

Grace Guide



JULY 6-12

“Fear, Faith and Failing”

MONDAY
7/6

EXODUS 14:5-14

As the Israelites stood trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's approaching army, fear quickly replaced their confidence. They could see only the danger before them, forgetting the mighty acts God had already performed on their behalf. Moses reminded them that their future did not depend on their own ability to escape but on God's power to save. Sometimes we find ourselves standing in what feels like an impossible place, unable to imagine a way forward. Fear urges us to panic or retreat, but faith invites us to remember God's presence and God's faithfulness. While we may not always know what God is about to do, we can trust that he is already at work, making a way where none seems possible.

1. How has remembering God's past faithfulness strengthened your trust during difficult seasons?
2. In what situations are you more willing to wait for God rather than rushing ahead under your own strength? When are you less likely to wait for God?

TUESDAY
7/7

ISAIAH 41:8-13

God's words through Isaiah offer remarkable comfort: "Do not fear, for I am with you." Notice that God does not promise a life free from hardship. Instead, he promises his presence in the middle of it. He strengthens, helps, and upholds his people with his righteous hand. We often believe courage means becoming fearless or self-sufficient, but faithful courage grows from knowing that we are never alone. When our confidence rests in God's presence instead of our own abilities, we discover a strength that carries us through circumstances we could never face by ourselves.

1. Which promise in this passage speaks most directly to you?
2. How is relying on God's strength different from simply trying harder on your own?

WEDNESDAY
7/8

HEBREWS 12:1-3

Life with Christ is described as a race that requires endurance, not a sprint powered by our own determination. The writer of Hebrews urges us to lay aside whatever weighs us down or slows us down (particularly our sin) and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. When we focus only on our circumstances, discouragement can quickly take over. But when we remember who Jesus is, what he has endured, and how faithfully he has completed the Father's will, we can find renewed strength to continue. Faith grows as we learn to look beyond our present struggles and place our confidence in the One who leads us and brings our faith to maturity.

1. How does your faith journey reflect the idea of a marathon rather than a sprint?
2. What situations or circumstances are more likely to make you "grow weary and lose heart"? How does the example of Jesus encourage you?

THURSDAY

7/9

1 PETER 5:6-11

Peter knew firsthand what it was like to be overwhelmed by fear and to discover that Jesus was stronger than his weakness. Years after walking on the water and sinking beneath the waves (our passage for this week), Peter wrote to encourage believers facing hardship. Instead of pretending to be strong, he tells us to humble ourselves before God and cast all our anxieties on him because he cares for us. God never asks us to carry our burdens alone. He invites us to place them into his hands, trusting that he is both powerful enough to help and loving enough to care. Even when trials come, God is at work strengthening and restoring those who continue to trust him.

1. Are there any worries or anxieties that you need to give to God? What sometimes makes you hold back?
2. Why is humility key in trusting God?

FRIDAY

7/10

PSALM 56

David does not deny his fear in this psalm, he openly admits it: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Faith does not require us to ignore our emotions or pretend that frightening situations are easy. Rather, faith gives us a place to bring those fears honestly before God. David's confidence grows as he remembers God's promises and steadfast love. The circumstances around him had not yet changed, but his perspective had. Trust begins when we choose to believe that God is greater than whatever threatens us, even before we see the outcome.

1. What fears are easiest for you to admit to God, and which ones are more difficult to surrender and why?
2. What is the difference between acting without fear and trusting God in the midst of fear?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
7/11-12**

MATTHEW 14:22-33

The disciples were terrified as the wind and waves battered their boat, but Jesus came to them in the midst of the storm. Peter's request to come to Jesus on the water was an act of remarkable faith, yet his attention shifted from Jesus to the wind, and he began to sink. Even then, Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, reminding us that our hope is not found in perfect faith or flawless obedience. Our hope is found in Jesus. There will be moments when fear distracts us or when we stumble in following Christ. What matters is that Jesus remains faithful. He is present in the storm, quick to rescue, and worthy of our worship because he truly is the Son of God.

1. What prevents us from keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus – in good times or difficult times, in fear or in joy?
2. Where in your life do you sense Christ calling you to trust his presence more deeply, even if you can't see how things will work out?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

(1 Peter 5:6-7)