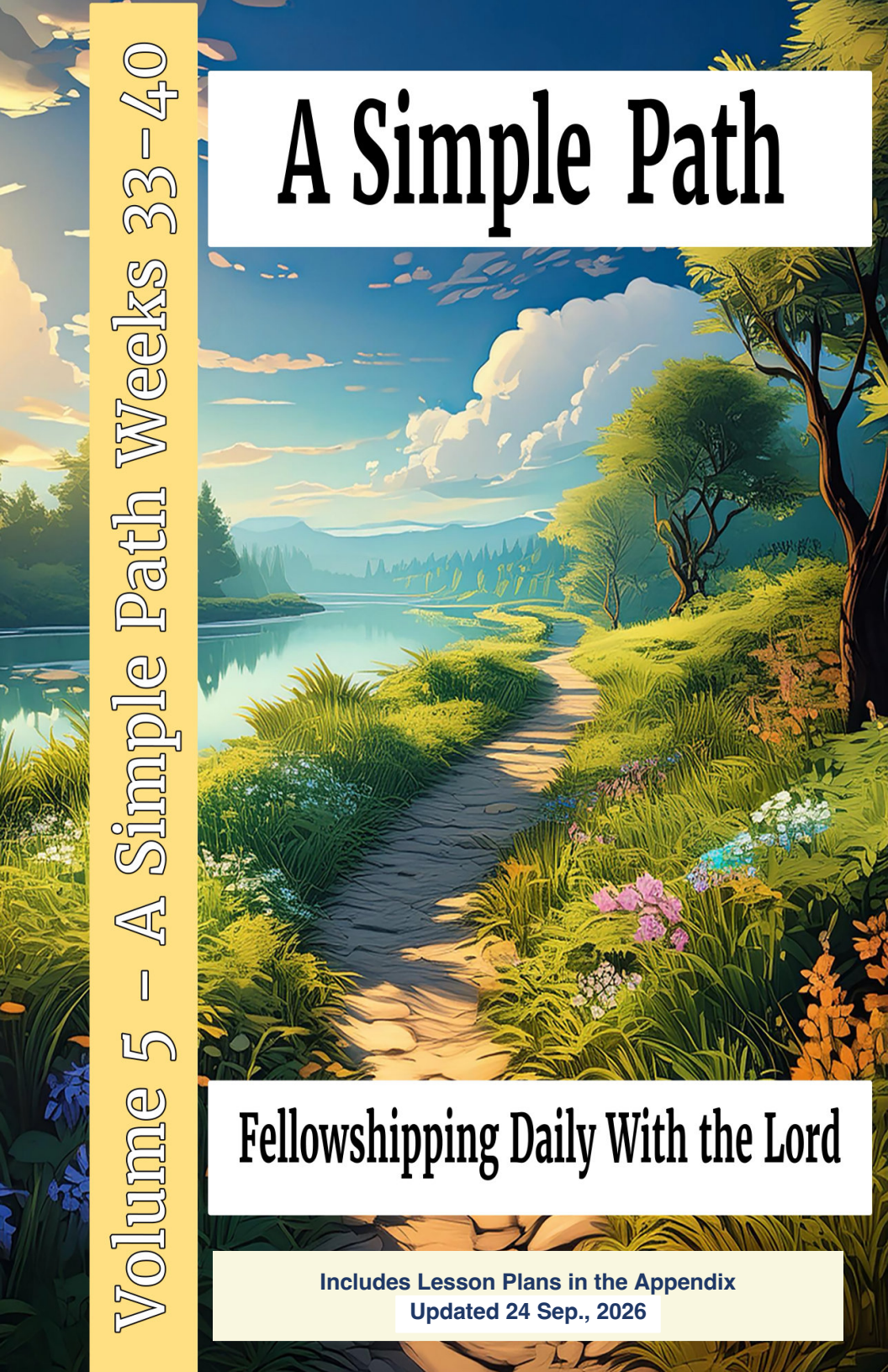

Volume 5 - A Simple Path Weeks 33-40
A Simple Path
Fellowshipping Daily With the Lord
Includes Lesson Plans in the Appendix
Updated 24 Sep., 2026

A Simple Path Volume 5

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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

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 99 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. 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 95:6-7
Come, let's worship and bow down. Let's kneel before the Lord, our maker, for he is our God. We are the people of his pasture, the sheep in his care,

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 100:1-2
Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with jubilation; Come before Him with rejoicing.

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 100:3-5
Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 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 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 makes 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”

Volume 5 · Weeks 33–40

> *“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***

This is the fifth volume of “A Simple Path,” covering Weeks 33 through 40. By now you have completed 32 weeks of daily quiet time — or fewer, if you sometimes did more than one devotion a day. Personally, I have written a whole week’s devotion each morning.

“A Simple Path” remains simple so you can keep building the habit of a daily quiet time. My comments after each verse are short on purpose, so you can focus on listening to God’s voice.

This volume opens with the Father’s loving discipline and the peace of holiness it produces. From there we bow before Him in worship and join His work of rescuing the lost, rest in His nearness to all who call on Him, and remember that we were created, chosen, and sent.

The later weeks teach us to rejoice through trials, to be led by the Spirit, to let His living and active Word correct and restore us as it points to the only name that saves, and to commit our ways to the Lord and His wisdom.

As you have come to love the Lord with more passion, your quiet times have become longer and deeper in scriptural understanding.

Lesson plans for small-group leaders are included at the back of this booklet. I challenge you to continue through these devotionals until God moves you to other devotionals — or maybe you will create your own.

— Patrick Wright
Loudon, Tennessee
Patrick@asimplepath.org

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 there, we watch closely for what new situation God is preparing for us that day.

God has a plan for our ministry, and He will reveal it as we serve Him. When He reveals His plan, we accept and begin serving His people by His power.

Missions and ministry require preparation and a lifestyle of serving Christ— either professionally or as a part-time volunteer. Both require commitment to daily Bible study. Your spiritual growth under the leadership of Jesus Christ will not happen automatically.

Personal Discipleship Survey

Mark U (Usually), S (Sometimes), or N (Never) for each statement.

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 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 ministry God has called me to	☐	☐	☐

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 I am a Christian by the way I love and treat others	☐	☐	☐

Multiplying Discipleship	**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	☐	☐	☐

Summary of the Eight Weeks

Week 33 — Trusting the Father's Discipline

Receive His discipline as the mark of a Father who has accepted you, and let it yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness and holiness.

Week 34 — Worship, Covenant, and Rescue

Bow before Him as Maker, keep the words of His covenant, and seek His help in rescuing those enslaved to the world.

Week 35 — Near to All Who Call

Rest in the truth that the LORD is near to all who call on Him, and let that nearness shape a surrendered, forgiving heart.

Week 36 — Created, Chosen, and Sent

Give thanks with your whole heart, remember you are made in His image, and walk through the doors He opens for the gospel.

Week 37 — Rejoicing Through the Trial

Rejoice in the day the LORD has made, praise Him among the nations, and answer His call to feed His sheep.

Week 38 — Bound by the Spirit

Seek Him with your whole heart, go wherever you feel bound by the Spirit, and receive the gospel with real faith.

Week 39 — The Living and Active Word

Let Scripture pierce, correct, and train you, and rest in the truth that salvation is found in no other name.

Week 40 — Committing Your Ways to Wisdom

Commit your works to the Lord, seek wisdom above gold, and stop hiding from the God who is calling you by name.

May God bless your journey along this simple path.

Patrick Wright · Loudon, Tennessee

My Salvation Testimony

Before you read any further, we need to discuss two absolutes; the first is your salvation. Use these pages to outline your experiences as Jesus moved you from disobedient and unforgiving to obedient and forgiven through His death and resurrection, and through His grace to eternal salvation. 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, and we were set to be married before Christmas of 1979. To please her, I began to visit her church Sunday after Sunday. Before we announced our engagement, 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 to 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 continued to attend 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 as he preached, I felt a huge burden lifted from my shoulders, and 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 33

Trusting the Father's Discipline

From Correction to the Peace of Holiness

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 143:8

Day 2 · Discipleship: Hebrews 12:5b-6

Day 3 · Humility: Hebrews 12:7

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Add your own

Day 5 · Acceptance: Hebrews 12:11

Day 6 · Obedience: Hebrews 12:14

Day 7 · Identification: Isaiah 1:18

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

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

Scripture

> *"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 143:8**

Devotional Reflection

Yes, Father, this is my prayer. My trust in You allows me to accept and cherish the knowledge that You will keep showing me the way I walk with Jesus each day.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

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

Scripture

> *"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the LORD, nor faint when you are punished by Him, for whom the LORD loves He disciplines, and He punishes every son whom He accepts."*
>
> **Hebrews 12:5b-6**

Devotional Reflection

First, Father, thank You for adopting me as Your son. Second, help me see when I need discipline, so I can confess my sin to You and let You do whatever is necessary to correct me, so I can follow You as You lead the lost.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

You are surrendered, submitting to God's will.

Scripture

> *“It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”*
>
> **Hebrews 12:7**

Devotional Reflection

This is part of the prayer Jesus offered for our unity together with Him in our hearts. Caring for people isn't just for the lost or for Christians who need help — it's also for the co-laborers we work alongside in the church and the community.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgment

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

Scripture

Add your own verse here.

Add Your Own Note

Add your own description or reflection here.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

God is calling, and you have accepted His call.

Scripture

> *“For the moment all discipline seems not to be pleasant, but painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”*
>
> **Hebrews 12:11**

Devotional Reflection

Afterward, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness — that's the key here. Without accepting discipline and change first, we can't turn our focus to others' needs.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of Reconciliation.

Scripture

> *“Pursue peace with all people, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”*
>
> **Hebrews 12:14**

Devotional Reflection

Jesus always taught and ministered to His people with great compassion and messages that gave them peace, yet He also rebuked deficient leadership. Those whom you disciple need to see His peace in their heart.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

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

Scripture

> *“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”*
>
> **Isaiah 1:18**

Devotional Reflection

This is the prime inner need of everyone God sends you to witness to who hasn't yet been saved.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 33 Completed

- **Share**

  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?

- Where this week did you sense God's loving-kindness showing you which way to walk?

- Is there a discipline from the Lord you've been resisting instead of receiving as a son or daughter?

- Who is a co-laborer you could show more unity and care toward this week?

- Have I fully embraced my own reconciliation with God through Christ?

- What has felt painful lately that might, in time, yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness?

- Where is God asking you to pursue peace rather than win an argument?

- Is there sin you've been avoiding that you need to simply reason honestly with God about?

WEEK 34

Worship, Covenant, and Rescue

From Bowing Before Him to Rescuing the Lost

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 95:6-8a

Day 2 · Discipleship: Deuteronomy 29:9

Day 3 · Humility: John 15:10

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Hebrews 12:15

Day 5 · Acceptance: Revelation 18:4

Day 6 · Obedience: Deuteronomy 31:8

Day 7 · Identification: Luke 18:41

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

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

Scripture

> *"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. Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your heart."*
>
> **Psalm 95:6-8a**

Devotional Reflection

Thank You, Father — I found this to be exactly the verse I wanted to open quiet time with at Club 180, and now Psalm 95:6-7 are the verses to use at Praise and Pray night as we head to Kentucky.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

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

Scripture

> *"So you will keep the words of this covenant and do them, in order that you may be successful in everything that you do."*
>
> **Deuteronomy 29:9**

Devotional Reflection

We follow and obey Christ because we love Him and want to please Him. In response to our obedience, He provides everything we need — including the power of the Holy Spirit — so that we can be successful.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

You are surrendered, submitting to the will of God.

Scripture

> *“If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love.”*
>
> **John 15:10**

Devotional Reflection

In the last verse, God spoke through Moses; in this one, God Himself speaks through His Son. This time Jesus places the emphasis on love — our love, and the Father's love.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgment

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

Scripture

> *“See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”*
>
> **Hebrews 12:15**

Devotional Reflection

Now we're getting into the tough areas. You may have a friend whose bitterness toward another person is hampering their acceptance of Jesus Christ. Refocus them on this problem first.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

God is calling and you have accepted His call.

Scripture

> *“Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sin, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God remembered her crimes.”*
>
> **Revelation 18:4**

Devotional Reflection

So many Christians have let themselves be enslaved by a desire to be part of this corrupt world. If you care for them, you'll seek God's help to rescue them and point them to Jesus.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of Reconciliation.

Scripture

> *“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you.”*
>
> **Deuteronomy 31:8**

Devotional Reflection

Moses was speaking to Joshua as God prepared him to lead the Hebrews into the promised land. We're volunteers in the LORD's service too, though we're not asked to lead an army — instead, we're asked to step into the lives of people who are separated from God, some of them Christians who haven't yet learned to trust and submit to His will and help them be reconciled to Jesus.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

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

Scripture

> *"'What do you want me to do for you?' He said, 'Lord, that I may receive my sight.'"*
>
> **Luke 18:41**

Devotional Reflection

As you get to know the people God has sent you, Jesus will show you their inner needs and then enable you to point them to Him for healing. For the blind man, it was his eyesight; for the people you encounter, it will be opening their eyes so they can see Jesus.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 34 Completed

- **Share**

  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?

- Where do you need to bow before God this week instead of hardening your heart?

- What is one covenant promise of His you want to keep more faithfully?

- How does love — yours and the Father's — shape your obedience right now?

- Is there bitterness in a friend's heart you're being called to gently address?

- Who do you know who's enslaved to the world, and who you could help point toward Jesus?

- Where do you need to trust that the LORD is already going ahead of you?

- What inner need might God be preparing you to notice in someone this week?

WEEK 35

Near to All Who Call

From God's Nearness to a Surrendered Will

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 145:16-18

Day 2 · Discipleship: 3 John 2

Day 3 · Humility: Psalm 145:18

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Luke 11:4

Day 5 · Acceptance: 2 Thessalonians 1:11

Day 6 · Obedience: John 21:17

Day 7 · Identification: Psalm 40:8

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

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

Scripture

> *"The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and kind in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."*
>
> **Psalm 145:16-18**

Devotional Reflection

Father, Your righteousness and kindness in every work You do is what I return to again — that You are near to all who call, and that You satisfy every living thing from Your open hand.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

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

Scripture

> *“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.”*
>
> **3 John 2**

Devotional Reflection

As we have accepted You as Lord and Savior, it's comforting to know that Jesus is praying for our discipleship.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

You are surrendered, submitting to the will of God.

Scripture

> *“The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.”*
>
> **Psalm 145:18**

Devotional Reflection

I'm using this verse twice; it's so powerful and such a reassuring truth that as we follow You, Father, and surrender and submit to Your role, You are near.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgment

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

Scripture

> *“And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation.”*
>
> **Luke 11:4**

Devotional Reflection

This is part of the Lord's Prayer, and it asks us to look at ourselves — how we respond to our social environment and how people have treated us.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

God is calling and you have accepted His call.

Scripture

> *"To this end we pray for you always, that our God will consider you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power."*
>
> **2 Thessalonians 1:11**

Devotional Reflection

Just before this, Paul writes that Jesus will bring justice on those who seek to harm us if they don't repent. Even so, we're called to pray for their deliverance from sin, not for their punishment.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of Reconciliation.

Scripture

> *“Do you love Me?”*
>
> **John 21:17**

Devotional Reflection

Jesus asks Peter this question three times, and each time His instruction is the same: if you love Me, go and minister to My people.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

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

Scripture

> *"I desire to do Your will, my God; Your law is within my heart."*
>
> **Psalm 40:8**

Devotional Reflection

Just as this desire lives in me because it comes from You, I'm to find others who share that same desire and minister to them.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 35 Completed

- **Share**

  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?

- Where did you sense His nearness this week, even in the middle of an ordinary day?

- How is Jesus' prayer for your soul's prosperity different from what the world calls prosperity?

- What does calling on Him 'in truth' look like for you right now?

- Who have you struggled to forgive, as the Lord's Prayer asks you to?

- Is there someone who has wronged you that you need to pray for instead of resenting?

- How would you honestly answer if Jesus asked you, 'Do you love Me?'

- Who around you share your desire to do God's will, and could you minister alongside them?

WEEK 36

Created, Chosen, and Sent

From Creation to Being Sent Through an Open Door

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 86:12

Day 2 · Discipleship: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Day 3 · Humility: 3 John 2

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: 2 Corinthians 2:12

Day 5 · Acceptance: Philippians 4:13

Day 6 · Obedience: Genesis 1:27

Day 7 · Identification: Psalm 128:1-2

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

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

Scripture

> *“I give thanks to You, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever.”*
>
> **Psalm 86:12**

Devotional Reflection

Father, as I look to You daily, I see a loving, caring God who, though You are the Creator, still loves us when we rebel against You. I think of Your reaction to Adam and Eve hiding in the garden after they sinned — You didn't come to them in anger as we might expect, but with a heart of love and compassion, even knowing the sacrifice of Your own Son that would one day be required.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

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

Scripture

> *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*
>
> **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

Devotional Reflection

This is my personal challenge: to be so Christ-focused that I let Him speak through me to those who are perishing, and that You, Lord, draw them to Yourself.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

You are surrendered, submitting to the will of God.

Scripture

> *“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.”*
>
> **3 John 2**

Devotional Reflection

This was part of the beloved apostle John's prayer for those he was writing to. It has become a prayer of love that You sent to me personally, my Father.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgment

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

Scripture

> *"Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord…"*
>
> **2 Corinthians 2:12**

Devotional Reflection

Father, I praise You for opening a door for Your gospel wherever You send me.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

God is calling and you have accepted His call.

Scripture

> *“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”*
>
> **Philippians 4:13**

Devotional Reflection

This is the day that the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of Reconciliation.

Scripture

> *“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*
>
> **Genesis 1:27**

Devotional Reflection

Every person we're sent to has this same origin — made in His image — and that shapes how we're to see and serve them.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

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

Scripture

> *"How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways."*
>
> **Psalm 128:1-2**

Devotional Reflection

As those born again from above, we can each understand how reverence, awe, gladness, and obedience toward our heavenly Father bring us joy and blessedness. But those He sends us to aren't there yet; if they're lost, they walk in the darkness of unfulfillment, never accepting God's love until He draws them and sends us to share Jesus with them.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 36 Completed

- **Share**

  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?

- What would it look like to thank God with your ‘whole’ heart this week, not a divided one?

- Who in your life seems blinded to the gospel, and how can you pray for their sight?

- Have you let yourself receive God's prayer for your soul’s prosperity?

- What open door for the gospel has God placed in front of you lately?

- Where do you need His strength because your own has run out?

- How does knowing someone was made in God's image change how you treat them?

- Who walks in the darkness of unfulfillment near you, waiting to be shown God's love?

WEEK 37

Rejoicing Through the Trial

From Praise Among the Nations to Feeding His Sheep

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 118:24

Day 2 · Discipleship: Psalm 117:1-2

Day 3 · Humility: 1 Peter 4:12-13

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: John 21:17 (KJV)

Day 5 · Acceptance: Add your own

Day 6 · Obedience: Add your own

Day 7 · Identification: Add your own

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

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

Scripture

> *"This is the day the LORD has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."*
>
> **Psalm 118:24**

Devotional Reflection

Father, I found this verse online, set across a photo of a sunrise over a mountain. Its symbolism is twofold: the verse describes how a Christian looks at sunrise, and it also describes what we'll see today on the mountain at Kingdom Come Park in Cumberland, KY — though much later than sunrise. I bless You, Lord, for being faithful to each of us on this mission trip, and to me especially, as the Holy Spirit has strengthened my body so I could participate and lead such a large group in Your honor.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

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

Scripture

> *"Praise the LORD, all nations; sing His praises, all people! For His mercy toward us is great, and the truth of the LORD is everlasting."*
>
> **Psalm 117:1-2**

Devotional Reflection

I praise You, LORD God Almighty, for the myriad ways You care for me — a sinner saved by Your will and Your Son Jesus Christ.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

You are surrendered, submitting to God's will.

Scripture

> *“My dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.”*
>
> **1 Peter 4:12-13**

Devotional Reflection

At first, I tell myself this verse doesn't apply to me, since I'm not among those who suffer greatly for You, Lord. But then I see those around me suffering for You, and I realize I must help them in their battle against evil forces.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgment

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

Scripture

> *“Feed My Sheep.”*
>
> **John 21:17 (KJV)**

Devotional Reflection

Jesus was speaking to Peter in John 21:15-17 about how much he loved Him, asking three times, “Do you love Me?” and closing each time with, “Feed My Sheep.” Here now God has asked me the same question.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

God is calling, and you have accepted His call.

Scripture

Add your own verse here.

Add Your Own Note

Add your own description or reflection here.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of Reconciliation.

Scripture

Add your own verse here.

Add Your Own Note

Add your own description or reflection here.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

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

Scripture

Add your own verse here.

Add Your Own Note

Add your own description or reflection here.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 37 Completed

- **Share**

  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?

- What has the LORD made today that you can choose to rejoice in?

- Where have you seen His mercy and truth this week, even in a small way?

- What painful trial are you tempted to see as strange rather than as sharing in Christ's sufferings?

- If Jesus asked you three times, ‘Do you love Me?’ — what would your answer show Him?

- Use this space for your own Acceptance reflection this week.

- Use this space for your own Obedience reflection this week.

- Use this space for your own Identification reflection this week.

WEEK 38

Bound by the Spirit

From a Pure Heart to a Faith That Receives the Word

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Psalm 28:6-7

Day 2 · Discipleship: Psalm 119:9-10

Day 3 · Humility: Acts 20:22

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Hebrews 4:2

Day 5 · Acceptance: Genesis 1:27

Day 6 · Obedience: Luke 4:22

Day 7 · Identification: Add your own

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

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

Scripture

> *"Blessed be the LORD, because He has heard the sound of my pleading. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart triumphs, and with my song I shall thank Him."*
>
> **Psalm 28:6-7**

Devotional Reflection

I'm looking at this verse from two angles. First, the absence of indigestion that has plagued me for the past year, constant this last month—I know it was You, LORD, who heard my cry and cared for me so compassionately; I praise You. Second, the triumphant heart You've given me from the mission trip to Club 180; You heard my pleading for guidance on that trip. My body ached, and my steps weren't always steady, but You personally helped me and sent others to fill the gaps in such a large undertaking. I praise You.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

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

Scripture

> *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commands."*
>
> **Psalm 119:9-10**

Devotional Reflection

The key words here are "with all my heart" and "according to Your Word." Notice how the question is answered — the course of action is defined. To keep your heart pure, you must seek Him with a humble heart, through the Scriptures.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

You are surrendered, submitting to God's will.

Scripture

> *"And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there."*
>
> **Acts 20:22**

Devotional Reflection

In Jerusalem, Paul would be arrested and sent to Rome. Last weekend, I felt bound by the Spirit to Cumberland, KY, for three days of ministry—not a sad occasion like Paul's, but jubilant and full of God's grace toward each of us and the people of Club 180.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgment

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

Scripture

> *“For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.”*
>
> **Hebrews 4:2**

Devotional Reflection

Hearing the gospel is not enough on its own — it must be received in faith to do its work in us.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

God is calling, and you have accepted His call.

Scripture

> *“So God created people in His own image; God patterned them after Himself.”*
>
> **Genesis 1:27**

Devotional Reflection

This teaches us that all people are created in the image of God and are to be loved.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of Reconciliation.

Scripture

> *"All spoke well of Him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from His lips. 'Isn't this Joseph's son?' they asked."*
>
> **Luke 4:22**

Devotional Reflection

My students — fifty-two of them — just came back from three days in the KY mission field, and I'm almost amazed at their ability to follow Christ; they served Him by loving His children. To the outside world, people who knew them would react the same way people reacted to Jesus. They're just ordinary kids with an extraordinary Father in heaven, leading them into service.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

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

Scripture

Add your own verse here.

Add Your Own Note

Add your own description or reflection here.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 38 Completed

- **Share**

  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?

- Where has God heard your pleading and shown Himself as your strength and shield?

- What does seek Him ‘with all your heart’ look like for you this week?

- Is there a place you feel bound by the Spirit to go, even without knowing what waits there?

- Have you truly combined what you've heard of the gospel with faith, or just heard it?

- How does seeing someone as ‘patterned after God Himself’ change the way you treat them?

- Who around you might be amazed by grace-filled words the way people were amazed by Jesus?

- Use this space for your own Identification reflection this week.

WEEK 39

The Living and Active Word

From Scripture's Power to the Only Name That Saves

This Week at a Glance

Day 1 · Praise and Worship: Hebrews 4:12

Day 2 · Discipleship: 2 Timothy 3:16

Day 3 · Humility: Matthew 5:48

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: Romans 12:2

Day 5 · Acceptance: Psalm 127:2

Day 6 · Obedience: Psalm 127:1

Day 7 · Identification: Acts 4:12

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

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

Scripture

> *"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 4:12**

Devotional Reflection

Be careful, or cautious, when you devise to daily open the word of God and listen to the voice of our Lord and Savior — His word doesn't only teach us wonderful things; it also exposes and brings light to any sin, weakness, or rampant disobedience, directly and in harsh terms. Respond with repentance, and He restores you. It's like taking bitter medicine or exercising when you're out of shape: the result is peace and better health, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

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

Scripture

> *"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."*
>
> **2 Timothy 3:16**

Devotional Reflection

Now we move to the blueprint for success — for obedience and comfort.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

You are surrendered, submitting to the will of God.

Scripture

> *“Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*
>
> **Matthew 5:48**

Devotional Reflection

We're commanded to follow God's model, as demonstrated by Jesus Christ, so we don't stray from the truth. That's what happens when we do stray: our actions, and the thoughts behind them, stop being consistent with God's word.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgment

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

Scripture

> *"Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*
>
> **Romans 12:2**

Devotional Reflection

To be "perfect" and not "conformed" to the world, we must let the Holy Spirit transform our minds. That comes through His work, not our willpower.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

God is calling and you have accepted His call.

Scripture

> *“In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat, for He grants sleep to those He loves.”*
>
> **Psalm 127:2**

Devotional Reflection

This verse says more than it first appears to. I once read a devotional by O.S. Hillman that drew out the difference between working for ourselves to gain life's necessities and working according to God's direction so we can receive what we cannot earn on our own. When we let God lead, He provides even the basics and equips us to serve Him in ministry.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of Reconciliation.

Scripture

> *“Unless the LORD builds a house, they who build it labor in vain.”*
>
> **Psalm 127:1**

Devotional Reflection

This verse shows how bad choices produce bad consequences. Many people set out to build their lives on what they believe is the best blueprint — but if it's built on human knowledge instead of God's wisdom, it's built without His help.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

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

Scripture

> *“Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*
>
> **Acts 4:12**

Devotional Reflection

This week's verses all point to the same situation: the lost person God has sent to you must accept that being made perfect, being transformed, and finding rest and peace all come down to the decision demanded in Acts 4:12.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 39 Completed

- **Share**

  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?

- Where has God's word recently pierced or corrected something you needed to see?

- How are you letting Scripture train you, not just inform you?

- In what area do your actions still fall short of matching God's word?

- Are you letting the Spirit renew your mind, or still conforming to the world's pattern?

- Where are you toiling anxiously instead of resting in what God provides?

- Is your life being built on God's wisdom or your own blueprint right now?

- Who do you know who needs to hear that salvation is found in Jesus' name alone?

WEEK 40

Committing Your Ways to Wisdom

From Praising His Name to Being Found by Him

This Week at a Glance

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

Day 2 · Discipleship: Proverbs 16:3

Day 3 · Humility: Proverbs 16:16

Day 4 · Acknowledgment: 1 Timothy 6:11

Day 5 · Acceptance: Genesis 3:8-9

Day 6 · Obedience: Proverbs 19:8

Day 7 · Identification: Matthew 11:25-26

Day 1 · Praise and Worship

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

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

This was used a few weeks back too, but it's no surprise — our Father brings us back to the same verses many times, and each time He shows a new shade of meaning or gives us the chance to praise Him even more. This verse comes as I feel a deep peace and thankfulness, basking in the joy that only You can grant after leading others into opportunities to praise God.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 2 · Discipleship

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

Scripture

> *“Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established.”*
>
> **Proverbs 16:3**

Devotional Reflection

I just experienced this with fifty-two middle and high schoolers and fourteen adults at Club 180 in Cumberland, Kentucky. We committed the work God had developed within us to Him, and He shaped it according to His will, so that His will would be done. That's how we determine and carry out His plan.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 3 · Humility

You are surrendered, submitting to the will of God.

Scripture

> *“How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.”*
>
> **Proverbs 16:16**

Devotional Reflection

Wisdom and understanding are given to us as we first humble ourselves and kneel at the feet of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 4 · Acknowledgment

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

Scripture

> *“But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.”*
>
> **1 Timothy 6:11**

Devotional Reflection

Being aware of the situations around you means paying attention to your society — the one you're already part of and the one God sends you into. Don't embrace the evil elements that look so desirable, the way Adam and Eve did in the garden. Don't let the world's desires overcome and divert you from Christ's work; God will send you into difficult, self-centered places so that you can point people to Jesus.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 5 · Acceptance

God is calling, and you have accepted His call.

Scripture

> *"Now they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"*
>
> **Genesis 3:8-9**

Devotional Reflection

It seems like such a terrible thing to hide from God because of our disobedience, but we all do it — as lost people, and sometimes still as disobedient Christians. Let God find you and deal with your own disobedience first and then go with Him as He shows you others who are hiding, so you can point them to Jesus.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 6 · Obedience

You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of Reconciliation.

Scripture

> *“He who gains wisdom loves his own life; he who keeps understanding shall prosper and find good.”*
>
> **Proverbs 19:8**

Devotional Reflection

There are prerequisites that must be met before we can, or will, love others enough to help them be reconciled with God — we've touched on some of them this week.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Day 7 · Identification

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

Scripture

> *"At that time Jesus said, 'I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was Your good pleasure.'"*
>
> **Matthew 11:25-26**

Devotional Reflection

Jesus knows the inner needs of everyone and reveals His presence to those who seek Him.

Describe any reaction you have to this devotional.

Offer a short prayer.

Week 40 Completed

- **Share**

  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?

- What familiar verse has God brought back around to show you something new this week?

- What work or plan do you need to commit to the Lord instead of trying to control it yourself?

- Where are you choosing gold or silver over wisdom and understanding right now?

- What evil element in your world looks desirable but needs to be fled from?

- Where have you been hiding from God instead of letting Him find you?

- How has gaining wisdom recently helped you love your own life more rightly?

- Who around you come to Jesus like a little child, ready to have Him revealed to them?

A Simple Path — Volume 5

Leader's Guide

Fellowshipping Daily With the Lord · Weeks 33–40

Leader's Guide — Contents

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Welcome, Group Leader

This guide adapts the eight weeks of "A Simple Path," Volume 5 (Weeks 33–40), 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 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 the 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 40, the rhythm itself becomes the lesson.

Quick Reference — The Seven Aspects

Aspect	Definition
Praise and Worship	You speak, sing, declare, and proclaim who God is and His power.
Discipleship	Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, and you are learning to follow Him and disciple others.
Humility	You are surrendered, submitting to the will of God.
Acknowledgment	Be aware of the situation that God is presenting for your service.
Acceptance	God is calling and you have accepted His call. You care for people.
Obedience	You are voluntarily following Christ in a ministry of reconciliation.
Identification	Recognizing the inner needs of others and looking for ways to serve them.

Orientation · Getting Started

A first gathering to introduce the study before Week 33 begins.

Theme & Goal

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

Welcome everyone and have each person share their name and one hope 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

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

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that each person grows hungry for daily time with God and commits to the rhythm of this study.

Leader Tip

Have extra booklets and pens on hand and encourage the group to keep the same day/time each week.

Week 33 · Trusting the Father's Discipline

From Correction to the Peace of Holiness

Theme & Goal

Guide the group through trusting the father's discipline — from correction to the peace of holiness.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise and Worship	Psalm 143:8
2	Discipleship	Hebrews 12:5b-6
3	Humility	Hebrews 12:7
4	Acknowledgment	—
5	Acceptance	Hebrews 12:11
6	Obedience	Hebrews 12:14
7	Identification	Isaiah 1:18

Opening

Welcome the group and briefly recap last week's key takeaway before diving in.
Icebreaker: "Where did you notice trusting the father's discipline this past week?"

Worship & Centering

> *"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 143:8***

Digging In — Day by Day

Day 1: Praise and Worship (Psalm 143:8)

From the devotional: Yes, Father, this is my prayer. My trust in You allows me to accept and cherish the knowledge that You will keep showing me the way I walk with Jesus each day.

Discuss:

- What is one way you've seen God's power or care show up this week?
- How can our group make space for genuine praise today?

Day 2: Discipleship (Hebrews 12:5b-6)

> *"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the LORD, nor faint when you are punished by Him, for whom the LORD loves He disciplines, and He punishes every son whom He accepts."*
>
> ***Hebrews 12:5b-6***

From the devotional: First, Father, thank You for accepting me as an adopted son. Second, help me see when I need to be disciplined, so I can confess that sin to You and let You do whatever is necessary to correct me, so that I can follow You as You lead the lost.

Discuss:

- Where do you see room to grow as a follower of Christ right now?
- Who is someone you could disciple or encourage this week?

Day 3: Humility (Hebrews 12:7)

> *"It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?"*
>
> ***Hebrews 12:7***

From the devotional: This is part of the prayer Jesus offered for our unity together with Him in our hearts. Caring for people isn't just for the lost or for Christians who need help — it's also for the co-laborers we work alongside in the church and the community.

Discuss:

- What does surrender to God's will look like practically for you?
- Where have you noticed pride creeping into your walk with God?

Day 4: Acknowledgment

From the devotional: Add your own description or reflection here.

Discuss:

- How is God inviting you to serve or respond right now?
- What situation is God asking you to trust Him with this week?

Day 5: Acceptance (Hebrews 12:11)

> *"For the moment all discipline seems not to be pleasant, but painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."*
>
> ***Hebrews 12:11***

From the devotional: Afterward, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness — that's the key here. Without accepting discipline and change first, we can't turn our focus to others' needs.

Discuss:

- Who in your life needs to hear that God accepts and calls them?
- How have you experienced God's call and care recently?

Day 6: Obedience (Hebrews 12:14)

> *“Pursue peace with all people, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”*
>
> ***Hebrews 12:14***

From the devotional: Jesus always taught and ministered to His people with great compassion and messages that gave them peace, yet He also rebuked deficient leadership. Those whom you disciple need to see His peace in their heart.

Discuss:

- What is one command of God you're being asked to obey more fully?
- How can the group hold each other accountable this week?

Day 7: Identification (Isaiah 1:18)

> *“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”*
>
> ***Isaiah 1:18***

From the devotional: This is the prime inner need of everyone God sends you to witness to who hasn't yet been saved.

Discuss:

- Who around you are hurting and need the hope you carry?
- How can you show the compassion Christ has shown you?

Application Challenge

This week, choose one day's aspect from Trusting the Father's Discipline and put it into practice in a specific, visible way — then share the result with the group next time.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that God would deepen each person's grasp of the path from correction to the peace of holiness and give courage to live it out this week.

Leader Tip

If the group is quiet, open with your own honest answer to the Day 1 discussion questions on Trusting the Father's Discipline to model vulnerability.

Week 34 · Worship, Covenant, and Rescue

From Bowing Before Him to Rescuing the Lost

Theme & Goal

Guide the group through worship, covenant, and rescue — from bowing before him to rescuing the lost.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise and Worship	Psalm 95:6-8a
2	Discipleship	Deuteronomy 29:9
3	Humility	John 15:10
4	Acknowledgment	Hebrews 12:15
5	Acceptance	Revelation 18:4
6	Obedience	Deuteronomy 31:8
7	Identification	Luke 18:41

Opening

Welcome the group and briefly recap last week's key takeaway before diving in.
Icebreaker: "Where did you notice worship, covenant, and rescue this past week?"

Worship & Centering

> *"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. Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your heart."*
>
> ***Psalm 95:6-8a***

Digging In — Day by Day

Day 1: Praise and Worship (Psalm 95:6-8a)

From the devotional: Thank You, Father — I found this to be exactly the verse I wanted to open quiet time with at Club 180, and now Psalm 95:6-7 are the verses to use at Praise and Pray-a-night as we head to Kentucky.

Discuss:

- What is one way you've seen God's power or care show up this week?
- How can our group make space for genuine praise today?

Day 2: Discipleship (Deuteronomy 29:9)

> *"So you will keep the words of this covenant and do them, in order that you may be successful in everything that you do."*
>
> ***Deuteronomy 29:9***

From the devotional: We follow and obey Christ because we love Him and want to please Him. In response to our obedience, He provides everything we need — including the power of the Holy Spirit — so that we can be successful.

Discuss:

- Where do you see room to grow as a follower of Christ right now?
- Who is someone you could disciple or encourage this week?

Day 3: Humility (John 15:10)

> *"If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love."*
>
> ***John 15:10***

From the devotional: In the last verse, God spoke through Moses; in this one, God Himself speaks through His Son. This time Jesus places the emphasis on love — our love and the Father's love.

Discuss:

- What does surrender to God's will look like practically for you?
- Where have you noticed pride creeping into your walk with God?

Day 4: Acknowledgment (Hebrews 12:15)

> *"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."*
>
> ***Hebrews 12:15***

From the devotional: Now we're getting into the tough areas. You may have a friend whose bitterness toward another person hampers them from accepting Jesus Christ. Refocus them on this problem first.

Discuss:

- How is God inviting you to serve or respond right now?
- What situation is God asking you to trust Him with this week?

Day 5: Acceptance (Revelation 18:4)

> *"Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sin, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God remembered her crimes."*
>
> ***Revelation 18:4***

From the devotional: So many Christians have let themselves be enslaved by a desire to be part of this corrupt world. If you care for them, you'll seek God's help to rescue them and point them to Jesus.

Discuss:

- Who in your life needs to hear that God accepts and calls them?
- How have you experienced God's call and care recently?

Day 6: Obedience (Deuteronomy 31:8)

> *"Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you."*
>
> ***Deuteronomy 31:8***

From the devotional: Moses was speaking to Joshua as God prepared him to lead the Hebrews into the promised land. We're volunteers in the LORD's service too, though we're not asked to lead an army — instead, we're asked to step into the lives of people who are separated from God, some of them Christians who haven't yet learned to trust and submit to His will and help them be reconciled to Jesus.

Discuss:

- What is one command of God you're being asked to obey more fully?
- How can the group hold each other accountable this week?

Day 7: Identification (Luke 18:41)

> *"'What do you want me to do for you?' He said, 'Lord, that I may receive my sight.'"*
>
> ***Luke 18:41***

From the devotional: As you get to know the people God has sent you, Jesus will show you their inner needs and then enable you to point them to Him for healing. For the blind man, it was his eyesight; for the people you encounter, it will be opening their eyes so they can see Jesus.

Discuss:

- Who around you are hurting and need the hope you carry?
- How can you show the compassion Christ has shown you?

Application Challenge

This week, choose one day's aspect from Worship, Covenant, and Rescue and put it into practice in a specific, visible way — then share the result with the group next time.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that God would deepen each person's grasp of bowing before him to rescuing the lost and give courage to live it out this week.

Leader Tip

If the group is quiet, open with your own honest answer to the Day 1 discussion questions on Worship, Covenant, and Rescue to model vulnerability.

Week 35 · Near to All Who Call

From God's Nearness to a Surrendered Will

Theme & Goal

Guide the group through near to all who call — from God's nearness to a surrendered will.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise and Worship	Psalm 145:16-18
2	Discipleship	3 John 2
3	Humility	Psalm 145:18
4	Acknowledgment	Luke 11:4
5	Acceptance	2 Thessalonians
6	Obedience	John 21:17
7	Identification	Psalm 40:8

Opening

Welcome the group and briefly recap last week's key takeaway before diving in.
Icebreaker: "Where did you notice near to all who call this past week?"

Worship & Centering

> *"The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and kind in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."*
>
> ***Psalm 145:16-18***

Digging In — Day by Day

Day 1: Praise and Worship (Psalm 145:16-18)

From the devotional: Father, Your righteousness and kindness in every work You do is what I return to repeatedly — that You are near to all who call, and that You satisfy every living thing from Your open hand.

Discuss:

- What is one way you've seen God's power or care show up this week?
- How can our group make space for genuine praise today?

Day 2: Discipleship (3 John 2)

> *"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers."*
>
> ***3 John 2***

From the devotional: Now that we have accepted You as Lord and Savior, it's comforting to know Jesus is praying for our discipleship.

Discuss:

- Where do you see room to grow as a follower of Christ right now?
- Who is someone you could disciple or encourage this week?

Day 3: Humility (Psalm 145:18)

> *"The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth."*
>
> ***Psalm 145:18***

From the devotional: I'm using this verse twice; it's so powerful and such a reassuring truth that as we follow You, Father, and surrender and submit to Your role, You are near.

Discuss:

- What does surrender to God's will look like practically for you?
- Where have you noticed pride creeping into your walk with God?

Day 4: Acknowledgment (Luke 11:4)

> *"And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation."*
>
> ***Luke 11:4***

From the devotional: This is part of the Lord's Prayer, and it asks us to look at ourselves — how we respond to our social environment and how people have treated us.

Discuss:

- How is God inviting you to serve or respond right now?
- What situation is God asking you to trust Him with this week?

Day 5: Acceptance (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

> *"To this end we pray for you always, that our God will consider you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power."*
>
> ***2 Thessalonians***

From the devotional: Just before this, Paul writes that Jesus will bring justice on those who seek to harm us if they don't repent. Even so, we're called to pray for their deliverance from sin, not for their punishment.

Discuss:

- Who in your life needs to hear that God accepts and calls them?
- How have you experienced God's call and care recently?

Day 6: Obedience (John 21:17)

> *"Do you love Me?"*
>
> ***John 21:17***

From the devotional: Jesus asks Peter this question three times, and each time His instruction is the same: if you love Me, go and minister to My people.

Discuss:

- What is one command of God you're being asked to obey more fully?
- How can the group hold each other accountable this week?

Day 7: Identification (Psalm 40:8)

> *"I desire to do Your will, my God; Your law is within my heart."*
>
> ***Psalm 40:8***

From the devotional: Just as this desire lives in me because it comes from You, I'm to find others who share that same desire and minister to them.

Discuss:

- Who around you is hurting and needs the hope you carry?
- How can you show the compassion Christ has shown you?

Application Challenge

This week, choose one day's aspect from Near to All Who Call and put it into practice in a specific, visible way — then share the result with the group next time.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that God would deepen each person's grasp of God's nearness to a surrendered will and give courage to live it out this week.

Leader Tip

If the group is quiet, open with your own honest answer to the Day 1 discussion questions on Near to All Who Call to model vulnerability.

Week 36 · Created, Chosen, and Sent

From Creation to Being Sent Through an Open Door

Theme & Goal

Guide the group through created, chosen, and sent — from creation to being sent through an open door.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise and Worship	Psalm 86:12
2	Discipleship	2 Corinthians
3	Humility	3 John 2
4	Acknowledgment	2 Corinthians 2:12
5	Acceptance	Philippians 4:13
6	Obedience	Genesis 1:27
7	Identification	Psalm 128:1-2

Opening

Welcome the group and briefly recap last week's key takeaway before diving in.
Icebreaker: "Where did you notice created, chosen, and sent this past week?"

Worship & Centering

> *"I give thanks to You, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever."*
>
> ***Psalm 86:12***

Digging In — Day by Day

Day 1: Praise and Worship (Psalm 86:12)

From the devotional: Father, as I look to You daily, I see a loving, caring God who, though You are the Creator, still loves us when we rebel against You. I think of Your reaction to Adam and Eve hiding in the garden after they sinned — You didn't come to them in anger as we might expect, but with a heart of love and compassion, even knowing the sacrifice of Your own Son that would one day be required.

Discuss:

- What is one way you've seen God's power or care show up this week?
- How can our group make space for genuine praise today?

Day 2: Discipleship (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

> *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*
>
> ***2 Corinthians***

From the devotional: This is my personal challenge: to be so Christ-focused that I let Him speak through me to those who are perishing, and that You, Lord, draw them to Yourself.

Discuss:

- Where do you see room to grow as a follower of Christ right now?
- Who is someone you could disciple or encourage this week?

Day 3: Humility (3 John 2)

> *"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers."*
>
> ***3 John 2***

From the devotional: This was part of the beloved apostle John's prayer for those he was writing to. It has become a prayer of love that You sent to me personally, my Father.

Discuss:

- What does surrender to God's will look like practically for you?
- Where have you noticed pride creeping into your walk with God?

Day 4: Acknowledgment (2 Corinthians 2:12)

> *"Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord…"*
>
> ***2 Corinthians 2:12***

From the devotional: Father, I praise You that You have opened a door for Your gospel wherever You send me.

Discuss:

- How is God inviting you to serve or respond right now?
- What situation is God asking you to trust Him with this week?

Day 5: Acceptance (Philippians 4:13)

> *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."*
>
> ***Philippians 4:13***

From the devotional: This is the day that the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Discuss:

- Who in your life needs to hear that God accepts and calls them?
- How have you experienced God's call and care recently?

Day 6: Obedience (Genesis 1:27)

> *"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*
>
> ***Genesis 1:27***

From the devotional: Every person we're sent to has this same origin — made in His image — and that shapes how we're to see and serve them.

Discuss:

- What is one command of God you're being asked to obey more fully?
- How can the group hold each other accountable this week?

Day 7: Identification (Psalm 128:1-2)

> *"How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways."*
>
> ***Psalm 128:1-2***

From the devotional: As those born again from above, we can each understand how reverence, awe, gladness, and obedience toward our heavenly Father bring us joy and blessedness. But those He sends us to aren't there yet; if they're lost, they walk in the darkness of unfulfillment, never accepting God's love until He draws them and sends us to share Jesus with them.

Discuss:

- Who around you is hurting and needs the hope you carry?
- How can you show the compassion Christ has shown you?

Application Challenge

This week, choose one day's aspect from Created, Chosen, and Sent and put it into practice in a specific, visible way — then share the result with the group next time.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that God would deepen each person's grasp of from creation to being sent through an open door and give courage to live it out this week.

Leader Tip

If the group is quiet, open with your own honest answer to the Day 1 discussion questions on Created, Chosen, and Sent to model vulnerability.

Week 37 · Rejoicing Through the Trial

From Praise Among the Nations to Feeding His Sheep

Theme & Goal

Guide the group through rejoicing through the trial — from praise among the nations to feeding his sheep.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise and Worship	Psalm 118:24
2	Discipleship	Psalm 117:1-2
3	Humility	1 Peter 4:12-13
4	Acknowledgment	John 21:17 (KJV)
5	Acceptance	—
6	Obedience	—
7	Identification	—

Opening

Welcome the group and briefly recap last week's key takeaway before diving in.
Icebreaker: "Where did you notice rejoicing through the trial this past week?"

Worship & Centering

> *"This is the day the LORD has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."*
>
> ***Psalm 118:24***

Digging In — Day by Day

Day 1: Praise and Worship (Psalm 118:24)

From the devotional: Father, I found this verse online, set across a photo of a sunrise over a mountain. Its symbolism is twofold: the verse describes how a Christian looks at sunrise, and it also describes what we'll see today on the mountain at Kingdom Come Park in Cumberland, KY — though much later than sunrise. I bless You, Lord, for being faithful to each of us on this mission trip, and to me especially, as the Holy Spirit has strengthened my body so I could participate and lead such a large group in Your honor.

Discuss:

- What is one way you've seen God's power or care show up this week?
- How can our group make space for genuine praise today?

Day 2: Discipleship (Psalm 117:1-2)

> *“Praise the LORD, all nations; sing His praises, all people! For His mercy toward us is great, and the truth of the LORD is everlasting.”*
>
> ***Psalm 117:1-2***

From the devotional: I praise You, LORD God Almighty, for the myriad ways You care for me — a sinner saved by Your will and Your Son Jesus Christ.

Discuss:

- Where do you see room to grow as a follower of Christ right now?
- Who is someone you could disciple or encourage this week?

Day 3: Humility (1 Peter 4:12-13)

> *“My dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.”*
>
> ***1 Peter 4:12-13***

From the devotional: At first, I tell myself this verse doesn't apply to me, since I'm not among those who suffer greatly for You, Lord. But then I see those around me suffering for You, and I realize I must help them in their battle against evil forces.

Discuss:

- What does surrender to God's will look like practically for you?
- Where have you noticed pride creeping into your walk with God?

Day 4: Acknowledgment (John 21:17 (KJV))

> *“Feed My Sheep.”*
>
> ***John 21:17 (KJV)***

From the devotional: Jesus was speaking to Peter in John 21:15-17 about how much he loved Him, asking three times, “Do you love Me?” and closing each time with, “Feed My Sheep.” Here now God has asked me the same question.

Discuss:

- How is God inviting you to serve or respond right now?
- What situation is God asking you to trust Him with this week?

Day 5: Acceptance

From the devotional: Add your own description or reflection here.

Discuss:

- Who in your life needs to hear that God accepts and calls them?
- How have you experienced God's call and care recently?

Day 6: Obedience

From the devotional: Add your own description or reflection here.

Discuss:

- What is one command of God you're being asked to obey more fully?
- How can the group hold each other accountable this week?

Day 7: Identification

From the devotional: Add your own description or reflection here.

Discuss:

- Who around you is hurting and needs the hope you carry?
- How can you show the compassion Christ has shown you?

Application Challenge

This week, choose one day's aspect from Rejoicing Through the Trial and put it into practice in a specific, visible way — then share the result with the group next time.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that God would deepen each person's grasp of from praise among the nations to feeding his sheep and give courage to live it out this week.

> **Leader Tip**
>
> If the group is quiet, open with your own honest answer to the Day 1 discussion questions on Rejoicing Through the Trial to model vulnerability.

Week 38 · Bound by the Spirit

From a Pure Heart to a Faith That Receives the Word

Theme & Goal

Guide the group through bound by the spirit — from a pure heart to a faith that receives the word.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise and Worship	Psalm 28:6-7
2	Discipleship	Psalm 119:9-10
3	Humility	Acts 20:22
4	Acknowledgment	Hebrews 4:2
5	Acceptance	Genesis 1:27
6	Obedience	Luke 4:22
7	Identification	—

Opening

Welcome the group and briefly recap last week's key takeaway before diving in.
Icebreaker: "Where did you notice being bound by the Spirit this past week?"

Worship & Centering

> *"Blessed be the LORD, because He has heard the sound of my pleading. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart triumphs, and with my song I shall thank Him."*
>
> ***Psalm 28:6-7***

Digging In — Day by Day

Day 1: Praise and Worship (Psalm 28:6-7)

From the devotional: I'm looking at this verse from two angles. First, the absence of indigestion that has plagued me for the past year, constant this last month—I know it was You, LORD, who heard my cry and cared for me so compassionately; I praise You. Second, the triumphant heart You've given me from the mission trip to Club 180; You heard my pleading for guidance on that trip. My body ached, and my steps weren't always steady, but You personally helped me and sent others to fill the gaps in such a large undertaking. I praise You.

Discuss:

- What is one way you've seen God's power or care show up this week?
- How can our group make space for genuine praise today?

Day 2: Discipleship (Psalm 119:9-10)

> *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commands."*
>
> ***Psalm 119:9-10***

From the devotional: The key words here are "with all my heart" and "according to Your Word." Notice how the question is answered — the course of action is defined. To keep your heart pure, you must seek Him with a humble heart, through the Scriptures.

Discuss:

- Where do you see room to grow as a follower of Christ right now?
- Who is someone you could disciple or encourage this week?

Day 3: Humility (Acts 20:22)

> *"And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there."*
>
> ***Acts 20:22***

From the devotional: In Jerusalem, Paul would be arrested and sent to Rome. Last weekend I felt myself bound by the Spirit to Cumberland, KY, for three days of ministry — not a sad occasion like Paul's, but jubilant and full of God's grace toward each of us and the people of Club 180.

Discuss:

- What does surrendering to God's will look like practically for you?
- Where have you noticed pride creeping into your walk with God?

Day 4: Acknowledgment (Hebrews 4:2)

> *"For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith."*
>
> ***Hebrews 4:2***

From the devotional: Hearing the gospel is not enough on its own — it must be received in faith to do its work in us.

Discuss:

- How is God inviting you to serve or respond right now?
- What situation is God asking you to trust Him with this week?

Day 5: Acceptance (Genesis 1:27)

> *"So God created people in His own image; God patterned them after Himself."*
>
> ***Genesis 1:27***

From the devotional: This teaches us that all people are created in God's image and are to be loved.

Discuss:

- Who in your life needs to hear that God accepts and calls them?
- How have you experienced God's call and care recently?

Day 6: Obedience (Luke 4:22)

> *"All spoke well of Him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from His lips. 'Isn't this Joseph's son?' they asked."*
>
> ***Luke 4:22***

From the devotional: My students — fifty-two of them — just came back from three days in the KY mission field, and I'm almost amazed at their ability to follow Christ; they served Him by loving His children. To the outside world, people who knew them would react the same way people reacted to Jesus. They're just ordinary kids with an extraordinary Father in heaven, leading them into service.

Discuss:

- What is one command of God you're being asked to obey more fully?
- How can the group hold each other accountable this week?

Day 7: Identification

From the devotional: Add your own description or reflection here.

Discuss:

- Who around you are hurting and need the hope you carry?
- How can you show the compassion Christ has shown you?

Application Challenge

This week, choose one day's aspect from Bound by the Spirit and put it into practice in a specific, visible way — then share the result with the group next time.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that God would deepen each person's grasp of the Word from a pure heart to a faith that receives the Word and give courage to live it out this week.

Leader Tip

If the group is quiet, open with your own honest answer to the Day 1 discussion questions on Bound by the Spirit to model vulnerability.

Week 39 · The Living and Active Word

From Scripture's Power to the Only Name That Saves

Theme & Goal

Guide the group through the living and active word — from scripture's power to the only name that saves.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise and Worship	Hebrews 4:12
2	Discipleship	2 Timothy 3:16
3	Humility	Matthew 5:48
4	Acknowledgment	Romans 12:2
5	Acceptance	Psalm 127:2
6	Obedience	Psalm 127:1
7	Identification	Acts 4:12

Opening

Welcome the group and briefly recap last week's key takeaway before diving in.

Icebreaker: "Where did you notice the living and active word this past week?"

Worship & Centering

> *"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 4:12***

Digging In — Day by Day

Day 1: Praise and Worship (Hebrews 4:12)

From the devotional: Be careful, or cautious, when you devise to daily open the word of God and listen to the voice of our Lord and Savior — His word doesn't only teach us wonderful things; it also exposes and brings light to any sin, weakness, or rampant disobedience, directly and in harsh terms. Respond with repentance, and He restores you. It's like taking bitter medicine or exercising when you're out of shape: the result is peace and better health, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Discuss:

- What is one way you've seen God's power or care show up this week?
- How can our group make space for genuine praise today?

Day 2: Discipleship (2 Timothy 3:16)

> *"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."*
>
> ***2 Timothy 3:16***

From the devotional: Now we move to the blueprint for success — for obedience and comfort.

Discuss:

- Where do you see room to grow as a follower of Christ right now?
- Who is someone you could disciple or encourage this week?

Day 3: Humility (Matthew 5:48)

> *"Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."*
>
> ***Matthew 5:48***

From the devotional: We're commanded to follow God's model, as demonstrated by Jesus Christ, so we don't stray from the truth. That's what happens when we do stray: our actions, and the thoughts behind them, stop being consistent with God's word.

Discuss:

- What does surrender to God's will look like practically for you?
- Where have you noticed pride creeping into your walk with God?

Day 4: Acknowledgment (Romans 12:2)

> *"Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*
>
> ***Romans 12:2***

From the devotional: To be "perfect" and not "conformed" to the world, we must let the Holy Spirit transform our minds. That comes through His work, not our willpower.

Discuss:

- How is God inviting you to serve or respond right now?
- What situation is God asking you to trust Him with this week?

Day 5: Acceptance (Psalm 127:2)

> *"In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat, for He grants sleep to those He loves."*
>
> ***Psalm 127:2***

From the devotional: This verse says more than it first appears to. I once read a devotional by O.S. Hillman that drew out the difference between working for ourselves to gain life's necessities and working according to God's direction so

we can receive what we cannot earn on our own. When we let God lead, He provides even the basics, and He also equips us to serve Him in ministry.

Discuss:

- Who in your life needs to hear that God accepts and calls them?
- How have you experienced God's call and care recently?

Day 6: Obedience (Psalm 127:1)

> *"Unless the LORD builds a house, they who build it labor in vain."*
>
> ***Psalm 127:1***

From the devotional: This verse is an example of bad choices producing bad consequences. Many people set out to build their lives on what they believe is the best blueprint — but if it's built on human knowledge instead of God's wisdom, it's built without His help.

Discuss:

- What is one command of God you're being asked to obey more fully?
- How can the group hold each other accountable this week?

Day 7: Identification (Acts 4:12)

> *"Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*
>
> ***Acts 4:12***

From the devotional: This week's verses all point to the same situation: the lost person God has sent to you must accept that being made perfect, being transformed, and finding rest and peace all come down to the decision demanded in Acts 4:12.

Discuss:

- Who around you are hurting and need the hope you carry?
- How can you show the compassion Christ has shown you?

Application Challenge

This week, choose one day's aspect from The Living and Active Word and put it into practice in a specific, visible way — then share the result with the group next time.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that God would deepen each person's grasp of Scripture's power in the only name that saves and give courage to live it out this week.

Leader Tip

If the group is quiet, open with your own honest answer to the Day 1 discussion questions on The Living and Active Word to model vulnerability.

Week 40 · Committing Your Ways to Wisdom

From Praising His Name to Being Found by Him

Theme & Goal

Guide the group through committing your ways to wisdom — from praising his name to being found by him.

Week at a Glance

Day	Aspect	Scripture
1	Praise and Worship	Psalm 145:1-2
2	Discipleship	Proverbs 16:3
3	Humility	Proverbs 16:16
4	Acknowledgment	1 Timothy 6:11
5	Acceptance	Genesis 3:8-9
6	Obedience	Proverbs 19:8
7	Identification	Matthew 11:25-26

Opening

Welcome the group and briefly recap last week's key takeaway before diving in.
Icebreaker: "Where did you notice committing your ways to wisdom this past week?"

Worship & Centering

> *"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 — Day by Day

Day 1: Praise and Worship (Psalm 145:1-2)

From the devotional: This was used a few weeks back too, but it's no surprise — our Father brings us back to the same verses many times, and each time He shows a new shade of meaning or gives us the chance to praise Him even more. This verse comes as I feel a deep peace and thankfulness, basking in the joy that only You can grant after leading others into opportunities to praise God.

Discuss:

- What is one way you've seen God's power or care show up this week?
- How can our group make space for genuine praise today?

Day 2: Discipleship (Proverbs 16:3)

> *"Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established."*
>
> ***Proverbs 16:3***

From the devotional: I just experienced this with fifty-two middle and high schoolers and fourteen adults at Club 180 in Cumberland, Kentucky. We committed the work God had developed within us to Him, and He shaped it according to His will, so that His will would be done. That's how we determine and carry out His plan.

Discuss:

- Where do you see room to grow as a follower of Christ right now?
- Who is someone you could disciple or encourage this week?

Day 3: Humility (Proverbs 16:16)

> *"How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver."*
>
> ***Proverbs 16:16***

From the devotional: Wisdom and understanding come as we first humble ourselves and kneel at the feet of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Discuss:

- What does surrender to God's will look like practically for you?
- Where have you noticed pride creeping into your walk with God?

Day 4: Acknowledgment (1 Timothy 6:11)

> *"But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness."*
>
> ***1 Timothy 6:11***

From the devotional: Being aware of the situations around you means paying attention to your society — the one you're already part of and the one God sends you into. Don't embrace the evil elements that look so desirable, the way Adam and Eve did in the garden. Don't let the world's desires overcome and divert you from Christ's work; God will send you into difficult, self-centered places so that you can point people to Jesus.

Discuss:

- How is God inviting you to serve or respond right now?
- What situation is God asking you to trust Him with this week?

Day 5: Acceptance (Genesis 3:8-9)

> *"Now they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"*
>
> ***Genesis 3:8-9***

From the devotional: It seems like such a terrible thing to hide from God because of our disobedience, but we all do it — as lost people, and sometimes still as disobedient Christians. Let God find you and deal with your own disobedience first, and then go with Him as He shows you others who are

hiding, so you can point them to Jesus.

Discuss:

- Who in your life needs to hear that God accepts and calls them?
- How have you experienced God's call and care recently?

Day 6: Obedience (Proverbs 19:8)

> *"He who gains wisdom loves his own life; he who keeps understanding shall prosper and find good."*
>
> ***Proverbs 19:8***

From the devotional: There are prerequisites that must be met before we can, or will, love others enough to help them be reconciled with God — we've touched on some of them this week.

Discuss:

- What is one command of God you're being asked to obey more fully?
- How can the group hold each other accountable this week?

Day 7: Identification (Matthew 11:25-26)

> *"At that time Jesus said, 'I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was Your good pleasure.'"*
>
> ***Matthew 11:25-26***

From the devotional: Jesus knows everyone's inner needs and reveals His presence to those who seek Him.

Discuss:

- Who around you are hurting and need the hope you carry?
- How can you show the compassion Christ has shown you?

Application Challenge

This week, choose one day's aspect from Committing Your Ways to Wisdom and put it into practice in a specific, visible way — then share the result with the group next time.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray that God would deepen each person's grasp, from praising his name to being found by him, and give courage to live it out this week.

Leader Tip

If the group is quiet, open with your own honest answer to the Day 1 discussion questions on Committing Your Ways to Wisdom to model vulnerability.