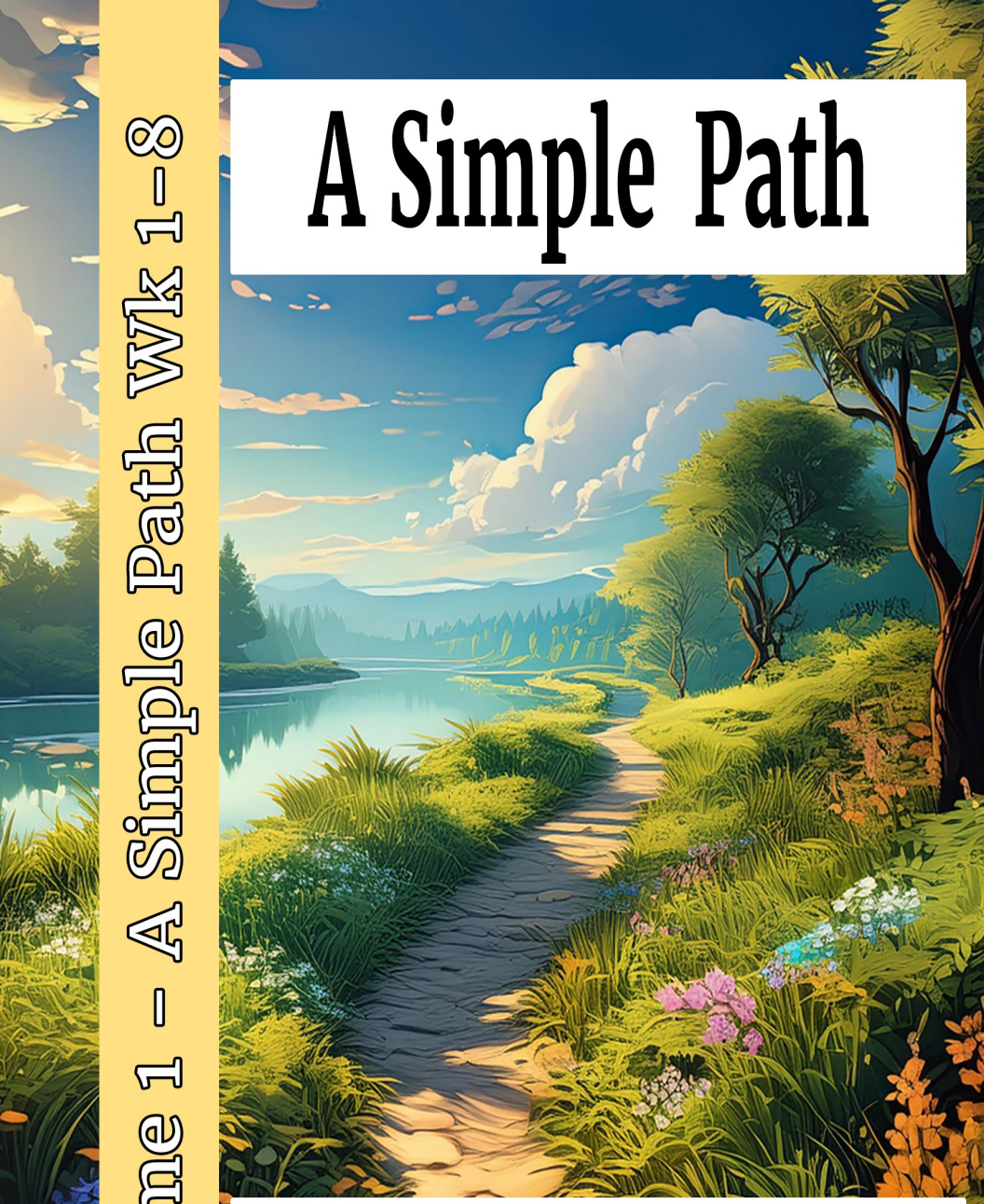
A Simple Path



Volume 1 - A Simple Path Wk 1-8

Fellowshipping Daily With the Lord

Lesson plans included in the appendix

Updated 28 Sept. 2026

A Simple Path Volume 1

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About “A Simple Path”

Fellowshipping Daily With the Lord

“A Simple Path” is a devotional journal series by Patrick Wright of Loudon, Tennessee. It was written for one purpose: to help believers build the habit of meeting with God every day. Many Christians want a daily quiet time but struggle to set aside the time, or turn to God only when a crisis demands it. This series offers a simple, dependable pattern: a verse, a short reflection, a prayer, and a few lines to write down what God is saying. It is meant to become part of each morning.

The series has five volumes covering forty weeks, eight weeks per volume. Each booklet is a small journal, meant to be written in, carried along, and kept.

How the Journal Works

Every day’s devotion is built around the Seven Aspects of a Disciple of Christ:

- Praise and Worship
- Discipleship
- Humility
- Acknowledgment
- Acceptance
- Obedience
- Identification — recognizing the needs of others and looking for ways to serve them

Each week walks through all seven, one aspect per day, so the reader practices the full life of a disciple rather than a single theme.

A typical day is one page. It begins with the day’s aspect and a Scripture passage set apart in its own box. A brief devotional reflection follows, kept short on purpose so the reader’s attention stays on God’s Word rather than the author’s

comments. The page ends with room to write any reaction, insight, or personal message from God, and space to offer a short prayer. Each week opens with a Praise verse to turn the reader's focus from self to God. It closes with a "Week Completed" page of honest reflection questions that ask, in effect: did I truly meet with Him this week, or just go through the motions?

More Than a Devotional

Each volume opens with helps that make it useful for new believers and seasoned disciples alike:

- **A Daily Quiet Time** — the author's own reflection on how he begins each morning with God, with practical steps for getting started.
- **Praise Verses to Get You Started** — a collection of praise passages from both Testaments.
- **The Way of Salvation** — a clear, Scripture-based explanation of the gospel with a prayer of faith.
- **My Salvation Testimony** and **Your Salvation Testimony** — the author's story, and a guided page for readers to write theirs.
- **Personal Discipleship Survey** — an honest self-assessment of growth in God's Word, love for God, love for others, and making disciples.

For Groups

Every volume includes a Leader's Guide with a welcome for group leaders, a quick reference to the Seven Aspects, and a lesson plan for each week. Each session has a theme and goal, an opening question, a time of worship, a day-by-day discussion of the week's devotions, and a closing prayer. The Volume 1 guide ends with "Where to Go Next," which helps a group look back on its eight weeks and decide how to continue. That makes the series well suited to Sunday school classes, small groups, and one-on-one discipleship.

The Path Through the Volumes

Volume 1 (Weeks 1–8) lays the foundation:

- **Walk Humbly** — each day begins by humbling ourselves before God rather than managing our own day.
- **Led by the Spirit** — moving from following the Seven Aspects in our own strength to depending on the Holy Spirit.
- **Walking in Wisdom** — telling God's wisdom from the world's, and finding His power in our weakness.
- **Seeking God's Face** — seeking Him even in seasons when He feels distant or silent.
- **Cheerful Service** — moving from service out of duty to service from the heart.
- **Renewed Strength** — waiting on God in times of weariness and spiritual plateaus.
- **Things Above** — fixing our minds on Christ against the pull of spiritual drift.
- **Full Circle** — returning to the gospel itself, where it all began.

Volume 2 (Weeks 9–16) walks through those same eight themes a second time with new Scripture passages, deepening what was begun and building the rhythm into a lasting habit.

Volume 3 (Weeks 17–24) — trust and obedience, worship in spirit and truth, God's sovereign hand, the Holy Spirit's greater works, the peace that surpasses understanding, contentment, and being chosen and called.

Volume 4 (Weeks 25–32) — the foundation of faith, God's power in our weakness, finishing strong, discipling one's family, and deepening devotion through gratitude.

Volume 5 (Weeks 33–40) — the Father's loving discipline, God's nearness to all who call on Him, rejoicing through trials, the living and active Word, and committing one's ways to the Lord's wisdom.

Who It’s For

“A Simple Path” is for anyone who wants to grow closer to Jesus Christ through daily time in His Word. It suits new Christians learning to walk with God, longtime believers seeking a fresh rhythm, and leaders looking for a ready-made discipleship tool. Its promise is simple: faithful time with God each day produces a heart that wants to follow Jesus more — and that desire is the Holy Spirit at work.

A Daily Quiet Time

A Reflection

When I get up each morning, I head straight to the recliner where I keep the journal I will use and a Bible — normally I use a Bible app — but my mind is usually buzzing with thoughts of the day ahead, or leftover thoughts from yesterday, and I am not yet focused on my Father in heaven. An explanation of how to have a daily quiet time follows, and this journal even has sample verses you can use. What I want to double down on is the importance of getting yourself out of the quiet time, at least at the start — and the only way to do that is to focus on our Heavenly Father through praise. Sometimes I begin by listening to praise songs, but ninety-nine percent of the time I read and reflect on praise verses — there are plenty of sources for these online. I don't normally write anything down at that point. To help you get into the habit, I am including a list of praise verses below. Volume 1 already has another list, and it may share some of the same verses. Begin by focusing on these praise verses, reading as many as you need until you have allowed our Father to remove self from you and you are now focusing on Him.

A quiet time is simply this: a set-apart time, every day, to be alone with God — to listen for His voice in Scripture, to speak honestly with Him in prayer, and to let Him shape how you meet the day ahead. Even Jesus, in the middle of a demanding ministry, made this a priority.

> *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."*
>
> ***Mark 1:35***

If He needed that rhythm, so do we. A daily walk with God does not happen automatically — it grows in the quiet, unhurried minutes we choose to give Him before the day takes over.

Getting started is simple: pick a quiet place, and keep your Bible, this study, and a journal within reach so you can write down what God shows you.

When His disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He gave them a pattern that still works to open a quiet time— praise, surrender to His will, daily dependence, confession, and protection from temptation (Matthew 6:9–13).

A quiet time can follow this simple pattern:

1. Praise — open by speaking about who God is, turning back to Him, using a scripture verse.
2. Confess — ask God to reveal anything blocking your fellowship with Him and ask forgiveness.
3. Read — open His Word and read a passage slowly.
4. Reflect and note — dwell on what you read and write down what God shows you.
5. Pray — thank Him for what He is doing and ask for His guidance.
6. Share — before the day is done, share what God showed you with someone else.

That last step matters more than it might seem. The goal is not just to be discipled, but to become a disciple who disciples — investing in others who will, in turn, invest in someone else.

It does not need to be long or complicated. A Simple Path stays simple on purpose, so the habit is one you can keep — the same time, the same quiet place, the same open Bible, day after day, until it becomes as natural as breathing. What matters is not how long you stay, but that you show up and keep showing up.

Praise Verses to Get You Started

Combined list of scripture references on praise, gathered for further study, so you do not have to look them up (NASB unless noted):

Old Testament

Job 26:7

He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing.

2 Samuel 22:26-27

With the faithful, You prove Yourself faithful; with the blameless, You prove Yourself blameless; with the pure, You prove Yourself pure, but with the crooked, You prove Yourself shrewd.

1 Chronicles 16:36

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, From everlasting even to everlasting. Then all the people said, "Amen," and praised the LORD.

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

Psalm 7:17

I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

Psalm 9:1

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.

Psalm 21:13

Be exalted, O LORD, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power.

Psalm 22:26

The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

Psalm 28:6-7
Blessed be the LORD, Because He has heard the voice of my supplication. The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.

Psalm 30:11-12
You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness, That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Psalm 31:7
I will rejoice and be glad in Your lovingkindness, Because You have seen my affliction; You have known the troubles of my soul,

Psalm 33:1-5
Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. For the word of the LORD is upright, And all His work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.

Psalm 34:1-2
I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the Lord; The humble will hear it and rejoice.

Psalm 73:26
My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 86:12
I will give thanks to You, Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Your name forever.

Psalm 89:6
For who in the skies is comparable to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the LORD,

Psalm 92:1
It is good to give thanks to the LORD And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

Psalm 95:3
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Psalm 95:6-8a
Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand

Psalm 100:1-3
Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with jubilation; Come before Him with rejoicing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Psalm 100:4-5
Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 101:1
I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, To You, O LORD, I will sing praises.

Psalm 103:2
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits.

Psalm 105:1-2
Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders.

Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31
Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!

Psalm 109:30
With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the LORD; And in the midst of many I will praise Him.

Psalm 111:1
Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly.

Psalm 115:18
But as for us, we will bless the LORD From this time forth and forever. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 117:1
Praise the LORD, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples!

Psalm 118:19, 28-29
Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the LORD... You are my God, and I give thanks to You; You are my God, I extol You. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Psalm 118:24
This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 135:3
Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is lovely.

Psalm 143:8
Cause me to hear Your loving kindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You.

Psalm 145:1-2
I will exalt You, my God, the King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Psalm 145:8
The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

Psalm 145:16-18
You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

Psalm 146:1-2
Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD while I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Psalm 147:12
Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

Psalm 150:1-2
Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Proverbs 3:5-6
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Isaiah 45:12
I am the one who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.

Isaiah 45:18
For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), 'I am the Lord, and there is none else.'

Isaiah 46:9-10
Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.'

Jeremiah 17:14
Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; Save me and I will be saved, For You are my praise.

Zephaniah 3:14
Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

New Testament

Luke 2:20
The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

John 17:3
Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Romans 15:11
And again, "Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, And let all the peoples praise Him."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Colossians 3:17
Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Philippians 4:4
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

1 Thessalonians 5:16
Rejoice always;

Hebrews 4:12
For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 13:15
Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

1 Peter 1:8
and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

Revelation 15:4
Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, For Your righteous acts have been revealed.

THE WAY OF SALVATION

A Simple, Bible-Based Guide to Knowing Christ

Lesson plans for teaching are included.

> *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*
>
> **Ephesians 2:8–9**

A Simple Guide to What the Bible Teaches About Salvation

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An Important Question

Every person eventually faces the most important question: "What must I do to be saved?" It is the same question a jailer once asked the apostle Paul in the middle of the night (Acts 16:30). This booklet walks through what the Bible teaches about that question — simply, and in Scripture's own words.

Nothing here depends on your background, your family, your church attendance, or your good works. It depends entirely on what God has already done, and what He invites you to do in response.

1. Everyone Needs to Be Saved

The Bible teaches that every person, without exception, has sinned against God and fallen short of His perfect standard.

> *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
>
> **Romans 3:23**

Sin is not just "breaking rules." It is choosing our own way over God's way — and it separates us from Him.

> *"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."*
>
> **Isaiah 59:2**

Left on our own, the consequence of sin is spiritual death — eternal separation from God.

> *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
>
> **Romans 6:23**

No amount of good behavior can undo this. Trying to earn our way back to God through good works is like trying to pay off an infinite debt — it simply cannot be done by human effort.

2. God Loves You and Makes a Way

As hopeless as our situation is on our own, God did not leave us there. Because of His great love, He made a way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to Him.

> *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*
>
> **John 3:16**

God's Son, Jesus Christ, lived a sinless life and then willingly died on the cross, taking the punishment that our sin deserved. Three days later, He rose from the dead — proving His victory over sin and death.

> *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*
>
> **Romans 5:8**

> *"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."*
>
> **1 Peter 2:24**

Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation — not one option among many.

> *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'"*
>
> **John 14:6**

> *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*
>
> **Acts 4:12**

3. Salvation Is a Gift, Not a Reward

Because Jesus already paid the full price, salvation cannot be earned. It is received as a gift, by grace, through faith alone.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Ephesians 2:8–9

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy."

Titus 3:5

This is central to what the Bible teaches: salvation is God's work from beginning to end. Church membership, baptism, and good works are important responses to salvation — but none of them save you. Only Christ saves.

4. How to Respond: Repent and Believe

God offers this gift freely, but it must be received. The Bible describes two sides of the same response: turning away from sin (repentance) and trusting in Christ (faith).

"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 3:19

"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Romans 10:9–10

"For 'Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Romans 10:13

Repentance is not merely feeling sorry — it is a genuine change of direction, turning from sin toward God. Faith is not merely believing facts about Jesus — it is personally trusting Him, and Him alone, to save you.

5. A Prayer of Faith

There is no magic formula or specific wording required to be saved — salvation happens the moment a person genuinely turns from sin and trusts Christ. But putting that decision into words can help make it real and personal. If this is your desire, you might pray something like this:

> *"Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I cannot save myself. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. Right now, I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for the gift of eternal life. Amen."*

If you prayed that prayer and meant it with your heart, the Bible says you have been saved — not because of the words themselves, but because of the genuine faith and repentance behind them.

6. You Can Know You Are Saved

Once you have trusted Christ, God does not want you to wonder whether it "worked." The Bible teaches that believers can have confident assurance of their salvation.

> *"And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."*
>
> **1 John 5:11–13**

This assurance rests on the character and promises of God, not on our feelings or performance. Scripture teaches that those who are truly saved are kept secure by God's power — often called the "perseverance of the saints" or "eternal security."

> *"I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of*

the Father's hand."

John 10:28–29

"You were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

Ephesians 1:13–14

A life that is truly changed by Christ will, over time, show the fruit of that change — not to earn salvation, but as evidence of it (James 2:17–18). If you are trusting Christ, rest in His promise, not in your own performance.

7. What Comes Next: Baptism

Baptism does not save you — only faith in Christ does that. But it is the first step of obedience the Bible calls every believer to take: full immersion in water, for those old enough to profess personal faith (sometimes called "believer's baptism").

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls."

Acts 2:41

Being immersed in water and raised back up pictures the truth of the gospel itself — Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and our own death to the old life and new life in Him.

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:3–4

If you have trusted Christ and have not yet been baptized, talk with a pastor at a local, Bible-believing church about being baptized as your public declaration of faith.

8. Join a Local Church

God's plan for every believer includes belonging to a local church — a gathered community of baptized believers who worship together, study God's Word, encourage one another, and carry out the Great Commission together.

> *"Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."*
>
> **Hebrews 10:24–25**

Scripture affirms what is often called the "priesthood of the believer" — every Christian has direct access to God through Christ and a personal responsibility to know and live out God's Word, within the accountability and encouragement of a local church family.

> *"But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*
>
> **1 Peter 2:9**

9. Growing in Your New Life

Coming to faith in Christ is the beginning, not the end. The Bible calls every believer to grow — becoming more like Jesus over a lifetime.

> *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*
>
> **2 Peter 3:18**

A few simple habits help that growth take root:

- Read God's Word daily — start with the Gospel of John.

• Talk to God in prayer — praise, confession, thanksgiving, and requests.

• Get baptized and join a Bible-believing local church.

• Gather regularly with other believers for worship and encouragement.

• Tell others what Christ has done for you.

> *"And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"*
>
> **Matthew 4:19**

If You Have Trusted Christ Today

If, through this booklet, you have turned from your sin and placed your trust in Jesus Christ, you have been born again into God's family (John 1:12–13). We encourage you to tell a pastor, a Christian friend, or someone at a local church about your decision, and to take the next step of being baptized.

Welcome to the family of God.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."
2 Corinthians 5:17

THE WAY OF SALVATION

A Single-Session Gospel Lesson

> *"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*
> **Romans 10:9–10**

Duration	45–60 minutes
Learning Objective	Participants will understand, in Scripture's own words, why every person needs salvation, what God has done to provide it, and how to respond in genuine repentance and faith — with a clear opportunity to do so during the session.
Materials Needed	Bibles, one copy of "The Way of Salvation" booklet per person, pens, and a quiet space for anyone who wishes to pray privately with a leader afterward.

Lesson Flow

Time	Segment	Leader Notes
5 min	**Opening**	Welcome, opening prayer. Ask: "If you died tonight and stood before God, and He asked why He should let you into heaven, what would you say?" Let a few people answer if comfortable — no correcting yet, just listening.
10 min	**The Problem**	Walk through booklet sections 1–2 (pp.2–3): all have sinned, sin separates us from God, and the wages of sin is death — but God loves us and made a way through Christ.

Time	Segment	Leader Notes
10 min	**The Gift**	Walk through section 3 (p.3): salvation is by grace through faith, not works. Emphasize Ephesians 2:8–9 — it cannot be earned.
10 min	**Respond**	Walk through section 4 (p.4): repentance and faith. Read the sample prayer in section 5 (p.5) together. Give a quiet moment for anyone who wants to pray it personally, and offer to pray with anyone one-on-one afterward.
10 min	**Assurance & Next Steps**	Cover sections 6–9 (pp.5–7): assurance of salvation, baptism, the local church, and growing in faith.
5 min	**Closing**	Answer any questions, pray for the group, and point people to the discussion questions below for follow-up.

Key Teaching Points

Everyone needs to be saved.

- Romans 3:23 — all have sinned and fall short of God's glory.
- Romans 6:23 — the wages of sin is death, but eternal life is a free gift.

God loves you and made a way.

- John 3:16 — God gave His Son so that whoever believes will not perish.
- Romans 5:8 — Christ died for us while we were still sinners.
- John 14:6 — Jesus is the only way to the Father.

Salvation is a gift, not earned.

- Ephesians 2:8–9 — by grace through faith, not of works, so no one may boast.

Respond with repentance and faith.

- Acts 3:19 — repent and turn, so your sins may be wiped away.
- Romans 10:9–10 — confess with your mouth, believe in your heart.

Assurance is possible.

- 1 John 5:11–13 — you may know that you have eternal life.

- John 10:28–29 — no one can snatch a believer out of God's hand.

What follows salvation.

- Baptism by immersion as a public declaration of faith (not a means of salvation).
- Joining a local church for worship, encouragement, and growth.
- Daily habits: Scripture reading, prayer, fellowship, and sharing your story with others.

Leading Someone in the Prayer of Faith

If someone indicates they want to trust Christ during or after the session, keep it simple and unhurried:

- Ask them to describe, in their own words, what they believe about their sin and about Jesus — don't assume; let them tell you.
- Remind them there is no special wording required — what matters is genuine repentance and trust, not the words themselves.
- Offer the sample prayer in the booklet (p.5) as one way to put that decision into words, either silently or aloud, in their own words.
- Afterward, ask what they just did in their own words, to confirm understanding rather than a rote repetition.
- Point them immediately to section 6 on p.5 (assurance) so they leave confident, not just "hoping it worked."

Discussion Questions

- Before this session, how would you have answered the question 'What must I do to be saved?' How would you answer it now?
- Why does it matter that salvation is a gift rather than something earned? What difference does that make in how you relate to God?
- What is one step — baptism, joining a church, telling someone your story — that you sense God is calling you to take this week?

Follow-Up for Participants

- Re-read "The Way of Salvation" on your own this week, and underline anything that stood out.

- If you trusted Christ today, tell one other person — a friend, family member, or the leader — this week.
- If you haven't been baptized since coming to faith, talk to a pastor about scheduling it.
- Begin reading the Gospel of John, a chapter at a time, as your first step into regular Scripture reading.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

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Preface to A Simple Path

> *"Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”"*
> ***Matthew 11:28-30***

A Simple Path is a guide to help you develop a daily Quiet Time, discover the gentleness of Jesus Christ, and put on the yoke of humility and service to your neighbor through the power of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of Jesus Christ.

You may be a seasoned Disciple of Christ or a new Christian. Perhaps you struggle to set aside time each morning to fellowship with God Almighty, or maybe you are haphazard and wait until a crisis demands that you cry out to Jesus.

A Simple Path is just that — simple verses that can be read prayerfully, through which God can speak to you. Begin the day in fellowship with our heavenly Father, praying and reading His word. This will help you focus on Him, not yourself.

Each week begins with a Praise verse the Holy Spirit designed to help you focus on God instead of yourself. As a result of this daily Quiet Time, you will be given a heart that wants to follow Jesus with a stronger desire. That desire will be the Holy Spirit working in you.

As you come to love the Lord with more passion, your quiet times will become habitual, and He will begin to show you those in your world that need His touch. He will let you see what He sees and offer you opportunities to serve Him.

I challenge you to make these daily and weekly devotions a part of your daily quiet time over the next eight weeks and see what happens.

— Patrick Wright
Loudon, Tennessee

How to Use This Study

The Seven Aspects of a Disciple of Christ

1. Praise and Worship — You speak, sing, declare, and proclaim who God is and His power.

2. Discipleship — Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, and you are learning to follow Him and disciple others.

3. Humility — You are surrendered, submitting to the will of God.

4. Acknowledgment — Be aware of the situation that God is presenting for your service.

5. Acceptance — God is calling, and you have accepted His call. You care for people.

6. Obedience — You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of reconciliation.

7. Identification — Recognizing the inner needs of others and looking for ways to serve them.

Use the seven aspects daily, starting when we get up. In our quiet time, we begin with praise and worship, using a scripture verse. We humble ourselves by submitting to God, our Heavenly Father. From here, we watch to see what new situation God is preparing for us for the day.

Personal Discipleship Survey

Complete this survey to help determine your level of discipleship.
U = Usually, S = Sometimes, N = Never

Truth — God's Word	**U**	**S**	**N**
I accept the Bible as God's word	☐	☐	☐
I read the Bible daily	☐	☐	☐
I memorize scriptures	☐	☐	☐
I attend Sunday School	☐	☐	☐
I study the Bible at home	☐	☐	☐
I am part of a group Bible study	☐	☐	☐
I feel I am growing spiritually as I study God's word	☐	☐	☐
God speaks to me through His word	☐	☐	☐

Love God	**U**	**S**	**N**
I love God with my all	☐	☐	☐
I seek God whenever I make decisions	☐	☐	☐
I feel close to God	☐	☐	☐
I spend time with God in prayer and Bible study	☐	☐	☐
I experience specific answers to prayer	☐	☐	☐
Each day my prayers include praise, thanksgiving, confession, intercession	☐	☐	☐
I work in a specific ministry to which God has called me	☐	☐	☐

Love Others	**U**	**S**	**N**
I regularly pray for others	☐	☐	☐
I tell others about my faith in Jesus Christ	☐	☐	☐
I actively minister to others	☐	☐	☐
I seek to live in peace with others	☐	☐	☐
I keep a list of prayer concerns	☐	☐	☐
God shows me people He wants me to disciple	☐	☐	☐
Others know that I am a Christian by the way I love and treat others	☐	☐	☐

Multiplying Disciples	**U**	**S**	**N**
I am part of a group of multiplying disciples	☐	☐	☐
I am being mentored by a Disciple Maker	☐	☐	☐
I am discipling another Christian	☐	☐	☐
I am witnessing to specific lost friends	☐	☐	☐

My Salvation Testimony

Below is a short account of my "Salvation Story."

Truth — How I Knew I Needed Jesus

I grew up attending church regularly, usually three times a week. I was taught who Jesus is and cannot remember when I didn't believe that Jesus was a real person. I was a cultural Christian but didn't understand that I needed the forgiveness that only Belief, Confession, and Acceptance can bring. I thought I could go to heaven one day if I did more good than bad, and then God would accept me. I followed this path for almost 30 years, but I began to realize something was missing from my life—like a hole in my heart that I tried to fill with good activities and actions.

By this time, I had been teaching public school for 8½ years; I was a Scoutmaster of two troops, had been a Cubmaster and an Explorer advisor, and worked as a Program Director at Scout Camp. Still, nothing I did filled that emptiness.

I had also met my dream lady; to please her, I began to visit her church Sunday after Sunday. On September 28, 1979, I asked her to marry me, and she said yes. That evening we went to her Dad to ask for his permission, and he gave the oddest reply — stating that one evening, as he headed to work and saw me return her home, he prayed, asking God to let him know this relationship was His will. Jesus reassured him that the relationship and marriage were His will. So, because of what Jesus had told him, he said we had His permission to be married. At the time, I had no idea what he meant.

As we planned and I kept attending church, I noticed a drastic change—suddenly the sermons seemed to speak directly to me, like the Pastor could read my mind. Over time, I kept seeing church signs that spoke to me as if God were talking to me, and radio

programs that felt like the author knew me personally.

Acceptance — How I Became a Christian

Then one day I found a witness tract, read it, and prayed the prayer of salvation; excited, I proclaimed, "Now I am a Christian." A week passed, and the emptiness I had felt since youth was still there, and I didn't feel any different. I read and prayed the same prayer a second time and then waited.

One evening, I felt Jesus speaking to me and asking me to get baptized, so wanting to please Him, I called the Pastor at my fiancée's church and said, "Jesus wants me to be baptized at your church." He said OK, but it would be next Sunday — this was on a Monday, and our marriage was next Saturday. He decided to baptize me on Wednesday night instead.

Before church started, the Pastor met with me privately in his office. He didn't know me very well and wanted to make sure I was saved. After he explained immersion baptism, he asked, "Have you confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?" I said yes and sat down as the service began.

After the Pastor explained that I was getting baptized—an unusual event for a Wednesday—he preached, and I felt a huge burden lift from my shoulders as great peace and joy flooded my soul. Next, I was baptized and joined this church.

Now I realize that my forgiveness and salvation were completed when I confessed to the Pastor that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. See Romans 10:9-10: "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Friendship — My Plan for Fellowship With Christ

Immediately, I began to read the Bible, wanting to know more about

Christ, with a deep desire to know and obey Him. I also wanted to serve Him through His church. This path of love, submission, and service to others has led me to many people who need Him — primarily young people, but also around the world, working with adult Christians seeking to be disciples.

My daily custom has become spending time with God— fellowshipping with Him, reading Scripture, and taking notes as His Holy Spirit transforms me into a more Christlike believer.

Purpose — Loving God With All My Heart

As I fellowship with God daily and get to know Him better, my love and admiration for Him continues to grow. "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'" — Mark 12:29-30

Fulfillment — Loving Others

As my love and admiration for God through His Son, Jesus Christ, increases, He grants me a love for others and leads me in a ministry of reconciliation, encouraging the lost to accept Him and discipling the born-again as the Holy Spirit uses me. "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" — Mark 12:31

— Patrick Wright
Loudon, Tennessee

Your Salvation Testimony

Share your salvation journey in your own words by responding to the five questions below.

Truth — How I Knew I Needed Jesus Christ

Acceptance — What I Said to God. How I Became a Christian.

Friendship — My Plan for Fellowship With Christ.

Purpose — Loving God With All My Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength.

Fulfillment — Loving Others.

WEEK 1

Walk Humbly

Fellowshipping Daily With the Lord

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 150:1-2

Day 2 · Discipleship: Psalm 143:10

Day 3 · Humility: Micah 6:8

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Judges 17:6

Day 5 · Acceptance: Isaiah 6:8

Day 6 · Obedience: Matthew 4:19

Day 7 · Identification: Romans 12:15

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

Recognizing God's power and expressing gratitude for His blessings.

Scripture

> *“Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.”*
>
> **Psalm 150:1-2**

Devotional Reflection

This is a good description of how each of our worship services is at church, minus the dancing and with some different instruments. Father, help us to praise you in our worship services each Sunday and each morning during our quiet time.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus Christ and disciple others, with an emphasis on self-examination and spiritual growth.

Scripture

> *"Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on Level ground."*
>
> **Psalm 143:10**

Devotional Reflection

Father, my earthly praise falls short of what it should be in response to your daily fellowship and your continued discipleship of me; however, I can do better this day and, in the afterlife, when my sin nature will be gone, and I will be free to worship you as is fitting your glory.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

Surrendering to God's will and acknowledging His grace in transforming lives.

Scripture

> *“He has told you, mortal one, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?”*
>
> **Micah 6:8**

Devotional Reflection

Father, I must place you first in everything I do so that I can adopt the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgement

Being aware of God's presence and the situations He presents for service.

Scripture

> *“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*
>
> **Judges 17:6**

Devotional Reflection

This has been man's problem since the Garden of Eden. He wants to be in total charge of his life in every aspect. The Bible teaches us we are to be watchmen for one another (Ezekiel 3:17).

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

Embracing God's call and caring for others, including family and fellow believers.

Scripture

> *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!”*
>
> **Isaiah 6:8**

Devotional Reflection

Traveling along God's path always includes witnessing and discipling others as God brings them into our path. The chosen ones are those who have come into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

Living out God's commands and serving others wholeheartedly.

Scripture

> *“And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people.”*
>
> **Matthew 4:19**

Devotional Reflection

If we allow the Holy Spirit to bring us face to face with God, we too will hear what Isaiah heard — in perfect freedom, we too will say, Here am I. Send me.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

Understanding the needs of others and sharing the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

> *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”*
>
> **Romans 12:15**

Devotional Reflection

We identify people's total needs and work with them, but also rejoice with them when they share how Jesus is working in their lives. We become their friend.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 1 Completed

Now that you have completed this week, what did God teach you? Were you serious in your daily fellowship, or did you just go through the motions?

I can pray, read God's word, and hear Him speak only when He has given me that desire; otherwise, I become like the grain of wheat on poor soil. Check the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:3-15.

Use the space below to jot down some comments, maybe a summary of the week's studies.

WEEK 2

Led by the Spirit

Walking in the Power of God

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Romans 8:14

Day 2 · Discipleship: Hebrews 4:12

Day 3 · Humility: John 14:26

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: John 16:13

Day 5 · Acceptance: Isaiah 6:8

Day 6 · Obedience: John 15:16

Day 7 · Identification: Proverbs 8:17

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

Recognizing God's power and expressing gratitude for His blessings.

Scripture

> *“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God.”*
>
> **Romans 8:14**

Devotional Reflection

The simple path can now be discussed in greater detail with a deeper understanding of the mission on which God leads us. None of the seven places room for self-promotion or selfish attitudes.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus Christ and disciple others, with an emphasis on self-examination and spiritual growth.

Scripture

> *"For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*
>
> **Hebrews 4:12**

Devotional Reflection

The Bible is our playbook, our master plan for personal transformation. Wisdom comes with acknowledgment, acceptance, and integration with our soul.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

Surrendering to God's will and acknowledging His grace in transforming lives.

Scripture

> *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.”*
>
> **John 14:26**

Devotional Reflection

Jesus spent 3 1/2 years with the disciples teaching them, and yet they still needed help. Today the Holy Spirit continues to work in us.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgement

Being aware of God's presence and the situations He presents for service.

Scripture

> *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."*
>
> **John 16:13**

Devotional Reflection

Without a teacher, we can write down everything we need to understand, but it's much better to have one. Only by God's Holy Spirit can we follow the seven simple steps.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

Embracing God's call and caring for others, including family and fellow believers.

Scripture

> *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!”*
>
> **Isaiah 6:8**

Devotional Reflection

On day seven of Week 1, we were taught to be empathetic with the trials of God's people. Today, Jesus commissions us to disciple those same people.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

Living out God's commands and serving others wholeheartedly.

Scripture

> *“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”*
>
> **John 15:16**

Devotional Reflection

Father, I know you chose me out of all the sinners who have lived or will live, transforming us into your army.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

Understanding the needs of others and sharing the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

> *“I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.”*
>
> **Proverbs 8:17**

Devotional Reflection

This verse sets the stage for all the steps of A Simple Path for us to be filled with God's love and power.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 2 Completed

Now that you have completed this week, what did God teach you? Were you serious in your daily fellowship or did you just go through the motions?

I can pray, read God's word, and hear Him speak only when He has given me that desire, otherwise I become like the grain of wheat on poor soil. Check the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:3-15.

Use the space below to jot down some comments, maybe a summary of the week's studies.

WEEK 3

Walking in Wisdom

Growing in God's Truth

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 145:1-2

Day 2 · Discipleship: Colossians 2:3

Day 3 · Humility: Psalm 136:1

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Isaiah 6:8

Day 5 · Acceptance: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Day 6 · Obedience: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Day 7 · Identification: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

Recognizing God's power and expressing gratitude for His blessings.

Scripture

> *"I will exalt You, my God, the King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever."*
>
> **Psalm 145:1-2**

Devotional Reflection

My daily focus must begin with God, my Father. When I think of Him and read praise verses, my personal problems suddenly seem to fall into the background.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus Christ and disciple others, with an emphasis on self-examination and spiritual growth.

Scripture

> *“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”*
>
> **Colossians 2:3**

Devotional Reflection

Through Christ, His Word, and His intervention, I can know and obtain true wisdom. Man's wisdom is not God's wisdom, but the Holy Spirit can interpret and apply God's wisdom.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

Surrendering to God's will and acknowledging His grace in transforming lives.

Scripture

> *"O Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His faithfulness is everlasting."*
>
> **Psalm 136:1**

Devotional Reflection

As we walk a simple path seeking ways to do good for others, we must not forget that God's mercy empowers us to do good.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgement

Being aware of God's presence and the situations He presents for service.

Scripture

> *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!”*
>
> **Isaiah 6:8**

Devotional Reflection

Establishing and restoring people to His fellowship is ever on God's heart — so much so that He sent Jesus.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

Embracing God's call and caring for others, including family and fellow believers.

Scripture

> *"One who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life, righteousness, and honor."*
>
> **Proverbs 21:21**

Devotional Reflection

This speaks of the rewards God grants those who believe His word and disciple others as commanded in Matthew 28:18-20.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

Living out God's commands and serving others wholeheartedly.

Scripture

> *“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”*
>
> **Jeremiah 33:3**

Devotional Reflection

Through the Holy Spirit, He will enable us to understand His truths as seen in His Word.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

Understanding the needs of others and sharing the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

> *“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”*
>
> **2 Corinthians 12:10**

Devotional Reflection

Paul rejoices that Jesus Christ, with His strength and love, is strong when Paul can only offer weakness.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 3 Completed

Now that you have completed this week, what did God teach you? Were you serious in your daily fellowship, or did you just go through the motions?

I can pray, read God's word, and hear Him speak only when He has given me that desire; otherwise, I become like the grain of wheat on poor soil. Check the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:3-15.

Use the space below to jot down some comments, maybe a summary of the week's studies.

WEEK 4

Seeking God's Face

Asking, Seeking, Knocking

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 27:4

Day 2 · Discipleship: Psalm 27:11

Day 3 · Humility: Psalm 27:14

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Joshua 1:9

Day 5 · Acceptance: Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 6 · Obedience: Proverbs 3:7-8

Day 7 · Identification: Proverbs 3:9-10

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

Recognizing God's power and expressing gratitude for His blessings.

Scripture

> *“Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with jubilation; Come before Him with rejoicing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”*
>
> **Psalm 100:1-3**

Devotional Reflection

Father, there is none like you; no one is greater than you, and no one loves as you do.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus Christ and disciple others, with an emphasis on self-examination and spiritual growth.

Scripture

> *"But when He who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles."*
>
> **Galatians 1:15-17**

Devotional Reflection

How did Paul make the transition from non-believer to believer, then a disciple and finally a disciple-maker? His transformation was through the Holy Spirit teaching Him God's word.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

Surrendering to God's will and acknowledging His grace in transforming lives.

Scripture

> *“And they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let's make a name for ourselves.”*
>
> **Genesis 11:4**

Devotional Reflection

People wanted nothing to do with the God of Noah, setting themselves up as masters of their own life. This is a discussion of our natural desire for personal fame.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgement

Being aware of God's presence and the situations He presents for service.

Scripture

> *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."*
>
> **Luke 11:9**

Devotional Reflection

We ask, then we wait as God prepares us for His answer. When He and we are ready, we act according to His will and provision.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

Embracing God's call and caring for others, including family and fellow believers.

Scripture

> *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.”*
>
> **Hebrews 11:6**

Devotional Reflection

We can accept God's call by His permission and His power, but our faith must grow to equal the challenge of ministering to His people.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

Living out God's commands and serving others wholeheartedly.

Scripture

> *“And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”*
>
> **Jeremiah 29:13**

Devotional Reflection

This is the same message we declare to those God sends our way.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

Understanding the needs of others and sharing the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

> *"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also."*
>
> **Colossians 3:12-13**

Devotional Reflection

This teaches us about our personality so that we better identify with the needs of those we have been sent to help.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 4 Completed

Now that you have completed this week, what did God teach you? Were you serious in your daily fellowship or did you just go through the motions?

I can pray, read God's word, and hear Him speak only when He has given me that desire, otherwise I become like the grain of wheat on poor soil. Check the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:3-15.

Use the space below to jot down some comments, maybe a summary of the week's studies.

WEEK 5

Cheerful Service

Giving and Serving in Grace

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: 2 Corinthians 9:7

Day 2 · Discipleship: Romans 12:11

Day 3 · Humility: Galatians 6:9

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Matthew 25:35-36

Day 5 · Acceptance: Matthew 25:40

Day 6 · Obedience: Colossians 3:23-24

Day 7 · Identification: Romans 12:13

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

Recognizing God's power and expressing gratitude for His blessings.

Scripture

> *“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.”*
>
> **John 17:3-5**

Devotional Reflection

This was part of "The High Priestly Prayer" of Jesus. With all the torture He was to face, He thought of me and all those who will believe in Him.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus Christ and disciple others, with an emphasis on self-examination and spiritual growth.

Scripture

> *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly."*
>
> **2 Corinthians 9:7-9**

Devotional Reflection

Thank You, Jesus, as You continue to lift my heart and empower me to love and serve You.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

Surrendering to God's will and acknowledging His grace in transforming lives.

Scripture

> *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."*
>
> **Ephesians 2:8-10**

Devotional Reflection

Again, Father, Your words lift my Spirit as only You can, and now I am ready to serve You.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgement

Being aware of God's presence and the situations He presents for service.

Scripture

> *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*
>
> **Matthew 18:20**

Devotional Reflection

An interesting verse to start the day as we head to church.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

Embracing God's call and caring for others, including family and fellow believers.

Scripture

> *“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”*
>
> **Proverbs 30:5**

Devotional Reflection

Father, I take refuge in You.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

Living out God's commands and serving others wholeheartedly.

Scripture

> *“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.”*
>
> **Acts 26:19**

Devotional Reflection

This was Paul, as part of his testimony before King Agrippa, explaining how he is following the commands of Jesus Christ.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

Understanding others' needs and sharing the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

> *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”*
>
> **1 Peter 4:10**

Devotional Reflection

Yes, Lord.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 5 Completed

Now that you have completed this week, what did God teach you? Were you serious in your daily fellowship, or did you just go through the motions?

I can pray, read God's word, and hear Him speak only when He has given me that desire; otherwise, I become like the grain of wheat on poor soil. Check the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:3-15.

Use the space below to jot down some comments, maybe a summary of the week's studies.

WEEK 6

Renewed Strength

Waiting on the Lord

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Isaiah 40:31

Day 2 · Discipleship: Psalm 23:3

Day 3 · Humility: Matthew 11:28-30

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Psalm 62:1-2

Day 5 · Acceptance: 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Day 6 · Obedience: Romans 8:28

Day 7 · Identification: Hebrews 12:1-2

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

Recognizing God's power and expressing gratitude for His blessings.

Scripture

> *“Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.”*
>
> **Isaiah 40:31**

Devotional Reflection

When I first get up in the morning, I am not always spiritually strong, so I begin with quiet time and fellowship.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus Christ and disciple others, with an emphasis on self-examination and spiritual growth.

Scripture

> *"I will sing of the loving-kindness of the Lord forever; To all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth."*
>
> **Psalm 89:1**

Devotional Reflection

This is our calling to go out rejoicing and telling others about Christ.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

Surrendering to God's will and acknowledging His grace in transforming lives.

Scripture

> *“In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*
>
> **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

Devotional Reflection

As soon as I step into a day's ministry challenge, I am met with situations for which I am not exactly prepared.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgement

Being aware of God's presence and the situations He presents for service.

Scripture

> *"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."*
>
> **Ephesians 3:20-21**

Devotional Reflection

Father, I witness the truth of this verse—You alone have provided for me far beyond any humanly reasonable expectations.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

Embracing God's call and caring for others, including family and fellow believers.

Scripture

> *“Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”*
>
> **Isaiah 1:18**

Devotional Reflection

God can use this verse to pull us away from our own self-centered thoughts, circumstances, and troubles.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

Living out God's commands and serving others wholeheartedly.

Scripture

> *“He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?”*
>
> **Micah 6:8**

Devotional Reflection

This seems like such a simple request, but it is hard to follow in our day-to-day travels and dealings with others and ourselves.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

Understanding the needs of others and sharing the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

> *“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.”*
>
> **1 Samuel 12:23**

Devotional Reflection

I have learned to stop in that moment and pray for someone or else I might get distracted and forget later.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 6 Completed

Now that you have completed this week, what did God teach you? Were you serious in your daily fellowship or did you just go through the motions?

I can pray, read God's word, and hear Him speak only when He has given me that desire, otherwise I become like the grain of wheat on poor soil. Check the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:3-15.

Use the space below to jot down some comments, maybe a summary of the week's studies.

WEEK 7

Things Above

Set Your Mind on Christ

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Colossians 3:2-4

Day 2 · Discipleship: 2 Corinthians 11:3

Day 3 · Humility: Psalm 25:10

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Colossians 3:17

Day 5 · Acceptance: 1 Peter 2:2-3

Day 6 · Obedience: 1 Peter 2:4-6

Day 7 · Identification: 1 Peter 2:9-10

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

Recognizing God's power and expressing gratitude for His blessings.

Scripture

> *“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”*
>
> **Colossians 3:2-4**

Devotional Reflection

As we start each day, begin each study by focusing on God our Father.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus Christ and disciple others, with an emphasis on self-examination and spiritual growth.

Scripture

> *"But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."*
>
> **2 Corinthians 11:3**

Devotional Reflection

It is so easy for us to turn from you, Lord, when we are tempted by the world. Please protect us.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

Surrendering to God's will and acknowledging His grace in transforming lives.

Scripture

> *“All the paths of the Lord are loving-kindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.”*
>
> **Psalm 25:10**

Devotional Reflection

When we stay on the Lord's path, His loving-kindness and truth are our companions.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgement

Being aware of God's presence and the situations He presents for service.

Scripture

> *"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*
>
> **Colossians 3:17**

Devotional Reflection

Jesus was here to obey His Father, and so are we.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

Embracing God's call and caring for others, including family and fellow believers.

Scripture

> *“Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”*
>
> **1 Peter 2:2-3**

Devotional Reflection

Jesus urges you to keep growing in grace as you receive spiritual blessing from our Father in heaven.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

Living out God's commands and serving others wholeheartedly.

Scripture

> *"And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood."*
>
> **1 Peter 2:4-6**

Devotional Reflection

Here is where you join other Christians in the work of reaching others for Christ.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

Understanding the needs of others and sharing the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

> *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*
>
> **1 Peter 2:9-10**

Devotional Reflection

This is God's goal and His command for us and the type of people we are to become.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 7 Completed

Now that you have completed this week, what did God teach you? Were you serious in your daily fellowship or did you just go through the motions?

I can pray, read God's word, and hear Him speak only when He has given me that desire; otherwise, I become like the grain of wheat on poor soil. Check the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:3-15.

Use the space below to jot down some comments, maybe a summary of the week's studies.

WEEK 8

Full Circle

Proclaiming the Gospel of Grace

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Hebrews 13:15

Day 2 · Discipleship: Hebrews 13:5-6

Day 3 · Humility: John 3:16

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Isaiah 1:18

Day 5 · Acceptance: John 3:7

Day 6 · Obedience: Romans 10:9-10

Day 7 · Identification: 1 Peter 2:9-10

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

Recognizing God's power and expressing gratitude for His blessings.

Scripture

> *"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."*
>
> **Hebrews 13:15**

Devotional Reflection

Each morning, we are to praise our Father because of the wonderful things He has done for us and will continue to do as we live for Him.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

Learning to follow Jesus Christ and disciple others, with an emphasis on self-examination and spiritual growth.

Scripture

> *“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.”*
>
> **Hebrews 13:5-6**

Devotional Reflection

There are so many things that happen that are meant to discourage us, but not to the point we stop obeying.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

Surrendering to God's will and acknowledging His grace in transforming lives.

Scripture

> *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*
>
> **John 3:16**

Devotional Reflection

Let's stop a moment, sit down with Jesus and let Him remind us of our salvation journey.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgement

Being aware of God's presence and the situations He presents for service.

Scripture

> *“Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”*
>
> **Isaiah 1:18**

Devotional Reflection

My sins are forgiven, and I am being cleansed so they no longer interfere with my obedience.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

Embracing God's call and caring for others, including family and fellow believers.

Scripture

> *“Do not be amazed that I said to you, "You must be born again.”*
>
> **John 3:7**

Devotional Reflection

Thus spoke Jesus to Nicodemus, explaining the necessity of a totally new spiritual birth before we can be accepted by God our Father in Heaven.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

Living out God's commands and serving others wholeheartedly.

Scripture

> *“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”*
>
> **Romans 10:9-10**

Devotional Reflection

The previous five verses lead to this action—a personal decision for Christ as we accept our sinful condition and are saved.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

Understanding the needs of others and sharing the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Scripture

> *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*
>
> **1 Peter 2:9-10**

Devotional Reflection

We have revisited our call to salvation, and God has given us His adoption and a new position in the work He has called us to.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 8 Completed

Now that you have completed this week, what did God teach you? Were you serious in your daily fellowship or did you just go through the motions?

I can pray, read God's word, and hear Him speak only when He has given me that desire; otherwise, I become like the grain of wheat on poor soil. Check the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13:3-15.

Use the space below to jot down some comments, maybe a summary of the week's studies.

A Simple Path — Volume 1

Leader's Guide

Fellowshipping Daily With the Lord · Weeks 1–8

Leader's Guide — Contents

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Welcome, Group Leader

This guide adapts the 8-week "A Simple Path" devotional booklet for use in a small group or Bible study setting. Group members should ideally work through each day's devotion on their own during the week (using the original booklet), and the group session each week brings everyone together to discuss what God taught them, dig deeper into a few of the week's passages, and apply it together.

How Each Week's Plan Is Organized

- Theme & Goal — the heartbeat of the week in one or two sentences, so you can keep the conversation anchored.
- Week at a Glance — the seven daily verses and aspects, for quick reference during discussion.
- Opening (5–10 min) — a welcome, opening prayer prompt, and icebreaker question to get people talking.
- Worship & Centering (5 min) — a short praise/worship moment using the week's Day 1 verse.
- Digging In (20–25 min) — guided discussion questions built around the week's daily devotions.
- Application Challenge (10 min) — a concrete, doable next step for the coming week.
- Closing Prayer Focus (5 min) — a specific prompt for how to pray together.

Suggested Session Length

Each plan is built for a 45–60-minute group session. Trim the discussion questions if you're running shorter or let the group sit longer in Digging In if conversation is rich — that's usually a good sign, not a scheduling problem.

A Note on Tone

This study moves through Seven Aspects of a Disciple of Christ every single week. Resist the urge to rush past the repetition. The goal isn't novelty; it's formation. By Week 8, the rhythm itself becomes the lesson.

Quick Reference: The Seven Aspects

Keep this page handy — you'll return to it every week. These seven aspects are the lens through which every day's devotion is read.

1. Praise and Worship
You speak, sing, declare, and proclaim who God is and His power.

2. Discipleship
Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, and you are learning to follow Him and disciple others.

3. Humility
You are surrendered, submitting to the will of God.

4. Acknowledgement
You are aware of the situation that God is presenting for your service.

5. Acceptance
God is calling, and you have accepted His call. You care for people.

6. Obedience
You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of reconciliation.

7. Identification
You recognize the inner needs of others and look for ways to serve them.

Each daily devotion cycles through these in order across the week: Day 1 is always Praise & Worship, Day 2 Discipleship, Day 3 Humility, Day 4 Acknowledgement, Day 5 Acceptance, Day 6 Obedience, and Day 7 Identification.

Orientation · Getting Started

A first gathering to introduce the study before Week 1 begins.

Theme & Goal for the Group: Introduce the group to A Simple Path and the seven-pillar rhythm (Praise and Worship, Discipleship, Humility, Acknowledgment, Acceptance, Obedience, Identification) so each person knows how to use the daily devotional and what to expect from the eight weeks ahead.

Opening (5–10 min)

Welcome everyone and have each person share their name and one hope they have for this study.

Icebreaker: "What does a daily walk with God currently look like for you?"

How This Study Works

Each week follows the same seven-day rhythm, one aspect per day. Set aside a quiet time each day to read the Scripture passage, reflect on the devotional commentary, and write a personal response in the space provided. At the end of each week, revisit the reflection questions as a group to measure growth.

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Close the opening time by reading this blessing together:

> *"May God bless your journey along this simple path."*

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Pray that each person would grow hungry for daily time with God and commit to the rhythm of this study.

Leader Tip: Have extra booklets and pens on hand, and encourage the group to keep the same day and time each week.

Week 1: Walk Humbly

Fellowshipping Daily With the Lord

Theme & Goal for the Group: Week 1 sets the foundation: every day begins by humbling ourselves before God, not by managing our own day. The goal this week is to help the group see quiet time not as a task to check off, but as the place where God reorders our priorities before we ever leave the house.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise & Worship	Psalm 150:1-2
2	Discipleship	Psalm 143:10
3	Humility	Micah 6:8
4	Acknowledgment	Judges 17:6
5	Acceptance	Isaiah 6:8
6	Obedience	Matthew 4:19
7	Identification	Romans 12:15

Opening (5–10 min)

Welcome everyone and explain that this is Week 1 of an 8-week journey through “A Simple Path,” built around seven recurring rhythms. Briefly walk through the Seven Aspects reference page so everyone has the same starting point.

Icebreaker: What does your morning routine look like right now — and where (if anywhere) does God currently fit into it?

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Read this week’s opening verse aloud together, slowly, then sit in a moment of silence before discussion begins.

> *“Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.”*
>
> **Psalm 150:1-2**

Digging In (20–25 min)

Walk through the following days together. For each, read the verse aloud, then use the discussion questions to draw out the group.

Day 2 — Discipleship

> *"Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground."*
>
> **Psalm 143:10**

From the devotional: The devotion admits that our praise falls short of what God deserves, yet invites us to do better today as He continues to disciple us, looking ahead to the day we will worship Him free of our sin nature.

Discuss:

- What does it look like to ask God, as the psalmist does, to teach you His will rather than just bless your own plans?
- Where do you sense God's Spirit trying to lead you onto 'level ground' right now?

Day 3 — Humility

> *"He has told you, mortal one, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?"*
>
> **Micah 6:8**

From the devotional: The devotion ties walking humbly to putting God first in everything, so that the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) can actually grow in us.

Discuss:

- Micah 6:8 names three things: justice, kindness, and humility. Which of the three is hardest for you personally, and why?
- What does it look like, practically, to 'put God first' before 9 am on a normal weekday?

Day 4 — Acknowledgment

> *“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*
>
> **Judges 17:6**

From the devotional: The devotional calls this ‘man’s problem since the garden of Eden’ — wanting total control of our own lives — and points to Ezekiel 3:17, where we’re called to be watchmen for one another.

Discuss:

– Where in your life right now are you tempted to just ‘do what’s right in your own eyes’ instead of asking God first?
– What would it look like for this group to function as ‘watchmen’ for each other this week?

Day 5 — Acceptance

> *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!”*
>
> **Isaiah 6:8**

From the devotional: The devotion connects this verse to witnessing and discipling others as God brings them into our path.

Discuss:

– Has there been a moment recently where you sensed God putting someone in your path on purpose? What happened?
– What holds you back from saying ‘Here am I, send me’ the way Isaiah did?

Day 6 — Obedience

> *“And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people.”*
>
> **Matthew 4:19**

From the devotional: The devotion connects Jesus’ call to follow Him with Isaiah’s response: when the Holy Spirit brings us face to face with God, we freely answer, ‘Here am I. Send me.’

Discuss:

– Jesus said He would make His followers fishers of people. What is one ‘net’ you could cast this week?
– What makes it hard to follow Jesus immediately, the way the first disciples left their nets?

Day 7 — Identification

> *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”*
>
> **Romans 12:15**

From the devotional: The devotional describes this as identifying the total needs of people, working with them, and becoming their friend — not just a helper from a distance.

Discuss:

– Is it easier for you to weep with someone who’s hurting or to rejoice with someone who’s celebrating? Why do you think that is?
– Who in your life right now needs you to simply enter what they’re feeling, rather than fix it?

Application Challenge (10 min)

This week, pick one fixed time each day for quiet time — even 10 minutes — and use the Week 1 verses in order, Day 1 through Day 7. At the end of each day, write one sentence answering: ‘Where did I see God’s hand today?’ Bring one of those sentences to share next week.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Pray that the group would genuinely want quiet time, not just complete it. Pray specifically for anyone who named a struggle with control (Day 4) or with fear of being sent (Day 5) during discussion.

Leader Tip: Don’t let the group rush past Day 4 (Acknowledgement). It’s the most convicting day of the week and often opens up the most honest conversation if you give it room.

Week 2: Led by the Spirit

Walking in the Power of God

Theme & Goal for the Group: Week 2 moves from humbling ourselves to depending on the Holy Spirit moment to moment. The goal is to help the group distinguish between trying to follow the Seven Aspects in their own strength versus being led by the Spirit through them.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise & Worship	Romans 8:14
2	Discipleship	Hebrews 4:12
3	Humility	John 14:26
4	Acknowledgment	John 16:13
5	Acceptance	Isaiah 6:8
6	Obedience	John 15:16
7	Identification	Proverbs 8:17

Opening (5–10 min)

Ask how the daily quiet time went this past week — be ready for mixed answers and normalize that. Remind the group that Week 1 was the foundation; Week 2 is about who empowers that foundation: the Holy Spirit.

Icebreaker: When was the last time you felt clearly 'led' to do or say something, and you're pretty sure it wasn't your own idea?

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Read this week's opening verse aloud together, slowly, then sit in a moment of silence before discussion begins.

> *"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God."*
>
> **Romans 8:14**

Digging In (20–25 min)

Walk through the following days together. For each, read the verse aloud, then use the discussion questions to draw out the group.

Day 2 — Discipleship

> *"For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*
>
> **Hebrews 4:12**

From the devotional: The devotion calls the Bible our 'playbook' for personal transformation, and says wisdom grows through acknowledgment, acceptance, and integration with our soul.

Discuss:

- When has Scripture felt 'sharp' to you — like it was cutting through something you were trying to avoid seeing?
- What's the difference between reading the Bible for information and letting it 'judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart'?

Day 3 — Humility

> *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you."*
>
> **John 14:26**

From the devotional: The devotional notes that even the disciples, after three and a half years with Jesus in person, still needed the Holy Spirit's help — and so do we today.

Discuss:

- If the twelve disciples needed the Holy Spirit's help even after walking with Jesus directly, what does that say

about trying to ‘figure out’ faith on willpower alone?
– What’s one thing you wish the Holy Spirit would remind you of more often?

Day 4 — Acknowledgment

> *“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”*
>
> **John 16:13**

From the devotional: The devotional observes that we could write down everything we think we need to know, but it’s far better to have a living Teacher — and only the Holy Spirit can actually walk us through the seven simple steps.

Discuss:
– Where do you tend to substitute ‘having the right information’ for listening to the Spirit?
– What would change this week if you treated the Holy Spirit as an active Teacher rather than a one-time gift you already unwrapped?

Day 5 — Acceptance

> *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!”*
>
> **Isaiah 6:8**

From the devotional: The devotion links Week 1’s call to share in the trials of God’s people with today’s commission: Jesus now sends us to disciple those same people.

Discuss:
– Isaiah heard God ask, ‘Whom shall I send?’ Who might God be asking you to go to right now?
– What is the difference between caring about someone’s struggles and actually discipling them?

Day 6 — Obedience

> *“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”*
>
> **John 15:16**

From the devotional: The devotional frames this as God choosing us out of every sinner who has lived, transforming us into His own.

Discuss:

– How does it change your sense of identity to know you were chosen, rather than that you chose your way in?
– What ‘fruit’ do you sense God currently growing in your life — and is it the kind that ‘remains,’ or does it feel temporary?

Day 7 — Identification

> *“I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.”*
>
> **Proverbs 8:17**

From the devotional: The devotion calls this verse the foundation for every step of A Simple Path: as we diligently seek God, He fills us with His love and power.

Discuss:

– What does seeking God ‘diligently’ look like on a busy day?
– How does being filled with God’s love change the way you notice the needs of others?

Application Challenge (10 min)

This week, before making any decision — big or small — pause and ask the Holy Spirit to lead rather than defaulting to your own first instinct. Keep a short list of moments where you noticed yourself pausing to ask, even if you’re not sure

the answer was clear.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Pray for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading, especially in the small daily decisions the group tends to make on autopilot. Pray for anyone who shared feeling like their faith runs on willpower rather than the Spirit's help.

Leader Tip: Some group members may be unsure how to recognize the Holy Spirit's leading versus their own thoughts. Don't try to fully resolve this in one session — let the uncertainty be part of the honest discussion, and point back to John 16:13.

Week 3: Walking in Wisdom

Growing in God's Truth

Theme & Goal for the Group: Week 3 asks the group to distinguish God's wisdom from the world's wisdom, and to see weakness — not strength — as the place where God's power is most visible.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise & Worship	Psalm 145:1-2
2	Discipleship	Colossians 2:3
3	Humility	Psalm 136:1
4	Acknowledgment	Isaiah 6:8
5	Acceptance	Proverbs 21:21
6	Obedience	Jeremiah 33:3
7	Identification	2 Corinthians 12:10

Opening (5–10 min)

Remind the group that wisdom in God's economy often looks opposite to wisdom in the world's. Week 3 exposes that gap.

Icebreaker: Has there been a time when you were clearly out of your depth — and God showed up in a way that wouldn't have happened if you'd had it all together?

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Read this week's opening verse aloud together, slowly, then sit in a moment of silence before discussion begins.

> *"I will exalt You, my God, the King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever."*
>
> **Psalm 145:1-2**

Digging In (20–25 min)

Walk through the following days together. For each, read the verse aloud, then use the discussion questions to draw out the group.

Day 2 — Discipleship

> *"In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*
>
> **Colossians 2:3**

From the devotional: The devotional points out that all true wisdom is found in Christ — not in human systems, status, or self- reliance.

Discuss:

- Where do you tend to look for wisdom first — and how does that compare to going directly to Christ?
- What would it look like practically to treat Christ as the source of wisdom before turning to advice, podcasts, or your own reasoning?

Day 3 — Humility

> *"O Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His faithfulness is everlasting."*
>
> **Psalm 136:1**

From the devotional: The devotional uses the repeated refrain of Psalm 136 to drive home that God's faithfulness is the anchor for our daily humility.

Discuss:

- The phrase 'His loving-kindness is everlasting' repeats 26 times in this Psalm. Why do you think God built repetition into that song?
- What would it mean to carry a sense of God's everlasting kindness into your most frustrating moments this week?

Day 4 — Acknowledgment

> *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!”*
>
> **Isaiah 6:8**

From the devotional: The devotion reminds us that bringing people back into fellowship with Him is always on God’s heart — so much so that He sent Jesus.

Discuss:

– When you look at the people around you, whom do you think God most wants restored to fellowship with Him?
– How does knowing this is ‘ever on God’s heart’ change how you see your everyday conversations?

Day 5 — Acceptance

> *“One who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life, righteousness, and honor.”*
>
> **Proverbs 21:21**

From the devotional: The devotional calls this one of the most liberating verses in Scripture — the place where we finally stop pretending and let God work.

Discuss:

– What weakness are you most tempted to hide from the group — and from God?
– Paul says he boasts in his weaknesses. Is there a weakness of yours that God has used in others’ lives?

Day 6 — Obedience

> *“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”*
>
> **Jeremiah 33:3**

From the devotional: The devotion promises that when we call on God, the Holy Spirit will help us understand the truths He reveals in His Word.

Discuss:

– What ‘great and mighty things’ has God shown you through Scripture that you did not know before?
– What keeps you from calling on God before you open His Word?

Day 7 — Identification

> *“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”*
>
> **2 Corinthians 12:10**

From the devotional: The devotional closes by applying this paradox to our ministry with others — our honesty about our own limits is what gives others permission to be honest about theirs.

Discuss:

– Who in your circle is more likely to open if you admit your own struggle first?
– What would it cost you to be that honest — and what might it gain for the other person?

Application Challenge (10 min)

This week, identify one area where you’ve been operating in your own strength instead of asking God for wisdom. Pray over it each morning using James 1:5, then write down anything He shows you.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Pray for the courage to admit weakness instead of projecting strength. Pray specifically for anyone who shared a hidden struggle during discussion.

Leader Tip: Week 3 is when the group dynamic usually either deepens or plateaus. If people are still keeping things surface-level, the Day 5 question about hidden weakness can be the door — but you may need to open it yourself first.

Week 4: Seeking God's Face

Finding God in Every Season

Theme & Goal for the Group: Week 4 confronts the gap between knowing God exists and actively seeking His face — especially in seasons when He feels distant or silent.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise & Worship	Psalm 100:1-3
2	Discipleship	Galatians 1:15-17
3	Humility	Genesis 11:4
4	Acknowledgment	Luke 11:9
5	Acceptance	Hebrews 11:6
6	Obedience	Jeremiah 29:13
7	Identification	Colossians 3:12-13

Opening (5–10 min)

Acknowledge that some people in the room may currently be in a 'distant' season. That's not a failure; it's what Week 4 is for.

Icebreaker: When has God felt most real and present to you — and when has He felt most distant?

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Read this week's opening verse aloud together, slowly, then sit in a moment of silence before discussion begins.

> *"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with jubilation; Come before Him with rejoicing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."*
>
> **Psalm 100:1-3**

Digging In (20–25 min)

Walk through the following days together. For each, read the verse aloud, then use the discussion questions to draw out the group.

Day 2 — Discipleship

> *“But when He who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.”*
>
> **Galatians 1:15-17**

From the devotional: The devotional frames this as a prayer for both direction and steadiness — not just knowing what to do but having the footing to do it under pressure.

Discuss:

– What does ‘a level path’ feel like when you’re on one — and when do you feel most off-balance spiritually?
– Who or what functions as the ‘foe’ most likely to push you off your path right now?

Day 3 — Humility

> *“And they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let's make a name for ourselves.”*
>
> **Genesis 11:4**

From the devotional: The devotional notes that waiting on God isn’t passive — it’s one of the most active and difficult acts of surrender.

Discuss:

– What’s the hardest part of waiting on God for you — the silence, the uncertainty, or the loss of control?
– Is there something you’re currently waiting on God for? What does courage look like in that waiting?

Day 4 — Acknowledgment

> *“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”*
>
> **Luke 11:9**

From the devotional: The devotion describes a pattern: we ask, then we wait as God prepares us for His answer, and when He and we are ready, we act according to His will and provision.

Discuss:

– Which is hardest for you — asking, waiting, or acting when God answers?
– What is one request you have been asking, seeking, or knocking about that you could share with the group?

Day 5 — Acceptance

> *"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him."*
>
> **Hebrews 11:6**

From the devotional: The devotional calls this the active surrender of every crossroads moment — not a one-time prayer, but a daily posture.

Discuss:

– Where do you find it hardest to 'not lean on your own understanding' — in relationships, work, health, or something else?
– What's the difference between acknowledging God in all your ways versus just asking Him to bless your already-decided plans?

Day 6 — Obedience

> *"And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."*
>
> **Jeremiah 29:13**

From the devotional: The devotion notes that seeking God with all our heart is also the message we declare to those God sends our way.

Discuss:

– What does it mean to search for God with 'all your heart' rather than part of it?
– How could your own seeking become an invitation for someone else to seek Him?

Day 7 — Identification

> *“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also.”*
>
> **Colossians 3:12-13**

From the devotional: The devotional broadens this beyond money — ‘first fruits’ means giving God the first of your time, attention, and energy before the day consumes it.

Discuss:

– What does ‘first fruits’ look like practically for you right now — where does God tend to get the leftovers instead?
– Who do you know whose generosity — of time, money, or energy — has clearly shaped their relationship with God?

Application Challenge (10 min)

This week, schedule a single 30-minute block just to seek God’s face — no agenda, no requests, just Psalm 27:4 as your posture. Write one sentence afterward about what you noticed.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Pray for those in the group who are in a ‘distant’ season with God. Pray Psalm 27:14 over them by name: that they would be strong, take courage, and wait.

Leader Tip: If someone shares that God feels distant, don’t rush to explain or fix it — that’s exactly what the devotion warns against. Let the group sit with Psalm 27:14 together first.

Week 5: Cheerful Service

Giving from the Heart

Theme & Goal for the Group: Week 5 addresses the motives behind service — whether we serve out of obligation, appearance, or genuine love. The goal is to help the group move from duty-driven service to heart-driven giving.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise & Worship	John 17:3-5
2	Discipleship	2 Corinthians 9:7-9
3	Humility	Ephesians 2:8-10
4	Acknowledgment	Matthew 18:20
5	Acceptance	Proverbs 30:5
6	Obedience	Acts 26:19
7	Identification	1 Peter 4:10

Opening (5–10 min)

Week 5 is often a gut-check week. Service can look identical on the outside whether it comes from love or from people-pleasing. This week digs into the difference.

Icebreaker: What's the most meaningful act of service someone has done for you — and what made it feel different from ordinary help?

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Read this week's opening verse aloud together, slowly, then sit in a moment of silence before discussion begins.

> *"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."*
>
> **John 17:3-5**

Digging In (20–25 min)

Walk through the following days together. For each, read the verse aloud, then use the discussion questions to draw out the group.

Day 2 — Discipleship

> *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly."*
>
> **2 Corinthians 9:7-9**

From the devotional: The devotional calls this the antidote to going through the motions — keeping the inner fire alive so that serving doesn't become performance.

Discuss:

- What drains the fervor out of your service most quickly — busyness, ingratitude from others, or something internal?
- How do you tell the difference between holy persistence and grinding through something God may be calling you out of?

Day 3 — Humility

> *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."*
>
> **Ephesians 2:8-10**

From the devotional: The devotional points to the gap between sowing and reaping as the place where most people quit — and humility is what keeps you faithful in that gap.

Discuss:

- Where are you currently in a 'sowing without seeing' season? What does faithfulness look like there?
- What's kept you going in a season of service where you didn't see results?

Day 4 — Acknowledgment

> *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*
>
> **Matthew 18:20**

From the devotional: The devotion calls this an encouraging verse to begin the day on the way to church: Jesus promises to be present wherever believers gather in His name.

Discuss:

– How would your time at church or in this group change if you truly expected Jesus to be present?
– Who could you invite to gather with you in His name this week?

Day 5 — Acceptance

> *“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”*
>
> **Proverbs 30:5**

From the devotional: The devotional uses this verse to reframe every act of service — the person in front of you is never just a ‘project.’

Discuss:

– If you genuinely believed you were serving Christ Himself in the people around you this week, what would change about how you showed up?
– Who is the ‘least of these’ in your current context — and how easy or hard is it to see Christ in them?

Day 6 — Obedience

> *“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.”*
>
> **Acts 26:19**

From the devotional: The devotion points to Paul’s testimony before King Agrippa, explaining how he followed the commands of Jesus Christ and was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

Discuss:

– What has God clearly shown you to do that you are still waiting to obey?
– How could you share your own story of obedience the way Paul did before Agrippa?

Day 7 — Identification

> *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*
>
> **1 Peter 4:10**

From the devotional: The devotion frames hospitality not as hosting events, but as creating space for people to be known — which is the deepest form of identification.

Discuss:

– Where do you currently create space for people to be genuinely known, rather than just helped?
– Is there someone in your life right now who needs to be 'seen' more than served?

Application Challenge (10 min)

This week, do one act of service that no one will know about — not even a close friend. Notice what happens inside you when there's no audience.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Pray for the group's motives to be purified in service — that what they do this week would genuinely come from love, not duty or appearance.

Leader Tip: Week 5 can expose burnout. If someone shares that they feel depleted by serving, don't push them toward more service — help the group see that Galatians 6:9 assumes rest is part of not growing weary.

Week 6: Renewed Strength

Finding Restoration in Christ

Theme & Goal for the Group: Week 6 addresses exhaustion, spiritual plateaus, and the temptation to coast — and points the group back to the only source of genuine renewal: waiting on God.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise & Worship	Isaiah 40:31
2	Discipleship	Psalm 89:1
3	Humility	1 Thessalonians 5:18
4	Acknowledgment	Ephesians 3:20-21
5	Acceptance	Isaiah 1:18
6	Obedience	Micah 6:8
7	Identification	1 Samuel 12:23

Opening (5–10 min)

Week 6 is when many groups hit a plateau. Acknowledge that — even name it if it's visible. The week's content is designed for exactly this moment.

Icebreaker: When you're genuinely depleted — spiritually, emotionally, or physically — what's your go-to way of trying to recover? Does it work?

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Read this week's opening verse aloud together, slowly, then sit in a moment of silence before discussion begins.

> *"Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."*
>
> **Isaiah 40:31**

Digging In (20–25 min)

Walk through the following days together. For each, read the verse aloud, then use the discussion questions to draw out the group.

Day 2 — Discipleship

> *"I will sing of the loving-kindness of the Lord forever; To all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth."*
>
> **Psalm 89:1**

From the devotional: The devotional notes that soul restoration isn't automatic — it happens as we follow where the Shepherd leads, even when the path doesn't look restorative.

Discuss:

- What does 'soul restoration' feel like for you — and how do you know when it's happened versus when you've just rested?
- Has there been a time when following God's path led you through something hard, but you came out restored on the other side?

Day 3 — Humility

> *"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*
>
> **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

From the devotional: The devotional points out that the invitation is to come — not to try harder or push through — and that the yoke Jesus offers is built for rest, not more striving.

Discuss:

- What's the heaviest thing you're currently carrying that you haven't handed to Jesus?
- What's the difference between taking on Christ's yoke and taking on more religious obligation?

Day 4 — Acknowledgment

> *“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”*
>
> **Ephesians 3:20-21**

From the devotional: The devotion gives thanks that God has provided far beyond any humanly reasonable expectation — just as this verse promises.

Discuss:

– Where has God done ‘far more abundantly’ than you asked or imagined?
– How does remembering His past provision help you trust Him with what is in front of you today?

Day 5 — Acceptance

> *“Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”*
>
> **Isaiah 1:18**

From the devotional: The devotional reframes suffering as formative rather than punitive — the hard seasons are producing something that won’t be wasted.

Discuss:

– What’s the hardest part of believing your current difficulty is ‘momentary and light’ when it doesn’t feel that way?
– Can you identify a past season of affliction that you can now see was producing something good in you?

Day 6 — Obedience

> *“He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?”*
>
> **Micah 6:8**

From the devotional: The devotion observes that Micah 6:8 seems like a simple request, yet it is hard to live out in our day-to-day dealings with others and with ourselves.

Discuss:

– Which part of Micah 6:8 — justice, kindness, or humility — is hardest for you this week?
– What is one situation where you could practice walking humbly with God tomorrow?

Day 7 — Identification

> *“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.”*
>
> **1 Samuel 12:23**

From the devotional: The devotional calls this the long-distance runner’s posture — not sprinting but running with endurance by keeping your eyes on the finish line, not the obstacles.

Discuss:

– What’s the biggest ‘encumbrance’ in your life right now — something that may not even be sinful, but is slowing your run?
– When your eyes drift from Jesus, what do they tend to fix on instead — and how does that affect your pace?

Application Challenge (10 min)

This week, identify the main thing draining your spiritual energy and bring it honestly to God in prayer each day. Don’t try to fix it yourself — just wait on Him with Isaiah 40:31 as your anchor.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Pray Isaiah 40:31 over the group by name. Pray that those who are weary would ‘wait’ on God this week rather than pushing through in their own strength.

Leader Tip: If the group shares that quiet time has become a chore this week, don’t add pressure — that’s exactly what Matthew 11:28 addresses. Ask them to try simply coming to Jesus with their weariness, not with a devotional to complete.

Week 7: Things Above

Fixing Our Minds on What Matters

Theme & Goal for the Group: Week 7 confronts spiritual drift — the subtle pull away from devotion to Christ — and calls the group to deliberately fix their minds above, not on the world's noise.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise & Worship	Colossians 3:2-4
2	Discipleship	2 Corinthians 11:3
3	Humility	Psalm 25:10
4	Acknowledgment	Colossians 3:17
5	Acceptance	1 Peter 2:2-3
6	Obedience	1 Peter 2:4-6
7	Identification	1 Peter 2:9-10

Opening (5–10 min)

With one week left after this, ask the group to reflect on what's been hardest to sustain through this study. Introduce this week's focus: guarding the mind against drift and re-centering on Christ.

Icebreaker: What's something that consistently pulls your focus away from God during a normal day — and have you noticed any pattern to when it happens?

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Read this week's opening verse aloud together, slowly, then sit in a moment of silence before discussion begins.

> *“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”*
>
> **Colossians 3:2-4**

Digging In (20–25 min)

Walk through the following days together. For each, read the verse aloud, then use the discussion questions to draw out the group.

Day 2 — Discipleship

> *“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”*
>
> **2 Corinthians 11:3**

From the devotional: The devotion is candid about how easy it is to turn from the Lord when the world tempts us and simply asks for His protection.

Discuss:

– Eve wasn’t deceived by something obviously evil, but by something that looked reasonable. What’s a ‘reasonable-looking’ distraction that has quietly pulled you from devotion to Christ recently?
– What practices help you maintain ‘simplicity and purity of devotion’ in a noisy, complicated world?

Day 3 — Humility

> *“All the paths of the Lord are loving-kindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.”*
>
> **Psalm 25:10**

From the devotional: The devotion notes that when we stay on the Lord’s path, His loving-kindness and truth become our traveling companions.

Discuss:

– What does it feel like, practically, when you sense God’s loving-kindness accompanying you versus when you feel like you’re walking alone?
– Is there a ‘covenant’ or commitment with God that you’ve let slide, and would benefit from picking back up?

Day 4 — Acknowledgment

> *“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”*
>
> **Colossians 3:17**

From the devotional: The devotion reminds us that Jesus came to obey His Father, and so do we — doing everything in His name with thanksgiving.

Discuss:

– Name one ordinary task you could do this week ‘in the name of the Lord Jesus.’
– How does giving thanks change the way you approach work you would rather avoid?

Day 5 — Acceptance

> *“Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”*
>
> **1 Peter 2:2-3**

From the devotional: The devotion frames this as Jesus urging continual growth in grace as we keep receiving spiritual blessing from the Father.

Discuss:

– A newborn’s hunger for milk is urgent and instinctive, not scheduled. Does your hunger for Scripture feel more like that, or more like an obligation?
– What’s made you ‘taste the kindness of the Lord’ recently in a way that made you want more of Him?

Day 6 — Obedience

> *“And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood.”*
>
> **1 Peter 2:4-6**

From the devotional: The devotion pictures believers as living stones built together into a spiritual house — this is where we join other Christians in the work of reaching others for Christ.

Discuss:

– Why do you think God chose to build His house out of many stones rather than one?
– How can this group work together as ‘living stones’ to reach someone for Christ?

Day 7 — Identification

> *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*
>
> **1 Peter 2:9-10**

From the devotional: The devotion calls this God’s goal and command for us — naming the kind of people we’re meant to become.

Discuss:

– Does ‘chosen’ and ‘royal priesthood’ feel true to how you see yourself day to day? Why or why not?
– What’s one practical way you could ‘proclaim the excellencies’ of Christ this week, without it feeling forced or performative?

Application Challenge (10 min)

Identify the single biggest distraction pulling your mind off ‘things above’ this week and remove or limit it deliberately for seven days. Replace that time with even five minutes back in the Word.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Pray specifically against the distractions named in discussion. Pray that the group would see themselves as 1 Peter 2:9 describes them — chosen, not just tolerated.

Leader Tip: This week often surfaces real vulnerability around habits or distractions people are ashamed of. Keep confidentiality explicit and don’t pressure anyone to share specifics publicly — general honesty is enough for the group to pray meaningfully.

Week 8: Full Circle

Proclaiming the Gospel of Grace

Theme & Goal for the Group: Week 8 returns to the gospel itself — salvation, new birth, and confession — closing the loop on eight weeks of discipleship by reminding the group where it all began and why it still matters.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise & Worship	Hebrews 13:15
2	Discipleship	Hebrews 13:5-6
3	Humility	John 3:16
4	Acknowledgment	Isaiah 1:18
5	Acceptance	John 3:7
6	Obedience	Romans 10:9-10
7	Identification	1 Peter 2:9-10

Opening (5–10 min)

This is the final week of Volume 1. Acknowledge the milestone. This week revisits the gospel itself — not as a review for beginners, but as the foundation every other week has been built on.

Icebreaker: In one or two sentences, how would you explain your own salvation story to someone who had never heard it?

Worship & Centering (5 min)

Read this week's opening verse aloud together, slowly, then sit in a moment of silence before discussion begins.

> *"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."*
>
> **Hebrews 13:15**

Digging In (20–25 min)

Walk through the following days together. For each, read the verse aloud, then use the discussion questions to draw out the group.

Day 2 — Discipleship

> *“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.”*
>
> **Hebrews 13:5-6**

From the devotional: The devotion acknowledges that many things happen to discourage us, but never to the point that we stop obeying, because the Lord promises never to leave us.

Discuss:

– What has been trying to discourage you lately, and how does God’s promise ‘I will never desert you’ speak to it?

– Where do you need to choose contentment instead of wanting more?

Day 3 — Humility

> *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*
>
> **John 3:16**

From the devotional: The devotion invites a simple pause: sit with Jesus and let Him remind you of your own salvation journey.

Discuss:

– When you pause on this verse instead of skimming past its familiarity, what part stands out freshly to you right now?

– How has your understanding of being ‘loved by God’ changed over the course of these eight weeks?

Day 4 — Acknowledgment

> *“Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”*
>
> **Isaiah 1:18**

From the devotional: The devotion rejoices that our sins are forgiven and that God is cleansing us so they no longer interfere with our obedience.

Discuss:

– What does it mean to you that God invites us to ‘reason together’ with Him about our sin?
– Is there anything still interfering with your obedience that you need to bring to Him?

Day 5 — Acceptance

> *“Do not be amazed that I said to you, "You must be born again.”*
>
> **John 3:7**

From the devotional: The devotion ties this to Jesus explaining to Nicodemus the necessity of a totally new spiritual birth before being accepted by the Father.

Discuss:

– What was ‘new’ about you after you came to faith — what changed that you didn’t expect?
– Is there an area of your life that still needs a fresh ‘born again’ kind of renewal, even now?

Day 6 — Obedience

> *“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”*
>
> **Romans 10:9-10**

From the devotional: The devotional calls this the action point — the personal decision for Christ that follows accepting our sinful condition.

Discuss:

– Belief in the heart and confession with the mouth are both named here. Which has come more naturally to you, and which has taken more courage?
– Who in your life still needs to hear you confess Christ out loud, the way this verse describes?

Day 7 — Identification

> *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*
>
> **1 Peter 2:9-10**

From the devotional: The devotion closes the whole study here: we’ve revisited our call to salvation, and God has given us adoption and a new position in the work He’s called us to.

Discuss:

– Looking back across all eight weeks, which week or verse marked you the most, and why?
– What’s one way you sense God calling you to ‘proclaim His excellencies’ in this next season — beyond this study?

Application Challenge (10 min)

Write out your own salvation testimony in a few sentences This week (the booklet's 'Your Salvation Testimony' page is built for exactly this). Then share it with one person who doesn't know your story yet, even briefly.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 min)

Spend extended time thanking God together for the whole eight-week journey. Pray for each person by name, asking God to show what's next for them individually and for the group corporately.

Leader Tip: Save real time for this closing session — don't rush it. Consider letting a few people read their written salvation testimony aloud if they're willing. This is also the natural moment to discuss whether the group continues with a new study, takes a break, or multiplies into new groups.

After Week 8: Where to Go Next

Once your group completes Volume 1, take a session to look back rather than rushing into something new. Ask the group: Which of the seven aspects felt most natural? Which one stretched you? Where did you sense God moving in your daily quiet time over these eight weeks?

If a Volume 2 or follow-up study isn't yet in place, consider simply repeating the cycle of Seven Aspects with a fresh set of verses the group chooses together, or commissioning members who are ready to lead their own small group through A Simple Path.