

Grace Guide



FEBRUARY 9-15

“Moving Foward”

MONDAY
2/9

ECCLESIASTES 7:8

The author of Ecclesiastes reminds us that faith is often lived in the long middle, not the exciting beginning. What God is doing in our lives is rarely clear at the start, and impatience can tempt us to abandon the work too soon. Moving forward in faith requires patience – trusting that God is shaping something meaningful even when progress feels slow or unspectacular. Growth is not always dramatic, but growth in our spiritual life is often faithful, steady, and formed over time.

1. Where in your life does it feel like you're in the “long middle,” maybe impatient for God to get you to where you're going?

2. How does patience shape your ability to trust God with outcomes you cannot yet see?

TUESDAY
2/10

ISAIAH 43:18-19

God speaks to a people shaped by memory, their past deliverance, past failure, past identity, and God invites them to look forward instead dwelling on the past. Holding too tightly to what has been can blind us to what God is already doing. Moving forward means learning to recognize God's work in unfamiliar places, trusting that even wilderness seasons can become pathways. God's future is not limited by our past.

1. What "former things" might be preventing you from seeing what God is doing now?
2. Where do you sense God inviting you to notice new growth rather than old patterns?

WEDNESDAY
2/11

LUKE 9:57-62

Jesus' words in this passage can feel unsettling to us because they expose our tendency to delay obedience. Each would-be disciple has a reason to hesitate: security, responsibility, unfinished business. Jesus does not dismiss those concerns lightly, but he does insist that following him requires a decisive forward movement. Faith cannot be lived while constantly looking backward. Discipleship means trusting that life with Jesus is worth more than what we leave behind.

1. What are some of the things in your life that tempt you to delay your obedience to God?
2. How does looking back affect your ability to follow Jesus in the here and now?

THURSDAY
2/12

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14

The apostle Paul does not describe the Christian life as arrival, but as pursuit (echoing the words from Ecclesiastes from Monday). Even after years of faithfulness, he refuses to live off past achievements or spiritual experiences. Instead, he names a single focus: knowing Christ more fully and moving toward the life God is still calling him into. Moving forward in faith often requires letting go not just of sin, but letting go of anything that tempts us to believe we are finished growing. Following Jesus means living with purpose, direction, and expectancy.

1. What past successes or experiences might be tempting you to stop pursuing deeper growth?
2. How do you personally define “the goal” Paul is pressing toward in this passage?

FRIDAY
2/13

PSALM 126

The psalmist holds joy and sorrow together in faithful tension. The psalm remembers what God has done, while also acknowledging that restoration is not yet complete. God’s people are still sowing in tears, still trusting that joy will come. Moving forward does not mean denying pain or struggle; it means believing that God is faithful to bring fruit from what feels costly now. Hope grows when we trust God with both our memories and our longing.

1. What tears or struggles might God be using as seeds for future joy?
2. How can you practice hope this week while waiting for God’s work to be completed?

