



LOVE GOD GREATLY JOURNAL

BEAUTIFULLY  
SURRENDERED

GOD'S HEART FOR HIS  
DAUGHTERS

*BEAUTIFULLY SURRENDERED: GOD'S HEART FOR HIS DAUGHTERS*

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WHEN WOMEN ARE  
EQUIPPED WITH THE  
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S  
TRUTH, THE WORLD  
IS TRANSFORMED ONE  
WOMAN AT A TIME.



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*You*

HAVE BEEN  
PRAYED FOR;  
IT IS NOT A  
COINCIDENCE  
YOU ARE  
PARTICIPATING  
IN THIS STUDY.



## WELCOME FRIEND!

**W**e are glad you have decided to join us in this Bible study! You have been prayed for; it is not a coincidence you are participating in this study.

Our prayer for you is simple: that you will grow closer to our Lord as you dig into His Word each and every day. Each day before you read the assigned passage, pray and ask God to help you understand it. Invite Him to speak to you through His Word. Then listen. Believe He will be faithful to speak to you, and be faithful to listen and obey.

Take time to read the verses over and over again. The Bible tells us that if we seek for wisdom like silver, and search for it like hidden treasure, then we will understand how to fear the Lord, and we will discover knowledge about God (Prov 2:4-5).

All of us here at Love God Greatly can't wait for you to get started, and we hope to see you at the finish line. Endure, persevere, press on; don't give up! Finish well what you are beginning today.

We will be here every step of the way, cheering for you! We are in this together. Be expectant that God has much in store for you in this study. Journey with us as we learn to love God greatly with our lives!

Love God Greatly exists to inspire, encourage, and equip women around the world to love God greatly with their lives.

INSPIRE women to make God's Word a priority in their daily lives through Bible study resources.

ENCOURAGE women in their walks with God through online community and personal accountability.

EQUIP women to grow in their faith so they can effectively reach others for Christ.

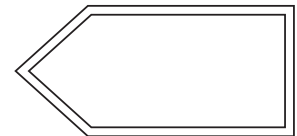
We start with a simple Bible reading plan, but it doesn't stop there. Some women gather in homes and churches locally, while others connect online with women across the globe, Whatever the method, we lovingly lock arms and unite for this purpose: to love God greatly with our lives.

At Love God Greatly, you'll find real, authentic women. You'll find women who desire less of each other, and a whole lot more of Jesus. Women who long to know God through His Word because we believe that truth transforms and sets us free. Women who are better together, saturated in God's Word and in community with one another.

Love God Greatly is committed to providing quality Bible study materials and believes finances should never get in the way of a woman being able to participate in one of our studies. All journals and are available to download for free from LoveGodGreatly.com.

Our journals and books are also available for sale on Amazon. Search for "Love God Greatly" to see all of our Bible study journals and books.

*YOU'LL FIND WOMEN WHO ARE  
IMPERFECT, YET FORGIVEN.*



Love God Greatly is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization. Funding for Love God Greatly comes through donations and proceeds from our online Bible study journals and books.

One-hundred percent of proceeds go directly back into supporting Love God Greatly and helping us inspire, encourage, and equip women all over the world with God's Word.

Arm-in-arm and hand-in-hand, let's do this together.

## OUR MISSION

### THE NEED

Billions of women around the world don't have access to God's Word in their native language. Those who do, don't have access to women's Bible studies designed and written with them in mind.

### THE MISSION

At Love God Greatly, we create Bible studies in 40+ languages. We equip missionaries, ministries, local churches, and women with God's Word at an unprecedented rate by allowing our journals to be downloaded from our international sites at no cost.

Through studying the Bible in their own language with like-minded communities, women are trained and equipped with God's Word.

We believe when women read and apply God's Word to their lives and embrace His unchanging love for them, the world is a better place. We know one woman in God's Word can change a family, a community, and a nation...one woman at a time.

### PARTNER WITH US

We would love for you to join us in our mission of giving women all over the world access to God's Word and quality Bible study resources! For any questions or for more information, email us or visit us online. We would love to hear from you!

[INFO@LOVEGODGREATLY.COM](mailto:INFO@LOVEGODGREATLY.COM)

[LOVEGODGREATLY.COM](http://LOVEGODGREATLY.COM)



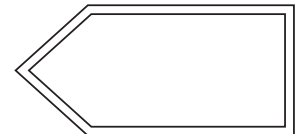
## SOAP

*Bible Study Method*

**A**t Love God Greatly, we believe that the Word of God is living and active. The words of Scripture are powerful and effective and relevant for life in all times and all cultures. In order to interpret the Bible correctly, we need an understanding of the context and culture of the original writings.

As we study the Bible, we use the SOAP Bible Study Method. The acronym stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. It's one thing simply to read Scripture. When you interact with it, intentionally slowing down to reflect, truths start jumping off the page. The SOAP Method allows us to dig deeper into Scripture and see more than we would if we simply read the verses. It allows us not only to be hearers of the Word, but doers as well (Jas 1:22).

*YOU WILL NEVER WASTE TIME IN GOD'S WORD.  
IT IS LIVING, POWERFUL, AND EFFECTIVE,  
AND HE SPEAKS TO US THROUGH IT.*



In this journal, we read a passage of Scripture and then apply the SOAP Method to specific verses. Using this method allows us to glean a greater understanding of Scripture, which allows us to apply it effectively to our lives.

The most important ingredients in the SOAP Method are your interaction with God's Word and your application of it to your life. Take time to study it carefully, discovering the truth of God's character and heart for the world.

# SOAP

Bible Study Method

## SOAP

WEEK 1 • MONDAY

SCRIPTURE / Write out the SOAP verses

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, "The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the (ruling authority) of his Christ, have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, the one who accuses them (day and night) before our God, has been thrown down." Revelation 12:10

But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

OBSERVATION / Write 3 - 4 observations

Loud voice, powerful, all knowing  
We are accused day and night, constant struggle  
The Lord will help, establish and guard me  
He's always there  
He's is constant, a protector in my life, guardian

### S STANDS FOR SCRIPTURE

*Physically write out the SOAP verses.*

*You'll be amazed at what God will reveal to you just by taking the time to slow down and write out what you are reading!*

### O STANDS FOR OBSERVATION

*What do you see in the verses that you're reading?*

*Who is the intended audience? Is there a repetition of words?*

*What words stand out to you?*

**A**  
**STANDS FOR**  
**APPLICATION**

*This is when God's Word becomes personal.*

*What is God saying to you today? How can you apply what you just read to your own personal life?*

*What changes do you need to make? Is there action you need to take?*

**APPLICATION / Write down 1 - 2 applications**

*Remind myself of God's strength is more powerful than anything*

*Memorize these verses and say them daily this week*

*Ask God to strengthen my faith in Him*

*Trust God that he will deliver me from evil*

*Pray for my brothers and sister's in Christ*

**PRAYER / Write out a prayer over what you learned**

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for being constant, faithful, and loving towards me and my life. Help me to further my trust and faith in you daily and through difficult times.*

*Help me to know you're always there by my side, guarding, and protecting me. Remind me of the suffering of others and to be able to help and encourage them in their growth.*

*I ask all these things in Jesus name.*

*Amen*

**P**  
**STANDS FOR PRAYER**

*Pray God's Word back to Him.*

*Spend time thanking Him.*

*If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it.*

*If He has revealed some sin that is in your life, confess.*

*And remember, He loves you dearly.*

LANGUAGE  
HIGHLIGHT

## TESTIMONY

*LGG Romanian Branch*

**M**y name is Sarah, and I serve Romanian women worldwide through translating Love God Greatly Bible studies. I had the privilege to grow up in a Christian family and saw my parents practice their faith. My sister had some major health problems when I was young, and I started to question my relationship with God. I did believe in God and that He could work in my life, but I realized that I only spent time with God so I could have an easy life. I learned that a relationship with God is not an “if, then” relationship.

This was the beginning of my struggle with grace. Because I was very diligent in spending time with God in prayer and reading my Bible, it was hard for me to accept that God’s love for me doesn’t change, regardless of what I do for Him. It took me years to know that time with God will not always look the same in every season of life.

Now I have found peace and my relationship with Jesus has a new meaning. I enjoy singing worship songs while doing the dishes, listening to sermons through tears while ironing, and listening to devotions as I get myself ready for work. That is why I love the SOAP method we use at Love God Greatly because I have learned how to gain insight from God’s Word no matter my background or understanding.

*IT TOOK ME YEARS TO KNOW THAT TIME WITH GOD WILL  
NOT ALWAYS LOOK THE SAME IN EVERY SEASON OF LIFE.*

When I moved to Austria, I found myself in a new season, unsure about how and where to serve God. I connected with Love God Greatly and found I could help translate these Bible studies into my own language of Romanian. I am so thankful for the way God has allowed me to serve Him no matter where I am. And I am so thankful for a wonderful team who works to share God’s Word with women all over the world in their own language.

*Sarah*

*LGG Romanian Branch*

LANGUAGE  
HIGHLIGHT

**GLOBAL OUTREACH**

*LGG Romanian Branch*

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD USE OUR LOVE  
GOD GREATLY BIBLE STUDIES IN ROMANIAN?

If so, make sure to tell them about all the amazing Bible study  
resources we provide to help equip them with God's Word!

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TO CONNECT WITH THIS BRANCH:

Facebook: Love God Greatly România  
Email: [dedicataluidumnezeu@yahoo.com](mailto:dedicataluidumnezeu@yahoo.com)  
Website: [lovegodgreatly.com/romanian](http://lovegodgreatly.com/romanian)

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HOW CAN YOU PRAY FOR THIS BRANCH?

Pray for more volunteers who have time to devote to developing the journals.  
Pray for a more interactive community with more engagement from members.

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WANT TO HELP?

[info@lovegodgreatly.com](mailto:info@lovegodgreatly.com)



## KNOW THESE TRUTHS

### *GOD LOVES YOU*

God's Word says, "For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

### *OUR SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD*

We are all sinners by nature and by choice, and because of this we are separated from God, who is holy. God's Word says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23).

### *JESUS DIED SO YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE*

The consequence of sin is death, but God's free gift of salvation is available to us. Jesus took the penalty for our sin when He died on the cross.

God's Word says, "For the payoff of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23); "But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).

### *JESUS LIVES!*

Death could not hold Him, and three days after His body was placed in the tomb Jesus rose again, defeating sin and death forever. He lives today in heaven and is preparing a place in eternity for all who believe in Him.

Jesus says, "There are many dwelling places in my Father's house. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going away to make ready a place for you. And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that where I am you may be too" (John 14:2-3).

### *KNOW YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN*

Accepting Jesus as your Savior is not about what you can do, but rather about having faith in what Jesus has already done. It takes recognizing that you are a sinner, believing that Jesus died for your sins, and asking for forgiveness by placing your full trust in Jesus' work on the cross on your behalf.

God's Word says, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation" (Rom 10:9–10).

*ACCEPT CHRIST'S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION*

Practically, what does that look like? With a sincere heart, you can pray a simple prayer like this:

Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I don't want to live another day without embracing the love and forgiveness that You have for me. I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I surrender all that I am and ask You to be Lord of my life. Help me to turn from my sin and follow You. Teach me what it means to walk in freedom as I live under Your grace, and help me to grow in Your ways as I seek to know You more. Amen.

*CONNECT AND GROW*

If you just prayed this prayer (or something similar in your own words) we'd love to connect with you!

You can email us at [info@lovegodgreatly.com](mailto:info@lovegodgreatly.com). We'd love to celebrate with you, pray with you, and help you connect to a local church. We are here to encourage you as you begin your new life as a child of God.

*Let's Begin*

**BEAUTIFULLY SURRENDERED**

*God's Heart for His Daughters*





## Introduction

Life can feel hard. If we are honest, we can look at our lives and wonder, *Is this really what God has planned for me? Am I really in His will? If so, why is my life so difficult? I thought once I became a Christian my life would be struggle-free. Why do my prayers seem to go unanswered? Why do I seem to walk through one trial and right into another one? Why is my life marked with brokenness and pain? Why can't my life be easy?*

We have all asked some form of these questions from time to time. We've all been sidelined by betrayal, heartbreak, and brokenness. We are daily reminded this world is not our home, and yet our hearts ache for what we don't have. We were made for so much more, and we long to experience heaven on earth. So when life is hard, when the answers to our prayers are a long time coming and when pain invades our lives, we struggle with what we thought our life would be like versus the reality of it.

We can find women with similar stories throughout the Bible. They each went through their own pain, doubt, and worry. Though their stories are each unique, their beautifully surrendered lives were marked with a mixture of hope and heartbreak. Not one of them had an easy life. Each one had to walk through pain. Each one had to trust God in the unknown. Each one had to live by faith and not by sight. Each one had to choose to believe in God's goodness in the midst of her unanswered prayers. Each one had to live in the tension of God's sovereignty and life's brokenness.

And that was God's will for their lives.

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." –Romans 12:12*

Their stories were different, but no matter what they went through, they never went through it alone. God was with them in every valley and every mountain top. He heard every prayer and felt their pain.

Were these women perfect? No, but each woman had one thing in common: a relationship with God.

And, if you have placed your faith in Christ, you do too.

Our lives may not be marked with ease, but make no mistake, they are marked. Marked with God's love. Marked with God's provision. Marked with God's anointing.

So, stand strong, my sweet sister, in your faith. Do not tremble even though the world shakes. God is with you. God is for you, and God has a greater purpose in the pain as you choose to beautifully surrender your life to His will. Like the women in the Bible who have gone before us, God is with us, and in Him we find our strength no matter what comes our way.

*"I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken." –Psalm 16:8 (ESV)*

Check  
it off

## READING PLAN

### WEEK 1: GOD'S LOVE FOR WOMEN: LOVED, SEEN, CHERISHED

*Monday—Eve: Women Are Needed*

Read: Genesis 2:18–24

SOAP: Genesis 2:18; Genesis 2:22–23

*Tuesday—Phoebe: Using Unique Gifts*

Read: Romans 16:1–2; 1 Corinthians 12:12–26

SOAP: 1 Corinthians 12:12

*Wednesday—All Are In Christ*

Read: Galatians 3:24–29

SOAP: Galatians 3:28

*Thursday—The Widow of Nain: Jesus' Care For Women*

Read: Luke 7:11–17

SOAP: Luke 7:13

*Friday—Even While Dying, Jesus  
Looked After His Mother*

Read: John 19:20–30

SOAP: John 19:26–27

### WEEK 2: WOMEN OF GREAT FAITH

*Monday—Elizabeth: Nothing is Impossible*

Read: Luke 1:5–25, 39–45

SOAP: Luke 1:45

*Tuesday—The Canaanite Woman: Great Faith*

Read: Matthew 15:21–28

SOAP: Matthew 15:28

*Wednesday—Rahab: Strong and Brave*

Read: Joshua 2; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:14–26

SOAP: Hebrews 11:31

*Thursday—Ruth: Your God and My God*

Read: Ruth 1:1–18

SOAP: Ruth 1:16

*Friday—The Bleeding Woman: Faith for Healing*

Read: Mark 5:25–34; Luke 8:40–48

SOAP: Mark 5:34

### WEEK 3: WOMEN OF PRAYER

*Monday—Hannah: Asking for the Impossible*

Read: 1 Samuel 1:1—2:11

SOAP: 1 Samuel 1:27–28

*Tuesday—Anna: Never Ceasing Prayer*

Read: Luke 2:36–40

SOAP: Luke 2:37–38

*Wednesday—Rachel: God Heard Her Cries*

Read: Genesis 29:31—30:24

SOAP: Genesis 30:22–24

*Thursday—Hagar: The God Who Sees*

Read: Genesis 16; 21:1–20

SOAP: Genesis 16:13

*Friday—The Samaritan Woman: Believing at the Well*

Read: John 4:1–30

SOAP: John 4:14–15

### WEEK 4: WOMEN OF SURRENDER AND SACRIFICE

*Monday—Mary: Mother of Jesus*

Read: Luke 1:26–38

SOAP: Luke 1:38

*Tuesday—Abigail: Humility and Courage*

Read: 1 Samuel 25

SOAP: 1 Samuel 25:23–24

*Wednesday—Esther: Faith in the Face of Death*

Read: Esther 4

SOAP: Esther 4:16

*Thursday—Moses' Mother: Into the River*

Read: Exodus 2:1–10

SOAP: Exodus 2:3

*Friday—The Poor Widow: Giving God Everything*

Read: Mark 12:41–44

SOAP: Mark 12:43–44

## WEEK 5: WOMEN OF JOY AND PRAISE

*Monday—Miriam: Sing to the Lord*

Read: Exodus 15:1–21

SOAP: Exodus 15:20–21

*Tuesday—Leah: Praise the Lord*

Read: Genesis 29:31–35; 30:9–21

SOAP: Genesis 29:35

*Wednesday—Women of Bethlehem:*

*Recognizing God's Hand*

Read: Ruth 4

SOAP: Ruth 4:14–15

*Thursday—Deborah: Praising God for Victory*

Read: Judges 4:1—5:9

SOAP: Judges 5:3, 9

*Friday—Mary of Bethany: At Jesus' Feet*

Read: Luke 10:38–42; John 11:1–44; 12:1–11

SOAP: John 12:3

## WEEK 6: WOMEN LEAVING A LEGACY

*Monday—Shiphrah and Puah: Saving Hebrew Boys*

Read: Exodus 1:1–21

SOAP: Exodus 1:17, 21

*Tuesday—Lydia: Planting a Church*

Read: Acts 16:11–15, 40

SOAP: Acts 16:15

*Wednesday—Mary Magdalene: The First Witness*

Read: John 20:1–18

SOAP: John 20:18

*Thursday—Lois and Eunice: Passing on the Faith*

Read: 2 Timothy 1:3–7

SOAP: 2 Timothy 1:5

*Friday—Woman of Noble Character: Fearing the Lord*

Read: Proverbs 31

SOAP: Proverbs 31:28–30

**YOUR GOALS**

*Write three goals you would like to focus on as you begin each day and dig into God's Word. Make sure you refer back to these goals throughout the next weeks to help you stay focused. You can do it!*

*ONE*

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*TWO*

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*THREE*

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*There is neither Jew  
nor Greek, there is  
neither slave nor  
free, there is neither  
male nor female—for  
all of you are one  
in Christ Jesus.*

*Galatians 3:28*



## WEEK 1

*Monday*

### READ

*Genesis 2:18–24*

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion for him who corresponds to him.” 19 The LORD God formed out of the ground every living animal of the field and every bird of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man named all the animals, the birds of the air, and the living creatures of the field, but for Adam no companion who corresponded to him was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was asleep, he took part of the man’s side and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the part he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, “This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife, and they become one family.







## WEEK 1

*Tuesday*

### READ

*Romans 16:1–2*

Now I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, 2 so that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and provide her with whatever help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many, including me.

*1 Corinthians 12:12–26*

For just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body—though many—are one body, so too is Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Whether Jews or Greeks or slaves or free, we were all made to drink of the one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not a single member, but many. 15 If the foot says, “Since I am not a hand, I am not part of the body,” it does not lose its membership in the body because of that. 16 And if the ear says, “Since I am not an eye, I am not part of the body,” it does not lose its membership in the body because of that. 17 If the whole body were an eye, what part would do the hearing? If the whole were an ear, what part would exercise the sense of smell? 18 But as a matter of fact, God has placed each of the members in the body just as he decided. 19 If they were all the same member, where would the body be? 20 So now there are many members, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,” nor in turn can the head say to the foot, “I do not need you.” 22 On the contrary, those members that seem to be weaker are essential, 23 and those members we consider less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our unpresentable members are clothed with dignity, 24 but our presentable members do not need this. Instead, God has blended together the body, giving greater honor to the lesser member, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but the members may have mutual concern for one another. 26 If one member suffers, everyone suffers with it. If a member is honored, all rejoice with it.





## WEEK 1

*Wednesday*

### READ

*Galatians 3:24–29*

Thus the law had become our guardian until Christ, so that we could be declared righteous by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. 26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female—for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to the promise.







## WEEK 1

*Thursday*

### READ

*Luke 7:11-17*

Soon afterward Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother (who was a widow), and a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, “Do not weep.” 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and those who carried it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” 15 So the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. 16 Fear seized them all, and they began to glorify God, saying, “A great prophet has appeared among us!” and “God has come to help his people!” 17 This report about Jesus circulated throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.





## WEEK 1

*Friday*

### READ

*John 19:20–30*

Thus many of the Jewish residents of Jerusalem read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the notice was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. 21 Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The king of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am king of the Jews.’” 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” 23 Now when the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and made four shares, one for each soldier, and the tunic remained. (Now the tunic was seamless, woven from top to bottom as a single piece.) 24 So the soldiers said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but throw dice to see who will get it.” This took place to fulfill the scripture that says, “*They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they threw dice.*” So the soldiers did these things. 25 Now standing beside Jesus’ cross were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 So when Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Woman, look, here is your son!” 27 He then said to his disciple, “Look, here is your mother!” From that very time the disciple took her into his own home. 28 After this Jesus, realizing that by this time everything was completed, said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty!” 29 A jar full of sour wine was there, so they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a branch of hyssop and lifted it to his mouth. 30 When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, “It is completed!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.





**REFLECT**

*Week 1*

1. *Why was it not good for the man to be alone? Why did God create the woman?*

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2. *Why is it important to remember that each Christian, whether male or female, is a valuable member of the body of Christ? How should we treat each other based on the truth that we are all made in the image of God?*

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3. *According to Galatians 3:28, what unites us?*

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4. *Why does it matter that Jesus showed compassion for the widow in Luke 7 when He saw her?*

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5. *Even on the cross, as He was dying, Jesus made sure His mother would be taken care of after He died. What does that teach us about Jesus' view of women?*

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*And blessed is she  
who believed that  
what was spoken  
to her by the Lord  
would be fulfilled.*

*Luke 1:45*



**PRAY**

*Write down your prayer requests and praises for this week.*

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**WEEKLY CHALLENGE**

*Who in your life has shown great faith like the women we are reading about? Take time this week and reach out to her. Encourage her with your words, either spoken or written, and share how her faith has helped increase your faith, too.*

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## WEEK 2

*Monday*

### READ

*Luke 1:5–25*

During the reign of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah, and he had a wife named Elizabeth, who was a descendant of Aaron. 6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, following all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. 7 But they did not have a child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both very old. 8 Now while Zechariah was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the Holy Place of the Lord and burn incense. 10 Now the whole crowd of people were praying outside at the hour of the incense offering. 11 An angel of the Lord, standing on the right side of the altar of incense, appeared to him. 12 And Zechariah, visibly shaken when he saw the angel, was seized with fear. 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son; you will name him John. 14 Joy and gladness will come to you, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. 16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go as forerunner before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him.” 18 Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is old as well.” 19 The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will be silent, unable to speak, until the day these things take place.” 21 Now the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they began to wonder why he was delayed in the Holy Place. 22 When he came out, he was not able to speak to them. They realized that he had seen a vision in the Holy Place, because he was making signs to them and remained unable to speak. 23 When his time of service was over, he went to his home. 24 After some time his wife Elizabeth became pregnant, and for five months she kept herself in seclusion. She said, 25 “This is what the Lord has done for me at the time when he has been gracious to me, to take away my disgrace among people.”

*Luke 1:39–45*

In those days Mary got up and went hurriedly into the hill country, to a town of Judah, 40 and entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 She exclaimed with a loud voice, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! 43 And who am I that the mother of my Lord should come and visit me? 44 For the instant the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.”





## WEEK 2

*Tuesday*

### READ

*Matthew 15:21–28*

After going out from there, Jesus went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that area came and cried out, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is horribly demon-possessed!” 23 But he did not answer her a word. Then his disciples came and begged him, “Send her away, because she keeps on crying out after us.” 24 So he answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and bowed down before him and said, “Lord, help me!” 26 “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs,” he said. 27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, your faith is great! Let what you want be done for you.” And her daughter was healed from that hour.





## WEEK 2

*Wednesday*

### READ

#### *Joshua 2*

Joshua son of Nun sent two spies out from Shittim secretly and instructed them: “Find out what you can about the land, especially Jericho.” They stopped at the house of a prostitute named Rahab and spent the night there. 2 The king of Jericho received this report: “Note well! Israelite men have come here tonight to spy on the land.” 3 So the king of Jericho sent this order to Rahab: “Turn over the men who came to you—the ones who came to your house—for they have come to spy on the whole land!” 4 But the woman hid the two men and replied, “Yes, these men were clients of mine, but I didn’t know where they came from. 5 When it was time to shut the city gate for the night, the men left. I don’t know where they were heading. Chase after them quickly, for you have time to catch them!” 6 (Now she had taken them up to the roof and had hidden them in the stalks of flax she had spread out on the roof.) 7 Meanwhile, the king’s men tried to find them on the road to the Jordan River near the fords. The city gate was shut as soon as they set out in pursuit of them. 8 Now before the spies went to sleep, Rahab went up to the roof. 9 She said to the men, “I know the LORD is handing this land over to you. We are absolutely terrified of you, and all who live in the land are cringing before you. 10 For we heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you left Egypt and how you annihilated the two Amorite kings, Sihon and Og, on the other side of the Jordan. 11 When we heard the news we lost our courage and no one could even breathe for fear of you. For the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below! 12 So now, promise me this with an oath sworn in the LORD’s name. Because I have shown allegiance to you, show allegiance to my family. Give me a solemn pledge 13 that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and will rescue us from death.” 14 The men said to her, “If you die, may we die too! If you do not report what we’ve been up to, then we will show unswerving allegiance to you when the LORD hands the land over to us.” 15 Then Rahab let them down by a rope through the window. (Her house was built as part of the city wall; she lived in the wall.) 16 She told them, “Head to the hill country, so the ones chasing you don’t find you. Hide from them there for three days, long enough for those chasing you to return. Then you can be on your way.” 17 The men said to her, “We are not bound by this oath you made us swear unless the following conditions are met: 18 When



we invade the land, tie this red rope in the window through which you let us down, and gather together in your house your father, mother, brothers, and all who live in your father's house. 19 Anyone who leaves your house will be responsible for his own death—we are innocent in that case! But if anyone with you in the house is harmed, we will be responsible. 20 If you should report what we've been up to, we are not bound by this oath you made us swear." 21 She said, "I agree to these conditions." She sent them on their way and then tied the red rope in the window. 22 They went to the hill country and stayed there for three days, long enough for those chasing them to return. Their pursuers looked all along the way but did not find them. 23 Then the two men returned—they came down from the hills, crossed the river, came to Joshua son of Nun, and reported to him all they had discovered. 24 They told Joshua, "Surely the LORD is handing over all the land to us! All who live in the land are cringing before us!"

*Hebrews 11:31*

By faith Rahab the prostitute escaped the destruction of the disobedient, because she welcomed the spies in peace.

*James 2:14–26*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can this kind of faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm and eat well," but you do not give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 So also faith, if it does not have works, is dead being by itself. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith without works and I will show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; well and good. Even the demons believe that—and tremble with fear. 20 But would you like evidence, you empty fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that his faith was working together with his works and his faith was perfected by works. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "*Now Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness,*" and *he was called God's friend.* 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And similarly, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.





## WEEK 2

*Thursday*

### READ

*Ruth 1:1–18*

During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land of Judah. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah went to live as a resident foreigner in the region of Moab, along with his wife and two sons. 2 (Now the man's name was Elimelech, his wife was Naomi, and his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were of the clan of Ephrath from Bethlehem in Judah.) They entered the region of Moab and settled there. 3 Sometime later Naomi's husband Elimelech died, so she and her two sons were left alone. 4 Both her sons married Moabite women. (One was named Orpah and the other Ruth.) And they continued to live there about ten years. 5 Then Naomi's two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, also died. So the woman was left all alone—bereaved of her two children as well as her husband! 6 So she decided to return home from the region of Moab, accompanied by her daughters-in-law, because while she was living in Moab she had heard that the LORD had shown concern for his people, reversing the famine by providing abundant crops. 7 Now as she and her two daughters-in-law began to leave the place where she had been living to return to the land of Judah, 8 Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Listen to me! Each of you should return to your mother's home. May the LORD show you the same kind of devotion that you have shown to your deceased husbands and to me. 9 May the LORD enable each of you to find security in the home of a new husband." Then she kissed them goodbye, and they wept loudly. 10 But they said to her, "No! We will return with you to your people." 11 But Naomi replied, "Go back home, my daughters! There is no reason for you to return to Judah with me. I am no longer capable of giving birth to sons who might become your husbands! 12 Go back home, my daughters! For I am too old to get married again. Even if I thought that there was hope that I could get married tonight and conceive sons, 13 surely you would not want to wait until they were old enough to marry. Surely you would not remain unmarried all that time! No, my daughters, you must not return with me. For my intense suffering is too much for you to bear. For the LORD is afflicting me!" 14 Again they wept loudly. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung tightly to her. 15 So Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law back home!" 16 But Ruth replied, "Stop urging me to abandon you! For wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live. Your people will become my people, and your God will become my God. 17 Wherever you die, I will die—and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I do not keep my promise! Only death will be able to separate me from you!" 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped trying to dissuade her.





## WEEK 2

*Friday*

### READ

*Mark 5:25-34*

Now a woman was there who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years. 26 She had endured a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 for she kept saying, “If only I touch his clothes, I will be healed.” 29 At once the bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30 Jesus knew at once that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” 31 His disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing against you and you say, ‘Who touched me?’” 32 But he looked around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

*Luke 8:40-48*

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, because they were all waiting for him. 41 Then a man named Jairus, who was a leader of the synagogue, came up. Falling at Jesus’ feet, he pleaded with him to come to his house, 42 because he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, and she was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds pressed around him. 43 Now a woman was there who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years but could not be healed by anyone. 44 She came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his cloak, and at once the bleeding stopped. 45 Then Jesus asked, “Who was it who touched me?” When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds are surrounding you and pressing against you!” 46 But Jesus said, “Someone touched me, for I know that power has gone out from me.” 47 When the woman saw that she could not escape notice, she came trembling and fell down before him. In the presence of all the people, she explained why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed. 48 Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”







# REFLECT

Week 2

1. *What connection do you see between believing and blessing found in Luke 1:45?*

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2. *Why do you think Jesus made a point to show how faith and healing are connected in Matthew 15:28? Is this always the case?*

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3. *Why is having faith in God so important? When was one time you had to step out in faith? What did you learn from that experience?*

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4. *How is Ruth's faith demonstrated in Ruth 1:16-19? Why is her response so inspiring?*

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5. *Again, we see the connection between faith and healing in Mark 5:34. Why do you think it is important to have faith before healing can occur? Does our amount of faith determine if a person gets healed or not? Why or why not?*

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*If you remain in  
me and my words  
remain in you,  
ask whatever you  
want, and it will  
be done for you.*

*John 15:7*



## WEEK 3

*Monday*

### READ

*1 Samuel 1:1—2:11*

There was a man from Ramathaim Zophim, from the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elkanah. He was the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; the name of the first was Hannah and the name of the second was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man would go up from his city year after year to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of Heaven's Armies at Shiloh. (It was there that the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, served as the LORD's priests.) 4 The day came, and Elkanah sacrificed. (Now he used to give meat portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion because he loved Hannah, although the LORD had not enabled her to have children. 6 Her rival used to aggravate her to the point of exasperation, just to irritate her, since the LORD had not enabled her to have children. 7 This is how it would go year after year. As often as she went up to the LORD's house, Peninnah would offend her in that way.) So she cried and refused to eat. 8 Then her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why are you crying and why won't you eat? Why are you so upset? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" 9 So Hannah got up after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. At the time Eli the priest was sitting in his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's sanctuary. 10 As for Hannah, she was very distressed. She prayed to the LORD and was, in fact, weeping. 11 She made a vow saying, "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you would truly look on the suffering of your servant, and would keep me in mind and not neglect your servant, and give your servant a male child, then I will dedicate him to the LORD all the days of his life. His hair will never be cut." 12 It turned out that she did a great deal of praying before the LORD. Meanwhile Eli was watching her mouth. 13 As for Hannah, she was speaking in her mind. Only her lips were moving; her voice could not be heard. So Eli thought she was a drunkard. 14 Then he said to her, "How much longer do you intend to get drunk? Put away your wine!" 15 But Hannah replied, "Not so, my lord! I am a woman under a great deal of stress. I haven't drunk wine or beer. But I have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 Don't consider your servant a wicked woman. It's just that, to this point, I have spoken from my deep pain and anguish." 17 Eli replied, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant the request that you have asked of him." 18 She said, "May I, your servant, find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and got something to eat. Her face no longer looked sad. 19 They got up early the next morning. Then they worshiped the LORD and returned to their

home at Ramathaim. Elkanah was intimate with his wife Hannah, and the LORD called her to mind. 20 Then Hannah became pregnant. In the course of time she gave birth to a son. And she named him Samuel, thinking, “I asked the LORD for him.” 21 Then the man Elkanah and all his family went up to make the yearly sacrifice to the LORD and to keep his vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up with them, because she had told her husband, “Not until the boy is weaned. Then I will bring him so that he may appear before the LORD. And he will remain there from then on.” 23 Then her husband Elkanah said to her, “Do what you think best. Stay until you have weaned him. Only may the LORD fulfill his promise.” So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him. 24 Then she took him up with her as soon as she had weaned him, along with three bulls, an ephah of flour, and a container of wine. She came to the LORD’s house at Shiloh, and the boy was with them. 25 They slaughtered the bull, then brought the boy to Eli. 26 She said, “My lord. Just as surely as you are alive, my lord, I am the woman who previously stood here with you in order to pray to the LORD. 27 For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me the request that I asked of him. 28 So I also dedicate him to the LORD. For all the days of his life he is dedicated to the LORD.” Then he bowed down there in worship to the LORD. 2:1 Hannah prayed, “My heart has rejoiced in the LORD; my horn has been raised high because of the LORD. I have loudly denounced my enemies. Indeed I rejoice in your deliverance. 2 No one is holy like the LORD! There is no one other than you! There is no rock like our God! 3 Don’t keep speaking so arrogantly. Proud talk should not come out of your mouth, for the LORD is a God who knows; he evaluates what people do. 4 The bows of warriors are shattered, but those who stumbled have taken on strength. 5 The well fed hire themselves out to earn food, but the hungry no longer lack. Even the barren woman has given birth to seven, but the one with many children has declined. 6 The LORD both kills and gives life; he brings down to the grave and raises up. 7 The LORD impoverishes and makes wealthy; he humbles and he exalts. 8 He lifts the weak from the dust; he raises the poor from the ash heap to seat them with princes— he bestows on them an honored position. The foundations of the earth belong to the LORD— he placed the world on them. 9 He watches over his holy ones, but the wicked are made speechless in the darkness, for it is not by one’s own strength that one prevails. 10 The LORD shatters his adversaries; he thunders against them from the heavens. The LORD executes judgment to the ends of the earth. He will strengthen his king and exalt the power of his anointed one.” 11 Then Elkanah went back home to Ramah. The boy Samuel was serving the LORD with the favor of Eli the priest.







## WEEK 3

*Tuesday*

### READ

*Luke 2:36-40*

There was also a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old, having been married to her husband for seven years until his death. 37 She had lived as a widow since then for eighty-four years. She never left the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment, she came up to them and began to give thanks to God and to speak about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 So when Joseph and Mary had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

**SOAP**

*Week 3 • Tuesday*

**SCRIPTURE** / *Write out the SOAP verses*

*SOAP: Luke 2:37-38*

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**OBSERVATION** / *Write 3 - 4 observations*

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APPLICATION / *Write down 1 - 2 applications*

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PRAYER / *Write out a prayer over what you learned*

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## WEEK 3

*Wednesday*

### READ

*Genesis 29:31—30:24*

When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he enabled her to become pregnant while Rachel remained childless. 32 So Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, “The LORD has looked with pity on my oppressed condition. Surely my husband will love me now.” 33 She became pregnant again and had another son. She said, “Because the LORD heard that I was unloved, he gave me this one too.” So she named him Simeon. 34 She became pregnant again and had another son. She said, “Now this time my husband will show me affection, because I have given birth to three sons for him.” That is why he was named Levi. 35 She became pregnant again and had another son. She said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” That is why she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children. 30:1 When Rachel saw that she could not give Jacob children, she became jealous of her sister. She said to Jacob, “Give me children or I’ll die!” 2 Jacob became furious with Rachel and exclaimed, “Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?” 3 She replied, “Here is my servant Bilhah! Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and I can have a family through her.” 4 So Rachel gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob slept with her. 5 Bilhah became pregnant and gave Jacob a son. 6 Then Rachel said, “God has vindicated me. He has responded to my prayer and given me a son.” That is why she named him Dan. 7 Bilhah, Rachel’s servant, became pregnant again and gave Jacob another son. 8 Then Rachel said, “I have fought a desperate struggle with my sister, but I have won.” So she named him Naphtali. 9 When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob as a wife. 10 Soon Leah’s servant Zilpah gave Jacob a son. 11 Leah said, “How fortunate!” So she named him Gad. 12 Then Leah’s servant Zilpah gave Jacob another son. 13 Leah said, “How happy I am, for women will call me happy!” So she named him Asher. 14 At the time of the wheat harvest Reuben went out and found some mandrake plants in a field and brought them to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, “Give me some of your son’s mandrakes.” 15 But Leah replied, “Wasn’t it enough that you’ve taken away my husband? Would you take away my son’s mandrakes too?” “All right,” Rachel said, “he may go to bed with you tonight in exchange for your son’s mandrakes.” 16 When Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must sleep with me because I have paid for your services with my son’s mandrakes.” So he went to bed with her that night. 17 God paid attention to Leah; she became pregnant and gave Jacob a son for the fifth time. 18 Then Leah said, “God has granted me a reward because I gave my servant to my husband as a wife.” So she named him Issachar. 19 Leah became pregnant again and gave Jacob a son for the sixth time. 20 Then Leah said, “God has given me a good gift. Now my husband will honor me because I have given him six sons.” So she named him Zebulun. 21 After that she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah. 22 Then God took note of Rachel. He paid attention to her and enabled her to become pregnant. 23 She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Then she said, “God has taken away my shame.” 24 She named him Joseph, saying, “May the LORD give me yet another son.”

**SOAP**  
*Week 3 • Wednesday*

**SCRIPTURE** / *Write out the SOAP verses*

*SOAP: Genesis 30:22-24*

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**OBSERVATION** / *Write 3 - 4 observations*

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APPLICATION / *Write down 1 - 2 applications*

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PRAYER / *Write out a prayer over what you learned*

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## WEEK 3

*Thursday*

### READ

#### *Genesis 16*

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not given birth to any children, but she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Since the LORD has prevented me from having children, please sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have a family by her." Abram did what Sarai told him. 3 So after Abram had lived in Canaan for ten years, Sarai, Abram's wife, gave Hagar, her Egyptian servant, to her husband to be his wife. 4 He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. Once Hagar realized she was pregnant, she despised Sarai. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You have brought this wrong on me! I gave my servant into your embrace, but when she realized that she was pregnant, she despised me. May the LORD judge between you and me!" 6 Abram said to Sarai, "Since your servant is under your authority, do to her whatever you think best." Then Sarai treated Hagar harshly, so she ran away from Sarai. 7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring of water in the wilderness—the spring that is along the road to Shur. 8 He said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She replied, "I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai." 9 Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her authority. 10 I will greatly multiply your descendants," the angel of the LORD added, "so that they will be too numerous to count." 11 Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "You are now pregnant and are about to give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard your painful groans. 12 He will be a wild donkey of a man. He will be hostile to everyone, and everyone will be hostile to him. He will live away from his brothers." 13 So Hagar named the LORD who spoke to her, "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "Here I have seen one who sees me!" 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi. (It is located between Kadesh and Bered.) 15 So Hagar gave birth to Abram's son, whom Abram named Ishmael. 16 (Now Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.)

*Genesis 21:1–20*

The LORD visited Sarah just as he had said he would and did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 So Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the appointed time that God had told him. 3 Abraham named his son—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac. 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him just as God had commanded him to do. 5 (Now Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.) 6 Sarah said, “God has made me laugh. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” 7 She went on to say, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have given birth to a son for him in his old age!” 8 The child grew and was weaned. Abraham prepared a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9 But Sarah noticed the son of Hagar the Egyptian—the son whom Hagar had borne to Abraham—mocking. 10 So she said to Abraham, “Banish that slave woman and her son, for the son of that slave woman will not be an heir along with my son Isaac!” 11 Sarah’s demand displeased Abraham greatly because Ishmael was his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not be upset about the boy or your slave wife. Do all that Sarah is telling you because through Isaac your descendants will be counted. 13 But I will also make the son of the slave wife into a great nation, for he is your descendant too.” 14 Early in the morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He put them on her shoulders, gave her the child, and sent her away. So she went wandering aimlessly through the wilderness of Beer Sheba. 15 When the water in the skin was gone, she shoved the child under one of the shrubs. 16 Then she went and sat down by herself across from him at quite a distance, about a bowshot, away; for she thought, “I refuse to watch the child die.” So she sat across from him and wept uncontrollably. 17 But God heard the boy’s voice. The angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and asked her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Don’t be afraid, for God has heard the boy’s voice right where he is crying. 18 Get up! Help the boy up and hold him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” 19 Then God enabled Hagar to see a well of water. She went over and filled the skin with water, and then gave the boy a drink. 20 God was with the boy as he grew. He lived in the wilderness and became an archer.



**SOAP**  
*Week 3 • Thursday*

**SCRIPTURE** / *Write out the SOAP verses*

*SOAP: Genesis 16:13*

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**OBSERVATION** / *Write 3 - 4 observations*

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APPLICATION / Write down 1 - 2 applications

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PRAYER / Write out a prayer over what you learned

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## WEEK 3

*Friday*

### READ

*John 4:1–30*

Now when Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that he was winning and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), 3 he left Judea and set out once more for Galilee. 4 But he had to pass through Samaria. 5 Now he came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, so Jesus, since he was tired from the journey, sat right down beside the well. It was about noon. 7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone off into the town to buy supplies.) 9 So the Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you—a Jew—ask me, a Samaritan woman, for water to drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you had known the gift of God and who it is who said to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said to him, "you have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do you get this living water? 12 Surely you're not greater than our ancestor Jacob, are you? For he gave us this well and drank from it himself, along with his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks some of this water will be thirsty again. 14 But whoever drinks some of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." 16 He said to her, "Go call your husband and come back here." 17 The woman replied, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "Right you are when you said, 'I have no husband,' 18 for you have had five husbands, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. This you said truthfully!" 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you people say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You people worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But a time is coming—and now is here—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to be his worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (the one called Christ); "whenever he comes, he will tell us everything." 26 Jesus said to her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he." 27 Now at that very moment his disciples came back. They were shocked because he was speaking with a woman. However, no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you speaking with her?" 28 Then the woman left her water jar, went off into the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Surely he can't be the Messiah, can he?" 30 So they left the town and began coming to him.

**S O A P**  
*Week 3 • Friday*

SCRIPTURE / *Write out the SOAP verses*

*SOAP: John 4:14-15*

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OBSERVATION / *Write 3 - 4 observations*

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APPLICATION / *Write down 1 - 2 applications*

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PRAYER / *Write out a prayer over what you learned*

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**REFLECT**

*Week 3*

1. *What have you learned from Hannah's story? What did it teach you about prayer?*

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2. *Anna never gave up praying. Why is it important not to stop praying for someone or about something even if it seems to take a long time to receive an answer?*

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3. *What comfort does Rachel's story give to those who are waiting on God to answer their prayers?*

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4. *Hagar cried out to God in prayer. Why is it important to understand that God sees us and hears our prayers when we are hurting and desperate?*

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5. *Why is it important to realize that God knows all about our past and all of our sins? How can that knowledge help us when we go to Him in prayer?*

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Then he said  
to them all, "If  
anyone wants  
to become my  
follower, he  
must deny  
himself, take up  
his cross daily,  
and follow me."

*Luke 9:23*

## PRAY

*Write down your prayer requests and praises for this week.*

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## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

*Surrendering can be hard and yet beautiful at the same time. We see this in the lives of the women we visit this week. Who in your life has modeled this well? Take time this week to encourage her with your words and let her know that her faithfulness has impacted your life.*

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## WEEK 4

*Monday*

### READ

*Luke 1:26–38*

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 The angel came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled by his words and began to wonder about the meaning of this greeting. 30 So the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! 31 Listen: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.” 34 Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?” 35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. 36 “And look, your relative Elizabeth has also become pregnant with a son in her old age—although she was called barren, she is now in her sixth month! 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 So Mary said, “Yes, I am a servant of the Lord; let this happen to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**SOAP**

*Week 4 • Monday*

SCRIPTURE / *Write out the SOAP verses*

SOAP: *Luke 1:38*

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OBSERVATION / *Write 3 - 4 observations*

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## WEEK 4

*Tuesday*

### READ

#### *1 Samuel 25*

Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned him. They buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David left and went down to the wilderness of Paran. 2 There was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. This man was very wealthy; he owned 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats. At that time he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. 3 The man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. She was both wise and beautiful, but the man was harsh and his deeds were evil. He was a Calebite. 4 When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, 5 he sent ten servants, saying to them, "Go up to Carmel to see Nabal and give him greetings in my name. 6 Then you will say to my brother, 'Peace to you and your house! Peace to all that is yours! 7 Now I hear that they are shearing sheep for you. When your shepherds were with us, we neither insulted them nor harmed them the whole time they were in Carmel. 8 Ask your own servants; they can tell you! May my servants find favor in your sight, for we have come at the time of a holiday. Please provide us—your servants and your son David—with whatever you can spare.'" 9 So David's servants went and spoke all these words to Nabal in David's name. Then they paused. 10 But Nabal responded to David's servants, "Who is David, and who is this son of Jesse? This is a time when many servants are breaking away from their masters! 11 Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers and give them to these men? I don't even know where they came from!" 12 So David's servants went on their way. When they had returned, they came and told David all these things. 13 Then David instructed his men, "Each of you strap on your sword!" So each one strapped on his sword, and David also strapped on his sword. About 400 men followed David, while 200 stayed behind with the equipment. 14 But one of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our lord, but he screamed at them. 15 These men were very good to us. They did not insult us, nor did we sustain any loss during the entire time we were together in the field. 16 Both night and day they were a protective wall for us the entire time we were with them, while we were tending our flocks. 17 Now be aware of this, and see what you can do. For disaster has been planned for our lord and his entire household. He is such a wicked person that no one tells him anything!" 18 So Abigail quickly took 200 loaves of bread, two containers of wine, five prepared sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, 100 bunches of raisins, and 200 lumps of pressed figs. She loaded them on donkeys 19 and said to her servants, "Go on ahead of me. I will come after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. 20 Riding on her donkey, she went down under cover of the mountain. David and his men were coming down to meet her, and she encountered them. 21 Now David had been thinking, "In vain I guarded everything that belonged to this man in the wilderness. I didn't take anything

from him. But he has repaid my good with evil. 22 God will severely punish David, if I leave alive until morning even one male from all those who belong to him!" 23 When Abigail saw David, she got down quickly from the donkey, threw herself face down before David, and bowed to the ground. 24 Falling at his feet, she said, "My lord, I accept all the guilt! But please let your female servant speak to you! Please listen to the words of your servant! 25 My lord should not pay attention to this wicked man Nabal. He simply lives up to his name! His name means 'fool,' and he is indeed foolish! But I, your servant, did not see the servants my lord sent. 26 "Now, my lord, as surely as the LORD lives and as surely as you live, it is the LORD who has kept you from shedding blood and taking matters into your own hands. Now may your enemies and those who seek to harm my lord be like Nabal. 27 Now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the servants who follow my lord. 28 Please forgive the sin of your servant, for the LORD will certainly establish a lasting dynasty for my lord, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD. May no evil be found in you all your days! 29 When someone sets out to chase you and to take your life, the life of my lord will be wrapped securely in the bag of the living by the LORD your God. But he will sling away the lives of your enemies from the sling's pocket! 30 The LORD will do for my lord everything that he promised you, and he will make you a leader over Israel. 31 Your conscience will not be overwhelmed with guilt for having poured out innocent blood and for having taken matters into your own hands. When the LORD has granted my lord success, please remember your servant." 32 Then David said to Abigail, "Praised be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you this day to meet me! 33 Praised be your good judgment! May you yourself be rewarded for having prevented me this day from shedding blood and taking matters into my own hands! 34 Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives—he who has prevented me from harming you—if you had not come so quickly to meet me, by morning's light not even one male belonging to Nabal would have remained alive!" 35 Then David took from her hand what she had brought to him. He said to her, "Go back to your home in peace. Be assured that I have listened to you and responded favorably." 36 When Abigail went back to Nabal, he was holding a banquet in his house like that of the king. Nabal was having a good time and was very intoxicated. She told him absolutely nothing until morning's light. 37 In the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him about these matters. He had a stroke and was paralyzed. 38 After about ten days the LORD struck Nabal down and he died. 39 When David heard that Nabal had died, he said, "Praised be the LORD who has vindicated me and avenged the insult that I suffered from Nabal! The LORD has kept his servant from doing evil, and he has repaid Nabal for his evil deeds." Then David sent word to Abigail and asked her to become his wife. 40 So the servants of David went to Abigail at Carmel and said to her, "David has sent us to you to bring you back to be his wife." 41 She arose, bowed her face toward the ground, and said, "Your female servant, like a lowly servant, will wash the feet of the servants of my lord." 42 Then Abigail quickly went and mounted her donkey, with five of her female servants accompanying her. She followed David's messengers and became his wife. 43 David had also married Ahinoam from Jezreel; the two of them became his wives. 44 (Now Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Paltiel son of Laish, who was from Gallim.)



APPLICATION / *Write down 1 - 2 applications*

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PRAYER / *Write out a prayer over what you learned*

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## WEEK 4

*Wednesday*

### READ

#### *Esther 4*

Now when Mordecai became aware of all that had been done, he tore his garments and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went out into the city, crying out in a loud and bitter voice. 2 But he went no farther than the king's gate, for no one was permitted to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. 3 Throughout each and every province where the king's edict and law were announced there was considerable mourning among the Jews, along with fasting, weeping, and sorrow. Sackcloth and ashes were characteristic of many. 4 When Esther's female attendants and her eunuchs came and informed her about Mordecai's behavior, the queen was overcome with anguish. Although she sent garments for Mordecai to put on so that he could remove his sackcloth, he would not accept them. 5 So Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been placed at her service, and instructed him to find out the cause and reason for Mordecai's behavior. 6 So Hathach went to Mordecai at the plaza of the city in front of the king's gate. 7 Then Mordecai related to him everything that had happened to him, even the specific amount of money that Haman had offered to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews to be destroyed. 8 He also gave him a written copy of the law that had been disseminated in Susa for their destruction so that he could show it to Esther and talk to her about it. He also gave instructions that she should go to the king to implore him and petition him on behalf of her people. 9 So Hathach returned and related Mordecai's instructions to Esther. 10 Then Esther replied to Hathach with instructions for Mordecai: 11 "All the servants of the king and the people of the king's provinces know that there is only one law applicable to any man or woman who comes uninvited to the king in the inner court—that person will be put to death, unless the king extends to him the gold scepter, permitting him to be spared. Now I have not been invited to come to the king for some thirty days." 12 When Esther's reply was conveyed to Mordecai, 13 he said to take back this answer to Esther: "Don't imagine that because you are part of the king's household you will be the one Jew who will escape. 14 If you keep quiet at this time, liberation and protection for the Jews will appear from another source, while you and your father's household perish. It may very well be that you have achieved royal status for such a time as this!" 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast on my behalf. Don't eat and don't drink for three days, night or day. My female attendants and I will also fast in the same way. Afterward I will go to the king, even though it violates the law. If I perish, I perish." 17 So Mordecai set out to do everything that Esther had instructed him.



**S O A P**  
*Week 4 • Wednesday*

**SCRIPTURE** / *Write out the SOAP verses*

*SOAP: Esther 4:16*

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**OBSERVATION** / *Write 3 - 4 observations*

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APPLICATION / *Write down 1 - 2 applications*

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PRAYER / *Write out a prayer over what you learned*

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## WEEK 4

*Thursday*

### READ

*Exodus 2:1–10*

A man from the household of Levi married a woman who was a descendant of Levi. 2 The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a healthy child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she was no longer able to hide him, she took a papyrus basket for him and sealed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and set it among the reeds along the edge of the Nile. 4 His sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would happen to him. 5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself by the Nile, while her attendants were walking alongside the river, and she saw the basket among the reeds. She sent one of her attendants, took it, 6 opened it, and saw the child—a boy, crying!—and she felt compassion for him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get a nursing woman for you from the Hebrews, so that she may nurse the child for you?” 8 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes, do so.” So the young girl went and got the child’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “Because I drew him from the water.”

**S O A P**  
*Week 4 • Thursday*

**SCRIPTURE** / *Write out the SOAP verses*

*SOAP: Exodus 2:3*

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**OBSERVATION** / *Write 3 - 4 observations*

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**APPLICATION** / *Write down 1 - 2 applications*

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**PRAYER** / *Write out a prayer over what you learned*

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## WEEK 4

*Friday*

### READ

*Mark 12:41-44*

Then he sat down opposite the offering box, and watched the crowd putting coins into it. Many rich people were throwing in large amounts. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth less than a penny. 43 He called his disciples and said to them, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. 44 For they all gave out of their wealth. But she, out of her poverty, put in what she had to live on, everything she had.”

**S O A P**  
 Week 4 • Friday

**SCRIPTURE /** Write out the SOAP verses

*SOAP: Mark 12:43-44*

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**OBSERVATION /** Write 3 - 4 observations

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PRAYER / *Write out a prayer over what you learned*

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# REFLECT

Week 4

1. *What does Mary's response in Luke 1 teach us about her? How would you have responded if you had been in her shoes?*

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2. *What stood out to you the most in Abigail's response to David? How do you think her humility and courage influenced David's response to her and her family?*

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3. *Esther was faced with a hard decision: risk her life or the lives of her people. How do her actions in Esther 4 reveal her source of strength? What can you learn from her example?*

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4. *Moses's mother was faced with a horrible decision. How did surrender and sacrifice play into her determination to save her son? What does that reveal about her faith?*

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5. *The poor widow in Mark 12 gave everything she had. Why did her sacrifice mean so much? What did her giving reveal about her heart and her faith in God?*

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*I will praise  
the LORD at  
all times; my  
mouth will  
continually  
praise him.*

*Psalm 34:1*

## PRAY

*Write down your prayer requests and praises for this week.*

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## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

*Who in your life have you seen fight for joy and praise God in the midst of hard times? Make a point this week to encourage her and share what you have seen in her life and how it has impacted you.*

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## WEEK 5

*Monday*

### READ

*Exodus 15:1–21*

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously, the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. 3 The LORD is a warrior— the LORD is his name. 4 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has thrown into the sea, and his chosen officers were drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The depths have covered them; they went down to the bottom like a stone. 6 Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power; your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. 7 In the abundance of your majesty you have overthrown those who rise up against you. You sent forth your wrath; it consumed them like stubble. 8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters were piled up, the flowing water stood upright like a heap, and the deep waters were solidified in the heart of the sea. 9 The enemy said, ‘I will chase, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire will be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them.’ 10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. 11 Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, fearful in praises, working wonders? 12 You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them. 13 By your loyal love you will lead the people whom you have redeemed; you will guide them by your strength to your holy dwelling place. 14 The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will seize the inhabitants of Philistia. 15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified, trembling will seize the leaders of Moab, and the inhabitants of Canaan will shake. 16 Fear and dread will fall on them; by the greatness of your arm they will be as still as stone until your people pass by, O LORD, until the people whom you have bought pass by. 17 You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance, in the place you made for your residence, O LORD, the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established. 18 The LORD will reign forever and ever! 19 For the horses of Pharaoh came with his chariots and his footmen into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the Israelites walked on dry land in the middle of the sea.” 20 Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a hand drum in her hand, and all the women went out after her with hand drums and with dances. 21 Miriam sang in response to them, “Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.”

**SOAP**

*Week 5 • Monday*

**SCRIPTURE /** *Write out the SOAP verses*

*SOAP: Exodus 15:20–21*

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**OBSERVATION /** *Write 3 - 4 observations*

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## WEEK 5

*Tuesday*

### READ

*Genesis 29:31–35*

When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he enabled her to become pregnant while Rachel remained childless. 32 So Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, “The LORD has looked with pity on my oppressed condition. Surely my husband will love me now.” 33 She became pregnant again and had another son. She said, “Because the LORD heard that I was unloved, he gave me this one too.” So she named him Simeon. 34 She became pregnant again and had another son. She said, “Now this time my husband will show me affection, because I have given birth to three sons for him.” That is why he was named Levi. 35 She became pregnant again and had another son. She said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” That is why she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

*Genesis 30:9–21*

When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob as a wife. 10 Soon Leah’s servant Zilpah gave Jacob a son. 11 Leah said, “How fortunate!” So she named him Gad. 12 Then Leah’s servant Zilpah gave Jacob another son. 13 Leah said, “How happy I am, for women will call me happy!” So she named him Asher. 14 At the time of the wheat harvest Reuben went out and found some mandrake plants in a field and brought them to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, “Give me some of your son’s mandrakes.” 15 But Leah replied, “Wasn’t it enough that you’ve taken away my husband? Would you take away my son’s mandrakes too?” “All right,” Rachel said, “he may go to bed with you tonight in exchange for your son’s mandrakes.” 16 When Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must sleep with me because I have paid for your services with my son’s mandrakes.” So he went to bed with her that night. 17 God paid attention to Leah; she became pregnant and gave Jacob a son for the fifth time. 18 Then Leah said, “God has granted me a reward because I gave my servant to my husband as a wife.” So she named him Issachar. 19 Leah became pregnant again and gave Jacob a son for the sixth time. 20 Then Leah said, “God has given me a good gift. Now my husband will honor me because I have given him six sons.” So she named him Zebulun. 21 After that she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.







## WEEK 5

*Wednesday*

### READ

#### *Ruth 4*

Now Boaz went up to the village gate and sat there. Then along came the guardian whom Boaz had mentioned to Ruth. Boaz said, “Come here, what’s-your-name, and sit down.” So he came and sat down. 2 Boaz chose ten of the village leaders and said, “Sit down here!” So they sat down. 3 Then Boaz said to the guardian, “Naomi, who has returned from the region of Moab, is selling the portion of land that belongs to our relative Elimelech. 4 So I am legally informing you: Acquire it before those sitting here and before the leaders of my people. If you want to exercise your right to redeem it, then do so. But if not, then tell me so I will know. For you possess the first option to redeem it; I am next in line after you.” He replied, “I will redeem it.” 5 Then Boaz said, “When you acquire the field from Naomi, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the wife of our deceased relative, in order to preserve his family name by raising up a descendant who will inherit his property.” 6 The guardian said, “Then I am unable to redeem it, for I would ruin my own inheritance in that case. You may exercise my redemption option, for I am unable to redeem it.” 7 (Now this used to be the customary way to finalize a transaction involving redemption in Israel: A man would remove his sandal and give it to the other party. This was a legally binding act in Israel.) 8 So the guardian said to Boaz, “You may acquire it,” and he removed his sandal. 9 Then Boaz said to the leaders and all the people, “You are witnesses today that I have acquired from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. 10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, as my wife to raise up a descendant who will inherit his property so the name of the deceased might not disappear from among his relatives and from his village. You are witnesses today.” 11 All the people who were at the gate and the elders replied, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is entering your home like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built up the house of Israel! May you prosper in Ephrathah and become famous in Bethlehem. 12 May your family become like the family of Perez—whom Tamar bore to Judah—through the descendants the LORD gives you by this young woman.” 13 So Boaz married Ruth and slept with her. The LORD enabled her to conceive and she gave birth to a son. 14 The village women said to Naomi, “May the LORD be praised because he has not left you without a guardian today! May he become famous in Israel! 15 He will encourage you and provide for you when you are old, for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, has given him birth. She is better to you than seven sons!” 16 Naomi took the child and placed him on her lap; she became his caregiver. 17 The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. Now he became the father of Jesse—David’s father. 18 These are the descendants of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, 19 Hezron was the father of Ram, Ram was the father of Amminadab, 20 Amminadab was the father of Nachshon, Nachshon was the father of Salmah, 21 Salmon was the father of Boaz, Boaz was the father of Obed, 22 Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David.





## WEEK 5

*Thursday*

### READ

*Judges 4:1—5:9*

The Israelites again did evil in the LORD's sight after Ehud's death. 2 The LORD turned them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who ruled in Hazor. The general of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim. 3 The Israelites cried out for help to the LORD, because Sisera had 900 chariots with iron-rimmed wheels, and he cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. 4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 She would sit under the Date Palm Tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraimite hill country. The Israelites would come up to her to have their disputes settled. 6 She summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali. She said to him, "Is it not true that the LORD God of Israel is commanding you? Go, march to Mount Tabor! Take with you 10,000 men from Naphtali and Zebulun. 7 I will bring Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to you at the Kishon River, along with his chariots and huge army. I will hand him over to you." 8 Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go. But if you do not go with me, I will not go." 9 She said, "I will indeed go with you. But you will not gain fame on the expedition you are undertaking, for the LORD will turn Sisera over to a woman." Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 Barak summoned men from Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh, and 10,000 men followed him; Deborah went up with him as well. 11 Now Heber the Kenite had moved away from the Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' father-in-law. He lived near the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh. 12 When Sisera heard that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 he ordered all his chariotry—900 chariots with iron-rimmed wheels—and all the troops he had with him to go from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River. 14 Deborah said to Barak, "Spring into action, for this is the day the LORD is handing Sisera over to you! Has the LORD not taken the lead?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. 15 The LORD routed Sisera, all his chariotry, and all his army with the edge of the sword. Sisera jumped out of his chariot and ran away on foot. 16 Now Barak chased the chariots and the army all the way to Harosheth Haggoyim. Sisera's whole army died by the edge of the sword; not even one survived! 17 Now Sisera ran away on foot to the tent of Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite, for King Jabin of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite had made a peace treaty. 18 Jael came out to welcome Sisera. She said to him, "Stop and rest, my lord. Stop and rest with me. Don't be afraid." So Sisera stopped to rest in her tent, and she put a

blanket over him. 19 He said to her, “Give me a little water to drink, because I’m thirsty.” She opened a goatskin container of milk and gave him some milk to drink. Then she covered him up again. 20 He said to her, “Stand watch at the entrance to the tent. If anyone comes along and asks you, ‘Is there a man here?’ say, ‘No.’” 21 Then Jael wife of Heber took a tent peg in one hand and a hammer in the other. She crept up on him, drove the tent peg through his temple into the ground while he was asleep from exhaustion, and he died. 22 Now Barak was chasing Sisera. Jael went out to welcome him. She said to him, “Come here and I will show you the man you are searching for.” He went with her into the tent, and there he saw Sisera sprawled out dead with the tent peg through his temple. 23 That day God humiliated King Jabin of Canaan before the Israelites. 24 Israel’s power continued to overwhelm King Jabin of Canaan until they did away with him. 5:1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this victory song: 2 “When the leaders took the lead in Israel, When the people answered the call to war— Praise the LORD! 3 Hear, O kings! Pay attention, O rulers! I will sing to the LORD! I will sing to the LORD God of Israel! 4 O LORD, when you departed from Seir, when you marched from Edom’s plains, the earth shook, the heavens poured down, the clouds poured down rain. 5 The mountains trembled before the LORD, the God of Sinai; before the LORD God of Israel. 6 In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael caravans disappeared; travelers had to go on winding side roads. 7 Warriors were scarce; they were scarce in Israel, until you arose, Deborah, until you arose as a motherly protector in Israel. 8 God chose new leaders, then fighters appeared in the city gates; but, I swear, not a shield or spear could be found among forty military units in Israel. 9 My heart went out to Israel’s leaders, to the people who answered the call to war. Praise the LORD!







## WEEK 5

*Friday*

### READ

*Luke 10:38–42*

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted with all the preparations she had to make, so she came up to him and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work alone? Tell her to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the best part; it will not be taken away from her."

*John 11:1–44*

Now a certain man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived. 2 (Now it was Mary who anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and wiped his feet dry with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, look, the one you love is sick." 4 When Jesus heard this, he said, "This sickness will not lead to death, but to God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 (Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.) 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he remained in the place where he was for two more days. 7 Then after this, he said to his disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples replied, "Rabbi, the Jewish leaders were just now trying to stone you to death! Are you going there again?" 9 Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If anyone walks around in the daytime, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks around at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 After he said this, he added, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. But I am going there to awaken him." 12 Then the disciples replied, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 (Now Jesus had been talking about his death, but they thought he had been talking about real sleep.) 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, 15 and I am glad for your sake that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 So Thomas (called Didymus) said to his fellow disciples, "Let us go too, so that we may die with him." 17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb four days already. 18 (Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 so many of the Jewish people of the region had come to Martha and Mary to console them over the loss of their brother.) 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary was sitting in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will grant you." 23 Jesus replied, "Your brother will come back to life again." 24 Martha said, "I know that he will come back to life again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said

to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even if he dies, 26 and the one who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who comes into the world." 28 And when she had said this, Martha went and called her sister Mary, saying privately, "The Teacher is here and is asking for you." 29 So when Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 (Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still in the place where Martha had come out to meet him.) 31 Then the people who were with Mary in the house consoling her saw her get up quickly and go out. They followed her, because they thought she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 Now when Mary came to the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the people who had come with her weeping, he was intensely moved in spirit and greatly distressed. 34 He asked, "Where have you laid him?" They replied, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 Thus the people who had come to mourn said, "Look how much he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "This is the man who caused the blind man to see! Couldn't he have done something to keep Lazarus from dying?" 38 Jesus, intensely moved again, came to the tomb. (Now it was a cave, and a stone was placed across it.) 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, replied, "Lord, by this time the body will have a bad smell, because he has been buried four days." 40 Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you that you have listened to me. 42 I knew that you always listen to me, but I said this for the sake of the crowd standing around here, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, he shouted in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The one who had died came out, his feet and hands tied up with strips of cloth, and a cloth wrapped around his face. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go."

*John 12:1-11*

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 So they prepared a dinner for Jesus there. Martha was serving, and Lazarus was among those present at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took three quarters of a pound of expensive aromatic oil from pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus. She then wiped his feet dry with her hair. (Now the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfumed oil.) 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was going to betray him) said, 5 "Why wasn't this oil sold for 300 silver coins and the money given to the poor?" 6 (Now Judas said this not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief. As keeper of the money box, he used to steal what was put into it.) 7 So Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has kept it for the day of my burial. 8 For you will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me!" 9 Now a large crowd of Judeans learned that Jesus was there, and so they came not only because of him but also to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests planned to kill Lazarus too, 11 for on account of him many of the Jewish people from Jerusalem were going away and believing in Jesus.





## REFLECT

Week 5

1. *Miriam led the Israelite women with singing and praised God for the miracle He performed in Exodus 15. What can we learn from her example? Why is it important to praise God?*

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2. *In the midst of feeling unloved by her husband, we see Leah praising God for blessing her with her children. What does this story teach us about Leah and her relationship with God?*

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3. *The village women recognized God's hand in Naomi's and Ruth's lives. How can our lives spur others on to praise God? What caused these women to praise God?*

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4. *Deborah praised God in the midst of battle. Why is this important for us to do as well? Why is it important to remember how God has fought on our behalf? What can we learn from Deborah's example?*

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5. *Many people praise God with their words, but Mary of Bethany praised God through her actions. Why do you think her actions "spoke" louder than any words she could have said?*

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*One generation  
will praise  
your deeds to  
another, and  
tell about your  
mighty acts!*

*Psalm 145:4*



## WEEK 6

*Monday*

### READ

*Exodus 1:1–21*

These are the names of the sons of Israel who entered Egypt—each man with his household entered with Jacob: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, 4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. 5 All the people who were directly descended from Jacob numbered seventy. But Joseph was already in Egypt, 6 and in time Joseph and his brothers and all that generation died. 7 The Israelites, however, were fruitful, increased greatly, multiplied, and became extremely strong, so that the land was filled with them. 8 Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power over Egypt. 9 He said to his people, “Look at the Israelite people, more numerous and stronger than we are! 10 Come, let’s deal wisely with them. Otherwise they will continue to multiply, and if a war breaks out, they will ally themselves with our enemies and fight against us and leave the country.” 11 So they put foremen over the Israelites to oppress them with hard labor. As a result they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more they multiplied and spread. As a result the Egyptians loathed the Israelites, 13 and they made the Israelites serve rigorously. 14 They made their lives bitter by hard service with mortar and bricks and by all kinds of service in the fields. Every kind of service the Israelites were required to give was rigorous. 15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 “When you assist the Hebrew women in childbirth, observe at the delivery: If it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she may live.” 17 But the midwives feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live. 18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and let the boys live?” 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women—for the Hebrew women are vigorous; they give birth before the midwife gets to them!” 20 So God treated the midwives well, and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he made households for them.







## WEEK 6

*Tuesday*

### READ

*Acts 16:11–15*

We put out to sea from Troas and sailed a straight course to Samothrace, the next day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of that district of Macedonia, a Roman colony. We stayed in this city for some days. 13 On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the side of the river, where we thought there would be a place of prayer, and we sat down and began to speak to the women who had assembled there. 14 A woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, a God-fearing woman, listened to us. The Lord opened her heart to respond to what Paul was saying. 15 After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, “If you consider me to be a believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house.” And she persuaded us.

*Acts 16:40*

When they came out of the prison, they entered Lydia’s house, and when they saw the brothers, they encouraged them and then departed.





## WEEK 6

*Wednesday*

### READ

*John 20:1-18*

Now very early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. 2 So she went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out to go to the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down and saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter, who had been following him, arrived and went right into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been around Jesus’ head, not lying with the strips of linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, came in, and he saw and believed. 9 (For they did not yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.) 10 So the disciples went back to their homes. 11 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she bent down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus’ body had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” Mary replied, “They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!” 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?” Because she thought he was the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “*Rabboni*” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus replied, “Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18 Mary Magdalene came and informed the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them what Jesus had said to her.







## WEEK 6

*Thursday*

### READ

*2 Timothy 1:3–7*

I am thankful to God, whom I have served with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, when I remember you in my prayers as I do constantly night and day. 4 As I remember your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I recall your sincere faith that was alive first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I am sure is in you. 6 Because of this I remind you to rekindle God's gift that you possess through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.





## WEEK 6

*Friday*

### READ

#### *Proverbs 31*

The words of King Lemuel, an oracle that his mother taught him: 2 O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows, 3 do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which ruins kings. 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to crave strong drink, 5 lest they drink and forget what is decreed, and remove from all the poor their legal rights. 6 Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitterly distressed; 7 let them drink and forget their poverty, and remember their misery no more. 8 Open your mouth on behalf of those unable to speak, for the legal rights of all the dying. 9 Open your mouth, judge in righteousness, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. 10 Who can find a wife of noble character? For her value is far more than rubies. 11 Her husband's heart has trusted her, and he does not lack the dividends. 12 She has rewarded him with good and not harm all the days of her life. 13 She sought out wool and flax, then worked happily with her hands. 14 She was like the merchant ships; she would bring in her food from afar. 15 Then she rose while it was still night, and provided food for her household and a portion to her female servants. 16 She considered a field and bought it; from her own income she planted a vineyard. 17 She clothed herself in might, and she strengthened her arms. 18 She perceived that her merchandise was good. Her lamp would not go out in the night. 19 She extended her hands to the spool, and her hands grasped the spindle. 20 She opened her hand to the poor, and extended her hands to the needy. 21 She would not fear for her household in winter, because all her household were clothed with scarlet, 22 because she had made coverings for herself; and because her clothing was fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is well-known in the city gate when he sits with the elders of the land. 24 She made linen garments then sold them, and traded belts to the merchants; 25 her clothing was strong and splendid; and she laughed at the time to come. 26 She has opened her mouth with wisdom, with loving instruction on her tongue. 27 Watching over the ways of her household, she would not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children have risen and called her blessed; her husband also has praised her: 29 "Many daughters have done valiantly, but you have surpassed them all!" 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is fleeting. A woman who fears the LORD—she makes herself praiseworthy. 31 Give her credit for what she has accomplished, and let her works praise her in the city gates.





## REFLECT

Week 6

1. *Shiphrah and Puah feared God more than they feared the king of Egypt. What lesson can we learn from these brave women? What was the result of their obedience?*

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2. *Lydia wasted no time in serving the church after she was saved. How did her hospitality bless the early church? What example was she setting to those around her?*

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3. *Mary Magdalene proclaimed to the disciples what she had seen, our risen Lord. Why is it important to tell others the incredible work we have witnessed Jesus do in our lives as well as the lives of others?*

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4. *Lois and Eunice were a grandmother and mother who had a great impact on the next generation as they passed their faith on to Timothy. Why is it important to be intentional about passing on our faith to the next generation?*

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5. *Why is it important to live our lives focused on Jesus? How does this one simple choice impact all areas of our lives?*

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The Gospel of Mark	1 & 2 Timothy
Shame Breaker	Sold Out
Everlasting Covenant	Ruth
Jesus Our Everything	Broken & Redeemed
Know Love	Walking in Wisdom
Empowered: Yesterday and Today	God With Us
Risen	In Everything Give Thanks
Draw Near	You Are Forgiven
Beatitudes	David
Esther	Ecclesiastes
Words Matter	Names of God
Walking in Victory	Galatians
To Do Justice, To Love Kindness,	Psalms 119
To Walk Humbly	1st & 2nd Peter
Faithful Love	Made For Community
Choose Brave	The Road To Christmas
Savior	The Source Of Gratitude
Promises of God	You Are Loved