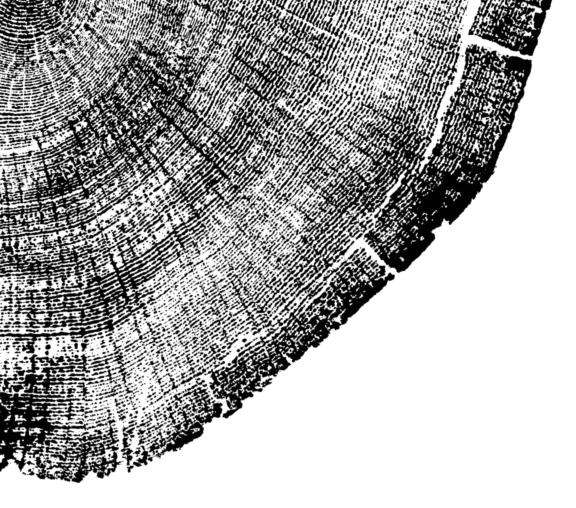


### Gospel & Rhythms

Book One of Evergreen is designed to help you grow in your faith by building essential rhythms of seeking God and relying on His guidance. You'll learn how to study the Bible, respond to Him through prayer, and cultivate a life shaped by His truth. As you explore the redemptive story of the Gospel, you'll gain a clear understanding of its life-changing power and be equipped to share it boldly, along with your own story of redemption.

Our aim is to lead you into a deeper relationship with Jesus, empowering you to walk with Him daily through the Holy Spirit.





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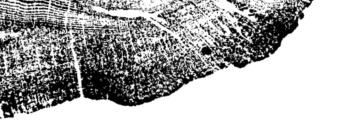
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Compiled by Known • 23911 Ronald Reagan Blvd., Liberty Hill, Texas

 $Scripture\ quotations\ are\ from\ the\ ESV^{\$}\ Bible\ (The\ Holy\ Bible,\ English\ Standard\ Version^{\$}),$   $@2001\ by\ Crossway,\ a\ publishing\ ministry\ of\ Good\ News\ Publishers.$ 

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### THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

Name
Phone Number



# Welcome to the next chapter in your story.

Our prayer for you this year is that, through the power of the Holy Spirit and God's unwavering faithfulness, you will grow in your love for God and thrive in your relationship with Him. As you root yourself in the Gospel, you'll begin building a life centered on following Christ.

When Jesus called Simon and Andrew in Mark 1:17, He said, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." This simple yet powerful invitation is at the heart of discipleship: *faithfully following Jesus, yielding to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, and committing to the mission of Jesus in the world.* Just as Jesus invited His disciples into this life-changing journey, He invites you into the same — a relationship called discipleship.

Discipleship is an intentional relationship where one person helps another follow Jesus and become more like Him. Unlike any other connection, it's built on love, Biblical truth, and a commitment to spiritual growth — modeled by Jesus Himself. The person discipling you is living out Jesus' command to "go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19), a mission given to every believer so that the world might come to know and love Him. And the beauty of God's design is that it multiplies. As you are discipled, you'll draw near to God and learn a simple, practical way to help others do the same.



At this point, you might be wondering, "Can I really disciple someone else?" The answer is a resounding "YES!" Discipleship is part of God's purpose for you, and He will equip you through the Holy Spirit. Over the next year, you'll be guided, strengthened, and prepared to step into the calling of making disciples.

By the end of this journey, we'll celebrate all that God has done in and through you. You'll be ready to step confidently into the role of a discipler, walking in grace and wisdom as you help others grow in their faith. We invite you to come with an open heart and mind, ready to be amazed by the unexpected ways God will move in your life.

• • •

### YOUR FIRST GROUP MEETING

### Getting to know one another



### **INTRODUCE YOURSELF**

- Tell us about your family and how you spend your time.
- Tell us about the moment you decided to follow Jesus.
- To make communication smoother and ensure everyone stays connected, set up a group text. This way, updates can be shared in real time, and everyone can stay informed and engaged easily.



# Before we begin, let's get familiar with a few important terms that will come up often in this study.

Understanding these four words will help us stay on the same page as we grow together.

### Gospel

The word "Gospel" means "Good News." And here's the good news: God loves us and created us for a relationship with Him. But because of our sin, we were separated from His holiness. In His love, God sent His Son, Jesus, who died for our sins and rose again — making a way for us to be restored to Him. When we place our faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness, eternal life, and the joy of a renewed relationship with God.

### Disciple

A disciple is someone who faithfully follows Jesus, is yielding to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, and is committed to the mission of Jesus in the world.

### Discipleship

Discipleship is an intentional relationship where one person helps another grow in faith and become more like Jesus. This includes teaching how to engage with Scripture, pray, build Christ-centered relationships, and serve others. The goal is that every disciple becomes a discipler — passing on what they've learned from their relationship with Jesus.

### Disciple-Making Groups (DMG)

This is a small group of 2–4 new believers led by an equipped disciple or couple. Discipling a few people together fosters valuable cross-learning and accountability. However, don't wait for a full group if you have one person ready to start. Keeping the group small is key, allowing you to walk closely alongside each individual. This balance offers the best opportunity to invest deeply in their growth.

### Getting to know the Bible

The Bible is God's Word — His divine revelation to humanity. It's our central source for knowing Him, discerning His will, and receiving wisdom and guidance through every season of life. Through Scripture, God reveals His character, His promises, and His redemptive plan for us. As we study it, our relationship with Him deepens, our faith is strengthened, and our lives are anchored in His truth.

The Bible is also the primary way God speaks to us today. It serves as the foundation for how we live, shaping our beliefs, decisions, and understanding of the world.

### FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE:

### • Written Over 1,500 Years

The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years by around 40 different authors from various backgrounds, including prophets, kings, fishermen, and scholars.

### • Originally Written in Three Languages

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew (Old Testament), Aramaic (parts of the Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament).

#### • Contains 66 Books

The Bible consists of 66 books — 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

### • Diverse Literary Styles

The Bible includes a wide range of literary genres: poetry, history, prophecy, wisdom literature, letters, and parables.

### Start your daily rhythm of Bible reading

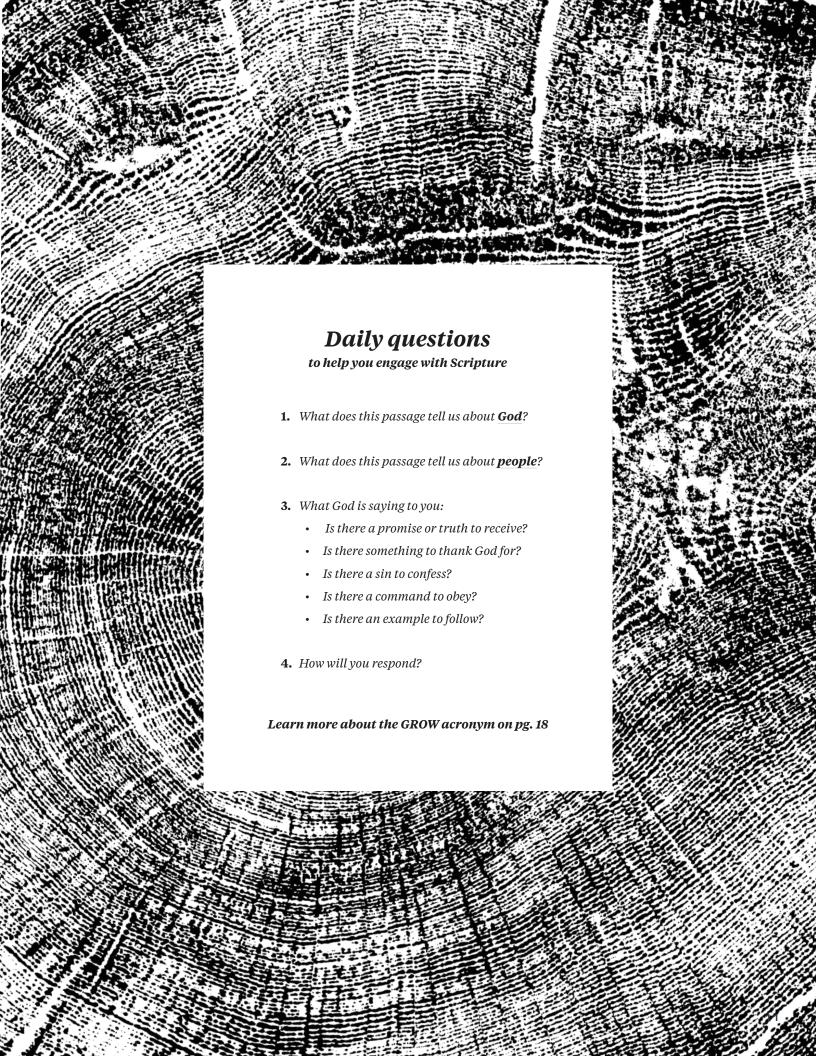
Each day, you'll read a short passage from the Bible, guiding you through three foundational books over the next 40 weeks: The Gospel of John, Acts of the Apostles, and Romans. These books will help you understand who Jesus is, how the early Church grew, and what it means to live by faith.

While God can speak through prayer, life circumstances, and the wisdom of other believers, the Bible is the clearest and most reliable way to hear His voice and know truth. As you spend time in Scripture, you'll begin to hear the Lord speak to you personally — revealing His character, bringing guidance, convicting your heart, or filling you with peace.

Each week includes five readings, giving you flexibility to catch up if you miss a day or to spend extra time studying a passage more deeply. To help you engage with what you're reading, use the following questions daily to discover what the Lord is saying to you.

### **JOURNAL YOUR THOUGHTS**

Consider writing down your thoughts in a journal or a notes app to capture key insights and reflect on what God is teaching you through His Word.





#### WEEK '

# Getting started with the Gospel of John

The Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John, one of Jesus' closest disciples and an eyewitness to the events he describes. Likely written between A.D. 85 and 95, it was composed after the other Gospels to offer a distinct perspective on Jesus' life and ministry. John's purpose was clear: to inspire faith in Jesus as the Son of God so that through believing we may have eternal life in Him (John 20:31).

### **WEEKLY READING**

- **Day 1:** John 1:1-8
- **Day 2:** John 1:9-18
- **Day 3:** John 1:19-28

- **Day 4:** John 1:29-34
- **Day 5:** John 1:35-42

To create a more meaningful and connected group discussion, it's important for everyone to be reading the same passages throughout the week. This shared focus helps deepen both your engagement with God's Word and your connection with one another. If your group plans to take a break — such as during holidays or spring break — pause your current reading plan. Instead, use the QR code below to access an alternate reading plan, allowing you to continue your daily rhythm of Scripture reading until you pick back up with the group study.



ALTERNATE
READING PLANS



SAMPLE JOURNAL



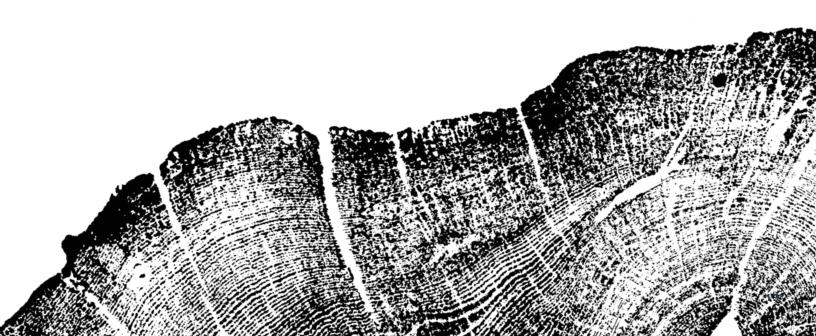
### DISCUSS TOGETHER

You are beginning an incredible journey of following Jesus. Are there any questions about your daily time in God's Word?



### **RESPOND IN PRAYER**

• Spend time in prayer, asking Him to do immeasurably more than you could ever ask or imagine over the next 40 weeks.





WEEK 2

# Prayer



### LOOK BACK

- God's primary way of speaking to us is through His Word. Last week
  as you read daily from the Gospel of John, how did God speak directly
  to you, whether through addressing something in your life, bringing
  conviction, or filling you with peace?
- From your daily reading:
   In John 1:37-42, what do you think drew the disciples to Jesus so quickly?

   How does this inspire you to respond to His call in your own life?



### **GET STARTED**

Prayer is a heartfelt conversation with God — a time to respond to what He's spoken to us, share our thoughts, seek guidance, express gratitude, confess, and find comfort. Every time we read God's Word, He's starting the conversation, and our prayer is a response to what He's said through it. Beginning with Scripture often leads to deeper, richer prayers that align more closely with God's will.

Of course, there are also times throughout our day when we begin the conversation, and that's exactly what our Heavenly Father invites us to do. It's an intentional act of bringing our hearts to Him — a true expression of faith in His presence and power in our everyday lives.

For many, it's an unfamiliar rhythm that can feel vulnerable or even one-sided at first. But this "oddness" often shifts as we grow more comfortable with the conversation, learning to recognize God's voice. The uniqueness of prayer reminds us that it's not like any other conversation; it's an interaction that transcends our usual ways of relating. This mystery, while it can feel unusual, is part of what makes prayer powerful and deeply transformative.



In this study, you'll discover what the disciples learned when they asked Jesus how to pray. This will become the framework for your daily time with Him as you continue to grow in your relationship with God.



### READ MATTHEW 6:9-13

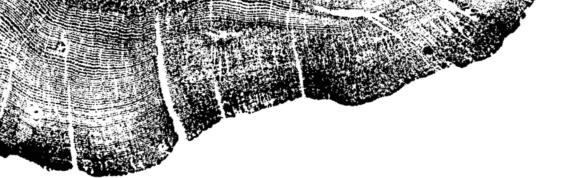
#### 1. "Our Father in heaven"

How does recognizing God as our Father influence our relationship with Him, especially as we approach Him in prayer?

### 2. "Hallowed be your name"

To hallow God's name means to honor, revere, and set apart His name as holy. How does beginning with this focus on God's holiness affect the way we approach the rest of our prayers?

**3.** "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" What does it look like to desire God's kingdom and will over your own?



### 4. "Give us this day our daily bread"

How do you feel about the idea of relying on God for your daily needs?

### 5. "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"

Why do you think Jesus linked God's forgiveness of our sins to our forgiveness of others?

### 6. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

How does this request shape our awareness of our need for God's guidance and protection in our daily lives?

**7.** Why do you think Jesus used a simple and structured prayer as a model for us?

### The Lord's prayer contains six petitions.

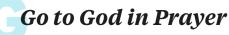
Each of these petitions reflects a reliance on God and a desire for His presence, provision, guidance, and justice in our lives.

- **1.** *Hallow God's name* (v. 9)
- 2. God's kingdom come (v. 10)
- **3.** *God's will be done (v. 10)*
- **4.** *Daily* needs (v. 11)
- **5.** *Forgiveness* (v. 12)
- **6. Protection** from temptation (v. 13)

The first three petitions focus our attention on God, centering our hearts on His holiness, authority, and purposes, while the final three address our personal needs and concerns. These petitions provide a balanced framework that we'll use for our daily time with the Lord.

This approach will complement our daily Bible reading and reflection questions with these six petitions through the *GROW* acronym.





Praise, Your Kingdom, Your Will (Matthew 6:9-10)

Praise God for who He is. Ask for His kingdom to come and His will to be done. Surrender once again to God, placing your focus and desire on His reign and His will in your life. Invite Him to prepare your heart before you read His Word.

# Read His Word

Use the daily reading guide.

### Observe and Obey

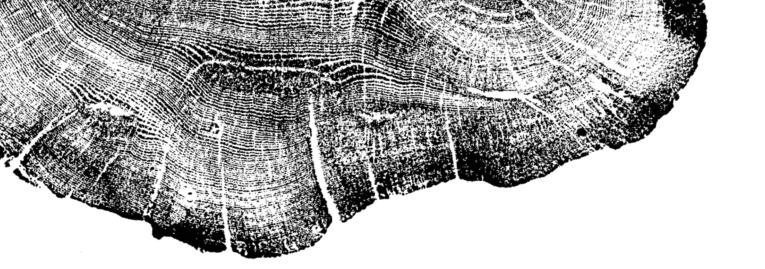
In your journal or app, respond to these questions:

- **1.** What does this passage tell us about **God**?
- 2. What does this passage tell us about people?
- **3.** What God is saying to you:
  - Is there a promise or truth to receive?
  - Is there something to thank God for?
  - Is there a sin to confess?
  - Is there a command to obey?
  - Is there an example to follow?
- **4.** How will you respond?

### Wrap Up in Prayer

Respond, Daily Bread, Forgiveness, Protection (Matthew 6:11-13)

First, respond in prayer to what God has spoken to you through His Word. He initiates the conversation, and we have the privilege of responding. Then, pray for your daily needs, seek forgiveness for sin, and ask for protection from temptation.



### **WEEKLY READING**

- **Day 1:** John 1:43-51
- Day 2: John 2:1-12
- **Day 3:** John 2:13-25

- **Day 4:** John 3:1-15
- **Day 5:** John 3:16-21

See examples of what prayer can look like.

week to structure your daily ke. time with the Lord.



PRAYER EXAMPLES



Use the **GROW** acronym this

SAMPLE GROW JOURNAL



WEEK 3

## Creation



### LOOK BACK

- How did you hear from God this week from your daily reading in the Gospel of John?
- From your daily reading:

In John 3:1-21, Jesus tells Nicodemus about the need to be "born again." What does it mean to be born of the Spirit, and how does this transformation impact the way we live?



#### **GET STARTED**

The Bible is a story about God entering into relationship with His creation. It provides compelling answers to four major questions: Why are we here? What went wrong? What did God do to make things right? Where are we going?

In the next four studies of Evergreen, you will review the overarching biblical narrative of the redemption story. It all starts on the first page of the Bible.

In this study, you will begin to understand the purpose as to why you were created.



### READ GENESIS 1:1-25

1. What are some of the first things we learn about God?



**2.** Why is it important to recognize that everything God created was initially good?

**3.** God created the world and declared it "good," yet we now witness and experience profound brokenness and suffering. How can we reconcile the difference between God's creation and our current reality?

**4.** How does the goodness of God's original creation give us hope for future redemption and restoration?





### READ GENESIS 1:26-31

**5.** What does it mean to be made in the image of God? How should this truth influence our understanding of our identity, purpose, and value?

**6.** What did God commission humanity to steward for Him? What does this look like practically?



### READ GENESIS 2:1-3

**7.** On the seventh day, God rested and called it holy. How does this provide an example and pattern for us?

**8.** With our busy lives today, how can we incorporate the practice of setting aside a holy day of rest? What impact might this have on our spiritual and physical well-being?

**9.** As you reflect on the truth that God created everything and it was good, how can you intentionally seek out and appreciate the good in your life and the world around you this week? What specific actions can you take to acknowledge and share that goodness with others?

### LEARN THE REDEMPTIVE STORY (1 of 4)

*Creation:* God created the world perfectly, declaring it "very good," and humanity was made in His image to reflect His glory. In this perfect relationship, humans walked in harmony with God, each other, and creation.





When you memorize Scripture, you carry God's Word with you wherever you go. It becomes a source of strength, wisdom, and encouragement in every situation. Psalm 119:11 says, "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." As you begin to understand the purpose and power of Scripture, memorization shifts from mere repetition to drawing closer to God and allowing His Word to dwell richly in your life (Colossians 3:16).

From this point on, you'll have a verse (or verses) to memorize each week and share with your group at your next meeting. Through a little repetition and a deeper understanding of the words, you'll be storing God's Word in your heart.

### **DOWNLOAD THE "VERSES" APP**

There's a helpful app with the verses you'll memorize in the study. Download the "Verses" app using the QR codes below for an interactive way to memorize Scripture using your phone.

Step One



DOWNLOAD THE "VERSES" APP

Step Two



JOIN THE GROVE CHURCH GROUP



### **RESPOND IN PRAYER**

- Close your time by responding to what God has said through His Word.
- Pray for specific needs of your group.



### WEEKLY READING

- **Day 1:** John 3:22-36
- **Day 2:** John 4:1-15
- **Day 3:** John 4:16-26

- **Day 4:** John 4:27-38
- **Day 5:** John 4:39-45

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THIS WEEK**

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

-GENESIS 1:1 ESV



#### WEEK 4

## Fall



### LOOK BACK

- How did you hear from God this week from your daily reading in the Gospel of John?
- · From your daily reading:

How does Jesus' offer of "living water" to the Samaritan woman (John 4:10-14) reveal our own spiritual need today? How do her response (John 4:28-30) and the townspeople's reactions (John 4:39-42) illustrate the transformative power of encountering Him?

• Recite *Genesis 1:1* from memory.



### **GET STARTED**

God created everything, and it was good! So what went wrong? Many are familiar with the story of Adam and Eve, but it's easy to view it as just an ancient account of the first couple and their sin.

It's tempting to point fingers and blame them for the brokenness we see in the world today. However, Adam and Eve's story is also our story. Like them, we have disobeyed God, and through our sin, we share responsibility for the fallen state of creation.

In this study, you'll explore how humanity originally lost its righteousness, how that loss caused separation from God, how the ground became cursed, and how physical death entered the world.





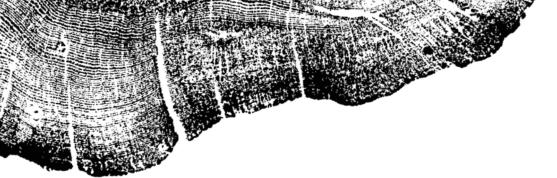
### READ GENESIS 3:1-13

**1.** The serpent asks Eve a leading question. What do you think he is trying to make her believe?

**2.** How does the belief that God doesn't love us or have our best interests at heart tempt us to make sinful choices? Can you think of a time when you've seen this play out in your own life?

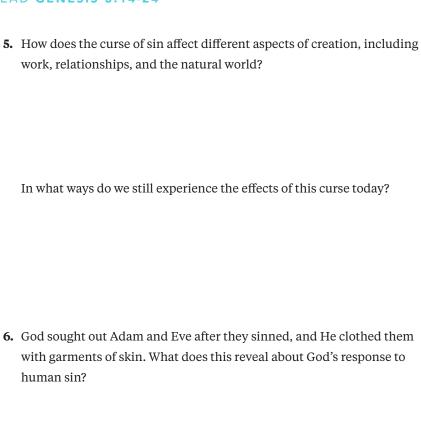
**3.** Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. What does their disobedience reveal about human nature?

**4.** How did the act of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil change Adam and Eve's relationship with God, themselves, and each other?





### READ GENESIS 3:14-24



**7.** How is God's removal of Adam and Eve from the garden an act of mercy?

**8.** What can we learn from Adam and Eve's response to guilt and shame, and how can we apply those lessons to our own lives when we fall short?

Take some time to reflect on areas where you may need to repent and seek God's grace.

**9.** How does Genesis 3 reveal humanity's need for redemption?

### LEARN THE REDEMPTIVE STORY (2 of 4)

*Creation:* God created the world perfectly, declaring it "very good," and humanity was made in His image to reflect His glory. In this perfect relationship, humans walked in harmony with God, each other, and creation.

*Fall:* Through Adam and Eve's disobedience, sin entered the world, breaking their relationship with God, and bringing suffering and death into creation. Humanity's rebellion left us separated from God, unable to restore what was lost on our own.





### **RESPOND IN PRAYER**

- Close your time by responding to what God has said through His Word.
- Pray for specific needs of your group.



### **WEEKLY READING**

- **Day 1:** John 4:46-54 **Day 2:** John 5:1-18 **Day 3:** John 5:19-29
- **Day 4:** John 5:30-47 **Day 5:** John 6:1-15

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THIS WEEK

"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned."

-ROMANS 5:12 ESV



#### WEEK 5

## Redemption



### LOOK BACK

- How did you hear from God this week from your daily reading in the Gospel of John?
- From your daily reading:
  In John 6:1-15, Jesus feeds the five thousand with a small offering of loaves and fish. What does this miracle teach us about God's ability to use what we have to accomplish His purposes?
- Recite *Romans 5:12* from memory.



### **GET STARTED**

Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and the consequences were immediate. Sin and shame filled their hearts, and for the first time, they experienced the knowledge of evil. Their once-perfect relationship with God was shattered as they lost their righteousness. Where there had been trust, intimacy, and security, they now felt hurt, alienation, and exposure.

Yet, in His love for humanity, God set His plan of redemption into motion. The Greek word for "redemption" was often used to speak of purchasing a slave out of bondage or buying freedom for a debtor. The Gospel declares we were slaves to sin and Satan, Jesus died to pay the ransom price and redeem us, and now we are free in Christ.



In this study, you'll discover how God came to rescue and restore what was lost.



### READ ROMANS 3:20-26

**1.** How does Paul explain the role of the law, and how does it reveal humanity's need for God's righteousness?

**2.** Paul states that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," emphasizing that no one is inherently good. How does this truth align or conflict with society's general view of human nature?

**3.** What does it mean that we are justified "by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"?

**4.** How does understanding justification as a gift of grace, rather than something earned, affect the way we view our relationship with God and others?



### READ EPHESIANS 1:7-10

**5.** How does the concept of redemption through Christ's blood help us understand the cost of our salvation?

**6.** What does it mean that God's forgiveness is given "according to the riches of His grace," and how does this impact how we view His mercy?

**7.** How does Paul's description of God's plan to unite all things in Christ shape our understanding of His ultimate purpose for redemption?



### READ JOHN 3:16 & ROMANS 10:9-10

**8.** What response is necessary to partake in redemption?

**9.** These verses emphasize a belief in the Gospel that goes beyond mere agreement, calling for a deeper, transformative faith that leads to action and commitment. What does this kind of faith look like in someone's life?

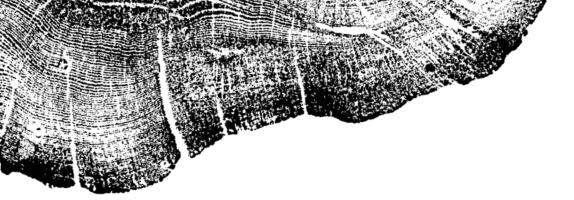


### READ ROMANS 6:3-5

**10.** According to these verses, what has happened spiritually in those redeemed that is represented symbolically during baptism?

**11.** What does it mean to walk in "newness of life," and how can this truth influence the way we live daily?





### A command of first importance following salvation:

Baptism is a beautiful step of obedience and faith, publicly declaring your commitment to Jesus and your new life in Him. It's an outward sign of the inward transformation God has done in your heart, a powerful symbol of being united with Christ in His death and resurrection.



### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

Have you been baptized as a believer, with your baptism following your
personal decision to place your faith in Christ? If so, tell us about that. If
not, are you ready to take this next step?

### LEARN THE REDEMPTIVE STORY (3 of 4)

*Creation:* God created the world and declared it "good," with humanity made in His image to live in perfect relationship with Him.

*Fall:* Sin entered the world through human disobedience, breaking the relationship with God and bringing brokenness and suffering.

**Redemption:** In His love, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live a sinless life, die on the cross, and rise again, paying the penalty for sin. Through faith in Jesus, we are reconciled to God and receive the gift of eternal life.



#### **RESPOND IN PRAYER**

- Close your time by responding to what God has said through His Word.
- Pray for specific needs of your group.



#### **WEEKLY READING**

- **Day 1:** John 6:16-21
- **Day 2:** John 6:22-40 **Day 3:** John 6:41-59
- **Day 4:** John 6:60-71
- **Day 5:** John 7:1-13

#### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THIS WEEK**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

-JOHN 3:16 ESV



#### WEEK 6

## Restoration



#### LOOK BACK

- How did you hear from God this week from your daily reading in the Gospel of John?
- From your daily reading:
   Jesus walks on water and calms the disciples' fear. What does this miracle reveal about His authority over creation and His care for His followers during times of uncertainty?
- Recite **John 3:16** from memory.



#### **GET STARTED**

Jesus Christ, who first came in humility, will return in glory to restore all of creation to God's original intention by ushering in a new heaven and earth. Sin, death, disease, and tears will be no more. All things will be made perfect, and God's people will experience an eternal joy rooted in communion with God. This hope provides assurance and purpose for believers as we wait expectantly for His return.

In this study, you will learn how God will restore His people and His creation, fulfilling His ultimate plan of restoration.



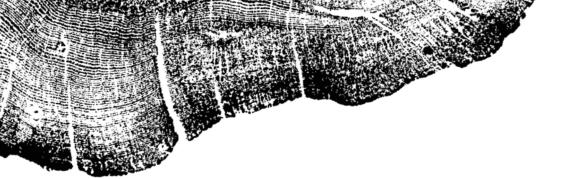


#### READ REVELATION 19:11-16

**1.** Jesus is portrayed as a victorious warrior and King. How does this image of Christ differ from His first coming, and what does it reveal about His role in God's final plan?

**2.** The passage describes Jesus as "Faithful and True" and the One who judges and wages war with justice. How does this depiction challenge or deepen your understanding of His character and mission?

**3.** Jesus is referred to as the "King of kings and Lord of lords." How does this title affirm His ultimate authority, and how should this truth influence the way we live and worship today?



**4.** Some people find it difficult to accept the idea of Jesus as a judge. Why is it necessary for Jesus to judge evil? How does this truth bring hope and encouragement in the midst of a broken world?



#### READ REVELATION 21:1-8

**5.** What does this passage tell us about the new heaven and earth? How does this vision of eternity give hope and shape the way we live in the present?



#### READ REVELATION 21:22-27

**6.** What do these verses reveal about the intimacy and direct relationship believers will have with God in the new creation?



#### READ REVELATION 22:1-5

7. These verses speak of the river of life, the tree of life, and the eternal reign of God's people. How do these images reflect God's ultimate restoration of creation and His desire for eternal fellowship with His people?



#### READ REVELATION 22:6-20

**8.** What does Jesus promise three times in this passage? How should the certainty of His return influence the way we prepare our hearts and live out our faith?

**9.** An angel affirms the trustworthiness of these words and urges immediate worship of God. How does this reminder encourage us to live with urgency and focus on worship in our daily lives?



**10.** Jesus gives an invitation to "come" to all who are thirsty. How does this call to respond to God's grace challenge us to share the hope of salvation with others?

#### LEARN THE REDEMPTIVE STORY (4 of 4)

*Creation:* God created the world and declared it "good," with humanity made in His image to live in perfect relationship with Him.

*Fall:* Sin entered the world through human disobedience, breaking the relationship with God and bringing brokenness and suffering.

**Redemption:** In His love, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live a sinless life, die on the cross, and rise again, paying the penalty for sin. Through faith in Jesus, we are reconciled to God and receive the gift of eternal life.

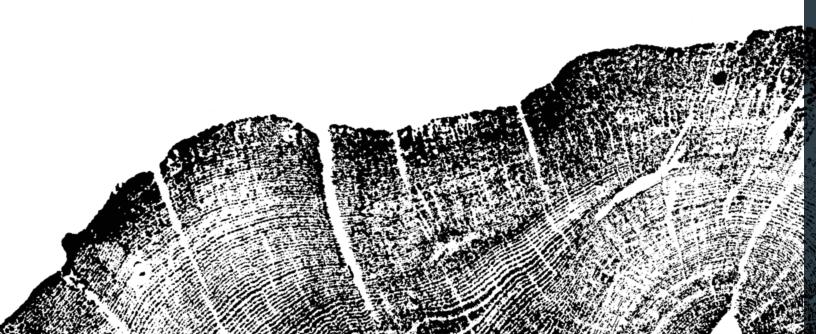
**Restoration:** One day, God will fully restore His creation, making all things new and wiping away every tear. In this eternal kingdom, His people will dwell with Him in perfect joy, peace, and glory forever.

## A practice of remembrance and longing

Jesus established the practice of the Lord's Supper, or Communion, to help us remember the redemptive story because it's in the act of remembering that transformation happens. Reflecting on His sacrifice and the hope of His return renews our faith, shapes our perspective, and deepens our gratitude for His grace.

On the night He was betrayed, He gathered with His disciples, broke bread, and shared the cup, saying, "Do this in remembrance of Me." Through this act, Jesus calls us to reflect with gratitude on His sacrifice—symbolized by the bread, representing His body broken, and the cup, representing His blood shed for the forgiveness of sins—and to look forward with hope to the restoration of all things in His coming kingdom.

It is both a remembrance of His saving work and a declaration of the promise of eternal fellowship with Him.





#### **RESPOND IN PRAYER**

- Close your time by responding to what God has said through His Word.
- Pray for specific needs of your group.



#### **WEEKLY READING**

- **Day 1:** John 7:14-24
- **Day 2:** John 7:25-36 **Day 3:** John 7:37-52
- **Day 4:** John 7:53-8:11 **Day 5:** John 8:12-20

#### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THIS WEEK**

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

-REVELATION 22:12-13 ESV



# Gospel



#### LOOK BACK

- How did you hear from God this week from your daily reading in the Gospel of John?
- From your daily reading:

In John 7:14-24, Jesus challenges the crowd to judge with righteous judgment rather than by appearances. How can this teaching influence the way we discern truth and respond to others in our daily lives?

Recite *Revelation 22:12-13* from memory.



#### **GET STARTED**

The word "gospel" comes from the Greek word "euangelion," and it means "good news." But it's not just any kind of news. Euangelion most often refers to a royal announcement about a new king. When the disciples of Jesus proclaim the Gospel, they are announcing that Jesus is King.

Over the past four weeks, we've explored each part of the redemptive story, which addresses four key questions: How did it all begin? What has gone wrong? Is there any hope? What does the future hold?

This week, we'll bring it all together by examining the Gospel through the redemptive story and reflecting on the significance of sharing it with others.



## Let's review a summary of the redemptive story

*Creation:* God is the Creator of the earth and everything in it. He is perfectly holy, just, and righteous. He made man and woman in His image, designing us for a relationship with Him and for perfect harmony with one another.

*Fall:* Adam and Eve rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and separating themselves from a perfectly holy God. Like them, we have also turned away from Him, and as a result, we face the consequences of sin: death. Since life is found only in God, our sin separates us from the Creator and Giver of life, leading to spiritual and physical death.

**Redemption:** In His righteous anger, God could have justly condemned us to death, but He didn't. Instead, God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus Christ, to take our place. Jesus lived the perfect life we couldn't live and died the death we deserved. He was crucified and buried, but on the third day, He rose from the dead. His great love for us led Him to sacrifice Himself, crushing the power of sin and death on our behalf.

**Restoration:** Jesus Christ who first came in humility, will return in glory to restore all of creation to God's original intention by ushering in a new heavens and new earth. Sin, death, disease, and tears will be no more. All things will be made perfect, and God's people will experience an eternal joy rooted in communion with God.

**Responding:** When we place our faith in Jesus as our Savior and King and repent of our sins, our relationship with the Father is restored. The Holy Spirit then comes into our lives, empowering us to live for God, both today and forever.





#### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

• Why is it helpful in sharing the Gospel to include all elements of the redemptive story?



#### TIME TO PRACTICE!

Pair up with a partner and take a moment to share the redemptive story in your own words. This isn't about memorizing specific phrases but about learning to share the story naturally and confidently. Understanding and communicating this story will equip you to share it effectively when the opportunity arises.



#### **READ ROMANS 1:15-16**

**1.** Paul describes the Gospel as "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." What does this statement teach us about the significance of the Gospel message?

**2.** Paul declares that he is not ashamed of the Gospel. What are some reasons people might feel hesitant to share their faith, and how can this verse encourage boldness?

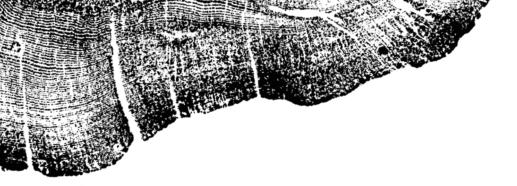
**3.** In what ways does recognizing the Gospel as "the power of God for salvation" challenge us to trust in its ability to transform lives, even when sharing it feels difficult?



#### **READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-16**

**4.** Paul encourages Timothy not to be ashamed of the testimony about Jesus or of his imprisonment. What reasons does Paul provide to inspire boldness in sharing the Gospel?

**5.** Paul urges Timothy to hold onto sound teaching with faith and love in Christ. How can staying grounded in Scripture strengthen our confidence in sharing the Gospel with others?



## Share your story

Sharing your personal story alongside the redemptive story is a powerful way to connect with others and point them to Christ. Your testimony shows how God's plan of redemption—creation, the fall, salvation through Jesus, and restoration—has transformed your life. By sharing how you've experienced God's grace, forgiveness, and hope, you make the Gospel personal and relatable, inviting others to see how it can impact their lives too.

One way to share your story of faith is through a 3-word testimony. This approach helps you shape your story by choosing three simple words to describe three key phases of your journey.

- 1. The first word may describe your life before Jesus.
- 2. The second word describes how you came to faith in Jesus.
- **3.** The third word describes the difference Jesus has made in your life.

Whether you accepted Jesus as an adult or grew up in the church, there is no cookie-cutter story. Everyone has a unique testimony to share, and one that reveals the faithfulness of God. *Over this next week, work on your*3-word testimony and prepare to share this at your next group meeting.



TESTIMONY EXAMPLE



#### **RESPOND IN PRAYER**

- Close your time by responding to what God has said through His Word.
- Pray for specific needs of your group.



#### **WEEKLY READING**

- **Day 1:** John 8:21-30 **Day 2:** John 8:31-38 **Day 3:** John 8:39-47
- **Day 4:** John 8:48-59 **Day 5:** John 9:1-23

#### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THIS WEEK**

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

-ROMANS 1:16 ESV



## BLESS

WEEK 8



#### LOOK BACK

 How did you hear from God this week from your daily reading in the Gospel of John?

#### • From your daily reading:

In John 9:1-23, Jesus heals a man born blind, and the Pharisees question both the miracle and the man's testimony. What does this story teach us about responding to skepticism and standing firm in sharing our own experiences of God's work in our lives?

- Share your 3-word testimonies.
- Recite *Romans* 1:16 from memory.



#### **GET STARTED**

Jesus commands His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations," emphasizing the essential first step: going. This act of going involves stepping out of our comfort zones and intentionally sharing the Gospel with others. Before we can help someone grow in their faith or become a disciple, they must first hear the message of salvation. The going is where it all begins—meeting people where they are, sharing the love of Christ, and inviting them into a relationship with Him.

Without the willingness to go, the mission of making disciples stalls before it even starts. Going reflects obedience to Jesus' command and a heart that prioritizes the mission of Jesus. It's not just about physically going to far-off places; it's about going to your neighbor, coworker, or friend and introducing them to the hope found in Christ. Going first is an act of faith that opens the door for discipleship to follow, fulfilling Jesus' mission to bring His love and salvation to the world.



#### HOW DO WE GO?

## God's way of reaching and restoring the world is through blessing.

"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

-GENESIS 12:2

God blessed Abraham in every way — spiritually, relationally, and even financially. But God didn't bless him just for His own benefit. He blessed him so that Abraham could *be a blessing to others*. In the same way, God calls us to be a blessing, inviting us to take part in His mission. This means using the gifts, opportunities, and influence He has given us to share His love and truth with those around us.

The BLESS acronym is a simple and practical tool to help us become more intentional about being a "blessing" to the people God has placed in our lives. It's an everyday, actionable way to live out Jesus' call to "go." BLESS is not a sales pitch or a quick method for making converts. Instead, it's a genuine way to love people, allowing them to experience not only our care but also the love of God.

**BLESS consists of five missional practices** that, when empowered by the Holy Spirit, allow you to actively participate in God's plan to reach the world. By committing to do one of these practices each day, you'll create space for God to work and witness Him move in powerful ways!

## Begin with prayer

Blessing others starts with prayer. Prayer aligns our hearts with God's will and helps us see opportunities to serve and share His love. When we pray, we invite God to guide our interactions, soften our hearts, and work through us to make an eternal impact. Praying for someone by name is especially powerful because it not only brings their needs before God, but it also deepens our love and compassion for them. Through prayer, we become more aware of how God wants to use us to bless those around us.

#### Listen

We're called to be slow to speak and quick to listen. Listening is the key to understanding someone and what they're going through. Ask thoughtful questions and take the time to learn their story. Then, you'll be better equipped to pray for them and serve them in meaningful ways.

## Engage

Engaging means intentionally investing time in someone to build and strengthen your relationship. This could be sharing a meal, a playdate for the kids, playing a round of golf, or enjoying a fun night out together.

### Serve

By listening and engaging, people will reveal how they need to be loved, and you'll discover the best ways to serve them.

### Share

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we share the Gospel and tell the story of how Jesus has transformed our lives. Over the past few weeks, you've been equipped to share both the redemptive story of Scripture and your own personal story of God's work in your life.

#### WHO DO I BLESS?

# God sovereignly determines where and when people live, with the purpose of drawing them to Himself.

"And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us..."

-ACTS 17:26-27

It's no accident that you live where you live, work where you work, or have the relationships you have. God has placed people in your life so you can love and serve them. So you can share the Gospel with them and help them grow as disciples.

In the busyness of life, we may notice neighbors, friends, or coworkers who don't yet walk with the Lord, but we often miss opportunities to BLESS them. One simple way to stay intentional is by writing down their names and praying for ways to BLESS them. This keeps them at the forefront of our hearts and allows us to see how God is working in their lives. As we do, our faith grows, and our commitment to love them as God has called us to deepens.

Our hope is that, through these efforts, we will have the privilege of sharing the Gospel and seeing lives transformed by Christ. Those we BLESS and see come to faith can then be discipled, just as someone once invested in us.



In this guide, we refer to this group as your "BLESS30." By identifying 30 people to intentionally bless, you'll have one person to pray for each day of the month, ensuring a shift to live a lifestyle of "going."

#### WHO SHOULD BE IN MY BLESS30?

- Anyone who is *not a Christ-follower*.
- Anyone whose beliefs are not evident.
- Anyone who *claims to be a Christian and yet there is no visible fruit* (words, actions, commitments).
- Anyone whom you have the *opportunity for regular interaction with* (local and available).

### $\rightarrow$

#### **CREATE YOUR BLESS30**

There are three main circles of relationships in your life — people you regularly interact with and have the opportunity to BLESS. Take the rest of the group meeting to write down as many names as you can of those who fit this description.

You can also write these names in your Evergreen Daily booklet to keep them easily accessible in your Bible. If filling out your BLESS30 feels challenging, don't be discouraged! Pray that God will guide you to the right people and open opportunities for new relationships. By being intentional in these relationships, you'll not only witness God transform lives but also experience transformation in your own life.

## Your BLESS30 List

NEIGHBORS	FRIENDS	CO-WORKERS



BLESS PROMPTS



#### **RESPOND IN PRAYER**

- Close your time by praying for one person from your BLESS30 list.
- Pray for specific needs of your group.



#### **WEEKLY READING**

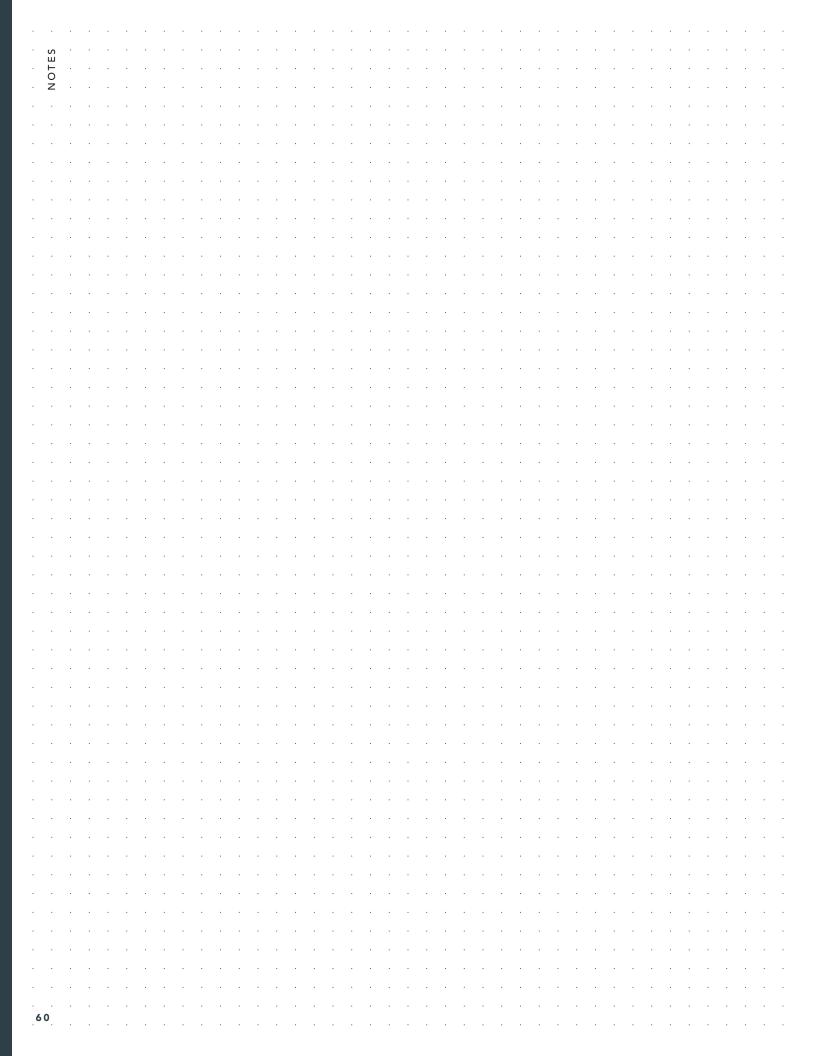
- **Day 1:** John 9:24-41 **Day 2:** John 10:1-6
- **Day 3:** John 10:7-21
- **Day 4:** John 10:22-42 **Day 5:** John 11:1-16

#### SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THIS WEEK

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

-ACTS 1:8 ESV

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