

A RESOURCE FROM



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Tell me the story of
JESUS

DEVOTIONAL

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Jesus

DEVOTIONAL

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO

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FOREWORD

T H E G B C D E V O T I O N A L

The re-building programme is a worthy project God has called Grace Baptist Church to do for Him. Now that the neighbourhood and surrounding areas are changing, God is providing us with a new facility to help reach new disciples for Jesus Christ. By working and sacrificing together in efforts like the fund-raising Reformation Concert, we can be used of God to accomplish His purposes in ways that are above and beyond all that we could ever ask or think.

The concert will be a means of raising funds for the re-building programme, but through it the leaders are hoping that it will do much more. While there is a need for all members of the Grace Baptist Church family to participate in God's calling to rebuild, each member of the church needs to take up the mighty challenge God has set before us. The concert is one way for many people to participate all at once.

But it has also become clear that God not only wants us to have an impactful experience as a church family, but He wants each of us to be spiritually impacted, too. This is where this prayer journal, written in-house and customised for GBC, will help.

This coordinated effort to help us with our devotions is one way God can speak to each one of us intimately, personally, and individually – to the important needs of our souls. God

uses time in in His Word to remind, refresh, and revive each of us to love Him. As you read the story of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation, may the Holy Spirit use the word of God to make us more aware of our sin and need for repentance, of the wonderful Saviour He has provided, and how to grow in Christ-like righteousness. We hope that this effort will rejuvenate and deepen our faith and result in greater obedience to Him as we invest the time required for personal devotions.

So, faithfully read and pray through the prayer journal. Meditate on the precious Scriptures which were recovered in the Protestant Reformation, pray through them, pen down your reflections, then share what God has been saying to you with your family, Care Group, and friends. Set aside time to get involved with the journal and invite others to join you in devotions together.

May each Bible passage, meditation, and prayer draw you closer to God.

Prayerfully Yours,
Pastor Arnold Wong

PLAYBOOK

HOW TO USE THIS JOURNAL

The prayer journal you're holding has been specially designed for use in October to complement 'Reformation Concert 2016: Tell Me The Story of Jesus'. There are 31 daily entries for GBC members to use in their devotions. The entries go from Genesis to Revelation following the story arc of the Bible as featured in the concert, and help us understand how the Bible's one story is told across 66 books.

You could spend between 10 to 20 minutes each day using this journal to worship, read, meditate, journal and pray in personal time with God.

To get the most out of this devotion, (a) get alone (b) where you can be quiet, and (c) conscientiously write down your thoughts. Putting thoughts into words helps memory and focus. Journaling as a spiritual discipline cannot be underestimated.

Each day's entry comes with the following key features, which, to borrow the metaphor from the American theologian Jonathan Edwards, should be used to provide spiritual "light and heat":

Bible Passage: We have provided the text from the English Standard Version. Read the text a few times, highlighting key words or phrases that stand out to you in special ways. Remember that all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful (2 Tim 3:16). This is like the fuel that God supplies for our souls. Without fuel, there will be no fire.

Adoration: God's word reveals His character and works – who He is and what He has done. A short paragraph explains how we should think about Him in worship. Instead of looking for personal application immediately, let your thoughts start with the greatness and glory of God. It should warm your heart, the way a fire brings comfort and spiritual heat to keep us warm. Adoration keeps us from being cold and dry with God.

Meditation: means thinking hard about what God's Word means, and especially what God is saying to us about our lives. Every good fire produces not just heat, but light for seeing. Like a lamp to illuminate our path, we need light to see ourselves truly, and where we are going. Meditation helps us see by the light of God's Word.

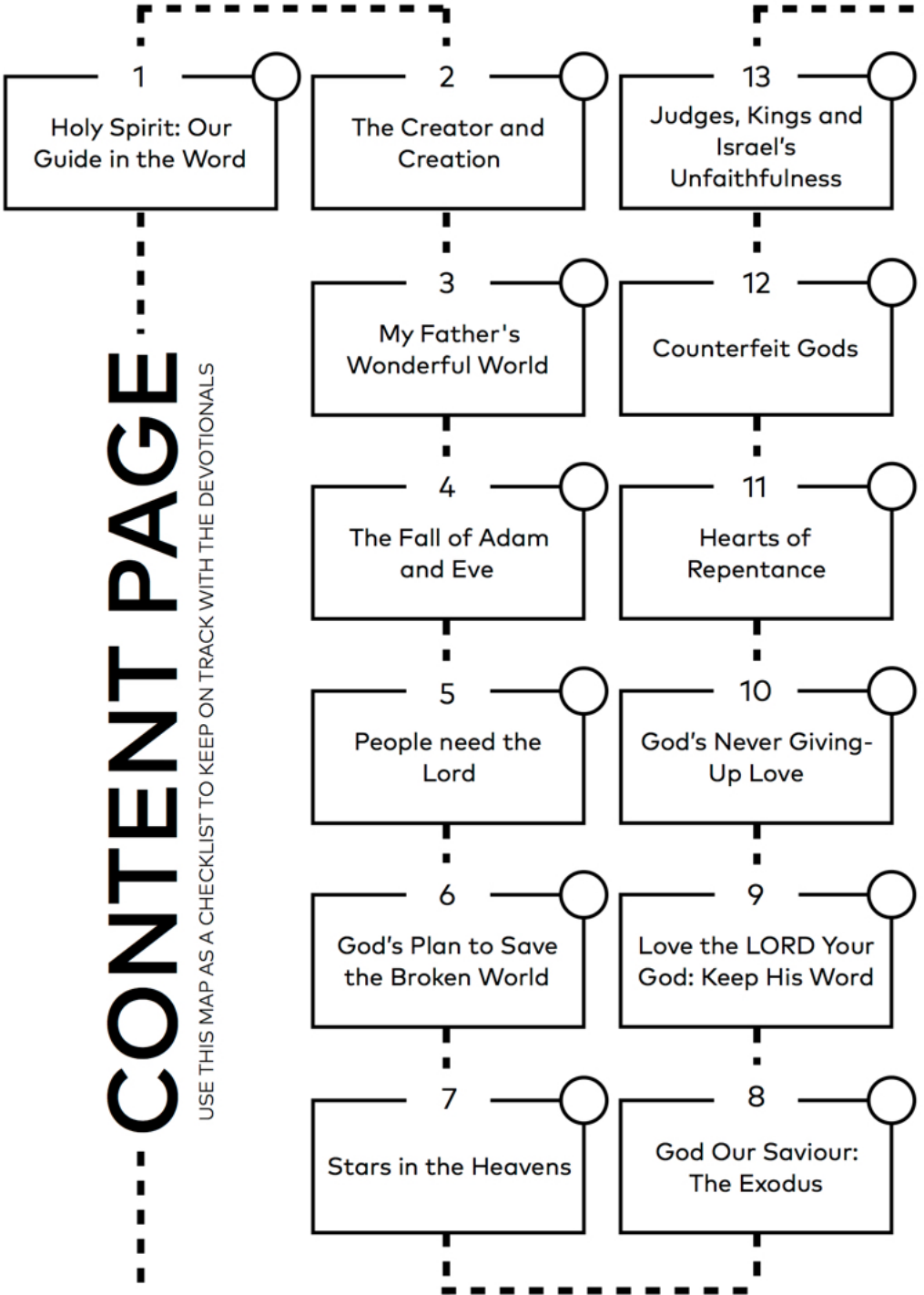
Prayer: After adoring and meditating, we need to respond to God in faith or repentance, in worship or in obedience. A written prayer here provides you with ideas to help you respond to God.

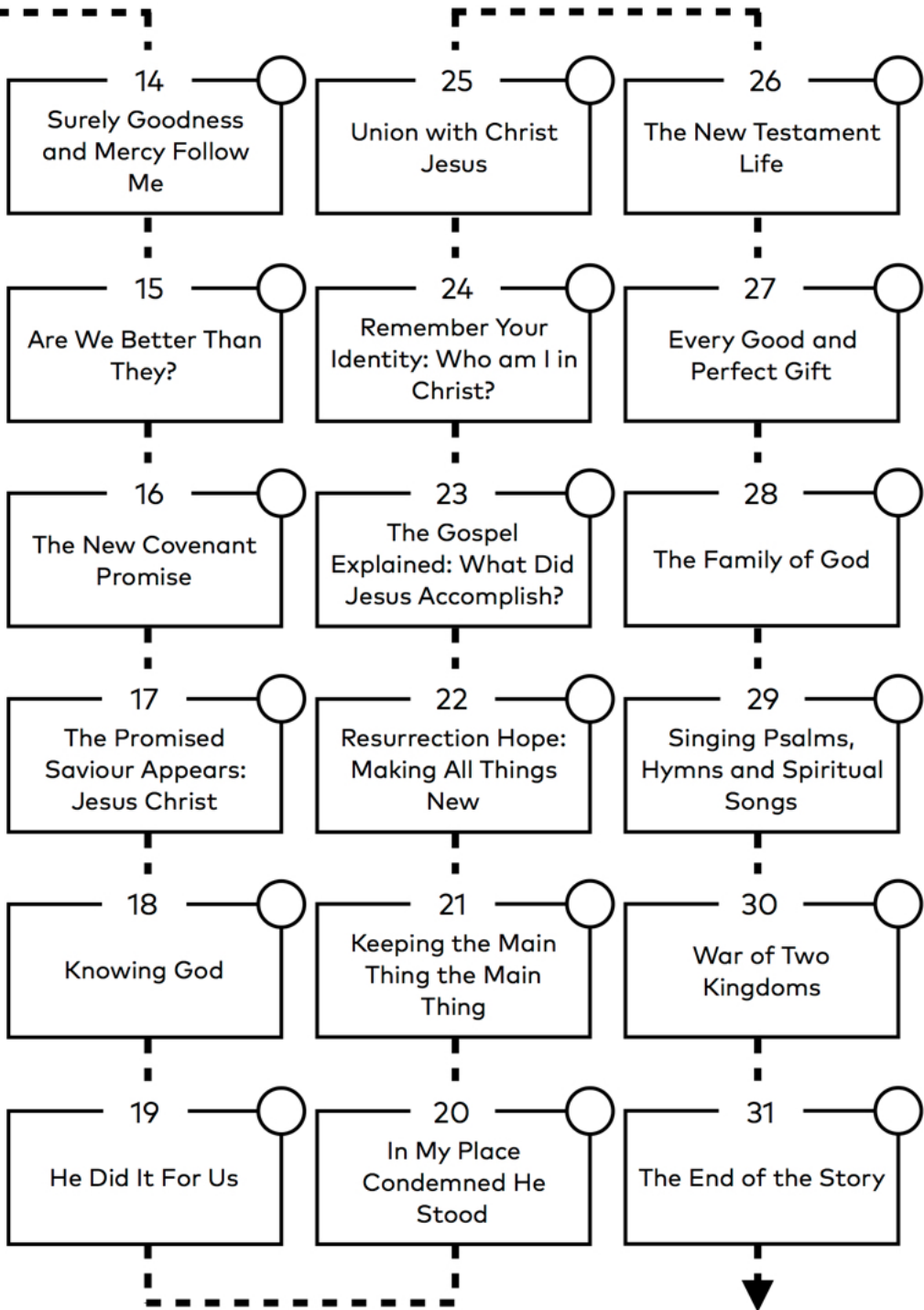
Prayer Ideas: Some simple pointers for have been provided to suggest more prayer needs for yourself, others and the church. Use these to enrich your thoughts, or pray through a longer list like Operation World or GBC's monthly prayer list.

Entries on a Sunday are slightly different, and have been designed for you to use as families, as a couple, or with a group of close friends to worship and discuss Scripture together.

CONTENT PAGE

USE THIS MAP AS A CHECKLIST TO KEEP ON TRACK WITH THE DEVOTIONALS





**Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.**

Tell Me the Story of Jesus, Frances J. Crosby

Follow this timeline to walk
through the entire story of the
Bible – the story of Jesus.



God exists before time (Ps 90:2)

Day 1 - Holy Spirit: Our Guide in the Word

PASSAGE

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:16-17

ADORATION

Jesus Christ, the Faithful One, never abandons His disciples. Instead, He promises them a Helper. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, gives us the Bible (2 Pet 1:21) and is our guide in knowing God and His truth (Jn 16:13). Isn't God kind to not leave us on our own? We have a wonderful Helper!



Day 1 - Holy Spirit: Our Guide in the Word

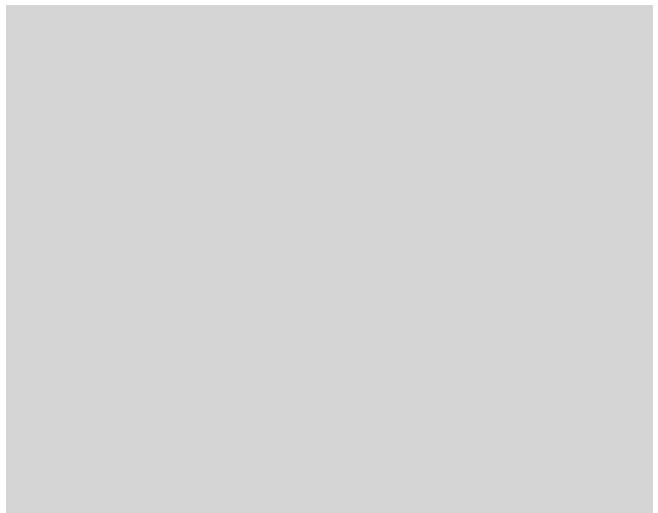
MEDITATION

Jesus knew we needed help. Before going to the Cross, Jesus knew that His disciples would be sorrowful, doubting and discouraged. That is why He promised them "another Helper". This Helper, "the Spirit of truth", inspired the original disciples to write Scripture, preserved it through history, and helps us understand God's Word every time we open it today.

All believers in Christ have been given the Spirit of truth (Eph 1:13), and this passage tells us that He dwells in us and with us. Do you feel like you're fighting all your battles by yourself? God has put His presence in His people. All of the Christian's spiritual life is the Spirit's work, and it is He who guides us. He works in us to help us understand and experience the power of God's Word. Do you feel like you have no more strength to go on? The Spirit will even help us do even "greater works" than when Jesus was in the world (Jn 14:12).



If you feel far away from God today, would you recognise that God has not left us alone in this world?



Day 1 - Holy Spirit: Our Guide in the Word



Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth as we begin this church-wide prayer journal today. Ask for His help to understand the big story of the Bible.

PRAYER

Our Father, in Your Word, You tell us of another Helper who will come after the Lord Jesus. We praise You for giving us Your Spirit so that we are never ever alone. Your Spirit is here, guiding us in all of our spiritual life, and helping us love the truth of the Bible. Holy Spirit, I open up my heart to Your Word. Make me a lover of the Bible and help me especially when I don't feel like reading it. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

PRAY FOR

All GBC members to grow in their love for God's truth through this prayer journal

Missionaries involved in Bible translation, that they will be effective in bringing God's Word to the nations

The Family Ministry at GBC to become a platform for good discipleship



Day 2 - The Creator and Creation

FAMILY WORSHIP

I was awestruck as I looked down having reaching the end of my climb on Mount John in New Zealand. The sight of Lake Tekapo below -- the teal blue water of the lake like a sheet of glass, the green of the grass and trees, peppered with the tiny houses and buildings of the town on one side was so picturesque and captivating! How does such beauty come about? How did it begin? Surely not by chance and coincidence, and certainly not by itself. Have you looked up at the sky and wonder how the stars are suspended in their place? How the moon and planets orbit like clockwork? Everywhere around us we see the awesome wonder of creation. All this could have come together by chance. It points to the Maker of all things. Our God is the Creator God.

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD (MALTBIE D. BABCOCK, 1901)

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.



Day 2 - The Creator and Creation

PASSAGE

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness."

Genesis 1:1-4

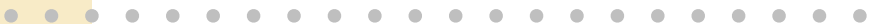
"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:26-27

MEDITATION

The Bible records that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. All the universe, the sun and the stars, the earth and planets, the mountains and seas, the hills and rivers, the trees and shrubs, all living creatures on land, in the air and in the sea – all this came to be by God's creative Word. This is His handiwork. The majesty, beauty and the vastness of all creation is a reflection of the Creator – His power, glory and majesty.

After God created the animals, He made man and woman but unlike all other living creatures He made them in His image -- in His own likeness. What awesome privilege and honour! Man and woman were made to resemble and image who God is! Often we like to look into the mirror and wish that God made us differently – taller or shorter, thinner or fatter. How refreshing to hear the Bible say that God has made us all in His own image. Psalm 139 says that each one of us is "fearfully and wonderfully made" – precious in our Maker's sight.



Day 2 - The Creator and Creation

How do we think about our Creator? What do we think He is like?

How should we respond to our Creator? How are we living in relationship to Him?

How do you feel about how God has made you? Take turns to encourage each other and give thanks for the way God has made each of you special and precious.



Day 2 - The Creator and Creation

PRAYER

Father God, Maker of heaven and earth, Creator of all things, thank You for the wonderful and marvellous creation You have placed around us. In all of it we can see Your beauty, power and majesty. What an honour and privilege to be made to be like You! We praise You for Your love and favour toward us. Today, may our every thought and action be a humble act of love to You and may our lives honour You and glorify Your name. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Grateful hearts that fear God and honour Him as Creator in everything you do today

The protection and preservation of the beautiful world God has made

The ministry to Gracehaven led by Sandy Tung and others, that this will be a good opportunity for GBC to make a difference in the lives of the children



Day 3 - My Father's Wonderful World

PASSAGE

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'?"

Job 38:4-11

ADORATION

God made the amazing world we live in! He created the earth and filled it with a rich variety of plants and animals for us to enjoy. He fashioned the breathtaking vastness of the seas and sky that leave us feeling small.

Let us join with all creation in beholding the greatness of our Creator!



Day 3 - My Father's Wonderful World

MEDITATION

Job 38 is an interesting lesser-known account of how the world was created. In it, we can overhear how He talks to Job about how He made the world. He talks about Himself as a Divine Architect, carefully planning dimensions of the earth according a master blueprint. He refers to Himself as a Divine Engineer who designs the seas, clouds, (and the rest of the ecosystem) and their boundaries. God's questions are designed to be humbling, both for Job and for us.

Pause for a moment to remember the last time that you were left awestruck by nature. Where were you and what did you see? What was it like to stand in wonder and be left speechless?

But while we should be amazed by creation, the Creator God who made it is even more stunning. The Psalmist exclaims humbly, "when I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" (Ps 8:4-5)



How has the great God
of the universe shown
His amazing tender
care for you? Give
thanks to God.



Day 3 - My Father's Wonderful World



How can it be that the great God of the universe treasures each one of us and desires a relationship with us? How should we respond to Him?

PRAYER

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the works Your hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Your power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to You: How great You are¹! God, You are the loving Father of all creation. Grant me eyes to see Your work and ways, and teach me to declare Your greatness in worship and witness. In Christ's most glorious name I pray, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Other Christians to be constantly amazed at our awesome God and how He reveals Himself through creation and His Word	Non-believers to consider the wonders of creation and ask spiritual questions	The ENJOY ministry of the church to seniors, that they will have great creativity, faithfulness and wisdom in planning their activities
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Day 4 - The Fall of Adam and Eve

PASSAGE

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:4-6

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Romans 1:22-25

ADORATION

These passages tell us that God is the "the immortal God" who "is blessed forever". In eternity past and for eternity future, He will be worshipped as He is eternally worthy. The Bible gives us humbling insight into our own souls, that sinners have exchanged His glory for lesser images and idols. How can we still be proud before Him? Humble yourself before God today.



Day 4 - The Fall of Adam and Eve

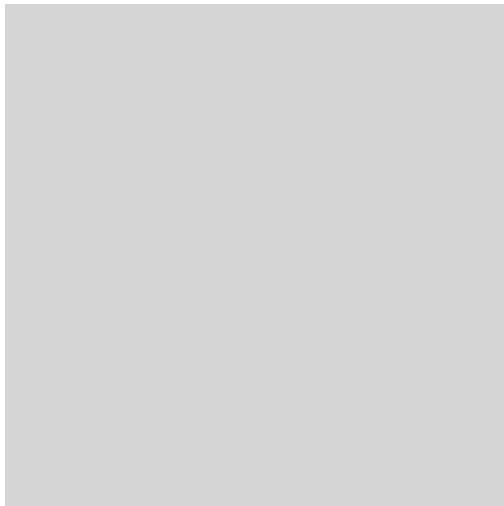
MEDITATION

Eve found out quickly that there was nothing enjoyable about sin. When she ate the forbidden fruit, she was doing more than disobeying. She was buying into the serpent's lie that God was not caring or wise and keeping something good from her. By not trusting God, she tarnished the love relationship she enjoyed with God in the beginning. She also bought the lie of her pride, that she could herself, a created being, be "like God", who is immortal and perfect. Romans 1:22-25 says that this is wicked -- lifting a created thing to the status of the Creator. And it made Eve miserable.

We often fail to recognise the gravity of our own sin. We usurp God's place and walk in Eve's footsteps. When we make excuses for our idolatry and persist stubbornly in sin, we too "exchange the glory of God for images". Do you see your sin for what it is? Let us humbly confess our sin and ask God, in His mercy, to forgive us.



Quietly think on what it means to sin against a loving God. Avoid being careless and casual with your attitude towards sin by meditating on God's judgment.



Day 4 - The Fall of Adam and Eve



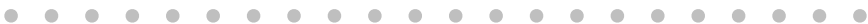
Would you pray that God deepen your remorse for sin? Christians should be humbled by the story of the fall and the brokenness of the world.

PRAYER

Dear God, Creator of all, You alone are worthy of our worship and devotion. I confess that I have repeatedly exchanged Your glory for lesser things and failed to see the gravity of my sin. But though I rebel against You, You provided a way for me to be made clean, and have taken me from my miserable state and shown me mercy and grace. I pray that You would change me deeply, so that I worship You above all else. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Hearts which are sensitive to sin and for a tender conscience	The suffering in the world. Remember in particular countries devastated by war, conflict and chaos	The Singaporean government to be used by God as an agent of peace and justice in Singapore
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Day 5 - People Need the Lord

PASSAGE

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:7

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 6:5

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope...

Romans 8:20

ADORATION

God is merciful in not striking us down for our sin right away. Instead, the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost. Let us worship God for the mercy He has shown us despite our sin, and for His patience with a sinful world.



People of Babel build a tower (Gen 11:9)

Day 5 - People Need the Lord

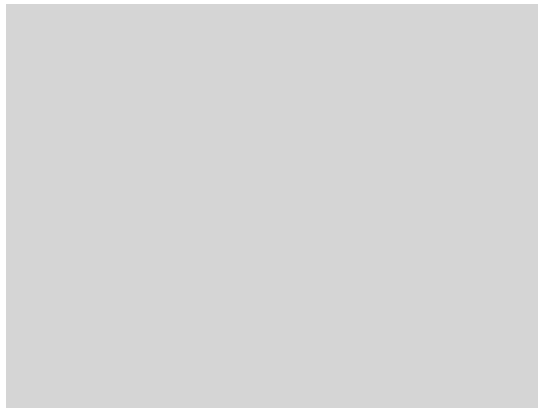
MEDITATION

Like Isaiah, we dwell amongst a people of unclean lips, and people who need the Lord. Like Adam and Eve, we know that we're sinful and naked before God. Like them, we often try to conceal our guilt and shame from ourselves and from around us by making "fig leaves" and coming up with ways to 'save ourselves'. But God sees us for what we are. He sees our outward actions and the inward thoughts. The Bible says that in our fallen nature, we are sinful all the time. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer says that "there is no health in us". The best of our intentions are tainted filthy rags, and we cannot attain righteousness on our own.

Our world is lost without Jesus, and groaning from the effects of God's curse on sin in Genesis 3. Can't you see it in the news? Broken relationships, deep hatred and bitter racism are everywhere. We see it when our loved ones go through illness and face death; or when we see natural disaster – nature in rebellion against mankind. The experiences of cosmic disorder remind us of our deep brokenness and need for a Saviour. People really do need the Lord.



Is God convicting you
of a particular sin area
in your life right now?
How should you
respond?



Day 5 - People Need the Lord



Think over the needs of our world today. Spend time praying for what you see in the news, and for God to intervene in mercy.

PRAYER

Gracious and merciful Lord, I praise You for Your perfect patience with me. In contrast to a world that is so confused and lost, You are constant, pure, and holy. Open my eyes to the ways in which I am utterly sinful. Help me be humble and teachable when You show me my sin. Make me feel an urgent need to rely on Your Son Jesus Christ and His saving work on the cross every day. I want to lean on nothing else but Christ! Have mercy on a broken world, O God. We need you desperately. In His name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Our church that we would model lives of utter reliance on God for all things

A specific colleague, friend, or family member to become convicted of their sin and see their need for Christ

The church's Evangelism Ministry to help GBC reach out to others who are lost without Christ



God makes a covenant with the Patriarchs (Gen 12:1-3)

Day 6 - God's Plan to Save the Broken World

PASSAGE

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.

Genesis 3:15

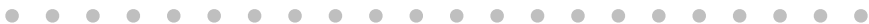
Now the Lord said to Abram,
"Go from your country and your kindred and your
father's house to the land that I will show you.

And I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing."

Genesis 12:1-2

ADORATION

God put in place a plan for redemption long ago. In His faithfulness, God's beautiful plan will redeem everything in His time. Give thanks to our faithful God who makes wonderful promises and keeps them so not one of them is broken.



Day 6 - God's Plan to Save the Broken World

MEDITATION

In Genesis 3:15, God promises that there will be offspring of Eve who will bruise the serpent's head. Theologians call this 'the protoevangelion', or the gospel promise in seed form. According to the promise, a son of Eve will come and end the serpent's deception and all the destructive effects of sin. As we keep reading Genesis, no saving offspring seems to appear — Cain kills Abel, the arrogant builders of Babel challenge God and build a tower reaching for heaven — humanity seems to fall deeper and deeper into sin. Has God's plan for the saving offspring failed? By the time Abraham appears in Genesis 12, hope seems dim. An old man and Sarah's barren womb — will God still be faithful to His promise and bless a cursed world through offspring?

The New Testament shows us that Jesus Christ is Eve's promised offspring and Abraham's blessed son. By His death on the Cross, He brings great blessings to all the nations and show how through God's promise to Abraham, the serpent and the powers of sin are defeated once and for all.



God keeps His promises. Ask God to help you trust Him for your needs and increase your faith today.



Israel multiplies in Egypt (Ex 1:7)

Day 6 - God's Plan to Save the Broken World



How does God fulfil His redemption plan? Does it surprise you that God's ways are not like ours?

PRAYER

Father, we thank You that long ago You put in place a plan to redeem our broken world. You set before us Jesus Christ, the promised offspring who would put an end to sin and redeem creation from its fallenness. Help me trust Your faithfulness and see that You keep all Your promises, even when it seems like You don't. Give me eyes to see the bigger picture, and faith to wait for You. Help me tell others about Your plan in Christ with gentleness and boldness. In Christ's name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Church members to grow in their maturity of understanding God's plan for salvation in the Bible

The Discipleship Seminars at GBC, that they will be good opportunities to grow in God's Word. Pray especially for the teachers each week

GBC to be a powerful part of God's plan to bless Singapore and spread the gospel



Day 7 - Stars in the Heavens

PASSAGE

And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:5-6

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Romans 4:16-21

ADORATION

God is *always* faithful to His promise. His promises are trustworthy and reliable and God has the power to keep them. Abraham believed in a God who "gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist". What a mighty God we serve – the God of creation and resurrection!

Worship Him for His power and faithfulness today.



God redeems His people from Egypt (Ex 12:51)

Day 7 - Stars in the Heavens

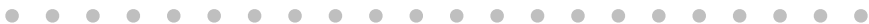
MEDITATION

Have you ever seen the stars at night? Here in light-polluted Singapore, bright stars are not a common sight for us. But on a clear Middle Eastern night Abraham would have beheld a sky dusted and dotted with stars as far as the eye can see. And so it would be, God promised, with Abraham's offspring. God makes an impossible promise to a childless old man as far back as Genesis 12. But as time passed by and nothing changed until God repeated His promise again in Genesis 15, Abraham must have doubted if God's promise would come true. Yet the Bible says that Abraham believed the LORD.

Did that kind of faith come easy for Abraham? Romans 4 tells us that Abraham "considered his own body which was as good as dead". Abraham was a logical man, just like you and me. Yet thinking about the facts of his circumstance did not make him waver. Instead, he grew in faith, believing that God would keep His promise because of His character. Abraham trusted that the God who was his shield and reward (c.f. Gen 15:1) would keep His promises. Today, as the church of Christ has grown and continues to grow — from Jerusalem to Singapore and beyond — we see God's promise to Abraham is still coming true — just like stars in the heavens, too many to count.



How have you experienced God's faithfulness in your life, even when circumstances seem impossible? Thank God for what you have experienced.



Day 7 - Stars in the Heavens



How can you, as a faith-descendant of Abraham, be a blessing to the world? Ask God to help you be a blessing.

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we marvel at Your faithfulness. I confess that sometimes the circumstances seem impossible, and I am prone to losing heart. You are my shield and reward and You keep Your promises! As Abraham's offspring, help me live by faith daily, and be a blessing to those around me. In Christ's name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

The churches in Singapore, that we will be faithful and persevere in the Great Commission

Many in GBC to be involved in discipling relationships that result in life transformation and change

The work of local seminaries and Bible colleges, that they will raise up ministers for the gospel



God redeems His people from Egypt (Ex 12:51)

Day 8 - God Our Saviour: The Exodus

PASSAGE

But the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.'"

Exodus 6:1-8

ADORATION

Through Jesus Christ, we have a covenantal relationship with God, and like the Israelites, we know He hears all our groans and cries.

Indeed, God our Redeemer has rescued us already through the death of His Son! Let us draw near to God and cry out to our Redeemer.



Day 8 - God Our Saviour: The Exodus

MEDITATION

Whether you've seen the 'Ten Commandments' or the 'Prince of Egypt', you've seen vivid depictions of miserable slavery. For many years, the Israelites lived as slaves and sojourners in a foreign land looking for their own home. They had no rights, and lived daily under oppression and fear. But the Bible says God remembered them and the covenant He made with their forefathers -- a promise that He would not just save them, but be their God to live among them.

The Old Testament Exodus account parallels the New Testament teaching of our salvation through Jesus. We too, lived as slaves bound to sin until God brought us out through Christ. Like the Israelites, we are sojourners in this world which is not our home and we're only passing through. We are migrants looking for our true home. God has made a new covenant with us through Jesus, and He will remember us when we call. Through Christ, He sent His Spirit to live amongst us. God our Saviour has ransomed us, and will bring us to the land He has promised to dwell with us forever.



Are you struggling with some difficulty, or with sin? Like the Israelites, cry out to God in prayer and ask Him to remember you.



Day 8 - God Our Saviour: The Exodus



What does it mean that we have a covenantal relationship with God through Christ? What promises can we claim through Christ?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we the church often forget that we're waiting for our real home, which is not here. We also forget our relationship with You, our Redeemer. Forgive us for our spiritual forgetfulness. Help me with my struggles, for You know all things. When I forget Your work of salvation, my heart starts to waver and doubt You. Sin looks attractive to me when I forget You. Remind me of the hope You have provided in Christ, who has saved me from death through His death in my place. Help me seek You daily in Christ's name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

The Singapore Baptist Convention to be a faithful vehicle for the Great Commission work in Singapore

The care groups of GBC to be places where God's word is taught well and lives are changed.

The CG ministry at GBC to be effective in planning and leading our care groups to grow members in number and in maturity



Day 9 - Love the LORD Your God: Keep His Word

FAMILY WORSHIP

God gives us many blessings: "that your days may be long", "that it may go well with you", "that you may multiply greatly", and "a land flowing with milk and honey". What is the foundation of these blessings? Love for God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. God is the fountain of all our blessings. Oh let us love and adore God from the bottom of our heart!

SPEAK O LORD (KEITH GETTY AND STUART TOWNEND, 2005)

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

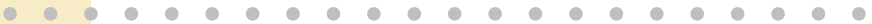
Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.



PASSAGE

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:1-9



Day 9 - Love the LORD Your God: Keep His Word

MEDITATION

The passage before us may seem to make a relationship with God look transactional – if I love God, then He will bless me. However, that fades away when we realise the extent of our helplessness in sin – left to ourselves, we would never love God, so He had to initiate the relationship first. To add to that, we were never able to keep our end of the contract on our own. Just as God walked through the animal halves alone and made a one-sided covenant with Abram in Genesis 15, so too, did Christ initiate forgiveness and paid the full price for sin on the cross. Ours is a debt we can never repay. So our motivation for keeping God's Word is drastically different – instead of a posture of pride and self-interest, we keep His Word out of humility, gratitude and love.

Our love for Him is to affect every aspect of our lives, and we are told to teach God's message to our children and their children (Deut 6:7-9). Indeed, when we keep His Word, we bear spiritual fruit (Matt 7:15-20).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does it mean for us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? What would that look like for us?

How can we apply this truth today? Are there ways we can seek to do better this week?

Can you see traces of spiritual fruit in each other's lives? Take some time to encourage one another and point out ways where another person is keeping God's Word and exercising faith.



PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we praise You for Your love and mercy. What the hymn says is true, "I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice. Did not know Your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys. Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your word to me!"². So now, take Your truth and plant it deep in us. Shape and fashion us in Your likeness³. All this we pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, Amen.

PRAY FOR

The church in Singapore, that we will not be captivated by false teaching and fads

Yourself and GBC, that we will experience God's grace, and that it would flow out from us in ministry to others

The church leadership that they would lead the church well



Day 10 - God's Never Giving-Up Love

PASSAGE

Both we and our fathers have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness... Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he abhorred his heritage; he gave them into the hand of the nations, so that those who hated them ruled over them. Their enemies oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their power.

Many times he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes and were brought low through their iniquity. Nevertheless, he looked upon their distress, when he heard their cry. For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love. He cause them to be pitied by all those who held them captive.

Psalm 106:6, 40-46

ADORATION

God's love is everlasting, no matter how many times the Israelites turned against Him and forgot how He provided for them. His love never gave up. To the rebellious nation full of sin and idolatry which rejected Him, God's love overflowed in mercy.



Day 10 - God's Never Giving-Up Love

MEDITATION

Have you ever felt hurt or rejected by someone you love? The Psalmist in Psalm 106 tells us about the often-repeating cycle of Israel's Old Testament betrayal. Imagine God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, rejected time and time again by the people He created and chose to be His own -- people to whom He had shown great love, protection and favour. Though His anger was kindled against them because of their hardened hearts, He never gave up on them. He waited for them to turn, and when they did, embraced them with unfailing love.

God's love is the same for us today. The Bible tells us that as far as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear him (Ps 103:12). Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:39). God loves us, His people, so much, that He sent Jesus to die for us when we were sinful, idolatrous rebels far away from Him.



The Jesus Storybook Bible calls this God's 'never-stopping, never-giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love'. How has God shown His love to you?



Day 10 - God's Never Giving-Up Love



Pause and count the ways He has loved you.

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we praise You for Your steadfast love towards us. We confess that we are prone to wander and forget about the grace and love You have showered upon us in Christ. Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with Your love, that we might give You praise and thanks for Your never giving-up love for us, a people who falter so easily. This we pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, Amen.

PRAY FOR

GBC that we will be a community filled with thankfulness for the undeserved grace shown to us by a patient God

GBC that this love shown to us by God translates into Christ-like love for one another

Rulers and government leaders, that their governance and authority will be used well to promote peace and blessing



God gives judges to lead (Jud 2:16)

Day 11 - Hearts of Repentance

PASSAGE

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out
my transgressions. Wash away all my
iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I
know my transgressions, and my sin is
always before me. Against you, you only,
have I sinned and done what is evil in your
sight; so you are right in your verdict and
justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful
at birth, sinful from the time my mother
conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness
even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in
that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop,
and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be
whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:1-7

ADORATION

God is merciful to sinners, and forgives sin when we repent. Psalm 51 says that God is full of "unfailing love", "great compassion", even though it also says we sinned against Him, and have "done what is evil in [His] sight". Worship the God who forgives our sin, and does not hold it against us.



Day 11 - Hearts of Repentance

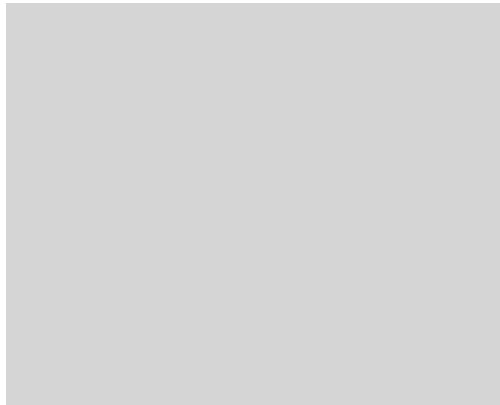
MEDITATION

Psalm 51 was written by David after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed in battle. Realising the extent of his sin against God, he penned this psalm of repentance. Sin is a serious matter, not because of what we have done, but Whom we have gone against. Sin is ultimately, an attack on God, our perfect judge.

But even in his guilt, David knows that God is merciful. From passages like Exodus 34:6-7 and elsewhere, David knows that God forgives the guilty, including himself! He asks to be cleansed with hyssop, which was used by priests to sprinkle blood on a house that had a disease in it to declare it clean. David acknowledges that God can pronounce him clean. For us, God has provided the blood of Jesus Christ shed for us to make us clean. Like David, if we confess our sins and repent, God will forgive us through Christ (1 Jn 1:9).



Do we view our sins
as going against
God Himself?
Are we unrepentant
in spirit?



Day 11 - Hearts of Repentance



How have we been made clean through Christ?
Is your conscience clear before Him?

PRAYER

Father, we have sinned In word, and deed, and thought through ignorance, through weakness and through deliberate fault. We've sinned against our neighbours and against You, Lord. Yet we are truly sorry and we turn to You once more⁴. In Christ's name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

A repentant spirit
in the church as
we humble
ourselves before
God

God to have mercy
on a world reeling
out of control in
sinfulness and
rebellion

The parents of
GBC, that they will
raise their children
in the nurture and
admonition of the
Lord



Day 12 - Counterfeit Gods

PASSAGE

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any." All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. Who fashions a god or casts an idol that is profitable for nothing? Behold, all his companions shall be put to shame, and the craftsmen are only human. Let them all assemble, let them stand forth. They shall be terrified; they shall be put to shame together.

Isaiah 44:6-11

ADORATION

The God of the Bible is a real God, not made-up, nor the work of wishful thinking. He is the King and Redeemer, the LORD of hosts. He is the first and last, the only Creator God. It is He who saved Israel, "an ancient people"... He is not an idol and cannot be ignored. Pause and note all the descriptions of God in this text. The true and living God is more real than anything our senses can experience.



Israel calls for a king - Saul (1 Sam 8:4)

Day 12 - Counterfeit Gods

MEDITATION

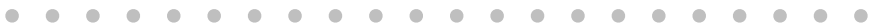
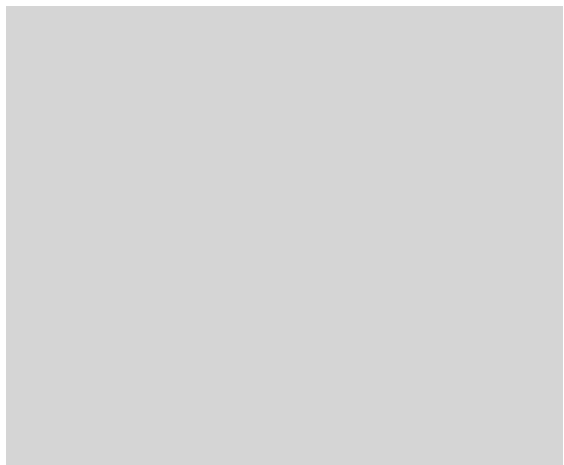
C S Lewis, in his book 'Miracles' writes about the shock one receives when we realize that the Biblical God is real: "There comes a moment when people who have been dabbling in religion ('man's search for God'!) suddenly draw back. Supposing we really found Him? We never meant it to come to that! Worse still, supposing He had found us?" In Isaiah 44, God makes it loud and clear – He is real and living.

God contrasts Himself against the false gods and idols of the world. He condemns the counterfeit gods who are empty and powerless. They cannot save, bless, rescue, help, hear or even care, because they are made by their worshippers! Isaiah 44 reminds us that whereas human beings are creatures made in God's image, human idolatry has turned things upside down – and remade God in our image.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what counterfeit gods you may have given yourself to today. Let us, like the Thessalonian Christians turn "from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come." (1 Thess 1:9-10)



Do we treat God with the reverence and fear that the true and living God deserves?
Ask Him for a reverent heart.



Day 12 - Counterfeit Gods



Are we running after idols and counterfeit gods instead of worshipping and serving the true and living God? Is there anything more important to you than Jesus?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have an idolatrous heart. When I make something more important than You, I'm making an idol. Forgive me for fashioning idols of my own making. As the hymn writer says, "prone to wander, Lord I feel it! Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh take and seal it! Seal it for Your courts above."⁵ Be more precious to me than anything else, O God, I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Your care group members, that they would experience God's presence in a real and special way today

The church as we embark on this prayer campaign, that we would be called to repent of our idolatry and worldliness

The Youth Ministry at GBC that the leaders will not grow weary and lose heart in making disciples amongst our students.



Day 13 - Judges, Kings and Israel's Unfaithfulness

PASSAGE

Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.

Judges 2:16-17

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations... And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them."... But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.

1 Samuel 8:4-5, 7, 19-20

ADORATION

How good of God to raise up judges and kings for His people to save and lead them! God never left His people leaderless, and in spite of their disobedience, He was faithful to provide. Our God is ever faithful, even when we are faithless. Worship God for how He never, never, never gives up on us!



Day 13 - Judges, Kings and Israel's Unfaithfulness

MEDITATION

After Moses and Joshua, the people of Israel found themselves repeatedly in danger – threats like idolatry and worship of false gods *inside* Israel, and threats *outside* of Israel, like the threatening Midianites and Philistines who would oppress God's people. In the book of Judges, God provided leaders who would guide and guard His people – twelve in total. Yet Israel fell into cycles of unfaithfulness repeatedly. Their unfaithfulness is most clearly seen when the people rejected God's rule and demanded for a human king so they could be like the nations around them. How this must have broken God's heart! Shouldn't God have just given up on them?

But the mercy of God is here on display again – when we are faithless, He is faithful still (2 Tim 2:13). Haven't we been equally idolatrous and unfaithful, like children who repeatedly disobey a loving Father? How patient and kind God is with His people, and in Jesus Christ, the perfect Judge and final King, He gives us the final leader who knows just how to judge us and fight our battles.



How are we, like Israel, running after other gods? Ask God for His mercy.



God raises up King David, then Solomon (2 Sam 7:12)

Day 13 - Judges, Kings and Israel's Unfaithfulness



How has God shown us His kindness by rescuing us from spiritual disaster again and again? Thank God for His faithfulness.

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we praise You for infinite patience and mercy. Your grace towards us is inexhaustible. We confess our idolatry to You. Lord Jesus, our perfect Judge and final King, lead us in Your faithfulness, deliver us from evil and lead us not into temptation. Give us new obedient hearts by Your Holy Spirit and keep us from worthless idols. We need Your help so much. This we pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, Amen.

PRAY FOR

The church in Singapore, that we will not be idolatrous like Old Testament Israel

GBC's Chinese Congregation that God will bless their ministry and growth to reap a harvest amongst the Chinese speaking community in Macpherson

The leaders at GBC, whom God has tasked to guide and guard His church, to lead us well



PASSAGE

The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Psalm 23:1-6

ADORATION

God cares for us as tender Shepherd and shows great generosity to us as a welcoming host. He is tender-hearted and generous to us! Let us draw near and rest in His love as we seek greater intimacy with Him today.



MEDITATION

Using the two familiar pictures of the shepherd and his sheep, and the hospitable host and his guest, David describes his relationship with God and the intimacy he enjoys. Like him, we too have entered into a deep relationship with God through Christ, our Shepherd and Host in heaven.

As His sheep, we can be assured that He will lead, protect and provide for us, and rest is available for us regardless of what we are facing. In Him, our deepest hunger and thirst are met. We are renewed and revived by the living waters He provides. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for us (Jn 10:11), imputes His righteousness to us and gives us the Holy Spirit to be our guide. Christ's justification results in eternal life and we fear no evil nor death. The Spirit is our comfort and strength throughout our earthly journey and we are utterly secure. He lavishes on us abundant goodness and mercy. One day we will enjoy eternal bliss, dwelling with Him forever. There is nothing more blessed than to know and experience intimacy with Christ our Shepherd and divine host. As we grow to know Him more, let us anchor our lives on Jesus.



How is your
relationship with
the Shepherd?



Day 14 - Surely Goodness and Mercy Follow Me



What steps are you taking to grow in intimacy with Christ and to enjoy His blessings?

PRAYER

Dear God, we thank You for the privilege of knowing You intimately through Jesus Christ. Thank You for being our Shepherd and divine Host, and for blessing us abundantly. Please help us to grow in intimacy with You. May Your goodness and mercy motivate and strengthen us to be devoted and bold. We pray this in Christ's name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Someone you know who is struggling to rest and find peace in Christ

Christians around the world who are persecuted for the name of Jesus, that their faith will be strengthened by God

The church staff in the office and the pastoral staff, that they will serve with gladness and joy



Day 15 - Are We Better Than They?

PASSAGE

The Lord said to me
in the days of King Josiah:
"Have you seen what she did,
that faithless one, Israel, how
she went up on every high hill
and under every green tree, and
there played the whore? And I
thought, 'After she has done all
this she will return to me,' but
she did not return, and her
treacherous sister Judah saw it.

Jeremiah 3:6-7

What then?
Are we Jews any better
off? No, not at all. For we
have already charged that
all, both Jews and Greeks,
are under sin, as it is
written: 'None is
righteous, no, not one;'

Romans 3:9-10

ADORATION

Like a loving husband, God's lovingkindness is broad and inexhaustible. God's love was often unreciprocated by the Israelites who were unfaithful and they frequently turn aside to false gods. But the love God shows keeps no account of wrong, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Thank the Lord Jesus for His great love for us!



Day 15 - Are We Better Than They?

MEDITATION

You've seen it on television -- the dramatic moment when a returning husband catches his wife cheating on him. The bedroom door bursts open and the husband screams at his adulterous wife and her secret lover, "YOU UNFAITHFUL WOMAN!" Israel's relationship with God can be illustrated in the same way. God continued to show steadfast love to Israel as a faithful husband. But Israel was unfaithful to God and repaid His faithfulness with whoring. These are disgusting pictures of Israel's sin and idolatry.

We often marvel at the mistakes of Israel in the Old Testament accounts – how could they continue to reject God in light of all the miracles and provision? The Red Sea? The Ten Commandments? But if we are honest, we are no better than they. Paul reminds us in Romans 3:9-10 that we are all sinners, all idolaters deep down in our hearts. Man's root problem of a sinful, idolatrous heart has not changed since our first parents disobeyed God. We are just as guilty as the Israelites of whoring and giving up our hearts to more money and power, shameful lust, obsessions with family, worldliness, prideful work achievements, boasting about our academic achievements instead of God.



Do we desire
anything more
than God?



God promises a new covenant (Jer 31:31)

Day 15 - Are We Better Than They?



Repent of your idols and turn to God. Ask Him to help you make Him your heart's single greatest desire.

PRAYER

O God of mercy and grace, You have delivered me out from my sin and given me everything in Christ. But in my Christian walk, I often turn to lesser loves and empty idols. Grant me grace to cast away my idols and resist temptation. Turn my eyes upon Jesus. Let me look full in His wonderful face and let the things of the world grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace⁶. Keep me secure in Your steadfast love for me, Father God. In Christ's most precious name I pray, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Christians who might be still be living in unrepentant sin

The congregation of GBC to guard their hearts against thinking we are immune to idolatry and sin. Pray that we will never grow complacent as a church

The missions efforts of GBC in neighbouring countries to Thailand, Cambodia, China, etc



Day 16 - The New Covenant Promise

Can you hear God's resolve to bring His people back to Him through these verses? Look at all the times He says "I will" and lists out what He will do for the house of Israel and Judah. God is so faithful and determined to bring His unfaithful people back to Him. Praise God for His steadfast love and covenantal faithfulness to covenant-breakers.

AMAZING GRACE (JOHN NEWTON, 1779)

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.



Day 16 - The New Covenant Promise

PASSAGE

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbour and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Ezekiel 36:25-27



Day 16 - The New Covenant Promise

MEDITATION

When the first iPhone and iPad were released, the media was buzzing with reports about new gadgets. But over the years, each "new" release seems less and less revolutionary. Newness doesn't always excite us as it should. But in these verses, God wasn't just promising an improved version of Israel here. No, God was making a new covenant promise for a new Israel. He promised a complete overhaul of their dead, cold hearts of stone with living, beating hearts of flesh. God promised to give them new spiritual life through new birth. Their new hearts would have God's law written on them and they would have a new Spirit which would cause them to obey Him.

Years later, Jesus told Nicodemus that one had to be born again to enter the kingdom of God (Jn 3:3). This new birth and new Spirit-filled life was only possible through faith in Jesus Christ (Jn 3:14) – when we trust Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. Today, if we find in ourselves even the faintest desire to long for and obey God, we can point to the new hearts and new desires we have through Christ. We're being made new from the inside out!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does it mean that God has made a new covenant with us through Jesus Christ? What does this promise mean for us?

How can we continue to live Spirit-filled obedient lives? Ask God for help in a specific area of life.

Can you see areas of each other's spiritual life where God is working to make you new? Take time to point out the obedience and faith shown by another person and encourage one another by giving thanks for that spiritual fruit.



Day 16 - The New Covenant Promise

PRAYER

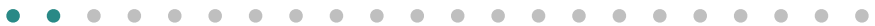
O Lord, You are a God who makes promises and fulfills them. Like Israel, we are often faithless and turn away from You. We have hearts of stone, and You see us as we truly are. Thank You for not turning away but instead, forgiving our sins in through Christ and replacing our hearts with hearts of flesh! How we need new hearts! Guide us in Your truth through by Your Spirit, that we might obey You and live new lives of obedience. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Friends that have yet to know the Lord, that they too, will one day receive the new birth and new life

Our missionaries who go out to bring the news of new birth to the nations, that they will also continue to live Spirit-guided lives

The missions ministry of GBC, that we would do the work of the Great Commission well



Day 17 - The Promised Saviour Appears: Jesus Christ

PASSAGE

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins

Matthew 1:21

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

ADORATION

Immanuel means 'God with us'.

That the eternal Son of God would be born as a human baby and come to us is one of the greatest mysteries in all the universe. His name tells us that "he will save his people from their sins." He will also be our Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!



MEDITATION

Christ's virgin birth is a miraculous work, something since unrepeatable. Only Almighty God could do something as wondrous as that. In that birth, God Himself drew near, came to us, and lived amongst us. While all the religions of the world talk about how we get to God, the Bible says God came down to be with us. Knowing that God's Son came into the world to be with us and rescue us from eternal condemnation and hell should bring us to our knees in humble gratitude.

What else do we know about Him? In Isaiah, we are told that God sent us a Wonderful Counsellor who leads us in our daily walk, the Mighty God who does battle for us, an Everlasting Father who loves us, and the Prince of Peace who gives us rest even from our troubles. Give thanks for Jesus Christ!



What have you done
with Jesus Christ,
God's greatest gift?
Reflect on your
relationship with Him.



Day 17 - The Promised Saviour Appears: Jesus Christ



Are there opportunities today where we can share this good news with others? Like a good meal, or a great experience, we should talk about this with excitement. Pray for those opportunities today.

PRAYER

Our great and gracious God, we thank You for Your plan of salvation and for the appearing of our Saviour. Help me meditate on His coming as a babe in Bethlehem, and Your plan and purpose behind it all. Give me gratitude and overwhelm me with the joy of Your salvation so that I will not hesitate to share it with others. Help me to be bold to seize opportunities in evangelism, and use me as an instrument to share the gospel. I ask this in faith and through our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

PRAY FOR

GBC to adore Jesus Christ in a fresh way

Someone you're inviting to attend the Reformation concert to be encouraged by the story of Jesus from all of Scripture.

Non-believers who have yet to come to know Jesus Christ



Day 18 - Knowing God

PASSAGE

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

John 14:8-11

This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

ADORATION

God is so gracious to let us know and understand Him in Christ Jesus. There is no way that we, as finite humans and sinful people, would be able to know God unless He first reveals Himself to us. Give praise to God for sending His Son to dwell among us so that we may know God and have fellowship with Him.



Jesus born in Bethlehem (Matt 2:1)

Day 18 - Knowing God

MEDITATION

What is the greatest thing we should strive for in life? It is to know God. In Jeremiah 9, the Israelites had forsaken God and were boasting and putting their trust in their wisdom, strength and riches. Speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord told them about the importance of knowing Him, and that if anything, they should be boasting about their knowledge and understanding of God. In this passage He has also reveals Himself as One who is kind, just and righteous.

Jesus made it possible for us to know God personally, not just in abstract attributes. In Jesus we see God – who yearns for His people so passionately that He lays down His life for His His people and enables them to have an intimate relationship with Him. In Jesus, we have direct access to the Father through prayer when we ask in Jesus' name. Indeed, what a wonderful privilege we have to be able to have a relationship with the Triune God!

Jesus also says that because He knows God, His actions show it (Jn 14:10-11). If we know God, our actions will show it too (1 Jn 4:20-21).



Do you delight in the
knowledge and
understanding of God?



Day 18 - Knowing God



Does your life - your words and actions - show that you know Christ? Let us show others what it means to know Christ and glorify God the Father.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for revealing to us who You are through Your Son Jesus Christ. Without Your intervention, we would be eternally lost and condemned. Thank You for seeking us and leading us into a relationship with You. Help me grow in my knowledge of You through Your Word and help me bear fruit so that my actions and words bear witness to Christ for Your glory. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Your care group or Bible study to be a place where you can know God more

The children and youth of GBC to grow up to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord through Sunday School

The discipleship efforts at GBC to help members grow in knowing God as disciples of Christ



Day 19 - He Did It For Us

PASSAGE

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17-20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

ADORATION

What good news we have -- that Christ lived for us! Jesus not only died the death we should have died, He also lived the life we should have lived. He is the perfect model for how we should think and behave. Praise God who desires for every aspect of our lives to be marked by the ministry of Jesus!



Day 19 - He Did It For Us

MEDITATION

Ambassadors face unusual and sometimes impossible challenges. They have to engage with the culture of the society they reside in. But they have to do this while representing and conveying the purposes of the ones who sent them. In order to carry out their role well, they must know their masters intimately. Similarly, Christians live and work among non-believers. How can we be effective ambassadors of the gospel to those who do not know Christ? We can do so by remembering that Christ lived and died for our sake.

Matthew 5 reminds that Jesus Christ lived the law perfectly. He obeyed every bit of it for us precisely because we were not able to. 2 Corinthians 5 tells us that Jesus took our sin and rebellion upon himself at the cross, became sin, and transferred His righteousness to us. Jesus' complete obedience to the Father and perfect fulfilment of the Old Testament law should give us great confidence because we have received Christ's status in full. He did it all for us!



Are you still trying to please God on your own? How does Jesus' obedience set us free from that heavy burden?



Day 19 - He Did It For Us



Are you joyfully pointing others to Jesus as His ambassador? What would like to live as Christ's ambassadors in the world?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give us increased appetite for what pleases You, and growing distaste for that which displeases You. Jesus knew this perfectly and lived in perfect righteousness. Change our perspectives so that we are less superficial, and help us be honest with You about our daily struggles with sin. Soften our hearts to see that we need You. Remind us of the great exchange of Christ's righteousness for our sin, and how this gives us a new identity. Remind us, even though we keep forgetting, that we have Your forgiveness and approval. This we pray in the name of Christ Your Son, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Protection against being 21st century Pharisees who are hypocritical, judgmental and legalistic

GBC members to be effective ambassadors for Christ in the world

The worship ministry at GBC to be effective each week leading in worship and song



Day 20 - In My Place Condemned He Stood

PASSAGE

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:7-10

ADORATION

It was in our place and for our sins that Christ died on the cross. According to His perfect plan, God provided the way for us to be redeemed from and forgiven of our sins through the blood sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ on the cross. All this God chose to do according to His matchless and infinite grace, out of His sovereign design and not our own. He did for you and me what He chose to do so that we may be saved. Praise the Lord for His grace and mercy!



Day 20 - In My Place Condemned He Stood

MEDITATION

We often take for granted what God blesses us with. It is almost like we feel entitled because we are His children and He is our heavenly Father. But if we stop long enough to meditate upon Ephesians 1, it becomes clear that we are not entitled to anything but receive everything worth receiving out of God's free grace.

It is out of His grace that God has chosen to save us from our helpless sinful state, not because of what we have done, but through the death of His Son on the cross. Redemption is all of God's doing and none of ours. Let us give thanks for our Saviour: "Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned He stood. Sealed my pardon with His blood, hallelujah! What a Saviour!?"



Are you still trying to get on the "good side of God" through your own efforts and merit – thinking that you can earn enough points to be saved from the penalty for your sins? Stop! Humbly thank God for His grace to you.



Day 20 - In My Place Condemned He Stood



Are you feeling disappointed that God has not answered your prayers in the way that you think He should? Trust His plans for your life. He has already demonstrated the depth, width, and breadth of His love and wisdom in planning and achieving your salvation. As we trust in God for salvation, surely we can trust Him for everything else.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, You have done so much for me by providing salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We know that His work on the cross, not my inadequate works, is what makes salvation possible. Forgive us me taking salvation for granted. Restore to me the joy of our salvation and revive my hearty to the priceless salvation I have in Christ. Help me renew my commitment to you daily. May You find me faithful in all the issues of life, great and small.. I know that You are faithful, now let me be found faithful to You as well. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Your care group members to be awakened to the priceless value of our salvation

The preaching ministry at GBC to always proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for the good of sinners

A non-Christian friend you know who desperately needs the gospel of Jesus



Day 21 - Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

PASSAGE

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

ADORATION

The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and raised to life on the third day. God is so gracious to give us this wonderful hope -- the Father planned it in eternity past, the Son accomplished it on the cross and the Spirit applies it to us by faith. This is good news, not because we work to achieve it, but because it has been done for us and we receive it by faith. Oh how wonderful is God's love for us!



Day 21 - Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

MEDITATION

We often drift when we lose our focus. Just think of all the times you've spaced out during a meeting or lecture. Christians often forget what our focus is and lose sight of the main thing: the gospel of Jesus Christ. Scriptures tell us that the gospel of Jesus Christ is of "first importance" (1 Cor 15:3). What does this mean? It's not first in chronology, it's first in priority. The gospel should be the focus and the foundation of all we do.

How then do we keep the main thing the main thing? How do we keep the gospel front and centre? We can do that by boasting in the cross of Jesus Christ, as Paul does (Gal 6:14). We boast in the gospel and Jesus' saving work for us on the cross when we exult in the gospel, and enjoy what it means deeply.

We cultivate this enjoyment in the gospel by daily reminding ourselves of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ -- what Jerry Bridges calls preaching the gospel to ourselves every day. Regularly confessing our own personal sin and remembering who Jesus our Saviour is, so that it affects our hearts daily is the believer's regular habit. The songs we sing in church which emphasise the gospel help us to stay focused too. When we boast in the cross of Christ, we honour Christ's death and bring praise and glory to God our Saviour.



Are you boasting in anything else other than the cross?



Day 21 - Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing



Write a list of the spiritual blessing that come to us through the gospel, and give thanks for each one.

PRAYER

God of all grace, we thank You for what You have done through Jesus Christ for us. We thank You for the cross of Christ which saves us. Help us remember the gospel daily and live lives that exalt Christ. May GBC always keep the main thing the main thing. We pray this in Jesus' name and for the glory of His name. Amen.

PRAY FOR

The churches of Singapore to keep the main thing the main thing

Believers who may have drifted from the gospel. Pray for their repentance, and that they will experience the good news in a fresh way

GBC that we will keep the cross front and centre in our teaching and preaching ministries.



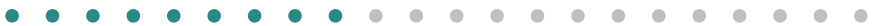
PASSAGE

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

ADORATION

Christ didn't just die – He rose again, defeating death once and for all. God assures us that in and through Christ He will make all things new and give us resurrection life – this is the great hope the Christian has. Praise the resurrected Jesus for our living hope!



Jesus rises from the dead and appears to many (1 Cor 15:4-5)

MEDITATION

We don't have to look very far to realise that we live in a sinful dying world – there have been far too many acts of cruelty and terror in the last year alone. We cannot read the news and not weep. While it might be easier to ignore these things and live our lives, we cannot – indeed, we must not. We see the events happening, and as Christians we know why they happen. Every single aspect of brokenness can be traced back to sin and the the fall of Man in the garden, and we know that left to ourselves, nothing we can do to fix broken, corrupt hearts.

As children of Adam, each of us has a sin nature and our flesh suffers the effects of the fall. How great a hope then, that if because of Adam's original sin we will surely die, then how much more will Christ's salvation, the second Adam, guarantee our resurrection! In Christ "all [shall] be made alive", and that even death, the last enemy will be destroyed. Revelation 21:4-5 tells us that God "will wipe away every tear... and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore", and that He will "[make] all things new".

Resurrection hope is only accessible to us because Jesus lives today! Because there is an empty tomb in Jerusalem, there is wonderful resurrection hope for us in Christ. In fact, there is hope for all the world in the risen Christ!



What does it mean that Jesus is "the firstfruits" of our resurrection hope? Think about what it means that Jesus' resurrection guarantees our own too.



Day 22 - Resurrection Hope: Making All Things New



If death, the last enemy is defeated, what does that mean for your struggles today?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, we thank You for the hope that You have given us. Our resurrection hope will stand the test of time, and lifts our eyes beyond the grave. We look forward to the day when all sufferings cease and sorrows die, and every single one of our longings will be satisfied. Let us look forward to the unspeakable joy that will flood our souls, for only then, will we truly be home⁸. Help us hold fast to our hope with faith that only You can sustain, O Lord. All this we pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Christians all over the world, that we will be reminded of hope amid the chaos and sin in our world

GBC that a renewed understanding of our resurrection hope will humble and encourage us so that we change the way we live

Christians in government and politics, that they will govern and lead Singapore well for the good of all



After appearing, Jesus teaches His disciples (Lk 24:27)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ loves us so much. This passage talks in a very special way about how He "chosen us in him before the foundation of the world" and how He "predestined us for adoption", all "according to the purpose of His will". What does it mean to be loved before time began, from eternity past? God's love is older than you, greater than your faults and failings, stronger than your sinful straying, and truer than your broken promises. Nothing you could could earn His love, or lose His love.

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US (STUART TOWNEND, 1995)

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that left Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom



PASSAGE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he blessed us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:3-6

MEDITATION

In eternity past before we were born, God set His love on us. In the gift of His righteous Son, His innocent blood washes the guilty clean. Yesterday, we read of the resurrection hope Jesus achieved for us -- making us new and freeing us from sin to be holy. Ephesians 1 also tells us that God has made it possible for us to live holy and blameless lives. Because of Jesus, being blameless means we're no longer guilty because we have been justified. In this new identity, we live for the praise of God's glorious grace.

Not only have we been made holy and blameless, Ephesians tells us that we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places! Imagine that -- every spiritual blessing is ours! Being adopted as God's very own children come with tremendous blessings. Can you imagine what it is like to be a son of God? We have privilege of calling God "Father". As sons, we inherit all that belongs to the family -- all through the work of Jesus Christ. The words of John Newton are true for us: "thou art coming to a King, large petitions with Thee bring for His love and pow'r are such, none could ever ask too much".



Day 23 - The Gospel Explained: What Did Jesus Accomplish?

Do you often feel that you being a Christian comes with no joy or blessing? List the blessings of being in Christ found in Ephesians 1.

What do you think it means to be God's adopted child with an inheritance? Give thanks for our Father's love.

Encourage one another by reminding each other of how God has shown us examples of His love in the life of your family and friends.



PRAYER

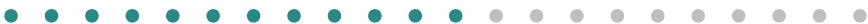
Father, thank You for Your great love for us. While I was still a sinner, You sent Your only Son Jesus Christ to die for me. By His death and resurrection, I am adopted as Your son and You are my Father. Father, I am sorry for the many times I have sinned in thought, word and deed. Please forgive me. I thank You for the assurance that comes through Jesus and His finished work. Holy Spirit, please work in me and make me holy and blameless before you to the praise of Your glorious grace. I pray this in the name of Jesus, my Lord and Saviour, Amen.

PRAY FOR

The leaders of the church to have wisdom in their ministry and feeding of the flock

Struggling Christians who feel that there is no joy in their walk with God, that they will see the spiritual blessings that are ours in Christ

The church rebuilding team that they will be sustained in their ministry



PASSAGE

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

ADORATION

Our God makes all things new. While it may feel like there are many traces of an old life behind you, remember who you are: in Christ we who were spiritually dead are now alive. Give thanks for this new life in God who redeems, resurrects and renews.



Day 24 - Remember Your Identity: Who am I in Christ?

MEDITATION

Who are you? The Bible tells us that for Christians, your old self has gone, and your new identity is Christ is here! It may be that you don't feel very new. But this is the truth Scripture proclaims - you are a new creation in Christ.

But this applies not just to the individual. Look at how Paul speaks in 2 Corinthians. We ought not to consider each other in the old way either! We should look at community through the eyes of this new identity and not using worldly comparisons. Paul explains to the Corinthians that his 'new creation' identity means we love each other, compelled by the love of Christ. He encourages us to live out Christ's love as those who have been made new.



Have you forgotten your identity as a new creation, free from the old life of sin? Rejoice that God has made us new from the inside out.



Saul is converted, he becomes the apostle Paul (Acts 9:15)

Day 24 - Remember Your Identity: Who am I in Christ?



How should being new creations lead us to live out Christ's love amongst each other? Are we still remembering old faults and mistakes? What would it look like if we saw each other as new creations in Christ?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we often forget that in Christ we are new creations. Help us to remember who we are. O Lord, overwhelm us with Your love so that it compels and controls us. We thank You for this great love which Jesus showed when He went to the cross. Spirit, guide us and mould us to be more Christ-like in the way we view ourselves and others. Amen.

PRAY FOR

A deeper understanding of our new identity in Christ and freedom from past guilt, shame and fear

Forgiveness and grace to be shown amongst the members in GBC

The women's ministry of GBC to be effective in encouraging women to live for Jesus



Day 25 - Union with Christ Jesus

PASSAGE

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

ADORATION

The Son of God loved us and gave Himself for us. A song we sing in church goes, "deeper than the rolling sea, higher than the mountain peaks, stronger than the rushing wind, shattering the pow'r of sin, Your love is all I need!"⁹ Think hard on what it means to be loved like this.



Saul is converted, he becomes the apostle Paul (Acts 9:15)

Day 25 - Union with Christ Jesus

MEDITATION

Christians are people who believe impossible things. Paul's words here stem from the impossible sentence "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me".

In verse 19 Paul says, "For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God." He describes how his former life of righteousness through obedience to the law is over. Instead, now something wonderful has taken place. Just as Christ died and was resurrected, so our former life has died and Jesus lives in us now in this new life. By His death and resurrection, we have been joined to Christ in such a way that His righteousness is ours and can never be taken away. Elsewhere, Paul writes "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." (Rom 6:11).

Is it really possible that now Christ lives in me? The will of another struggles against mine for righteousness and holiness? Someone who helps me trust when I can't trust on my own, gives me strength when I am weak, courage when afraid, joy when I am miserable, faith when I am doubting, love when I am selfish, resolve when I am tempted and hope when I am despairing? To be united to Jesus Christ means now, the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me, lives in me and by faith, I trust in Him.



What does it mean that are united to Christ? What is God empowering you to do?



Day 25 - Union with Christ Jesus



If we are united to Christ, what must we stop doing?

PRAYER

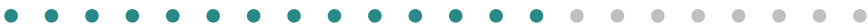
Our heavenly Father, help us live the life of Christ You have called us to. We have been united to Christ in death and resurrection so that His righteousness is mine, and I have power and resources I did not have before! Help me die to sin and live to righteousness because of the One who loved me and gave Himself for me. Help me live for Him, O Lord, and no one else. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Our church that we will will crucify our old lives and live new ones given to us in Christ

The young adults ministry to university students and NSFs, that they will disciple effectively and bear much fruit amongst the young people

GBC to bear witness to others by loving them like Jesus does



The apostles write epistles to churches (Col 4:16)

PASSAGE

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:1-5

ADORATION

The risen and ascended Christ is at God's right hand right now. This means that the Lord Jesus has all power and authority and gloriously reigns from heaven above. He continues to speak to God on our behalf for our good, and our souls are securely hidden in Him. He is our life now. What a wonderful thought, and let us look forward to this Christ's second coming when we will also appear with him in glory!



Day 26 - The New Testament Life

MEDITATION

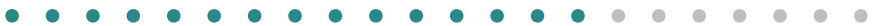
The New Testament life is about holy living, since we have been joined to a holy Saviour. Paul stresses that our motivation for holy living is not fear of punishment but heavenly-minded hope for those who have been united with Christ. He tells us to "seek the things that are above" and that "our life is hidden with Christ in God". We are forgiven and freed from sin, utterly loved by God. Don't let that little phrase "Christ who is our life" pass you by. To the Christian, we must realise that Jesus is our everything.

Because of that, we are to put to death anything in our lives that is idolatry, or that which competes with Him for our hearts. He warns us against sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness – all of it must die. The image Paul uses here is not a casual or accidental one, it is a determined, intentional, killing of sin that he talks about - "putting [sin] to death". And Paul promises that Jesus, our life, will appear again.



Heavenly-minded hope can motivate us towards holiness. What is God saying to you today?

What does it mean that Jesus is our life? Think over what it cost Jesus to make you His own.



PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ. I have no higher joy than to be called His own. Hallelujah, all I have is Christ! Jesus alone is my life. Forgive me for my sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness. Each of these is damning. Yet through Jesus, You hold out forgiveness and hope. Grant me utter reliance on You for all of life, its joy and meaning. Help me so that in everything I do and say, Your name might be glorified, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Our church, that we will be receptive to God's Word today and live New Testament lives of personal holiness

The ministry of the Singapore Baptist Convention, that it will rally members effectively to do the work of the Great Commission

Protection against idolatry and every kind of sin



Day 27 - Every Good and Perfect Gift

PASSAGE

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

James 1:16-18

ADORATION

Every Sunday, we sing "praise God from whom all blessings flow" in the doxology. God our Father is the great Giver, the source of all our blessing. In His kindness He has given us everything to enjoy. For everything that has brought you joy, give thanks to God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift.



The apostles are all martyred except John (Acts 12:1-2)

Day 27 - Every Good and Perfect Gift

MEDITATION

Thanksgiving and gratefulness are traits that mark the Christian life. But Christian thanksgiving is not about politeness or practicing good manners. Instead it comes from understanding who God is. This passage in James reminds us that there is to be no doubt of God's good character. He is the "Father of lights", unchanging and constant in His goodness, generosity and kindness. All our good gifts come from God! Perhaps best of all, we know the gift of new birth and salvation given to His people, "a kind of firstfruits" which is the church. How did this happen? God the generous Giver, who gives life, health, friendship, food and other good gifts has also given "the word of truth" which saved us -- the gift of the gospel.



Count your blessings,
name them one by one.
Count your many
blessings, see what
God has done!



Day 27 - Every Good and Perfect Gift



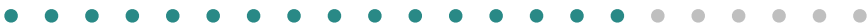
Are you growing in gratefulness as a Christian? Consider how gratefulness helps protect us from bitterness, self-pity, resentment and growing cold in our walk with God.

PRAYER

Dear God, we often forget to give You thanks for all You give us. Even so, we are reminded that You, the perfect Giver, continue to fill our lives with blessings. We are reminded that though we live in a darkened world, You are the source of eternal light. You have brought us forth by the word of truth that we might be born again by Your Son. O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Your praise. All these things we pray in Christ's name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

Your care group members to grow in thanksgiving and gratefulness	The church's fundraising effort, that we will see what God is calling us to do together as a church	Church leaders to steward the gifts God has given us well for the kingdom
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Day 28 - The Family of God

PASSAGE

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

ADORATION

There is one Lord, one God and Father of all, and one Spirit. He has called us into the one body to be His people. By nature, we were children of wrath (Eph 2:3) but through Christ, God has made us alive and made us members of the same body (1 Cor 12:12), the church. Let us, the church, worship Him in reverence.



Day 28 - The Family of God

MEDITATION

Today's Reformation concert brings a diverse group of people from our church together to hold a fundraising concert for the new church building. It is a great testimony that in unity, such a diverse group of people would work together for something such as this. Ephesians 4 gives us an idea why people who are so different live, serve, and worship together. This is because of the one God we all share. He is our Father, and today, we are reminded that we come together because our lives are all about Him. While there will always be differences in the church, what's far more important is what we have in common.



Have you given thanks to God for GBC as your family? Ask God to give you more love for others in the church.



Day 28 - The Family of God



Look at all the "ones" in Ephesians 4. What gives us grounds for unity? What do we have in common?

PRAYER

Dear Father, we confess to You today that we have individualistic, selfish hearts. We love ourselves more than anything else. But You have called us to be a family, not because of common interests this world can understand or explain, but because of You, our one God and Father. So we pray for You to grant us love for Christ and Christ's people, that we may serve You together as one body. In Christ's name, Amen.

PRAY FOR

God to use the Reformation concert to build the faith of participants

All who come, that they will hear the message of the gospel

God to be glorified in our unity most of all



PASSAGE

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:14-17

ADORATION

Can you hear the repetition? "And be thankful"; "sing...with thankfulness in your hearts to God"; and "giving thanks to God the Father through Him". In just four verses, Paul reminds us three times to be thankful. Let us not take lightly the importance of singing thanks to God for His precious gifts to us: the peace of Christ, His word, and Christ's sacrifice which bridges a gap between sinful man and holy God we could never cross ourselves. Worship Him in thankfulness today!



MEDITATION

Many of us even participate in worship services on a weekly basis. However, have we paused to consider *why* we worship?

In Colossians 3:15, Paul tells us we have been "called in one body" and now enjoy new lives in Christ, and that the peace of Christ now rules in our hearts, which must be the first reason for our worship. Being "called in one body", also means joining together with other saints in the church, so also we worship corporately. Lastly, he teaches us that we worship *because we are thankful*. Worship is not empty sentiment, or a habit forged by years of church attendance. Real worship springs forth from deep wells of thankfulness. The sacrificial love Christ showed us on the cross is the source of that thankfulness.

So the focus of worship is not on melody, orchestration or even lyrics. The focus of worship is instead on *the One* who receives our praise. Worship should be centred not on the act itself, but on *the One to whom* the worship is directed. Today, as we worship God in song, may our hearts overflow with gratefulness to the God who saves. Let us remember the cost of our salvation – the stripes he bore on our behalf, the shame he endured, and the tender love of the Good Shepherd.



Have you ever lost sight of the One we worship? Make Him your heart's focus today.





Worship God for the many good gifts He has given from above. Most importantly, thank Him for the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise You for who You are – a holy, righteous God who loves us in spite of our sin. Thank you for Your sovereign hand over all of Bible history, and Your tender, personal love for each one of us. Forgive us when our worship is lukewarm, and when we diminish the glory of who You are. Help us to know you better, and to cling to the precious gospel truths of Jesus' death and resurrection. Let not our hearts wander, but draw us close to You through Your word and by Your Spirit. Give us worshipful hearts, that You may be glorified in our words and deeds. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Our second night of the Reformation concert, that it will bring glory to God and encouragement to the congregation

GBC to be a God-centred church, thankful and worshipful

Pastor Ian and Pastor Arnold as they make transitions of leadership, that they will have wisdom, grace and effectiveness in ministry



Day 30 - War of Two Kingdoms

FAMILY WORSHIP

Just as we live in a world that the devil "has come down to in great wrath", we know with certainty that the church has conquered the devil "by the blood of the Lamb". Rejoice, because we will no longer be opposed by the Accuser day and night – the victory of Christ has been achieved at the cross, and King Jesus reigns over all!

O CHURCH ARISE (KEITH GETTY AND STUART TOWNEND, 2005)

O Church arise and put your armour
on

Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they
are strong

In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth

We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle-cry is
Love

Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive
soul

But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the
wounded whole

We will fight with faith and valour
When faced with trials on every side

We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for
which He died

An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and
mercy meet

As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath
His feet

For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the
day

Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every
stride

Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win
the prize

Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for
the day

When with Christ we stand in glory



Day 30 - War of Two Kingdoms

PASSAGE

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!

Revelation 12:9-12

MEDITATION

The passage is clear on two things – that there is a spiritual war going on in the world between the family of God, and the enemies of God, and that the family of God has triumphed through Christ. We are told that the church conquers the enemy by the blood of the Lamb -- finished victory of Jesus at the cross. While this is worthy of rejoicing, we can grow complacent – if the outcome is secure, why do I need to do anything? On one hand, not doing anything in itself is doing something. On the other, God specifically tells us that there is no room for laziness – we are to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" (Phi 2:12). What then is our role in this spiritual war of two kingdoms?



Day 30 - War of Two Kingdoms

MEDITATION

The hymn, 'O Church Arise' offers an excellent response. We are:

1. "an army bold whose battle cry is 'Love!'" As we have received this good news of love, so too, should we tell others about God's love.
2. "call[ed] to war to love the captive soul but to rage against the captor." Yes, we fight by loving the souls taken captive by sin, and rage against the devil by sharing the gospel. In the war against the devil and his army, will you fight in faith and valour for the King?
3. "know[ing that] the outcome is secure and Christ will have the prize for which He died -- an inheritance of nations." Trials in this life ought not surprise us. Cling confidently to the truth that the battle has been fought and won, and we will soon stand with Christ in glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What evidence is there today that there is a spiritual war of two kingdoms in the world? Give some examples.

How do we use the teaching above from 'O Church Arise' as our strategy for spiritual war?

How can we encourage one another and keep each other striving side by side for Christ's kingdom? Think of how to encourage one another.



Day 30 - War of Two Kingdoms

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we know that through the blood of Christ, the devil has been conquered and our salvation is secure. But for this life of spiritual war, give us shield of faith and belt of truth to stand against his lies; make us bold to reach the lost; when we face trial and tribulation, remind that that the outcome is secure. Put strength in our stride, give us grace for every hurdle so that we may run the race to win the prize of a servant good and faithful. We anticipate the Day when we will stand with Christ in all His glory. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

PRAY FOR

The church all over the world, that we might cling fast to this promise of victory in the face of setback

The gospel to advance all around the world and that God will be glorified

Our church leaders, that they will be led by God to make wise and effective decisions



Day 31 - The End of the Story

PASSAGE

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Revelation 21:3-7

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25



Day 31 - The End of the Story

ADORATION

God promises comfort and an end to pain, death, and mourning. But even more amazing, God Himself will dwell with man forever. Sin will no longer separate God from Man. God will make everything new. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is the spring of living water which satisfies our deepest thirst. He promises to be our God and us, His children. Praise God, now and forevermore!

MEDITATION

We all love happy endings. Children love fairy tales which end with "and they all lived happily ever after". But as we got older, we realised that life does not always work in this way. Life seems painful and hard all the way to the end. But what does God promise about the end? At the end of all things, there will be judgment. But for God's people, we will have a happy ending beyond all others. God who created us for Himself, promises that when all has been said and done, we will be brought home to live with Him forever. At last, we will have the "happy ending" we all long for.

But this end of the story marks the beginning of an eternity of a new story, where all things have been made new. In this new kingdom, King Jesus reigns and God Himself dwells with His people. Sin will no longer spoil the cosmic order and everything will be made right again. C S Lewis writes that we will "begin Chapter One of the Great Story... which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."



What is our final hope according to the Bible? Confess all the times when we've lived for fleeting and earthly pleasures.



Day 31 - The End of the Story



What is God saying to us today about our future hope? Ask God to give you new eyes to behold Him and His promises.

PRAYER

Our eternal God, You have promised to keep us from stumbling and to present us blameless before Your Son at the end of all things. We thank you for this promise because we know that our hearts are "prone to wander". We confess that we often chase after lesser hopes. Help us Lord to eagerly await that day, and to live in light of what is to come. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Members of GBC that we will wait eagerly and productively until our Lord returns

The salvation of non-Christians in order that they will enjoy the blessings of dwelling with God when He returns

The missionaries at GBC to be kept blameless and protected while out in the field

POSTLOGUE

W H A T ' S N E X T ?

Congratulations on completing 31 days of the prayer journal!

This is a milestone in the life of our church – reading the Scriptures and praying together for the entire month of October.

So what's next?

1

READ
SCRIPTURE

2

USE A
DEVOTIONAL

3

FIND OUT
MORE

4

JOIN A CARE
GROUP

1

READ SCRIPTURE

You could integrate the AMP (Adoration-Meditation-Prayer) approach to Scripture you're reading, for example, if you're using a Bible reading plan. Grab a notebook and journal – 10 to 20 minutes a day will do a world of good. If you're looking to start, the gospel of Mark is a great place to begin by focusing on Jesus.

2

USE A DEVOTIONAL

Devotional materials may help, and you could consider a simple one like the Songs of Jesus by Tim and Kathy Keller which provides short meditations through the Psalms. Other good devotions are Our Daily Bread, or My Utmost For His Highest.

3

FIND OUT MORE

If you have questions from over the course of this devotional, you might want meet your CG leader/pastor/elder to clarify. To understand more about the whole Bible story, Vaughan Roberts' God's Big Picture, is an excellent guide from Genesis to Revelation. Why not get together with a brother/sister in Christ and read Robert's book together? This is one of the best ways to get disciplined/ start discipling others by discussing a book and praying together. Sunday Discipleship Seminars are another excellent platform to understand more about the Bible.



JOIN A CARE GROUP

At GBC, care groups are very important for our life together. You could explore joining a group near your home, and study the Bible with others. You could contact Deacon Thian Chye or Pastor Oliver, who will put you in touch with one.

**Our prayer is that this journal will yield
spiritual fruit in the life of our church, to the
glory of Jesus Christ.**

REFERENCES

1. Prayer adapted from 'How Great Thou Art' by Carl Gustav Boberg.
2. "O Great God" by Bob Kauflin.
3. Adapted from "Speak O Lord" Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.
4. Prayer adapted from "Repentance Hymn" by Stuart Townend.
5. Adapted from "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" by Robert Robinson.
6. Adapted from "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" by Helen Lemmel.
7. From "Hallelujah, What a Saviour!" by Phillip P. Bliss.
8. Prayer adapted from "There is a Hope" by Stuart Townend.
9. From "My Redeemer's Love" by Sovereign Grace Music.



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