

DAY 1 • AUGUST 5

What It Means to Be Unashamed

READ: GENESIS 3

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

GENESIS 3:8-10

REFLECT

What is something you don't want others to find out about you? Usually it is something we are ashamed of or embarrassed about. To understand shame, we should begin in the Garden of Eden, where it all started.

The Garden was a paradise where Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect fellowship with God. Here, they were *naked and were not ashamed*, and could worship God freely.

However, because Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of good and evil against God's command, their nakedness became shameful instead of innocent. Instead of confessing their disobedience and taking responsibility for it, they covered themselves up with fig leaves.

We, like Adam and Eve, desire to make a name for ourselves. We tend to cover ourselves with the fig leaves of status, success, intellect, and so on. We continue the default human response to the shame of sin—to cover up. Many times we lie or blame others, trying to avoid punishment for what we did wrong.

In response to our shame and cover-ups, God shows justice, mercy, and grace. He seeks us—*Where are you?*— so we can come clean with the truth. God Himself showed Adam and Eve that their sin had grave consequences, and that sin now separated them from Him. However, with mercy, He replaced their fig leaves with skin, the first shedding of blood and a foreshadowing of Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the cross.

No matter what we do, God still seeks us. It is through His grace that we can stop hiding and recognize the need for the only perfect covering, Jesus Christ. Jesus took our sin upon Himself. In exchange, we *put on Christ* (Galatians 3:27). It is only through Him that we can face God, completely unashamed.

RESPOND

1. What have you used to cover up your shame in the past?
(Achievements, popularity, possessions)
2. Are there still areas in your life that you're ashamed of?
Confess these to God and recognize that you have sinned against Him.
3. List down three things in your life that changed when you realized what Jesus did for you on the cross.

PRAY

1. If there is anything God reveals to you that you need to repent of, humbly ask for His forgiveness. Thank Him for always extending His grace and forgiveness to those who turn to Him.
2. Pray for your family, friends, and classmates who are unable to face God because they have not yet experienced the gospel's power to make them unashamed before Him. Ask God to open their eyes to the reality of sin and the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

DAY 2 • AUGUST 6

Unashamed of the Gospel

READ: ROMANS 5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

ROMANS 5:1-5

REFLECT

We will never be the same after encountering the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are assured freedom from the sting of death and the hold of sin in our life (1 Corinthians 15:55; Romans 6:18). But how exactly does the gospel translate into real life? What does having a new life in Christ actually mean for us? In Romans 5, we see what we are and have because of the gospel.

We are justified in the eyes of God. God is holy, and therefore holds no tolerance for sin. When sin entered the world through Adam, it was passed on to every man and woman who came after him (Romans 5:12). None of us had the power to save ourselves from sin, because we all sinned against God (Romans 3:23). But what seemed impossible to man became possible through the perfect and sacrificial obedience of Jesus Christ, the son of God (Romans 5:19). Because of Jesus, we are now holy and righteous in the sight of God.

We are reconciled and at peace with God. While sin separated us from God and made us His enemies, Jesus' death brought us back to Him (Romans 5:10). We can now approach God confidently, knowing that our relationship with Him has been restored because of Jesus.

We have access to God's grace. To have the grace of God means that we receive unmerited favor from Him. This grace that we've received isn't based on how we behave, and we did not do anything to earn it (Romans 11:6). It is a gift that comes only by Jesus' redemptive work on the cross (Romans 3:24). Grace also strengthens us when we are weak and helps us in times of need (2 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 4:16).

We are bearers of the hope of Christ. This hope allows us to rejoice whenever we face hardships in this life. Not only that, it pushes us to endure the things ahead, trusting that they refine our character. The last characteristic of this hope is one worthy of drawing our attention too—it is a hope that does not put us to shame in this life or the next. The world may disagree and contend with us because of our faith, and we will encounter hardships and challenges. But we can rest assured that because of the gospel, our powerful God is always for us and not against us (Romans 8:31). His will for us is always good, acceptable, and perfect, and He has given us the gift of spending eternity with Him (Romans 12:2).

RESPOND

1. What challenges are you facing right now? Declare that, in Christ, you can experience hope and victory today.
2. What is the hope you have in Christ, in light of your present situation? How can you hold fast to and confess this hope daily?
3. What are mindsets (fear, feelings of inadequacy, insecurity) that you have to break in order to access all He promises us through the gospel?
4. Memorize at least five Bible verses you can declare whenever you go through challenges.

PRAY

1. Thank God for your salvation and for what Jesus did for you on the cross.
2. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the mindsets you have to break in order to go deeper into the hope you have because of the gospel.
3. Pray that God would use your life to display who He is to others.

DAY 3 • AUGUST 7

Unashamed Because of Jesus**READ: JOHN 4:4-42**

²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him. . . . ³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."

JOHN 4:28-30,39**REFLECT**

The Samaritan woman had a life that was nothing close to ideal. First of all, she was a woman. Women back in that day and place were treated like second-class citizens. Some could even say that they were on the same level or just one level higher than a man's property.

Besides this, she was a Samaritan. Samaritans were an isolated group who did not interact with or have anything to do with the rest of the people in their region. Lastly, she had a history of failed relationships with men.

This string of events in her life may have made her bitter, insecure, or even made her doubt that anything good could ever come out of it. The Bible says she was getting water at lunch time, in the heat of the noontday sun. This may mean she was avoiding the other women of her village who usually drew their water in the morning. It was there she met Jesus.

At first, she was confused. Why was this Jew speaking to her so casually? Didn't He know any better? Little did she realize how much He really knew.

What started out as a confusing episode soon led to a burning curiosity about this man who, a few sentences into the conversation, was telling her things a stranger couldn't have known. They were things she may even have been ashamed to talk about.

The Samaritans believed that when the Messiah came, He would reveal to them all things. And this man who was standing in front of her did just that.

What He said next made a mark both on the woman's personal life, and in the Bible. This was the first time Jesus referred to Himself as the Messiah to another person. Of all the people He could have first revealed himself to, why was it to this broken woman?

While we can only speculate on His reasons, let us turn our attention to the woman. Her life probably showed her that nothing ever seemed to satisfy her. She was searching for something, but did not know what it was. Then Jesus came, met her in her present condition, and offered her Himself as the living water that will always satisfy.

Some of us encountered Jesus when we were searching for something that would satisfy us. Some of us encountered Jesus when we were at the lowest points of our lives.

We, like the Samaritan woman, may never know why Jesus showed Himself to us in a specific time and situation, but we can be certain there was a significant reason He did. This reason can be found in the response of the woman—to tell her whole town that she had just encountered the Messiah.

When we encounter Christ, our lives begin to change. We experience what it means to have someone know us—every single part of us—yet offer Himself for us as an act of love. And with all Jesus did for us, the only proper response would be to tell everyone we know about it. What followed the woman's encounter with Jesus was not just her personal redemption story, but the redemption of a number of people from her town.

The story of the Samaritan woman is just a glimpse of God's plan for His people. He takes away the sin and shame we felt in the past, and makes us new—not just for our own benefit, but for the redemption of the families, campuses, and communities we come from.

RESPOND

1. Since your encounter with Jesus, how has your life changed? What are you most grateful for?
2. What issues did you struggle with before you knew Christ? How has Christ redeemed you from these after you met Him? Reflect on these and thank God for His continuing work of redemption in your life.
3. Have you ever shared your testimony with others? If yes, how can you continue to preach the gospel through your testimony? If no, what usually stops you? How can you commit to boldly sharing what Christ has done in your life?

PRAY

1. Pray for increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading as you interact with different people in your daily life.
2. Pray for continued boldness in telling others about what Christ has done in your life, and in preaching the gospel to them and inviting them to experience Christ's power for themselves.

DAY 4 • AUGUST 8

Unashamed of God: Counting the Cost**READ: MARK 10:17-31; PHILIPPIANS 3:7-9**

²¹And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

MARK 10:21,22

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...

PHILIPPIANS 3:8**REFLECT**

Without thinking too long about the question, what would you say your most treasured possession is? How would you feel if you were asked to give it up?

The rich young ruler in the book of Mark had everything anyone could want—success, wealth, and a good upbringing. He had also kept all the commandments of the law since his youth. He turned to Jesus for the last thing he felt was lacking—eternal life. Jesus, in turn, told the young man what he was truly lacking—to sell all he had and give to the poor, which would save him treasure in heaven. Then Jesus told the man to follow Him. The young ruler left disheartened, unable to give up his possessions.

What the young man lacked was not obedience of the law, but a love of God above all his possessions. His encounter with Jesus showed that his devotion to God was not complete. He learned that what he considered worthy of eternal life—his fulfillment of the commandments—would not be enough. He learned that his possessions were the cost of eternal life, decided it wasn't worth the price, and ended up not following Christ.

Like the rich young ruler, we sometimes have a hard time choosing between following Jesus completely, and our desires. Sometimes we choose the acceptance of our family, classmates, and peers over obedience to Jesus. Sometimes we say what we don't mean or go where we don't want to go because we feel out of place, or that we'll miss out on something. Sometimes we trade following Jesus for something temporary.

Following Jesus has a cost, and only a revelation of the gospel will allow us to follow Jesus no matter what. Through the gospel we realize that Jesus is the greatest good we can ever experience, in this life and the next. His love is more satisfying than the approval of our peers. His presence gives us fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). Knowing all this brings us to the conclusion that everything we desire can only be fulfilled in and through Him.

The gift of salvation is only free because Jesus paid for it with His life. It's something we could never pay for, not in a lifetime. Jesus counted the cost, paid with His life, and saved us from eternal death. He set the standard for all who want to follow Him by giving up everything for us. As we meditate on the gospel, like the Apostle Paul, let us choose to suffer the loss of all things in order that we may gain the greatest reward of all, Jesus Christ.

RESPOND

1. How does the story of the rich young ruler speak to you? What possessions or emotions (want of approval, fear of rejection) are being prioritized over Jesus in your current situation? What is one thing you can do to put Jesus first today?
2. What do you feel you gave up when you followed Jesus? How did He show you that He is in control and has power over even that situation?

PRAY

1. Pray that God will show you something you have been prioritizing over Him, even if you didn't know it. Ask Him for the grace to love and obey Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
2. Thank God for everything you have gained ever since you started following Him.

DAY 5 • AUGUST 9

Unashamed of God in Adversity**READ: ACTS 16:16-34; JOHN 16:33**

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

ACTS 16:25,26**REFLECT**

Paul and Silas were faithful Christians and missionaries. If following Christ promised an easy life, these two would have been on top of a list of the most comfortable Christians. However, what happened to them was the opposite. They were wrongly accused, beaten by an angry mob, and thrown into jail. Being Christians does not guarantee us comfortable lives.

Instead of complaining, Paul and Silas were found praying and singing hymns to God. They didn't know whether they would be executed the next day or die a slow death in prison, but they still chose to worship God. Under the most difficult circumstances, they showed that peace can be found in Jesus Christ.

Of course, the other prisoners with them had no choice but to listen in; they must have wondered how two beaten-up missionaries could rejoice in a God who allowed this unjust hardship. Not all of us will necessarily be imprisoned like Paul and Silas, but we may all face harsh treatment or persecution in school and at home. During these times, people around us will be watching. Our reactions bear witness to the words we speak about Jesus Christ. Like Paul and Silas, we should aim to do all things for the sake of the gospel, even if it means enduring hardship and shame.

Paul and Silas knew that God could have prevented their troubles from the beginning, but He did not do so. They trusted that God was in control of the situation and had a reason for allowing the situation to develop in this way. In the end, we learn that God's larger purpose was not only

to deliver them but also to bring the jailer and his family to a knowledge of Christ.

We will experience shaking in our lives, but all these can be used by God for His purpose and glory. Let us remember that the most important thing is not that we are delivered, but that Christ is preached and God is glorified.

RESPOND

1. What shakings are you experiencing right now? Are you able to rejoice and trust God despite your circumstances? Why or why not?
2. What challenges or opposition have you experienced because of your faith? How do you think God will use these for His purpose and glory?
3. Share your testimony with a family member, classmate, or friend this week. Highlight how God was able to turn around the troubles of your past for His purpose and glory.

PRAY

1. Thank God for being good. Praise Him for being present and in control, in good times and in bad.
2. Pray that the hardships you're facing now will be a testimony to your family and classmates.
3. Pray for Christians in your nation and around the world who are experiencing hardships for the sake of the gospel.

DAY 6 • AUGUST 10

Unashamed of God in Persecution**READ: ACTS 17: 1-15; PHILIPPIANS 3:8**

²And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."⁴And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

ACTS 17:2-5**REFLECT**

Just before this episode, Paul and Silas had escaped from prison because of a great earthquake that broke open the doors. After paying a visit to their friend, Lydia, they departed to go towards Thessalonica where they preached the gospel in the synagogues (Acts 16:40-17:1).

Some of the Greeks and women came to believe in the gospel, while the Jews there grew more and more jealous. Soon an angry mob had formed and caused chaos in the city, threatening another Christian, Jason, and his household, who showed hospitality to Paul and Silas.

Despite the open hostility they experienced in Thessalonica, Paul and his company did not stop preaching the gospel. They moved to Berea, where they preached in another Jewish synagogue. The gospel was well received by the people there, but the peace did not last long. The angry Jewish mob from Thessalonica had followed them there to wreak havoc, and the disciples had to move again to another place. And while Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens, he wasted no time and took the opportunity to preach the gospel there.

In Acts 17, Paul and his fellow apostles experienced two consecutive episodes of persecution that caused chaos in the towns they preached in. What was interesting was their response—they pressed on in preaching the gospel from town to town. If the gospel was well received in a particular town, they would stay there a little longer and continue preaching. If they experienced hostility and persecution, they would move on to the next town and preach there. No amount of persecution could stop them from preaching the gospel, and they were quick to move on.

Have you ever been bullied, made fun of, or rejected by others because of your faith? Paul is one character in the Bible who has experienced persecution on all different levels—from being pursued by angry mobs, to being tried by the Roman court, to being thrown in prison. Despite this, he pressed on in declaring his faith.

What is most interesting about this is Paul's own salvation story. Before encountering Christ, he had all the qualities of someone who was destined to live a respectable and comfortable life in those days (Philippians 3:4-6). In choosing to live a life devoted to Jesus and the spread of His gospel, he, in the world's eyes, lost everything. Yet, in Philippians 3:8, Paul wrote that he counted every loss he encountered as nothing in comparison with what he gained by knowing Christ.

In light of eternity, we come to know Christ as our greatest gain. When we encounter persecution of all kinds, may we draw our strength from the promise of God that whoever is unashamed of Him in this life, He will be unashamed of when He comes in the last days (Luke 9:26).

RESPOND

1. How open are you about your faith to others? List down three ways you can better live a life of integrity and non-compromise, starting this week.
2. How do you respond when people persecute you? Based on the story of Paul, how do you think you should respond?
3. What situations and places in your life do you need to be more open about your faith in? Focus on being a witness of God in that area in the coming months.

PRAY

1. Pray for the courage to live according to your life in Christ.
2. Pray for more opportunities to show others God's love through your presence in their lives.

DAY 7 • AUGUST 11

Unashamed of the Gospel's Message**READ: GALATIANS 3; EPHESIANS 2:1-9; ROMANS 1:16; 4:16**

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

GALATIANS 3:23-27

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8,9**REFLECT**

We rally behind and preach the gospel to those around us because we are convinced and confident of its power. It is not something we respond to and follow just because it makes us feel good about ourselves, or feel good in general. It is the gift of salvation that saves and frees all who receive it by faith. For this reason, we can be unashamed of the gospel's message.

Gift. The world tells us we have to work hard in order to get ahead in life; that nothing comes without a price, and we always have to look out for ourselves. On the contrary, the Bible tells us that salvation is a gift that we enjoy because Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. We did not earn it by any of our good works. Rather, it is the manifestation of God's love and justice. Because this is the gift of God, we don't need to boast in our works or achievements to get a free pass to His presence. Our response then becomes thankfulness, and a readiness to be used for His purposes.

Salvation. The message of the gospel is also the story of Jesus' victory over death. Death says that everything that matters is limited to this life, and when we die, all will be taken from us. But when Jesus died on the cross, He gave us a hope that will never end, even after death. Our hope is renewed, knowing we are now welcome to spend the rest of eternity with Him. The gospel is the greatest news we could ever receive, for it assures us of God's presence both now and in the life to come.

For all. No matter who we are, where we come from, or what we've done, salvation is available for all who repent and receive it by faith (Romans 4:16). Acts 10:34,35 tells us that God does not show partiality in extending His grace, and He welcomes all who fear Him. The more we understand that salvation is God's plan for all people, the more we can be intentional in sharing it with others.

If we are confident and convinced of the gospel's message, we begin to value it in light of God's heart for the lost and His great plan for us. There is no such thing as being "too young" or "too inexperienced" to preach the gospel—we preach it because we are convinced it is a message that everyone is destined to hear.

RESPOND

1. Is there an area in your life that you are still struggling to fix by yourself? Take time to reflect on Ephesians 2:8,9 this week to understand more of what the gift of salvation means for you.
2. Since Jesus became your Lord and Savior, what have you been freed from?
3. How does knowing God's plan to save all of mankind change the way you view the people He has placed in your life?

PRAY

1. Pray for God to increase your understanding of the gospel's message and to deepen your conviction of the gospel's truth in your life.
2. Pray for the passion to continue sharing the message of the gospel with others.

DAY 8 • AUGUST 12

Unashamed of the Gospel's Power

READ: ROMANS 1:13-16; PHILIPPIANS 3:3-10
1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-18,23

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

REFLECT

Paul began his letter to the Romans by saying how he was longing to see the saints in Rome. Even though he didn't plant the church there, we see Paul's eagerness to preach the gospel in that area. But why was he eager to do so? Today, we will look at three possible reasons Paul was eager to declare the gospel to them.

The power of the gospel to save us. Paul knew, and experienced firsthand, that the gospel *is the power of God for salvation*. He recognized that it is only by believing in the gospel that anyone can be saved. No amount of merit, achievement, adherence to rules, talent, or looks can ever save us from and pay for our sins. But the good news is *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*, saving us from the penalty for our sin which is death (Romans 5:8). Knowing and experiencing this power firsthand, Paul could not help but preach the gospel!

The power of the gospel to transform us. Paul, before encountering Christ and the gospel's power, was *a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee, a persecutor of the church, and blameless as to the law*—therefore, righteous by it and in the eyes of others (Philippians 3:5,6). But upon his radical encounter with Jesus as he was on the road to Damascus, Paul knew that he could not *put confidence in the flesh* because it is only by faith in Christ that we can become righteous. Since then, his life had changed from being a persecutor of the church to a propagator of the gospel *immediately proclaiming Jesus* after such a powerful encounter (Acts 9:20).

The power of the gospel that compels us. Paul was *under obligation* to preach the gospel to the Gentiles because he was called to do so. But it was not only out of obligation; he understood how it also saves and transforms others. He proclaimed, *Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!*

In the same way, we can preach the gospel to our friends, classmates, teachers, enemies, and even strangers because we know and have experienced its power to save us from our sins and transform us to be more like Christ. This is what compels us to move in its power and preach it.

RESPOND

1. How is your life a testament to the transforming power of the gospel?
2. Is there a family member or friend that needs to hear and experience the power of the gospel? How can you present the gospel to him or her this week?

PRAY

1. Pray for open hearts and opportunities for your family members and friends to experience the saving power of the gospel this week.
2. Thank God for the gospel's saving power that you have experienced. Pray for a greater and deeper realization of the transforming power of the gospel in your life.

DAY 9 • AUGUST 13

Unashamed of the Gospel's Calling

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

¹⁹... that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19,20

REFLECT

Ambassadors hold a position of authority and respect. If you are an ambassador, it means you have been chosen to represent the family or organization you are from. Also, you represent your organization as, possibly, the only one your hosts will ever encounter. Being an ambassador for Christ is similar.

As ambassadors, we are God's representatives. To represent God means that we are His face to the world. We may be the closest thing to the gospel that our family members and classmates will experience. Do our words and actions help them know Jesus better? While this may be difficult, we can always ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to think and act like Jesus. We must also remember that as God's representatives, we are under His authority, and must live in a way that represents Him.

As ambassadors, we are entrusted to carry God's message of reconciliation. Ambassadors are sent to another nation to represent the interests of their own country. In the same way, we represent the interests of God wherever we go. Being His ambassadors, we bring God's message of reconciliation to others. This message is the heart of the gospel. We tell others that the only way to be reconciled to God is through Jesus Christ.

As ambassadors, we are sent to the world. Paul's letter says that God is *reconciling the world to Himself*. We were once of the world and separated from God. However, because of Jesus, we are reconciled with God and have become citizens of His kingdom (Philippians 3:20). Even

though we still live in this world, we are no longer of it (John 17:14). We are not meant to isolate ourselves, content with our own salvation. Jesus' sacrifice was for all, not just for a few. This means that everywhere we go is our mission field; every person we meet who doesn't know Jesus is someone we can preach the gospel to. No matter what challenges we face, the gospel will continue to be our hope, enabling us to become God's ambassadors to this world.

RESPOND

1. What does it mean to you to be an ambassador of God? Is there something in your life that needs to change so you can represent God better? What is one thing you can do to address it this week?
2. What mission field has God placed you in? How can you bring God's message of reconciliation to your family members, classmates, friends, and other people around you this week?

PRAY

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal how you can represent Christ well in your campus and community. Pray for Him to convict you of any thoughts or attitudes that might hinder you from doing this effectively.
2. Pray for the Christian communities and organizations in your campus to be effective ministers of reconciliation. Pray that there would be favor and opportunities from the school's administration to advance the gospel in your campus.
3. Pray for the church to faithfully represent Christ to the nations. Pray that wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit will be upon the leaders of the church.

DAY 10 • AUGUST 14

Power to Preach the Truth**READ: JOHN 16:4-15**

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

JOHN 16:13**REFLECT**

Toward the end of Jesus' ministry, He said He would leave us with His Holy Spirit, who would guide us into all truth. Of all the things that the Spirit could have guided us in, why was it truth?

We live in a world where too much is being said about every subject. One set of voices promotes a lifestyle according to our own rules, preferences, and standards. Another set of voices tells us that our every move is being watched, that there are people ready to pounce and declare us guilty of every mistake we commit. Yet another set of voices tells us that caring about anything will only get us hurt, and encourages indifference and apathy. The only way we can be prevented from living a loose, legalistic, or apathetic lifestyle is by letting the Holy Spirit guide us into all truth.

The Holy Spirit is the *Spirit of Truth* and guides us in all truth. Moreover, it says that the Spirit of truth will also agree with the Word of truth because the Holy Spirit will never contradict the Word of God. Therefore, it is only by listening to the Holy Spirit that we can determine what the truth is and preach it with boldness.

But more than just knowing the truth, the Holy Spirit allows us to live in the truth. The more we keep in step with the Spirit, the less we will succumb to sin and temptation as the Spirit opposes all desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16,17). The more we walk with the Spirit, the more we are able to live in the truth and freedom we've received through the gospel (2 Corinthians 3:17). Lastly, the more we walk with the Spirit, the

more we can find the knowledge that we need in order to better minister to others about the gospel.

We cannot know, live, or be a witness of the truth of the gospel apart from the Spirit of God. We can engage our campuses and communities with the truth, bearing in mind its power that can set us free (John 8:32).

RESPOND

1. When you are unsure of what to do next, who do you run to? Is the Holy Spirit your first option? What is one thing you can do to prioritize His presence and guidance starting today?
2. How can you begin to step out in His power and witness to your family, campus, and community today?

PRAY

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you to walk in truth. Ask Him to expose the lies of the enemy that are preventing you from walking in the truth.
2. Pray for increased discernment and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as you engage your campus and community this week. Pray that He will give you the boldness and confidence to be an effective witness.

DAY 11 • AUGUST 15

Power to Preach with Boldness**READ: ACTS 3:11-4:14**

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.”

ACTS 4:8-10**REFLECT**

In Acts 1, Jesus instructed the apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit before they leave Jerusalem to witness about Him. One chapter later, we find the Holy Spirit coming to them at Pentecost, causing them to speak in different tongues (Acts 2:4-7). The result of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was the power to preach the gospel.

First, Peter preached to the passersby who were amazed at their speaking in tongues. In just one day, 3,000 people were added to the church (Acts 2:6-41.) Next, Peter healed the lame beggar in Acts 3, and after he noticed the large crowd that marveled at the miracle, he proceeded to preach the gospel there as well.

After three episodes of multitudes being saved by the gospel, opposition in the form of the Sadducees arrived. They arrested Peter, along with John, put him in overnight custody, and brought him to the rulers, elders, and scribes of Jerusalem for interrogation. When Peter was in their midst, they asked him whose authority allowed him to preach. Peter’s response? To preach the gospel, declaring that it was in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peter is an interesting character. He was the first person to confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matthew 16:16). He was also the first person to have walked on water with Jesus, but he eventually sank because his faith had

shifted to fear (Matthew 14:29,30). He also became infamous for denying Jesus thrice (Luke 22:54-62). So how did this Peter, a former uneducated fisherman who had denied Jesus just episodes before, have the confidence and boldness to preach the gospel in eloquence and wisdom? Let's look at the verse again.

*Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them . . .*

ACTS 4:8

It is interesting to note the reaction of the authorities after hearing Peter's speech.

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, **they were astonished**. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

ACTS 4:13

It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to preach the gospel with boldness and authority. It doesn't matter what background we come from—what school we study in, our social status, what our parents do for a living, how much we have in our wallets, or how much we have failed in the past. The Holy Spirit continues to give all of us the same boldness He gave Peter and the rest of the disciples back then to effectively preach the gospel.

Whenever fear tries to stop us from preaching the gospel to someone else, remember it is the Holy Spirit who grants us the boldness to preach the gospel no matter where we are, who we're speaking to, or what the result may be.

RESPOND

1. What stops you from preaching the gospel? What are your thoughts and fears whenever you think about it? What will you do about it?
2. When presented with the opportunity to preach the gospel, how do you respond? What causes you to respond this way? How can you develop the habit of turning to the Holy Spirit for guidance and boldness daily?

PRAY

1. Surrender to God all your fears and worries in preaching the gospel. Pray for Him to grant you strength and joy as you believe for the salvation of your family members and friends.
2. Think of one person you can preach the gospel to this week, and pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you boldness and open doors to preach the gospel to him or her.
3. Pray for favor and more open doors for the gospel to be preached in your campus and community.

DAY 12 • AUGUST 16

Power to Preach to the End**READ: ACTS 7; LUKE 11:13; EPHESIANS 6:18,19**

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

ACTS 7:54-58**REFLECT**

Have you ever experienced opposition when preaching the gospel? Opposition can come through rejection and persecution, and this can result in fear of preaching the gospel to others.

Stephen, the first Christian martyred for his faith, was no stranger to persecution. He was one of the seven chosen by the disciples to take care of the needs of widows. However, he went beyond addressing their physical needs, and served them spiritual food by preaching that Jesus was the promised Messiah to the Jews. His boldness to proclaim the truth eventually caused the Jews to angrily reject him and falsely accuse him of blaspheming God.

At the end of his story, we see Stephen facing not only rejection but death. Despite this, he continued to preach the gospel. He denounced the people's disobedience, but at the same time showed them love by asking God for forgiveness on their behalf.

How can we, like Stephen, preach with power and without shame until the end? The Bible describes Stephen as a man *full of the Holy Spirit*. Despite opposition, the Holy Spirit can fill us with the joy and peace of the Lord, helping us to stand strong in the midst of persecution. To experience being filled with the Holy Spirit, we need to tune out the angry crowd and

fix our eyes on Jesus as Stephen did (Acts 7:55). We also need to pray and ask God for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). As we feed our faith with the hope that can only be found in Jesus, we will experience the joy, peace, boldness, and power that can only come from God.

RESPOND

1. Have you ever experienced opposition when preaching the gospel? Considering the story of Stephen, how should this affect the way we respond to opposition?
2. Are you relying on the Holy Spirit when faced with an open door and opportunity to preach the gospel? How can you begin to depend on Him rather than on yourself this week?

PRAY

1. Thank God for the cross. As you meditate on His goodness in your life, ask Him for the boldness to preach the gospel to others.
2. Pray for a family member or classmate you need to preach the gospel to. Ask God for a deeper revelation of the gospel as He opens doors for you to preach the gospel.
3. Pray for Christians who are experiencing rejection and suffering as they live out and preach the gospel in their campuses and communities.

DAY 13 • AUGUST 17

Engaging the Campus: Setting an Example

READ: 1 TIMOTHY 4:7-15

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

REFLECT

Every person, no matter how young, has the power to influence others. But our influence will only go as far as the way others view us. The question is, when people look at our lives, do they become intrigued by the message of the gospel and how it has changed our lives?

Paul, a man of influence both before and after knowing Jesus, knew just how important a testimony could be. This is why he instructed the young Timothy to set an example for other believers, and as the believers followed it, the church would set an example for non-believers. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul named five areas of our lives where we can be living witnesses of the gospel—speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

Speech. Jesus said in Matthew 15:11 that *it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person*. Jesus later explained that whatever comes out of the mouth of a person reflects what is in his or her heart. The question is, do people hear Jesus with every word that comes out of our mouths? Or do they hear just another voice?

Conduct. How do we behave when we encounter others? In 1 Timothy 3, we see a list of qualities we must have in order to lead others in a full-time capacity. According to this list, we *must be above reproach and well thought of by outsiders* in order to not fall into disgrace (1 Timothy 3:2,7). If we aren't careful, our actions will lower our influence on others, making it difficult for us to preach the gospel to them.

Love. Jesus first showed us what it means to love by dying for us on the cross (1 John 3:16). Just as we have been given love, so must we also give love to others. In fact, 1 John 4:7 tells us that whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Loving the way God loves is a powerful thing. It can open hearts that have been closed to the gospel, and help others experience the love of God through us.

Faith. The Bible celebrates in Hebrews 11 those whose lives exhibited exemplary faith in God. They showed faith when they were being mocked and mistreated, when they did not know what would happen to them, and even to the point of death. The way we respond to both the joys and trials of life reflects the measure of our faith. If others see how our faith remains unshaken and anchored from season to season, they will know just how powerful and sure a foundation Christ is.

Purity. Jesus says in Matthew 5:8 that the pure of heart will see God. Sometimes, we see purity as a set of rules that dictates our actions. Rather, it is a heart change that comes when we draw near to God and He draws near to us. When we allow God to reign over our hearts, we set an example of purity and integrity that may encourage others to look beyond our actions to the God we serve.

Like Timothy, we must set an example of what it means to be changed by the gospel in our speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. When we set an example for the believers, our lives become a display of the transforming power of the gospel.

RESPOND

1. How has your example opened doors for you to preach the gospel to others?
2. Which of these five areas do you need to apply in your life? How can you grow in this area?

PRAY

1. Pray that you would set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Ask God to empower you to live in a way that honors Him and draws others to Him.
2. As you set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, pray that God will open doors for you to preach the gospel in your campus and community.

DAY 14 • AUGUST 18

Engaging the Campus: Salt and Light**READ: MATTHEW 5:13-16**

¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. . . . ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:13,16**REFLECT**

You are the salt of the earth.

Today, salt is common and easy to come by. However, during Jesus' time, it was a valuable and precious commodity. In small amounts, salt would enhance flavor, and in great amounts, it would even preserve food from spoiling. When Jesus told His disciples that they are salt, He was talking about the impact they should have over society.

If you forget the pinch of salt in any batch of food, you'll immediately notice that something is missing, that the food is tasteless. In the same way, believers should be such an influence in this world, that people will notice when we are not around. Do our actions enhance the lives of the people around us? Do we use our words and actions to bless others?

Jesus said that salt that has lost its taste is no longer good for anything. These are harsh words, but they also show us what God called His people to be. You are the salt of the earth. This is what you are called to be, and with that understanding, it will affect the way you speak and act. In fact, a person who has been changed by the gospel cannot help but be salt in this world, preserving society from moral decay and letting his or her influence be felt.

You are the light of the world.

We used to walk in darkness. The things that we did in secret were shameful, but when the light of Christ shone on us, we became children of light. Jesus is the true light of the world. As we remain in Him, through good works, we shine His light for all the world to see and to glorify Him. By this we point, not to ourselves or to a cause, but to Jesus Christ.

RESPOND

1. How can you be salt and light to your campus and community?
What opportunities to be salt and light are available to you at home, in your campus, or in your nation? List them down and commit to do them in the coming weeks.
2. Is there a family member or friend who needs to hear the gospel now?
How can you reflect the light of Christ into his or her life this week?

PRAY

1. Thank God for the privilege of being salt and light to the world.
2. Pray for the believers around the world. Ask God to enable us to faithfully fulfill our role as salt of the earth and light to the world.
3. Pray for one nation that needs to hear the truth of the gospel.
Partner with someone in praying for that nation.

DAY 15 • AUGUST 19

**Engaging the Campus:
Show and Tell****READ: 1 JOHN 3:11-24**

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

1 JOHN 3:16-18**REFLECT**

May, a college P.E. teacher, loved to invite people to her home and cook for them. She put effort into making her house clean and comfortable for her guests. May was especially joyful when she had the opportunity to minister to students depressed by family problems. In her quiet time, God impressed on her that the youth who could not experience love in their own homes could find it in the arms of their heavenly Father. May knew what that felt like, because her own father had abandoned his family. However, Jesus Christ showed her what the Father's love looked and felt like. It was forgiving, patient, kind, and sacrificial. God's love for May made her desire to show the same kind of love to others.

Students who spent time with May found themselves refreshed because of the joy and peace she brought to their hearts. The delicious food she prepared always warmed their stomachs, but May herself warmed their souls. There was a supernatural quality to May that attracted them. She told them her story, of how her own father had abandoned her, and how she had forgiven him. She told them the source of her joy and peace was Jesus Christ. She told them that the only reason she could show love to them in that way was because God loved her first.

May's talk was backed by her walk. Because the truth was first alive in her own life, the gospel was also made alive in the hearts of the students who

spent time with her. They heard the gospel and experienced it firsthand through May.

In 1 John, we see that genuine faith is seen not only through our conversations with others, but in how we live and treat others as well. When we see others in need, are we the first to help them? Are our words, motives, and actions in sync?

When we meditate on how Jesus Christ laid down His life for us, God enables us to show the same gracious love to others. We should remain steadfast in our faith and abide in Him. We should remember we are children of God, keep His commands, and rely on the Holy Spirit. As we continue to love in word, deed, and truth, we will bring glory to God, preach the gospel in love, change the campus, and change the world.

RESPOND

1. Does your lifestyle back up the words you say about Jesus Christ and how He has changed you? What is one thing you can change today so you can live out the truth of God's love in your life?
2. Think of family members, classmates, or friends you can show the love of God to this week. In what specific way can you show your love for them?
3. What needs do you see in your family, campus, or community? How can you help meet them? Ask God to open a door for you to serve them in this area and show them His love in the process.

PRAY

1. Ask God to show and help you change any mindsets or habits that don't conform with the gospel's transformation of your life.
2. Ask a classmate what he or she is believing God for. Pray with this person, and believe that God will answer his or her needs according to His will.
3. Pray for your family, campus, and community. Believe that God will meet their unique needs, and that they will encounter His love through the preaching of the gospel.

DAY 16 • AUGUST 20

Engaging the Community: Having Compassion

READ: MATTHEW 9

³⁵And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

MATTHEW 9:35,36

REFLECT

In Matthew 9, we see Jesus healing people wherever He went. People would approach Him asking to be healed, or asking on behalf of a loved one. At the end of the chapter, we see Jesus visiting cities and villages to teach about the kingdom of God, and healing more of the sick. Here Matthew highlights how Jesus felt when He saw the crowds coming to Him.

Jesus saw the crowds. By this time, the reputation of Jesus' power had spread throughout the region. While other religious leaders would take that opportunity to flaunt their good works, Jesus used it to heal the afflicted and to teach them about the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:1). To Jesus, the crowd was not just a crowd. He saw each one of them as individuals with their own needs, struggles, and challenges. They were *harassed and helpless*, needing a shepherd to lead and care for them.

Jesus felt compassion. As Jesus moved from one place to another, He would stop and tend to the sick—whether it was someone suffering from a physical sickness, or someone in need of forgiveness for sins. For Him, *the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many* (Matthew 20:28). Compassion moved Him even when He was tired or when many people were asking for help. Serving wasn't a side issue, but the main reason He came to earth.

Compassion is what changes our perspective, from seeing just the faceless crowds to being moved to address the needs of another and preach the gospel to him or her. It is only by seeing the people the way Jesus does, and allowing Him to move our hearts with compassion for each individual, that we can represent Him to our families, campuses, and communities.

RESPOND

1. Who are the people you normally see in your day to day activities? How can you engage one of them and listen to his or her story starting this week?
2. Is there a specific need in your campus and community you feel like God is asking you to respond to in prayer or action? How can you further commit to this? If not, how can you begin to respond to that need?

PRAY

1. Thank God for His eyes of compassion, that He came down to give His life for you.
2. Ask God for a compassionate heart for those in your community. Pray for eyes to see them with compassion no matter what they are doing or have done.
3. Pray for God to open doors for you to help meet needs in your campus and community. Pray that these will become opportunities to preach the gospel to them as well.

DAY 17 • AUGUST 21

**Engaging the Community:
Showing Mercy****READ: LUKE 10: 25-37**

³⁶ “Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

LUKE 10:36,37**REFLECT**

The story of the Good Samaritan is perhaps one of the most well-known parables of the Bible. Jesus addressed the parable to a lawyer who asked Jesus what it would take to inherit eternal life. Jesus replied, *“What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”*

The lawyer answered with what was written in the law—love God, love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus commended him, saying he had answered correctly. But the lawyer was not satisfied with this answer and asked Jesus, *“Who is my neighbor?”* Jesus then told the parable of the Good Samaritan.

When a man had been beaten up by robbers and left by the side of the road, a priest and a Levite (two kinds of religious leaders) simply passed on the other side. On the other hand, a Samaritan, a man who was discriminated against by the Jews of that time, stopped by the wounded man and brought him to an inn. He paid for his stay and treatment, and promised more help if it was needed.

Among the three individuals, the Samaritan was the most unlikely candidate for a savior of a Jew (Jesus’ audience was Jewish). On the other hand, the priest and Levites were both Jewish religious leaders at that time. They were people who were most likely to be familiar with the law of loving their neighbor. However, it was the Samaritan that Jesus commended for being a good neighbor. His command to the lawyer was to go and be a good neighbor to others as well. He did not tell the lawyer whom to love, but how to love others.

The parable of the good Samaritan connects and confirms the relationship between love and mercy. To love our neighbor is to have mercy on him or her, just like the Samaritan did. True mercy results in action. When Jesus asked the lawyer about the law, Jesus was not questioning his knowledge, but his understanding of it.

Jesus loved us enough to give His life for us. We can practice showing mercy toward others because He first showed us mercy. Because of Jesus, we can show mercy to those we see in need, no matter who they are, just like the Samaritan. As Christians, we are in the best position to show mercy to others because we have experienced the mercy of God. Mercy opens doors for us to engage our communities with the gospel. It becomes a great starting point for others to experience the love of Jesus, and to discover firsthand what Jesus did for them on the cross.

RESPOND

1. What is your personal experience of Jesus' mercy in your life through the gospel?
2. Drawing from the story of the Good Samaritan, what did Jesus say a good neighbor should be? What does this tell you about loving others?
3. Is there a family member, friend, or classmate whom you can care for by spending time, energy, or resources for him or her? What is one thing you can do for them this week?

PRAY

1. Thank God for the mercy He showed when He gave His son Jesus to save you. Pray that the experience will transform your heart and mindset to show more mercy to others.
2. Ask God for open doors to show mercy to the people in your family, campus, and community. Pray that there will be opportunities and provision to help others.
3. Pray that the hearts of the people you are planning to help will be opened to the gospel. Pray that the experience of mercy will show

them what God's love for them feels like, and allow you to preach the gospel to them this week.

DAY 18 • AUGUST 22

**Engaging the Community:
Serving Each Other in Love****READ: MATTHEW 25:31-46; ACTS 2:42-47**

“And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

MATTHEW 25:40**REFLECT**

It was almost the end of Jesus’ ministry when He talked to His disciples about the importance of serving in love. To the righteous, He would say, *“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”*

In the story, the righteous were confused. Was it possible to feed a hungry God, or give a thirsty God a drink? How could they welcome Him as a stranger, clothe Him as one naked, or visit Him as someone sick or in prison? Jesus answered, *“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”* When we care for those in need in the church community, we serve them in love. According to Jesus, this equals our serving Him as well.

A strong church community powerfully engages the surrounding culture and community. In Acts 2, Peter preached the gospel for the first time. The 3,000 believers added that day, along with the 100 or so original disciples of Jesus, made up the first church community. They devoted themselves to learning more about God together, to eating with one another and serving one another in love. They had all possessions in common, and even sold personal property to care for those who were in need.

This church spent time with one another in community, *praising God and having favor with all the people*. The people on the outside saw the way

they served one another and cared for one another. They saw that the love in this community was expressed not only through words, but with acts of service in love. The result was that *the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved*.

Both of these teachings tell us that as His followers, we have been given a mission to use what we have—our talents, our spheres of influence, our time and money—to work toward the advancement of His Kingdom. One way we express this is by serving those around us.

Serving one another is a mark of being Jesus' disciples. We cannot call ourselves His followers if we do not know how to serve those in our church community. In fact, Jesus pushed the command of serving to a whole new level when He equated what we do for one another to serving Him (Matthew 25:40,45). Serving shows our love for Jesus, shows one another His love, and opens doors to preach the gospel to those outside the church community.

RESPOND

1. Is it easy or hard for you to serve others? Why? What is something that needs to change in your mindset or attitude so you can serve others with the love of God?
2. Is there an open door in your community for you to serve others? How can you be a part of this today?
3. Is there a family member, classmate, or friend who needs to hear the gospel? How can you include them in your church community this week, and preach the gospel to them?

PRAY

1. Thank God for sending His son, Jesus, to serve us by giving His life as a ransom for ours.
2. Ask God to help you grow in your willingness to serve your family, campus, and community.
3. Pray that God will help create venues and opportunities for you to serve and preach the gospel to others.

DAY 19 • AUGUST 23

**Making Disciples:
Called to Be Fruitful****READ: JOHN 15:1-17**

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

JOHN 15:16

REFLECT

Every one of us who follows Jesus is made clean through Him. As long as we continue to abide in Him, studying His Word, spending time with Him in prayer, and following His commands, He promises that we will become fruitful. This is only possible because we abide in Him and act with Him in all things.

Abide in Christ. Because of the gospel, we have been made right with God and can have a personal relationship with Him. As Christians, we should abide in Jesus and in His love, and let Him and His words abide in us (John 15:7,9). We grow as His followers as we allow the gospel to transform our lives, and trust and obey His commandments. More than this, we were called to be fruitful and make disciples.

Make disciples. Jesus said, *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit”* (John 15:16). When Jesus saved us from our sins, He did not plan for it to end with us. The gospel is meant to be shared with those who do not know Him, so they too can live a life of freedom and fruitfulness. As God had planned for us to know Him, so He, too, has chosen us to bring Him to others and make disciples of them.

Bear fruit that abides in Him. Jesus said, *“I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide”* (John 15:16). We do not preach the gospel to add to our numbers. We preach the gospel and make disciples, so that those disciples will have a deep, healthy relationship with God and make more disciples.

As we continue to go and make disciples, may we be encouraged to know that God has already gone ahead of us and prepared the way for more people to come to know Him as we preach the gospel. We simply need to abide in Him, and through Him, bear fruit that lasts.

RESPOND:

1. Are you spending time reading the Word, praying, and following Jesus? How can you begin to abide more in Jesus starting today?
2. What mindsets hinder you from actively making disciples? According to John 15:16, why can you confidently make disciples?
3. Do you have family members, friends, or classmates who do not yet know Christ or the gospel? How can you begin to preach the gospel and make disciples of them today?

PRAY

1. Thank God for His promise that if we abide in Him, we will become fruitful and make disciples.
2. Believe that God has chosen and appointed you to make disciples. Pray that as you abide in Him, you will receive boldness to make disciples.
3. Pray for family members and friends who are not currently being discipled. Pray that as you abide in Christ, you will be able to make disciples of them as well.

DAY 20 • AUGUST 24

Making Disciples: Tell the Next Generation

READ: PSALM 78

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

PSALM 78:4

REFLECT

Psalm 78 describes how important it is that the next generation knows what God has done for them. The psalm reminds the Israelites that God saved them from slavery in Egypt, parted the Red Sea to help them escape, and guided them by pillars of cloud and fire, day and night. It describes how He was faithful to give them water from rocks, and bread and meat from heaven, while they were wandering in the wilderness. This was important, so that *they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments* (Psalm 78:7).

Tell the next generation to set their hope in God. God did not only bring the Israelites out of Egypt, He guided them safely through the wilderness. He provided food and drink for them in the desert, then settled them in the Promised Land. He even raised up a leader, David, who would shepherd them with an upright heart and guide them with a skillful hand. Tell the next generation that they can set their hope in God and trust His saving power in their lives because He has shown Himself always faithful.

Tell the next generation to not forget the works of God. Psalm 78 describes *the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done* (Psalm 78:4). There are too many works to describe from the psalm alone. However, the one work we should never forget to tell is the main work of God, the gospel. God gave up His Son Jesus to die on the cross for the salvation of our sins. The gospel is the transforming work of God that we should not fail to pass on to the next generation.

Tell the next generation to keep the commandments of God. The psalm says to tell the next generation about the works God has done for them, so *they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.* Tell the next generation that when our hope is set in God and in the saving power of the gospel, we can and should confidently trust and obey His commandments.

The story of the Israelites all the way to the gospel in the present day is a story of God's love and faithfulness to us. We should always remember to tell the next generation to set their hope in a loving and faithful God, to remember what He has done for them on the cross, and to trust and obey His commandments.

RESPOND

1. According to Psalm 78, what did the Israelites do? Why was it so important to tell the next generation about God's faithfulness? How did God show Himself faithful in all seasons?
2. What is your story of how Jesus came into your life? What has changed since you gave your life to Christ?
3. How can you encourage a family member, friend, or classmate with your testimony of God's faithfulness this week?

PRAY

1. Believe that God has entrusted you with the gospel. Ask God to empower you to speak His Word with authority.
2. Pray for the next generation leaders in your family, campus, church, community, and nation who still need to know about Jesus Christ.
3. Pray that God will open doors for you to preach the gospel to the next generation.

DAY 21 • AUGUST 25

Discipling the Next Generation

READ: 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-10; 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

¹You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ²and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 TIMOTHY 2:1,2

REFLECT

Imprisoned and facing execution, the aging Paul chose to write his second letter to Timothy, a disciple who had now been pastoring the church at Ephesus for four years. For more than a decade, since he was a teenager, Timothy had been a faithful companion to Paul, ministering alongside him during his second and third missionary journeys. In this passage, Paul reminds the young leader of two important things.

We make disciples who will make disciples. Paul tells Timothy to entrust what he'd been taught to faithful men who would be able to teach others also. Paul invested his life in Timothy, and he was now telling the young pastor to invest his life in the lives of others as well. This is a call for Timothy to make disciples. Discipleship begins with preaching the gospel, but it doesn't end there. As we invest our lives in making disciples of the next generation, we should also teach them of the call every follower of Christ has to make disciples.

The grace we have in Jesus Christ will strengthen us. In Hebrews 13:23, we learn that Timothy was also imprisoned for his faith. But Paul calls on Timothy to stand firm and be a good soldier, not because of his mentor, but because of Jesus Christ. What strengthens us in our call to preach the gospel and make disciples is the grace of Jesus Christ. This grace enables us to preach in order that others may *obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

In his letter to Timothy, Paul encouraged him to continue to be strengthened by the grace he had in Christ Jesus, and to continue to make disciples who would make disciples. Strengthened by the grace we have in Christ Jesus, we should invest our lives in the next generation. We should preach the gospel to them, invest our lives in making disciples of them, and teach them that, as followers of Christ, they are called to make disciples as well.

RESPOND

1. What does 2 Timothy 2:1,2 say about Paul as a leader? How did he ensure the preaching of the gospel would continue?
2. Is there someone of the next generation you are currently discipling? If not, would you like to begin discipling someone today? Name someone you are currently helping or would like to help in his or her walk with Jesus.
3. Write a letter to a next generation leader you feel needs encouragement in his or her walk with Jesus, and give it to him or her as an encouragement.

PRAY

1. Thank God for the people who preached the gospel to you, and those who are currently helping you in your walk with God.
2. Ask God to help you become a disciple who makes disciples of the next generation leaders.
3. Pray for the next generation leaders on your campus, that they would become disciples of Christ, and make more disciples of Christ in their turn.