

FBC Wimberley

God Time Guide



Give
THANKS

Week 1- November 8th - November 13th

Grace In Forgiveness

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what “jumped out” at you while reading. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer response to what you have read.

There are only five days of reading provided. So, if you miss a day you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week, God still loves you!

Monday: 1 John 5:3-5

Tuesday: 1 Peter 2:21-24

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 1:9

Thursday: Ephesians 2:8-10

Friday: James 3:2

Diving Deeper

2 Corinthians 12:9 - But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

When we are surrounded by God's grace, we know that we are in His arms not because of anything we have done but simply because we are in His favor. Grace is God's unmerited favor and goodness towards us. A. W. Tozer put it this way, "Grace is the good pleasure of God that inclines Him to bestow benefits on the undeserving." Grace is dynamic and active as evidenced in God's plan of salvation, in His teaching through Jesus Christ, in the indwelling Spirit who gives us direction, and especially, in the life we live through Christ. It is God's grace that has set us free from sin as well as death. When Jesus said to Paul that "My grace is sufficient for you," He was letting Paul know that what He had to offer is all he would need in order to endure. It is grace that forms the foundation upon which we can overcome that which inflicts us, and although we pray to have it removed, His grace will sustain us and be of greater value than to answer our prayer and remove the affliction. Jesus is saying that He is there to support us, that His support will always be there, and that we should take solace in knowing that He will uphold us and never allow us to sink under the weight of heavy burdens. But while He grants us ever flowing grace, He also gives us His power that is made perfect in our weakness. We must become nothing so that Jesus can impart His strength in us. It is not given to those who feel that they are strong and who do not realize their need for divine help. No, it is only available to those who acknowledge their weakness and in so doing, depend totally on God. Like Paul, we are to become an empty vessel through which Christ can live to give us the amazing power and strength to fulfill God's will for us. When we are weak, then we can become strong. When we pray, we typically pray for strength, but we should pray in such a way that God can see that we are in such a weakened state that only through Jesus abiding in us can we be made strong. It is through our own weakness that Christ's divine power can be revealed, and by grace all of Jesus - His love, goodness, kindness, patience, and righteousness and so much more - are on display through us.

Spurgeon spoke of this grace in the nineteenth century when He wrote about the incoming tides of the Thames River that lifted the great river barges.

When the tide was out nothing could move those barges as they lay in the mud of the river's bottom.

A team of men could not move them. Machinery could never get them moved out to sea.

But then the tide would come, and soon they would be floating.

When the tide returned, even a child could move them by his hand.

Oh! For a floodtide of God's grace.

- 1) Do you fret and display hurt because of what others have said or done to you?**

- 2) Is there a time in your life that you remember when you allowed God's grace to help you overcome your anger and conflict with a relative or close friend?**

- 3) When you are hurting because of what someone said or did, do you let it fester or do you seek to resolve the situation quickly?**

- 4) Have you felt stuck at the bottom of a pit and just can't seem to get out? What steps can you take to get out? When we are weak, our best nature is not exhibited. Yet, God's grace delivers us. Let Jesus rescue you from the depths. Think about this statement and reflect on whether you fully grasp God's grace.**

