

Scripture REFERENCES

SESSION TWO

DAY ONE

LUKE 7:1-17

¹ When he had concluded saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum.

² A centurion's servant, who was highly valued by him, was sick and about to die.

³ When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, requesting him to come and save the life of his servant. ⁴ When they reached Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy for you to grant this, ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built us a synagogue."

⁶ Jesus went with them, and when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to tell him, "Lord, don't trouble yourself, since I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I didn't even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I too am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under my command. I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

⁹ Jesus heard this and was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found so great a faith even in Israel." ¹⁰ When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant in good health.

¹¹ Afterward he was on his way to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd were traveling with him. ¹² Just as he neared the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the town was also with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said, "Don't weep." ¹⁴ Then he came up and touched the open coffin, and the pallbearers stopped. And he said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!"

¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.
¹⁶ Then fear came over everyone, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited his people." ¹⁷ This report about him went throughout Judea and all the vicinity.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-29

¹⁶ I repeat: Let no one consider me a fool. But if you do, at least accept me as a fool so that I can also boast a little. ¹⁷ What I am saying in this matter of boasting, I don't speak as the Lord would, but as it were, foolishly. ¹⁸ Since many boast according to the flesh, I will also boast. ¹⁹ For you, being so wise, gladly put up with fools! ²⁰ In fact, you put up with it if someone enslaves you, if someone exploits you, if someone takes advantage of you, if someone is arrogant toward you, if someone slaps you in the face. ²¹ I say this to our shame: We have been too weak for that!

But in whatever anyone dares to boast — I am talking foolishly — I also dare: ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? I'm talking like a madman — I'm a better one: with far more labors, many more imprisonments, far worse beatings, many times near death.

²⁴ Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. ²⁶ On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers among false brothers; ²⁷ toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing. ²⁸ Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?

2 KINGS 17:6-18

⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria. He deported the Israelites to Assyria and settled them in Halah, along the Habor (Gozan's river), and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷ This disaster happened because the people of Israel sinned against the Lord their God who had brought them out of the land of Egypt from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt and because they worshiped other gods. ⁸ They lived according to the customs of the nations that the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites and according to what the kings of Israel did. ⁹ The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that were not right. They built high places in all their towns from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰ They set up for themselves sacred pillars and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every green tree. ¹¹ They burned incense there on all the high places just like the nations that the LORD had driven out before them had done. They did evil things, angering the LORD. ¹² They served idols, although the LORD had told them, "You must not do this." ¹³ Still, the LORD warned Israel and Judah through every prophet and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commands and statutes according to the whole law I commanded your ancestors and sent to you through my servants the prophets."

¹⁴ But they would not listen. Instead they became obstinate like their ancestors who did not believe the LORD their God. ¹⁵ They rejected his statutes and his covenant he had made with their ancestors and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves, following the surrounding nations the LORD had commanded them not to imitate.

¹⁶ They abandoned all the commands of the LORD their God. They made cast images for themselves, two calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed in worship to all the stars in the sky and served Baal. ¹⁷ They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire and practiced divination and interpreted omens. They devoted themselves to do what was evil in the LORD's sight and angered him.

¹⁸ Therefore, the LORD was very angry with Israel, and he removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah remained.

GENESIS 3

¹ Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. ³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ And he said, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

¹¹ Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate."

¹³ So the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than any livestock
and more than any wild animal.

You will move on your belly
and eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.

He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.

¹⁶ He said to the woman:

I will intensify your labor pains;
you will bear children with painful effort.

Your desire will be for your husband,
yet he will rule over you.

¹⁷ And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it':

The ground is cursed because of you.

You will eat from it by means of painful labor
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,

and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow

until you return to the ground,

since you were taken from it.

For you are dust,

and you will return to dust.”

²⁰ The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

²² The LORD God said, “Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.”

²³ So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

ROMANS 8:20-22

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility — not willingly, but because of him who subjected it — in the hope ²¹ that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God’s children. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now.

JOHN 11:1-44

¹ Now a man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. ³ So the sisters sent a message to him: “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

⁴ When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after that, he said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again."

⁸ "Rabbi," the disciples told him, "just now the Jews tried to stone you, and you're going there again?"

⁹ "Aren't there twelve hours in a day?" Jesus answered. "If anyone walks during the day, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him."

¹¹ He said this, and then he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm on my way to wake him up."

¹² Then the disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well."

¹³ Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep. ¹⁴ So Jesus then told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. ¹⁵ I'm glad for you that I wasn't there so that you may believe. But let's go to him."

¹⁶ Then Thomas (called "Twin") said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go too so that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem (less than two miles away). ¹⁹ Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

²⁰ As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. ²² Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

²³ "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her.

²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. ²⁶ Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world."

²⁸ Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

²⁹ As soon as Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up quickly and went out. They followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to cry there.

³² As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died!"

³³ When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you put him?" he asked.

"Lord," they told him, "come and see."

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him! " ³⁷ But some of them said, "Couldn't he who opened the blind man's eyes also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ "Remove the stone," Jesus said.

Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me." ⁴³ After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go."

JOHN 12:1-3

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead.

² So they gave a dinner for him there; Martha was serving them, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took a pound of perfume, pure and expensive nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped his feet with her hair. So the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

LUKE 10:38-42

³⁸ While they were traveling, he entered a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, and she came up and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? So tell her to give me a hand."

⁴¹ The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her."

EXODUS 33:18-23

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Please, let me see your glory."

¹⁹ He said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name 'the LORD' before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ²⁰ But he added, "You cannot see my face, for humans cannot see me and live." ²¹ The LORD said, "Here is a place near me. You are to stand on the rock, ²² and when my glory passes by, I will put you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have

passed by. ²³ Then I will take my hand away, and you will see my back, but my face will not be seen.”

JOHN 1:28

²⁸ All this happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

JOHN 10:22-42

²² Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

²³ Jesus was walking in the temple in Solomon’s Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews surrounded him and asked, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

²⁵ “I did tell you and you don’t believe,” Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in my Father’s name testify about me. ²⁶ But you don’t believe because you are not of my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

³¹ Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone him.

³² Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these works are you stoning me?”

³³ “We aren’t stoning you for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because you — being a man — make yourself God.”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Isn’t it written in your law, I said, you are gods? ³⁵ If he called those to whom the word of God came ‘gods’ — and the Scripture cannot be broken — ³⁶ do you say, ‘You are blaspheming’ to the one the Father set apart and sent into the world, because I said: I am the Son of God? ³⁷ If I am not doing my Father’s works, don’t believe me. ³⁸ But if I am doing them and you don’t believe me, believe the works. This way you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I in the Father.” ³⁹ Then they were trying again to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

⁴⁰ So he departed again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. ⁴¹ Many came to him and said, "John never did a sign, but everything John said about this man was true." ⁴² And many believed in him there.

SESSION TWO

DAY TWO

JOHN 11:17-44

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem (less than two miles away). ¹⁹ Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

²⁰ As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. ²² Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

²³ "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her.

²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. ²⁶ Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? "

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world."

²⁸ Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

²⁹ As soon as Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him.

³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up quickly and went out. They followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to cry there.

³² As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died!"

³³ When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you put him?" he asked.

"Lord," they told him, "come and see."

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³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Couldn't he who opened the blind man's eyes also have kept this man from dying?"

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⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me."

⁴³ After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go."

JOHN 11:45

⁴⁵ Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what he did believed in him.

SESSION TWO

DAY FOUR

PSALM 139:1-4,13-17

¹ LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I stand up;

you understand my thoughts from far away.

³ You observe my travels and my rest;

you are aware of all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue,

you know all about it, LORD.

⁵ You have encircled me;

you have placed your hand on me.

⁶ This wondrous knowledge is beyond me.

It is lofty; I am unable to reach it.

⁷ Where can I go to escape your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I fly on the wings of the dawn

and settle down on the western horizon,

¹⁰ even there your hand will lead me;

your right hand will hold on to me.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me,

and the light around me will be night" —

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you.

The night shines like the day;

darkness and light are alike to you.

¹³ For it was you who created my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will praise you

because I have been remarkably and wondrously made.

Your works are wondrous,

and I know this very well.

¹⁵ My bones were not hidden from you

when I was made in secret,

when I was formed in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw me when I was formless;

all my days were written in your book and planned

before a single one of them began.

¹⁷ God, how precious your thoughts are to me;

how vast their sum is!

¹⁸ If I counted them,

they would outnumber the grains of sand;

when I wake up, I am still with you.

¹⁹ God, if only you would kill the wicked —

you bloodthirsty men, stay away from me —

²⁰ who invoke you deceitfully.

Your enemies swear by you falsely.

²¹ LORD, don't I hate those who hate you,

and detest those who rebel against you?

²² I hate them with extreme hatred;

I consider them my enemies.

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;

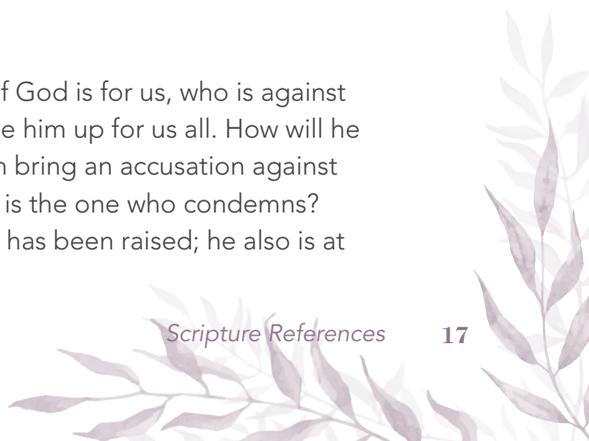
test me and know my concerns.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me;

lead me in the everlasting way.

ROMANS 8:31-39

³¹ What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? ³³ Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. ³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at



the right hand of God and intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

Because of you

we are being put to death all day long;

we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EPHESIANS 3:16-19

¹⁶ I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, ¹⁹ and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

JAMES 1:17

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

PSALM 136:1

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

'His faithful love endures forever'.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

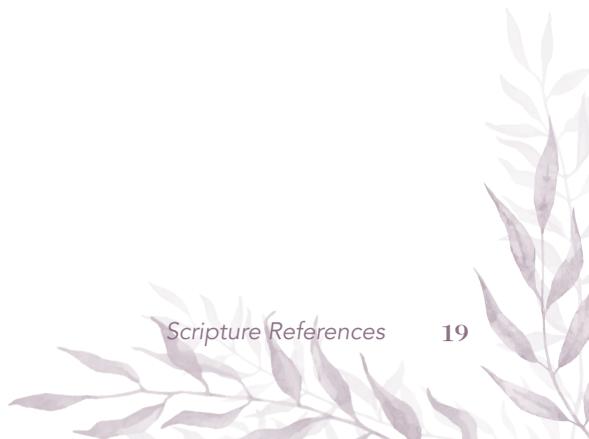
¹⁷ The LORD your God is among you,

a warrior who saves.

He will rejoice over you with gladness.

He will be quiet in his love.

He will delight in you with singing.”



SESSION TWO

DAY FIVE

PSALM 31:7

⁷ I will rejoice and be glad in your faithful love
because you have seen my affliction.

You know the troubles of my soul.

PSALM 18:19

¹⁹ He brought me out to a spacious place;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

PSALM 56:8

⁸ You yourself have recorded my wanderings.
Put my tears in your bottle.
Are they not in your book?

ISAIAH 54:10

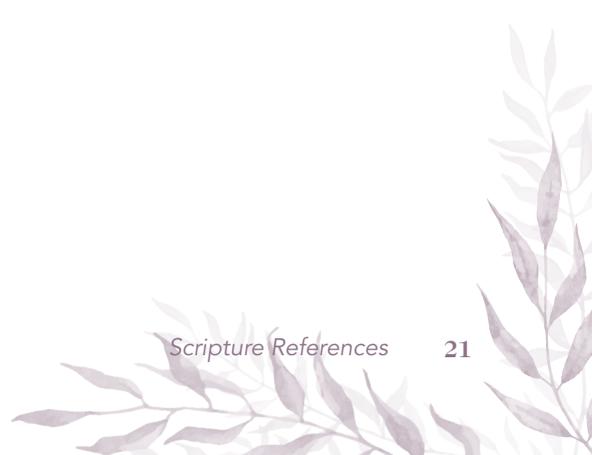
¹⁰ Though the mountains move
and the hills shake,
my love will not be removed from you
and my covenant of peace will not be shaken,"
says your compassionate LORD.

ROMANS 8:31-32

³¹ What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?

ROMANS 8:38-39

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



SESSION TWO

BONUS STUDY

EXODUS 33:17-23; 34:1-8

^{33:17} The LORD answered Moses, "I will do this very thing you have asked, for you have found favor with me, and I know you by name."

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Please, let me see your glory."

¹⁹ He said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name 'the LORD' before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ²⁰ But he added, "You cannot see my face, for humans cannot see me and live." ²¹ The LORD said, "Here is a place near me. You are to stand on the rock, ²² and when my glory passes by, I will put you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take my hand away, and you will see my back, but my face will not be seen."

^{34:1} The LORD said to Moses, "Cut two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

² Be prepared by morning. Come up Mount Sinai in the morning and stand before me on the mountaintop. ³ No one may go up with you; in fact, no one should be seen anywhere on the mountain. Even the flocks and herds are not to graze in front of that mountain."

⁴ Moses cut two stone tablets like the first ones. He got up early in the morning, and taking the two stone tablets in his hand, he climbed Mount Sinai, just as the LORD had commanded him.

⁵ The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed his name, "the LORD." ⁶ The LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed:

The LORD — the LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, ⁷ maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty

unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.

⁸ Moses immediately knelt low on the ground and worshiped.

EXODUS 40:34-38

³⁴ The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses was unable to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud rested on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ The Israelites set out whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle throughout all the stages of their journey. ³⁷ If the cloud was not taken up, they did not set out until the day it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and there was a fire inside the cloud by night, visible to the entire house of Israel throughout all the stages of their journey.

LUKE 9:28-36

²⁸ About eight days after this conversation, he took along Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly, two men were talking with him — Moses and Elijah. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.

³² Peter and those with him were in a deep sleep, and when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who were standing with him. ³³ As the two men were departing from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it's good for us to be here. Let's set up three shelters: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he was saying.

³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud appeared and overshadowed them. They became afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One; listen to him!"

³⁶ After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They kept silent, and at that time told no one what they had seen.

JOHN 1:14-18

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, “This was the one of whom I said, ‘The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.’”) ¹⁶ Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, ¹⁷ for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father’s side—he has revealed him.

JOHN 2:11

¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

SESSION THREE

DAY ONE

1 SAMUEL 1:1-20

¹ There was a man from Ramathaim-zophim in the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

² He had two wives, the first named Hannah and the second Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah was childless. ³ This man would go up from his town every year to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of Armies at Shiloh, where Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were the LORD's priests.

⁴ Whenever Elkanah offered a sacrifice, he always gave portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to each of her sons and daughters. ⁵ But he gave a double portion to Hannah, for he loved her even though the LORD had kept her from conceiving. ⁶ Her rival would taunt her severely just to provoke her, because the LORD had kept Hannah from conceiving. ⁷ Year after year, when she went up to the LORD's house, her rival taunted her in this way. Hannah would weep and would not eat. ⁸ "Hannah, why are you crying?" her husband, Elkanah, would ask. "Why won't you eat? Why are you troubled? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

⁹ On one occasion, Hannah got up after they ate and drank at Shiloh. The priest Eli was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. ¹⁰ Deeply hurt, Hannah prayed to the LORD and wept with many tears. ¹¹ Making a vow, she pleaded, "LORD of Armies, if you will take notice of your servant's affliction, remember and not forget me, and give your servant a son, I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and his hair will never be cut."

¹² While she continued praying in the LORD's presence, Eli watched her mouth.

¹³ Hannah was praying silently, and though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, "How long are you going to be drunk? Get rid of your wine!"

¹⁵ "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the LORD. ¹⁶ Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment."

¹⁷ Eli responded, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant the request you’ve made of him.”

¹⁸ “May your servant find favor with you,” she replied. Then Hannah went on her way; she ate and no longer looked despondent.

¹⁹ The next morning Elkanah and Hannah got up early to worship before the LORD. Afterward, they returned home to Ramah. Then Elkanah was intimate with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ After some time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, because she said, “I requested him from the LORD.”

ROMANS 8:26

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.

1 SAMUEL 2:1

¹ Hannah prayed:

My heart rejoices in the LORD;

my horn is lifted up by the LORD.

My mouth boasts over my enemies,

because I rejoice in your salvation.

SESSION THREE

DAY TWO

PHILIPPIANS 2:14

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling and arguing.

PSALM 142:2

² I pour out my complaint before him;

I reveal my trouble to him.

MARK 14:32-40

³² Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he told his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ He said to them, "I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake." ³⁵ He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "'Abba', Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will." ³⁷ Then he came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake one hour?" ³⁸ Stay awake and pray so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ Once again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open. They did not know what to say to him.

1 JOHN 3:1-2

¹ See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children — and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him.

² Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is.

ROMANS 8:14-17

¹⁴ For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "'Abba', Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, ¹⁷ and if children, also heirs — heirs of God and coheirs with Christ — if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

MARK 14:36

³⁶ And he said, "'Abba', Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

MARK 9:24

²⁴ Immediately the father of the boy cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!"

PSALM 10:17

¹⁷ LORD, you have heard the desire of the humble;

you will strengthen their hearts.

You will listen carefully.

ISAIAH 30:19

¹⁹ For people will live on Zion in Jerusalem. You will never weep again; he will show favor to you at the sound of your outcry; as soon as he hears, he will answer you.

JEREMIAH 33:3

³ Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and incomprehensible things you do not know.

DANIEL 10:12

¹² "Don't be afraid, Daniel," he said to me, "for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers."

MICAH 7:7

⁷ But I will look to the LORD;

I will wait for the God of my salvation.

My God will hear me.

MATTHEW 18:19-20

¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.

LUKE 18:1

¹ Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up.

2 KINGS 6:15-18

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up early and went out, he discovered an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do? "

¹⁶ Elisha said, "Don't be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them."

¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, please open his eyes and let him see." So the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

PSALM 78:12-16

¹² He worked wonders in the sight of their ancestors

in the land of Egypt, the territory of Zoan.

¹³ He split the sea and brought them across;

the water stood firm like a wall.

¹⁴ He led them with a cloud by day

and with a fiery light throughout the night.

¹⁵ He split rocks in the wilderness

and gave them drink as abundant as the depths.

¹⁶ He brought streams out of the stone

and made water flow down like rivers.

PROVERBS 21:1

¹ A king's heart is like channeled water in the LORD's hand:

He directs it wherever he chooses.

JEREMIAH 32:17,27

¹⁷ Oh, Lord GOD! You yourself made the heavens and earth by your great power and with your outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for you!

²⁷ "Look, I am the LORD, the God over every creature. Is anything too difficult for me?"

LUKE 18:27

²⁷ He replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

HEBREWS 11:3

³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

MATTHEW 6:7

⁷ When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words.

EPHESIANS 6:12

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

JAMES 4:2D,7-8

^{2d} You do not have because you do not ask.

⁷ Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 PETER 5:8-9

⁸ Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

NEHEMIAH 1:4-11

⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens. ⁵ I said,

LORD, the God of the heavens, the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps his gracious covenant with those who love him and keep his commands, ⁶ let your eyes be open and your ears be attentive to hear your servant's prayer that I now pray to you day and night for your servants, the Israelites. I confess the sins we have committed against you. Both I and my father's family have sinned. ⁷ We have acted corruptly toward you and have not kept the commands, statutes, and ordinances you gave your servant Moses. ⁸ Please remember what you commanded your servant Moses: "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples. ⁹ But if you return to me and carefully observe my commands, even though your exiles were banished to the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I chose to have my name dwell." ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people. You redeemed them by your great power and strong hand. ¹¹ Please, Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to that of your servants who delight to revere your name. Give your servant success today, and grant him compassion in the presence of this man.

At the time, I was the king's cupbearer.

PSALM 6

¹ LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger;

do not discipline me in your wrath.

² Be gracious to me, LORD, for I am weak;

heal me, LORD, for my bones are shaking;

³ my whole being is shaken with terror.

And you, LORD — how long?

⁴ Turn, LORD! Rescue me;

save me because of your faithful love.

⁵ For there is no remembrance of you in death;

who can thank you in Sheol?

⁶ I am weary from my groaning;
with my tears I dampen my bed
and drench my couch every night.

⁷ My eyes are swollen from grief;
they grow old because of all my enemies.

⁸ Depart from me, all evildoers,
for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.

⁹ The LORD has heard my plea for help;
the LORD accepts my prayer.

¹⁰ All my enemies will be ashamed and shake with terror;
they will turn back and suddenly be disgraced.

PSALM 51:1-4,9-12

¹ Be gracious to me, God,
according to your faithful love;
according to your abundant compassion,
blot out my rebellion.

² Completely wash away my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I am conscious of my rebellion,
and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you — you alone — I have sinned

and done this evil in your sight.

So you are right when you pass sentence;

you are blameless when you judge.

⁹ Turn your face away from my sins

and blot out all my guilt.

¹⁰ God, create a clean heart for me

and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence

or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore the joy of your salvation to me,

and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit.

MATTHEW 6:5-15

⁵ "Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. ⁸ Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.

⁹ "Therefore, you should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,

your name be honored as holy.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.

¹⁴ "For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. ¹⁵ But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.

LUKE 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: 'God, I thank you that I'm not like other people — greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.'

¹³ "But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

¹⁵ This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

²⁰ He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens — ²¹ far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. ¹⁶ I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, ¹⁹ and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us — ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SESSION THREE

DAY THREE

ACTS 3:19-20

¹⁹ Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰ that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah.

PSALM 119:18

¹⁸ Open my eyes so that I may contemplate

wondrous things from your instruction.

PSALM 119:25

²⁵ My life is down in the dust;

give me life through your word.

PSALM 16:11

¹¹ You reveal the path of life to me;

in your presence is abundant joy;

at your right hand are eternal pleasures.

PSALM 34:8

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good.

How happy is the person who takes refuge in him!

JEREMIAH 15:16

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them.

Your words became a delight to me

and the joy of my heart,

for I bear your name,

LORD God of Armies.

PSALM 13

¹ How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long will I store up anxious concerns within me,

agony in my mind every day?

How long will my enemy dominate me?

³ Consider me and answer, LORD my God.

Restore brightness to my eyes;

otherwise, I will sleep in death.

⁴ My enemy will say, "I have triumphed over him,"

and my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵ But I have trusted in your faithful love;

my heart will rejoice in your deliverance.

⁶ I will sing to the LORD

because he has treated me generously.

PSALM 6

¹ LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger;

do not discipline me in your wrath.

² Be gracious to me, LORD, for I am weak;

heal me, LORD, for my bones are shaking;

³ my whole being is shaken with terror.

And you, LORD — how long?

⁴ Turn, LORD! Rescue me;

save me because of your faithful love.

⁵ For there is no remembrance of you in death;

who can thank you in Sheol?

⁶ I am weary from my groaning;

with my tears I dampen my bed

and drench my couch every night.

⁷ My eyes are swollen from grief;

they grow old because of all my enemies.

⁸ Depart from me, all evildoers,

for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.

⁹ The LORD has heard my plea for help;

the LORD accepts my prayer.

¹⁰ All my enemies will be ashamed and shake with terror;

they will turn back and suddenly be disgraced.

PSALM 42

¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams,

so I long for you, God.

² I thirst for God, the living God.

When can I come and appear before God?

³ My tears have been my food day and night,

while all day long people say to me,

“Where is your God? ”

⁴ I remember this as I pour out my heart:

how I walked with many,

leading the festive procession to the house of God,

with joyful and thankful shouts.

⁵ Why, my soul, are you so dejected?

Why are you in such turmoil?

Put your hope in God, for I will still praise him,

my Savior and my God.

⁶ I am deeply depressed;

therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan

and the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls;

all your breakers and your billows have swept over me.

⁸ The LORD will send his faithful love by day;

his song will be with me in the night —

a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I will say to God, my rock,

“Why have you forgotten me?

Why must I go about in sorrow

because of the enemy’s oppression?”

¹⁰ My adversaries taunt me,

as if crushing my bones,

while all day long they say to me,

“Where is your God?”

¹¹ Why, my soul, are you so dejected?

Why are you in such turmoil?

Put your hope in God, for I will still praise him,

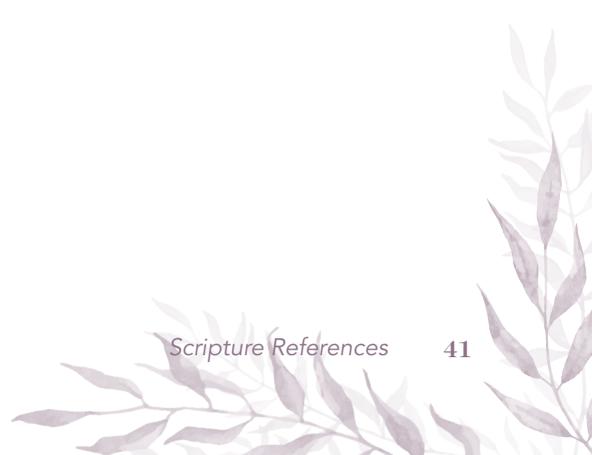
my Savior and my God.

PSALM 77

¹ I cry aloud to God,

aloud to God, and he will hear me.

² I sought the Lord in my day of trouble.



My hands were continually lifted up

all night long;

I refused to be comforted.

³ I think of God; I groan;

I meditate; my spirit becomes weak. Selah

⁴ You have kept me from closing my eyes;

I am troubled and cannot speak.

⁵ I consider days of old,

years long past.

⁶ At night I remember my music;

I meditate in my heart, and my spirit ponders.

⁷ "Will the Lord reject forever

and never again show favor?

⁸ Has his faithful love ceased forever?

Is his promise at an end for all generations?

⁹ Has God forgotten to be gracious?

Has he in anger withheld his compassion? " Selah

¹⁰ So I say, "I am grieved

that the right hand of the Most High has changed."

¹¹ I will remember the LORD's works;

yes, I will remember your ancient wonders.

¹² I will reflect on all you have done

and meditate on your actions.

¹³ God, your way is holy.

What god is great like God?

¹⁴ You are the God who works wonders;

you revealed your strength among the peoples.

¹⁵ With power you redeemed your people,

the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

¹⁶ The water saw you, God.

The water saw you; it trembled.

Even the depths shook.

¹⁷ The clouds poured down water.

The storm clouds thundered;

your arrows flashed back and forth.

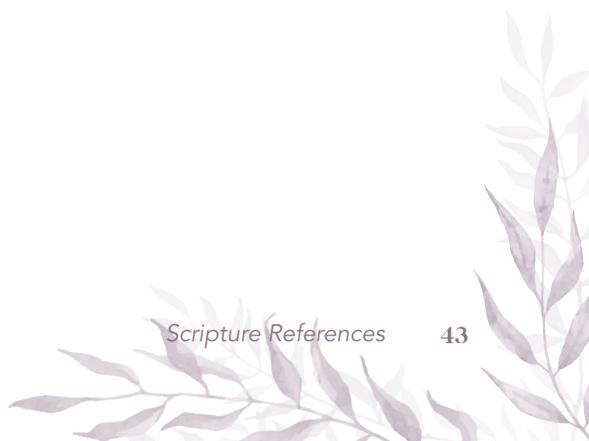
¹⁸ The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind;

lightning lit up the world.

The earth shook and quaked.

¹⁹ Your way went through the sea

and your path through the vast water,



but your footprints were unseen.

²⁰ You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

PSALM 142

¹ I cry aloud to the LORD;

I plead aloud to the LORD for mercy.

² I pour out my complaint before him;

I reveal my trouble to him.

³ Although my spirit is weak within me,
you know my way.

Along this path I travel
they have hidden a trap for me.

⁴ Look to the right and see:

no one stands up for me;

there is no refuge for me;

no one cares about me.

⁵ I cry to you, LORD;

I say, "You are my shelter,
my portion in the land of the living."

⁶ Listen to my cry,

for I am very weak.

Rescue me from those who pursue me,

for they are too strong for me.

⁷ Free me from prison

so that I can praise your name.

The righteous will gather around me

because you deal generously with me.



SESSION THREE

DAY FOUR

PSALM 86:11

¹¹ Teach me your way, LORD,

and I will live by your truth.

Give me an undivided mind to fear your name.

PSALM 119:33

³³ Teach me, LORD, the meaning of your statutes,

and I will always keep them.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

HEBREWS 4:12

¹³ No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.

PSALM 32:8

⁸ I will instruct you and show you the way to go;

with my eye on you, I will give counsel.

PSALM 119:24

²⁴ your decrees are my delight

and my counselors.

PSALM 119:76

⁷⁶ May your faithful love comfort me

as you promised your servant.

ROMANS 15:4

⁴ For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures.

PSALM 16:11

¹¹ You reveal the path of life to me;

in your presence is abundant joy;

at your right hand are eternal pleasures.

JEREMIAH 15:16

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them.

Your words became a delight to me

and the joy of my heart,

for I bear your name,

Lord God of Armies.

JOHN 8:19

¹⁹ Then they asked him, "Where is your Father?"

"You know neither me nor my Father," Jesus answered. "If you knew me, you would also know my Father."

MATTHEW 22:29

²⁹ Jesus answered them, "You are mistaken, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God."

JOHN 5:39-40

³⁹ You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.

ACTS 7:51

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit. As your ancestors did, you do also."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

¹⁸ We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:12,14

¹² Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God.

¹⁴ But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually.

LUKE 24:32,45

³² They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?"

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

MATTHEW 16:16

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

MATTHEW 3:17

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

MATTHEW 16:17

¹⁷ Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven."

1 SAMUEL 3:9

⁹ He told Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

ISAIAH 50:4

⁴ The LORD God has given me

the tongue of those who are instructed

to know how to sustain the weary with a word.

He awakens me each morning;

he awakens my ear to listen like those being instructed.

PSALM 119:18

¹⁸ Open my eyes so that I may contemplate

wondrous things from your instruction.

LUKE 24:45

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

PSALM 25:8

⁸ The Lord is good and upright;
therefore he shows sinners the way.

HEBREWS 4:12

¹² For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

PSALM 119:76-77

⁷⁶ May your faithful love comfort me
as you promised your servant.
⁷⁷ May your compassion come to me
so that I may live,
for your instruction is my delight.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:5

⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance.

DEUTERONOMY 17:18-20

¹⁸ When he is seated on his royal throne, he is to write a copy of this instruction for himself on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to observe all the words of this instruction, and to do these statutes. ²⁰ Then his heart will not be exalted above his countrymen, he will not turn from this command to the right or the left, and he and his sons will continue reigning many years in Israel.

JAMES 1:22

²² But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12

¹ all the people gathered together at the square in front of the Water Gate. They asked the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses that the LORD had given Israel.

² On the first day of the seventh month, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly of men, women, and all who could listen with understanding.

³ While he was facing the square in front of the Water Gate, he read out of it from daybreak until noon before the men, the women, and those who could understand. All the people listened attentively to the book of the law. ⁴ The scribe Ezra stood on a high wooden platform made for this purpose. Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah stood beside him on his right; to his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. ⁵ Ezra opened the book in full view of all the people, since he was elevated above everyone. As he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and with their hands uplifted all the people said, "Amen, Amen!" Then they knelt low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah, who were Levites, explained the law to the people as they stood in their places. ⁸ They read out of the book of the law of God, translating and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was read. ⁹ Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all of them, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go and eat what is rich, drink what is sweet, and send portions to those who have nothing prepared, since today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, because the joy of the LORD is your strength." ¹¹ And the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, since today is holy. Don't grieve." ¹² Then all the people began to eat and drink, send portions, and have a great celebration, because they had understood the words that were explained to them.

SESSION THREE

DAY FIVE

PSALM 63:1-8

¹ God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you.

I thirst for you;

my body faints for you

in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.

² So I gaze on you in the sanctuary

to see your strength and your glory.

³ My lips will glorify you

because your faithful love is better than life.

⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;

at your name, I will lift up my hands.

⁵ You satisfy me as with rich food;

my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

⁶ When I think of you as I lie on my bed,

I meditate on you during the night watches

⁷ because you are my helper;

I will rejoice in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ I follow close to you;

your right hand holds on to me.

PSALM 16:11

¹¹ You reveal the path of life to me;
in your presence is abundant joy;
at your right hand are eternal pleasures.

PSALM 34:8

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good.
How happy is the person who takes refuge in him!

PSALM 119:18

¹⁸ Open my eyes so that I may contemplate
wondrous things from your instruction.

PSALM 119:25

²⁵ My life is down in the dust;
give me life through your word.

JEREMIAH 15:16

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them.

Your words became a delight to me
and the joy of my heart,
for I bear your name,
LORD God of Armies.

SESSION FOUR

DAY ONE

JOHN 19:23-27

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it." This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. This is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

LUKE 1:26-33

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

LUKE 1:30-32

³⁰ Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.

LUKE 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and your child will be blessed!"

MATTHEW 1:20-25

²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ See, the virgin will become pregnant

and give birth to a son,

and they will name him Immanuel,

which is translated "God is with us."

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her ²⁵ but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

LUKE 2:8-20

⁸ In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹ Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to people he favors!

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.

LUKE 2:27-38

²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said,

²⁹ Now, Master,
you can dismiss your servant in peace,
as you promised.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation.

³¹ You have prepared it
in the presence of all peoples —

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and glory to your people Israel.

³³ His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary, “Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed — ³⁵ and a sword will pierce your own soul — that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and was a widow for eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

MATTHEW 2:9-10

⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was — the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy.

LUKE 2:51-52

⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

JOHN 8:3-5

³ Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. ⁴ “Teacher,” they said to him, “this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. ⁵ In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”

MATTHEW 1:19

¹⁹ So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

LUKE 2:4-5

⁴ Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, ⁵ to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

LUKE 2:6-7

⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

LUKE 2:35

³⁵ “and a sword will pierce your own soul — that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

LEVITICUS 12:8

⁸ “But if she doesn’t have sufficient means for a sheep, she may take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. Then the priest will make atonement on her behalf, and she will be clean.”

JOHN 2:4

⁴ “What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?” Jesus asked. “My hour has not yet come.”

LUKE 8:1-3

¹ Afterward he was traveling from one town and village to another, preaching and telling the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him,

² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary, called Magdalene (seven demons had come out of her); ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward; Susanna; and many others who were supporting them from their possessions.

MARK 5:1-20

¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.

² As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him. ³ He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore — not even with a chain — ⁴ because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him. ⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice, “What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don’t torment me!” ⁸ For he had told him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”

⁹ “What is your name?” he asked him.

“My name is Legion,” he answered him, “because we are many.” ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. ¹² The demons begged him, “Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them.” ¹³ So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

¹⁴ The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg him to leave their region.

¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him but told him, “Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰ So he went out and

began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

LUKE 23:54-56

⁵⁴ It was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed along and observed the tomb and how his body was placed. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

LUKE 24:1

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.

JOHN 20:1-2,11-18

¹ On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

² So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, "They've taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him!"

¹¹ But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus's body had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"Because they've taken away my Lord," she told them, "and I don't know where they've put him."

¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. ¹⁵ "Woman," Jesus said to her, "why are you crying? Who is it that you're seeking?"

Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you’ve carried him away, tell me where you’ve put him, and I will take him away.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

Turning around, she said to him in Aramaic, “‘Rabboni!’” — which means “Teacher.”

¹⁷ “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus told her, “since I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them what he had said to her.

JOHN 2:4

⁴ “What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?” Jesus asked. “My hour has not yet come.”

JOHN 19:26

²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.”

ISAIAH 43:1

¹ Now this is what the LORD says —

the one who created you, Jacob,

and the one who formed you, Israel —

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by your name; you are mine.

SESSION FOUR

DAY TWO

NUMBERS 13:31

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him responded, "We can't attack the people because they are stronger than we are!"

1 KINGS 19:3

³ Then Elijah became afraid and immediately ran for his life. When he came to Beer-sheba that belonged to Judah, he left his servant there,

EXODUS 14:14

¹⁴ "The LORD will fight for you, and you must be quiet."

PSALM 139:16

¹⁶ Your eyes saw me when I was formless;

all my days were written in your book and planned

before a single one of them began.

MATTHEW 6:27

²⁷ Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying?

MATTHEW 28:20

²⁰ "teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

REVELATION 2:10

¹⁰ Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will experience affliction for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

JUDGES 6:27

²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his male servants and did as the LORD had told him. But because he was too afraid of his father's family and the men of the city to do it in the daytime, he did it at night.

JUDGES 7:10

¹⁰ But if you are afraid to attack the camp, go down with Purah your servant.

JEREMIAH 1:6

⁶ But I protested, "Oh no, Lord God! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth."

JEREMIAH 1:7-8

⁷ Then the LORD said to me:

Do not say, "I am only a youth,"

for you will go to everyone I send you to

and speak whatever I tell you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of anyone,

for I will be with you to rescue you.

This is the LORD's declaration.

MARK 13:11

¹¹ So when they arrest you and hand you over, don't worry beforehand what you will say, but say whatever is given to you at that time, for it isn't you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:25,27

²⁵ because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁷ Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.

1 SAMUEL 18:12

¹² Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul.

JOHN 12:42-43

⁴² Nevertheless, many did believe in him even among the rulers, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, so that they would not be banned from the synagogue. ⁴³ For they loved human praise more than praise from God.

PSALM 56:8-11

⁸ You yourself have recorded my wanderings.

Put my tears in your bottle.

Are they not in your book?

⁹ Then my enemies will retreat on the day when I call.

This I know: God is for me.

¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise,

in the LORD, whose word I praise,

¹¹ in God I trust; I will not be afraid.

What can mere humans do to me?

ROMANS 8:31

³¹ What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

PROVERBS 29:25

²⁵ The fear of mankind is a snare,
but the one who trusts in the LORD is protected.

MATTHEW 5:11-12

¹¹ "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. ¹² Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 TIMOTHY 4:17

¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

ROMANS 8:35-39

³⁵ Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

Because of you

we are being put to death all day long;

we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GENESIS 30:1

When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she envied her sister. “Give me sons, or I will die!” she said to Jacob.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

⁸ And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

¹³ I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

2 PETER 1:3

³ His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

JOB 3:25

²⁵ For the thing I feared has overtaken me,

and what I dreaded has happened to me.

MATTHEW 6:25-34

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you: Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Consider the birds of the sky: They don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they? ²⁷ Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. ³⁰ If that’s how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won’t he do much more for you — you of little faith? ³¹ So don’t worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and

all these things will be provided for you. ³⁴ Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

PSALM 23:4

⁴ Even when I go through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

PSALM 34:4

⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me

and rescued me from all my fears.

PSALM 112:7-8A

⁷ He will not fear bad news;

his heart is confident, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ His heart is assured; he will not fear.

DEUTERONOMY 1:29-31

²⁹ "So I said to you: Don't be terrified or afraid of them! ³⁰ The LORD your God who goes before you will fight for you, just as you saw him do for you in Egypt.

³¹ And you saw in the wilderness how the LORD your God carried you as a man carries his son all along the way you traveled until you reached this place.

2 CHRONICLES 20:12

¹² Our God, will you not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to you.

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

⁷ The person who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence indeed is the LORD, is blessed.

⁸ He will be like a tree planted by water:

it sends its roots out toward a stream,

it doesn't fear when heat comes,

and its foliage remains green.

It will not worry in a year of drought

or cease producing fruit.

PSALM 25:12,14

¹² Who is this person who fears the LORD?

He will show him the way he should choose.

¹⁴ The secret counsel of the LORD

is for those who fear him,

and he reveals his covenant to them.

PSALM 111:10

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

all who follow his instructions have good insight.

His praise endures forever.

MATTHEW 10:28-31

²⁸ Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

MARK 4:41

⁴¹ And they were terrified and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

PSALM 56:3-4

³ When I am afraid,

I will trust in you.

⁴ In God, whose word I praise,

in God I trust; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?

PSALM 105

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;

proclaim his deeds among the peoples.

² Sing to him, sing praise to him;

tell about all his wondrous works!

³ Boast in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his face always.

⁵ Remember the wondrous works he has done,
his wonders, and the judgments he has pronounced,

⁶ you offspring of Abraham his servant,
Jacob's descendants — his chosen ones.

⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments govern the whole earth.

⁸ He remembers his covenant forever,
the promise he ordained
for a thousand generations —

⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham,
swore to Isaac,

¹⁰ and confirmed to Jacob as a decree
and to Israel as a permanent covenant:

¹¹ "I will give the land of Canaan to you
as your inherited portion."

¹² When they were few in number,
very few indeed,
and resident aliens in Canaan,

¹³ wandering from nation to nation

and from one kingdom to another,

¹⁴ he allowed no one to oppress them;

he rebuked kings on their behalf:

¹⁵ “Do not touch my anointed ones,

or harm my prophets.”

¹⁶ He called down famine against the land

and destroyed the entire food supply.

¹⁷ He had sent a man ahead of them —

Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

¹⁸ They hurt his feet with shackles;

his neck was put in an iron collar.

¹⁹ Until the time his prediction came true,

the word of the LORD tested him.

²⁰ The king sent for him and released him;

the ruler of peoples set him free.

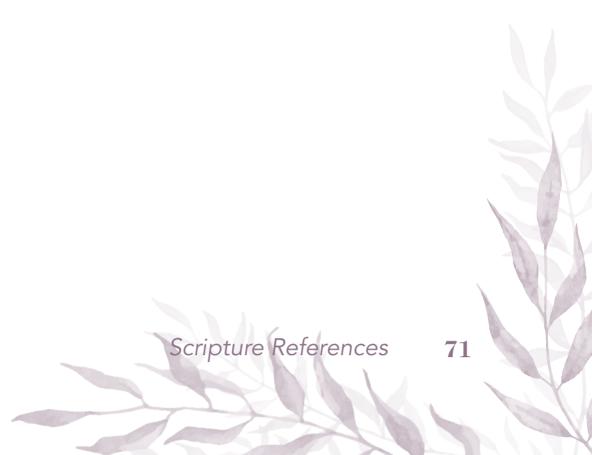
²¹ He made him master of his household,

ruler over all his possessions —

²² binding his officials at will

and instructing his elders.

²³ Then Israel went to Egypt;



Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

²⁴ The LORD made his people very fruitful;
he made them more numerous than their foes,
²⁵ whose hearts he turned to hate his people
and to deal deceptively with his servants.

²⁶ He sent Moses his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

²⁷ They performed his miraculous signs among them
and wonders in the land of Ham.

²⁸ He sent darkness, and it became dark —
for did they not defy his commands?

²⁹ He turned their water into blood
and caused their fish to die.

³⁰ Their land was overrun with frogs,
even in their royal chambers.

³¹ He spoke, and insects came —
gnats throughout their country.

³² He gave them hail for rain,
and lightning throughout their land.

³³ He struck their vines and fig trees

and shattered the trees of their territory.

³⁴ He spoke, and locusts came —

young locusts without number.

³⁵ They devoured all the vegetation in their land

and consumed the produce of their land.

³⁶ He struck all the firstborn in their land,

all their first progeny.

³⁷ Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,

and no one among his tribes stumbled.

³⁸ Egypt was glad when they left,

for the dread of Israel had fallen on them.

³⁹ He spread a cloud as a covering

and gave a fire to light up the night.

⁴⁰ They asked, and he brought quail

and satisfied them with bread from heaven.

⁴¹ He opened a rock, and water gushed out;

it flowed like a stream in the desert.

⁴² For he remembered his holy promise

to Abraham his servant.

⁴³ He brought his people out with rejoicing,



his chosen ones with shouts of joy.

⁴⁴ He gave them the lands of the nations,

and they inherited

what other peoples had worked for.

⁴⁵ All this happened

so that they might keep his statutes

and obey his instructions.

Hallelujah!

PSALM 107

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

his faithful love endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim

that he has redeemed them from the power of the foe

³ and has gathered them from the lands —

from the east and the west,

from the north and the south.

⁴ Some wandered in the desolate wilderness,

finding no way to a city where they could live.

⁵ They were hungry and thirsty;

their spirits failed within them.

⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;

he rescued them from their distress.

⁷ He led them by the right path

to go to a city where they could live.

⁸ Let them give thanks to the LORD

for his faithful love

and his wondrous works for all humanity.

⁹ For he has satisfied the thirsty

and filled the hungry with good things.

¹⁰ Others sat in darkness and gloom —

prisoners in cruel chains —

¹¹ because they rebelled against God's commands

and despised the counsel of the Most High.

¹² He broke their spirits with hard labor;

they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

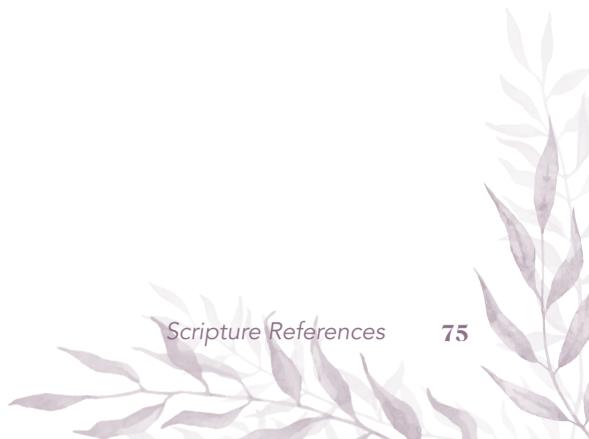
¹³ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;

he saved them from their distress.

¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and gloom

and broke their chains apart.

¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the LORD



for his faithful love

and his wondrous works for all humanity.

¹⁶ For he has broken down the bronze gates
and cut through the iron bars.

¹⁷ Fools suffered affliction
because of their rebellious ways and their iniquities.

¹⁸ They loathed all food
and came near the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;
he saved them from their distress.

²⁰ He sent his word and healed them;
he rescued them from their traps.

²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD
for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all humanity.

²² Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and announce his works with shouts of joy.

²³ Others went to sea in ships,
conducting trade on the vast water.

²⁴ They saw the LORD's works,

his wondrous works in the deep.

²⁵ He spoke and raised a stormy wind
that stirred up the waves of the sea.

²⁶ Rising up to the sky, sinking down to the depths,
their courage melting away in anguish,

²⁷ they reeled and staggered like a drunkard,
and all their skill was useless.

²⁸ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.

²⁹ He stilled the storm to a whisper,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

³⁰ They rejoiced when the waves grew quiet.

Then he guided them to the harbor they longed for.

³¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD
for his faithful love

and his wondrous works for all humanity.

³² Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.

³³ He turns rivers into desert,
springs into thirsty ground,

³⁴ and fruitful land into salty wasteland,
because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

³⁵ He turns a desert into a pool,
dry land into springs.

³⁶ He causes the hungry to settle there,
and they establish a city where they can live.

³⁷ They sow fields and plant vineyards
that yield a fruitful harvest.

³⁸ He blesses them, and they multiply greatly;
he does not let their livestock decrease.

³⁹ When they are diminished and are humbled
by cruel oppression and sorrow,

⁴⁰ he pours contempt on nobles
and makes them wander in a trackless wasteland.

⁴¹ But he lifts the needy out of their suffering
and makes their families multiply like flocks.

⁴² The upright see it and rejoice,
and all injustice shuts its mouth.

⁴³ Let whoever is wise pay attention to these things
and consider the LORD's acts of faithful love.

LAMENTATIONS 3:17-24

¹⁷ I have been deprived of peace;

I have forgotten what prosperity is.

¹⁸ Then I thought, "My future is lost,
as well as my hope from the LORD."

¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my homelessness,
the wormwood and the poison.

²⁰ I continually remember them
and have become depressed.

²¹ Yet I call this to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²² Because of the LORD's faithful love
we do not perish,
for his mercies never end.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness!

²⁴ I say, "The LORD is my portion,
therefore I will put my hope in him."

PSALM 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a helper who is always found
in times of trouble.

² Therefore we will not be afraid,
though the earth trembles
and the mountains topple
into the depths of the seas,

³ though its water roars and foams
and the mountains quake with its turmoil. Selah

⁴ There is a river —
its streams delight the city of God,
the holy dwelling place of the Most High.

⁵ God is within her; she will not be toppled.
God will help her when the morning dawns.

⁶ Nations rage, kingdoms topple;
the earth melts when he lifts his voice.

⁷ The LORD of Armies is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah

⁸ Come, see the works of the LORD,

who brings devastation on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease throughout the earth.

He shatters bows and cuts spears to pieces;

he sets wagons ablaze.

¹⁰ "Stop fighting, and know that I am God,

exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth."

¹¹ The LORD of Armies is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah

MATTHEW 6:34

³⁴ Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 8:28

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

DEUTERONOMY 3:22

²² Don't be afraid of them, for the LORD your God fights for you.

HEBREWS 13:5B-6

^{5b} Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. ⁶ Therefore, we may boldly say,

The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

ISAIAH 26:3

³ You will keep the mind that is dependent on you

in perfect peace,

for it is trusting in you.

ROMANS 8:6

⁶ Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

⁸ Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable — if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy — dwell on these things. ⁹ Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 CHRONICLES 20:3

³ Jehoshaphat was afraid, and he resolved to seek the LORD. Then he proclaimed a fast for all Judah,

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

⁶ Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

DANIEL 3

¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue, ninety feet high and nine feet wide. He set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

² King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to assemble the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces to attend the dedication of the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces assembled for the dedication of the statue the king had set up. Then they stood before the statue Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁴ A herald loudly proclaimed, "People of every nation and language, you are commanded: ⁵ When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, you are to fall facedown and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ But whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire."

⁷ Therefore, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, and every kind of music, people of every nation and language fell down and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ Some Chaldeans took this occasion to come forward and maliciously accuse the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever. ¹⁰ You as king have issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music must fall down and worship the gold statue. ¹¹ Whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹² There are some Jews you have appointed to manage the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men have ignored you, the king; they do not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

¹³ Then in a furious rage Nebuchadnezzar gave orders to bring in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king.

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar asked them, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you don't serve my gods or worship the gold statue I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you're ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, fall down and worship the statue I made. But if you don't

worship it, you will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire — and who is the god who can rescue you from my power? ”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, “Nebuchadnezzar, we don’t need to give you an answer to this question. ¹⁷ If the God we serve exists, then he can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he can rescue us from the power of you, the king. ¹⁸ But even if he does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.”

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He gave orders to heat the furnace seven times more than was customary, ²⁰ and he commanded some of the best soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹ So these men, in their trousers, robes, head coverings, and other clothes, were tied up and thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²² Since the king’s command was so urgent and the furnace extremely hot, the raging flames killed those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm. He said to his advisers, “Didn’t we throw three men, bound, into the fire? ”

“Yes, of course, Your Majesty,” they replied to the king.

²⁵ He exclaimed, “Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and called, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God — come out! ” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire.

²⁷ When the satraps, prefects, governors, and the king’s advisers gathered around, they saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men: not a hair of their heads was singed, their robes were unaffected, and there was no smell of fire on them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued his servants who trusted in him. They violated the king’s command and risked their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I issue a decree that anyone

of any people, nation, or language who says anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn limb from limb and his house made a garbage dump. For there is no other god who is able to deliver like this.”³⁰ Then the king rewarded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

PSALM 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;

I have what I need.

² He lets me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside quiet waters.

³ He renews my life;

he leads me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴ Even when I go through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me

all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
as long as I live.

SESSION FOUR

DAY THREE

LUKE 1:37

³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”



SESSION FOUR

DAY FOUR

PSALM 103:14

¹⁴ For he knows what we are made of,
remembering that we are dust.

EXODUS 33:1-17

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses: "Go up from here, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt, to the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying: I will give it to your offspring.

² I will send an angel ahead of you and will drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hethites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. ³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go up with you because you are a stiff-necked people; otherwise, I might destroy you on the way."

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "Look, you have told me, 'Lead this people up,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor with me.' ¹³ Now if I have indeed found favor with you, please teach me your ways, and I will know you, so that I may find favor with you. Now consider that this nation is your people."

¹⁴ And he replied, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ "If your presence does not go," Moses responded to him, "don't make us go up from here. ¹⁶ How will it be known that I and your people have found favor with you unless you go with us? I and your people will be distinguished by this from all the other people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷ The LORD answered Moses, "I will do this very thing you have asked, for you have found favor with me, and I know you by name."

MATTHEW 11:28-30

²⁸ "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

HEBREWS 13:5-6

⁵ Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. ⁶ Therefore, we may boldly say,

The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

JOHN 16:33

³³ "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

ISAIAH 41:10

¹⁰ Do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be afraid, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you; I will help you;

I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand.

2 CHRONICLES 20:12B

^{12b} For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to you.

MATTHEW 14:22-32

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ After dismissing the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. Well into the night, he was there alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat was already some distance from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. ²⁵ Jesus came toward them walking on the sea very early in the morning. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and they cried out in fear.

²⁷ Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter answered him, "command me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ He said, "Come."

And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

¹⁶ May the Lord of peace himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

SESSION FOUR

DAY FIVE

ISAIAH 41:13

¹³ For I am the LORD your God,

who holds your right hand,

who says to you, "Do not fear,

I will help you."

ISAIAH 26:3

³ You will keep the mind that is dependent on you

in perfect peace,

for it is trusting in you.

ISAIAH 54:10

¹⁰ "Though the mountains move

and the hills shake,

my love will not be removed from you

and my covenant of peace will not be shaken,"

says your compassionate LORD.

JOHN 14:27

²⁷ "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

¹⁶ May the Lord of peace himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

PSALM 77:19

¹⁹ Your way went through the sea
and your path through the vast water,
but your footprints were unseen.

SESSION FIVE

DAY ONE

RUTH 1

¹ During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. A man left Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons to stay in the territory of Moab for a while.

² The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name was Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the fields of Moab and settled there. ³ Naomi's husband, Elimelech, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ Her sons took Moabite women as their wives: one was named Orpah and the second was named Ruth. After they lived in Moab about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was left without her two children and without her husband.

⁶ She and her daughters-in-law set out to return from the territory of Moab, because she had heard in Moab that the LORD had paid attention to his people's need by providing them food. ⁷ She left the place where she had been living, accompanied by her two daughters-in-law, and traveled along the road leading back to the land of Judah.

⁸ Naomi said to them, "Each of you go back to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you as you have shown to the dead and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant each of you rest in the house of a new husband." She kissed them, and they wept loudly.

¹⁰ They said to her, "We insist on returning with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi replied, "Return home, my daughters. Why do you want to go with me? Am I able to have any more sons who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters. Go on, for I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me to have a husband tonight and to bear sons, ¹³ would you be willing to wait for them to grow up? Would you restrain yourselves from remarrying? No, my daughters, my life is much too bitter for you to share, because the LORD's hand has turned against me." ¹⁴ Again they wept loudly, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. Follow your sister-in-law."

¹⁶ But Ruth replied:

Don't plead with me to abandon you

or to return and not follow you.

For wherever you go, I will go,

and wherever you live, I will live;

your people will be my people,

and your God will be my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die,

and there I will be buried.

May the LORD punish me,

and do so severely,

if anything but death separates you and me.

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped talking to her.

¹⁹ The two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was excited about their arrival and the local women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"

²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara," she answered, "for the Almighty has made me very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has opposed me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

²² So Naomi came back from the territory of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

JUDGES 2:17-19

¹⁷ but they did not listen to their judges. Instead, they prostituted themselves with other gods, bowing down to them. They quickly turned from the way of their ancestors, who had walked in obedience to the LORD's commands. They did not do as their ancestors did. ¹⁸ Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for the Israelites, the LORD was with him and saved the people from the power of their enemies while the judge was still alive. The LORD was moved to pity whenever they groaned because of those who were oppressing and afflicting them.

¹⁹ Whenever the judge died, the Israelites would act even more corruptly than their ancestors, following other gods to serve them and bow in worship to them. They did not turn from their evil practices or their obstinate ways.

JUDGES 21:25

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever seemed right to him.

DEUTERONOMY 23:3-5

³ No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the LORD's assembly; none of their descendants, even to the tenth generation, may ever enter the LORD's assembly.

⁴ This is because they did not meet you with food and water on the journey after you came out of Egypt, and because Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram-naharaim was hired to curse you. ⁵ Yet the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but he turned the curse into a blessing for you because the LORD your God loves you.

PSALM 103:10

¹⁰ He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve

or repaid us according to our iniquities.

ISAIAH 53:4-5

⁴ Yet he himself bore our sicknesses,

and he carried our pains;

but we in turn regarded him stricken,

struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced because of our rebellion,

crushed because of our iniquities;

punishment for our peace was on him,

and we are healed by his wounds.

ROMANS 8:1

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 8:32

³² He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

²¹ He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

ROMANS 5:12

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.

HEBREWS 12:5-11

⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons:

My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly

or lose heart when you are reproved by him,

⁶ for the Lord disciplines the one he loves

and punishes every son he receives.

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline — which all receive — then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

2 KINGS 3:26-27

²⁶ When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took seven hundred swordsmen with him to try to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not do it. ²⁷ So he took his firstborn son, who was to become king in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering on the city wall. Great wrath was on the Israelites, and they withdrew from him and returned to their land.

SESSION FIVE

DAY TWO

RUTH 1:19-22

¹⁹ The two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was excited about their arrival and the local women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”

²⁰ “Don’t call me Naomi. Call me Mara,” she answered, “for the Almighty has made me very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has opposed me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

²² So Naomi came back from the territory of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

JOB 1:12

¹² “Very well,” the LORD told Satan, “everything he owns is in your power. However, do not lay a hand on Job himself.” So Satan left the Lord’s presence.

PSALM 119:71,75

⁷¹ It was good for me to be afflicted

so that I could learn your statutes.

⁷⁵ I know, LORD, that your judgments are just

and that you have afflicted me fairly.

PSALM 145:17

¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways

and faithful in all his acts.

ISAIAH 30:18-21

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD is waiting to show you mercy,
and is rising up to show you compassion,
for the LORD is a just God.

All who wait patiently for him are happy.

¹⁹ For people will live on Zion in Jerusalem. You will never weep again; he will show favor to you at the sound of your outcry; as soon as he hears, he will answer you. ²⁰ The Lord will give you meager bread and water during oppression, but your Teacher will not hide any longer. Your eyes will see your Teacher, ²¹ and whenever you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: "This is the way. Walk in it."

JEREMIAH 31:3

³ the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you.

LAMENTATIONS 3:32-33

³² Even if he causes suffering,
he will show compassion
according to the abundance of his faithful love.

³³ For he does not enjoy bringing affliction
or suffering on mankind.

RUTH 2

¹ Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side. He was a prominent man of noble character from Elimelech's family. His name was Boaz.

² Ruth the Moabite asked Naomi, "Will you let me go into the fields and gather fallen grain behind someone with whom I find favor?"

Naomi answered her, "Go ahead, my daughter." ³ So Ruth left and entered the field to gather grain behind the harvesters. She happened to be in the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was from Elimelech's family.

⁴ Later, when Boaz arrived from Bethlehem, he said to the harvesters, "The LORD be with you."

"The LORD bless you," they replied.

⁵ Boaz asked his servant who was in charge of the harvesters, "Whose young woman is this?"

⁶ The servant answered, "She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the territory of Moab." ⁷ She asked, 'Will you let me gather fallen grain among the bundles behind the harvesters?' She came and has been on her feet since early morning, except that she rested a little in the shelter."

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Don't go and gather grain in another field, and don't leave this one, but stay here close to my female servants.

⁹ See which field they are harvesting, and follow them. Haven't I ordered the young men not to touch you? When you are thirsty, go and drink from the jars the young men have filled."

¹⁰ She fell facedown, bowed to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor with you, so that you notice me, although I am a foreigner?"

¹¹ Boaz answered her, "Everything you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband's death has been fully reported to me: how you left your father and mother and your native land, and how you came to a people you didn't previously know." ¹² May the LORD reward you for what you have done, and may

you receive a full reward from the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.”

¹³ “My lord,” she said, “I have found favor with you, for you have comforted and encouraged your servant, although I am not like one of your female servants.”

¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz told her, “Come over here and have some bread and dip it in the vinegar sauce.” So she sat beside the harvesters, and he offered her roasted grain. She ate and was satisfied and had some left over.

¹⁵ When she got up to gather grain, Boaz ordered his young men, “Let her even gather grain among the bundles, and don’t humiliate her. ¹⁶ Pull out some stalks from the bundles for her and leave them for her to gather. Don’t rebuke her.”

¹⁷ So Ruth gathered grain in the field until evening. She beat out what she had gathered, and it was about twenty-six quarts of barley. ¹⁸ She picked up the grain and went into the town, where her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She brought out what she had left over from her meal and gave it to her.

¹⁹ Her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you gather barley today, and where did you work? May the LORD bless the man who noticed you.”

Ruth told her mother-in-law whom she had worked with and said, “The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz.”

²⁰ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May the LORD bless him because he has not abandoned his kindness to the living or the dead.” Naomi continued, “The man is a close relative. He is one of our family redeemers.”

²¹ Ruth the Moabitess said, “He also told me, ‘Stay with my young men until they have finished all of my harvest.’”

²² So Naomi said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, “My daughter, it is good for you to work with his female servants, so that nothing will happen to you in another field.”

²³ Ruth stayed close to Boaz’s female servants and gathered grain until the barley and the wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

LEVITICUS 19:9-10

⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the very edge of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the resident alien; I am the LORD your God.

DEUTERONOMY 24:19

¹⁹ “When you reap the harvest in your field, and you forget a sheaf in the field, do not go back to get it. It is to be left for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

PROVERBS 16:9

⁹ A person’s heart plans his way,
but the LORD determines his steps.

RUTH 1:11-13,20-21

¹¹ But Naomi replied, “Return home, my daughters. Why do you want to go with me? Am I able to have any more sons who could become your husbands?

¹² Return home, my daughters. Go on, for I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me to have a husband tonight and to bear sons, ¹³ would you be willing to wait for them to grow up? Would you restrain yourselves from remarrying? No, my daughters, my life is much too bitter for you to share, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me.”

²⁰ “Don’t call me Naomi. Call me Mara,” she answered, “for the Almighty has made me very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has opposed me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

RUTH 4:13-17

¹³ Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the LORD granted conception to her, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you without a family redeemer today. May his name become well known in Israel. ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." ¹⁶ Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and became a mother to him. ¹⁷ The neighbor women said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

RUTH 1:21

²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has opposed me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

MATTHEW 1:5

⁵ Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab,

Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth,

Obed fathered Jesse,

RUTH 1:6,16,22

⁶ She and her daughters-in-law set out to return from the territory of Moab, because she had heard in Moab that the LORD had paid attention to his people's need by providing them food.

¹⁶ But Ruth replied:

Don't plead with me to abandon you

or to return and not follow you.

For wherever you go, I will go,

and wherever you live, I will live;

your people will be my people,

and your God will be my God.

²² So Naomi came back from the territory of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

LEVITICUS 19:9-10

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the very edge of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the resident alien; I am the LORD your God.

RUTH 2:3,11-12

³ So Ruth left and entered the field to gather grain behind the harvesters. She happened to be in the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was from Elimelech's family.

¹¹ Boaz answered her, "Everything you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband's death has been fully reported to me: how you left your father and mother and your native land, and how you came to a people you didn't previously know. ¹² May the LORD reward you for what you have done, and may you receive a full reward from the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

RUTH 2:1,10,14-17,20

¹ Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side. He was a prominent man of noble character from Elimelech's family. His name was Boaz.

¹⁰ She fell facedown, bowed to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor with you, so that you notice me, although I am a foreigner?”

¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz told her, “Come over here and have some bread and dip it in the vinegar sauce.” So she sat beside the harvesters, and he offered her roasted grain. She ate and was satisfied and had some left over.

¹⁵ When she got up to gather grain, Boaz ordered his young men, “Let her even gather grain among the bundles, and don’t humiliate her. ¹⁶ Pull out some stalks from the bundles for her and leave them for her to gather. Don’t rebuke her.”

¹⁷ So Ruth gathered grain in the field until evening. She beat out what she had gathered, and it was about twenty-six quarts of barley.

²⁰ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May the LORD bless him because he has not abandoned his kindness to the living or the dead.” Naomi continued, “The man is a close relative. He is one of our family redeemers.”

RUTH 4:10,13

¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, to perpetuate the deceased man’s name on his property, so that his name will not disappear among his relatives or from the gate of his hometown. You are witnesses today.”

¹³ Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the LORD granted conception to her, and she gave birth to a son.

RUTH 4:15

¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”

ROMANS 5:3-5

³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. ⁵ This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

SESSION FIVE

DAY FOUR

JOHN 9:1-3,7,35-38

¹ As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth.

² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him."

⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he left, washed, and came back seeing.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and when he found him, he asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ "Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?" he asked.

³⁷ Jesus answered, "You have seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

³⁸ "I believe, Lord!" he said, and he worshiped him.

PSALM 119:68A

⁶⁸ You are good, and you do what is good;

NUMBERS 23:19

¹⁹ God is not a man, that he might lie,

or a son of man, that he might change his mind.

Does he speak and not act,

or promise and not fulfill?

DEUTERONOMY 32:4

⁴ The Rock — his work is perfect;

all his ways are just.

A faithful God, without bias,

he is righteous and true.

PSALM 18:30

³⁰ God — his way is perfect;

the word of the LORD is pure.

He is a shield to all who take refuge in him.

ISAIAH 45:6-7

⁶ so that all may know from the rising of the sun to its setting

that there is no one but me.

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,

I make success and create disaster;

I am the LORD, who does all these things.

LAMENTATIONS 3:32-33

³² Even if he causes suffering,

he will show compassion

according to the abundance of his faithful love.

³³ For he does not enjoy bringing affliction

or suffering on mankind.

MATTHEW 10:29

²⁹ Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent.

ACTS 17:26-27

²⁶ From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live.

²⁷ He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

ROMANS 8:28-29

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

GENESIS 50:20

²⁰ You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result — the survival of many people.

JOB 1:6-12

⁶ One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. ⁷ The LORD asked Satan, "Where have you come from?"

"From roaming through the earth," Satan answered him, "and walking around on it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil."

⁹ Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Haven't you placed a hedge around him, his household, and everything he owns? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

¹¹ But stretch out your hand and strike everything he owns, and he will surely curse you to your face."

¹² "Very well," the LORD told Satan, "everything he owns is in your power. However, do not lay a hand on Job himself." So Satan left the LORD's presence.

ISAIAH 43:13

¹³ Also, from today on I am he alone,
and none can rescue from my power.

I act, and who can reverse it?"

LAMENTATIONS 3:37-38

³⁷ Who is there who speaks and it happens,
unless the Lord has ordained it?

³⁸ Do not both adversity and good
come from the mouth of the Most High?

LUKE 4:1-2

¹ Then Jesus left the Jordan, full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

² for forty days to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over, he was hungry.

1 PETER 5:8-10

⁸ Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

¹⁰ The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.

ISAIAH 55:8-9

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
and your ways are not my ways."

This is the LORD's declaration.

⁹ "For as heaven is higher than earth,
so my ways are higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

JOHN 13:4-7

⁴ So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. ⁵ Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand."

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-10

⁹ But as it is written,

What no eye has seen, no ear has heard,

and no human heart has conceived —

God has prepared these things for those who love him.

¹⁰ Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12

¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.

ISAIAH 46:10

¹⁰ I declare the end from the beginning,

and from long ago what is not yet done,

saying: my plan will take place,

and I will do all my will.

1 PETER 1:5; 4:12; 5:10

^{1:5} You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

^{4:12} Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you.

^{5:10} The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.

JAMES 1:2-4

² Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

SESSION FIVE

BONUS STUDY

ROMANS 5:3-5

³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. ⁵ This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9

⁸ We don't want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of our affliction that took place in Asia. We were completely overwhelmed — beyond our strength — so that we even despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death, so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16–5:5

^{4:16} Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. ¹⁸ So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

^{5:1} For we know that if our earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal dwelling in the heavens, not made with hands.

² Indeed, we groan in this tent, desiring to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ since, when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ Indeed, we groan while we are in this tent, burdened as we are, because we do not want to be unclothed

but clothed, so that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a down payment.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

¹⁷ For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

PHILIPPIANS 3:10

¹⁰ My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death,

1 PETER 1:6-7

⁶ You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials ⁷ so that the proven character of your faith — more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire — may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

SESSION FIVE

DAY FIVE

PSALM 71:19-21

¹⁹ Your righteousness reaches the heights, God,

you who have done great things;

God, who is like you?

²⁰ You caused me to experience

many troubles and misfortunes,

but you will revive me again.

You will bring me up again,

even from the depths of the earth.

²¹ You will increase my honor

and comfort me once again.

JEREMIAH 29:11

¹¹ “For I know the plans I have for you” — this is the LORD’s declaration — “plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

GENESIS 50:20

²⁰ You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result — the survival of many people.

JOB 42:2

² I know that you can do anything

and no plan of yours can be thwarted.

PSALM 18:30

³⁰ God — his way is perfect;

the word of the LORD is pure.

He is a shield to all who take refuge in him.

PROVERBS 19:21

²¹ Many plans are in a person's heart,

but the LORD's decree will prevail.

ROMANS 8:28

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

SESSION SIX

DAY ONE

JOHN 4:1-30,39-42

¹ When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John

² (though Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), ³ he left Judea and went again to Galilee. ⁴ He had to travel through Samaria; ⁵ so he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

"Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, ⁸ because his disciples had gone into town to buy food.

⁹ "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'?" ¹² You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock."

¹³ Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. ¹⁴ But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

¹⁵ "Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water."

¹⁶ "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here."

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," she answered.

"You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,' " Jesus said. ¹⁸ "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman replied, "I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ Jesus told her, "Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he."

²⁷ Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people,

²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They left the town and made their way to him.

³⁹ Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of what he said. ⁴² And they told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world."

JOHN 8:48

⁴⁸ The Jews responded to him, "Aren't we right in saying that you're a Samaritan and have a demon?"

GENESIS 24:10-11

¹⁰ The servant took ten of his master's camels, and with all kinds of his master's goods in hand, he went to Aram-naharaim, to Nahor's town. ¹¹ At evening, the time when women went out to draw water, he made the camels kneel beside a well outside the town.

JOHN 8:4-5

⁴ "Teacher," they said to him, "this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. ⁵ In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

JOHN 4:27-30,39-42

²⁷ Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people,

²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They left the town and made their way to him.

³⁹ Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of what he said. ⁴² And they told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world."

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. ¹⁶ I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches

of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit,¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love,¹⁹ and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

SESSION SIX

DAY TWO

1 THESSALONIANS 1:6-8

⁶ and you yourselves became imitators of us and of the Lord when, in spite of severe persecution, you welcomed the message with joy from the Holy Spirit.

⁷ As a result, you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place that your faith in God has gone out. Therefore, we don't need to say anything,

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

¹ Boasting is necessary. It is not profitable, but I will move on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

² I know a man in Christ who was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether he was in the body or out of the body, I don't know; God knows.

³ I know that this man — whether in the body or out of the body I don't know; God knows — ⁴ was caught up into paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a human being is not allowed to speak. ⁵ I will boast about this person, but not about myself, except of my weaknesses.

⁶ For if I want to boast, I wouldn't be a fool, because I would be telling the truth. But I will spare you, so that no one can credit me with something beyond what he sees in me or hears from me, ⁷ especially because of the extraordinary revelations. Therefore, so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me so that I would not exalt myself. ⁸ Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times that it would leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness."

Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me. ¹⁰ So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

LUKE 15:7,10

⁷ I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don't need repentance.

¹⁰ "I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

EPHESIANS 3:10

¹⁰ This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

COLOSSIANS 4:2-13

² Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, ⁴ so that I may make it known as I should. ⁵ Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶ Let your

speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

⁷ Tychicus, our dearly loved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and so that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹ He is coming with Onesimus, a faithful and dearly loved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here.

¹⁰ Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you greetings, as does Mark, Barnabas's cousin (concerning whom you have received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and so does Jesus who is called Justus. These alone of the circumcised are my coworkers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured in everything God wills. ¹³ For I testify about him that he works hard for you, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis.

SESSION SIX

DAY THREE

PSALM 107

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

his faithful love endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim

that he has redeemed them from the power of the foe

³ and has gathered them from the lands —

from the east and the west,

from the north and the south.

⁴ Some wandered in the desolate wilderness,

finding no way to a city where they could live.

⁵ They were hungry and thirsty;

their spirits failed within them.

⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;

he rescued them from their distress.

⁷ He led them by the right path

to go to a city where they could live.

⁸ Let them give thanks to the LORD

for his faithful love

and his wondrous works for all humanity.

⁹ For he has satisfied the thirsty

and filled the hungry with good things.

¹⁰ Others sat in darkness and gloom —

prisoners in cruel chains —

¹¹ because they rebelled against God's commands

and despised the counsel of the Most High.

¹² He broke their spirits with hard labor;

they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

¹³ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;

he saved them from their distress.

¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and gloom

and broke their chains apart.

¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the LORD

for his faithful love

and his wondrous works for all humanity.

¹⁶ For he has broken down the bronze gates

and cut through the iron bars.

¹⁷ Fools suffered affliction

because of their rebellious ways and their iniquities.

¹⁸ They loathed all food
and came near the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble;
he saved them from their distress.

²⁰ He sent his word and healed them;
he rescued them from their traps.

²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD
for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all humanity.

²² Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and announce his works with shouts of joy.

²³ Others went to sea in ships,
conducting trade on the vast water.

²⁴ They saw the LORD's works,
his wondrous works in the deep.

²⁵ He spoke and raised a stormy wind
that stirred up the waves of the sea.

²⁶ Rising up to the sky, sinking down to the depths,
their courage melting away in anguish,

²⁷ they reeled and staggered like a drunkard,

and all their skill was useless.

²⁸ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.

²⁹ He stilled the storm to a whisper,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

³⁰ They rejoiced when the waves grew quiet.
Then he guided them to the harbor they longed for.

³¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD
for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all humanity.

³² Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.

³³ He turns rivers into desert,
springs into thirsty ground,

³⁴ and fruitful land into salty wasteland,
because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

³⁵ He turns a desert into a pool,
dry land into springs.

³⁶ He causes the hungry to settle there,
and they establish a city where they can live.

³⁷ They sow fields and plant vineyards

that yield a fruitful harvest.

³⁸ He blesses them, and they multiply greatly;

he does not let their livestock decrease.

³⁹ When they are diminished and are humbled

by cruel oppression and sorrow,

⁴⁰ he pours contempt on nobles

and makes them wander in a trackless wasteland.

⁴¹ But he lifts the needy out of their suffering

and makes their families multiply like flocks.

⁴² The upright see it and rejoice,

and all injustice shuts its mouth.

⁴³ Let whoever is wise pay attention to these things

and consider the LORD's acts of faithful love.

SESSION SIX

DAY FOUR

2 KINGS 4:1-7

¹ One of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant, my husband, has died. You know that your servant feared the LORD. Now the creditor is coming to take my two children as his slaves.”

² Elisha asked her, “What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house? ”

She said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.”

³ Then he said, “Go out and borrow empty containers from all your neighbors. Do not get just a few. ⁴ Then go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour oil into all these containers. Set the full ones to one side.” ⁵ So she left.

After she had shut the door behind her and her sons, they kept bringing her containers, and she kept pouring. ⁶ When they were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another container.”

But he replied, “There aren’t any more.” Then the oil stopped.

⁷ She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go sell the oil and pay your debt; you and your sons can live on the rest.”

1 SAMUEL 16:7

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the LORD sees, for humans see what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart.”

PROVERBS 29:25

²⁵ The fear of mankind is a snare,

but the one who trusts in the LORD is protected.

ROMANS 8:1

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

ISAIAH 43:18-19

¹⁸ "Do not remember the past events;

pay no attention to things of old.

¹⁹ Look, I am about to do something new;

even now it is coming. Do you not see it?

Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert."

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead,

¹⁴ I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-13

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works,

²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness."

Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me.

GALATIANS 6:2

² Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

PROVERBS 14:30

³⁰ A tranquil heart is life to the body,
but jealousy is rottenness to the bones.

ROMANS 12:15

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant,

PROVERBS 19:11

¹¹ A person's insight gives him patience,
and his virtue is to overlook an offense.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:5

⁵ [Love] is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs.

HEBREWS 12:1

¹ Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us.

PSALM 25:9

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right

and teaches them his way.

JAMES 1:5

⁵ Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God — who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly — and it will be given to him.

PROVERBS 15:33

³³ The fear of the Lord is what wisdom teaches,

and humility comes before honor.

1 PETER 5:5

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because

God resists the proud

but gives grace to the humble.

JAMES 5:14-15

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 1:11-12

¹¹ For I want very much to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, ¹² that is, to be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

1 PETER 5:7

⁷ casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you.

MATTHEW 6:30-33

³⁰ If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't he do much more for you — you of little faith?

³¹ So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

ROMANS 12:4-18

⁴ Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, ⁵ in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. ⁶ According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; ⁷ if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; ⁸ if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.

¹¹ Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. ¹³ Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. ¹⁸ If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

JOB 2:11

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends — Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite — heard about all this adversity that had happened to him, each of them came from his home. They met together to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.

GALATIANS 6:9

⁹ Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works,
²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

PHILIPPIANS 4:10

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it.

ROMANS 12:13

¹³ Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

1 PETER 4:10

¹⁰ Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

1 SAMUEL 23:16

¹⁶ Then Saul's son Jonathan came to David in Horesh and encouraged him in his faith in God,

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

JAMES 1:19

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger,

1 THESSALONIANS. 5:17

¹⁷ pray constantly.

JAMES 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

SESSION SIX

BONUS STUDY

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13,18-27

¹² For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body — so also is Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and we were all given one Spirit to drink.

¹⁸ But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted. ¹⁹ And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” Or again, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable. ²³ And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ which our respectable parts do not need.

Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, ²⁵ so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. ²⁶ So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.

SESSION SIX

DAY FIVE

1 PETER 4:8-11

⁸ Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

ROMANS 12:4-5

⁴ Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, ⁵ in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

GALATIANS 6:2

² Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

SESSION SEVEN

DAY ONE

GENESIS 29:16-35

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters: the older was named Leah, and the younger was named Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had tender eyes, but Rachel was shapely and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel, so he answered Laban, "I'll work for you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

¹⁹ Laban replied, "Better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob worked seven years for Rachel, and they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Since my time is complete, give me my wife, so I can sleep with her." ²² So Laban invited all the men of the place and sponsored a feast. ²³ That evening, Laban took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and he slept with her. ²⁴ And Laban gave his slave Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her slave.

²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So he said to Laban, "What have you done to me? Wasn't it for Rachel that I worked for you? Why have you deceived me?"

²⁶ Laban answered, "It is not the custom in our country to give the younger daughter in marriage before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete this week of wedding celebration, and we will also give you this younger one in return for working yet another seven years for me."

²⁸ And Jacob did just that. He finished the week of celebration, and Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife. ²⁹ And Laban gave his slave Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her slave. ³⁰ Jacob slept with Rachel also, and indeed, he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was neglected, he opened her womb; but Rachel was unable to conceive. ³² Leah conceived, gave birth to a son, and named him Reuben, for she said, "The LORD has seen my affliction; surely my husband will love me now."

³³ She conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, “The LORD heard that I am neglected and has given me this son also.” So she named him Simeon.

³⁴ She conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, “At last, my husband will become attached to me because I have borne three sons for him.” Therefore he was named Levi.

³⁵ And she conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she named him Judah. Then Leah stopped having children.

GENESIS 30:20

²⁰ “God has given me a good gift,” Leah said. “This time my husband will honor me because I have borne six sons for him,” and she named him Zebulun.

SESSION SEVEN

DAY TWO

ACTS 6:5

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole company. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert from Antioch.

ACTS 6:8

⁸ Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

ACTS 6:10

¹⁰ But they were unable to stand up against his wisdom and the Spirit by whom he was speaking.

ACTS 7:51-53

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit. As your ancestors did, you do also. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They even killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. ⁵³ You received the law under the direction of angels and yet have not kept it."

ACTS 7:54-8:4

^{7:54} When they heard these things, they were enraged and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. He saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ He said, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

⁵⁷ They yelled at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and together rushed against him. ⁵⁸ They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. And the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰ He

knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” And after saying this, he fell asleep.

^{8:1} Saul agreed with putting him to death.

On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria.

² Devout men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. ³ Saul, however, was ravaging the church. He would enter house after house, drag off men and women, and put them in prison.

⁴ So those who were scattered went on their way preaching the word.

EPHESIANS 1:20

²⁰ He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens —

HEBREWS 12:2

² keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20

²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13

¹³ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

HEBREWS 11:16

¹⁶ But they now desire a better place — a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

HEBREWS 11:26

²⁶ For he considered reproach for the sake of Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since he was looking ahead to the reward.

HEBREWS 11:35-40

³⁵ Women received their dead, raised to life again. Other people were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment.

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated.

³⁸ The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

1 PETER 1:3-7

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵ You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials ⁷ so that the proven character of your faith — more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire — may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 5:10

¹⁰ The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.

JAMES 1:2-4

² Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

JAMES 1:12

¹² Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. ¹⁸ So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-23

²¹ For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. ²³ I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ — which is far better —

1 CORINTHIANS 15:54-55

⁵⁴ When this corruptible body is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place:

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵ Where, death, is your victory?

Where, death, is your sting?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:14,17-20

¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. ¹⁹ If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone. ²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

⁹ But as it is written,

What no eye has seen, no ear has heard,

and no human heart has conceived —

God has prepared these things for those who love him.

REVELATION 21:1-6

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

² I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

³ Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

⁵ Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life.

PSALM 139:16

¹⁶ Your eyes saw me when I was formless;

all my days were written in your book and planned
before a single one of them began.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

⁶ I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

SESSION SEVEN

DAY FOUR

PSALM 73:23-26

²³ Yet I am always with you;

you hold my right hand.

²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,

and afterward you will take me up in glory.

²⁵ Who do I have in heaven but you?

And I desire nothing on earth but you.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart,

my portion forever.

ISAIAH 65:17

¹⁷ "For I will create new heavens and a new earth;

the past events will not be remembered or come to mind.

JOHN 14:1-3

¹ "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

ROMANS 8:18

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

⁹ But as it is written,

What no eye has seen, no ear has heard,

and no human heart has conceived —

God has prepared these things for those who love him.

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-22

²¹ For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose.

SESSION SEVEN

DAY FIVE

ROMANS 8

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, ² because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, ⁴ in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. ¹⁰ Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you. ¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, ¹³ because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "'Abba', Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, ¹⁷ and if children, also heirs — heirs of God and coheirs with Christ — if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility — not willingly, but because of him who subjected it — in the hope ²¹ that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children.

²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. ²³ Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits — we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? ³³ Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. ³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

Because of you

we are being put to death all day long;

we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

JOB 3:23

²³ Why is life given to a man whose path is hidden,
whom God has hedged in?

JOB 21:15

¹⁵ "Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him,
and what will we gain by pleading with him?"

JOB 24:1

Why does the Almighty not reserve times for judgment?
Why do those who know him never see his days?

JOB 42:2,5-6

² I know that you can do anything
and no plan of yours can be thwarted.

⁵ I had heard reports about you,
but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶ Therefore, I reject my words and am sorry for them;
I am dust and ashes.

ROMANS 15:5,13,33

⁵ Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live
in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus,

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

³³ May the God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

BEFORE YOU GO . . . MY HEART FOR YOU

ISAIAH 58:11

¹¹ The LORD will always lead you,

satisfy you in a parched land,

and strengthen your bones.

You will be like a watered garden

and like a spring whose water never runs dry.

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