk about the life of David without mentioning the day he took down the giant?!

While there are many principles we can glean, this story is way more than just a sweet little Sunday school lesson designed to inspire us to defeat our Goliaths. No, more than helping us overcome our greatest enemies, this story reminds us to place our focus on the one who did!

The story of David and Goliath reminds us of 3 key truths:

1. We don't stand a chance against our "Goliath" - If on our strength and merit we could have defeated sin, Satan, and death then Jesus didn't need to come. But we are not David in this story. We needed someone to fight for us.
2. There is a deliverer who fights for us - 1 Samuel 17:10,16 shows the concept of representative warfare—the one fights for the many. What was true for the Israelites is true for Christians.
3. God provides an unlikely deliverer - While it is true that David was an unlikely deliverer, his story points to another unlikely deliverer. No one expected a child born in little ole' Bethlehem, who grew up in Nazareth, who was the son of a carpenter, to be the savior of the world!

Application: We need to trust in Jesus, our great deliverer. He did for us what we could never do for ourselves. He is still the one who fights for the many. He is our representative! And in Him only can we overcome.

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(DEVLIVERER)

(REDEMPTION)

(VICTORY IN CHRIST)

WK2 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 | THIS IS OUR GOD | PHIL WICKHAM |
| 02 | BATTLE BELONGS | PHILI WICKHAM |
| 03 | SURROUNDED (FIGHT MY BATTLES) | MICHAEL W. SMITH |
| 04 | I SPEAK JESUS | HERE BE LIONS |
| 05 | SAME GOD | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 06 | CONFIDENCE | SANCTUS REAL |
| 07 | THAT'S WHO I PRAISE | BRANDON LAKE |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 2.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. How does the story of David and Goliath challenge our understanding of where true strength and victory come from? What can we learn from David's confidence in God's power rather than his own when faced with a challenge?
2. In what areas of your life do you feel like you are facing a "Goliath"? How does knowing that "the battle is the Lord's" change your approach to these challenges?
3. David was an unlikely deliverer, chosen by God to defeat Goliath. How does this story reflect the way God often works through unexpected people or circumstances? What does that tell us about God's plan and our role in that plan?
4. How does David's trust in God as his deliverer point us to Jesus, our ultimate deliverer? In what ways can we deepen our trust in Jesus when facing our own battles?

**5 DAY DEVOTIONAL
& JOURNAL**



WEEK **N**

DAY 1 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Read and Reflect: Psalm 27

In Psalm 27, David proclaims, "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?" Despite the many enemies and trials he faced, David's heart remained fixed on the presence of God. Like David, we are often surrounded by uncertainties and challenges, yet, when we focus on His protection and strength, fear loosens its grip. This passage is a great reminder of our confidence as Christians in the unshakable refuge that is our God.

Apply: Identify areas where fear or anxiety may be holding you back—work, relationships, health, personal goals, etc. Take time each day to consciously shift your focus from the problems to God's presence and promises.

Pray:

1. Pray for God to strengthen your faith in Him.
2. Ask for peace and confidence in facing your current challenge.
3. Pray for those in our church facing tremendous battles, that they would experience God's protection and presence.

Worship:

Surrounded (Fight My Battles) by Michael W. Smith
No Longer Slaves by Zack Williams. (Not on the playlist)

Journal: Reflect on a situation where you need to trust God more. How does knowing The Lord is present and powerful change your perspective?

DAY 2 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Read and Reflect: Psalm 18:1-15

In Psalm 18:1-15, David paints a vivid picture of God as his mighty fortress and deliverer. He recalls how God's strength has pulled him from danger time and time again. This passage invites us to reflect on the times when God has shown His power and provision in our own lives—moments when we've been rescued from situations that seemed impossible. Crosstown, let us remember that God is not distant or indifferent to our struggles; He is actively involved, fighting on our behalf, and intervening in ways that only He can.

Apply: As we face challenges, let us hold fast to the truth that the same God who delivered David is our refuge today, faithfully working for our good.

Pray:

1. Praise God for His power and deliverance in your life.
2. Ask for His continued protection and help in your current struggles.
3. Pray for those in our church who need God to intervene in their current situation.

Worship:

Confidence by Sanctus Real

A Mighty Fortress (Hymn) (not on the playlist)

Journal: Write about a time when you experienced God's deliverance. How does this influence your view of power and intervention in your life moving forward?

JOURNAL

NOTES.

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Read and Reflect: Psalm 18:16–30

In Psalm 18:16–30, David praises God not only for His deliverance but also for His just and righteous character. David knows living in alignment with God's ways brings blessing and favor. As followers of Christ, we are called to walk in the light of God's truth. We are called to align our thoughts, actions, and decisions with His Word, every day. When we do this, we can be assured that there is an eternal reward awaiting us.

Apply: Set small, practical goals—such as being more intentional in prayer, showing kindness, or practicing integrity in difficult situations. As you take these steps, remember that God honors those who seek to live faithfully.

Pray:

1. Pray for God to lead you away from temptation.
2. Ask for wisdom to understand and embrace God's just ways.
3. Pray that our church would become more and more holy in a crooked and twisted generation. May we shine like stars in a dark world.

Worship:

This is Our God by Phil Wickham

Holy Forever by Chris Tomlin (not on the playlist)

Journal: Reflect on an area of your life that you need to repent of and bring into alignment with God's standards. How can you better reflect His righteousness?

DAY 4 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Read and Reflect: Psalm 18:31–50

In Psalm 18, David expresses that every victory he has experienced was not by his strength but through God's intervention. As he reflects on how God equipped him for battle and led him to triumph, David's heart overflows with praise. Likewise, in our lives, we need to be reminded that every blessing and victory flows from God's power and provision. He is the one who equips us with the strength, wisdom, and courage that we need. So, today, give credit where credit is due—to God alone.

Apply: Spend time praying and praising God for what He has done!

Pray:

1. Praise God for the victories and strength He has provided.
2. With His faithfulness in mind, ask God for continued strength and courage to face future challenges.
3. As a church, let us give praise for all that God has done in and through Crosstown. Any victories and blessings that we experience are because of God's faithfulness.

Worship:

That's Who I Praise by Brandon Lake

Journal: Write about a recent victory or breakthrough where you saw God's hand at work. How can you express gratitude for his intervention in those breakthroughs?

Read and Reflect: Psalm 91

Psalm 91 is yet another reminder of God's protection and faithfulness. Here, God is displayed as a refuge and fortress. When we go through times of uncertainty (and maybe you are going through something now), David's words serve as a source of comfort and encouragement. May we trust God's promises and find refuge in His presence, for only then will we experience His peace and security amidst life's uncertainties.

Apply: God's promises are a shelter for the weak. Look up some of God's promises in your Bible and learn to take refuge in them.

Pray:

1. Pray for an increase in faith and trust in God's protection.
2. Ask for the peace of God that comes from knowing His promises.
3. Pray that our church would be a place of refuge and support to those in need.

Worship:

Battle Belongs by Phil Wickham
A Mighty Fortress is Our God (Hymn)

Journal:

Reflect on a time when you experienced God's protection. How does this understanding of His refuge influence your trust in Him during challenging times?

JOURNAL

NOTES.

SERMON OVERVIEW.

LUKE 10:2

In Luke 10:2, Jesus declares, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Our Lord's statement is a call to action directly impacting how we approach world missions today. There is an urgent need for believers to step into the role of laborers in God's harvest field. With countless opportunities to live out the Great Commission, we are reminded the work of spreading the message of the Gospel is far from finished. Currently, around 700 international workers, in the C&MA (Christian and Missionary Alliance) are serving across the globe—but the demand for more laborers is critical.

Jesus' command to share the gospel is just as relevant now as it was 2,000 years ago. Each of us is called to be His witness, to shine the light of Christ wherever we go. Whether it's in our local communities or in distant, hard-to-reach places, we have a role to play in God's mission.

So, how might God be calling you to enter the harvest? It begins with prayer—praying earnestly for the nations and for those in your own neighborhood who don't yet know Christ. It continues with reflection, as you consider how to be a light in your everyday life—in your community, workplace, or school. And it takes intentional action, as you step out in faith to share the love of Jesus with someone this week.

Remember, the harvest is indeed plentiful, and God is inviting you to be a part of His incredible work in bringing people into His kingdom.

Will you respond to His call?

**SERMON
NOTES
10/6.**

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(MISSIONS)

(WITNESS TO THE WORLD)

(LORD OF THE HARVEST)



WK3 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 01 | WE MUST GO | SADDLEBACK WORSHIP |
| 02 | LORD OF THE HARVEST | LINDY COFER |
| 03 | I'VE WITNESSED IT | PASSION |
| 04 | LAY ME DOWN | CHRIS TOMLIN |
| 05 | UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD HEARS | CASTING CROWNS |
| 06 | HOLY FOREVER | CHRIS TOMLIN |
| 07 | MADE FOR MORE | JOSH BALDWIN |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 3.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. Jesus tells us to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out workers in Luke 10:2. What role does prayer play in missions, and how can we be more intentional in praying for the harvest?

2. What are some practical ways we can respond to the call to be workers in the harvest, both locally and globally?

3. What are some ways that we can support those who are already serving in the mission field?

4. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few". What do these words of Jesus reveal about the urgency of missions, and how can we cultivate a heart that is sensitive to God's call to go and make disciples of all nations?

5 DAY DEVOTIONAL
& JOURNAL



WEEK 3

Read and Reflect: Matthew 28:16-20

This passage is known as the Great Commission where Jesus commands His followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them to obey His commands. It's been said, that a great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission makes a great church. As followers of Christ, we are called to spread the Gospel and invest in others' spiritual growth. As we go, Jesus promises that His presence will go with us. We are not alone in our efforts. Jesus gives us the power to actively participate in God's mission of making disciples.

Apply: Invest your life into making disciples and spreading the Gospel. Do one thing today that will help someone grow in their faith or come to know Jesus as their savior.

Pray:

1. Pray for boldness and clarity in to the Gospel with others.
2. Ask for opportunities to invest in others' spiritual growth.
3. Pray for more and more people in our church to engage in world missions and personal evangelism.

Worship:

Until the Whole World Hears by Casting Crowns

Journal: Consider how you can be more actively involved in the Great Commission. What steps can you take to engage in making disciples?

JOURNAL NOTES.

Lined area for journal notes, consisting of 20 horizontal dashed lines.

DAY 2 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Read and Reflect: Acts 1:1-8

In Acts 1:1-8, Jesus instructs His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit, who will empower them to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. This passage highlights the crucial role that the Holy Spirit has in equipping believers to be a witness to the world. Without His presence in our lives, we won't be able to fulfill the mission of the Church. It is comforting to know that our efforts in sharing the gospel are not dependent on our strength but on God's.

Apply: Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a greater awareness for the lost, and a greater boldness to be an Acts 1:8 Christian.

Pray:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's promptings and empowerment to share the gospel.
2. Ask the Lord for opportunities to share the Good News with those without hope.
3. Pray for our church to have an effective outreach to our local neighborhoods as we also seek to partner with people trying to reach the nations.

Worship:

We Must Go by Saddleback Worship

Journal: Reflect on when you felt the Holy Spirit guiding or empowering you. How can you more consciously rely on the Spirit in your witness and ministry?

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Read and Reflect: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Paul, here in 2 Corinthians, speaks of the reconciliation we have through Christ and our role as ambassadors of this reconciliation. As believers, we are compelled by Christ's love to share the message of reconciliation with others. As we often say at Crosstown, Found People Find People: When you've discovered the greatest news in the history of the world you'll naturally want to share it with others. If lost people matter to God then they should matter to us.

Apply: Embrace your role as an ambassador of Christ's reconciliation and show the love of Christ to those around you.

Pray:

1. As you read through Scripture, pray for a deeper understanding of your role as an ambassador for Christ.
2. Ask for opportunities to share the message of reconciliation with others.
3. Pray for open hearts in our communities as our church continues to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Worship:

Made for More by Josh Baldwin

Journal: Consider how your understanding of being an ambassador for Christ affects your daily interactions. How can you be a more effective and intentional ambassador?

DAY 4 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Read and Reflect: Romans 10:13-17

How will people respond to the Gospel if they have not clearly heard the Gospel? How will people hear the Gospel if we are not actively sharing the Good News with others? That is the message the Apostle Paul gives in Romans 10:13-17. Paul emphasizes the necessity of preaching in evangelism and world missions. Faith comes from hearing the message about Christ, therefore, messengers like you and me are vital vessels. Throughout Scripture, we are reminded of the importance of sharing the gospel and supporting those who do. We have a responsibility. Let us feel the weight of that responsibility!

Apply: Do something today to spread and support the Gospel.

Pray:

1. Pray for the courage to share the gospel with those who have not heard.
2. Ask the Lord for a heart to support and encourage those involved in missions.
3. Pray for our international workers as they engage in missions: Brandon and Bethany Nutter (DR), Walter and Laura Hopkins (Spain), and Renee Valach (Africa).

Worship:

I Lay Me Down by Chris Tomlin

Journal: Reflect on how you can be more proactive in sharing the gospel or supporting those who do. What are some practical ways to be involved in this mission?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 5 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Read and Reflect: Luke 10:1-12

In Luke 10, Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples, commissioning them to go ahead of Him into every town and place He was about to visit. Luke 10:2 says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest."

Today, as we reflect on Jesus' words, we're reminded that being sent out by Christ is not just a task but a divine partnership, where our dependence on God becomes our greatest strength. We are called to carry His message of salvation to the world, knowing that God is the one who prepares hearts and brings about transformation.

Apply: Set your phone alarm to 10:02 am (10:02 pm for you night owls) and pray Luke 10:2 for our church.

Pray:

1. Pray for more humility and dependence as you serve in whatever ministry effort God has called you to.
2. Pray specifically for our international workers in the Dominican Republic, Spain, and Africa to be able to raise interns and long-term workers to help them in their mission.
3. Pray that from our church we would raise leaders, pastors, and missionaries to be sent out into the Harvest Field.

Worship:

Lord of the Harvest by Lindy Cofer

Journal: Reflect on the role you play in missions. How can you help prepare the way for God's Kingdom in your community?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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SERMON OVERVIEW.

1 SAMUEL 18-20

The contrast between King Saul's fall and King David's rise helps us understand how people respond when others are blessed or find success. While Saul reacts with envy to David's fame, Jonathan (Saul's son and next in line to the throne) responds with humility.

King Saul's envy is seen in 1 Samuel 18:6-9, where he becomes increasingly threatened by David's success after a song is written about David's fame. Saul gets so angry that he attempts to murder David on several occasions.

One of the warnings in this passage is NOT to find our identity in anything or anyone other than Jesus. When our identity is in our success, the success of others becomes a threat to who we are.

Saul's response shows the destructive nature of envy in our lives. If we let envy take hold of our hearts, the blessings of God in our lives can disappear just like it did in Saul's life. The only remedy for envy is finding our contentment in Christ!

In contrast to Saul's envy toward David, we see Jonathan's humility toward God in 1 Samuel 18:1-4. In this passage, Jonathan makes a covenant with David and willingly surrenders his robe (and kingly rights to him). Instead of taking the reigns as next in line, Jonathan shows humility and surrenders his power to the true king (David).

Likewise, instead of allowing envy to rule our hearts, we are called to humility, surrendering to the one true king (Jesus).

SERMON NOTES 10/13.

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(SURRENDER)

(HUMILITY)

(CONTENTMENT)

WK4 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



01	THERE IS A KING	BRANDON LAKE
02	MY KING FOREVER	JOSH BALDWIN
03	ENOUGH	ELIAS DUMMER
04	COUNTING EVERY BLESSING	REND COLLECTIVE
05	JIREH	ELEVATION WORSHIP
06	KING OF KINGS	HILLSONG
07	YET NOT I	CITYALIGHT

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 4.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. How do you typically respond when you see others succeeding or receiving praise? Do you find yourself more inclined to feel envious like Saul, or to celebrate and support them like Jonathan? Are there factors that play into how you feel in the moment?
2. Saul's envy and pride led him to view David as a threat rather than a blessing. In what ways can envy or jealousy hinder our relationships and our ability to see God's work in others' lives?
3. Jonathan surrendered his rights and position to support David as God's chosen king. What does it mean for us to surrender our own ambitions or desires to align with God's will? Are there areas in your life where you struggle to let Jesus be king?
4. Reflecting on both Saul and Jonathan's responses to David, how can we cultivate humility and contentment in Christ, even when it means letting go of our own plans or desires?

DAY 1 MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Read and Reflect: Psalm 23

Psalm 23 beautifully portrays The Lord as our shepherd leading us through life. David's imagery of green pastures and still waters invites us to rest in the peace that only Christ can provide—a peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7). Even in the darkest valleys, the presence of our Good Shepherd brings us comfort, reminding us that we are never alone. Today, let us renew our trust in God's guidance and provision, knowing His care for us is perfect.

Apply: As you start your day, ask God to direct your steps, provide for your needs, and give you peace in whatever circumstances you face.

Pray:

1. Thank God for being your shepherd and provider.
2. Ask the Lord for deepened trust in His guidance.
3. Pray that the pastors and elders of Crosstown shepherding our church would grow in their relationship with the Chief Shepherd.

Worship:

Counting Every Blessing by Rend Collective

Lead on Good Shepherd by Patrick Mayberry (not on playlist)

Journal: Reflect on a time when you felt God guiding you or providing for you. How does this influence your trust in His leadership for your life?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 2 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Read and Reflect: Psalm 47

Psalm 47 is a powerful reminder of God's sovereign reign over all the earth. We are invited to celebrate this truth with clapping hands and shouts of praise. This psalm challenges us to live with a deeper awareness of God's ultimate authority. Surrendering to God's sovereignty means more than acknowledging His power—it means embracing His reign with joy, worship, reverence, and obedience.

Apply: Start today with worship (whether through singing or offering prayers of praise), intentionally celebrating the Lord's sovereignty over your life.

Pray:

1. Praise God for His sovereignty over all things.
2. Ask for a heart that responds with joy and reverence to His kingship (even when things don't work according to your plan)
3. Pray that every decision our church leadership makes (elders, pastors, deacons, ministry leaders) reflects God's authority and brings glory to His name.

Worship:

There is a King by Brandon Lake
My King Forever by Josh Baldwin

Journal: Consider how acknowledging God's kingship impacts your daily decisions and interactions. How can you celebrate His reign more intentionally?

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Read and Reflect: Psalm 95:1-7

In Psalm 95, David emphasizes the importance of coming before God with thanksgiving and praise, recognizing Him as our creator and King. As servants of the king, we approach God with reverence and gratitude, surrendering to Him with a heart of worship. As A.W. Tozer once said, "Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that majesty which philosophers call the First Cause but which we call Our Father Which Art in Heaven." (A. W. Tozer, Christian Publications, 1964, p. 90)

Apply: Before making a decision today, pause and acknowledge His authority over your life. One of the most practical ways to do this is to ask God for His direction.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His role as Creator and King in your life.
2. Ask the Lord for a heart of worship and reverence.
3. Pray for our worship leaders as they guide us into the presence of King Jesus every week.

Worship:

King of Kings by Hillsong

Journal: Reflect on how you can cultivate a heart of worship in your daily life. What changes can you make to acknowledge God's authority?

DAY 4 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Read and Reflect: Psalm 99

Psalm 99 exalts the Lord as the Holy King, whose reign is marked by majesty, justice, and righteousness. As we reflect on this "Royal Psalm", we are called to live in a way that mirrors God's character, striving for holiness and justice in all we do. Surrendering to God as King goes beyond mere acknowledgment; it means allowing His holiness to transform us so that our lives reflect His glory, justice, and righteousness to the world.

Apply: Ask the question: do my daily interactions and decisions reflect God's holiness and kingly reign over my life? *Be quiet and listen.*

Pray:

1. Praise God for his holiness and justice.
2. Ask for strength and wisdom to reflect His character.
3. Pray that our church would have opportunities to be a beacon of God's holiness and justice in our community.

Worship:

There is a King by Brandon Lake

To Be Like Christ by River Valley Worship (not on the playlist)

Journal: Think about ways to reflect God's holiness and justice. How can you be more intentional about embodying these aspects of His kingship?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 5 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

Read and Reflect: Revelation 19:11-16

Revelation 19 shows an awesome vision of Jesus as the victorious King, riding on a white horse and establishing His righteous reign. All of history culminates in this King's triumphant return. As we eagerly await His return let us be shaped by a sense of urgency and purity in all we do. May we live in light of the King's return. As J.C. Ryle once wrote: "The second coming of Christ will be just as unexpected as the first, but those who are prepared will find it the happiest day of their lives."

Apply: Take some time to reflect on whether your actions, relationships, and goals honor His authority.

Pray:

1. Spend time praising Jesus as King of kings & Lord of Lords.
2. Ask for a heart that eagerly anticipates His return and reign.
3. Pray for our church to have a greater sense of urgency for missions/outreach and a deepened awareness of our call to holiness.

Worship:

King of Kings by Hillsong

My King Forever by Josh Baldwin

Journal: Reflect on how Christ's return affects your daily life and priorities. How can you better align your actions with the reality that our King is returning?

WEEK FIVE

THE LIFE OF DAVID

TRUSTING GOD IN THE WAITING



SERMON OVERVIEW.

1 SAMUEL 24

Isn't it interesting how, when life is good, we want time to slow down, but when life gets tough, we wish it would speed up?

The story of David hiding in a cave in 1 Samuel 24 offers profound insight into navigating these difficult seasons, especially when it feels like we're endlessly waiting on God.

As you may recall, David had a prime opportunity to kill Saul when Saul unknowingly entered the very cave where David and his men were hiding. Yet, David chose to spare Saul's life.

Why did David make this choice? This was his chance! He could have taken matters into his own hands and seized the throne. But he didn't. Why? Because Saul was God's anointed king, and killing him would not have been pleasing to God.

David's act of restraint teaches us a vital lesson: We can't compromise God's principles and still expect to receive His blessings.

Instead of giving in to temptation, we need to do these three things:

1. Turn to God in our distress
2. Transform our worries into worship
3. Trust God has already made a way—even when we can't see it!

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(TRUSTING GOD)

(WORSHIP OVER WORDS)

(WAITING ON GOD)

WK5 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 | BLESS GOD | BROOKE LIGERTWOOD |
| 02 | I TRUST IN GOD | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 03 | MY SOUL WILL WAIT | SOVEREIGN GRACE MUSIC |
| 04 | YES I WILL | VERTICAL WORSHIP |
| 05 | BATTLE BELONGS | PHIL WICKHAM |
| 06 | WAY MAKER | LEELAND |
| 07 | TO BE LIKE CHRIST | RIVER VALLEY WORSHIP |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 5.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. What are some specific ways you've experienced God's presence or guidance during a difficult season of waiting? How did those experiences impact your trust in Him?
2. David chose not to take matters into his own hands when he had the chance to harm Saul. Can you think of a time when you were tempted to take a shortcut or compromise God's will? How did you handle it?
3. Psalm 57 shows David turning his worries into worship. How can we cultivate a heart of worship and trust in God when we feel stuck or overwhelmed by our circumstances?
4. How does the example of David's obedience and Jesus' ultimate sacrifice encourage you to trust in God's timing and plan, even when it's hard to see the way forward?

DAY 1 MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

Read and Reflect: Psalm 42

Like many of us, when David wrote Psalm 42 he was physically removed from the place where he routinely felt the presence of God. According to the ESV Study Bible, he was in exile somewhere north of the Sea of Galilee, far from the sanctuary in Jerusalem where he felt most connected to God in worship. David's words show the raw emotions of someone in deep distress. Despite the emotional turmoil, David chose to trust in God. Even in our deepest struggles, we too can find hope and encouragement in God's past faithfulness.

Apply: Recite Psalm 42:11 when you feel overwhelmed.

*Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.*

Pray:

1. Pray for comfort and hope in times of distress.
2. Ask for strength to trust God even when it feels difficult.
3. Pray for those at your campus who are in distress.

Worship:

I Trust in God by Elevation Worship

Journal: Reflect on a time when you felt abandoned by God. How did you find hope and trust in Him during that time?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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Read and Reflect: Psalm 43

Psalm 43 continues the theme of longing for God and seeking His justice. We see David pleading for God's intervention in times of trouble. Like David, we can bring our fears and requests before the Lord. This Psalm reminds us that even amidst challenging circumstances, we are called to affirm our trust in God's righteousness and remain steadfast in our faith. By consistently turning to God with our concerns and relying on His unwavering promises, we can find strength and hope for whatever life brings.

Apply: Write down one fear or challenge on paper or an index card, and in faith, present that fear/challenge before the Lord saying "I trust you with this, Lord."

Pray:

1. Pray for God's intervention and justice in your situation.
2. Ask for a steadfast faith despite challenging circumstances.
3. Pray for someone at your campus who God brings to mind—pray that they feel the loving presence of Jesus and their church family.

Worship:

My Soul Will Wait by Sovereign Grace Music

Journal: Consider a current challenge where you need God's deliverance. How can you maintain faith and hope while waiting for His intervention?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Read and Reflect: Isaiah 41:8-13

The prophet Isaiah reassures us of God's presence and strength in times of trouble. God promises to help and uphold those who are His. Once again, we are reminded that we are not alone! God's support is certain for His children. If we are to experience the presence and power of God, we must learn to rely on His strength and promises knowing that He will make a way when there doesn't seem to be one.

Apply: Write out Isaiah 41:10 and keep it accessible, such as on your phone, on your refrigerator, or desk. Look at it when needed.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His promise to help and uphold you.
2. Ask God for his strength by taking what is bothering you and placing it into more capable hands.
3. Pray for someone you know who is going through a difficult time right now that they would experience God's presence and strength.

Worship:

Way Maker by Leeland

Journal: Reflect on a season when you experienced God's support and strength. How does this reassurance influence your current challenges?

DAY 4 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Read and Reflect: Romans 8:28–39

Romans 8:28–39 is a powerful declaration of God's unwavering love and sovereign ability to work all things for the good of those who love Him. This passage reassures us that even in suffering and trials, we are secure in Christ, and nothing can separate us from His love. Paul's words in Romans 8 give us confidence to trust Him no matter what we face. When life feels overwhelming, we can hold tightly to the promise that God is with us, working out His good purpose in our lives.

Apply: Say to yourself: "Self, God is working all things out for my good." Remind yourself that God's love is unwavering, even in difficult times.

Pray:

1. Thank God that He is working all things out for your good.
2. Ask God for a deepened confidence in His love during.
3. Pray for at least 3 people in our church who are discouraged. Pray that they would be encouraged today by God's love and purpose in their life.

Worship:

Yes I Will by Vertical Worship

Journal: Reflect on a current struggle and how the promise of God's love and purpose impacts your perspective. How can this assurance help you navigate your difficulties?

DAY 5 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Read and Reflect: James 1:2-4

James, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote a letter encouraging us to consider trials as opportunities for growth. He explained that testing of our faith leads to perseverance and, ultimately, spiritual maturity in our lives. Although it can be difficult to see hardships as part of God's refining work, this is how God develops our character and strengthens our faith. As Warren Wiersbe says in his commentary (*Be Mature: Growing up in Christ*), "Life's trials are not easy. But in God's will, each has a purpose. Trials can either make us or break us. If we trust God and yield to Him, trials will produce patience and maturity."

Apply: Remind yourself that what you are going through (or will go through) can be an opportunity for God to work and make you more like Jesus.

Pray:

1. Pray for perspective to see trials as opportunities for growth.
2. Ask for perseverance and maturity through your challenges.
3. Pray for spiritual growth for our church. We want everyone to come as they are but be challenged to NOT stay there.

Worship:

Bless God by Brook Ligertwood

Journal: Reflect on a recent trial and how it has contributed to your spiritual growth. What lessons have you learned, and how can you embrace these opportunities to grow your faith?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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SERMON OVERVIEW.

1 SAMUEL 28

In 1 Samuel 28:5-7, we find Saul trembling before the Philistine army, paralyzed by fear. *So what does he do?* When God does not provide immediate solutions for Saul, Saul makes a devastating mistake—he seeks out a medium (spiritist).

Why would Saul do such a thing? The root of Saul's decision lies in a deeper issue: he didn't trust God's goodness or plan for his life.

In Saul's fear, his faith wavers, and instead of running to God, he tries to find a replacement for God. Anytime we fail to run to God in our distress and try to find a replacement for God, the results are devastatingly similar to what Saul experienced—we feel alone and afraid.

We end up feeling alone and afraid because the substitutes we turn to can never truly satisfy or provide the security we need. These replacements—whether they are people, possessions, or temporary fixes—are ultimately insufficient. They may offer momentary comfort, but they lack the power to give us lasting peace or assurance.

So what's the solution? The solution is to wait on God and walk in obedience, even when His answers aren't immediate. When we trust God, even in our darkest moments, we can have full confidence that He is with us. And if God is with us, what do we have to fear? Conversely, if we turn away from God and seek substitutes, we have every reason to be afraid.

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(FAITH)

(TRUST)

(TURNING TO JESUS)

WK6 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------------|
| 01 | FAITHFUL NOW | VERTICAL WORSHIP |
| 02 | I TRUST IN GOD | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 03 | YES I WILL | VERTICAL WORSHIP |
| 04 | RUN TO THE FATHER | CODY CARNES |
| 05 | I'VE WITNESSED IT | PASSION |
| 06 | HOPE HAS A NAME | RIVER VALLEY WORSHIP |
| 07 | RUNNING | HILLSONG |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 6.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. What does Saul's decision to seek out a medium reveal about the consequences of his disobedience to God?
2. In what ways might we be tempted to replace God when we feel distant from Him, as Saul did? How can we turn back to God instead?
3. What are some modern "replacements" people might turn to instead of trusting in God? How can we guard against this in our own lives?
4. Reflecting on Saul's final moments, how does the contrast between Saul's death and Jesus' sacrifice highlight the importance of obedience and repentance in our relationship with God?

DAY 1 MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Read and Reflect: Psalm 25

As David seeks guidance and deliverance from his enemies, he confidently leans on God's faithfulness. Psalm 25 encourages us to depend on God during difficult times. It reminds us to not only seek His guidance but patiently wait for His direction. As Spurgeon once said: "God is too good to be unkind, and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart." If you are in a season of uncertainty, you can trust God's heart—He is for you and will never let you down!

Apply: Commit to NOT rush any decision but instead wait patiently for a sense of peace and clarity that aligns with God's Word.

Pray:

1. Ask God for guidance in your life where you need direction.
2. Pray for patience to wait on His timing.
3. Pray that our Pastors And Elders sense God's direction and learn to trust in His timing.

Worship:

Faithful Now by Vertical Worship
I Trust in God by Elevation Worship

Journal: Reflect on a time when you struggled to trust God's timing. How can you show more trust in His plan for your life?

DAY 2 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Read and Reflect: Psalm 34

You can always tell when someone has had an experience with God's provision—they tend to joyfully talk about it! David's praise in Psalm 34 flows from a heart that has experienced God's deliverance firsthand. David knows the goodness of God because he had to rely on His goodness to get him through some things. In our times of distress, God wants us to take refuge in him and taste and truly see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). No matter what we face, we can find comfort in knowing that God is always near, ready to deliver us when we call upon His name. "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles." (Psalm 34:17)

Apply: Whenever faced with trouble, make prayer your first response (not your last resort).

Pray:

1. Thank God for His faithfulness and deliverance in your life.
2. Ask Him for the strength to trust Him in times of fear or uncertainty.
3. Pray for those in our church who are facing trials or fears. Ask God to comfort them with His peace.

Worship:

I've Witnessed It by Passion

Journal: Think about a recent challenge you faced. How did you seek God in that situation, and what was the outcome?

JOURNAL
NOTES.

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DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Read and Reflect: Isaiah 40:28–31

The prophet Isaiah's words are a powerful reminder of the strength that God offers for those who wait on Him. While we may be tired and weary right now, we should take great comfort in knowing that God is not! God is the everlasting God who created the entire universe with four words! He does not faint or grow weary. This is why you can trust in God's everlasting power—it won't run out. He won't fail you. He gives strength to the weary and hope for the hopeless. He is our everlasting God!

Apply: Instead of rushing ahead or trying to solve problems on your own, take time to pray and ask God for wisdom and patience to wait on His timing.

Pray:

1. Ask God for renewed strength in areas where you feel weary.
2. Pray for patience to wait on His perfect timing.
3. Pray for patience and strength for the elders/pastors as they wait on the Lord's timing to fill needed staffing needs.

Worship:

You've Already Won by Shane and Shane (not on the playlist)
Firm Foundation by Cody Carnes (not on the playlist)

Journal: Reflect on how God has renewed your strength in the past. How can you rely on His strength in your current circumstances?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 4 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Read and Reflect: Hebrews 10:23–25

The author of Hebrews reminds us of the vital role community plays in our walk with God: “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” If there was ever a verse that we need for the discouraging landscape that we face, this is it. As we navigate the highs and lows of life, we must encourage one another as we see the Day approaching. Our collective strength is found in mutual encouragement.

Apply: Seek opportunities to encourage other believers in your life (reach out to someone struggling; be part of a small group; share Scripture or a prayer with family/friends).

Pray:

1. Ask for strength to remain steadfast in your faith.
2. Pray for a circle of strong Christian friends to do life with.
3. Pray for opportunities to encourage others at your campus.

Worship:

Hope Has a Name by River Valley Worship

Hold Us Together by Matt Maher

Journal: Reflect on how you can strengthen your commitment to Christ and support others in their faith. What steps can you take to encourage someone this week?

JOURNAL **NOTES.**

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DAY 5 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Read and Reflect: Proverbs 3:5-6

God calls us to trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding, which can be incredibly challenging, especially when we think we know better! Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us that God's wisdom surpasses our own. In moments of uncertainty and confusion, we are invited to acknowledge God's sovereignty and surrender our worries. When we do, God's promise is, that He will guide our steps and direct our paths. This type of trust is not passive but an active faith in the One who knows all things and can lead us through every twist and turn.

Apply: Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6. Recite these verses to yourself whenever you're in a situation where you feel overwhelmed or uncertain about a direction you should go.

Pray:

1. Ask God to help you trust Him more deeply, even in confusing or challenging times.
2. Pray for wisdom to see God's guidance in your life.
3. Pray for wisdom and direction for our pastors and elders as they seek to faithfully lead our church.

Worship:

I Trust in God by Elevation Worship

Journal: Reflect on areas where you struggle to trust God's plan. How can you take a step toward greater trust in Him today?

SERMON OVERVIEW.

2 SAMUEL 1 - 5

There is a tendency in all of us to think that we've arrived when we make it through a challenging season, only to discover that what we perceive as the finish line is merely the starting line for what God intends to do next. This is the "messy middle"—the space between where we've been and where God is leading us.

False finish lines and these messy middle moments can be deeply discouraging. I remember the early days of Crosstown, filled with excitement and adventure. Each time we replanted a church, it felt like we had reached a significant milestone, a "we made it" moment. Yet, we soon realized that these milestones were merely the beginning of a much longer and more challenging journey that God had in store for us.

David's story in 2 Samuel mirrors this experience. Achieving major goals, such as becoming king, did not mark the end of his struggles but often ushered in new challenges. David's reign over Judah and his efforts to unite Israel were filled with chaos and conflict, yet it was these very trials that shaped his character and leadership.

As the Apostle Peter reminds us, "...so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:7)

David's messy middle was characterized by political turmoil and civil strife, yet through these difficulties, he learned to trust in God's timing and sovereignty. While our challenges may differ from David's, we too should view our struggles as opportunities for God to refine our character and advance His purposes.

SERMON NOTES

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(TRUSTING JESUS)

(SANCTIFICATION)

(GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY)

WK7 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 | BLESS GOD | BROOKE LIGERTWOOD |
| 02 | MY SOUL WILL WAIT (PSALM 62) | SOVEREIGN GRACE |
| 03 | PRAISE | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 04 | PROMISES | MAVERICK CITY |
| 05 | I'VE WITNESSED IT | PASSION |
| 06 | BEEN SO GOOD | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 07 | GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS | HYMN |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 7.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. How does David's time in the "messy middle" of waiting to become king reflect the challenges we face in our own seasons of waiting? What can we learn from his example?
2. In what ways have you seen God form your character during difficult or uncertain times? How can we embrace these "messy middle" moments rather than rushing through them?
3. David consistently sought God's guidance rather than taking matters into his own hands. How can we practice this kind of patience and trust in our own decisions and circumstances?
4. Looking back on your life, how have you seen God's plan prevail, even when it wasn't clear at the moment? How does this encourage you to trust Him in your current situation?

Read and Reflect: Psalm 46

Psalm 46 offers a powerful reminder of God's unwavering presence and protection during life's most challenging moments. Through this famous passage we learn that God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. So, the next time life feels chaotic remind yourself that God is your constant, unshakable source of strength, and He calls us to find our peace in Him.

Apply: Memorize Psalm 46:1 and Psalm 46:10, and recite these verses when you are going through a difficult time.

Pray:

1. Thank God for the various ways He has been a refuge and strength in your life.
2. Ask for your soul to be stilled during stressful situations (including this election)
3. Pray that our church would be a refuge for those going through challenges, as we lead people to discover who Jesus is.

Worship:

Bless God by Brook Ligertwood

Journal: Reflect on a recent challenge and how God's presence has been a refuge for you. How can you better rely on His strength in future difficulties?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 2 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Read and Reflect: Psalm 66

In Psalm 66, David recounts the ways that God has delivered His people through mighty deeds and times of testing. It was through these seasons that God was refining and strengthening David for what was ahead. Likewise, in our challenging seasons, we need to trust that God is fulfilling his purpose in our lives. It might not always feel that way but we trust him. As Elizabeth Elliot (widow of martyred missionary Jim Elliot) once wrote, "I'm convinced that there is nothing that can happen to me in this life—which is not precisely designed by a sovereign Lord to give me the opportunity to learn to know Him."

Apply: Instead of immediately seeking to escape trials, ask God to reveal what He might be teaching you through them.

Pray:

1. Thank God for the ways He has refined you through trials.
2. Ask for strength to endure and trust in His refining process.
3. Pray that our country as a whole would seek God as our king, no matter who is in the White House.

Worship:

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Your Will Be Done by CityAlight (not on the playlist)

Journal: Think about a time when a trial led to growth or blessing in your life. How can this perspective help you face current or future challenges?

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Read and Reflect: Psalm 61

Psalm 61 captures David's heartfelt cry for God's protection and guidance during a time of distress. As he sought refuge in God's shelter, David learned to find strength and peace in His presence. Similarly, when we face life's storms, this passage reminds us to turn to God as our strong tower. As Luther wrote in his famous hymn: "A mighty Fortress is our God; A Bulwark never failing; Our Helper He amid the flood; Of mortal ills prevailing." May we take comfort in the invitation to find rest in God, our Refuge.

Apply: Make it a habit to start each day with prayer (before you go about doing other things). During your prayer, recite Psalm 61:2 - "from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I".

Pray:

1. Pray for God's protection and guidance in your situation.
2. Ask for His comfort and assurance during times of distress.
3. Pray for those struggling in our church (pause to hear from the Lord who comes to mind). Pray that they would experience the Lord as their strong tower.

Worship:

A Mighty Fortress is our God (not on the playlist)

Journal: Reflect on how God has been a refuge for you in difficult times. Write out how God has proven Himself faithful to you in the past.

JOURNAL NOTES.

DAY 4 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Read and Reflect: Psalm 121

Psalm 121 is our reminder of God's unwavering care and protection. David wrote this Psalm to encourage his people, particularly his soldiers, to remain steadfast in their faith, knowing that the God of heaven is always watching over them. This passage reassures us that God never slumbers or sleeps; He is our constant keeper in every situation. No matter the challenges, we can trust that God is actively guarding and guiding us. We don't have to live in fear or doubt, for we serve a God who fights for us and holds us securely in His hands.

Apply: Instead of worrying over what you are carrying, place your burdens into more capable hands—The Lord's Hands! Remind yourself of Psalm 121:1-2 - "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Pray:

1. Thank God for His care over your life.
2. Ask for a deeper trust in His protection and provision.
3. There are so many discouraged people in our church and the community—Pray that they would be more aware of God's constant presence and care.

Worship:

Praise by Elevation Worship

Journal: Consider a time when you experienced God's protection. How can this awareness strengthen your trust in Him?

JOURNAL NOTES.

Read and Reflect: Psalm 138

Psalm 138 is an explosion of praise and thanksgiving for the goodness of God in David's life. David praises God for His answered prayers and fulfilled promises; for renewed strength and steadfast love. There is so much that David praises God for—Why would we not join in on the chorus of praise?! This passage invites us to take a moment and recognize the countless ways God has been faithful to us. As you think about all the ways that God has been there for you, give Him a shout of praise!

Apply: Write down, or mentally list, the ways you have experienced God's faithfulness and support in your life.

Pray:

1. Praise God for the ways He has upheld you.
2. Pray for renewed strength and energy for our church leaders and volunteers as they serve the Body of Christ at Crosstown.
3. Pray that our worship service on Sunday will be a joyful celebration of God's unwavering faithfulness.

Worship:

Been So Good by Elevation Worship

Journal: Reflect on specific instances of God's faithfulness in your life. List several ways you are grateful for God and these experiences.

SERMON OVERVIEW.

2 SAMUEL 7

The story of David's desire to build a temple for God shows us how God deals generously with his people. Although David's intention to build God a house was good, God reminds him that their relationship wasn't based on David's actions or performance but on God's provision and promises.

The same is true for our relationship with God. The Christian life is a response to the goodness of God, NOT a performance for God.

Performers carry with them anxiety wondering if they will ever be enough. Worshipers carry with them peace knowing they don't have to be enough.

Performers look around and compete with others. Worshipers look around and are grateful for how God has gifted others.

Performers give their time and talents out of a sense of duty. Worshipers give their time and talents out of a sense of delight.

Ultimately, this story in 2 Samuel 7, points us to God's eternal king, Jesus Christ, who came through the line and covenant of David. Like David, we are free from the burden of trying to earn God's approval through our merit, which allows us to live a life of worship, gratitude, and humility toward our great God and king.

The question is not so much, "God, what can I do for thee?", as it is "God, who am I that you would do such a wonderful thing for me?" At the heart of Christianity, we don't find people striving to reach God through good intentions but a generous and powerful God who places a King on the throne and secures victory for us!

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(GOSPEL)

(UNMERITED GRACE)

(GOD'S PROMISES AND PROVISION)



WK8 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



01	MORE THAN ABLE	ELEVATION WORSHIP
02	GRATITUDE	BRANDON LAKE
03	PRAISE	ELEVATION WORSHIP
04	PROMISES	MAVERICK CITY
05	STANDING ON THE PROMISES	HYMN
06	BEEN SO GOOD	ELEVATION WORSHIP
07	RUN TO THE FATHER	CODY CARNES

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 8.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. How do you view your relationship with God—more as a performance to earn His favor or as a response to His goodness and grace? What can we learn from David's shift in perspective?

2. David initially wanted to build a house for God, but God had other plans. How can we discern when our well-intentioned plans may not align with God's purpose? How do we respond when God redirects us?

3. In what ways has God's grace been evident in your life? How does reflecting on His past faithfulness impact your trust in His future promises?

4. How does recognizing Jesus as the ultimate King and fulfillment of God's promises affect the way you live and worship?

DAY 1 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Read and Reflect: Psalm 89:1-18

Psalm 89 tells of God's unwavering faithfulness to David. Throughout this Psalm we see God's power and commitment to fulfill His word. Like David, we too can trust in God's promises and recognize His continuous provision in our lives. As you reflect on the Lord's past faithfulness be assured that the same God who upheld His covenant with David is faithfully working in your life today. It's His past faithfulness that demands our present trust.

Apply: Take a few minutes to reflect on any blessings, answered prayers, or moments where you felt God's support.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His faithfulness to His promises and provision in your life.
2. Ask God for a deeper trust in His promises for your life.
3. Pray that our church will grow in a passion for God's Word.

Worship:

More Than Able by Elevation Worship

Same God by Elevation Worship

Journal: Reflect on a promise of God that has been fulfilled in your life. How does this experience encourage you to trust in His ongoing provision?

JOURNAL **NOTES.**

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DAY 2 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Read and Reflect: Psalm 89:19-37

Psalm 89:19-37 continues exploring God's promises to David and His commitment to establishing David's lineage forever. This reminds us that God is a covenant/promise-keeping God. Even when circumstances seem uncertain or when it appears that God's promises are delayed, God's commitment to His people is unwavering, and His promises will be fulfilled in His perfect timing. "God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, and acts with a hand that never fails." (Quote usually attributed to Spurgeon). Now more than ever, Christians need to anchor our trust in the reliability of God, knowing that He is always faithful to His Word.

Apply: Pray with expectation! In your prayers, remind God of His promises and express your trust in His provision.

Pray:

1. Praise God for His commitment to keep His covenant.
2. Ask Him for the patience to wait for His answers and the faith to believe in His timing.
3. Pray that our church would stand firm on God's Word and not cave to cultural pressure.

Worship:

Standing on the Promises (Hymn)

Journal: How does God's commitment to His covenant encourage you? What steps can you take to strengthen your hope in His promises?

JOURNAL NOTES.

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Read and Reflect: Psalm 89:38–52

This passage teaches us that God's silence does not equate to Him being absent. He is always working and fulfilling his plan, even in seasons of perceived abandonment and silence. It's in those seasons that God invites us to trust him in the dark. As Christians, our hope should rest not on our immediate circumstances but on the certainty of God's eternal faithfulness.

Apply: Remind yourself that even if you don't see immediate results, Scripture promises us that God is working behind the scenes. And at the end of the day learn to say with David (verse 52): "Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and Amen."

Pray:

1. Pray for faith to trust God's promises in times of silence.
2. Ask for reassurance and patience while waiting for God's provision.
3. Pray for those in our church who may be doubting God or his Work in their life, that they would find a renewed hope to trust Him during challenging times.

Worship:

Promises by Maverick City

Journal: Reflect on a time when you felt God was silent. How did you maintain trust in His promises? How can this experience strengthen your faith in His continued faithfulness?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 4 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Read and Reflect: 2 Samuel 7:18–29

In 2 Samuel 7:18–29, David responds to God's promises with deep humility and gratitude. He says in verse 18: "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?" David understood the greatness of God and the privilege of being part of His eternal plan. His prayer gives us an example of how we should respond to God's promises in our own lives. As we learn to reflect on God's faithfulness and perfect plan, let us approach Him the same way David did—with humility and gratitude that David did.

Apply: Reflect on the moments when God answered prayers, provided for needs, or where you saw God's providential hand at work. Then, humbly thank him for those moments.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His greatness.
2. Ask for humility in recognizing your place in His plan.
3. Pray for the Lord's blessing on our church and that we would collectively respond to God's Word with gratitude and humility.

Worship:

Who You Say I Am by Hillsong Worship (not on the playlist)

Journal: How does acknowledging God's greatness and promises affect your response to Him? How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude and humility in your daily life?

DAY 5 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Read and Reflect: Romans 4:13–25

Romans 4:13–25 reminds us that Abraham’s righteousness wasn’t earned through following the law but through his unwavering faith in God’s promise. Abraham believed against all odds, trusting that God would fulfill what He had spoken, and it was this faith in God that justified him. This passage reassures us that God’s promises are just as certain today, and it’s our faith in His word that opens the door to His blessings. Just as Abraham was made righteous by his belief, we too are declared righteous when we place our faith in Jesus—God’s ultimate promise.

Apply: Rely on God’s promises rather than your understanding or efforts. Practice a child-like faith.

Pray:

1. Thank God for the gift of righteousness through faith.
2. Ask for a supernatural faith to trust in His promises.
3. Pray that more and more people would come to faith in Jesus.

Worship:

Promises by Maverick City

Firm Foundation by Cody Carnes

Journal: Reflect on the promises of God in Scripture that apply to your current circumstances (God’s promise of provision, peace, guidance, or salvation)—how can holding onto these truths strengthen your faith in times of uncertainty?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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SERMON OVERVIEW.

2 SAMUEL 9

The story of David showing kindness to Mephibosheth is a powerful reminder that Jesus invites the outcast, forgotten and unlikely to His table. There is nothing that any of us did to deserve this invitation and yet, through Christ, we have a seat at his table of grace!

Through this powerful story, we are reminded of 2 important truths:

1. God always *remembers* His promises.

In 2 Samuel 9:1, David asks if anyone is left from Saul's house to whom he can show kindness for Jonathan's sake. The word he uses to describe kindness is the word *Hesed*. "*Hesed*" refers to God's undeserved love. King David's actions remind us that our King is a promise-keeping God—From the promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15 to the prophecy of a child born of a virgin in Isaiah 7:14, and the suffering Savior in Isaiah 53, God has consistently fulfilled His promises to his people.

2. God always *delivers* on His promises.

When David discovers that Mephibosheth is living in Lo-debar, which means "City with No Bread," he immediately seeks him out. Despite Mephibosheth's name, which means "son of shame," David restores his dignity and invites him to dine at the king's table permanently (2 Samuel 9:6-7). This act of grace illustrates how our God transforms our shame into honor by delivering on his promises. Just as Mephibosheth did nothing to earn David's kindness, we too receive God's promises not by our own merit but by His generous grace.

The bottom line is: We are Mephibosheths! We are the forgotten, the outcasts, and the weak. Jesus invites us to His table, offering grace and a place in His family. We are to do the same for others.

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(GOD'S PROMISES)

(A TABLE OF GRACE)

(GOD'S LOVING KINDNESS)

WK9 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 | THERE IS A KING | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 02 | NO ONE EVER CARED FOR ME | STEFFANY GRETZINGER |
| 03 | COME TO THE TABLE | SIDEWALK PROPHETS |
| 04 | PROMISES | MAVERICK CITY |
| 05 | I'VE WITNESSED IT | PASSION |
| 06 | GOODNESS OF GOD | CECE WINANS |
| 07 | AMAZING GRACE | HYMN |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 9.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. How does David's kindness towards Mephibosheth demonstrate God's steadfast love (Hesed)? How does this reflect Jesus' invitation to us, despite our unworthiness?
2. Mephibosheth was living in Lo-debar, a place with no bread until he was invited to the king's table. What does this symbolize in our spiritual lives, and how does Jesus' invitation change our situation?
3. Reflect on a time when you received an invitation or blessing you didn't feel you deserved. How did that experience impact your understanding of grace?
4. How can we, like David, extend grace and kindness to others who may feel unworthy or forgotten? What practical steps can we take to invite others to experience God's grace at our "tables"?

DAY 1 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Read and Reflect: Matthew 11:25-30

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus extends an invitation to the weak, wayward, and worn out—you and me! As you feel the weight of your sin, be encouraged today that Jesus offers a lighter yoke. If you would come to him, you can experience peace and joy that surpasses all understanding. That's Jesus' promise. "Come to ME, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Max Lucado once wrote: "It was the pronoun me that got me. I had been turning to everyone and everything but him. The Holy Spirit reminded me...Christ will do this for you, my friend."

Apply: Set aside a few moments today to intentionally lay before Jesus any burdens or anxieties you are carrying, and trust Him to provide the rest and peace you need.

Pray:

1. Pray for God's peace to replace any anxiety or stress.
2. Ask for strength to surrender your burdens to Jesus.
3. Pray for those in our church who are feeling overwhelmed, so that they may find rest and comfort in God's grace.

Worship:

Run to the Father by Cody Carnes

Journal: Reflect on a time when you felt particularly burdened. How did coming to God with that burden change your experience? What did you learn about His ability to provide rest and relief?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 2 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Read and Reflect: Psalm 51

Psalm 51 is a powerful reminder of the depth of God's mercy and the transformative power of true repentance. David's raw and honest confession reveals the importance of coming before God with a humble heart. This passage encourages us to approach God, not with excuses, but with genuine sorrow for our wrongdoing. When we bring our brokenness to Him, God's grace washes over us, creating in us a clean heart and restoring the joy of our salvation.

Apply: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin in your life that needs God's cleansing. Resist the urge to justify or minimize sin; instead, bring it to God with a spirit of humility, acknowledging your need for His forgiveness.

Pray:

1. Confess your sins and ask for God's cleansing and renewal.
2. If you have sinned against someone, ask for forgiveness.
3. Pray for people to come to worship on Sunday mornings with a heart of repentance and a posture to receive grace.

Worship:

Goodness of God by CeCe Winans

What Can Wash Away My Sin (not on the playlist)

Journal: Consider how genuine repentance has impacted your relationship with God. How can you foster a humble heart in your daily life?

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Read and Reflect: Ephesians 2:1-10

In Ephesians 2:1-10, the Apostle Paul describes the incredible transformation we experience through God's grace—from being spiritually dead in our sins to being made alive in Christ. Our salvation is not something we could earn but is given as a precious gift. We who have received this precious gift are now called to offer our lives as a gift to God. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10)

Apply: Walk in the good works that God has prepared for you. Start each day by asking God to show you opportunities to serve others in love.

Pray:

1. Thank God for the gift of salvation and His grace.
2. Ask for guidance in living out the good works He has prepared for you.
3. Pray our church would be a place of grace both inside the walls of our churches and out in the community.

Worship:

Been So Good by Elevation Worship
Hands and Feet by Audio Adrenaline

Journal: Reflect on how understanding your identity in Christ has changed your purpose in life. How can you actively live out the good works God has prepared for you?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 4 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Read and Reflect: Luke 15:11–32

Tim Keller often said: "The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed than we ever dared believe, but we are more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dared hope." The Parable of the Prodigal Son is a powerful reminder of the depth of God's unconditional love and forgiveness. The younger son's approach was to earn his way back into the family as a servant. The father, though, welcomes him back into the family as a son. This story vividly shows that God's grace is a lavish gift that costs far more than a fattened calf—It cost Jesus' very life.

Apply: Celebrate that God has welcomed you back home as a son or daughter.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His unconditional love and forgiveness.
2. Ask for the ability to extend the same grace to others that He has extended to you.
3. Pray for more "Prodigals" to come running home and be welcomed by our loving church family.

Worship:

The Prodigal by Josiah Queen (not on the playlist)

Journal: Reflect on a time when you experienced God's grace. How can you extend that same grace to someone else in your life?

JOURNAL **NOTES.**

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Read and Reflect: 2 Samuel 9

In 2 Samuel 9, we see King David's incredible kindness towards Mephibosheth as he remembers his covenant with Jonathan. There is nothing that Mephibosheth did to deserve this kindness; Mephibosheth simply responded to an invitation. David's generous act mirrors the loving-kindness God shows us. Just as David restored Mephibosheth to a place of honor, God invites us to his table of grace. We did nothing to deserve His grace, none the less, we have a seat at the table. As a result, we are called to reflect this same grace in our relationships with others.

Apply: Reflect God's grace and generosity by reaching out to someone in need, offering forgiveness to those who have wronged you, or providing encouragement to others.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His generosity and loving kindness.
2. Ask God for opportunities to extend kindness to others.
3. Pray for our church to become a shining example of God's grace and kindness in our community.

Worship:

No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus by Steffany Gretzinger

Journal: Reflect on ways you can demonstrate kindness and grace in your relationships. What specific actions can you take to be more generous and gracious?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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SERMON OVERVIEW.

2 SAMUEL 11

2 Samuel 11 shows how easily sin makes a mess of our lives. Unfortunately for David, even though he is known for being a man after God's heart, he also serves as the poster child for the consequences we can experience from sin. Yet, while David felt those consequences, he also found freedom and forgiveness when he brought his sin into the light.

Through the story of David, Uriah, and Bathsheba we learn several important lessons about sin and temptation:

- We need to *stay engaged in the battle* (At the time kings were off to war, King David was in his palace)
- We need to *avoid places of temptation* (Nothing good ever happens on a rooftop staring at someone bathing!)
- We need to *count the cost before we commit the act* (If only David would have thought of the aftermath of his choices)
- When *sin is confessed, healing takes place* (It's only when David confessed and brought his sin to the Lord that he found healing and forgiveness).

Psalms 51 describes how David's sin ate away at his insides. For about a year, David sat in his sin. Interestingly though, in 2 Samuel 7:16, four chapters before David committed this sin, God had told David, "Your house and kingdom will endure forever. And your throne will be established forever." What's amazing is that God said these words to David knowing full well what David would do in Chapter 11! This tells us that despite David's *badness*, God still chose to work His *goodness* in David's life. Before that work could begin, however, David needed to confess and repent.

The same is true for us—the question is not "*Do you sin?*" but, "*What do you do after sinning?*"

SERMON NOTES

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(OVERCOMING SIN)

(CONFESSION AND HEALING)

(GRACE AND FORGIVENESS)



WK10 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 | RUN TO THE FATHER | CODY CARNES |
| 02 | PSALM 51 | SHANE AND SHANE |
| 03 | HE WILL HOLD FAST | KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY |
| 04 | CREATE IN ME | REND COLLECTIVE |
| 05 | MERCY | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 06 | YOU'VE ALREADY WON | SHANE AND SHANE |
| 07 | GRAVES INTO GARDENS | ELEVATION WORSHIP |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 10.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. How does David's initial decision to stay in Jerusalem and his subsequent actions with Bathsheba illustrate the concept of temptation and sin? How can we learn from his example to avoid similar pitfalls?
2. In what ways does Hebrews 4:15 assure us of Jesus' understanding and sympathy toward our struggles with temptation? How can this comfort us when we face our own challenges?
3. What are the consequences of concealing sin as highlighted in Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:9? How can confessing our sins and seeking forgiveness lead to true healing and restoration?
4. Reflect on the statement, "If you cover your sin, Jesus will expose it in judgment. If you expose your sin, He will cover it with grace." How does this perspective impact your approach to dealing with personal sin and seeking forgiveness?

5 DAY DEVOTIONAL
& JOURNAL



WEEK 10

DAY 1 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Read and Reflect: Psalm 38

In Psalm 38, David's heart-wrenching cry for mercy reminds us of the weight of our sins. His raw honesty before God shows the power of being honest before God and seeking the healing only God can provide. When we bring our brokenness to Him, we find not condemnation but grace that restores and renews. Just as David sought God's forgiveness and healing, we too can trust that no matter how deep our pain or how heavy our guilt is, God's love is deeper still.

Apply: Acknowledge any actions, thoughts, or attitudes that fall short of God's standard. Confront your sin honestly and seek God's healing and forgiveness.

Pray:

1. Confess your sins and ask for God's forgiveness and healing.
2. Seek His strength to overcome the consequences of sin.
3. Pray that our church would confront and address sin, seeking God's healing.

Worship:

Create in Me by Rend Collective

His Mercy is More by Shane and Shane

Journal: Write out any actions, thoughts, or attitudes you need to confess and repent of. Give them over to the Lord and ask for his healing and forgiveness.

DAY 2 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Read and Reflect: Psalm 51 (again)

As we were reminded last Tuesday, Psalm 51 reveals the beauty of true repentance—a heartbroken king crying out for mercy from a holy God. David's sincere confession shows us that no matter how far we've fallen, God's grace is always available to those who humbly seek it. In his book, *The Prodigal God*, Tim Keller says, "No matter how deep the sin, God's grace is deeper still. His grace is greater than our sin, and it's always available to those who humbly seek it." (pg. 118). When we approach God with a broken and humble heart, He does more than just forgive; He creates a clean heart and renews a steadfast spirit within us.

Apply: Memorize and pray Psalm 51:10 - "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Pray:

1. Confess your sins and seek God's cleansing and renewal.
2. Ask for a pure heart and a steadfast spirit.
3. Pray for purity in our church and pursuit of God's holiness.

Worship:

Psalm 51 by Shane and Shane

Create in Me by Rend Collective

Journal: Reflect on ways you can cultivate a heart of genuine repentance.

JOURNAL NOTES.

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Read and Reflect: Psalm 6

In Psalm 6, we read David's desperate cry for mercy. He says in verse 6: "every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping!" This is a dude who is hurting! David's words remind us that in our moments of despair—when our strength fails and our burdens feel overwhelming—we have a God who hears and responds with compassion. When we turn to Him with our brokenness, God doesn't just listen; He intervenes with His healing power.

Apply: When you are hurting—Look to God.

Pray:

1. Pray for God's healing and deliverance from your distress.
2. If there is an area of your life where you need God to intervene, ask Him for help.
3. Pray for those at your campus who need healing and restoration through God's mercy. Pray for those in the community who are hurting.

Worship:

Mercy by Elevation Worship

He Will Hold Fast by Keith & Kristyn Getty

Journal: Reflect on a time when you felt desperate and turned to God. How did His intervention impact your life?

DAY 4 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Read and Reflect: Matthew 5:27-30

In Matthew 5:27-30, Jesus teaches about the destructive power of sin, particularly the sin of lust. This passage is a great reminder that even our thoughts can lead us astray. Dealing with sin requires drastic action. It requires a serious commitment to purity in both our hearts and minds. We need to confront sin with urgency, throwing off anything that hinders our relationship with God (see Hebrews 12:1-2). As Martin Luther once said, "If your head is made of butter, stay away from the fire."

Apply: Identify what environments trigger temptation in your life and make steps toward removing or avoiding those triggers. Do what it takes to create urgency in the area of purity.

Pray:

1. Ask God to reveal areas of sin in your life.
2. Ask for His help in making the necessary changes to live a pure life.
3. Pray our church's loving kindness would lead others toward repentance.

Worship:

Run to the Father by Cody Carnes

Journal: Reflect on an area where you need to address sin. What steps can you take to confront and overcome it?

DAY 5 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Read and Reflect: 1 John 1:5-10

In 1 John 1:5-10, we are reminded of the importance of living honestly before God (walking in the light). John, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, assures us that when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Walking in the light means choosing transparency, acknowledging our need for God's grace daily, and rejecting the darkness that seeks to hide our sins. As John Owen famously said: *"Be killing sin or it will be killing you. Sin is like a weed, it thrives in the dark. It grows and flourishes in secret places, but when we bring it to the light, it withers and dies."*

Apply: Stop pretending you're perfect and start living openly before God and others. Everyone needs someone to be real with.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His faithfulness in forgiving our sins.
2. Ask for a transparent heart to confess sin and walk in the light.
3. Pray that, more and more, our church will embrace a culture of transparency and confession.

Worship:

He Will Hold Fast by Keith & Kristyn Getty
In the Light by DC Talk (not on the playlist)

Journal: Reflect on how living with transparency affects your relationship with God. How can you practice openness and confession more regularly?

WEEK ELEVEN

**CONFRONTED
WITH**
Grace

SERMON OVERVIEW.

2 SAMUEL 12

2 Samuel 12 shows us that godly confrontation can lead to a gracious restoration—if we respond correctly. As mentioned in last week's message, the question is not will we sin but what do we do when we sin (and are confronted)?

Chapter 11 involves a lot of sinning! The majority of the sinning is a result of David "sending" (He sends for Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab, etc). In Chapter 12, however, God is the one "sending". God sends the prophet Nathan to David, to not only confront David's sin but also confront him with grace!

This story is a great reminder that before the Gospel can be seen as *good news*, we have to confront the *bad news*. The bad news is we are the ones who have sinned—but again, it is what we do with our sin that makes all the difference. The story of Nathan confronting David teaches us three ways to respond when convicted of sin:

1. Receive a godly rebuke as a generous gift - Being confronted with our sin doesn't always feel good but if it leads us back to God, it is a gift. Proverbs 27:5-6 says, "Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."
2. Repent by God's grace - When we learn to see sin for what it is, and God for who He is, we learn to lay what is destroying us at the feet of Jesus and find grace.
3. Rely on God to take away your guilt - David is the one who deserved death but the child dies instead. What a sobering picture of the Gospel! We get grace because God's son suffered death.

SERMON NOTES

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(REDEMPTION)

(REPENTENCE)

(RESTORATION)

WK11 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 | O COME TO THE ALTAR | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 02 | MERCY | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 03 | GOD'S NOT DONE WITH YOU | TAUREN WELLS |
| 04 | RUN TO THE FATHER | CODY CARNES |
| 05 | GOOD GRACE | HILLSONG |
| 06 | WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN | HYMN |
| 07 | HOLY WATER | WE THE KINGDOM |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 11.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. How does Nathan's approach to confronting David illustrate the importance of godly rebuke in our spiritual growth? Can you share a time when someone's honest feedback led to meaningful growth in your life?
2. Considering David's response to Nathan's rebuke, what qualities should characterize true repentance? How can we cultivate a heart that embraces correction with humility and sincerity?
3. How does understanding that Jesus has taken away our guilt influence the way we deal with our own sin and the sins of others? How does this knowledge affect your daily walk with God?
4. Reflecting on David's experience and God's grace, what practical steps can we take to show gratitude for God's grace in our lives?

DAY 1 MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Read and Reflect: Psalm 39

In Psalm 39, David reminds us that our days are fleeting and often marred by failures. We find that our need for God's grace is not just a one-time event but a daily dependence on Him. As Tim Keller once said, "The gospel is not just the ABCs but the A to Z of the Christian life." David's cry for mercy in the face of his sin teaches us that when we are confronted with our shortcomings, our response should be one of humility. By turning to God with a humble heart, we acknowledge that only His grace can lift the burden of our sins and give us the power to live for Him.

Apply: Memorize Psalm 39:4 -

*"O Lord, make me know my end
and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!"*

Pray:

1. Thank God for His wisdom and guidance through rebukes.
2. Ask for His grace to respond with humility and learn from His correction.
3. Pray that our church confront sin gracefully and be people who receive a rebuke as a means of spiritual growth.

Worship:

○ Come to the Altar By Elevation Worship

Journal: Reflect on a time when you experienced God's rebuke. How did it lead to growth or transformation in your life?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 2 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Read and Reflect: Psalm 32

David wrote Psalm 32 after his heartbreaking sin with Bathsheba. His words are a beautiful reminder of the joy that awaits us when we turn from our sins and are reconciled back to God. Holding onto guilt and shame only brings burdens, but through repentance, there is a blessing beyond measure. Today, as you reflect on David's words following his sin and confession, may you experience God's amazing grace and joy as you bring your sin to Him.

Apply: Recognize the joy and the freedom that comes with our repentance and His forgiveness. Memorize Psalm 32:10 - "Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord."

Pray:

1. Thank God for the blessing of forgiveness and reconciliation.
2. Ask for a deeper experience of His joy and freedom as you surrender more to Him.
3. Pray for a spirit of freedom and joy throughout our church as we collectively turn from sin and turn to God.

Worship:

God's Not Done With You by Tauren Wells

Journal: How has experiencing God's forgiveness impacted your sense of freedom and joy? What areas of your life do you need to surrender more control to God?

JOURNAL **NOTES.**

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DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Read and Reflect: Hebrews 12:5-11

God's discipline, though challenging, is really an expression of His love. The author of Hebrews reminds us that just as a loving parent corrects their child, God disciplines us to shape our character and align us with His will. It's easy to resist or question these moments of correction, but we're encouraged to embrace them with gratitude, knowing that God is molding us into mature children who reflect their Heavenly Father. This means that in every trial we can trust that God is working for our good.

Apply: When you face challenges, ask God to reveal what He's teaching you through them—*"God, what do you mean by all of this?"*

Pray:

1. Thank God for His loving discipline & the growth it brings.
2. Ask for a heart that embraces His discipline with gratitude.
3. Pray for people in our church that they would understand (even appreciate) the purpose of God's discipline.

Worship:

Good Grace by Hillsong

Good Good Father by Chris Tomlin (not on the playlist)

Journal: Reflect on how God's discipline has shaped your spiritual growth. How can you respond to His discipline with gratitude?

DAY 4 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Read and Reflect: 2 Samuel 12:1-14

As we heard in the message this past Sunday--when Nathan confronted David in 2 Samuel 12:1-14, he didn't just expose David's sin—he offered him a path to restoration. David's response of humility and repentance shows us the transformative power of godly rebuke when received with a humble heart. Instead of reacting with pride or defensiveness, David acknowledged his wrongs and pursued God's mercy. This story in David's life reminds us that a godly rebuke can be a generous gift if we turn back to Him. Through repentance, we not only find forgiveness but also the grace that restores us to God.

Apply: When someone offers you constructive criticism or a gentle rebuke, resist the urge to react defensively. Instead, take time to prayerfully consider their rebuke, and ask God to help you respond with humility and a desire for growth.

Pray:

1. Thank God for those who keep you on the right path.
2. Ask for humility to receive correction.
3. Pray that our church understands the role of a gentle and godly rebuke, and responds with humility when confronted.

Worship:

Mercy by Elevation Worship

Journal: How have you responded to godly rebuke in the past? What steps can help you take to have a humble and repentant heart?

JOURNAL NOTES.

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DAY 5 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Read and Reflect: 2 Samuel 12:15-31

In 2 Samuel 12:15-31, we see the sobering reality of sin's consequences in David's life, yet even though his child dies, God's mercy and grace are still present. Verse 24 tells us that another child was born to David and Bathsheba (Solomon) and that "the Lord loved him." Oh, the steadfast love of the Lord! This passage teaches us that while we may not be spared from the consequences of our actions, God's grace remains steadfast in our lives. When we do sin, we're reminded that God's mercy can bring hope and restoration, even in the darkest moments. No matter how far we've fallen, we are never too far gone for God!

Apply: Remember, even though there are consequences to sin when you come to Jesus and confess your sin, there is also forgiveness, mercy, and love waiting for you.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His grace and forgiveness even though there may be consequences to your sin.
2. Ask for a renewal of your spirit and passion for Him.
3. Pray for those who you may know who are dealing with the consequences of their sin, that they will find strength and renewal in God's grace.

Worship:

God's Not Done With You by Tauren Wells

Journal: Reflect on how you have experienced God's grace in difficult situations. How does His forgiveness impact your view of the consequences you face?

**JOURNAL
NOTES.**

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SERMON OVERVIEW.

2 SAMUEL 22

In 2 Samuel 22, we have a great tool for not only understanding David's life but also our own—*David's song of praise*. Reflecting on God's character and faithfulness, David finds the strength to move forward in faith with the rest of his life. Likewise, by reflecting on God's character and looking back at His faithfulness, we too can find the strength to move forward in faith.

There are three key aspects of God's character and faithfulness that David wants us to take note of in his song of praise:

1. God is *personal* - David repeatedly refers to God as "my" rock, "my" fortress, and "my" deliverer. This language shows the deep and personal relationship that David had with God.

If we find our lives feeling empty, could it be that we do not have a personal relationship with God?

2. God is *present* - In his distress, David called out to God and God responded. Interestingly, in the chapters surrounding this song of praise, David's mighty men are mentioned. I.E. David is surrounded by all this help from his Mighty Men and yet he still gives credit to Almighty God for being present in his time of trouble.

3. God is *powerful* - The way that David describes God's intervention against his enemies shows a God who is more powerful than anyone or anything! Verses 8-18, specifically, remind us that no matter how big our challenges may seem, *God is bigger!*

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(FAITHFULNESS)

(POWER)

(LOVE)

WK12 WORSHIP PLAYLIST



- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 | PRAISE | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 02 | GOD IS FOR US | CITYALIGHT |
| 03 | BEEN SO GOOD | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 04 | I'VE WITNESSED IT | PASSION |
| 05 | MY TESTIMONY | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 06 | SAME GOD | ELEVATION WORSHIP |
| 07 | FOREVER HOLY | CHRIS TOMLIN |

DISCUSS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEK 12.

Link to Sunday's Sermon:



Questions:

1. How does understanding God as personal, present, and powerful shape the way you handle challenges in your life? Can you share a personal story where these attributes of God were evident to you?
2. Reflecting on 2 Samuel 22, how does David's experience of God's faithfulness encourage you to trust in God's presence and power during difficult times? How can you apply this perspective to your current struggles?
3. Are there specific events or moments in your life where you've seen God's hand at work? How have those moments helped you grow in your faith and trust in God?
4. How can you actively keep a record of God's work in your life to strengthen your trust in Him?

WEEK 1
WEEK 2
WEEK 3
WEEK 4
WEEK 5
WEEK 6
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WEEK 31
WEEK 32

5 DAY DEVOTIONAL
& JOURNAL



WEEK 12

DAY 1 MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Read and Reflect: Psalm 22

In Psalm 22, David takes us on a journey from the depths of despair to the heights of hope. He begins with a cry of anguish but moves towards a confident declaration of God's deliverance. David's words remind us that even in our darkest moments, God's faithfulness is there. When we remember how God has come through for us before, we can confidently trust that He will do so again. Looking back at His faithfulness can strengthen our trust in His future help.

Apply: Take a few minutes to write down all the ways God has proven himself to be faithful to you. Thank Him!

Pray:

1. Ask the Lord for hope and strength as you look forward to His continued faithfulness.
2. Pray for unbelievers in your circle of influence to encounter the true meaning of Christmas in a personal way.
3. Ask God to open doors for meaningful connections with unbelievers so that you can share the Gospel and invite them to a place of grace.

Worship:

I've Witnessed It by Passion

Journal: Reflect on a time when you experienced God's deliverance. How does recalling this experience help you face current challenges?

JOURNAL **NOTES.**

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DAY 2 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Read and Reflect: Psalm 77

In Psalm 77, Asaph (the Psalmist) turns his focus from his present distress to the mighty works of God in the past. In doing so, he finds peace and hope. When we face challenges, this psalm invites us to do the same—to look back on the ways God has provided, protected, and guided us. As Corrie Ten Boom once said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." By reflecting on His past deeds, we draw strength for today, knowing that the same God who was faithful then will be faithful now.

Apply: Let memories of God's goodness fuel your faith and encourage your heart to trust Him in every season.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His mighty works and past faithfulness.
2. Ask for strength and encouragement through the remembrance of His deeds.
3. Pray that our church will be strengthened as we recall God's faithfulness to us.

Worship:

Same God by Elevation Worship

Journal: How can remembering God's past actions help you address current fears or uncertainties? What specific events or experiences from your life highlight His faithfulness?

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Read and Reflect: Psalm 103

Psalm 103 invites us to reflect on the countless blessings and mercies God has given to us. As we recount His past acts of grace, we are reminded of His constant presence and support in our lives. As A.W. Tozer once said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." (Chapter 1 of *The Knowledge of the Holy*). Today, let your mind be filled with thoughts of His past faithfulness. As the saying goes: We may not know what the future holds but we know who holds the future!

Apply: Take time to sit and reflect on Psalm 103, specifically verses 2-5.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His powerful interventions and deliverance.
2. Ask for renewed faith and hope as you remember His mighty acts.
3. Using Psalm 103 as a guide, pray for those in our church who are going through trials.

Worship:

Praise by Elevation Worship

Counting Every Blessing by Rend Collective (not on playlist)

Counting My Blessings by Seph Schlueter (not on playlist)

Journal: How can recalling God's dramatic acts of deliverance impact your current situation? What specific examples of His power in your life can you reflect on today?

DAY 4 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Read and Reflect: 2 Samuel 22:1-20

In 2 Samuel 22:1-20, David's song of deliverance is filled with gratitude as he reflects on how God has been his rock and refuge. David reminds us of the importance of not forgetting God's past faithfulness. As Spurgeon is credited with saying, "We are too prone to engrave our trials in marble and write our blessings in sand." Instead, we should draw strength from God's past faithfulness. Just as David found courage, we too can move forward with hope, trusting that the same God who was our rock before will continue to be our refuge and strength.

Apply: Memorize 2 Samuel 22:2-3 - "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, 3 my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior;"

Pray:

1. Thank God for being your rock and deliverer.
2. Ask for strength to trust Him in current and future difficulties.
3. Pray for people in our church to recognize God's role as their rock and refuge. Pray for a spirit of gratitude and praise to rise within our church.

Worship:

God is for Us by CityAlight

Journal: Consider a time when God was your rock and deliverer. How does reflecting on that strengthen your current faith?

DAY 5 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Read and Reflect: 2 Samuel 22:21–51

Reflecting on how God has been his shield and deliverer, David's song of praise serves as a powerful testimony of God's faithfulness. His song encourages us to look back with gratitude at how God has guided and protected us in times of trouble. As we remember His past deeds, we can know that the same God who was faithful before will guide and sustain us in every new challenge ahead. Spurgeon once said, "The God who has been sufficient until now should be trusted to the end." (Morning and Evening Devotional, Morning, March 4)

Apply: As we continue celebrating the Advent season (a season of anticipation for what's to come), take time to intentionally reflect on all that God has done in the past.

Pray:

1. Thank God for His protection and faithfulness in your life.
2. Pray for hearts to be drawn to Christ as we start our new Christmas series, this Sunday. Invite someone close to you but far from God.
3. Ask the Lord for people to respond to God's forgiveness and grace this Christmas season.

Worship:

My Testimony by Elevation Worship

Journal: As Christmas quickly approaches, reflect on the ways you are thankful for God's past faithfulness. Offer this list as an act of worship and praise.

APPENDIX A

STUDY RESOURCES.

Watch:

The Bible Project: Overview of 1 Samuel

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-samuel/>

The Bible Project: Overview of 2 Samuel

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/2-samuel/>

The Bible Project: David the Priestly King

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/david-priestly-king/>

Read:

1 Samuel for You: For Reading, for Feeding, for Leading (God's Word for You Series), Tim Chester, 2014.

2 Samuel for You: The Triumphs and Tragedies of God's King (God's Word for You), 2017

Listen:

The Life of David series (Gospel in Life), Tim Keller, 1996

<https://gospelinlife.com/series/the-life-of-david/>

Alister Begg's Truth for Life series on the David

A Study in 1 and 2 Samuel, Volumes 3-9

<https://www.truthforlife.org/resources/series/give-us-king-volume-3/>

APPENDIX B

PRAAYER RESOURCES.

Prayer is a Priority. We believe that apart from Jesus, we can do nothing of eternal value. Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort. As we strive to be a praying church Let us remember the words of Jesus:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
(John 15:5)

If we are to be a faithful and fruitful church, we have to incorporate prayer in everything we do—Sunday Morning, Small Groups, Serve Teams, and spiritual disciplines.

What we see in Scripture is that prevailing churches are praying churches. Luke records in Acts 4:31, "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

The early Christians understood that prayer was not just a preliminary step but the very source of their power and effectiveness in ministry.

In this section, you'll find guides like the ACTS prayer model, insights into The Lord's Prayer, tips for praying through Scripture, instructions on how to fast, and practices for listening to God in prayer. These resources will help you deepen your connection with God and live out your calling.

We hope you join us in making prayer a priority at Crosstown Alliance!

ACTS PRAYER.

This model focuses on four areas of prayer, in order: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

Adoration: Begin by simply praising God for who He is. Focus this time on praising his character and meditating on his attributes.

Opening with Psalm 100 is a great place to start.

Confession: Next, move into a time of confession, inviting the Holy Spirit to reveal to you areas where you are in need of God's mercy and grace. This time can be prayed in silence or spoken out loud, but make sure you don't rush past this, even if it feels strained.

Remember Psalm 103:12 - "as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."

Thanksgiving: Thank God for the gifts in your life. Be specific as possible.

Remember 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - "*Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*"

Supplication: Lastly, lift up requests to God. Ask God to show you who to pray for.

Remember Ephesians 6:18 - "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name: Begin by focusing on God's character. Take a moment to praise God. Praise God for the created world, for God's love, justice and mercy, for the gift of Jesus, and for God's goodness in your own life.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven: Pray for God to transform the world according to His rule. You can pray for peace, for justice, for compassion, for an end to poverty and sickness. You can pray for any global or local situation that you want God to set right. Pray for people to do God's will. Ask for God's help to understand what He is calling you to do.

Give us today our daily bread: Pray for God's provision. Take a moment to pray for your own needs, the needs of your family, friends, as well as those of our church.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us: Focus on the Father's forgiveness. You may want to pray for general sins or you may want to confess specific sins. Ask for God's help to become more patient and forgiving towards others. Consider if there is someone you need God's help to forgive.

Lead us not into temptation: Focus on seeking God's guidance. Pray about those things that worry you, things that cause you pain or struggle, and things that test your ability to do the right thing.

And deliver us from evil: Ask for God's protection from the evil in the world. Pray that others would receive this same protection.

PRAYING THROUGH SCRIPTURE.

The process of praying scripture is simple: pick a scripture and read through it slowly. Pause between verses or when you feel led, and allow the words to become an echo in your own heart. As Psalm 119:130 says, "The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple." Allow scripture to unfold into your own prayer, and let it give light to what God desires to reveal in you and to you.

Psalm 23 is an excellent passage to pray through. Set a timer for 10 minutes, and read through it slowly. Consider what about this passage gives you reason to give thanks and praise.

PSALM 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

FASTING.

Biblical fasting is the practice of abstaining from food or other physical needs for a spiritual purpose. It is often done to draw closer to God, seek His guidance, or demonstrate repentance.

Benefits of Fasting:

- Draws us closer to God: Fasting helps to deepen our relationship with God by removing distractions and focusing on Him (Matthew 6:6; James 4:8).
- Strengthens prayer life: Fasting combined with prayer can enhance spiritual sensitivity and effectiveness in seeking God's will (Matthew 17:21; Acts 13:2-3).
- Promotes humility: Fasting can lead to greater humility and dependence on God, acknowledging our reliance on Him rather than on ourselves (Psalm 35:13; 2 Chronicles 7:14).
- Facilitates repentance and spiritual renewal: Fasting can be a powerful tool for repentance and seeking God's forgiveness and renewal (Joel 2:12-13; Jonah 3:5-10).
- Encourages self-discipline: Fasting cultivates self-control and helps to overcome fleshly desires (Gal. 5:16-17; 1 Cor. 9:27).

Helpful advice when fasting:

Focus on God. This is the most important part. Use the feeling of hunger or limiting food as a prompt to focus your attention on God. Be present with your Heavenly Father. Using the above list to guide the focus of your time may prove helpful.

Keep it Quiet — between just you, God, and those keeping you accountable. See Matt. 6:16-18.

Be Patient. At the beginning of any fast, your focus will likely be drawn toward how you feel and keeping the "rules" of the fast. Over time, you'll be able to shift your focus toward God more readily.

LISTENING PRAYER.

Listening Prayer is about hearing from God. A great way to do that is through reading scripture slowly multiple times

Tip: As you use the reading plan in this booklet, you may want to consider utilizing listening prayer.

Follow the process below to direct your quiet time:

1. Take a few moments to become quiet in the presence of God.
2. Read the passage out loud slowly. Allow any words or phrases that catch your attention to settle into your heart. Spend some time in quiet, listening for God's leading. Pause here for several moments.
3. Read the passage again. Listen to where any word or phrase connects to your life right now. Spend some time quietly envisioning the scene in the Scripture, meditating on what you see or experience. Pause here again for several moments.
4. Read the passage one more time. How has God met you through His Word? How is he inviting you to respond? Allow this passage to lead you into a time praying in any way you feel led.

