



IBRAHIM YOHANNA USMAN

Forming Unshakable Believers for Every Season



UNDERSTANDING GRACE AND GROWING SPIRITUALLY

A 10-WEEK DISCIPLESHIP WORKBOOK



UNDERSTAND GOD'S GRACE

Know the depth, power,
and purpose of God's grace.



GROW IN CHRIST

Build a strong foundation
for spiritual growth.



WALK IN THE SPIRIT

Experience daily victory
and spiritual transformation.



MAKE DISCIPLES

Live on mission and help others
grow in their faith.



*"But grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both
now and forever. Amen."*

— 2 PETER 3:18



VICTORY WORD
— PUBLICATION —

Understanding Grace and Growing Spiritually | Rev Ibrahim Yohanna Usman

UNDERSTANDING GRACE AND GROWING SPIRITUALLY

**A 10-Week Grace-Based Discipleship
Workbook for Every Believer**

Author

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Publisher

Victory Word Publication

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Dedication

This workbook is dedicated to every believer who longs to know Jesus more deeply, to walk in the freedom of His grace, and to grow into spiritual maturity.

May every reader discover that the Christian life is not about striving to earn God's acceptance but about living daily from the finished work of Christ.

Above all, this book is dedicated to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whose amazing grace has made salvation, transformation, and eternal life possible.

"To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

Preface

Growing in Grace, Living in Christ

There are few words in the Christian faith that are more frequently spoken yet less deeply understood than the word **grace**.

Many believers know that they were saved by grace, yet they continue trying to live the Christian life through their own strength. They love Jesus sincerely but often struggle with guilt, fear, discouragement, insecurity, condemnation, and the feeling that they must constantly prove themselves to God. Instead of resting in Christ's finished work, they find themselves striving to earn what God has already freely given through His Son.

The New Testament presents a different picture.

The Christian life begins by grace.

It continues by grace.

It matures by grace.

And it will one day be completed by grace.

The purpose of this workbook is to help believers rediscover that wonderful truth.

Understanding Grace and Growing Spiritually was written to provide a clear, biblical, and practical pathway for spiritual growth. It is designed to help believers move beyond simply knowing Christian truths to living them every day through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Throughout these ten weeks, we will explore some of the most foundational truths of the Christian life:

- Understanding the grace of God.
- Resting in the finished work of Christ.
- Discovering your identity in Christ.
- Living free from guilt and condemnation.
- Building a daily relationship with God.
- Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Renewing your mind through God's Word.
- Growing in joyful obedience.
- Living faithfully within the body of Christ.
- Continuing to grow and make disciples throughout life.

These lessons are not presented merely as theological ideas to be admired.

They are biblical truths to be believed, experienced, and lived.

Each chapter includes Scripture study, personal reflection, practical exercises, memory verses, daily devotions, prayer, and discussion guides to help move God's truth from the mind into everyday life.

One of the central convictions behind this workbook is simple:

Christianity is not about trying harder. It is about trusting Jesus more deeply.

True spiritual growth does not begin with human effort.

It begins with understanding what Christ has already accomplished through His death, burial, and resurrection.

From that secure foundation, the Holy Spirit forms us into people who increasingly reflect the character of Christ.

This workbook is therefore not a call to religious performance.

It is an invitation to joyful fellowship with God.

It is an invitation to live from acceptance rather than striving for acceptance.

It is an invitation to discover that obedience grows naturally from hearts transformed by grace.

Whether you are a new believer taking your first steps of faith, a mature Christian seeking deeper spiritual formation, a pastor leading a discipleship class, or a small-group leader helping others grow in Christ, my prayer is that these pages will strengthen your confidence in God's grace and deepen your love for Jesus Christ.

Do not rush through these lessons.

Read the Scriptures carefully.

Pray honestly.

Reflect thoughtfully.

Complete the exercises.

Discuss what you are learning with other believers.

Most importantly, allow the Holy Spirit to apply God's Word to your heart.

Remember that discipleship is not measured by how quickly you finish a workbook.

It is measured by how faithfully you continue following Jesus Christ.

As you journey through these pages, my prayer echoes the words of the Apostle Peter:

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

May this workbook help you rest more fully in the finished work of Christ, walk more closely with the Holy Spirit, love God's people more deeply, and become a faithful disciple who helps others know and follow Jesus.

May all the glory belong to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Rev. Ibrahim Yohanna Usman

Victory Word Publication

How to Use This Workbook

Welcome

Thank you for choosing **Understanding Grace and Growing Spiritually: A 10-Week Discipleship Workbook**.

This workbook is more than a Bible study. It is a discipleship journey designed to help you know Jesus Christ more deeply, rest in His finished work, and grow into spiritual maturity through the transforming power of God's grace.

Each lesson builds on the previous one. For this reason, it is recommended that you complete the workbook in order, taking one week for each chapter.

Do not rush through the material.

Give the Holy Spirit time to work in your heart through God's Word.

Four Ways to Use This Workbook

1. Personal Study

If you are studying alone:

- Set aside a regular time each day.
- Begin every lesson with prayer.
- Read every Scripture passage carefully.
- Complete the reflection questions honestly.
- Write your answers in the spaces provided.
- Memorize the weekly Scripture verse.

- Complete the daily devotional readings.
- Finish each week before moving to the next.

Remember, the goal is transformation, not simply information.

2. With a Discipleship Partner

This workbook is especially effective when studied with another believer.

Meet once each week to:

- Pray together.
- Discuss the weekly lesson.
- Share what God is teaching you.
- Encourage one another.
- Pray about areas of growth.
- Hold one another accountable in love.

Christian growth is strengthened through godly relationships.

3. Small Groups

Each chapter includes discussion questions designed for Bible study groups, home fellowships, and discipleship classes.

For the best experience:

- Read the week's lesson before the meeting.
- Encourage everyone to participate.
- Listen respectfully.
- Keep God's Word as the final authority.
- Pray together before closing.

Growth often happens as believers learn from one another.

4. Church-Wide Discipleship Classes

Pastors and church leaders can use this workbook as a ten-week discipleship curriculum.

A suggested weekly schedule is:

- Opening prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Review of the previous week
- Bible teaching
- Small-group discussion
- Questions and answers
- Prayer and ministry
- Weekly challenge

Encourage participants to complete the daily devotional readings between meetings.

What You Will Find in Every Week

Each chapter follows the same pattern to help you grow consistently.

- This Week at a Glance
- Introduction
- Learning Objectives
- Bible Study
- Word Study

- Christ in the Old Testament
- Grace and Truth in Balance
- Daily Devotions
- Reflection Questions
- Formation Focus
- Grace Gems
- Grace in Ministry
- Grace in the Home
- Small Group Discussion Guide
- Walking It Out This Week
- Living the Gospel
- Christ-Centered Prayer
- Weekly Review

Each section is designed to help you move from understanding God's truth to living it.

A Few Suggestions

As you work through this book:

- Pray before every lesson.
- Keep a notebook for additional insights.
- Look up every Scripture reference.
- Be honest with God and with yourself.
- Do not become discouraged by slow growth.
- Celebrate every step of obedience.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to apply His Word to your heart.
- Share what you learn with others.

Remember that spiritual growth is usually gradual.

Just as healthy trees produce fruit over time, healthy disciples grow steadily as they remain in Christ.

A Personal Challenge

Before you begin Week One, prayerfully make this commitment to the Lord.

Lord Jesus, I desire to know You more deeply and follow You more faithfully. Open my heart to understand Your Word. Transform my life by Your grace. Teach me to depend on Your finished work, walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, and become a faithful disciple who reflects Your character and helps others follow You. I surrender this journey to You. Amen.

A Word to Church Leaders

If you are using this workbook to disciple others, remember that your greatest influence is not only in what you teach but also in how you live.

Lead with humility.

Teach with faithfulness.

Correct with gentleness.

Encourage with grace.

Pray consistently for those God has entrusted to your care.

Never forget that disciples are formed through truth, love, example, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Finally...

Do not measure the success of this workbook by how quickly you complete it.

Measure it by how faithfully you:

- Rest in God's grace.
- Trust Christ's finished work.
- Walk with the Holy Spirit.
- Love God's people.
- Obey God's Word.
- Grow in Christlikeness.
- Make disciples of others.

May these ten weeks become the beginning of a lifetime of joyful discipleship.

As you turn the next page and begin Introduction, ask God to do far more than increase your knowledge.

Ask Him to transform your heart.

For the goal of discipleship is not merely to know the truth—it is to know Jesus Christ, who is the Truth, and to become more like Him every day.

Introduction

Why Grace Changes Everything

"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

— John 1:17

More Than a Word

Few words in the Bible are as beautiful, powerful, and life-changing as the word **grace**.

Yet few words are also more misunderstood.

For many people, grace simply means that God forgives sinners.

That is wonderfully true—but grace is far more than forgiveness.

- Grace is God's undeserved favor toward those who could never earn it.
- Grace is God's loving initiative toward helpless sinners.
- Grace is God's power at work within believers, enabling them to become what they could never become by their own efforts.
- Grace is not merely the doorway into the Christian life.
- Grace is the atmosphere in which the Christian life is lived.
- From beginning to end, salvation is God's work.
- The Father planned it.
- The Son accomplished it.
- The Holy Spirit applies it.

All of this is received by grace through faith.

The Great Mistake Many Christians Make

Many believers begin their Christian journey by trusting completely in Jesus Christ.

They rejoice in the forgiveness of sins.

They celebrate God's love.

They rest in His grace.

But somewhere along the journey, many quietly begin believing a different message.

Without realizing it, they start thinking:

"If I pray enough, God will love me more."

"If I serve enough, God will finally accept me."

"If I fail, God must be disappointed with me."

"If I perform well, I deserve God's blessing."

These thoughts may sound spiritual, but they place the focus back on human performance rather than Christ's finished work.

This is not the freedom of the gospel.

It is a return to striving.

The good news of Christianity is not that weak people must become strong enough for God.

The good news is that God has done for us in Christ what we could never do for ourselves.

The Finished Work of Jesus

When Jesus cried,

"It is finished."

He declared that the work necessary for our salvation had been completed.

The debt of sin had been paid.

The sacrifice had been offered.

The victory had been won.

Nothing could be added to His perfect work.

Because of Jesus:

- We are forgiven.
- We are accepted.
- We are adopted into God's family.
- We are declared righteous.
- We receive the Holy Spirit.
- We have access to the Father.
- We have the hope of eternal life.

These blessings are received by grace through faith—not by human effort.

Grace Leads to Transformation

Some people fear that emphasizing grace will encourage careless living.

The New Testament teaches exactly the opposite.

Grace never excuses sin.

Grace defeats sin.

Grace not only forgives us.

Grace transforms us.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

"The grace of God... teaches us..." (Titus 2:11–12)

Notice that grace is a teacher.

Grace teaches us to reject ungodliness.

Grace teaches us to pursue holiness.

Grace teaches us to love God and love others.

Obedience is not the price we pay for grace.

It is the fruit grace produces in us.

Spiritual Growth Is a Journey

No believer reaches spiritual maturity overnight.

Growth takes time.

Just as a tree grows gradually while remaining firmly rooted, believers mature as they remain rooted in Christ.

There will be seasons of joy.

There will be seasons of testing.

There will be victories.

There will be failures.

Yet through every season, God's grace remains sufficient.

The Christian life is not about never falling.

It is about continually returning to Jesus, trusting His finished work, and allowing His Spirit to transform us day by day.

What This Workbook Will Help You Discover

Over the next ten weeks, you will discover:

- Why grace is the foundation of the Christian life.
- What Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection.

- Who you are in Christ.
- How to live free from guilt and condemnation.
- How to enjoy daily fellowship with God.
- How to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- How to renew your mind through Scripture.
- Why obedience flows from grace.
- Why Christian community matters.
- How to continue growing and making disciples for the rest of your life.

Each lesson builds upon the previous one.

By the end of the journey, you will see that every part of the Christian life is rooted in one unchanging truth:

Jesus Christ is enough.

An Invitation

Before you continue, pause for a moment.

Do not think first about what you must do for God.

Think about what God has already done for you through Jesus Christ.

You are invited to lay down the heavy burden of trying to earn what God freely gives.

You are invited to stop striving for acceptance and begin living from acceptance.

You are invited to exchange fear for confidence.

Condemnation for forgiveness.

Performance for relationship.

Self-reliance for dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

This is the invitation of grace.

This is the invitation of Jesus.

A Prayer Before You Begin

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your amazing grace shown to me through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Thank You that my salvation rests not on my efforts but on His finished work.

As I begin this journey, open my heart to understand Your Word.

Renew my mind.

Strengthen my faith.

Transform my life by the Holy Spirit.

Help me not merely to gain knowledge but to know Christ more deeply, love Him more sincerely, and follow Him more faithfully.

May every page of this workbook draw me closer to Jesus and help me become a disciple who lives by grace, walks in truth, and reflects Your love to the world.

To You alone be all glory, honor, and praise.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

One Final Thought Before Week One

As you begin this journey, remember this simple truth:

You are not studying these lessons to persuade God to love you.

You are studying them because He already does.

That is the heart of the gospel.

That is the power of grace.

And that is where true spiritual growth begins.

Doctrinal Foundation

The Biblical Foundation of This Workbook

This workbook is built upon the conviction that God's Word is the final authority for Christian faith and practice. Every lesson, reflection, and application is intended to help believers know Jesus Christ more deeply, trust His finished work more fully, and grow in spiritual maturity through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The following biblical truths provide the foundation for everything you will study in these pages.

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, trustworthy, and authoritative Word of God.

Through the Scriptures, God reveals His character, His will, His plan of redemption, and His purpose for humanity.

The Bible is our final authority for faith, doctrine, and Christian living.

Key Scriptures:

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- Psalm 119:105
- 2 Peter 1:20–21

2. The Triune God

We believe there is one true and living God who eternally exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Father planned our salvation.

The Son accomplished our salvation.

The Holy Spirit applies that salvation to believers and empowers them to live for God's glory.

The three Persons are equal in deity, united in purpose, and perfect in love.

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 28:19
- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- Deuteronomy 6:4

3. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now reigns at the Father's right hand.

Through His finished work, sinners are reconciled to God.

Jesus Christ is the only Savior and Lord.

Key Scriptures:

- John 1:1–18
- Colossians 1:15–20
- 1 Corinthians 15:3–4
- Hebrews 1:1–4

4. Salvation by Grace Through Faith

We believe that salvation is entirely the work of God's grace.

Human beings cannot earn forgiveness through good works, religious effort, or moral achievement.

Salvation is received by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

Good works are the result of salvation, not the cause of it.

Key Scriptures:

- Ephesians 2:8–10
- Romans 3:21–26
- Titus 3:4–7

5. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer from the moment of salvation.

He convicts of sin, points people to Christ, teaches God's Word, produces spiritual fruit, equips believers for service, and empowers holy living.

The Christian life is lived through continual dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

Key Scriptures:

- John 14:16–17
- Romans 8:1–17
- Galatians 5:16–25

6. The Church

We believe that all who trust in Jesus Christ are members of His universal body, the Church.

God also calls believers to participate faithfully in a local church where they worship, learn God's Word, pray together, observe the ordinances instituted by Christ, encourage one another, and serve in love.

The Church exists to glorify God and make disciples of all nations.

Key Scriptures:

- Acts 2:42–47
- Ephesians 4:11–16
- Hebrews 10:24–25

7. The Christian Life

We believe that every believer is called to grow in grace and Christlikeness.

This growth is the work of God's grace through the ministry of the Holy Spirit as believers abide in Christ, study the Scriptures, pray, worship, fellowship with God's people, and obey God's Word.

Spiritual maturity is measured not merely by knowledge but by increasing conformity to Jesus Christ.

Key Scriptures:

- John 15:1–11
- Romans 12:1–2
- 2 Peter 3:18

8. The Mission of Every Believer

We believe that every Christian is called to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

The Great Commission belongs to the whole Church.

Every believer is called to love others, proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and use the gifts God has given for the building up of His people and the glory of His name.

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 28:18–20
- Acts 1:8

- 2 Timothy 2:2
- 1 Peter 4:10–11

9. Our Blessed Hope

We believe that Jesus Christ will return as He promised.

This hope encourages believers to live faithfully, persevere in trials, and serve with joy while awaiting the fulfillment of God's kingdom.

Our future hope is not based on our performance but on God's faithful promises fulfilled in Christ.

Key Scriptures:

- John 14:1–3
- Titus 2:11–14
- Revelation 21:1–5

Why This Foundation Matters

Everything you will study in this workbook grows out of these biblical truths.

Grace is not merely a subject to study.

It is God's way of saving, transforming, and sustaining His people.

The finished work of Christ is not only the beginning of the Christian life.

It is the foundation upon which every step of spiritual growth is built.

The Holy Spirit does not merely give us spiritual experiences.

He forms us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

The Church is not merely an organization.

It is God's family, where believers are nurtured, equipped, and sent into the world.

Our goal is not simply to complete lessons.

Our goal is to know Christ more deeply, become more like Him, and faithfully make Him known to others.

Our Prayer

As you read this workbook, may the Holy Spirit give you wisdom to understand the Scriptures, faith to trust the finished work of Christ, courage to obey God's Word, love for the people of God, and perseverance to continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. Jude 1:24-25 (KJV)

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WEEK 1

Understanding God's Grace

Theme

Discovering the Free Gift That Changes Everything

Key Scriptures

- Ephesians 2:8–9
- Romans 3:23–24
- Titus 2:11–12
- John 1:16–17
- Romans 5:17

Memory Verse

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." — Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

Welcome to Week One

Welcome to the beginning of an exciting journey of spiritual transformation. Over the next ten weeks, you will discover that the Christian life is not built on human effort but on God's amazing grace.

Many Christians sincerely love God yet live under constant pressure. They believe that if they pray enough, fast enough, serve

enough, or avoid enough mistakes, God will finally be pleased with them. This way of thinking produces fear, guilt, frustration, and spiritual exhaustion.

The gospel offers something completely different.

God does not invite us into a life of endless striving. He invites us into a relationship built on the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Before we learn how to grow spiritually, we must first understand the foundation upon which spiritual growth is built. That foundation is grace.

Everything God gives us—salvation, forgiveness, righteousness, adoption into His family, the Holy Spirit, and the hope of eternal life—is received because of His grace.

When grace is misunderstood, the Christian life becomes a burden.

When grace is understood, the Christian life becomes a joyful journey of trusting Christ every day.

This week you will discover that grace is not merely a doctrine to believe; it is the atmosphere in which every believer is called to live.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, you should be able to:

- Explain the biblical meaning of grace.
- Distinguish between grace and human effort.
- Understand why salvation is a gift.
- Recognize common misconceptions about grace.

- Begin living from God's acceptance instead of striving for it.

What Is Grace?

Many people define grace simply as "God's unmerited favor." While this definition is true, it is only the beginning.

Grace is God's loving initiative toward people who could never save themselves.

Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve because Jesus received what we deserved.

Grace is God's power working in us to accomplish what we could never accomplish by ourselves.

Grace is not earned.

Grace is not purchased.

Grace is not inherited through family or church membership.

Grace is received by faith in Jesus Christ.

Imagine a person drowning in a deep river. He cannot rescue himself. Someone jumps into the water, saves him, and brings him safely to shore. The rescued person did not earn his rescue. He simply received what another person did for him.

That is a picture of God's grace.

Our sin separated us from God, but Jesus came to rescue us. Through His death and resurrection, He accomplished what we

never could. Salvation is therefore received as a gift, not earned as a reward.

Grace Throughout the Bible

Grace did not begin in the New Testament. From Genesis to Revelation, God reveals Himself as a gracious God.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God clothed them instead of abandoning them.

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Abraham was called by grace, not because he was perfect.

Israel was chosen because of God's covenant love, not because of their greatness.

David experienced God's mercy after repentance.

The prophets repeatedly proclaimed God's compassion toward His people.

Ultimately, God's grace was fully revealed in Jesus Christ.

John wrote:

"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Jesus did not merely teach grace—He embodied it.

Every miracle, every act of forgiveness, every invitation to sinners demonstrated the heart of God.

The cross became the greatest display of grace the world has ever seen.

When Jesus declared, "It is finished," He announced that the work necessary for our salvation had been completed forever.

Because of that finished work, everyone who believes in Him can stand before God fully forgiven, fully accepted, and fully loved.

Reflection Questions

1. Before this lesson, how did you define God's grace?
2. Have you ever felt that you had to earn God's acceptance? Explain why.
3. Which statement about grace has encouraged you the most today?
4. What difference would it make in your daily life if you truly believed that God already accepts you in Christ?
5. Write a short prayer thanking God for His amazing grace.

Grace vs. Performance

One of the greatest obstacles to spiritual growth is believing that God's love depends on our performance. Many Christians begin their journey by trusting Christ, but then slowly fall into the habit of trying to earn what God has already freely given.

Performance says:

- "God will love me more if I do better."
- "God accepts me because I pray enough."
- "When I fail, God turns away from me."

- "My relationship with God depends on how well I perform."

Grace says:

- "God loved me while I was still a sinner." (Romans 5:8)
- "I am accepted because of Jesus Christ."
- "When I fail, I run to God, not away from Him."
- "My obedience flows from gratitude, not fear."

This does not mean that our actions are unimportant. Rather, our obedience is the result of God's grace working in us—not the reason God accepts us.

A healthy Christian life always follows this pattern:

Grace → Faith → Obedience → Spiritual Growth

Many people mistakenly reverse the order:

Obedience → Acceptance → Grace

The Bible teaches that God first accepts us in Christ. From that secure relationship, we learn to obey Him out of love.

Grace Is Not a License to Sin

One of the most common misunderstandings about grace is that it gives believers permission to live carelessly.

The Apostle Paul addressed this directly:

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!" (Romans 6:1–2)

True grace never encourages sin. Instead, grace changes our hearts so that we desire to please God.

Titus 2:11–12 tells us:

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

Notice that grace is a teacher.

Grace teaches us:

- To reject sinful living.
- To love righteousness.
- To depend on God's strength.
- To live lives that honor Christ.

The more we understand God's grace, the more we love Him. The more we love Him, the more we desire to obey Him.

Grace does not lower God's standard; it empowers us to live according to His standard.

What Grace Is Not

To understand grace clearly, it is helpful to know what grace is not.

Grace is not:

- Permission to live in sin.

- An excuse for spiritual laziness.
- Ignoring God's holiness.
- A reward for good behavior.
- Something we deserve.
- A temporary gift that God later withdraws.

Grace is:

- God's undeserved favor.
- His power working within us.
- The foundation of salvation.
- The source of spiritual growth.
- The motivation for holy living.
- A gift that points us continually to Jesus Christ.

Signs You Are Living Under Performance Instead of Grace

Take a moment to examine your heart.

You may be living under a performance mindset if:

- You constantly feel that you have not done enough for God.
- You believe God loves you more on your "good" days than on your "bad" days.
- You compare your spiritual life with others.
- You struggle to accept God's forgiveness after you sin.
- You serve God mainly because you fear punishment.
- You find it difficult to rest in God's love.

If several of these describe you, do not lose heart. The Holy Spirit is inviting you to experience the freedom of grace.

Living from Acceptance, Not for Acceptance

The Christian life begins with acceptance.

Because of Christ:

- You are forgiven.
- You are adopted into God's family.
- You are clothed in Christ's righteousness.
- You have peace with God.
- You belong to Him.

You do not obey God to become His child.

You obey because you already are His child.

This truth changes everything.

Instead of asking, "What must I do so God will accept me?"

Ask, "Since God has accepted me in Christ, how can I respond with love and obedience today?"

That simple change in perspective transforms duty into delight and religion into relationship.

Personal Reflection

Prayerfully answer these questions.

1. Which statement best describes how you have related to God—through grace or through performance?

2. Have you ever believed that God loved you less because you failed? Why?
3. Which truth from this lesson gives you the greatest hope?
4. What changes would you like to make in your relationship with God this week?
5. Write a prayer asking God to help you live from His grace rather than striving to earn His approval.

Week 1 Declaration

Read these statements aloud every day this week.

- I am saved by grace through faith.
- God accepts me because of Jesus Christ.
- My sins are forgiven.
- I am God's beloved child.
- I do not have to earn God's love.
- Christ has finished the work of my salvation.
- I will obey God because I love Him.
- God's grace is sufficient for me.
- The Holy Spirit is helping me grow every day.
- I choose to rest in the finished work of Christ.

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey

These daily studies are designed to help you move from simply understanding grace to experiencing it personally. Set aside 20–30 minutes each day to read the Scriptures, meditate, pray, and complete the reflection.

DAY 1

Grace Is God's Gift

Read

Ephesians 2:8–9

Key Truth

Salvation is God's gift. Every gift has two characteristics: it is offered freely, and it must be received.

Many people try to pay for what God freely offers. They believe that good works, religious activities, or personal sacrifices can earn God's acceptance. But the Bible clearly teaches that salvation is "not of works."

Good works are important, but they are the result of salvation—not the cause of it.

Today, thank God that your relationship with Him rests on Christ's finished work rather than your performance.

Reflection

- What does it mean that salvation is a gift?
- Have you been trying to earn what God freely gives?

Prayer

Father, thank You for the gift of salvation. Help me to receive Your grace with humility and gratitude instead of trying to earn Your approval. Amen.

Action Step

Write down five blessings that God has freely given you through Christ.

DAY 2

Grace Meets Us Where We Are

Read

Romans 5:8

Key Truth

God did not wait until we became righteous before He loved us.

Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

That means God's love came before our obedience.

When you fail, remember that God's invitation is to return to Him in repentance, trusting His mercy rather than hiding in shame.

Grace restores us to fellowship with God.

Reflection

- What does Romans 5:8 reveal about God's love?
- Is there any area where you need to receive His forgiveness today?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me even when I was far from You. Help me to live confidently in Your unfailing love. Amen.

Action Step

Spend ten minutes thanking God specifically for His love and mercy.

DAY 3

Grace Produces Gratitude

Read

Luke 7:36–50

Key Truth

The woman who anointed Jesus' feet loved Him deeply because she understood how much she had been forgiven.

People who appreciate God's grace naturally become grateful worshippers.

The more clearly we see what Christ has done for us, the more joyfully we serve Him.

Obedience motivated by gratitude brings freedom.

Reflection

- How has God's grace changed your life?
- What are you most thankful for today?

Prayer

Father, fill my heart with gratitude for Your amazing grace. Let my worship and obedience flow from love rather than obligation.
Amen.

Action Step

Write a short prayer of thanksgiving in your journal.

DAY 4

Grace Gives Strength

Read

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Key Truth

God's grace does more than forgive sin.

His grace also strengthens us in weakness.

Paul discovered that when he depended on God's grace instead of his own strength, Christ's power rested upon him.

Whatever challenge you are facing today, God's grace is sufficient.

Reflection

- Where do you need God's strength today?
- How can you rely on His grace instead of your own ability?

Prayer

Lord, Your grace is sufficient for me. Teach me to depend upon Your strength each day. Amen.

Action Step

Give one current challenge completely to God in prayer.

DAY 5

Growing Daily in Grace

Read

2 Peter 3:18

Key Truth

Spiritual growth is a lifelong journey.

Growth does not happen overnight.

As you spend time with Christ, study His Word, obey His voice, and rely upon His Spirit, you will gradually become more like Him.

God is patient with His children.

He delights in steady growth rather than instant perfection.

Reflection

- In what area have you grown spiritually during the past year?
- What area would you like God to develop next?

Prayer

Father, thank You for patiently growing me day by day. Continue Your work in my life until I become more like Jesus. Amen.

Action Step

Choose one spiritual habit you will practice consistently this week.

Weekly Scripture Memory

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Memory Tips

- Read the verse aloud five times each morning.
- Write it on a card or in your phone.
- Recite it before each meal.

- Share it with a family member or your discipleship partner.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply it.

Weekly Prayer Focus

Pray each day that God will:

- Deepen your understanding of His grace.
- Free you from striving to earn His acceptance.
- Fill you with gratitude for Christ's finished work.
- Help you live in joyful obedience.
- Strengthen your faith as you grow spiritually.

Remember this truth throughout the week:

"I do not obey God to earn His love. I obey because I already have His love in Christ."

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer

Invite one member of the group to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to open every heart to understand and experience God's grace.

Icebreaker

Each person briefly answers this question:

What is the best gift you have ever received, and why was it special to you?

After everyone shares, remind the group that salvation is the greatest gift God has given through Jesus Christ.

Review Questions

1. What is the biblical definition of grace?
2. Why is salvation described as a gift?
3. What is the difference between living by grace and living by performance?
4. Why is grace not a license to sin?
5. Which Bible verse from this week's study spoke most deeply to you? Why?
6. What false beliefs about God did this lesson challenge?
7. How can understanding grace improve your relationship with God?

Digging Deeper

Read **Luke 15:11–32** (The Parable of the Prodigal Son).

Discuss:

- Which son do you identify with more, the younger son or the older son? Why?
- What does the father's response teach us about God's grace?
- How does this story challenge performance-based religion?
- How should this truth change the way we treat others?

Practical Application

As a group, discuss:

- What habits help us remember God's grace every day?
- What habits make us depend on ourselves instead of Christ?
- How can our church become a community where people experience both truth and grace?

Each member should choose one practical action to live out this week.

Weekly Challenge

This week, intentionally encourage someone who feels discouraged or guilty.

Instead of condemning them, remind them of God's grace in Christ.

Pray with them if possible.

At your next meeting, share what happened and what you learned.

Personal Journal

Use this space to write what God has been teaching you.

My greatest lesson this week

One lie I am choosing to reject

One truth I am choosing to believe

One practical step I will take this week

Prayer

Grace Check-Up

Take a few minutes to honestly evaluate yourself.

Place a ✓ beside each statement that is becoming true in your life.

- ☐ I understand that salvation is God's gift.
- ☐ I believe God accepts me because of Jesus Christ.
- ☐ I am learning to rest in Christ's finished work.
- ☐ I no longer believe I must earn God's love.
- ☐ I desire to obey God out of love rather than fear.
- ☐ I am growing in gratitude for God's grace.
- ☐ I am becoming more confident in my identity in Christ.

If you did not check every box, do not be discouraged. Spiritual growth is a journey. Continue walking with Christ and allow His grace to transform you day by day.

Leader's Notes

Purpose of Week One

The goal of this lesson is not merely to teach information about grace but to help participants experience the freedom that comes from trusting Christ rather than relying on their own efforts.

Emphasize These Truths

- Grace is the foundation of the Christian life.
- Salvation is entirely God's gift.
- Obedience is the fruit of grace, not the price of grace.
- God's acceptance comes before our performance.
- Spiritual growth flows from our relationship with Christ.

Watch For

Some participants may struggle with feelings of guilt, shame, or fear because they have lived under a performance-based understanding of Christianity. Encourage them patiently with Scripture and remind them that growth is a process.

Encourage Participation

Allow everyone an opportunity to share. Avoid turning the discussion into a lecture. Ask questions, listen carefully, and guide participants back to God's Word.

Always conclude by praying together and encouraging members to complete the daily devotional exercises before the next meeting.

Week One Summary

This week you discovered that grace is far more than God's kindness—it is His undeserved favor, His saving power, and His continuing work in the life of every believer.

You learned that:

- Salvation is received by grace through faith.
- God's acceptance is based on Christ's finished work, not your performance.
- Grace does not encourage sin; it empowers holy living.
- Spiritual growth begins by resting in what Christ has already accomplished.
- The Christian life is lived from acceptance, not for acceptance.

As you move into Week Two, remember this important truth:

The same grace that saved you is the grace that will sustain you every day of your life.

Looking Ahead

Week Two

Resting in the Finished Work of Christ

In the next lesson, you will discover what Jesus meant when He declared, **"It is finished."** You will learn how His completed work gives you assurance, freedom from striving, victory over condemnation, and confidence to live each day in His strength rather than your own.

WEEK 2

Resting in the Finished Work of Christ

Living from Victory Instead of Striving

Theme Scripture

Hebrews 4:9–11

"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His."

Additional Scriptures

- John 19:30
- Colossians 2:13–15
- Romans 5:1–2
- Hebrews 10:10–14
- Ephesians 1:3–8

Introduction

Have you ever reached the end of a long day and said, "Finally, it's finished"?

Those words bring relief because they mean the work has been completed.

As Jesus hung on the cross, He spoke three words that changed history forever:

"It is finished." (John 19:30)

These were not the words of defeat.

They were the words of victory.

Jesus was not saying His life had ended in failure. He was announcing that the work the Father had sent Him to accomplish had been fully completed.

Many Christians believe Jesus died for their sins, yet they continue to live as though they must complete what Christ has already finished. They strive to earn God's approval, wrestle with constant guilt, and fear that they have not done enough.

The gospel invites us to something better.

It invites us to rest.

Biblical rest is not inactivity. It is confident trust that Jesus has accomplished everything necessary to reconcile us to God.

This week, you will discover what Christ finished, what remains for us to do, and how to live each day from His victory rather than striving in your own strength.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week you should be able to:

- Explain what Jesus meant when He said, "It is finished."

- Understand the difference between Christ's finished work and our ongoing spiritual growth.
- Rest confidently in God's acceptance.
- Recognize areas where you are still striving instead of trusting.
- Begin living daily from Christ's victory.

What Did Jesus Finish?

When Jesus cried, **"It is finished,"** He used the Greek word **tetelestai**, a term that means **"paid in full," "completed,"** or **"fully accomplished."**

It was often written across a debt after the final payment had been made.

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus completed everything necessary for our salvation.

He did not begin the work and leave the rest for us to finish.

He completed it perfectly.

Because of Christ:

- The penalty of sin has been paid.
- God's justice has been satisfied.
- Forgiveness is available to all who believe.
- We are reconciled to God.
- Satan's claim against us has been broken.
- Eternal life is freely offered.
- We have direct access to the Father.

Nothing can be added to Christ's sacrifice.

Nothing can improve it.

Nothing can replace it.

Our role is not to complete His work but to trust Him, receive His grace, and walk in obedience as the fruit of our faith.

What Was Not Finished?

While Christ's work of redemption is complete, our journey of discipleship continues.

Jesus finished the work **for us**, but He also continues His work **in us** through the Holy Spirit.

Therefore:

Christ finished paying for our salvation.

We continue growing in holiness.

Christ finished defeating sin's penalty.

We continue learning to resist sin's influence.

Christ finished securing our acceptance.

We continue maturing in our understanding of that acceptance.

Christ finished purchasing our inheritance.

We continue growing into spiritual maturity until we see Him face to face.

This distinction is important.

Confusing these two truths leads either to legalism ("I must earn God's acceptance") or carelessness ("Nothing I do matters").

The Bible teaches neither.

Instead, it teaches that because Christ has finished His saving work, we are now free to pursue obedience with joy, gratitude, and confidence.

Illustration: The Paid Debt

Imagine that someone owed millions of naira that he could never repay.

One day, another person paid the entire debt on his behalf.

The creditor stamped the account:

PAID IN FULL

If the debtor continued bringing small payments every week, hoping eventually to earn his freedom, he would be living as though the payment had never been made.

That is how many believers live spiritually.

Jesus has already paid the debt of sin.

Yet many continue trying to earn forgiveness through endless striving, believing God will finally accept them if they do enough.

The gospel declares something better:

The debt has already been paid in full by Jesus Christ.

Our response is not to keep trying to pay it but to live each day in grateful trust and loving obedience.

Reflection Questions

1. Before today, what did you think Jesus meant when He said, "It is finished"?
2. Which part of Christ's finished work encourages you the most?
3. Are there areas where you are still trying to earn what Christ has already provided?
4. How does knowing that your acceptance is secure in Christ change the way you approach prayer, worship, and service?
5. Write a prayer thanking Jesus for His finished work on the cross.

The Meaning of "It Is Finished"

Word Study: *Tetelestai*

The words **"It is finished"** come from the Greek word **tetelestai**.

This word means:

- Completely finished
- Fully accomplished

- Paid in full
- Nothing more needs to be added

In Bible times, merchants sometimes wrote *tetelestai* across a bill when it had been paid completely. A servant could also report to his master that an assignment had been completed by saying, "*Tetelestai*."

When Jesus spoke this word from the cross, He was declaring that the mission His Father had given Him was complete. The sacrifice for sin had been offered once and for all.

This does not mean that Jesus stopped working altogether. Today He lives, reigns, intercedes for us, and continues transforming us by His Holy Spirit. But the work of paying for our salvation will never need to be repeated.

What Christ Finished for Us

The finished work of Christ provides every believer with wonderful blessings.

1. Our Sin Debt Was Paid

Read: Colossians 2:13–14

Every sin—past, present, and future—was placed upon Christ. He bore the punishment that we deserved so that we could receive forgiveness.

This does not encourage careless living. Instead, it fills our hearts with gratitude and leads us to love and obey Him.

2. We Have Peace with God

Read: Romans 5:1

Before salvation, we were separated from God because of sin.

Now, through Jesus Christ, we have peace with God.

Peace with God is different from the peace of God.

- **Peace with God** means the hostility caused by sin has been removed.
- **The peace of God** is the inner calm He gives us as we trust Him daily.

Because Christ has reconciled us to the Father, we no longer approach Him as condemned sinners but as dearly loved children.

3. We Have Direct Access to God

Read: Hebrews 4:14–16

Under the Old Testament, only the high priest entered the Most Holy Place, and only once each year.

When Jesus died, the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom.

This powerful sign showed that the barrier between God and humanity had been removed through Christ.

Today, every believer can come confidently before God's throne in prayer.

You do not need to earn permission to approach God.

Jesus has already opened the way.

4. We Have Victory Over the Power of Darkness

Read: Colossians 2:15

Through His death and resurrection, Christ defeated Satan's claim over those who belong to Him.

We still face temptation and spiritual warfare, but we fight from Christ's victory—not for it.

Our confidence is not in ourselves but in the Lord who has already overcome.

Christ's Finished Work and Our Daily Walk

The Christian life has two important realities.

What God Has Already Done

- Saved us.
- Forgiven us.
- Declared us righteous.
- Adopted us into His family.
- Given us the Holy Spirit.

What We Continue to Do

- Grow in faith.
- Learn God's Word.
- Pray faithfully.

- Serve others.
- Resist temptation.
- Become more like Christ.

Growth is not an attempt to complete salvation.

Growth is the joyful response to the salvation we have already received.

Illustration: The Adopted Child

Imagine a little boy who is adopted into a loving family.

He does not wash the dishes, clean his room, or obey his parents so that they will adopt him.

He does those things because he already belongs to the family.

His obedience does not create the relationship.

His obedience grows out of the relationship.

The same is true for believers.

We obey God because we are His children through Christ.

Old Testament Picture

When Israel celebrated the Passover, the blood of the lamb protected every household that believed God's promise and applied the blood to the doorposts (Exodus 12).

Their safety depended on the blood of the lamb, not on how strong, brave, or worthy they were.

That event pointed forward to Jesus, the true Lamb of God.

Today our confidence rests, not in our own goodness, but in the perfect sacrifice of Christ.

Grace in Action

Choose one way this week to live from Christ's finished work.

Examples include:

- Pray with confidence instead of fear.
- Replace self-condemning thoughts with Scripture.
- Encourage another believer who struggles with guilt.
- Thank Jesus each day for what He has already accomplished.
- Serve someone as an expression of gratitude rather than obligation.

Reflection Questions

1. Which blessing of Christ's finished work means the most to you today? Why?
2. How does the story of the adopted child help you understand Christian obedience?
3. Are there areas where you are acting like you still need to pay a debt that Jesus has already paid?
4. How does the Passover help you appreciate Christ's sacrifice?
5. What practical step will you take this week to live from Christ's finished work instead of striving?

Memory Insight

Repeat John 19:30 several times today:

"It is finished."

Each time you say these words, remind yourself:

- Christ's sacrifice is complete.
- My acceptance is secure in Him.
- I do not have to earn God's love.
- I can live today with confidence, gratitude, and hope.

Leader's Teaching Tip

Invite participants to make two columns on a whiteboard:

"What Christ Has Finished" and "How I Should Respond."

Allow the group to identify truths from the lesson and place them under the correct column. This simple exercise helps believers distinguish between Christ's completed work and their ongoing discipleship, preventing both legalism and spiritual passivity.

Key Truth to Remember

The Christian life is not about working to obtain God's acceptance. It is about living each day from the acceptance that Christ has already secured through His finished work.

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey

Theme: Learning to Rest in Christ's Finished Work

Take 20–30 minutes each day to read the Scripture, reflect on the lesson, pray, and complete the action step.

DAY 1

The Finished Work Brings Complete Forgiveness

Read

Hebrews 10:11–14

Key Truth

Under the Old Testament, priests offered sacrifices repeatedly because those sacrifices could never completely remove sin.

Jesus, however, offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice once and for all.

His sacrifice never needs to be repeated.

When God forgives you because of Christ, He does not forgive you halfway.

He forgives completely.

This does not make sin unimportant. Instead, it reminds us how costly our forgiveness was. Every time we remember the cross, our hearts should respond with worship, gratitude, and a desire to live a holy life.

Reflection

- Do you truly believe Christ has completely forgiven you?
- Is there any guilt you are still carrying that you need to surrender to Him?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for paying the full price for my sins. Help me to walk in the freedom of Your complete forgiveness. Amen.

Action Step

Write down one area where you still struggle with guilt. Pray over it, then write beside it:

"Paid in full by Jesus Christ."

DAY 2

Rest Is an Act of Faith

Read

Hebrews 4:9–11

Key Truth

Biblical rest is not laziness.

Rest means trusting God instead of depending on ourselves.

Many believers work hard to prove they deserve God's blessings.

The gospel teaches us to trust God's promises and obey Him because we already belong to Him.

Faith rests where fear struggles.

Reflection

- Where are you striving instead of trusting?
- How can you choose faith today?

Prayer

Father, teach me to rest in Your promises instead of relying on my own strength. Amen.

Action Step

Whenever anxious thoughts arise today, quietly say:

"Jesus, I trust Your finished work."

DAY 3

Jesus Is Praying for You

Read

Hebrews 7:25

Key Truth

Jesus not only died for us—He now lives to intercede for us.

Even when you feel weak, discouraged, or misunderstood, your Savior is praying for you before the Father.

You are never alone.

Your security rests not in your ability to hold on to Christ but in Christ's faithful commitment to hold on to you.

Reflection

- How does knowing Jesus intercedes for you strengthen your faith?
- What burden can you confidently place in His hands today?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for continually praying for me. Help me to trust Your faithful care. Amen.

Action Step

Spend five minutes thanking Christ for His ongoing ministry on your behalf.

DAY 4

From Fear to Confidence

Read

Hebrews 4:14–16

Key Truth

Because Jesus is our great High Priest, we can approach God's throne with confidence.

Confidence is not pride.

Confidence is faith in Christ.

You do not need to wonder whether God will receive you.

If you come through Jesus Christ, the Father's arms are open.

Reflection

- What fears keep you from approaching God freely?
- Which promise in today's passage gives you confidence?

Prayer

Father, thank You that I can come boldly into Your presence because of Jesus. Fill me with confidence in Your love. Amen.

Action Step

Spend extra time in prayer today, speaking openly with your heavenly Father.

DAY 5

Living Every Day from Victory

Read

Romans 8:31–39

Key Truth

Because Christ has finished His work, believers do not fight for victory.

We fight from victory.

No circumstance can separate us from God's love in Christ.

His love remains constant through success and failure, joy and sorrow, strength and weakness.

The Christian life is not about trying to become accepted.

It is about learning to live as someone who already is accepted in Christ.

Reflection

- Which truth from Romans 8 encourages you most?
- How can you live from Christ's victory this week?

Prayer

Father, thank You that nothing can separate me from Your love.
Help me to live each day in the victory Christ has won for me.
Amen.

Action Step

Share one truth from this week's study with another believer who needs encouragement.

Case Study

From Striving to Rest

Samuel became a Christian while attending university.

He loved God deeply, but he believed that God's acceptance depended upon his daily performance.

Whenever he missed his quiet time, he thought God was disappointed with him.

Whenever he made a mistake, he felt he had to "work harder" before God would receive him again.

As he studied Scripture, he discovered that his acceptance rested completely on Christ's finished work.

He began confessing his sins honestly instead of hiding in shame.

His prayer life became joyful instead of fearful.

He served God because he loved Him, not because he was trying to earn His approval.

Samuel still pursued holiness, but his motivation had changed.

Grace transformed his relationship with God.

Discussion

- Which part of Samuel's story reminds you of your own journey?
- What changed after he understood grace?
- How would your relationship with God change if you fully embraced Christ's finished work?

Week 2 Memory Verse

John 19:30 (NKJV)

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

Memorization Challenge

Each morning and evening, repeat:

"Because Christ finished the work of salvation, I can rest in His grace and live in joyful obedience."

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer

Invite the Holy Spirit to deepen everyone's understanding of Christ's finished work and to replace fear, guilt, and striving with faith, peace, and confidence in Jesus.

Icebreaker

Ask each person to answer:

Have you ever completed a difficult task that brought you great relief? How did you feel when it was finally finished?

Explain that Jesus experienced no relief from escaping suffering. Instead, His words, "**It is finished,**" declared that He had fully accomplished the Father's plan of redemption.

Read Together

Read aloud:

- John 19:28–30
- Hebrews 10:10–14
- Hebrews 4:14–16

Allow a few moments of silence before beginning the discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished"?
2. Which part of Christ's finished work encourages you the most?
3. Why do many Christians still struggle to rest in God's grace?
4. What is the difference between resting in Christ and becoming spiritually lazy?
5. How does understanding the finished work change your prayer life?
6. How should this truth affect the way we handle failure and temptation?
7. Which truth from this week's lesson do you want to remember every day?

Digging Deeper

Read **Luke 10:38–42** (Mary and Martha).

Discuss:

- Why was Martha anxious and troubled?
- What did Mary choose that Jesus called "the better part"?
- How can Christians become like Martha in their service to God?
- What practical steps help us balance faithful service with resting in Christ?

Grace in Action

Choose one of the following this week:

- Encourage someone who feels overwhelmed by reminding them of God's grace.
- Spend an extra thirty minutes in prayer simply enjoying God's presence instead of presenting a list of requests.
- Write a letter of gratitude to Jesus, thanking Him for His finished work.
- Forgive someone because you have been forgiven.
- Rest one period this week to reflect on God's goodness and worship Him.

At your next meeting, share what you learned.

Personal Journal

What I Learned About Christ's Finished Work

Areas Where I Have Been Striving

Truths I Will Choose to Believe

My Prayer This Week

Grace Check-Up

Prayerfully evaluate yourself.

Place a ✓ beside each statement that is becoming true in your life.

- ☐ I understand that Jesus completely finished the work of salvation.
- ☐ I believe my acceptance with God is based on Christ alone.
- ☐ I am learning to rest instead of striving.
- ☐ I approach God with greater confidence.
- ☐ I no longer believe I must earn God's forgiveness.
- ☐ I desire to obey God because I love Him.
- ☐ I am experiencing greater peace in my relationship with God.

If there are areas where you are still struggling, bring them honestly before the Lord. Growth takes time, and His grace is sufficient for every step of your journey.

Leader's Notes

Main Goal

Help participants clearly distinguish between:

- Christ's completed work **for us**, and
- Christ's ongoing work **in us**.

This distinction protects believers from both legalism and spiritual complacency.

Key Truths to Emphasize

- Salvation has been fully accomplished by Jesus Christ.
- Nothing can be added to His sacrifice.
- Spiritual disciplines do not earn God's love; they help us grow in our relationship with Him.
- Obedience is the fruit of grace.
- The Christian life is lived from victory, not for victory.

Pastoral Reminder

Some participants may feel unworthy because of past failures or ongoing struggles. Gently point them back to the cross. Encourage repentance where needed, but also assure them that Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for all who trust Him.

Avoid creating the impression that grace excuses sin. At the same time, avoid suggesting that believers maintain God's acceptance through perfect performance.

Always bring the group back to Jesus—His finished work, His present intercession, and His unfailing love.

Weekly Challenge

Throughout this week, begin each day by praying:

"Father, thank You that I am accepted because of Jesus Christ. Help me to live today from His finished work rather than striving to earn what He has already provided."

At the end of each day, write one example of how you experienced God's grace.

Week 2 Summary

This week you learned that Jesus' words, **"It is finished,"** were a declaration of complete victory.

Because of His finished work:

- Your sin debt has been paid.
- You have peace with God.
- You have direct access to the Father.
- You have been accepted in Christ.
- You can live with confidence instead of fear.
- You can pursue holiness from a place of security rather than insecurity.

Never forget this truth:

Jesus did not leave salvation unfinished. He completed it perfectly.

Your responsibility is not to finish His work.

Your responsibility is to trust Him, walk with Him, and allow His grace to transform your life each day.

Looking Ahead

Week 3

Discovering Your Identity in Christ

Many believers know they are forgiven, but they still see themselves through the lens of their past failures, weaknesses, or achievements.

In Week 3, you will discover who God says you are in Christ and how a correct understanding of your identity changes the way you think, pray, serve, and live every day.

WEEK 3

Discovering Your Identity in Christ

Living from Who God Says You Are

Theme Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Additional Scriptures

- Ephesians 1:3–14
- Romans 8:1–17
- Colossians 3:1–4
- Galatians 2:20
- 1 Peter 2:9–10

Introduction

One of the greatest battles every Christian faces is the battle of identity.

Many believers know that Jesus forgave their sins, yet they continue to define themselves by their past mistakes, present struggles, family background, education, achievements, or failures.

Some say:

- "I am a failure."
- "I am rejected."
- "I am not good enough."
- "I will never change."

But God says something entirely different.

When you placed your faith in Jesus Christ, God gave you a completely new identity.

- Your past no longer defines you.
- Your sins no longer define you.
- Other people's opinions no longer define you.
- Your identity is now found in Christ.

Until you believe what God says about you, you will continue to struggle to live the life He has called you to live.

The Christian life is not about trying to become someone else.

It is about learning to live as the person God has already made you in Christ.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week you will:

- Understand what it means to be "in Christ."
- Discover your new identity as God's child.
- Learn how identity influences behaviour.
- Reject false labels that contradict God's Word.

- Begin living confidently from your identity in Christ.

Word Study

"New Creation"

The Greek expression translated "**new creation**" speaks of something made new in quality, not merely improved.

When God saves a person, He does not simply repair the old life.

He begins a completely new work.

This new identity is God's gift.

It is not earned through good behaviour.

It is received through faith in Jesus Christ.

Old Testament Picture

When God changed Abram's name to Abraham, He also changed the direction of his life.

When He changed Jacob's name to Israel, He gave him a new identity and a new purpose.

Throughout Scripture, God often changed people's names to reflect what He was doing in their lives.

Today, God may not change our earthly names, but He gives every believer a new identity through Jesus Christ.

Who Am I in Christ?

The Bible answers this question clearly.

Because you are in Christ:

I Am Forgiven

God has completely forgiven my sins through Jesus Christ.

I no longer live under condemnation.

I Am God's Child

God is no longer only my Creator.

He is also my loving Father.

I belong to His family forever.

I Am Accepted

I do not have to earn God's approval.

Christ has already made me acceptable before the Father.

I Am Righteous in Christ

My righteousness does not come from my own efforts.

It comes from Jesus Christ.

I Am Chosen

Before the foundation of the world, God purposed to save a people for Himself through Christ.

Knowing that I am chosen should fill me with humility, gratitude, and confidence—not pride.

I Am Loved

Nothing can separate me from God's love in Christ Jesus.

His love remains constant through every season of life.

Illustration

The Prince Who Lived Like a Beggar

A young prince was separated from his family when he was a child.

He grew up believing he was poor and insignificant.

Years later, he discovered that he was the rightful heir to the kingdom.

At first, he still thought and acted like a beggar.

Although his identity had changed, his thinking had not.

Only when he accepted who he truly was did his behaviour begin to change.

Many Christians live the same way.

God has made them His children, yet they continue thinking like spiritual orphans.

The Christian life changes when we begin believing what God says about us.

Grace in Action

Choose one identity statement each morning.

Read it aloud.

Thank God for making it true.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live consistently with that truth throughout the day.

Reflection Questions

1. What labels have you accepted about yourself that do not agree with God's Word?
2. Which truth about your identity in Christ encourages you most?
3. Why do you think behaviour changes more effectively when identity changes first?
4. How does knowing you are God's child affect your relationship with Him?
5. Which identity statement will you intentionally believe this week?

Grace Gems

Take time to meditate on these truths.

"God does not call you according to your past. He calls you according to your new life in Christ."

"Your identity is a gift to receive, not a reward to earn."

"When you know who you are in Christ, you no longer need to prove your worth to the world."

"Grace changes your position before it changes your practice."

"God's declaration about you is stronger than your feelings about yourself."

Identity Declarations

Speak these aloud every day this week.

- I am a new creation in Christ.
- I am forgiven.
- I am accepted.
- I am deeply loved.
- I am God's child.
- I am chosen for His purpose.
- I am righteous through Christ.
- I am never alone.
- I belong to Jesus.
- I will live today from my identity, not for my identity.

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Memory Challenge

Read this verse aloud every morning and evening.

Then ask yourself one question:

"Am I living today according to my old identity or my new identity in Christ?"

Living Like Who You Already Are

Many Christians know the facts of the gospel, yet they continue living as though nothing has changed.

Why?

Because information alone does not transform a life.

Transformation begins when we believe what God says about us and allow that truth to shape our thoughts, attitudes, decisions, and actions.

The Apostle Paul did not tell believers to become God's children. He reminded them that they already were God's children.

Our daily challenge is not to create a new identity but to live consistently with the identity God has already given us.

Identity always influences behaviour.

A person who believes he is rejected will often withdraw from others.

A person who believes she is loved will find it easier to love others.

A believer who knows he is accepted by God does not serve to gain approval but serves out of gratitude and love.

This is why understanding your identity in Christ is so important.

Renewing Your Mind

Read

Romans 12:1–2

Although God has given you a new identity, your mind still needs to be renewed by His Word.

Before becoming a Christian, you learned to think according to the values of the world.

Now God teaches you to think according to His truth.

This is a lifelong process.

Every day you must choose which voice you will believe.

Will you believe your past?

Will you believe your fears?

Will you believe the opinions of others?

Or will you believe the Word of God?

Spiritual growth happens when God's truth becomes stronger than the lies you have believed.

Identity Check

Prayerfully answer these questions.

- ☐ Do I believe God loves me even when I fail?
- ☐ Do I approach God as a beloved child or as someone trying to earn acceptance?
- ☐ When I make mistakes, do I run toward God or away from Him?
- ☐ Am I allowing my past to define my future?
- ☐ Am I becoming more confident in what God says about me?

If you answered "No" to any of these questions, ask the Holy Spirit to help you replace those false beliefs with biblical truth.

Christ in the Old Testament

Gideon: From Fearful to Mighty

Read: Judges 6:11–16

When the Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he called him:

"The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valour."

At that moment, Gideon did not feel mighty.

He felt weak, afraid, and inadequate.

God addressed Gideon according to what He was making him, not according to how Gideon saw himself.

Likewise, God speaks to believers according to their identity in Christ.

He calls us:

- His children
- His saints
- His workmanship
- His ambassadors
- His royal priesthood

Faith learns to agree with God's declaration even before our feelings catch up.

Grace in Practice

This week, intentionally replace negative self-talk with biblical truth.

Whenever you think:

"I am not good enough,"

respond with:

"My acceptance is found in Christ."

Whenever you think:

"I always fail,"

respond with:

"God is completing the good work He began in me."

Whenever you think:

"God must be disappointed with me,"

respond with:

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Do this every day.

Notice how God's Word begins to reshape your thinking.

Real-Life Testimony

Sarah had struggled for years with feelings of rejection.

Although she attended church faithfully, she constantly believed she had to prove herself to God and to other people.

During a Bible study on Ephesians 1, she realised that she was already accepted in Christ.

Instead of praying, "Lord, please accept me,"

she began praying,

"Father, thank You that You have accepted me through Jesus."

That simple change transformed her prayer life.

She became more joyful, more confident, and more willing to serve others because she was no longer serving from insecurity.

Grace had changed the way she saw herself.

Reflection Questions

1. Which false belief about yourself do you need to surrender to God?
2. Which truth from Scripture will replace that false belief?
3. How can renewing your mind change your relationships at home, church, and work?
4. Which person in your life needs encouragement to understand their identity in Christ?
5. What practical step will you take this week to live from your new identity?

Grace Gems

Meditate on these truths throughout the week.

"God's opinion of you in Christ is more trustworthy than your opinion of yourself."

"Your behaviour improves as your understanding of your identity deepens."

"Grace does not ignore your past; it gives you a new future."

"The Christian life begins by believing what God has already declared."

"You do not wake up each morning trying to become God's child. You wake up because you already are His child."

Weekly Prayer

Father, thank You for making me a new creation in Christ. Help me to reject every lie that contradicts Your Word. Teach me to see myself as You see me and to live each day with confidence, humility, love, and obedience. May my thoughts, words, and actions reflect the new identity You have given me through Jesus Christ. In His name, Amen.

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey Theme

Learning to Live from Your Identity in Christ

Spend time each day reading the Scripture, meditating on God's truth, praying, and completing the practical exercise.

DAY 1

I Am God's Child

Read

Romans 8:14–17

Key Truth

Through Jesus Christ, you have been adopted into God's family.

God is not only your Creator; He is your heavenly Father.

This means you never have to earn your place in His family. You belong because of His grace.

Reflection

- How does knowing God is your Father change the way you pray?
- What fears disappear when you remember you belong to Him?

Prayer

Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family. Help me to live with the confidence of a beloved child. Amen.

Action Step

Begin your prayers today by saying, "Father, thank You that I belong to You."

DAY 2

I Am Accepted

Read

Ephesians 1:3–6

Key Truth

Many people spend their lives seeking acceptance from parents, friends, employers, or society.

In Christ, you already possess the greatest acceptance you will ever need.

Because God accepts you through Christ, you are free to love and serve others without constantly seeking their approval.

Reflection

- Whose approval have you been seeking?
- How does God's acceptance bring freedom?

Prayer

Lord, help me find my security in Your acceptance rather than in the opinions of people. Amen.

Action Step

Encourage someone today without expecting anything in return.

DAY 3

I Am God's Workmanship

Read

Ephesians 2:10

Key Truth

God is still shaping your life.

You are not a finished product, but you are God's workmanship.

Do not become discouraged by areas where you are still growing.

The God who began His work in you will faithfully complete it.

Reflection

- Where have you seen God changing your life?
- In which area do you need to trust His ongoing work?

Prayer

Father, continue Your work in me until my life reflects Jesus more clearly. Amen.

Action Step

Write three ways God has changed your life since you became a Christian.

DAY 4

I Am an Ambassador for Christ

Read

2 Corinthians 5:18–20

Key Truth

Every believer represents Jesus in the world.

People should see His love, truth, humility, and grace through our lives.

Our identity is not merely a privilege; it is also a responsibility.

Reflection

- What message does your life communicate about Jesus?
- How can you represent Him well today?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me reflect Your character wherever I go today.
Amen.

Action Step

Show Christ's love through one intentional act of kindness today.

DAY 5

Living Confidently in Christ

Read

Philippians 1:6

Key Truth

God never abandons the work He begins.

Your spiritual growth may seem slow, but it is real.

Do not compare your journey with someone else's.

Keep walking with Christ.

Trust His grace.

He is faithfully shaping you every day.

Reflection

- What gives you confidence that God will finish His work in you?
- How can you encourage another believer who feels discouraged?

Prayer

Father, thank You that You never give up on me. Help me to trust Your faithful work in my life. Amen.

Action Step

Pray for another believer who needs encouragement today.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Understanding your identity requires holding grace and truth together.

Grace without truth says:

"My behaviour does not matter because God loves me."

Truth without grace says:

"I must perform perfectly for God to accept me."

The Gospel says:

"Because God has accepted me through Christ, the Holy Spirit is transforming me into Christ's likeness."

Identity is never an excuse for sin.

Neither is obedience a way of earning God's love.

The Christian life is living each day from the secure position God has already given us in Christ.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Read Together

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Romans 8:14–17
- Ephesians 2:10

Discuss

1. What does it mean to be "in Christ"?
2. Which identity truth has changed your thinking the most?
3. Why do believers sometimes continue living according to their old identity?
4. How does your identity influence your daily decisions?
5. How can your small group help one another remember these truths?

Weekly Challenge

Choose one identity statement from this week's lesson.

Repeat it every morning and evening for seven days.

Whenever fear, shame, or discouragement appears, replace those thoughts by speaking God's truth aloud.

At the end of the week, write how this practice affected your thinking and your relationship with God.

Week 3 Summary

This week you discovered that your identity is no longer determined by your past, your failures, your achievements, or the opinions of others.

Because you are in Christ:

- You are a new creation.
- You are God's child.
- You are accepted.
- You are forgiven.
- You are righteous in Christ.
- You are God's workmanship.
- You are Christ's ambassador.

As you continue growing, remember this:

You do not become spiritually mature by trying to create a new identity. You become spiritually mature by believing and living from the identity God has already given you in Christ.

Grace Gems

Take these truths with you throughout the week.

"The enemy reminds you of your past; the Holy Spirit reminds you of your identity in Christ."

"God's grace changes not only where you will spend eternity but also how you live today."

"The more firmly you stand in your identity, the more faithfully you will walk in obedience."

"Your identity in Christ is the foundation of every healthy spiritual discipline."

Looking Ahead

Week 4

Living Free from Guilt and Condemnation

Many believers have received God's forgiveness but still carry unnecessary guilt and shame.

In Week 4, you will discover the difference between conviction and condemnation, learn how to overcome accusations from the enemy, and experience the freedom that comes from walking daily in God's forgiveness and grace.

WEEK 4

Living Free from Guilt and Condemnation

Experiencing the Freedom Christ Purchased for You

This Week at a Glance

Theme

Living in the freedom of God's forgiveness instead of carrying unnecessary guilt and condemnation.

Main Scripture

Romans 8:1

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 32:1–5
- John 8:1–11
- Hebrews 9:11–15
- 1 John 1:5–10
- Micah 7:18–19

Big Idea

**Conviction from the Holy Spirit leads us to Christ.
Condemnation drives us away from Him.**

Memory Verse

Romans 8:1

Weekly Prayer

Father, help me to receive Your forgiveness completely. Teach me to reject condemnation and to walk confidently in the freedom that Jesus purchased for me. Fill my heart with peace and joy through the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Takeaway

God does not remind His children of forgiven sins in order to condemn them. He reminds us of His grace so that we may walk in freedom and holiness.

Introduction

Almost every Christian has experienced guilt.

Sometimes guilt is healthy.

Sometimes it is destructive.

How can we know the difference?

Many believers continue carrying the weight of sins that God has already forgiven.

Although they know the Bible says they are forgiven, they continue punishing themselves emotionally.

Some believe:

"If I feel guilty long enough, perhaps God will know I am truly sorry."

Others think:

"I know God forgave me, but I can never forgive myself."

Still others constantly replay their past mistakes, wondering whether God has really accepted them.

These thoughts do not come from the gospel.

Jesus did not die merely to forgive our sins.

He also died to remove our condemnation.

The cross not only cancels our guilt before God—it also gives us confidence to draw near to Him.

This week you will learn the difference between conviction and condemnation, discover how to deal with lingering guilt, and experience the freedom that belongs to every believer in Christ.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week you will be able to:

- Distinguish between conviction and condemnation.
- Understand why there is no condemnation for those in Christ.
- Receive God's forgiveness with confidence.
- Stop allowing past failures to control your future.
- Help other believers experience the freedom of the gospel.

Word Study

Condemnation

The word translated "**condemnation**" in Romans 8:1 refers to a guilty verdict and the sentence that follows.

Because Jesus took our punishment upon Himself, those who trust in Him no longer stand under God's judgment.

This does **not** mean believers never sin.

It means that our standing before God has changed.

When we fail, we come to our Father for forgiveness and restoration—not before a Judge who is deciding whether to accept us.

That is one of the greatest blessings of the gospel.

Old Testament Picture

The Day of Atonement

Read: Leviticus 16

Once each year, the high priest entered the Most Holy Place to make atonement for the sins of Israel.

Two goats were chosen.

One was sacrificed.

The other—the scapegoat—symbolically carried the sins of the people into the wilderness.

This beautiful picture pointed forward to Jesus Christ.

He became both the perfect sacrifice and the One who carried away our sins forever.

Micah later declared:

"You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."

The cross fulfilled what the sacrifices only foreshadowed.

Our sins are not merely covered.

Through Christ, they are forgiven and remembered against us no more.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Grace without truth says:

"I can continue living in sin because God forgives."

Truth without grace says:

"God forgives me, but I must continue punishing myself."

The Gospel says:

"Jesus completely paid for my sin. Therefore I repent sincerely, receive His forgiveness fully, and walk forward in newness of life."

Grace Gems

Meditate on these truths throughout the week.

"Jesus carried your condemnation so you could carry His peace."

"The cross is greater than your worst failure."

"God forgives completely because Christ paid completely."

"Your past may explain you, but it does not define you."

"Where grace is believed, shame loses its power."

Reflection Questions

1. When you think about your past, what emotions usually come first?
2. Do you sometimes confuse conviction with condemnation? Explain.
3. Why is it difficult for many believers to receive God's forgiveness completely?
4. How does Romans 8:1 change your view of God?
5. What burden of guilt do you need to leave at the foot of the cross today?

Understanding the Difference Between Conviction and Condemnation

One of Satan's greatest strategies is to confuse conviction with condemnation.

Many believers assume that every feeling of guilt comes from God. As a result, they either live under constant shame or ignore the Holy Spirit altogether.

The Bible teaches us to distinguish between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the accuser.

The Holy Spirit Brings Conviction

Read

John 16:7–11

The Holy Spirit lovingly exposes sin so that we will return to Christ.

His purpose is never to destroy us but to restore us.

When the Holy Spirit convicts us:

- He points to a specific sin.
- He calls us to repentance.
- He reminds us of God's grace.
- He leads us back into fellowship with the Father.
- He produces hope because forgiveness is available.

Conviction always has restoration as its goal.

Satan Brings Condemnation

Read

Revelation 12:10

Satan is called **"the accuser of our brothers and sisters."**

His accusations are designed to discourage, isolate, and paralyze believers.

Condemnation often sounds like this:

- "God could never forgive you."
- "You will never change."
- "You have failed too many times."
- "You are not a real Christian."
- "There is no hope for you."

These thoughts do not draw us toward God.

They push us away from Him.

That is why they must be rejected with the truth of God's Word.

Conviction vs. Condemnation

Conviction	Condemnation
Comes from the Holy Spirit	Comes from the accuser
Identifies specific sin	Produces vague, crushing shame
Leads to repentance	Leads to despair or hiding
Reminds us of God's mercy	Makes us doubt God's love
Produces hope	Produces hopelessness
Restores fellowship	Damages fellowship

Whenever you experience guilt, ask yourself:

"Is this drawing me toward Jesus or driving me away from Him?"

That simple question often reveals its source.

Bible Character Study

Peter and Judas

Both Peter and Judas failed Jesus.

Peter denied the Lord three times.

Judas betrayed Him.

Both experienced deep sorrow.

Yet their responses were very different.

Peter ran back to Jesus and was restored.

Judas remained trapped in despair and took his own life.

The difference was not the size of their sin.

The difference was where they took their guilt.

Peter brought his failure to the Savior.

Judas carried his failure by himself.

Every believer will fail at times.

The question is not whether you will stumble.

The question is whether you will bring your failure to Jesus.

Grace in Ministry

Helping People Who Feel Condemned

As a pastor, leader, or mature believer, you will meet people who are burdened by shame.

They may repeatedly ask:

- "Can God really forgive me?"

- "Have I gone too far?"
- "Why do I still feel guilty?"

Resist the temptation to offer quick reassurance without opening God's Word.

Instead:

- Listen patiently.
- Help them confess any known sin.
- Read Scriptures about God's forgiveness.
- Point them to Christ rather than to their feelings.
- Pray with them.
- Continue walking with them as they grow.

The goal is not simply to make people feel better.

The goal is to help them believe the gospel more deeply.

Christ in the Old Testament

The Cities of Refuge

Read: Numbers 35

God instructed Israel to establish cities of refuge where a person could flee for protection until justice was properly administered.

These cities point us to Jesus.

When we flee to Christ, we find safety, mercy, and hope.

Our security is not found in our own goodness.

It is found in our Savior.

Just as the city of refuge welcomed those who came, Jesus welcomes all who come to Him in faith.

Grace in Practice

This week, whenever you become aware of sin:

1. Confess it honestly to God.
2. Thank Him for Christ's finished work.
3. Receive His forgiveness by faith.
4. Refuse to continue punishing yourself.
5. Walk forward in renewed obedience.

Do not remain at the place of failure.

Receive God's grace and continue your journey with Christ.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever confused condemnation with conviction? Describe that experience.
2. Which comparison between conviction and condemnation helped you most?
3. What does Peter's restoration teach you about God's heart toward repentant believers?
4. How can you help someone who is struggling under shame?
5. What practical step will you take this week to reject condemnation and embrace God's grace?

Grace Gems

"Conviction points to the cross. Condemnation points away from it."

"The voice that tells you to hide is never the voice of your Shepherd."

"Jesus does not expose your sin to shame you; He exposes it to heal you."

"The cross is God's final answer to every accusation against those who belong to Christ."

"Repentance is not the doorway back into God's love; it is the response to the love that welcomes us home."

Identity Reminder

Read these declarations aloud each day:

- I am forgiven through Christ.
- I am not condemned.
- God welcomes me when I repent.
- Jesus is my Advocate before the Father.
- My failures do not have the final word—God's grace does.

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey

Theme

Living Every Day in the Freedom of God's Forgiveness

Take 20–30 minutes each day to read the Scriptures, reflect, pray, and complete the practical exercise.

DAY 1

There Is No Condemnation

Read

Romans 8:1–4

Key Truth

Romans 8:1 is one of the most liberating verses in the Bible.

Notice that Paul does not say there is "less condemnation."

He says there is **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Why?

Because Jesus already bore the condemnation that our sins deserved.

When God looks at those who are united with Christ by faith, He sees them clothed in Christ's righteousness.

This truth does not make us careless about sin.

Instead, it gives us confidence to come to God quickly whenever we fail.

Reflection

- Do you believe there is truly no condemnation for you in Christ?
- What keeps you from believing this completely?

Prayer

Father, thank You that Jesus carried my condemnation so that I could receive Your acceptance. Help me to believe Your Word above my feelings. Amen.

Action Step

Read Romans 8:1 aloud five times today.

Whenever feelings of condemnation arise, answer them with God's Word.

DAY 2

The Joy of Honest Confession

Read

1 John 1:5–10

Key Truth

Confession is not informing God about something He does not know.

Confession means agreeing with God about our sin.

God does not ask us to confess so He can shame us.

He invites us to confess because He desires to forgive, cleanse, restore, and renew us.

Believers who hide their sins lose their joy.

Believers who confess their sins discover God's restoring grace.

Reflection

- Is there anything you have been hiding from God?
- What keeps you from confessing it honestly?

Prayer

Lord, search my heart. Give me the courage to confess every sin and receive Your cleansing grace. Amen.

Action Step

Spend time quietly asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any area that needs repentance.

Write your prayer of confession in your journal.

DAY 3

Forgiving Yourself

Read

Psalm 103:8–14

Key Truth

Many believers say,

"I know God has forgiven me, but I cannot forgive myself."

Often, this statement reflects a struggle to fully believe God's promise of forgiveness.

The Bible never commands us to forgive ourselves. Instead, it calls us to receive God's forgiveness by faith and to agree with His verdict rather than our own feelings.

When God forgives, He does not hold our confessed sins against us.

Holding on to guilt after God has forgiven us does not honor Him—it questions the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice.

Receiving God's forgiveness is an act of faith and humility.

Reflection

- Are you holding on to guilt that God has already forgiven?
- What does Psalm 103 teach you about God's heart?

Prayer

Father, help me trust Your promise of forgiveness. Teach me to rest in the complete work of Jesus rather than my own feelings. Amen.

Action Step

Write this sentence in your journal:

"God's Word is more trustworthy than my feelings."

DAY 4

Restored to Fellowship

Read

John 21:15–19

Key Truth

After Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus did not reject him.

Instead, Jesus lovingly restored him and recommissioned him for ministry.

Peter's greatest failure became a testimony of God's restoring grace.

God still restores those who sincerely repent.

Failure does not have to become the end of your story.

Through Christ, failure can become a testimony of God's mercy.

Reflection

- What encourages you most about Peter's restoration?
- Is there an area where God is inviting you to begin again?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for restoring Peter. Thank You that You are able to restore me also. Help me walk faithfully with You. Amen.

Action Step

Thank God for one area where He has already shown you His restoring grace.

DAY 5

Walking in Freedom

Read

Psalm 32

Key Truth

David discovered the difference between hiding sin and confessing sin.

When he remained silent, his strength was drained.

When he confessed, he experienced forgiveness and joy.

God never intended His children to carry burdens that Christ has already carried.

Freedom begins when we believe the gospel enough to bring everything into God's light.

Reflection

- Which verse in Psalm 32 speaks most deeply to you?
- How has this week's study changed your understanding of forgiveness?

Prayer

Father, thank You for the freedom You give through Christ. Help me live honestly before You and joyfully in Your grace. Amen.

Action Step

End this week by thanking God for specific ways He has forgiven, restored, and sustained you.

Walking It Out This Week

Monday

Read Romans 8:1 and thank God that there is no condemnation for those in Christ.

Tuesday

Confess any known sin promptly. Receive God's forgiveness without hesitation.

Wednesday

Encourage someone who is carrying unnecessary guilt by sharing a Scripture about God's grace.

Thursday

Read Psalm 32 and write three truths you learn about confession and forgiveness.

Friday

Spend fifteen minutes thanking Jesus for bearing your condemnation on the cross.

Saturday

Pray for someone who needs to experience God's restoring grace.

Sunday

Share one lesson from this week with your family, discipleship partner, or small group.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Grace without repentance says:

"Sin doesn't matter."

Repentance without grace says:

"I must live under shame to prove I'm sorry."

The Gospel says:

"Because Christ has paid for my sin, I repent sincerely, receive His forgiveness completely, and walk forward in joyful obedience."

Grace Gems

"The cross speaks louder than your conscience when your conscience contradicts God's Word."

"God's forgiveness is complete because Christ's sacrifice is complete."

"The Father welcomes every repentant child with open arms."

"Grace removes condemnation but never removes the call to holiness."

"The believer's future is written by God's grace, not by yesterday's failures."

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: Romans 8:1–4

Read the passage slowly two or three times before answering the questions.

Observe

1. What promise does Paul make in verse 1?

2. According to verses 2–4, what has God done through Jesus Christ that the Law could never accomplish?

-
3. What words or phrases are repeated in this passage?
-

Interpret

1. Why is there no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus?
2. What does it mean to be "in Christ"?
3. How does Jesus fulfil the righteous requirement of the Law on our behalf?

Apply

1. Which accusation do you most often believe about yourself?
2. Which truth from Romans 8:1–4 answers that accusation?
3. What practical step will you take this week to live in the freedom of this passage?

Personal Growth Journal

What God Has Shown Me

Today God reminded me that...

Truth I Need to Believe

Habit I Need to Change

Prayer for Transformation

Grace in Ministry

Restoring the Fallen with Grace

Read

Galatians 6:1–2

One of the greatest tests of Christian maturity is how we respond when another believer falls into sin.

Some people respond only with truth.

Others respond only with sympathy.

Jesus demonstrated both grace and truth.

Paul teaches us to restore a fallen believer gently while remaining watchful over our own lives.

When someone confesses failure:

- Listen before speaking.

- Pray before advising.
- Restore before rebuking.
- Point people to Christ instead of merely pointing out their mistakes.
- Continue walking with them after restoration.

Churches become healthy when they reflect both God's holiness and His grace.

Christ-Centered Prayer of Surrender

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for carrying my guilt and condemnation to the cross.

Thank You that my forgiveness does not depend on my performance but on Your perfect sacrifice.

Today I choose to believe Your Word above my emotions.

Where I have carried shame, I receive Your peace.

Where I have hidden in fear, I come confidently into Your presence.

Where I have doubted Your forgiveness, I choose to trust Your finished work.

Search my heart by Your Holy Spirit.

Reveal anything that displeases You.

Give me the humility to repent quickly and the faith to receive Your complete forgiveness.

Help me to walk each day in holiness—not because I am trying to earn Your love, but because I have already received it.

Teach me to extend to others the same grace You have shown to me.

May my life become a testimony of Your mercy, Your truth, and Your transforming power.

In the name of Jesus Christ my Savior,

Amen.

Weekly Review

Before beginning Week Five, prayerfully answer these questions.

- ✓ Can I explain the difference between conviction and condemnation?
- ✓ Do I believe that Jesus completely paid for my sins?
- ✓ Am I learning to receive God's forgiveness by faith?
- ✓ Have I confessed every known sin to God this week?
- ✓ Am I growing in freedom rather than shame?
- ✓ Have I extended grace to someone else?

If you answered "No" to any question, spend time with the Lord before moving to the next lesson.

Remember:

Spiritual growth is not about finishing the workbook.

It is about allowing God's Word to shape your heart.

Week Four Summary

This week you discovered that Jesus not only forgives sin—He removes condemnation.

You learned:

- The difference between conviction and condemnation.
- How to respond when you sin.
- Why confession leads to freedom.
- Why God's forgiveness is complete.
- How to help restore others with gentleness.
- How to walk confidently in God's grace.

Above all, remember this truth:

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

That is not merely a comforting thought.

It is God's unchanging declaration over every believer.

Grace Gems

Take these truths into the coming week.

"The Judge who declared you righteous is now your Father."

"Grace does not erase God's holiness; it satisfies it through Christ."

"Repentance is not returning to earn God's love; it is returning because His love has already reached you."

"The gospel silences every accusation that the cross has already answered."

"Those who understand God's forgiveness become the most forgiving people."

WEEK 5

Building a Daily Relationship with God

Enjoying Fellowship with Your Heavenly Father

This Week at a Glance

Theme

Growing spiritually by developing a consistent, joyful relationship with God.

Main Scripture

John 15:4–5

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 63:1–8
- Luke 10:38–42
- Philippians 3:7–14
- James 4:8
- 1 John 1:3–7

Big Idea

Spiritual growth is not produced by religious activity but by abiding in Jesus Christ every day.

Memory Verse

John 15:5 (NKJV)

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Weekly Prayer

Father, create in me a deeper hunger for Your presence. Teach me to enjoy daily fellowship with You, not out of obligation, but because I love You. Help me remain in Christ each day and bear fruit that brings glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Takeaway

Christianity is not merely following God's instructions—it is walking daily with God's Son.

Introduction

Every healthy relationship grows through time spent together.

Friendships grow through conversation.

Marriages grow through love, communication, and shared experiences.

Families grow stronger as they spend time together.

Our relationship with God grows in much the same way.

Many Christians know about God but struggle to enjoy fellowship with Him. They faithfully attend church, read Christian books, and serve in ministry, yet their relationship with God can become mechanical. They perform spiritual activities without experiencing the joy of His presence.

Jesus never invited His disciples into a religion of empty routines.

He invited them into a living relationship.

Again and again, Jesus withdrew to pray. He delighted in doing His Father's will. He lived every day in close fellowship with the Father, and He invites us into that same fellowship.

The goal of the Christian life is not simply to know more about God.

The goal is to know God personally.

The more we know Him, the more we trust Him.

The more we trust Him, the more we obey Him.

The more we obey Him, the more our lives reflect His character.

Spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, worship, fasting, and fellowship are not ways of earning God's love.

They are gracious gifts through which we enjoy the relationship Christ has already made possible.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, you will be able to:

- Understand what it means to abide in Christ.
- Develop healthy daily habits of fellowship with God.
- Distinguish between relationship and religious routine.
- Identify barriers that weaken your walk with God.
- Build a practical plan for consistent spiritual growth.

Word Study

"Abide"

The Greek word translated "**abide**" means **to remain, continue, dwell, or stay connected**.

Jesus uses the picture of a vine and branches.

A branch does not struggle to produce fruit by itself.

Its responsibility is to remain connected to the vine.

The life of the vine flows into the branch, enabling it to bear fruit naturally.

Likewise, the Christian life is not about striving through human strength.

It is about remaining connected to Christ so that His life flows through us.

Fruitfulness is the result of abiding.

Christ in the Old Testament

Enoch Walked with God

Read: Genesis 5:21–24

The Bible says something remarkable about Enoch:

"Enoch walked with God."

It does not tell us that Enoch merely believed in God or occasionally spoke about God.

He walked with God.

Walking suggests companionship, consistency, direction, and intimacy.

Every day, Enoch chose fellowship with God.

His life reminds us that God has always desired relationship rather than mere ritual.

What was true for Enoch reaches its fullest expression in Jesus Christ. Through Christ, every believer is invited into a daily walk with God—not from a distance, but as a beloved child welcomed into the Father's presence.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Grace without truth says:

"I don't need prayer or God's Word because I already have grace."

Truth without grace says:

"If I miss one quiet time, God is disappointed with me."

The Gospel says:

"Because I already belong to God through Christ, I gladly spend time with Him to know Him better and to be transformed by His Spirit."

Our daily time with God is not a duty that earns His love. It is a privilege made possible by His grace.

Grace Gems

Meditate on these truths throughout the week.

"God desires your heart before He desires your service."

"Prayer is not a performance for God; it is a conversation with your Father."

"The goal of Bible reading is not simply to finish a chapter but to hear the voice of God."

"Abiding in Christ is the secret of lasting spiritual fruit."

"The healthiest Christians are not those who appear busiest, but those who remain closest to Jesus."

Reflection Questions

1. How would you describe your current relationship with God?
2. Are you spending time with God out of love, habit, obligation, or guilt?
3. What distracts you most from daily fellowship with God?
4. Which spiritual discipline brings you closest to the Lord?
5. What practical change will you make this week to deepen your relationship with Him?

Identity Reminder

Because I am in Christ:

- I have direct access to my heavenly Father.
- I am welcomed into God's presence.
- I do not pray to earn God's attention.
- I pray because I already have His love.
- Christ is my life.
- The Holy Spirit lives within me.
- I can walk with God every day.

The Secret of Abiding in Christ

Jesus did not say,

"Work harder."

He did not say,

"Become stronger."

He said,

"Abide in Me."

This is one of the simplest commands Jesus ever gave, yet it is also one of the most life-changing.

Many believers spend their Christian lives trying to produce spiritual fruit through determination and self-effort.

They promise themselves:

"I will pray more."

"I will read more."

"I will serve more."

Although these are good desires, they can become exhausting if they are disconnected from a living relationship with Christ.

Jesus teaches us a different way.

Fruit grows naturally on a healthy branch because it remains connected to the vine.

Likewise, spiritual fruit grows naturally in believers who remain connected to Jesus.

Our responsibility is not to manufacture fruit.

Our responsibility is to remain in Christ.

The Holy Spirit produces the fruit.

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: John 15:1–11

Read the passage carefully at least twice.

Observe

1. How many times does Jesus use the word "abide" or "remain"?

2. What comparison does Jesus make between Himself and His followers?

3. According to this passage, what happens when a branch remains connected to the vine?

Interpret

1. What does Jesus mean by "abide"?
2. Why can a branch not produce fruit by itself?
3. What kind of fruit do you think Jesus is referring to?

Apply

1. What helps you remain close to Jesus?
2. What distractions pull you away from daily fellowship with Him?

3. What practical change can you make this week to spend more intentional time with God?

Four Habits That Strengthen Fellowship with God

1. Listening to God Through His Word

God primarily speaks through the Scriptures.

Reading the Bible is more than gathering information.

It is hearing the voice of your Shepherd.

When you open the Bible, ask:

- What does this passage teach me about God?
- What does it reveal about Jesus?
- What does it teach me about myself?
- What is God asking me to believe or obey?

Do not rush through your reading.

Read prayerfully.

Read expectantly.

Read to know God better.

2. Speaking with God in Prayer

Prayer is conversation, not performance.

God already knows your needs before you ask.

Yet He delights in hearing the voices of His children.

Prayer includes:

- Worship
- Thanksgiving
- Confession
- Requests
- Listening
- Surrender

Healthy prayer is not measured only by length.

It is measured by sincerity and dependence upon God.

3. Worshipping God Daily

Worship is much more than singing.

Worship is responding to God's greatness with your whole life.

You worship God when you:

- Thank Him.
- Obey Him.
- Serve others.
- Trust Him during difficulties.
- Live for His glory.

Every day presents new opportunities to worship.

4. Walking in Obedience

Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Obedience is not the price of God's love.

It is the evidence that His love is changing us.

Small acts of obedience shape a lifetime of faithfulness.

Every "yes" to God strengthens our fellowship with Him.

Christ in the Old Testament David's Desire for God's Presence

Read: Psalm 63:1–8

David did not merely seek God's blessings.

He sought God Himself.

Even while living in the wilderness, David declared:

"O God, You are my God; early will I seek You."

His deepest desire was God's presence.

That same desire should shape every believer today.

God is not simply the giver of blessings.

He is the greatest blessing.

Grace in Ministry

Teaching Others to Walk with God

As a leader, avoid giving people the impression that spiritual maturity is measured only by activity.

Instead, teach them that:

- Fruit grows from fellowship.
- Service flows from intimacy.
- Ministry is strengthened by prayer.
- Character is formed in God's presence.

A busy church is not always a spiritually healthy church.

Healthy ministry begins with healthy fellowship with Christ.

Grace in the Home

Strong families are built on healthy relationships, not merely household rules.

Parents who spend time with God model dependence upon Him.

Husbands and wives who pray together often develop greater unity and compassion.

Children learn the importance of God not only by hearing biblical instruction but also by seeing their parents walk faithfully with Him.

A home where Christ is honoured becomes a place where grace is both taught and experienced.

Formation Focus

Take time to answer these questions prayerfully.

What is God teaching me?

What is God changing in me?

What step of obedience is God asking me to take?

Who can I encourage with what I have learned this week?

Grace Gems

"God is more interested in walking with you than simply working through you."

"The fruit of the Spirit grows in the soil of daily fellowship with Christ."

"Prayer does not persuade God to love you; it helps you enjoy the love He has already given."

"The strongest branches are those that remain closest to the Vine."

"A busy life can never replace a surrendered heart."

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey

Theme

Growing Through Daily Fellowship with God

The purpose of these daily readings is not simply to increase your biblical knowledge but to deepen your friendship with God.

Before beginning each day, pray:

"Father, open my heart to know You better today. Help me not only to understand Your Word but also to obey it with joy."

DAY 1

God Desires Your Presence More Than Your Performance

Read

Luke 10:38–42

Key Truth

Martha loved Jesus.

She served Him faithfully.

But she became so busy serving Jesus that she neglected simply being with Him.

Mary chose to sit at His feet and listen.

Jesus called this "the better part."

Service is important.

Ministry is important.

Responsibility is important.

But none of these can replace personal fellowship with Christ.

God does not first desire your work.

He desires your heart.

Reflection

- Have you become more focused on serving God than spending time with Him?
- What practical change could help you slow down and enjoy God's presence?

Pause and Pray

Spend three minutes quietly thanking Jesus for inviting you into a personal relationship with Him.

Do not ask Him for anything.

Simply worship Him.

Action Step

Today, spend ten uninterrupted minutes simply enjoying God's presence.

DAY 2

Listening Before Speaking

Read

Psalms 119:97–105

Key Truth

Healthy relationships involve listening as well as speaking.

Prayer is not only talking to God.

It also includes listening through His Word.

Every time you read the Scriptures, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the character of Christ.

The goal is not merely to finish today's reading.

The goal is to meet with the Author.

Reflection

- How do you normally approach Bible reading?
- What would change if you expected God to speak through His Word each day?

Pause and Pray

Ask:

"Lord, teach me to love Your Word more deeply."

Remain quiet for a few moments before continuing.

Action Step

Write one verse from today's reading and carry it with you throughout the day.

DAY 3

Talking Honestly with Your Father

Read

Matthew 6:5–13

Key Truth

Jesus taught His disciples to begin prayer with the words:

"Our Father..."

Prayer begins with relationship.

You are speaking with your heavenly Father.

He welcomes your worship, your questions, your fears, your joys, and your tears.

Nothing is too small to bring before Him.

Nothing is too great for Him to handle.

Reflection

- Do your prayers sound more like conversations or speeches?
- What would it look like to speak with God more honestly?

Pause and Pray

Tell God about one concern you have been carrying alone.

Leave it in His hands.

Action Step

Spend five minutes thanking God before presenting any requests.

DAY 4

Walking with God Throughout the Day

Read

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Key Truth

Walking with God is not limited to a morning quiet time.

The Holy Spirit remains with you throughout the entire day.

You can speak with God while working, travelling, studying, serving, or resting.

Every moment becomes an opportunity for fellowship.

Practising God's presence transforms ordinary moments into holy moments.

Reflection

- At what times during the day do you naturally remember God?
- When do you most easily forget His presence?

Pause and Pray

Invite the Holy Spirit to make you more aware of His presence throughout today's activities.

Action Step

Set three reminders on your phone today.

Each time one appears, pause for thirty seconds and thank God for being with you.

DAY 5

Remaining Connected to the Vine

Read

John 15:1–11

Key Truth

Branches do not struggle to produce grapes.

Healthy branches simply remain connected to the vine.

Likewise, spiritual fruit grows naturally when believers remain closely connected to Christ.

Love.

Joy.

Peace.

Patience.

Kindness.

These are not produced by determination alone.

They grow as Christ's life flows through us.

Reflection

- Which fruit of the Spirit would you most like God to develop in your life?
- How does abiding in Christ produce that fruit?

Pause and Pray

Thank Jesus that He is the true Vine.

Ask Him to help you remain close to Him each day.

Action Step

Choose one way to intentionally remain aware of Christ's presence throughout the coming week.

Walking It Out This Week

Monday

Read John 15 before beginning your day.

Tuesday

Turn one meal into a time of prayer and thanksgiving.

Wednesday

Encourage another believer by sharing what God has been teaching you.

Thursday

Spend fifteen minutes reading Scripture without checking your phone or other distractions.

Friday

Write a prayer expressing your desire to know Christ more deeply.

Saturday

Take a short walk while thanking God for His goodness and faithfulness.

Sunday

Share one lesson from this week's study with your family or small group.

Identity Reminder

Because I belong to Christ:

- I have access to my Father at all times.
- I never pray alone because the Holy Spirit helps me.
- Jesus welcomes me into His presence.
- I can grow every day through fellowship with Him.
- My spiritual fruit grows as I remain in Christ.
- God's presence is my greatest privilege.

Grace Gems

"The deepest spiritual growth happens in the quiet place with God."

"God is not looking for perfect performance; He is inviting faithful fellowship."

"Every day with Jesus shapes you for eternity."

"The Vine supplies everything the branch needs."

"The strongest ministry always grows out of the deepest intimacy with Christ."

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer

Invite the Holy Spirit to help everyone move beyond merely learning about God to enjoying a deeper relationship with Him.

Icebreaker

Ask each person to answer:

Who has had the greatest positive influence on your spiritual life, and what habit did you learn from them?

Allow everyone an opportunity to share before moving into the Bible study.

Read Together

Read aloud:

- John 15:1–11
- Psalm 63:1–8
- James 4:8

Spend a few moments in silence before discussing the passages.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, "Abide in Me"?
2. Why is abiding different from simply becoming busier in Christian activities?

3. Which spiritual discipline has helped you know God more personally?
4. What distractions most often weaken your fellowship with God?
5. How can our small group encourage one another to remain close to Christ throughout the week?

Digging Deeper

Study Psalm 63

Observe David's words carefully.

Discuss these questions:

- What does David desire more than anything else?
- What words describe his relationship with God?
- What can we learn from David about seeking God during difficult seasons?
- How can we cultivate the same hunger for God's presence?

Grace in Ministry

Serving from Intimacy, Not Insecurity

One of the greatest dangers in ministry is serving God while neglecting fellowship with Him.

Busy ministry can sometimes hide an empty soul.

Healthy ministry begins with healthy communion with Christ.

Before preparing sermons...

Spend time with Jesus.

Before leading meetings...

Spend time with Jesus.

Before counselling others...

Spend time with Jesus.

The most fruitful ministry is the overflow of a life that is abiding in Christ.

Remember the pattern:

**Communion with Christ → Christlike Character →
Compassionate Ministry → Lasting Fruit**

Grace in the Home

A home becomes spiritually healthy when God's presence is valued more than religious appearance.

Consider these practical habits:

- Read a short passage of Scripture together once or twice each week.
- Pray together before important decisions.
- Thank God together at the end of each day.
- Ask forgiveness quickly when wrong.
- Speak words that encourage rather than discourage.
- Let children see that prayer is part of everyday life, not only church life.

Your family will learn more from your example than from your instructions.

Formation Focus

Prayerfully complete these questions.

What has God been teaching me this week?

What attitude is God asking me to change?

What new habit is the Holy Spirit inviting me to develop?

Who can I encourage by sharing what I have learned?

Christ-Centered Prayer of Surrender

Father,

Thank You for inviting me into a personal relationship with You through Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for the times I have become so busy doing things for You that I have neglected simply being with You.

Create within me a deeper hunger for Your presence.

Teach me to delight in Your Word, to enjoy speaking with You in prayer, and to recognise Your presence throughout each day.

Lord Jesus, help me remain in You as a branch remains connected to the vine.

May Your life flow through me so that my thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions reflect Your character.

Holy Spirit, strengthen me to obey Your voice with joy.

Let my relationship with God become the source of my worship, my service, my family life, and my witness.

May everything I do flow from love for Christ rather than from obligation or fear.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

Living the Gospel

If you truly believe this week's lesson, your life will begin to change in practical ways.

This week:

- Begin each day by seeking God's presence before checking your phone.
- Read the Bible to know God, not merely to complete a reading plan.
- Turn ordinary moments into conversations with your heavenly Father.

- Let your family see your joy in spending time with God.
- Serve others because you have first spent time with Jesus.
- Choose fellowship with Christ over unnecessary distractions.

Remember:

A fruitful Christian life is not produced by trying harder but by abiding more deeply in Christ.

Weekly Review

Before beginning Week Six, prayerfully evaluate your growth.

- ✓ Am I learning to enjoy God's presence instead of merely performing religious duties?
- ✓ Have I become more consistent in prayer and Bible reading?
- ✓ Am I learning to recognise God's presence throughout the day?
- ✓ Is my service flowing from fellowship with Christ?
- ✓ Have I encouraged someone else this week?
- ✓ Am I becoming more like Jesus?

Celebrate every area of growth, no matter how small.

Spiritual maturity develops one faithful step at a time.

Week Five Summary

This week you discovered that spiritual growth is rooted in relationship.

You learned:

- Jesus calls us to abide in Him.
- Spiritual fruit grows from fellowship with Christ.
- Prayer is a conversation with our heavenly Father.
- God's Word nourishes our relationship with Him.
- Daily obedience strengthens our walk with God.
- Ministry and family life flourish when they flow from intimacy with Christ.

Above all, remember:

The goal of the Christian life is not simply to do more for God, but to know Him more deeply and allow His life to be expressed through yours.

Grace Gems

Carry these truths into the coming week.

"God's presence is not a reward for mature Christians; it is the birthright of every believer in Christ."

"The branch bears fruit because it stays connected, not because it struggles harder."

"The deepest prayers are often the simplest conversations with your Father."

"Your quiet time is not an appointment to impress God; it is an invitation to enjoy Him."

"The greatest evidence of abiding is becoming more like Jesus."

Looking Ahead

Week 6

Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Many believers desire to live the Christian life but become discouraged because they rely on their own strength.

In Week Six, you will discover who the Holy Spirit is, what He does in the life of every believer, and how to walk daily under His guidance and power. You will learn that the Christian life is not lived by human effort but by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

WEEK 6

Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Living the Christian Life Through God's Strength

This Week at a Glance

Theme

Learning to depend on the Holy Spirit every day instead of relying on your own strength.

Main Scripture

Galatians 5:16

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Supporting Scriptures

- John 14:16–17, 26
- Romans 8:1–17
- Galatians 5:16–26
- Ephesians 5:18
- Acts 1:8

Big Idea

The Christian life is not difficult—it is impossible without the Holy Spirit. God has given us His Spirit so we can live the life He calls us to live.

Memory Verse

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Weekly Prayer

Father, thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit. Teach me to depend on Him instead of my own wisdom and strength. Help me hear His voice through Your Word, obey Him promptly, and reflect the character of Jesus every day. In Christ's name, Amen.

Key Takeaway

The Holy Spirit does not merely help us live the Christian life—He is God's presence within us, empowering us to become more like Christ.

Introduction

Many believers sincerely desire to please God.

They promise themselves:

"I will be more patient."

"I will pray more."

"I will stop losing my temper."

"I will trust God more."

Yet after a short time, they become discouraged because they discover that determination alone is not enough.

Why?

Because God never intended the Christian life to be lived by human strength.

The Christian life is supernatural because the Holy Spirit lives within every believer.

From the moment you trusted Christ, the Holy Spirit came to dwell in you.

He comforts.

He teaches.

He convicts.

He empowers.

He transforms.

He produces Christlike character.

He equips believers for service.

The question is not whether the Holy Spirit is present.

The question is whether we are learning to walk with Him daily.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, you will be able to:

- Understand who the Holy Spirit is.
- Explain the Holy Spirit's work in every believer.
- Distinguish between living by the flesh and walking in the Spirit.
- Develop practical habits of daily dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- Grow in confidence as you follow His leading.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force or a source of spiritual energy.

He is the third Person of the Trinity—fully God, working in perfect unity with the Father and the Son.

He is called:

- The Helper (John 14:16)
- The Spirit of Truth (John 14:17)
- The Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)
- The Holy Spirit (throughout Scripture)

Because He is a Person:

- He teaches.
- He speaks.

- He guides.
- He comforts.
- He can be grieved.
- He loves God's people.

We do not use the Holy Spirit to accomplish our plans.

Rather, we humbly submit ourselves so that He may accomplish God's purposes through us.

Word Study

"Walk"

The word **walk** in Galatians 5:16 describes a continuous way of living.

Walking is made up of one step after another.

In the same way, the Christian life is lived one act of faith, one choice of obedience, and one moment of dependence upon the Holy Spirit at a time.

Walking in the Spirit is not an occasional spiritual experience.

It is a daily lifestyle.

Christ in the Old Testament

Ezekiel's Vision of New Life

Read: Ezekiel 36:25–27

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promised that He would:

- Give His people a new heart.
- Put a new spirit within them.
- Place His Spirit in them.
- Cause them to walk in His ways.

This promise found its fulfillment through Jesus Christ.

Because of Christ's death and resurrection, every believer receives the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The Christian life is therefore not merely about external obedience but about inward transformation.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Grace without truth says:

"I can ignore God's commands because the Spirit will do everything for me."

Truth without grace says:

"If I try hard enough, I can become holy on my own."

The Gospel says:

"The Holy Spirit empowers me to obey God's Word as I surrender to Him in faith each day."

Grace Gems

Meditate on these truths throughout the week.

"The Holy Spirit does not merely improve your old life; He produces Christ's life within you."

"God never asks you to face today's challenges alone."

"The Spirit's power is experienced most clearly by those who depend on Him."

"Walking in the Spirit is a daily journey of surrender."

"The closer you walk with the Holy Spirit, the more clearly the character of Christ is seen in your life."

Reflection Questions

1. What comes to your mind when you think about the Holy Spirit?
2. In which areas of your life are you relying more on your own strength than on God's Spirit?
3. How does knowing the Holy Spirit lives within you encourage your faith?
4. What would change if you consciously depended on the Holy Spirit throughout each day?
5. What is one practical way you can begin walking more closely with the Holy Spirit this week?

Common Questions

1. How do I know if the Holy Spirit is leading me?

The Holy Spirit never leads us to do anything that contradicts Scripture. He guides us through God's Word, produces Christlike character, gives wisdom, and directs us in ways that honor Jesus.

2. What is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?

The **fruit of the Spirit** describes the character the Holy Spirit develops in every believer (Galatians 5:22–23). The **gifts of the Spirit** are abilities God gives for serving and building up the church (1 Corinthians 12). God desires both Christlike character and faithful service.

3. Can I grieve the Holy Spirit?

Yes. Ephesians 4:30 teaches that believers can grieve the Holy Spirit through sinful attitudes and actions. When we confess our sins and walk in obedience, we enjoy unhindered fellowship with Him.

Pause and Pray

Before continuing, stop for a few minutes and pray:

"Holy Spirit, thank You for living within me. Show me where I have relied on my own strength instead of Yours. Teach me to trust You, obey You, and walk with You today. Produce the character of Jesus in my life for the glory of God. Amen."

Learning to Walk in the Spirit

Walking in the Spirit is one of the most important lessons a Christian can learn.

Many believers imagine that walking in the Spirit is reserved for pastors, missionaries, or especially mature Christians.

The Bible teaches something different.

Every follower of Jesus is called to walk in the Spirit every day.

This invitation is not for a select few.

It is God's desire for every believer.

Walking in the Spirit is not about becoming more emotional.

It is about becoming more dependent upon God.

The Holy Spirit never draws attention to Himself.

He glorifies Jesus Christ.

Therefore, a life that is increasingly led by the Holy Spirit will become increasingly like Jesus.

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: Galatians 5:16–26

Read the passage carefully before answering the questions.

What Does This Passage Teach?

1. What command does Paul give in verse 16?

2. According to this passage, what conflict exists within every believer?

3. What are the works of the flesh?

4. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

Why Does This Matter?

Walking in the Spirit is not optional.

God knows that human effort alone cannot produce Christlike character.

The fruit of the Spirit grows only as we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit's work.

This passage reminds us that spiritual maturity is not measured merely by religious activity but by transformed character.

How Do I Live It Today?

Prayerfully answer:

- Which work of the flesh do I need to confess?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do I most need to cultivate?
- What practical step of obedience is God asking me to take today?

The Battle Within

Every believer experiences a struggle between the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit.

The flesh represents our old sinful way of living apart from God.

The Holy Spirit leads us toward God's will.

This conflict should not surprise us.

It is evidence that God is at work within us.

Victory does not come by pretending the struggle does not exist.

Victory comes by daily surrender to the Holy Spirit.

Each decision to obey strengthens our walk with God.

Five Habits of Spirit-Led Living

1. Begin Every Day with Surrender

Instead of saying,

"Lord, bless my plans,"

pray,

"Lord, lead my life today."

A surrendered heart is prepared to follow wherever God leads.

2. Stay Filled with God's Word

The Holy Spirit works through the Scriptures He inspired.

The more God's Word fills your heart, the more clearly you will recognise His leading.

3. Respond Promptly

Delayed obedience often becomes disobedience.

When the Holy Spirit convicts you to forgive, encourage, confess, or serve, respond quickly.

A sensitive heart grows through immediate obedience.

4. Depend on God's Strength

Do not ask,

"Can I do this?"

Ask,

"How will God help me do this?"

The Holy Spirit supplies strength for every act of obedience.

5. Finish Each Day with Gratitude

Review your day with God.

Thank Him for His faithfulness.

Confess any failures.

Receive His grace.

Rest in His love.

Then begin again tomorrow.

Walking in the Spirit is a lifelong journey of faithful dependence.

Christ in the Old Testament

Bezalel: Empowered for God's Work

Read: Exodus 31:1–5

Bezalel was one of the first people in Scripture specifically described as being filled with the Spirit of God.

God gave him wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and skill to build the tabernacle.

This reminds us that the Holy Spirit empowers God's people not only for preaching or public ministry but also for faithful work, creative service, leadership, and everyday obedience.

Every task offered to God can become an act of worship when done through the Spirit's power.

Grace in Ministry

Leading Through Dependence

Church leaders often face the temptation to rely on experience, personality, or ability.

While these gifts are valuable, lasting ministry depends on the Holy Spirit.

Before making decisions:

Pray.

Before preaching:

Pray.

Before counselling:

Pray.

Before planning:

Pray.

Effective ministry is not simply well organised.

It is Spirit-directed.

The greatest resource in ministry is not talent but dependence upon God.

Grace in the Home

A Spirit-filled home is not a perfect home.

It is a home where family members continually surrender themselves to Christ.

Parents who apologise when they are wrong teach humility.

Children who learn to forgive reflect God's grace.

Husbands and wives who seek the Holy Spirit's guidance before reacting often prevent unnecessary conflict.

The Holy Spirit transforms ordinary families into places where Christ's character becomes visible.

Avoid These Mistakes

Be careful not to:

- Depend on your feelings more than God's Word.
- Think the Holy Spirit speaks independently of Scripture.
- Measure spiritual maturity only by dramatic experiences.

- Ignore the daily practice of prayer and obedience.
- Become discouraged when growth seems slow.

Remember:

Fruit grows gradually.

Healthy trees do not produce mature fruit overnight.

The Holy Spirit patiently shapes every believer into the likeness of Christ.

Formation Focus

Reflect prayerfully.

What truth has the Holy Spirit impressed on my heart?

Where is He inviting me to trust Him more?

What act of obedience will I practice today?

Who can I encourage through the example of Spirit-led living?

Grace Gems

"The Holy Spirit is not looking for perfect people; He delights in surrendered people."

"God's power is most clearly seen in lives that depend on Him."

"Walking in the Spirit is learned one faithful step at a time."

"The fruit of the Spirit grows where the heart is surrendered."

"The Christian life is not self-improvement—it is Christ living His life through you."

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey

Theme

Depending on the Holy Spirit Every Day

Before you begin each day's study, pray:

"Holy Spirit, open my heart to God's Word. Teach me to know Christ more deeply, to obey Him more faithfully, and to reflect His character in everything I do."

DAY 1

The Holy Spirit Lives in Me

Read

Romans 8:9–11

Key Truth

When you trusted in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came to live within you.

You never face life's challenges alone.

God Himself is present with you.

His presence is your comfort in sorrow, your wisdom in confusion, your strength in weakness, and your hope in every circumstance.

The Christian life is not about inviting God to come near.

Because of Christ, He has already made His home within you.

Reflection

- How does knowing the Holy Spirit lives in you change your view of today's challenges?
- In what situation do you most need His help?

Pause and Pray

Thank God that He has not left you to live the Christian life alone.

Action Step

Throughout today, quietly pray:

"Holy Spirit, guide me."

before making important decisions.

DAY 2

Listening to the Spirit Through Scripture

Read

2 Timothy 3:16–17

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit never contradicts the Bible because He is its Author.

Many people seek extraordinary experiences while neglecting God's written Word.

Yet the Spirit most consistently shapes believers through Scripture.

The more faithfully you study God's Word, the more clearly you recognise His leading.

Reflection

- Do you spend more time seeking answers or seeking God?
- What passage has God recently used to encourage or correct you?

Pause and Pray

Ask God to give you a hunger for His Word.

Action Step

Choose one verse from today's reading and meditate on it several times today.

DAY 3

The Spirit Produces Christlike Character

Read

Galatians 5:22–23

Key Truth

Notice that Paul speaks of the **fruit** of the Spirit—not the fruits.

These qualities grow together because they reflect the character of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit is not merely helping you become a better version of yourself.

He is shaping you to become more like Christ.

Growth takes time.

Do not become discouraged if progress seems slow.

Healthy fruit develops gradually.

Reflection

- Which fruit of the Spirit is strongest in your life?
- Which one needs further growth?

Pause and Pray

Invite the Holy Spirit to develop Christlike character within you.

Action Step

Intentionally practise one fruit of the Spirit today, especially in a situation where you would normally react differently.

DAY 4

Keeping in Step with the Spirit

Read

Galatians 5:25

Key Truth

Paul writes,

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

The picture is that of soldiers walking in step with their leader.

Walking in step with the Spirit means allowing Him to set the direction, pace, and priorities of your life.

Instead of asking,

"What do I want?"

learn to ask,

"Lord, what pleases You?"

Reflection

- Where is God asking you to trust Him more fully?
- Is there any area where you are resisting His leading?

Pause and Pray

Offer your plans for today to God and ask Him to direct your steps.

Action Step

Practise immediate obedience when you sense God leading you through His Word.

DAY 5

Empowered to Be Christ's Witness

Read

Acts 1:8

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit empowers believers not only for personal holiness but also for faithful witness.

Every Christian has a testimony.

You do not need to know every answer before sharing your faith.

Simply tell others what Christ has done in your life.

The Holy Spirit prepares hearts, gives courage, and uses ordinary believers to accomplish extraordinary purposes.

Reflection

- Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus?
- What opportunity has God recently given you to speak about your faith?

Pause and Pray

Pray for one person by name who needs Christ.

Ask God to open a door for a gospel conversation.

Action Step

Share one encouragement or Bible verse with another person this week.

Walking It Out This Week

Monday

Begin your day by surrendering your plans to the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday

Read Galatians 5:16–26 slowly and prayerfully.

Wednesday

Choose one fruit of the Spirit and intentionally practise it all day.

Thursday

Encourage another believer with Scripture.

Friday

Spend ten minutes thanking God for the Holy Spirit's work in your life.

Saturday

Reflect on moments this week when you clearly saw God's guidance.

Sunday

Share one lesson from this week's study with your family, discipleship partner, or small group.

The Gospel Connection

The Holy Spirit's ministry is possible because of Jesus Christ.

Jesus died for our sins.

Jesus rose from the dead.

Jesus ascended to the Father.

Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit upon His Church.

The Spirit never points people away from Christ.

Everything He does magnifies Jesus.

Therefore, walking in the Spirit means growing into greater love for Christ, greater obedience to Christ, and greater confidence in Christ's finished work.

Common Questions

Does walking in the Spirit mean I will never struggle with temptation?

No.

Believers continue to face temptation, but the Holy Spirit gives us power to resist it and strength to obey God. Victory is found through continual dependence on Christ, not through self-confidence.

What should I do when I fail?

Come quickly to God.

Confess your sin honestly.

Receive His forgiveness.

Trust the finished work of Christ.

Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you, then continue walking in obedience.

Do not remain in shame.

Return to your Father.

Christ-Centered Prayer of Surrender

Father, Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Forgive me for the times I have relied on my own wisdom and strength.

Today I surrender every area of my life to You.

Holy Spirit, guide my thoughts, my words, my decisions, and my relationships.

Produce in me the character of Jesus.

Give me courage to obey quickly, humility to repent sincerely, and faith to trust You completely.

Use my life to glorify Christ and to bless those around me.

May every step I take reflect my dependence upon You.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Living the Gospel

If you truly believe this week's lesson:

- Begin each morning by consciously depending on the Holy Spirit.
- Read God's Word expecting Him to shape your heart.
- Respond quickly when God convicts you.
- Display the fruit of the Spirit in your conversations.
- Trust God's strength when you feel weak.
- Let people see Christ through your attitudes and actions.

Remember:

The Christian life is not lived by trying harder but by trusting deeper and walking daily with the Holy Spirit.

Week Six Summary

This week you learned that the Holy Spirit is God's abiding presence in every believer.

You discovered:

- Who the Holy Spirit is.
- How He leads God's people.
- How to walk in the Spirit daily.
- The difference between the flesh and the Spirit.
- How the fruit of the Spirit reflects the character of Christ.
- Why dependence upon God is the key to spiritual maturity.

Above all, remember this truth:

The Holy Spirit's greatest work is to make you more like Jesus.

Looking Ahead

Week 7

Renewing Your Mind with God's Word

Every lasting transformation begins with renewed thinking.

In Week Seven, you will discover how God changes your life by changing your mind, how to overcome destructive thought patterns, and how to replace lies with the truth of His Word so that you can live in the freedom of Christ.

WEEK 7

Renewing Your Mind with God's Word

Experiencing Lasting Transformation Through Biblical Thinking

This Week at a Glance

Theme

Learning to replace worldly thinking with biblical truth so that every area of life is transformed.

Main Scripture

Romans 12:1–2

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Philippians 4:8–9
- Colossians 3:1–17
- Psalm 1:1–3
- Joshua 1:8
- 2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Big Idea

God changes our lives by changing the way we think. A renewed mind leads to a transformed life.

Memory Verse

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Weekly Prayer

Father, renew my mind through Your Word. Expose every lie I have believed and replace it with Your truth. Help me think, speak, and live in ways that honour Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, transform me from the inside out. Amen.

Key Takeaway

Transformation is not produced by positive thinking but by biblical thinking.

Introduction

Every day thousands of thoughts pass through our minds.

Some thoughts are true.

Some are false.

Some build faith.

Some produce fear.

Some draw us toward God.

Others pull us away from Him.

Our thoughts shape our attitudes.

Our attitudes influence our choices.

Our choices become our habits.

Our habits gradually shape our character.

That is why the battle for spiritual growth often begins in the mind.

When you trusted Christ, God gave you a new heart.

Yet throughout your life He continues renewing your mind through His Word.

This is not a one-time event.

It is a daily process.

As your thinking changes, your life begins to reflect the character of Christ more clearly.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week you will be able to:

- Understand what it means to renew your mind.
- Recognise thought patterns that oppose God's truth.
- Learn how Scripture transforms thinking.
- Develop habits that strengthen biblical thinking.
- Replace lies with God's truth.

Word Study

"Transformed"

The word translated "**transformed**" refers to an inward change that becomes visible outwardly.

It is the same word used to describe Jesus' transfiguration, where His inner glory became outwardly visible.

Christian transformation begins inside.

God changes our hearts, renews our minds, and that inner renewal gradually becomes visible through our words, attitudes, relationships, and actions.

This transformation is God's work, but we actively participate by filling our minds with His truth and responding in obedient faith.

Christ in the Old Testament

Joshua's Meditation on God's Word

Read: Joshua 1:8

Before Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land, God did not first give him a military strategy.

He told him to meditate on God's Word day and night.

Victory would come not merely through courage but through faithful obedience rooted in God's truth.

This principle remains true today.

A mind filled with God's Word is prepared to follow God's will.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Grace without truth says:

"My thoughts don't matter because God looks only at my heart."

Truth without grace says:

"If I ever struggle with wrong thoughts, I must be a failure."

The Gospel says:

"God patiently renews my mind through His Word. I cooperate with His grace by rejecting lies and embracing His truth."

Grace Gems

Meditate on these truths during the week.

"The greatest battlefield in the Christian life is often the mind."

"God's truth does not merely inform your thinking—it transforms your life."

"Every lie loses its power when exposed to the light of God's Word."

"A renewed mind sees life from God's perspective."

"The thoughts you repeatedly believe eventually shape the life you consistently live."

Reflection Questions

1. Which thoughts most often distract you from trusting God?
2. Are there lies about yourself or about God that you have believed for many years?
3. Which promise of Scripture has strengthened your faith recently?
4. How would your daily life change if your thinking were shaped more consistently by God's Word?
5. What is one area where you are asking God to renew your mind this week?

Common Questions

Why do I still struggle with wrong thoughts after becoming a Christian?

Because salvation changes your relationship with God immediately, but the renewal of your mind is a lifelong process. The Holy Spirit patiently teaches you to think according to God's truth.

Can Christians control their thoughts?

We cannot stop every thought from entering our minds, but by God's grace we can choose which thoughts we entertain and which we reject. As we fill our minds with Scripture, we become better equipped to recognise and resist thoughts that contradict God's Word.

Pause and Pray

Before continuing, quietly ask the Lord:

"Father, reveal any false beliefs that have shaped my thinking. Give me the courage to reject every lie and to embrace the truth of Your Word. Renew my mind so that my life reflects the character of Jesus. Amen."

How God Renews the Mind

Many people hope that spiritual growth will happen automatically.

The Bible teaches something different.

God is the One who transforms us, yet He calls us to actively cooperate with His work by filling our minds with His truth and responding in obedient faith.

Paul writes,

"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Notice that transformation begins with renewal.

Before our actions change consistently, our thinking must change.

Before our habits change, our beliefs must change.

Before our lives change, our minds must be shaped by God's Word.

This process is called **sanctification**—the ongoing work by which the Holy Spirit makes believers increasingly like Jesus Christ.

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: Romans 12:1–2

Read the passage carefully several times.

What Does This Passage Teach?

1. What does Paul urge believers to present to God?

-
2. What does it mean to be "conformed" to this world?
-

3. What does Paul command believers to do instead?
-

4. What is the result of a renewed mind?
-

Why Does This Matter?

God is not interested only in changing our behaviour.

He desires to transform the whole person.

The renewed mind enables believers to recognise God's will more clearly and to respond with joyful obedience.

Christian maturity is therefore measured not merely by what we avoid but by how increasingly our thinking reflects the mind of Christ.

How Do I Live It Today?

Prayerfully consider:

- Which worldly attitudes have influenced my thinking?
- Which Scripture challenges those attitudes?
- What practical step of obedience is God calling me to take today?

Four Sources That Shape Our Thinking

Whether we realise it or not, our minds are constantly being influenced.

1. God's Word

Scripture is God's primary instrument for renewing the mind.

It reveals truth, exposes error, corrects sinful thinking, and points us continually to Christ.

Regular meditation on Scripture gradually reshapes our values and desires.

2. The World

The world often promotes values that oppose God's kingdom.

Messages such as:

- "Success is everything."
- "Follow your heart."
- "Truth is whatever feels right to you."

must be tested against God's Word.

Not every popular idea is a biblical idea.

Followers of Christ are called to think differently because they belong to a different kingdom.

3. Our Past Experiences

Past experiences can influence how we view ourselves, others, and even God.

Some people have experienced rejection, failure, abuse, or disappointment.

Those experiences are real, but they must not become the final authority over our identity.

God's Word interprets our experiences rather than allowing our experiences to interpret God's Word.

4. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit helps believers understand and apply Scripture.

He reminds us of Christ's teaching.

He convicts us when our thinking is wrong.

He patiently leads us into truth.

Renewing the mind is therefore both a work of God's grace and a daily response of faith.

Truth to Memorize, Lie to Reject

Take time to meditate on these truths.

Lie to Reject

Truth to Memorize

"God could never use me." "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." (Ephesians 2:10)

"I must face life alone." "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

"My failures define me." "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"Nothing will ever change." "He who began a good work in you will complete it." (Philippians 1:6)

"I am worthless." "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1)

Read these truths aloud each day this week.

Allow God's Word to shape the way you think about yourself and about Him.

Grace in Ministry

Teaching Truth with Patience

People do not change simply because they receive information.

Transformation often takes time.

As pastors, teachers, and disciplers, we must patiently teach God's Word, answer questions with gentleness, pray for those we serve, and trust the Holy Spirit to bring lasting change.

Our responsibility is to sow faithfully.

God gives the growth.

Grace in the Home

The atmosphere of a home is often shaped by the words spoken within it.

Parents who regularly speak biblical truth over their children help shape their understanding of God and themselves.

Husbands and wives strengthen one another by speaking words of encouragement, forgiveness, and hope.

Families flourish when God's truth becomes part of everyday conversation.

Formation Focus

Prayerfully answer these questions.

What lie has influenced my thinking for too long?

Which truth from God's Word replaces that lie?

How will I remind myself of this truth every day this week?

Who can I encourage by sharing this biblical truth?

Grace Gems

"The Holy Spirit renews your mind through the truth of God's Word."

"What consistently fills your mind will eventually shape your life."

"Faith grows where God's truth is believed."

"The mind surrendered to Christ becomes a place where hope replaces fear."

"Transformation begins when God's truth becomes more believable to you than your old assumptions."

Pause and Pray

Before continuing, ask the Lord:

"Father, thank You for Your Word, which is truth. Renew my mind through the Scriptures. Help me recognise every thought that dishonours You and replace it with thoughts that reflect the mind of Christ. Give me wisdom to think biblically, courage to obey faithfully, and grace to encourage others with Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey

Theme

Thinking Like Christ Every Day

Before beginning each day, pray:

"Father, renew my mind through Your Word today. Help me to think as Christ thinks, love what He loves, reject what He rejects, and live in a way that brings glory to You."

DAY 1

The Mind of Christ

Read

Philippians 2:1–11

Key Truth

The goal of the Christian life is not merely to think positively but to think like Jesus.

Paul urges believers to have "the mind of Christ"—a mind marked by humility, obedience, love, and service.

Jesus did not seek His own glory.

He humbled Himself and obeyed the Father, even to the point of death on the cross.

The more we know Christ, the more our thinking is shaped by His character.

Reflection

- What attitudes of Christ do you most need to develop?
- How can humility change your relationships today?

Pause and Pray

Ask God to help you reflect the humility of Jesus in your thoughts and actions.

Action Step

Choose one opportunity today to serve someone without expecting recognition.

DAY 2

Taking Every Thought Captive

Read

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Key Truth

Not every thought that enters your mind deserves to remain there.

Paul teaches believers to "take every thought captive to obey Christ."

When fearful, sinful, or false thoughts arise, compare them with God's Word.

If they contradict Scripture, reject them.

Truth must become the standard by which every thought is evaluated.

Reflection

- Which recurring thought most often weakens your faith?
- Which Bible verse speaks directly against that thought?

Pause and Pray

Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment to recognize thoughts that do not agree with God's truth.

Action Step

Memorize one verse that addresses your greatest area of mental struggle.

DAY 3

Thinking About What Is Excellent

Read

Philippians 4:8–9

Key Truth

Our minds naturally move toward whatever we continually feed them.

Paul instructs believers to dwell on whatever is true, honourable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise.

Renewing the mind also involves choosing healthy influences.

Ask yourself:

Does this book...

This conversation...

This entertainment...

This website...

Help me love Christ more?

If not, wisdom may require setting it aside.

Reflection

- What influences most shape your thinking?
- Which influences strengthen your walk with Christ?

Pause and Pray

Invite God to help you fill your mind with things that honour Him.

Action Step

Replace one unhealthy influence this week with reading Scripture or a Christ-centred Christian book.

DAY 4

Trusting God's Truth Above Your Feelings

Read

Psalm 119:89–105

Key Truth

Feelings are real, but they are not always reliable.

God's Word remains true whether our emotions are strong or weak.

Many believers feel abandoned, yet God promises,

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Faith grows when we choose to trust God's promises even when our emotions fluctuate.

Reflection

- Is there an area where your feelings have been louder than God's promises?
- Which promise of Scripture do you need today?

Pause and Pray

Thank God that His truth remains constant in every season.

Action Step

Write one promise from Scripture where you can see it throughout the day.

DAY 5

A Renewed Mind Leads to a Renewed Life

Read

Colossians 3:1–17

Key Truth

Paul calls believers to "set your minds on things above."

A renewed mind gradually produces renewed speech, renewed relationships, renewed priorities, and renewed habits.

Because your identity is in Christ, your thinking can reflect heaven's values rather than the world's values.

Transformation begins inside and becomes visible in everyday life.

Reflection

- In what area has God already begun changing your thinking?

- What change do you hope to see in the coming months?

Pause and Pray

Thank God for His patient work of transformation.

Action Step

Share one lesson from this week's study with another believer.

Walking It Out This Week

Monday

Read Romans 12:1–2 slowly and write one truth that stands out.

Tuesday

Identify one recurring lie and replace it with a Scripture passage.

Wednesday

Spend fifteen minutes meditating on Philippians 4:8.

Thursday

Encourage someone with a Bible promise.

Friday

Review your thoughts during the week and thank God for every area of growth.

Saturday

Pray for wisdom to think biblically in every decision.

Sunday

Share with your family or small group how God has been renewing your mind.

Living the Gospel

If you truly believe this week's lesson:

- Filter your thoughts through God's Word.
- Replace lies with biblical truth.
- Choose influences that strengthen your love for Christ.
- Speak words that reflect a renewed mind.
- Allow Scripture to shape your decisions.
- Trust God's promises above changing emotions.

Remember:

The gospel transforms not only where you will spend eternity but also how you think today.

The Gospel Connection

Jesus is the perfect revelation of God's truth.

He is called **"the Word"** (John 1:1) and declared,

"I am the way, the truth, and the life."

As we behold Christ in Scripture, the Holy Spirit renews our minds and conforms us to His image.

Renewing the mind is therefore not merely learning new ideas.

It is learning to know, trust, and follow Jesus more faithfully every day.

Avoid These Mistakes

Do not:

- Depend on positive thinking instead of biblical truth.
- Assume every thought is from God.
- Neglect regular meditation on Scripture.
- Allow entertainment, social media, or public opinion to shape your worldview more than God's Word.
- Become discouraged when transformation seems slow.

Remember:

God renews the mind gradually.

His work is faithful.

His timing is perfect.

Christ-Centered Prayer of Surrender

Father, Thank You for giving me Your Word to guide my life.

Forgive me for believing lies that have kept me from fully trusting You.

Renew my mind by Your Holy Spirit.

Help me reject every thought that dishonours Christ and embrace everything that is true, pure, and pleasing to You.

May my thinking reflect the mind of Christ.

May my words encourage others.

May my decisions honour You.

Continue transforming me until my life clearly reflects the character of Jesus.

I surrender my thoughts, my imagination, my desires, and my future to You.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Week Seven Summary

This week you learned that lasting transformation begins with a renewed mind.

You discovered:

- God changes our lives by changing our thinking.
- Scripture renews the mind.
- The Holy Spirit applies God's truth to our hearts.
- Every thought should be brought under the lordship of Christ.

- Renewed thinking produces renewed living.

Above all, remember:

The more your mind is filled with God's truth, the more your life will reflect Jesus Christ.

Looking Ahead

Week 8

Growing Through Grace-Filled Obedience

If salvation is by grace alone, why does obedience matter?

In Week Eight, you will discover that obedience is not the price we pay for God's love but the joyful response of hearts that have already received His grace. You will learn how grace produces willing obedience and why true freedom is found in following Christ.

WEEK 8

Growing Through Grace-Filled Obedience

Obedying God from Love, Not Fear

This Week at a Glance

Theme

Learning that Christian obedience is the joyful response of those who have already received God's grace.

Main Scripture

John 14:15

"If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 2:8–10
- Titus 2:11–14
- James 1:22–25
- Romans 6:1–14
- 1 John 5:1–5

Big Idea

Grace does not remove obedience; it changes the reason we obey.

Memory Verse

Titus 2:11–12 (NKJV)

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

Weekly Prayer

Father, thank You for saving me by Your grace. Help me to obey You out of love rather than fear. Teach me to delight in Your will and to trust that Your commands are given for my good and for Your glory. Form in me a willing heart through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Takeaway

Obedience is not the root of salvation—it is the fruit of salvation.

Introduction

Many Christians hear two messages.

One says,

"Try harder."

The other says,

"Do whatever you want because God forgives."

Neither message reflects the whole gospel.

The Bible teaches that we are saved entirely by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

The same Bible also teaches that those who have received God's grace will increasingly desire to obey Him.

Grace does not make obedience unnecessary.

Grace makes obedience possible.

Imagine a healthy tree.

The tree does not produce fruit in order to become alive.

It produces fruit because it is alive.

Likewise, believers do not obey God to become His children.

They obey because they already are His children through Christ.

Understanding this truth changes everything.

Obedience becomes an expression of love instead of an attempt to earn acceptance.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week you will be able to:

- Explain the relationship between grace and obedience.
- Distinguish biblical obedience from legalism.
- Understand why God's commands are good.
- Identify practical ways to obey Christ daily.
- Develop a joyful attitude toward obedience.

Word Study

"Obey"

In the New Testament, obedience is more than outward compliance.

Biblical obedience includes listening, trusting, and responding to God's voice.

True obedience flows from a heart that loves God.

This is why Jesus connected love and obedience:

"If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Love is not opposed to obedience.

Love gives obedience its proper motivation.

Christ in the Old Testament

Abraham's Faith and Obedience

Read: Genesis 22:1–18

Abraham's willingness to obey God by offering Isaac did not earn God's covenant promises.

Those promises had already been given by grace.

His obedience demonstrated his trust in God.

In the same way, believers today obey not to earn God's favour but because they trust the God who has already shown them His grace in Christ.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Grace without truth says:

"It doesn't matter how I live because God forgives me."

Truth without grace says:

"If I obey well enough, God will finally accept me."

The Gospel says:

"I am already accepted in Christ. Therefore, I joyfully obey the One who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: Ephesians 2:8–10

Read the passage slowly.

What Does This Passage Teach?

1. How are we saved?

2. Why can no one boast about salvation?

3. What does verse 10 say believers were created for?

Why Does This Matter?

Paul keeps grace and obedience together.

Verses 8–9 remind us that salvation is God's gift.

Verse 10 reminds us that saved people are recreated in Christ to live lives that honour Him.

Good works do not purchase salvation.

They display the transforming power of salvation.

How Do I Live It Today?

- Is there an area where I have been obeying out of fear instead of love?
- Is there an area where I have resisted God's clear instruction?
- What step of obedience is the Holy Spirit asking me to take today?

Common Questions

If salvation is by grace, why should I obey?

Because obedience is the loving response of a heart that has been changed by God's grace. It is evidence of spiritual life, not the means of obtaining it.

What if I fail?

Return quickly to God.

Confess your sin.

Receive His forgiveness.

Trust Christ's finished work.

Continue walking in obedience.

God's grace restores repentant believers and strengthens them to keep following Jesus.

Grace Gems

"Grace does not compete with obedience; it creates it."

"The heart that understands the cross delights to follow Christ."

"God's commands are invitations to life, not burdens designed to crush His children."

"Obedience grows where gratitude fills the heart."

"Jesus is not only our Savior; He is also our Lord."

Pause and Pray

Before continuing, pray:

"Father, reveal any area where I have tried to earn Your love through performance or where I have resisted Your will. Thank You that I am accepted in Christ. Teach me to obey You with joy, humility, and faith. May my life become a grateful response to Your amazing grace. Amen."

Grace Produces Willing Obedience

One of the greatest evidences that God's grace is at work in a person's life is a growing desire to obey Him.

Before we knew Christ, we often viewed God's commands as restrictions.

After we come to Christ, we begin to see them as expressions of our Father's wisdom and love.

A loving parent establishes boundaries not to rob a child of joy but to protect and guide that child.

In the same way, God's commands are given because He loves us and knows what leads to life.

Grace changes our motivation.

We no longer ask,

"What is the least I must do?"

Instead, we ask,

"Lord, how can I honour You today?"

That is the difference between religion and relationship.

Religion focuses on external performance.

A relationship with Christ transforms the heart, and a transformed heart delights to obey God.

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: Titus 2:11–14

Read the passage prayerfully.

What Does This Passage Teach?

1. What has appeared to all people?

-
2. According to this passage, what does God's grace teach believers?

-
3. What kind of people is Christ preparing for Himself?
-

Why Does This Matter?

Many people think of grace only as God's forgiveness.

Paul teaches that grace is also God's teacher.

Grace trains believers to reject ungodliness and to live lives that reflect Christ.

The same grace that saves us also shapes us.

How Do I Live It Today?

- Is there an attitude or habit that God's grace is teaching me to leave behind?
- What act of obedience would honour Christ today?
- How can I encourage another believer to pursue holiness with joy rather than fear?

Four Characteristics of Grace-Filled Obedience

1. Obedience Flows from Love

Jesus said,

"If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Love is the proper motive for Christian obedience.

We obey because Christ first loved us.

2. Obedience Is Empowered by the Holy Spirit

God never commands us to obey in our own strength.

The Holy Spirit gives us both the desire and the power to do God's will.

Whenever you feel weak, ask the Lord for strength rather than depending on yourself.

3. Obedience Is a Daily Choice

Large acts of faithfulness are built upon many small acts of obedience.

Choosing honesty.

Choosing forgiveness.

Choosing kindness.

Choosing purity.

Choosing generosity.

Each decision shapes our character.

4. Obedience Brings Joy

God's commands are not intended to steal our joy.

They lead us into the abundant life Jesus promised.

The happiest believers are not those who always get their own way.

They are those who learn to trust God's way.

Christ in the Old Testament

Noah's Faithful Obedience

Read: Genesis 6:9–22

God instructed Noah to build the ark long before there was any visible sign of a flood.

Noah obeyed because he trusted God's word.

His obedience was an expression of faith.

Likewise, believers today often obey before they see the outcome.

We trust the character of God even when we do not yet understand His plan.

Grace in Ministry

Leading by Example

People learn as much from our example as from our teaching.

Church leaders should model joyful obedience by:

- Living with integrity.
- Keeping their promises.
- Treating others with humility.
- Serving willingly.
- Submitting to God's Word.

A leader whose life reflects Christ gives credibility to the message they preach.

Grace in the Home

Grace-filled obedience transforms family relationships.

Children learn obedience best when they see loving obedience in their parents.

Husbands and wives strengthen one another by choosing forgiveness over bitterness, patience over anger, and encouragement over criticism.

A home shaped by God's grace becomes a place where obedience is motivated by love rather than fear.

Truth to Memorize, Lie to Reject

Lie to Reject	Truth to Memorize
"Obedience will make me lose my freedom."	"If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)
"God's commands are too difficult."	"His commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3)
"I have failed too often to obey."	"God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)
"I can follow Jesus without obeying Him."	"Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46)

Formation Focus

Take a few moments to reflect.

Where is God inviting me to trust Him through obedience?

What fear keeps me from obeying completely?

Which promise of God gives me courage today?

How will my obedience bless others?

Grace Gems

"Grace changes the heart before it changes the habits."

"Every act of obedience is a declaration that God knows best."

"The cross proves that God's love can be trusted."

"Obedience is faith in action."

"When grace captures the heart, obedience becomes a delight instead of a duty."

Pause and Pray

Stop for a few moments and pray:

"Father, thank You for loving me before I could ever earn Your acceptance. By Your Holy Spirit, give me a willing heart that delights to obey You. Help me trust Your wisdom above my own understanding. May every choice I make this week reflect my love for Jesus and my confidence in His finished work. Amen."

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey

Theme

Living Out Grace Through Joyful Obedience

Before you begin each day, pray:

"Father, thank You that I am already accepted in Christ. Help me to obey You today, not to earn Your love, but because I have received it. Let my obedience be an expression of worship and gratitude."

DAY 1

Love Is the Motive for Obedience

Read

John 14:15–21

Key Truth

Jesus connects love and obedience.

He does not say that obedience earns His love.

Rather, those who love Him will desire to obey Him.

Love transforms duty into delight.

The more we understand Christ's love for us, the more willing we become to follow Him.

Reflection

- What motivates your obedience?
- How has Christ's love changed your attitude toward God's commands?

Pause and Pray

Thank Jesus for demonstrating His love through the cross.

Action Step

Obey God today in one area where you have been delaying.

DAY 2

Hearing and Doing God's Word

Read

James 1:22–25

Key Truth

Bible study is meant to produce obedience.

James compares someone who hears God's Word without obeying it to a person who looks into a mirror and immediately forgets what they have seen.

God's Word reveals who we are and how we should live.

True disciples are both hearers and doers.

Reflection

- Is there a biblical truth you know but have not yet obeyed?
- What first step can you take today?

Pause and Pray

Ask God for the courage to act on what you already know.

Action Step

Write down one specific act of obedience and complete it today.

DAY 3

Obedience in Everyday Life

Read

Colossians 3:12–17

Key Truth

Obedience is expressed in ordinary relationships.

Kindness.

Humility.

Patience.

Forgiveness.

Love.

These are practical demonstrations of God's grace.

Everyday obedience often has the greatest impact on those closest to us.

Reflection

- Which Christlike quality do you most need to practice today?
- How can your family or colleagues experience God's grace through you?

Pause and Pray

Invite the Holy Spirit to help you reflect Christ's character in every conversation.

Action Step

Perform one unexpected act of kindness today.

DAY 4

Trusting God When Obedience Is Costly

Read

Hebrews 11:8–10

Key Truth

Abraham obeyed God without knowing every detail of the journey.

Sometimes God calls us to obey before we fully understand His purposes.

Faith obeys because it trusts God's character.

Even when obedience requires sacrifice, God's promises remain secure.

Reflection

- Is God asking you to trust Him in an area where the outcome is uncertain?
- What gives you confidence to obey?

Pause and Pray

Surrender your fears to God and ask Him for courage.

Action Step

Take one practical step of faith that you have been postponing.

DAY 5

Finishing Well

Read

2 Timothy 4:6–8

Key Truth

Paul looked back on his life and could say,

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

A life of faithful obedience is built one day at a time.

God is not asking for perfection.

He is calling for faithfulness.

Reflection

- What kind of legacy do you hope to leave?
- What daily habit will help you remain faithful?

Pause and Pray

Thank God for His faithfulness and ask Him to strengthen you to finish well.

Action Step

Encourage another believer to remain faithful in following Christ.

Walking It Out This Week

Monday

Read Titus 2:11–14 and thank God for His transforming grace.

Tuesday

Choose one area where you will obey God immediately.

Wednesday

Bless someone through an unexpected act of service.

Thursday

Memorize John 14:15.

Friday

Review your week and thank God for every opportunity to obey Him.

Saturday

Pray for someone who is struggling to trust God's commands.

Sunday

Share one testimony of God's faithfulness with your family or small group.

Living the Gospel

If you truly believe this week's lesson:

- Obey because you are loved, not to become loved.
- Trust God's commands even when they are difficult.
- Let gratitude shape your daily choices.
- View obedience as worship rather than obligation.
- Encourage others through your example.

Remember:

Grace not only forgives the believer; grace forms the believer into the likeness of Christ.

The Gospel Connection

Jesus perfectly obeyed the Father on our behalf.

Where Adam failed, Christ obeyed.

Where Israel fell short, Christ remained faithful.

His perfect obedience secured our salvation.

Now, through the Holy Spirit, believers are empowered to grow in joyful obedience—not to add to Christ's work, but because His work is complete.

Avoid These Mistakes

Do not:

- Turn obedience into a way of earning God's approval.
- Ignore God's commands under the excuse of grace.
- Compare your spiritual growth with others.
- Become discouraged by slow progress.
- Forget that the Holy Spirit empowers every act of obedience.

Remember:

God measures faithfulness more than visible success.

Christ-Centered Prayer of Surrender

Father,

Thank You for saving me through the perfect obedience and finished work of Jesus Christ.

Forgive me for the times I have obeyed from fear instead of love, or resisted Your will because I trusted my own understanding.

Teach me to delight in Your commands.

Strengthen me by Your Holy Spirit to obey with joy, humility, and perseverance.

May my life reflect gratitude for the grace I have received.

Use my obedience to bring glory to Christ and blessing to those around me.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

Weekly Review

Before moving to Week 9, prayerfully reflect:

✓ Am I growing in obedience that flows from grace?

✓ Do I understand the difference between legalism and loving obedience?

✓ Have I obeyed a specific prompting from God's Word this week?

✓ Am I trusting the Holy Spirit rather than my own strength?

✓ Has my obedience become more joyful?

If there are areas where you are still struggling, remember that spiritual growth is a journey. Return to Christ, receive His grace, and continue walking with Him.

Week Eight Summary

This week you learned that obedience is not opposed to grace—it is produced by grace.

You discovered:

- Grace is the foundation of obedience.
- Love is the proper motive for obedience.
- The Holy Spirit empowers obedience.
- Faith trusts God's commands.
- Daily faithfulness shapes lifelong discipleship.

Above all, remember:

The believer does not obey to earn God's acceptance. The believer obeys because God's acceptance has already been secured through Jesus Christ.

Looking Ahead

Week 9

Growing Together in Christian Community

God never intended believers to follow Jesus alone.

In Week 9, you will discover why the local church matters, how Christian fellowship strengthens spiritual growth, the importance of encouragement, accountability, and serving one another in love, and how God uses His people to help us persevere in faith.

WEEK 9

Growing Together in Christian Community

Following Jesus with the Family of God

This Week at a Glance

Theme

Growing spiritually through fellowship, encouragement, accountability, worship, and service within the body of Christ.

Main Scripture

Hebrews 10:24–25

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... but exhorting one another."

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 2:42–47
- Ephesians 4:11–16
- Romans 12:3–13
- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27
- John 13:34–35

Big Idea

God designed the Christian life to be lived in community. We grow stronger as we worship, learn, pray, serve, and encourage one another.

Memory Verse

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... but exhorting one another."

Weekly Prayer

Father, thank You for making me part of Your family through Jesus Christ. Help me to love Your people, serve with humility, encourage fellow believers, and remain faithfully connected to a Bible-believing local church. Use me to strengthen others and to reflect the love of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Takeaway

Spiritual maturity grows best in a healthy, Christ-centered community.

Introduction

From the very beginning, God said,

"It is not good that man should be alone."

Although those words were spoken in the context of marriage, they also remind us that God created people for relationships.

When Jesus called His disciples, He did not train them in isolation.

They learned together.

Prayed together.

Served together.

Failed together.

And grew together.

After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the early believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.

They cared for one another.

Shared their resources.

Encouraged one another during persecution.

Together they became a powerful witness to the world.

Today, many Christians attempt to grow spiritually without meaningful relationships with other believers.

The New Testament presents a different picture.

God has given us the church as a family where we are encouraged, corrected, equipped, comforted, and strengthened.

Christian community is not optional.

It is one of God's primary gifts for our spiritual growth.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week you will be able to:

- Understand God's purpose for Christian community.
- Appreciate the importance of the local church.
- Recognize your responsibility within the body of Christ.
- Develop habits that strengthen Christian fellowship.
- Learn how encouragement and accountability promote spiritual growth.

Word Study

"Fellowship"

The New Testament word **fellowship** describes sharing life together in Christ.

Biblical fellowship is much deeper than casual friendship.

It includes:

- Worshipping together.
- Praying together.
- Learning together.
- Serving together.

- Bearing one another's burdens.
- Rejoicing and grieving together.

True fellowship is rooted in our common relationship with Jesus Christ.

Christ in the Old Testament

Moses and Aaron: Serving Together

Read: Exodus 4:10–17

When Moses felt inadequate for the task God had given him, the Lord provided Aaron to help him.

God often accomplishes His purposes through His people working together.

Throughout Scripture we see faithful men and women strengthened by godly companions.

Likewise, God uses Christian community today to encourage, support, and equip believers for faithful service.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Grace without truth says:

"I can follow Jesus without being committed to His people."

Truth without grace says:

"Attending church alone automatically makes me spiritually mature."

The Gospel says:

"Because Christ has made me part of His body, I joyfully participate in the life of His church, loving and serving others in His name."

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: Acts 2:42–47

Read the passage carefully.

What Does This Passage Teach?

1. To what four practices did the early believers devote themselves?

2. How did they care for one another?

3. What impact did their shared life have on those around them?

Why Does This Matter?

The early church was marked by both devotion to God and love for one another.

Healthy churches grow through faithful teaching, genuine fellowship, prayer, generous service, and joyful worship.

How Do I Live It Today?

- Am I actively involved in the life of a local church?
- How can I encourage another believer this week?
- What gift or ability has God given me to serve others?

Common Questions

Do I really need the local church if I can read my Bible at home?

Personal Bible study is essential, but God also calls believers to gather with His people for worship, teaching, fellowship, prayer, encouragement, and the ordinances Christ gave the church. The New Testament presents both personal devotion and shared life within the local church as important parts of Christian growth.

What if my church is not perfect?

No church is perfect because every church is made up of imperfect people. Look for a church that faithfully teaches God's Word, centers on Jesus Christ, encourages holy living, and demonstrates genuine love. Instead of expecting perfection, ask how God wants you to contribute to the health and unity of the church.

Grace Gems

"The church is not merely a place we attend; it is a family to which we belong."

"God often grows us through the encouragement and correction of other believers."

"Healthy Christians help build healthy churches."

"The gifts God has given you are meant to bless others."

"When believers love one another, they display the heart of Christ to the world."

Pause and Pray

Before continuing, pray:

"Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus Christ. Show me how I can encourage, serve, forgive, and love other believers. Help me value the church as Christ values His church. Make me a faithful member of the body of Christ who contributes to its unity and growth. Amen."

Why Every Believer Needs Christian Community

The Christian life was never intended to be lived in isolation.

From Genesis to Revelation, God calls His people into covenant community.

When we become followers of Jesus, we are not only reconciled to God—we are also joined to His people.

The New Testament uses many pictures to describe the church:

- A family
- A body
- A flock
- A temple
- A bride

Each picture teaches us that believers belong together.

Just as no part of the human body can function well in complete isolation, no Christian is meant to grow apart from the encouragement, correction, worship, and service of other believers.

God often strengthens us through people.

He comforts us through people.

He teaches us through people.

He even answers many of our prayers through the faithful ministry of His people.

Christian community is one of God's greatest gifts for spiritual growth.

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27

Read the passage carefully.

What Does This Passage Teach?

1. Why does Paul compare the church to a human body?

2. What happens when one member suffers?

3. Why are different spiritual gifts necessary?

Why Does This Matter?

Every believer is valuable.

No Christian is insignificant.

No Christian is self-sufficient.

God intentionally gives different gifts so that believers will depend on one another and work together for the good of the whole body.

Unity does not require uniformity.

The church displays God's wisdom through many members serving one Lord.

How Do I Live It Today?

- Am I using my gifts to strengthen other believers?
- Is there someone in my church who needs encouragement?
- How can I contribute to the unity of my church this week?

Five Marks of a Healthy Christian Community

1. Christ-Centered Worship

Healthy churches gather to exalt Jesus Christ.

Worship is not centered on personalities or preferences.

It is centered on the glory of God revealed in Christ.

When Christ remains central, believers grow in humility and unity.

2. Faithful Teaching of Scripture

God's people grow through the faithful teaching and application of His Word.

Healthy churches explain Scripture carefully, point people to Christ, and encourage believers to obey God's truth.

3. Genuine Love

Jesus said,

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Biblical love is more than kind words.

It is expressed through forgiveness, patience, generosity, hospitality, and practical care.

4. Mutual Encouragement

Every believer experiences seasons of weakness.

God often uses another Christian's prayer, encouragement, testimony, or counsel to strengthen our faith.

Encouragement is one of the simplest and most powerful ministries in the church.

5. Shared Mission

The church exists not only to care for believers but also to proclaim the gospel.

Every member has a part to play.

Some teach.

Some serve.

Some encourage.

Some lead.

Some give.

Some show mercy.

Together we participate in God's mission of making disciples.

Church History Insight

From the earliest centuries of the church, Christians gathered regularly for the reading of Scripture, prayer, singing, teaching, the Lord's Supper, and caring for those in need. Although worship practices have varied across cultures and generations, these core elements have remained central because they reflect the pattern found in the New Testament.

This reminds us that gathering with other believers is not a modern tradition but part of the historic life of the church.

Grace in Ministry

Building Up the Body of Christ

Christian leaders are not called merely to perform ministry.

They are called to equip God's people for ministry.

Healthy leadership encourages every believer to discover and faithfully use the gifts God has given them.

A healthy church is one in which every member understands that they are both a disciple and a servant.

Grace in the Home

The home is often the first place where believers learn Christian community.

Parents model forgiveness.

Children learn to serve.

Family members pray together.

Conflicts become opportunities to practise grace, humility, patience, and reconciliation.

Homes shaped by the gospel strengthen the life of the church.

Truth to Memorize, Lie to Reject

Lie to Reject	Truth to Memorize
"I don't need other Christians."	"We are members of one another." (Romans 12:5)
"My gifts are not important."	"To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)
"The church exists to meet my needs."	"Through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)
"Unity means everyone must be the same."	"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:4)

Formation Focus

Reflect honestly before the Lord.

How has God used other believers to help me grow?

How am I contributing to the health of my local church?

Is there anyone I need to forgive or encourage?

What spiritual gift or ability can I use to serve others more faithfully?

Grace Gems

"God often answers our need for strength by sending another believer."

"Christian maturity is demonstrated not only in personal holiness but also in loving service."

"Every believer has a place in God's family."

"Unity grows when humility replaces selfish ambition."

"A healthy church is made up of believers who are growing together in Christ."

Pause and Pray

Pause and ask the Lord:

"Father, thank You for placing me in the body of Christ. Teach me to value every believer, to serve with humility, to forgive quickly, and to encourage faithfully. Help me strengthen the unity of my

local church and reflect the love of Jesus in every relationship. Use my life to build up Your people and bring glory to Your name. Amen."

Five-Day Personal Devotional Journey Theme

Growing Stronger Together in Christ

Before beginning each day, pray:

"Father, thank You for making me part of Your family through Jesus Christ. Teach me to love, serve, encourage, forgive, and strengthen other believers. Let my life build up Your Church and bring glory to Your Son. Amen."

DAY 1

We Belong to One Another

Read

Romans 12:3–8

Key Truth

God has given every believer a place in the body of Christ.

No one is unnecessary.

No one possesses every gift.

We need one another.

Humility allows us to appreciate the gifts God has given to others while faithfully using the gifts He has entrusted to us.

Reflection

- How has God gifted you to serve others?
- Are you using your gifts faithfully?

Pause and Pray

Thank God for making you part of His family.

Action Step

Use one of your spiritual gifts this week to encourage another believer.

DAY 2

Bearing One Another's Burdens

Read

Galatians 6:1–10

Key Truth

Christian community involves more than attending meetings.

It means helping carry one another's burdens.

Sometimes that burden is grief.

Sometimes it is illness.

Sometimes it is financial hardship.

Sometimes it is spiritual discouragement.

When believers lovingly care for one another, they demonstrate the compassion of Christ.

Reflection

- Who around you needs encouragement?
- How can you practically help them this week?

Pause and Pray

Ask God to show you someone who needs His love through you.

Action Step

Call, visit, or pray with someone who may be carrying a heavy burden.

DAY 3

Forgiving One Another

Read

Ephesians 4:31–32

Key Truth

Healthy churches are not made up of perfect people.

They are made up of forgiven people learning to forgive one another.

Bitterness weakens fellowship.

Forgiveness strengthens unity.

We forgive because God has first forgiven us through Christ.

Reflection

- Is there anyone you need to forgive?
- Is there anyone from whom you need to seek forgiveness?

Pause and Pray

Bring any broken relationship before the Lord and ask for wisdom, humility, and grace.

Action Step

Take one step toward reconciliation where it is wise and appropriate.

DAY 4

Encouraging One Another

Read

Hebrews 3:12–13

Key Truth

The Bible tells believers to encourage one another daily.

A timely word of encouragement can strengthen faith, restore hope, and help another believer persevere.

Encouragement is one of the simplest ways to reflect the love of Christ.

Reflection

- Who has encouraged your faith?
- Who needs encouragement from you today?

Pause and Pray

Ask God to make your words life-giving.

Action Step

Send a message, make a phone call, or speak words of encouragement to another believer.

DAY 5

Serving with Joy

Read

1 Peter 4:10–11

Key Truth

Everything we have belongs to God.

Our gifts, abilities, opportunities, and resources are entrusted to us for His glory and the good of others.

Faithful service reflects the heart of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve.

Reflection

- Where is God inviting you to serve?
- How can your service point others to Christ?

Pause and Pray

Offer your gifts and abilities to God afresh.

Action Step

Volunteer to serve in a ministry or practical need within your local church.

Walking It Out This Week

Monday

Pray for your church leaders.

Tuesday

Encourage one believer with a Scripture verse.

Wednesday

Look for an opportunity to serve quietly without seeking recognition.

Thursday

Pray for unity within your church.

Friday

Invite someone to worship or Bible study with you.

Saturday

Thank God for the people He has used to help you grow.

Sunday

Participate wholeheartedly in your church gathering through worship, fellowship, and service.

Living the Gospel

If you truly believe this week's lesson:

- Love fellow believers sincerely.
- Use your gifts to serve others.
- Forgive as Christ has forgiven you.
- Encourage those who are struggling.
- Support the mission of your local church.
- Pursue unity through humility and grace.

Remember:

Christ did not save us merely as individuals. He saved us into His family.

The Gospel Connection

Jesus loved the Church and gave Himself for her.

The Church exists because of His death and resurrection.

Every act of love, service, forgiveness, and encouragement within the body reflects the gospel.

As we love one another, the world catches a glimpse of Christ's love.

Avoid These Mistakes

Do not:

- Isolate yourself from Christian fellowship.
- Compare your gifts with others.
- Expect perfection from your church.
- Neglect opportunities to serve.
- Allow unresolved conflict to damage relationships.

Remember:

Healthy churches are built by believers who continually extend the grace they have received from Christ.

Christ-Centered Prayer of Surrender

Father,

Thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus Christ.

Help me love Your people with sincerity.

Give me a servant's heart.

Teach me to forgive quickly, encourage faithfully, and build unity wherever You place me.

Use my gifts to strengthen the body of Christ.

Protect me from pride, selfishness, and division.

May my church reflect the beauty of the gospel as we worship, serve, and grow together.

Let the love of Christ be clearly seen in my relationships.

In His precious name,

Amen.

Weekly Review

Before beginning the final week, reflect prayerfully.

- ✓ Am I faithfully connected to a local church?
- ✓ Am I using my gifts to serve others?
- ✓ Have I encouraged another believer this week?
- ✓ Am I growing in love, humility, and forgiveness?
- ✓ Am I helping strengthen the unity of Christ's body?

Celebrate the grace of God at work in your life and ask Him to continue forming you into a mature disciple.

Week Nine Summary

This week you learned that God designed the Christian life to be lived in community.

You discovered:

- The church is the family and body of Christ.
- Every believer has gifts to contribute.
- Fellowship strengthens spiritual growth.
- Forgiveness and encouragement preserve unity.

- Loving service reflects the heart of Jesus.

Above all, remember:

The Church is not simply a gathering we attend—it is the family in which God is forming us into the likeness of Christ.

Looking Ahead

Week 10

Continuing to Grow for a Lifetime

Discipleship does not end after ten weeks.

In the final chapter, you will learn how to continue growing in grace throughout every season of life, persevere through trials, disciple others, and finish your race with faith, hope, and joy.

WEEK 10

Continuing to Grow for a Lifetime

Living as a Lifelong Disciple of Jesus Christ

This Week at a Glance

Theme

Developing lifelong habits that help believers continue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Main Scripture

2 Peter 3:18

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 28:18–20
- Philippians 3:12–14
- Colossians 2:6–7
- Hebrews 12:1–3
- 2 Timothy 2:1–2

Big Idea

Discipleship is not a ten-week program—it is a lifelong journey of following Jesus, becoming like Him, and helping others do the same.

Memory Verse

2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

Weekly Prayer

Father, thank You for walking with me throughout this discipleship journey. Continue Your work in me by Your grace. Help me remain faithful through every season of life, grow in Christ's likeness, and faithfully make disciples who will also follow Jesus. May my life bring glory to You until the day I see Christ face to face. Amen.

Key Takeaway

A mature disciple never stops growing because there is always more of Christ to know, love, and reflect.

Introduction

You have completed nine weeks of studying God's Word.

You have learned about grace.

You have discovered Christ's finished work.

You have embraced your identity in Christ.

You have learned to walk free from condemnation.

You have explored daily fellowship with God.

You have begun depending on the Holy Spirit.

You have learned to renew your mind.

You have seen how grace produces joyful obedience.

You have understood the importance of Christian community.

But this is not the finish line.

It is the starting point.

The Christian life is not measured by how much we know.

It is measured by how faithfully we continue following Jesus.

The Apostle Paul, after many years of ministry, still declared:

"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on..."

That should also be the attitude of every believer.

Until we see Christ face to face, we continue growing.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this week you will be able to:

- Develop a lifelong plan for spiritual growth.
- Persevere through seasons of difficulty.
- Continue growing in grace and truth.
- Understand your calling to make disciples.
- Finish your Christian race with faithfulness.

Word Study

"Grow"

Spiritual growth is a continuous process.

Healthy living things continue growing.

Likewise, healthy believers continue growing in their knowledge of Christ, their love for God, their obedience, their humility, and their service.

Growth may sometimes seem slow.

Yet God faithfully completes the work He begins.

Christ in the Old Testament

Caleb: Finishing Strong

Read: Joshua 14:6–14

At eighty-five years of age, Caleb still trusted God's promises.

His faith remained strong because he continued following the Lord wholeheartedly.

His example reminds us that spiritual maturity is not measured by age but by faithful perseverance.

God delights in believers who continue trusting Him throughout every season of life.

Grace and Truth in Balance

Grace without truth says:

"I have learned enough. I can stop growing."

Truth without grace says:

"I must become perfect through my own effort."

The Gospel says:

"Because Christ has saved me by grace, I joyfully continue growing through His Word, His Spirit, and His Church until He completes His work in me."

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: Philippians 3:12–14

What Does This Passage Teach?

1. Why does Paul say he continues to "press on"?

2. What does it mean to forget what lies behind?
-

3. What goal is Paul pursuing?
-

Why Does This Matter?

Even mature believers continue growing.

Paul's example reminds us that spiritual maturity is marked by humility, perseverance, and continual dependence upon Christ.

How Do I Live It Today?

- What habits will help me continue growing?
- Who can help keep me accountable?
- Who is God calling me to disciple?

Common Questions

What if I stop growing?

Every believer experiences seasons of spiritual dryness.

Return to the simple practices you have learned:

- Spend time with God.
- Read His Word.
- Pray honestly.
- Remain connected to your local church.
- Trust the Holy Spirit.

- Remember God's grace.

Growth often resumes through ordinary faithfulness.

How do I begin discipling someone else?

Start by investing in one person.

Pray with them.

Study Scripture together.

Share your life.

Encourage obedience.

Model humility.

Remember that making disciples is not about having all the answers.

It is about faithfully helping others follow Jesus.

Finishing Well and Making Disciples

One of the greatest joys in the Christian life is not simply beginning well, but finishing well.

Many people begin with enthusiasm.

Faithful disciples continue following Jesus through seasons of joy, suffering, success, disappointment, abundance, and hardship.

The secret to finishing well is not extraordinary strength.

It is continual dependence upon the grace of God.

Every day we remember that Christ has finished the work of our salvation.

Every day we depend upon the Holy Spirit.

Every day we renew our minds with God's Word.

Every day we choose to obey Christ in love.

Every day we walk with God's people.

This rhythm of grace sustains us throughout our lives.

Digging Deeper into God's Word

Bible Study: Matthew 28:18–20

Read the passage carefully.

What Does This Passage Teach?

1. What authority belongs to Jesus?

-
2. What command did Jesus give His disciples?

-
3. What practices are included in making disciples?

4. What promise did Jesus give to His followers?

Why Does This Matter?

Jesus did not command believers merely to make converts.

He commanded us to make disciples.

A disciple is someone who follows Christ, learns from Him, obeys Him, and helps others do the same.

The mission of every Christian is to know Christ and to help others know Him.

How Do I Live It Today?

- Who has helped me grow spiritually?
- Who is God leading me to encourage or disciple?
- What practical step can I take this month to invest in another believer?

Seven Lifelong Habits of Growing Disciples

1. Continue Meeting with God Daily

Never outgrow prayer or God's Word.

The deepest believers remain lifelong learners at the feet of Jesus.

2. Stay Connected to a Healthy Local Church

Remain committed to worship, fellowship, biblical teaching, and serving alongside God's people.

3. Continue Depending on the Holy Spirit

Never replace dependence on God with confidence in yourself.

Seek His wisdom every day.

4. Keep Learning

Read Scripture consistently.

Study faithfully.

Remain humble enough to keep growing.

5. Serve Others Faithfully

Use your gifts for God's glory and for the good of His people.

Faithfulness in ordinary service pleases the Lord.

6. Invest in Other Believers

Encourage younger believers.

Share your testimony.

Study the Bible together.

Pray together.

Model Christlike living.

Disciples make disciples.

7. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Do not allow success, failure, praise, criticism, comfort, or suffering to become your primary focus.

Fix your eyes on Christ.

He is both the Author and the Finisher of your faith.

The Gospel Connection

Everything you have learned in this workbook flows from one glorious truth:

Jesus Christ lived the life we could not live.

He died the death we deserved.

He rose victoriously from the grave.

He reigns as Lord.

He poured out the Holy Spirit.

He is preparing us for His return.

Because of Him:

- We are saved by grace.
- We are accepted by the Father.
- We are growing in holiness.
- We belong to God's family.
- We have a mission in the world.
- We have the hope of eternal life.

The Christian life begins with Jesus.

It continues through Jesus.

It ends in the presence of Jesus.

Living the Gospel

If you truly believe what you have learned during these ten weeks:

- Rest in God's grace every day.
- Trust Christ's finished work.
- Live from your identity in Christ.
- Reject condemnation.
- Abide in Christ.
- Walk in the Holy Spirit.
- Renew your mind with Scripture.
- Obey from love.
- Serve faithfully in the local church.
- Make disciples wherever God sends you.

Remember:

The goal of discipleship is not simply to know more about Jesus but to become more like Him and help others do the same.

Avoid These Mistakes

As you continue your journey, be careful not to:

- Depend on past spiritual experiences instead of present fellowship with Christ.
- Stop growing because you think you already know enough.
- Isolate yourself from God's people.
- Measure spiritual maturity only by knowledge instead of Christlike character.
- Lose sight of the gospel that began your journey.

Return often to the cross.

Remember that the same grace that saved you is the grace that will sustain you.

Grace Gems

"The Christian life is not a sprint but a lifelong walk with Jesus."

"Grace carries us from our first step of faith to our final breath."

"The greatest legacy you can leave is a life that points others to Christ."

"Healthy disciples never stop learning because they never stop following Jesus."

"The finished work of Christ is the foundation of a lifelong journey of transformation."

Christ-Centered Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your amazing grace that has carried me through this journey.

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, whose finished work is the foundation of my salvation and my hope.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit, who continues to transform me day by day.

Today I renew my commitment to follow Jesus.

Help me to remain faithful in every season of life.

Give me a heart that delights in Your Word, depends upon Your Spirit, loves Your Church, and serves others with humility.

Protect me from pride, discouragement, and complacency.

Use my life to make disciples who will also follow Christ faithfully.

May everything I do bring honour to the name of Jesus until the day I stand before Him.

In His glorious name I pray,

Amen.

The Journey Continues

My Commitment Before God

By God's grace, I commit to:

- ☐ Spend regular time with God in prayer and Scripture.
- ☐ Remain faithfully connected to a Bible-believing local church.
- ☐ Walk daily in dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ Continue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- ☐ Use my gifts to serve others.
- ☐ Share the gospel faithfully.
- ☐ Intentionally disciple at least one other believer.
- ☐ Finish my race with faithfulness for the glory of God.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Final Blessing

"Now may the God of peace... make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

— **Hebrews 13:20–21**

Go forward in the confidence that God's grace is sufficient, Christ's work is complete, the Holy Spirit is with you, and the Father is faithful.

Continue growing.

Continue serving.

Continue trusting.

Continue making disciples.

Above all,

Continue knowing Jesus Christ, for He is both the beginning and the goal of the Christian life.

Leader's Guide

Understanding Grace and Growing Spiritually

A Guide for Pastors, Mentors, Small Group Leaders, and Disciple-Makers

Welcome

Thank you for investing in the spiritual growth of others.

Whether you are a pastor, church leader, mentor, Bible study facilitator, Sunday school teacher, or simply a believer discipling another Christian, your role is one of the greatest privileges in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus did not simply command His followers to make converts.

He commanded us to **make disciples** (Matthew 28:18–20).

This workbook has been written to help you participate in that mission by leading believers into a deeper understanding of God's grace and a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Remember that your goal is not merely to complete lessons.

Your goal is to help people become mature followers of Christ.

The Leader's Role

A leader is not expected to know everything.

Rather, a leader is called to:

- Love people sincerely.
- Teach God's Word faithfully.
- Model Christian character.
- Encourage spiritual growth.
- Pray consistently.
- Depend upon the Holy Spirit.

People often remember a leader's example long after they forget a particular lesson.

Lead with humility, patience, and grace.

The Goal of This Workbook

By the end of ten weeks, participants should:

- Understand God's grace more clearly.
- Trust Christ's finished work more deeply.
- Grow in their identity in Christ.
- Walk in greater freedom from guilt and condemnation.
- Develop consistent spiritual habits.
- Learn to depend on the Holy Spirit.
- Think biblically.
- Obey God joyfully.
- Become active members of the local church.
- Begin discipling others.

The objective is transformation, not merely information.

Preparing for Each Session

Before every meeting:

Pray

Ask God to prepare your own heart before teaching others.

Pray for every participant by name if possible.

Study

Read the entire week's lesson carefully.

Look up every Scripture reference.

Review the discussion questions.

Prepare

Identify the main truth of the lesson.

Think of practical examples that will help people understand the biblical teaching.

Depend on the Holy Spirit

Do not rely only on your preparation.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your teaching, your conversations, and your prayers.

A Suggested 90-Minute Meeting Plan

Welcome and Fellowship (10 minutes)

Welcome participants warmly.

Allow time for informal conversation.

Help newcomers feel included.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Invite God's presence and ask for understanding.

Worship (Optional – 10 minutes)

Sing one or two Christ-centered songs.

Keep worship focused on Jesus and the gospel.

Review of the Previous Week (10 minutes)

Ask:

- What did God teach you?
- What challenged you?
- How did you apply last week's lesson?

Celebrate progress.

Encourage honesty.

Bible Teaching (25 minutes)

Explain the week's main lesson.

Read Scripture together.

Focus on understanding the biblical text before moving to application.

Allow participants to ask questions.

Small Group Discussion (20 minutes)

Use the discussion questions provided in the workbook.

Encourage everyone to participate.

Avoid allowing one person to dominate the conversation.

Listen carefully.

Respond graciously.

Prayer and Ministry (10 minutes)

Pray for one another.

Invite participants to share prayer needs.

Pray specifically and biblically.

Weekly Challenge (5 minutes)

Encourage participants to complete the daily devotions and practical exercises before the next meeting.

Close by reminding everyone of the memory verse.

Leading Healthy Discussions

Good leaders ask thoughtful questions.

Examples include:

- What stood out to you?
- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does it teach about Jesus?
- How should this truth change the way we live?
- What practical step will you take this week?

Avoid asking only questions with simple "yes" or "no" answers.

Responding to Difficult Questions

You will not always know every answer.

That is acceptable.

When uncertain:

- Admit honestly that you do not know.
- Promise to study the issue.

- Return with a biblical answer.
- Keep the discussion centred on Scripture.

Humility strengthens leadership.

Caring for Participants

Watch for people who are:

- Discouraged.
- Isolated.
- Struggling spiritually.
- Carrying grief.
- New to the faith.

Follow up during the week with a phone call, message, or visit.

Small acts of care often have a lasting impact.

Encouraging Spiritual Growth

Celebrate progress rather than perfection.

Notice:

- Greater consistency in prayer.
- Increased love for Scripture.
- Acts of forgiveness.
- Faithful obedience.
- Growing participation in church life.
- Desire to serve others.

These are signs of God's grace at work.

Avoid These Leadership Mistakes

Do not:

- Dominate every conversation.
- Embarrass participants.
- Rush through difficult questions.
- Turn discussions into debates.
- Compare people with one another.
- Measure growth only by knowledge.

Remember that God changes people at different speeds.

Lead patiently.

The Heart of a Disciple-Maker

Never forget:

You are not simply teaching lessons.

You are helping people know Jesus.

You are helping them trust His finished work.

You are helping them walk with the Holy Spirit.

You are helping them become disciples who will make disciples.

That is one of the greatest callings God gives His people.

A Prayer for Leaders

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the privilege of helping others follow Jesus.

Give me wisdom as I teach, humility as I lead, compassion as I serve, and faithfulness in every responsibility You have entrusted to me.

Guard my heart from pride and discouragement.

Help me lead by example, relying not on my own strength but on the power of the Holy Spirit.

May everyone I serve grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Use this discipleship journey to strengthen Your Church and bring glory to Your name.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

10-Week Reading Schedule

A Guided Journey Through Grace and Spiritual Growth

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

— Psalm 119:105

How to Use This Schedule

This workbook is designed to be completed over **ten weeks**.

Each week contains six days of study and one day for worship, review, and reflection. If you are studying with a church or small group, use the seventh day to meet together and discuss what you have learned.

Before beginning each day's reading:

- Pray for understanding.
- Read the assigned Scripture carefully.
- Complete the workbook activities.
- Reflect on the application questions.
- Pray again, asking God to help you live what you have learned.

Remember:

The goal is not to finish quickly but to grow faithfully.

Week 1

Understanding God's Grace

Day 1

Read:

- Ephesians 2:1–10
- Workbook
Introduction and
Week 1 Overview

Focus:

What is grace?

Day 2

Read:

- Titus 2:11–14

Focus:

Grace that saves and teaches.

Day 3

Read:

- Romans 3:21–31

Focus:

Justification by grace through faith.

Day 4

Read:

- Luke 15:11–32

Focus:

The Father's heart of grace.

Day 5

Read:

- Daily Devotional
(Week 1)

Complete:

Reflection questions and memory verse.

Day 6

Review:

Week 1 notes, prayer, and application.

Day 7

Corporate Worship and
Weekly Review

Discuss:

How has your understanding of grace changed?

Week 2

Resting in Christ's Finished Work

Day 1

Read:

- John 19:16–30

Day 2

Read:

- Hebrews 10:1–18

Day 3

Read:

- Colossians 2:13–15

Day 4

Read:

- Romans 5:1–11

Day 5

Complete the devotional and reflection exercises.

Day 6

Review your notes and memorize John 19:30.

Day 7

Meet with your group and share one lesson you learned about Christ's finished work.

Week 3

Knowing Your Identity in Christ

Day 1

Read:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

Day 2

Read:

- Romans 8:14–17

Day 3

Read:

- Ephesians 1:3–14

Day 4

Read:

- Galatians 2:20

Day 5

Complete the devotional readings.

Day 6

Review and pray through your identity statements.

Day 7

Share one identity truth that has encouraged you.

Week 4

Living Free from Condemnation

Day 1

Romans 8:1–17

Day 2

1 John 1:5–10

Day 3

Psalms 32

Day 4

Hebrews 4:14–16

Day 5

Daily devotional and reflection.

Day 6

Review and Scripture memory.

Day 7

Prayer, worship, and group discussion.

Week 5

Abiding in Christ

Day 1

John 15:1–11

Day 2

Psalms 63

Day 3

Luke 10:38–42

Day 4

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Day 5

Daily devotional.

Day 6

Practice a personal prayer retreat (20–30 minutes).

Day 7

Share testimonies of growing closer to Christ.

Week 6

Walking in the Holy Spirit

Day 1

Galatians 5:16–26

Day 2

Romans 8:1–17

Day 3

John 14:16–27

Day 4

Acts 1:8

Day 5

Daily devotional.

Day 6

Review and memorize Galatians 5:16.

Day 7

Pray together for the filling and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Week 7

Renewing Your Mind

Day 1

Romans 12:1–2

Day 2

Philippians 4:8–9

Day 3

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Day 4

Colossians 3:1–17

Day 5

Daily devotional.

Day 6

Write down one lie to reject and one biblical truth to embrace.

Day 7

Discuss how God's Word is renewing your thinking.

Week 8

Grace-Filled Obedience

Day 1

Titus 2:11–14

Day 2

John 14:15–21

Day 3

James 1:22–25

Day 4

Romans 6:1–14

Day 5

Daily devotional.

Day 6

Choose one practical act of obedience this week.

Day 7

Share testimonies of obeying God by faith.

Week 9 Growing Together in Christian Community

Day 1

Acts 2:42–47

Day 2

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

Day 3

Romans 12:3–13

Day 4

Hebrews 10:24–25

Day 5

Daily devotional.

Day 6

Serve another believer in a practical way.

Day 7

Celebrate God's work through Christian fellowship.

Week 10 Continuing to Grow for a Lifetime

Day 1

2 Peter 3:18

Day 2

Matthew 28:18–20

Day 3

Philippians 3:12–14

Day 4

2 Timothy 2:1–2

Day 5

Complete the final devotional and workbook review.

Day 6

Pray through your personal discipleship plan and commitment.

Day 7

Participate in the Commissioning Service and celebrate what God has done during the ten-week journey.

Weekly Accountability Questions

At the end of each week, prayerfully answer these questions:

1. What did God teach me this week?
2. What Scripture impacted me most?
3. What change is God making in my life?
4. What act of obedience have I taken?
5. How have I encouraged another believer?
6. What will I focus on next week?

Tracking Your Progress

Week	Completed	Memory Verse Learned	Discussed with Group
Week 1	☐	☐	☐
Week 2	☐	☐	☐
Week 3	☐	☐	☐
Week 4	☐	☐	☐
Week 5	☐	☐	☐
Week 6	☐	☐	☐
Week 7	☐	☐	☐
Week 8	☐	☐	☐
Week 9	☐	☐	☐
Week 10	☐	☐	☐

Final Encouragement

Do not view this schedule as a checklist to complete.

See it as an invitation to walk with Jesus one day at a time.

Some days you will learn something new.

Some days God will comfort you.

Some days He will correct you.

Some days He will challenge you.

Every day, He will be faithful.

As you faithfully open God's Word, depend on the Holy Spirit, and apply what you learn, you will discover that spiritual growth is not about taking giant leaps—it is about taking faithful daily steps with Christ.

May these ten weeks become the beginning of a lifetime of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Appendix A

Identity in Christ

Knowing Who You Are Because of Jesus

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Why Your Identity Matters

One of Satan's greatest strategies is to confuse believers about who they are.

He whispers:

- "You are your past."
- "You are your failures."
- "You are not good enough."
- "God could never use you."

God's Word tells a different story.

Your identity is not determined by your past, your achievements, your feelings, or the opinions of others.

Your identity is found in Jesus Christ.

When you understand who you are in Christ, you gain confidence to live by faith, resist condemnation, and grow in spiritual maturity.

Read these truths often.

Meditate on the Scriptures behind them.

Thank God for each one.

Allow His truth to reshape the way you think and live.

Accepted in Christ

Because I am in Christ:

1. I am deeply loved by God (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).
2. I have been accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6).
3. I am a child of God (John 1:12).
4. I have been adopted into God's family (Romans 8:15).
5. God is my Father, and I belong to Him (Galatians 4:6–7).
6. I have direct access to God through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:18).
7. I am welcomed into God's presence with confidence (Hebrews 4:16).

Forgiven in Christ

Because of Jesus:

8. My sins are forgiven (Colossians 1:13–14).
9. I am no longer condemned (Romans 8:1).
10. My guilt has been removed (Psalm 103:10–12).
11. God remembers my sins no more (Hebrews 10:17).
12. Christ has paid my debt in full (John 19:30).
13. I have peace with God (Romans 5:1).

A New Creation

Because I belong to Christ:

14. I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
15. My old life no longer defines me (Galatians 2:20).
16. Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20).
17. I have been made alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:4–5).
18. I have a new heart and a new direction (Ezekiel 36:26–27).

Righteous in Christ

Through faith in Jesus:

19. I have received the righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).
20. I am justified before God (Romans 5:1).
21. I stand before God because of Christ's righteousness, not my own (Philippians 3:9).
22. I have been made holy in Christ (Hebrews 10:10).
23. I am being transformed into Christ's likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Secure in Christ

Because God is faithful:

24. Nothing can separate me from God's love (Romans 8:38–39).
25. God will never leave me nor forsake me (Hebrews 13:5).
26. My life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).
27. God is completing the work He began in me (Philippians 1:6).
28. I am kept by God's power through faith (1 Peter 1:5).

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

As a believer:

- 29. The Holy Spirit lives in me (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- 30. The Holy Spirit teaches and guides me (John 16:13).
- 31. God gives me strength for every good work (Philippians 4:13).
- 32. I can walk by the Spirit each day (Galatians 5:16).
- 33. God produces His fruit in my life (Galatians 5:22–23).

Called with Purpose

God has created me to:

- 34. Glorify Him in everything I do (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- 35. Walk in the good works He prepared for me (Ephesians 2:10).
- 36. Be a witness for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8).
- 37. Love and serve others (Galatians 5:13).
- 38. Make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18–20).

Victorious in Christ

Because Jesus has overcome:

- 39. I am more than a conqueror through Christ (Romans 8:37).
- 40. God always leads me in Christ's victory (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- 41. I can resist the devil as I submit to God (James 4:7).
- 42. God's grace is sufficient for me (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- 43. The Lord is my strength and my helper (Psalm 28:7).

My Eternal Hope

Because of God's promises:

- 44. My citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- 45. Jesus is preparing a place for me (John 14:2–3).
- 46. Christ will return as He promised (Titus 2:13).
- 47. I have the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7).
- 48. I will be with the Lord forever (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18).

Living for God's Glory

Therefore:

- 49. My life belongs to Jesus Christ (Romans 14:8).
- 50. My greatest purpose is to know Christ, become like Him, and make Him known (Philippians 3:10; Matthew 28:19–20).

Daily Identity Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that my identity is found in Jesus Christ.

I am no longer defined by my past, my failures, or my fears.

Thank You that I am forgiven, accepted, loved, adopted, justified, and made new through Your Son.

Help me live each day with confidence in Your grace and in the finished work of Christ.

Renew my mind with Your truth.

Strengthen me by the Holy Spirit.

May my thoughts, words, and actions reflect who You have declared me to be in Christ.

Teach me to walk in humility, faith, obedience, and love, bringing glory to Your name in every area of my life.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

How to Use These Identity Statements

- Read one section each morning.
- Look up each Scripture reference in your Bible.
- Thank God for each truth.
- Memorize one identity statement each week.
- Share these truths with another believer.
- Return to these pages whenever you struggle with guilt, fear, shame, or discouragement.

Remember this truth:

Your identity is not something you achieve.

Your identity is God's gracious gift to everyone who is in Christ.

Appendix B

Grace Declarations

Speaking God's Truth Over Your Life

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

— Hebrews 10:23

Why Grace Declarations Matter

Our words often reveal what we truly believe.

The Bible encourages believers to fill their hearts and minds with God's truth.

Grace declarations are simply biblical truths spoken in faith and gratitude.

They do not create God's promises.

They remind us of God's promises.

As you read these declarations:

- Read them slowly.
- Read them prayerfully.
- Read them with faith.
- Read the accompanying Scriptures.
- Thank God that His Word is true.

Grace for My Salvation

1. I am saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9).
2. My salvation rests on Christ's finished work, not my performance (John 19:30).
3. Jesus has completely paid the penalty for my sin (Colossians 2:13–14).
4. I am accepted because I am in Christ (Ephesians 1:6).
5. Nothing can separate me from God's love (Romans 8:38–39).

Grace for My Daily Walk

6. God's grace is sufficient for me today (2 Corinthians 12:9).
7. The Holy Spirit empowers me to obey God (Galatians 5:16).
8. God is completing the work He began in me (Philippians 1:6).
9. I walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
10. Jesus is with me wherever I go (Matthew 28:20).

Grace Over Fear and Anxiety

11. I will not fear because God is with me (Isaiah 41:10).
12. I cast all my cares upon the Lord because He cares for me (1 Peter 5:7).
13. God's peace guards my heart and mind in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6–7).
14. The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need (Psalm 23:1).
15. God is my refuge and strength in every situation (Psalm 46:1).

Grace for Victory Over Sin

16. Sin will not rule over me because I am under grace (Romans 6:14).
17. I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ (Romans 6:11).
18. The Holy Spirit produces His fruit in my life (Galatians 5:22–23).
19. When I confess my sins, God faithfully forgives and cleanses me (1 John 1:9).
20. I choose to walk in the light as Christ is in the light (1 John 1:7).

Grace for My Identity

21. I am God's beloved child (1 John 3:1).
22. I am a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
23. I have been chosen and called by God (1 Peter 2:9).
24. Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20).
25. My identity is secure in Jesus Christ.

Grace for My Home

26. I choose to love my family as Christ loves me (Ephesians 5:1–2).
27. I will forgive as God has forgiven me (Ephesians 4:32).
28. My home will honour the Lord (Joshua 24:15).
29. I will speak words that build others up (Ephesians 4:29).
30. The peace of Christ will rule in my heart and home (Colossians 3:15).

Grace for Ministry and Service

31. God has prepared good works for me to do (Ephesians 2:10).
32. I serve in the strength God provides (1 Peter 4:11).
33. My labour in the Lord is never in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).
34. God will use my life for His glory (Matthew 5:16).
35. I will faithfully use the gifts God has entrusted to me (Romans 12:6–8).

Grace for the Future

36. God directs my steps as I trust Him (Proverbs 3:5–6).
37. My future is secure in God's hands (Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28).
38. Jesus is preparing a place for me (John 14:2–3).
39. I look forward with hope because Christ is coming again (Titus 2:13).
40. I will continue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Morning Grace Declaration

Heavenly Father,

Today I choose to rest in Your grace.

I thank You that I am loved, forgiven, accepted, and secure because of Jesus Christ.

I will not rely on my own strength but on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Guide my thoughts, my words, my decisions, and my relationships.

Help me walk in faith, serve with humility, love sincerely, and obey joyfully.

May my life bring honour to Jesus Christ today.

Amen.

Evening Grace Declaration

Father,

Thank You for Your faithfulness throughout this day.

Thank You for every evidence of Your grace.

Where I have failed, I receive Your forgiveness through Christ.

Where I have obeyed, I give You all the glory.

As I rest tonight, I trust Your unfailing love.

Continue Your work in me and prepare me to walk with You again tomorrow.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

A Final Declaration

Today I choose to believe God's Word above my feelings.

I choose to trust Christ's finished work above my own performance.

I choose to walk by the Holy Spirit rather than by my own strength.

I choose to live as God's beloved child.

I choose to follow Jesus faithfully.

By God's grace, I will continue growing, serving, loving, and making disciples until I see my Savior face to face.

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy... be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

— Jude 24–25

Appendix C

Key Memory Verses

Hiding God's Word in Your Heart

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

— *Psalms 119:11*

Why Memorize Scripture?

Jesus responded to temptation by quoting God's Word (Matthew 4:1–11).

The early believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42).

The psalmist treasured God's Word in his heart.

Scripture memorization is one of the most practical ways to grow spiritually.

When God's Word fills our hearts:

- Our faith grows stronger.
- Our minds are renewed.
- We recognize false teaching more easily.
- We find wisdom for daily decisions.
- We are prepared to encourage others.
- We become better equipped to resist temptation.

The goal is not simply to remember verses.

The goal is to know God more deeply through His Word.

Weekly Memory Plan

Week 1 — Grace Is God's Gift

Primary Verse

Ephesians 2:8–9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- Romans 3:23–24 ☐
- Titus 3:5 ☐

Week 2 — Christ's Finished Work

Primary Verse

John 19:30

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- Hebrews 10:10 ☐
- Colossians 2:13–14 ☐

Week 3 — Your Identity in Christ

Primary Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- Galatians 2:20 ☐
- Romans 8:15–17 ☐

Week 4 — Living Free from Condemnation

Primary Verse

Romans 8:1

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- 1 John 1:9 ☐
- Hebrews 4:16 ☐

Week 5 — Abiding in Christ

Primary Verse

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- Hebrews 4:9–10 ☐
- Psalm 63:1 ☐

Week 6 — Walking in the Holy Spirit

Primary Verse

Galatians 5:16

"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- Romans 8:14 ☐
- Ephesians 5:18 ☐

Week 7 — Renewing Your Mind

Primary Verse

Romans 12:2

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- Philippians 4:8 ☐
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 ☐

Week 8 — Grace-Filled Obedience

Primary Verse

Titus 2:11–12

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- John 14:15 ☐
- James 1:22 ☐

Week 9 — Christian Community

Primary Verse

Hebrews 10:24–25

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works..."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- Acts 2:42 ☐
- 1 Peter 4:10 ☐

Week 10 — Lifelong Discipleship

Primary Verse

2 Peter 3:18

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

☐ Memorized

Additional Verses

- Matthew 28:19–20 ☐
- Philippians 3:13–14 ☐

Thirty Foundational Memory Verses

As you continue your walk with Christ, seek to memorize these key passages:

Salvation

- ☐ Ephesians 2:8–9
- ☐ Titus 3:5
- ☐ Romans 5:1

Assurance

- ☐ Romans 8:1
- ☐ John 10:27–29
- ☐ Philippians 1:6

Identity in Christ

- ☐ 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ☐ Galatians 2:20
- ☐ Ephesians 1:3–7

Prayer

- ☐ Philippians 4:6–7
- ☐ Matthew 6:9–13
- ☐ Hebrews 4:16

The Holy Spirit

- ☐ Galatians 5:22–23
- ☐ Romans 8:14
- ☐ John 14:26

God's Word

- ☐ Psalm 119:11
- ☐ Joshua 1:8
- ☐ 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Christian Living

☐ Colossians 3:12–17

☐ Romans 12:1–2

☐ Micah 6:8

Faith

☐ Proverbs 3:5–6

☐ Hebrews 11:1

☐ 2 Corinthians 5:7

Mission

☐ Matthew 28:18–20

☐ Acts 1:8

☐ 2 Timothy 2:2

Hope

☐ Titus 2:13

☐ Revelation 21:3–4

☐ Hebrews 13:20–21

Tips for Memorizing Scripture

- Read the verse aloud several times.
- Write it by hand.
- Repeat it during the day.
- Pray through the verse.
- Explain its meaning to someone else.
- Review previously memorized verses each week.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you apply the verse, not merely remember it.

Consistency is more valuable than speed.

Even one verse each week will shape your heart over time.

My Personal Memory Verses

Use this page to record additional verses that God uses to encourage and strengthen you.

Scripture	Date Memorized	Why It Is Meaningful

A Prayer Before Memorizing Scripture

Father,

Thank You for giving me Your living and trustworthy Word.

Write Your truth upon my heart.

Help me not only to remember these verses but also to believe them, obey them, and teach them to others.

May Your Word shape my thoughts, strengthen my faith, guide my decisions, and transform my life into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, help me treasure Your Word all the days of my life.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Remember

A Bible that is only on your shelf can inform you.

A Bible that is hidden in your heart can transform you.

Commissioning Service

The Journey Continues

A Service of Thanksgiving, Commitment, and Commissioning

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

— *Matthew 28:19–20*

Purpose

This service is designed for churches, discipleship groups, Bible study classes, and ministry training programs that have completed **Understanding Grace and Growing Spiritually**.

It is an opportunity to:

- Thank God for His work during the ten-week journey.
- Celebrate spiritual growth.
- Publicly commit to continuing as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Commission participants to serve Christ faithfully and make disciples.

Suggested Order of Service

1. Welcome

Leader:

Today we gather with grateful hearts to thank God for His grace and to celebrate what He has done in our lives through His Word.

Although we have completed this discipleship workbook, our journey with Christ continues.

Today we dedicate ourselves afresh to following Jesus and making Him known.

2. Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for Your amazing grace.

Thank You for Your Word that has instructed us.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit who has transformed us.

Thank You for the finished work of Jesus Christ that is the foundation of our salvation.

As we gather today, receive our worship and strengthen our commitment to follow You faithfully.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

3. Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Joshua 1:7–9

Gospel

John 15:1–8

New Testament

Matthew 28:18–20

Benediction Passage

Hebrews 13:20–21

Responsive Reading

Leader: Who saves us?

People: God saves us by His grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Upon what do we stand?

People: Upon the finished work of Christ alone.

Leader: Who lives within every believer?

People: The Holy Spirit.

Leader: Who are we?

People: We are children of God, new creations in Christ, called to live for His glory.

Leader: What is our mission?

People: To know Christ, grow in His grace, and make disciples of all nations.

Leader: Who will strengthen us?

People: The Lord Himself will sustain us by His grace.

4. Testimonies

Invite several participants to briefly share:

- One lesson God taught them.
- One way their life has changed.
- One area in which they intend to continue growing.

Encourage testimonies that glorify Christ rather than focusing on personal achievement.

5. Charge to the Participants

Leader: Beloved brothers and sisters,

You have spent ten weeks studying God's Word.

You have learned about His grace.

You have discovered your identity in Christ.

You have been reminded of Christ's finished work.

You have learned to walk in the Holy Spirit, renew your mind, obey from love, and serve within the body of Christ.

Now the Lord calls you to continue living these truths.

Remain faithful in prayer.

Remain faithful in His Word.

Remain faithful in His Church.

Remain faithful in sharing the gospel.

Remain faithful in making disciples.

Do not merely complete this workbook.

Live it.

6. Commitment Covenant

Invite everyone to stand.

Leader: If this reflects your desire before God, please respond:

"By God's grace, I will."

Leader:

Will you continue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?

People: By God's grace, I will.

Leader:

Will you remain devoted to God's Word and prayer?

People: By God's grace, I will.

Leader:

Will you faithfully participate in the life and mission of Christ's Church?

People: By God's grace, I will.

Leader:

Will you seek to live in the power of the Holy Spirit?

People: By God's grace, I will.

Leader:

Will you share the gospel and help make disciples wherever God sends you?

People: By God's grace, I will.

Leader:

Will you seek to glorify Jesus Christ in every area of your life?

People: By God's grace, I will.

7. Prayer of Commissioning

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for every person who has completed this discipleship journey.

Continue the good work You have begun in them.

Strengthen them through Your Holy Spirit.

Root them deeply in Your Word.

Help them remain faithful during seasons of joy and seasons of trial.

May they love Your Church, serve with humility, proclaim the gospel with courage, and make faithful disciples.

Protect them from discouragement, pride, and compromise.

May the character of Jesus become increasingly visible in their lives.

Use them to bring hope to the discouraged, truth to the searching, and the gospel to the lost.

To You alone be all glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

8. Presentation of Certificates

Invite each participant forward by name.

Present the Certificate of Completion.

Offer a brief word of encouragement and prayer for each participant.

9. Final Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

May you continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Go in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Serve with joy.

Love without reservation.

Stand firmly in God's grace.

And faithfully make disciples until Jesus Christ returns.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Closing Hymn Suggestions

Choose one or more Christ-centered hymns or songs appropriate to your church tradition, such as:

- **Amazing Grace**
- **Blessed Assurance**
- **In Christ Alone**
- **The Solid Rock**
- **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Final Exhortation

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
— **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Remember:

This workbook has reached its final page.

But your discipleship journey has only just begun.

Walk in grace.

Stand in truth.

Abide in Christ.

Depend upon the Holy Spirit.

Love God's people.

Make disciples.

And above all,

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of your faith.



VICTORY WORD
— PUBLICATION —



IBRAHIM YOHANNA USMAN
*Forming Unshakeable Believers
for Every Season*

CERTIFICATE
OF COMPLETION

UNDERSTANDING GRACE AND GROWING SPIRITUALLY
A 10-WEEK DISCIPLINE WORKBOOK

This Certificate is Presented to _____

Understanding Grace and Growing Spiritually: A 10-Week Discipline Workbook.
In recognition of the faithful completion of the
Thorough prayerful study of God's Word, personal reflection, Scripture memorization,
Christian fellowship, and practical obedience, the recipient has completed this discipline journey
and demonstrated a commitment to continued growth in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May this accomplishment not mark the end of a course but the beginning of a lifetime
of faithful discipleship, joyful service, and fruitful ministry.

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now and forever, Amen."*
— 2 PETER 3:18

Awarded This _____ Day of _____, 20____

Presented at _____
(Church / Ministry / Bible School / Discipleship Group)

Name: _____	FACILITATOR / PASTOR
Name: _____	CHURCH / MINISTRY LEADER
Name: _____	PARTICIPANT

**GROWING
IN GRACE.
WALKING
IN TRUTH.
MAKING
DISCIPLES.**

I COMMIT BY GOD'S GRACE TO:

- ✓ Continue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Remain faithful in prayer and the study of God's Word.
- ✓ Walk daily in dependence upon the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Serve faithfully in the fellowship of a Bible-believing local church.
- ✓ Share the gospel with courage and compassion.
- ✓ Make disciples who will also follow Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Live each day for the glory of God.

**"NOW MAY THE GOD OF PEACE, MAKE YOU COMPLETE IN EVERY GOOD WORK TO DO HIS WILL,
WORKING IN YOU WHAT IS WELL PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,
TO WHOM BE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN." — HEBREWS 13:20-21**

Certificate Declaration

Having completed this discipleship journey, I commit myself, by the grace of God, to:

- ✓ Continue growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Remain faithful in prayer and the study of God's Word.
- ✓ Walk daily in dependence upon the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Serve faithfully in the fellowship of a Bible-believing local church.
- ✓ Share the gospel with courage and compassion.
- ✓ Make disciples who will also follow Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Live each day for the glory of God.

Words of Commission

Go forward with confidence in the grace of God.

Stand firmly upon the finished work of Christ.

Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Love God's people.

Serve with humility.

Proclaim the gospel faithfully.

Make disciples intentionally.

Persevere until Christ returns.

May your life continually reflect the character of Jesus Christ, and may God use you to strengthen His Church and extend His Kingdom wherever He leads you.

Final Blessing

"Now may the God of peace... make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

— Hebrews 13:20–21

Below is a comprehensive list of **Scripture references** and **subjects** for the indexes. When you prepare the final print edition, these should be arranged **alphabetically** and linked to page numbers after the book has been typeset.

About the Author

Rev. Ibrahim Yohanna Usman

Rev. Ibrahim Yohanna Usman is a pastor, Bible teacher, author, and Christian discipleship trainer with a passion for helping believers become firmly established in the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ.

He serves in the **Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN)**, where he is committed to the faithful exposition of Scripture, disciple-making, leadership development, and equipping believers for effective Christian living and ministry.

Through his preaching, teaching, writing, and mentoring ministry, Rev. Usman seeks to help Christians move beyond mere religious activity into a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ. His messages emphasize the believer's identity in Christ, the transforming power of God's grace, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the call to lifelong spiritual growth.

He is the founder of **Victory Word Publication**, a ministry dedicated to producing biblically sound books, discipleship resources, devotionals, and teaching materials that strengthen believers and equip church leaders. His ministry vision is captured in the motto:

"Forming Unshakable Believers for Every Season."

Rev. Usman is also the founder of the **Victory Word** discipleship ministry, through which he develops biblical resources for personal spiritual formation, church discipleship, leadership training, and Christian education.

He is the author of several Christian teaching resources and is passionate about making biblical truth clear, practical, Christ-centered, and applicable to everyday life.

His prayer is that every believer would grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, live confidently in the finished work of the cross, and faithfully make disciples who will also follow Christ.

Ministry Focus

- Expository Bible Teaching
- Christian Discipleship
- Grace-Centered Theology
- Spiritual Formation
- Leadership Development
- Church Equipping
- Biblical Counseling
- Christian Publishing

Ministry Motto

"Forming Unshakable Believers for Every Season."

Connect with the Author

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YouTube: **Ibrahim Yohanna Usman**

Prayer

"May the Lord use these resources to strengthen your faith, deepen your love for Jesus Christ, and equip you to make faithful disciples until He returns. To God alone be all the glory."

About Victory Word Publication

Equipping Believers. Strengthening the Church. Advancing the Kingdom.

Victory Word Publication is a Christian publishing ministry founded by **Rev. Ibrahim Yohanna Usman** with a passion for producing biblically faithful, Christ-centered, and practical resources that equip believers for spiritual growth and effective Christian living.

Our mission is to help believers know Jesus Christ more deeply, understand the transforming power of God's grace, and become mature disciples who faithfully live out the gospel in every area of life.

We believe that sound biblical teaching has the power to transform lives, strengthen families, build healthy churches, and raise leaders who serve with humility, wisdom, and faithfulness.

Every resource we publish is prayerfully developed to help readers move beyond simply acquiring biblical knowledge to experiencing genuine spiritual transformation through the truth of God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Our Vision

To raise generations of **unshakable believers** who are firmly rooted in Scripture, established in God's grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and equipped to make disciples of Jesus Christ in every nation.

Our Mission

To publish Christ-centered, biblically sound, and practical resources that:

- Lead people to a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Establish believers in the grace of God.
- Promote lifelong spiritual formation.
- Equip pastors, church leaders, and disciple-makers.
- Strengthen families through biblical teaching.
- Encourage faithful Christian living.
- Advance the Great Commission by making disciples.

What We Publish

Victory Word Publication produces resources including:

- Discipleship Workbooks
- Bible Study Guides
- Christian Living Books
- Leadership Training Manuals
- Devotional Books
- Sermon and Teaching Resources
- Small Group Study Materials
- Youth and Family Resources
- Christian Educational Materials
- Digital Ministry Resources

Our Core Values

Everything we publish is guided by these biblical convictions:

- **Christ-Centered** – Jesus Christ is the focus of every resource.
- **Biblically Faithful** – Scripture is our final authority.

- **Grace-Filled** – We proclaim salvation and spiritual growth through God's grace.
- **Spirit-Empowered** – We depend upon the Holy Spirit for transformation.
- **Disciple-Making** – We exist to help believers grow and make disciples.
- **Church-Strengthening** – We serve the local church through sound biblical resources.
- **Excellence** – We seek to honour God through quality in writing, design, and publishing.

Our Motto

"Forming Unshakable Believers for Every Season."

Our Prayer

Our prayer is that every book, workbook, devotional, and teaching resource published by Victory Word Publication will:

- Point people to Jesus Christ.
- Deepen their confidence in God's grace.
- Strengthen their understanding of Scripture.
- Equip them for faithful service.
- Encourage them to persevere in faith.
- Inspire them to make disciples who will also follow Christ.

May every publication bring glory to God and contribute to the growth of His Church around the world.

"The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

— 2 Timothy 2:2

Victory Word Publication

Founder & Publisher:
Rev. Ibrahim Yohanna Usman

Motto:
Forming Unshakable Believers for Every Season

Website:
<https://ibrahimyohannausman.cw.center>

YouTube:
Ibrahim Yohanna Usman

"Publishing biblical truth that transforms lives, strengthens the Church, and advances the Kingdom of God."

Other Resources by the Author

Books, Bible Studies, and Discipleship Resources

Rev. Ibrahim Yohanna Usman is committed to producing Christ-centered, biblically faithful resources that help believers know Jesus Christ more deeply, grow in God's grace, and faithfully make disciples.

The following resources are available or in development through **Victory Word Publication**.

Books

Knowing Christ

His Person, His Work, and the Power of His Resurrection

A comprehensive study of the person of Jesus Christ, His finished work on the cross, and the transforming power of His resurrection. This book helps believers develop a deeper relationship with Christ and live confidently in His victory.

Ideal for: Personal study, Bible colleges, discipleship groups, and church teaching.

Understanding Grace and Growing Spiritually

A 10-Week Discipleship Workbook

A practical workbook that guides believers step by step into understanding God's grace, resting in Christ's finished work,

walking in the Holy Spirit, and growing as lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.

Ideal for: Churches, discipleship classes, mentoring relationships, and personal spiritual growth.

Formation Series

ANCHORED

Formed in Identity, Steady Across Seasons

Discover how a secure identity in Christ produces stability, confidence, and faithfulness through every season of life.

WEIGHT

The Formation of Capacity

Learn how God develops spiritual strength, maturity, responsibility, and endurance to prepare His people for greater influence and faithful service.

REMAINING

The Formation of Faith That Endures

A biblical guide to perseverance, steadfastness, and continuing faithfully with Christ through every season of life.

Devotional Resources

52 Days of Victory by the Amazing Grace of God

A fifty-two-day devotional journey that encourages believers to experience God's grace, overcome life's challenges through faith, and walk in daily victory in Jesus Christ.

Victory Word Daily Devotional

Daily biblical encouragement designed to strengthen faith, deepen understanding of Scripture, and help believers begin each day with God's truth.

Bible Study Guides

- Resting in the Finished Work of Christ
- Walking by Faith, Not by Sight
- Praying Through Adversity
- Righteousness Is a Gift, Not a Reward
- Breaking Free from Stagnation
- Unlocking the Power to Get Wealth
- Knowing God and Doing Exploits for Him

Each study combines sound biblical teaching with practical application for individuals, families, and small groups.

Ministry Resources

Victory Word Publication also provides:

- Sermon Outlines
- Leadership Training Manuals

- Small Group Discussion Guides
- Church Discipleship Curriculum
- Bible Study Workbooks
- Youth Ministry Resources
- Christian Family Resources
- Conference and Seminar Materials
- PowerPoint Teaching Resources

Coming Soon

- **The Amazing Grace of God in Adversity**
- **The Eagle Project: Soaring Above Limits by the Power of Grace**
- **Formation Through Pressure**
- **Knowing Christ Teaching Series**
- **Victory Word Leadership Series**
- **Grace for Everyday Living**

Stay Connected

For new books, discipleship resources, Bible studies, and teaching materials, connect with Rev. Ibrahim Yohanna Usman through:

Victory Word Publication

Website: <https://ibrahimyohannausman.cw.center>

YouTube:
Ibrahim Yohanna Usman

Ministry Motto

"Forming Unshakable Believers for Every Season."

A Final Word

Every resource published by **Victory Word Publication** is written with one purpose:

To help people know Jesus Christ, understand His finished work, grow in God's grace, and become faithful disciples who make disciples.

"To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." — **2 Peter 3:18**

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