

THIS is the LIFE

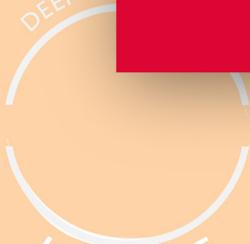


RECEIVE
GOSPEL GRACE

HONOR
JESUS AS KING

LOW
LY SPIRIT

LIVE
DEEPLY



INVEST
IN THE CHURCH

PURSUE
FUTURE DISCIPLES



RESTORE
THE BROKEN

JOURNAL - RECEIVE GOSPEL GRACE

JANUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 20

SERIES INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a **NEW** year – 2022! There’s just something about ‘new,’ isn’t there? Starting fresh with a clean slate. Everything that has happened up to this point no longer has to define the potential of this moment. And there’s a bubbling hope and expectation that this next stretch can be better than ever. This ‘newness’ is a window into God’s grace. Religion tells us that we have to deal with all of our brokenness, mistakes, rebellion—clean ourselves up, in order to be acceptable to God. Gospel says, we come to Him for the bath! The Father makes us clean by applying all of our spiritual mutinies to His Son—the Cross of Jesus, and offering us forgiveness and a place of welcome in His forever family. ‘Forever.’ Like ‘new’ that too is a comforting term. Just as God the Father sent His Son to make all things new, so the Father and this now risen King Jesus send the Holy Spirit into our hearts, sealing us for always; the Spirit is God’s personal guarantee that this new gift of redemption will last! Forever. Let’s set religion aside. Let’s stop trying to earn this. And simply RECEIVE... grace.

HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

For this journal we’ve added a number of things that we hope will enrich your times with the Lord:

1. **SCRIPTURE MEMORY** – We’ve chosen one verse that we’re recommending our congregation memorize together over the five weeks. “Hiding God’s Word in our hearts” is rich!
2. **WORSHIP SONG** – In the Tuesday e-mail, we’ll be including a “Song of the Week” that relates to the Scripture theme for the week. We recommend listening to that song on Wednesday as part of your time with God.
3. **FOR FURTHER REFLECTION** - Some of you want to go deeper each day, so we’ve added a list of extra questions to help you do that.
4. **GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** - Questions in the journal with an asterisk by them are recommended questions for group discussion. You can also pull questions from the “For Further Reflection” section. We encourage you to join one of our Community groups to discuss the sermon and passage for that week, or invite someone to discuss it with you over coffee or in your home. Let’s “Link Deeply” with others and grow in Christ together!

YOUR NOTES ON LUKE 15

WEEK 1: JANUARY 17-21

MONDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse, Romans 6:23, every day this week. Reflect on it as you write.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Context: Whenever picking up reading in the middle of a book of the Bible, it's important to check the context. What happens in the chapters just before and after Luke 15? How does that add to our understanding of this passage, if at all?

Overview: Now read Luke 15 and get an overview of what Jesus is teaching. Make some notes about major themes or ideas you see. You'll dig deeper as the week goes on.

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.

Read: Luke 15.

Reflect: *Based on verses 1-2, what was the Pharisees' view of how to be righteous? What was Jesus' view?

*What group of "sinners" were you in before you came to know Christ? The obviously immoral? The "basically good/moral person"? The religious legalist? Other? Reflect on your life before God "found" you by His grace. Jot a few notes below, then thank Him for saving you!

WEEK 1: JANUARY 17-21 - LUKE 15

WEDNESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the "Song of the Week."

Read: Luke 15.

Reflect: *What elements do all three parables have in common? *What do these tell us about God? About us? Write a prayer to God about that.

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.

2-10-1: *Do the "2-10-1" method of reading Scripture: read Luke 15 "2" times, summarize the main point in "10" words or less, and ask the Lord to put on your heart "1" thing that He most wants to say to you through it.

FRIDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.

Read: Luke 15.

Shapes: *How do you see all four of our “shapes” represented in this passage?



***Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God’s grace?



***Love God:** What do we learn about God?



***Love One Another:** How are we being called to love one another, or how can you encourage a brother or sister in Christ with this passage?



***Love the World:** How are we to view and love people who don’t know Christ? Is there a step the Spirit is calling you to take here?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we're all learning the same translation).
- Use questions with an asterisk by them for group discussion.
- See "For Further Reflection" questions for more ideas.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- You may want to read Pastor Stephen's reflections on this passage in his book, Multiply (pp. 28-38).
- To get some context on Jesus and the Pharisees' interactions in the gospel of Luke, look up one or more of the following: Luke 5:17-26, Luke 7:36-50, Luke 18:9-14, Luke 19:1-10.
- How does Jesus' view of sinners differ from the Pharisees' view? How does it differ from yours?
- How can you sympathize with the Pharisees? What groups of "sinners" are you most likely to be disgusted by and dismiss?
- What do the sheep, coin, and son have in common? How are they different? What do you think Jesus is trying to teach by using these three examples?
- Read verses 5-7, 9-10, 20-24. How does Jesus characterize the "finder's" response in each parable? Have you ever considered God's joy in "finding" you? Take a few moments to close your eyes and imagine God's response when you first "came home," and talk with Him about that.
- Who does the Father "go after" in the parable of the Prodigal Son (vv. 20 and 28)? What does that tell us about God?
- Why do you think the tax collectors and sinners were drawing near to hear Jesus?
- What types of people or behaviors do you think of today when you hear the word, "sinners"? Why do you think that is?
- Could the charge be made against you that you are a "friend of sinners"? Why or why not? Should that change?
- Do you think "sinners" are drawn to the church today? Why or why not?
- Do you think "sinners" are drawn to you today? Why or why not?
- Is your instinct to go towards "sinners" or away from them? Why is that? Is there a step God is calling you to take here? Ask Him!

SERMON NOTES

January 23, 2022

YOUR NOTES ON PSALM 51

WEEK 2: JANUARY 24-28

MONDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.

Read: Psalm 51 Slowly and Prayerfully. On the notes page, jot down some main ideas from the psalm.

Reflection: *Is it easy or difficult for you to connect with David's grief over his sin? Why do you think that is? Do you think you should feel differently about it than you do?

Pray, asking God to help you to see your sin as He sees it.

TUESDAY

Prayerful Reading: Psalms are meant primarily to be prayed, not simply "analyzed," so this week we're going to focus on praying the psalm.

We're going to ask you to read (pray) aloud a portion of the psalm each day. There's something helpful about reading aloud. It engages at least three senses (sight, hearing, and "feel") instead of just one.

Today, slowly read aloud verses 1-6. After each phrase, talk to God about it, putting it in your own words, responding to Him. Afterwards, write thoughts about that prayer time.

WEEK 2: JANUARY 24-28 - PSALM 51

WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Prayerful Reading: Silently read verses 1-6, and when you get to verse 7, **slowly read aloud verses 7-12**. After each phrase, talk to God about it, putting it in your own words, responding to Him.

Write thoughts about that prayer time here:

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.



Prayerful Reading: Silently read verses 1-12, and when you get to verse 13, **slowly read aloud verses 13-19**. After each phrase, talk to God about it, putting it in your own words, responding to Him.

FRIDAY

Read: Psalm 51 slowly, prayerfully

Shapes: *Jesus said the greatest command is to “Love the Lord with all that is in us and to love our neighbor as ourselves.” All of us have failed to do so...even this week! Reflect on each:



***Love God:** How have I failed to love God with all that is in me this week?



***Love One Another:** How have I failed to love a brother or sister in Christ, or my Hope family, this week? (Consider reaching out and asking forgiveness.)



***Love the World:** How have I failed to love those who are “outside the faith but inside my reach” this week?



***Receive Gospel Grace:** End this time of reflection by receiving God’s grace, thanking Him that, according to His steadfast love through the cross, He has “blotted out our transgressions and cleansed us from our sin.” Ask Him to “create in you and your Hope Church family clean hearts” that love as He loves!

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Use the daily questions marked with an asterisk and/or the following additional questions for discussion.
- Do as a group what you did as individuals this week. Read a phrase at a time (or one verse at a time at most), and then have the group respond by praying aloud around that theme. Then read the next phrase or verse, and let people pray. We believe you'll find it to be a very meaningful time of prayer. Talk about it afterwards. What was helpful about that? What thoughts or prayers were new or most helpful to you?
- What does this psalm teach us about God? According to David, what was the condition of his heart? What does David say is the impact of his sin?
- In verse 12, David prays, "restore to me the joy of your salvation." Have you been experiencing the joy of God's salvation lately? (Scale of 10?) What has been draining your joy?
- What is the role of joy (v. 12) and a broken heart (v. 17) in the Christian life? How can we have both at the same time?
- What does David say he will do as a result of God's forgiveness? Have you responded to God's forgiveness this way? Why or why not?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- You may want to read Pastor Stephen's reflections on this passage in his book, Multiply (pp. 38-42).
- We're told that David wrote the psalm after he committed adultery with Bathsheba. Read 2 Samuel 11-12 for background to the psalm.
- Do the "2-10-1" method of reading Psalm 51. Read it "2" times, summarize the psalm in "10" words or less, then ask God for "1" thing that He most wants to say to you through it.
- What does this psalm teach us about God? According to David, what was the condition of his heart? What does David say is the impact of his sin?
- On what basis do most religions hope their god will forgive them? On what basis does David hope that God will forgive him? (verse 1)
- Write out all the different ways David refers to God forgiving sin (e.g. "blot out," "wash me," etc.).
- What is the role of joy (v. 12) and a broken heart (v. 17) in the Christian life? How can we have both at the same time?
- What does David say he will do as a result of God's forgiveness? Have you responded to God's forgiveness this way? Why or why not?

SERMON NOTES

January 30, 2022

YOUR NOTES ON ROMANS 5:1-11

WEEK 3: JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 4

MONDAY

Prepare Your Heart: Quiet your heart before God, to ask Him to speak to you through His Word today, and expect Him to do so!

Context: *This week we'll be reading Romans 5:1-11, but it's always important to check the context. Skim through and get a sense of what Paul is saying in Romans 1-4. What does he say immediately before chapter 5? What does the "Therefore" in verse 1 refer to? What comes immediately after? How does that add to our understanding of this passage?

Read: Romans 5:1-11 slowly.

Observations: On the notes page, jot down some main ideas from the chapter. You'll dig deeper as the week goes on.

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.



Read: Romans 5:1-11.

Reflect: *What are the results of being "justified by faith" that Paul lists in this passage?

Think about the ways you've experienced those things in your own life, and thank God for these amazing gifts of His grace!

WEEK 3: JAN 31-FEB 4 - ROMANS 5:1-11

WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the "Song of the Week."

Read: Romans 5:1-11.

Reflect: *What does this passage teach us about ourselves (when we were apart from God, and now that we're saved by Him)?

*What does this passage teach us about God? (As you write, give Him praise!)

THURSDAY

2-10-1: *Do the "2-10-1" method of reading Scripture: read the passage "2" times, summarize the main point in "10" words or less, and ask the Lord to put on your heart "1" thing that He most wants to say to you through it.

Question: *If someone said to you, "I know I'm going to hell. I've just done too much for God to forgive," how would you respond to them, based in part on this passage?

FRIDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.

Read: Romans 5: 1-11.

Shapes: *How do you see all four of our “shapes” represented in this passage?



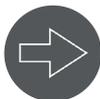
***Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do you see God’s grace?



***Love God:** What about God in this passage most deepens your love for Him and gratitude to Him? (Check your lists from Tuesday and Wednesday)



***Love One Another:** How are we being called to love one another, or how can you encourage a brother or sister in Christ with this passage?



***Love the World:** If God loved sinners (including us!) in these ways, we should, too! Ask God to give you His heart for those who are far from Him. Is there a step the Spirit is calling you to take here?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we're all learning the same translation).
- Use the daily questions with the asterisk by them, and refer to the "For Further Reflection" questions for more ideas.
- What one thing do you most sense God wants to tell you or do in you through the truths in this chapter? Is there a step for you to take?
- What are the biggest questions that Romans 5:1-11 raise for you?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- You may want to read Pastor Stephen's reflections on this passage in his book, Multiply (pp. 42-47).
- What does it mean to be "justified"? Write your own understanding, then look up a definition in a Bible dictionary.
- How would you define "faith"? Write your own understanding, then look up a definition in a Bible dictionary.
- What does it mean to "rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (verse 2)?
- Why the abrupt shift in verse 3 to rejoicing in suffering, do you think?
- Doesn't "rejoicing in sufferings" just mean we stuff our hurt and anger? How is it possible to rejoice in suffering?
- What has been the greatest suffering in your life? Would you say you were able to rejoice in it? Why or why not? What reason does Paul give us for rejoicing in suffering (verses 3-5), and how does that help?
- How does the "For" in verse 6 connect verses 6-11 with verses 1-5?
- What is Paul's main argument in verses 9-10? Talk to God about the truths written here!
- What does it mean to "rejoice in God" (verse 11)? Would you say you do that? Why or why not?

SERMON NOTES

February 6, 2022

YOUR NOTES ON ROMANS 6

WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 7-11

WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 7-11 - ROMANS 6

MONDAY

Prepare Your Heart: Take a moment to quiet your heart before God, to ask Him to speak to you through His Word today, and expect Him to do so!

Context: *This week we'll be reading Romans 6, but again, whenever picking up reading in the middle of a book of the Bible, it's always important to check the context. Look back over Romans 5. What does he say at the end of the chapter? How does that add to our understanding of this passage?

Read: Romans 6 slowly.

Observations: On the notes page, jot down some main ideas from the chapter. You'll dig deeper as the week goes on.

TUESDAY

Question: *If a new Christian said to you, "So if God will forgive me, it doesn't matter how I live, right?" what would you say to them? What reasons would you give for a life of obedience to God? Try to come up with at least 3-5 and write them below.

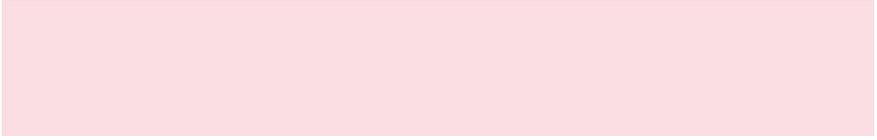
Read: Romans 6:1-14.

Reflect: *List 3-5 ways that Paul answers the question above in these verses.

*With these things in mind, answer again, in your own words, how you would respond to that new Christian.

WEDNESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.



Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Read: Romans 6:15-23.

Reflect: *Paul continues his teaching on why we should not sin, even though we’re under grace. List the reasons he gives in these verses.

THURSDAY

2-10-1: *Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture: read Romans 6 “2” times, summarize the main point in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord to put on your heart “1” thing that He most wants to say to you through it.

Reflect: *A major point of Paul’s in this chapter is that if we are “in Christ,” sin no longer controls us. How have you experienced this freedom from sin’s bondage? Are there ways you still feel bound by sin? Talk to God about that.

FRIDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.

Read: Romans 6.

Shapes: *How do you see all four of our “shapes” represented in this passage?



***Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God’s grace?



***Love God:** What do we learn about God, and how we love God?



***Love One Another:** How are we being called to love one another, or how can you encourage a brother or sister in Christ with this passage?



***Love the World:** How are we to view and love people who don’t know Christ? Is there a step the Spirit is calling you to take here?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we're all learning the same translation).
- Use the questions with an asterisk by them.
- What are the biggest questions that Romans 6 raise for you?
- See the "For Further Reflection" section for more ideas.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- What questions does Romans 6 raise for you? Write them on the Notes page and put a star by the most important one(s). Listen to see if it's addressed in the sermon Sunday.
- What do you think Paul means in verse 2 when he says that we "died to sin"? On what do you base that understanding?
- What reality does baptism signify (verses 3-4)? Do you remember your baptism? If so, what did it mean to you then? What does it mean to you now?
- How would you explain verse 8 to a 12-year-old?
- How do you feel about the thought of your own death? What difference do verses 5-11 make in your view of death? What difference *should* it make?
- In verses 15-23, what does it mean to be a "slave to sin"? What does it mean to be a "slave to righteousness"?

SERMON NOTES

February 13, 2022

YOUR NOTES ON TITUS 2:11-14 & 3:3-7

WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 14-18

MONDAY

Prepare Your Heart: Take a moment to quiet your heart before God. Ask Him to speak to you through His Word, and expect Him to do so!

Overview: This week we'll be reading in Paul's short letter to Titus, a disciple of Paul's and a church leader. Today, read the whole letter to get an overview (It is three short chapters). Jot down on the Notes page key themes or ideas in the letter.

Context: *Our first passage for this week is Titus 2:11-14. What does Paul say immediately before these verses (2:1-10)? How do verses 11-14 connect to what comes immediately before (note that Paul begins verse 11 with the word, "For...")?

TUESDAY

Question: *If someone outside the faith asked you, "Why did Jesus come to earth?" what would you say?

Read: Remind yourself of the context, then read Titus 2:11-14 twice, slowly.

Reflect: *In these verses, why does Paul say Jesus came? How does that differ from or add to your answer above? Is there anything you'd change about your answer, having read this?

WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the "Song of the Week."

Read: Titus 3:1-7 twice, slowly.

Reflect: *Who were we before Christ (verse 3)? What did Jesus do, and why, and how?

*What does it mean that we are heirs (verse 7)? What are we heirs of? What will that be like? Again, reflect, then let that reflection lead you into a time of worship, thanking and praising God.

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out the series memory verse. Reflect on it as you write.

Read: Titus 2:11-3:7.

Barriers: *What makes it hard for you to receive God's grace more deeply? Some examples might be:

- **Shame** – "I'm not worthy of God's grace!"
- **Ignorance** – "My sin isn't a big deal."
- **Pride** – "I need to earn it!"
- **Entitlement** – "After all I've done for God, He owes me."
- **Other:**

Share that barrier with a trusted friend. Ask them to pray with and for you, that God would help you overcome that barrier and live more deeply in the joy of His grace.

FRIDAY

Consider gathering some people from Hope to discuss these with you in the coming week.

Review – *Look back over the last five weeks. What has God been saying to you over that time? Write down some key thoughts and ideas.

Question – What is your biggest question right now about God's grace?

Next Step – *What do you sense is a next step God would have you take in receiving His grace more deeply? List some ideas below. Then see "Possible Next Steps" on the next page for further ideas.

Encourage: What brother or sister in Christ could you encourage today with a verse or thought about God's grace? Do it!

Outreach: Who is someone "outside the faith but inside your reach" that you might pray for, that they would receive God's grace? Consider inviting them for a meal and deepening friendship with them, praying that God would use you as a light for Him in their life.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- We suggest using the first three questions from Friday's devotion as your group discussion this week.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- In 2:13, Paul reminds Titus of the coming appearance of Jesus. Reflect on that day for a moment. Talk with God about that. How are you feeling about that day? How do you want to feel?
- We tend to think of God's grace primarily as forgiveness, but Paul says that God's grace trains us to do something. What? How have you seen that in your life? Is there an area of growth for you in this?
- Is there "ungodliness or worldly passions" that you have not renounced, that God has been convicting you about lately? Share it with a trusted friend and ask them to pray with and for you.
- According to 2:11-14, what qualities should a follower of Jesus have? In which of these do you most long to grow?
- Do the "2-10-1" method of reading Scripture. Read the passage "2" times, summarize the passage in "10" words or less, and ask God what "1" thing He most wants to communicate to you through it.
- What role do works play (and not play) in our lives in 3:1-8?

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS IN RECEIVING GRACE:

- If you don't understand what it means to "receive God's grace," reach out to a pastor or trusted, mature Christian friend and ask them. It would be a joy for that person to talk with you!
- Pick a verse from this 5-week series about the grace and love of God for you. Write it on an index card and keep it with you. Take a walk every day this week with that card, even if it's a five-minute walk, and allow God to speak His grace and love over you.
- Confess a sin (past or present) to a pastor or trusted, mature Christian friend, and ask them to speak God's grace over you.
- Repeat going through this journal in the coming weeks, letting the truths of God's Word sink deeper in you.
- Read a book about God's grace:

"What's So Amazing About Grace?" by Philip Yancey

"The Grace of God" by Andy Stanley

"Surprised by Grace" by Tullian Tchividjian

"Grace" by Max Lucado

"The Discipline of Grace" by Jerry Bridges

SERMON NOTES

February 20, 2022

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