

Grace Guide



JANUARY 12-18

“Chasing the Wind”

MONDAY
1/12

ECCLESIASTES 1:2-14
GENESIS 1:26-31

The author of Ecclesiastes identifies himself as the Teacher, the son of David, and looks honestly at life “under the sun.” He concludes that so much of what we chase – achievement, pleasure, wisdom, productivity – feels like “chasing the wind.” The world promises fulfillment if we work harder, accomplish more, or gain recognition, gain material possessions and so on, yet the result is often weariness and dissatisfaction. Ecclesiastes does not deny that these pursuits have value, but it exposes their limits. When meaning is sought apart from God, even the best things cannot satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. Blaise Pascal indicated that in each human heart there is a “God shaped hole” (though he uses a lot more words to say that!). This passage invites us to stop pretending that temporary things can give us lasting purpose and instead begin our search for meaning with God at the center.

1. When have you experienced the pursuit of something temporary that you thought would bring you satisfaction but instead left you empty and wanting?
2. How have you defined a “successful life” in the past and in what ways be following Jesus challenge that definition?

TUESDAY
1/13

PROVERBS 23:4-5

This brief proverb offers a sharp warning about exhausting ourselves in the pursuit of wealth. Riches appear solid and secure, yet they vanish as quickly as they arrive, like a bird taking flight. This passage challenges the illusion of control and security that money promises. While wealth itself is not condemned, placing our hope in it leads to anxiety, comparison, and endless striving. God calls us to a true wisdom that knows when enough is enough and to a trust that rests not in what we accumulate, but in the One who provides. When we stop chasing wealth as our source of identity or security, we are freed to live with gratitude and generosity.

1. In what ways does the pursuit of money or financial security influence your stress levels or decision making?
2. What is “responsible stewardship” and how do you practice it?

WEDNESDAY
1/14

JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus contrasts the empty promises of thieves and robbers with his own purpose: to give abundant life. Many voices compete for our attention, each claiming to offer fulfillment, safety, or meaning, but only Jesus truly knows us and leads us toward true life, abundant life that is whole and lasting. When we chase the wrong voices, we end up worn down and dissatisfied. Jesus does not offer a life free from difficulty, but a life rooted in relationship with him, one marked by purpose, freedom, and trust in God. Abundant life is not found in chasing more, but in following the Shepherd who already knows what we need.

1. Throughout your life, what voices have shaped your understanding of need and fulfillment?
2. How do you recognize the difference between following Jesus and following cultural expectations of success or happiness?

THURSDAY
1/15

1 JOHN 2:15-17

John names the tension we all feel: the pull between loving the world and loving God. The “world” he describes is not creation itself, but those systems and cultural assumptions that train our desires toward pleasure, possession, and pride. These cravings promise fulfillment but are temporary and ultimately unsatisfying. In contrast, living in alignment with God’s will leads to something lasting. This passage invites honest self-examination of what shapes our desires and reminds us that what endures is not what we grasp for, but the life formed in us as we remain rooted in God.

1. Which desires most often compete for your loyalty and draw attention away from God?
2. What does it look like, in practical terms, to choose what lasts over what is temporary in your life right now?

FRIDAY
1/16

PSALM 39

This is a prayer born from deep self-awareness and vulnerability. The psalmist reflects on the brevity of life and the futility of storing up wealth without knowing who will enjoy it. Rather than leading to despair, this awareness drives him toward God as his only real hope. When life feels fleeting and fragile, chasing after control or permanence only increases frustration. Time and again God challenges us to face our limitations honestly and to place our trust not in what we can preserve, but in God who remains faithful beyond the length of our days.

1. How does the awareness of life’s brevity influence the way you spend your time and energy?
2. What are you tempted to cling to in order to feel secure in an uncertain world?

SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
1/17-18

MATTHEW 6:19-27

Jesus speaks directly to our tendency to chase security through possessions and to worry about never having enough. He reminds us that what we treasure shapes our hearts and that anxiety cannot add a single hour to our lives. Instead of frantic striving, Jesus calls us to trust in God's care, a care that already sustains birds and clothes the fields in beauty. Jesus does not dismiss our responsibilities but he challenges the illusion that worry and accumulation can somehow protect us. True freedom comes when we loosen our grip on earthly treasures and rest in the faithful provision of God.

1. How do your spending, saving, or planning habits reflect what you treasure most?
2. What is one area where you could actively practice trust in God's provision this week?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

“I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”

(Ecclesiastes 1:14)