

Grace Guide



AUGUST 10-16

“Hidden In Plain Sight”

MONDAY
8/10

1 SAMUEL 1:1-20

Hannah carried a burden that few people fully understood. Her longing for a child was accompanied by years of disappointment, misunderstanding, and even ridicule. When she poured out her heart before God, the High Priest Eli initially mistook her grief for something else, but God saw what no one else could see. God heard the prayer that was spoken without words and answered it in his perfect time. Hannah's story reminds us that God sees beyond appearances and understands the deepest cries of our hearts. Even when others misunderstand us or overlook our pain, God invites us to bring every concern to him with confidence, trusting that God hears us and cares for us.

1. When have you felt misunderstood by others, and how did that affect your relationship with God?
2. Is there any burden have you been carrying that you need to place honestly before God today? How have you experienced God lifting your burdens?

TUESDAY
8/11

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

After speaking words of judgment throughout much of his book, the prophet Zephaniah concludes with a beautiful picture of hope. God promises to remove fear, gather those who have been scattered, strengthen those who are weak, and honor those who have known shame. Rather than abandoning the vulnerable, God moves toward them with compassion and joy. These promises ultimately find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who welcomes the weary, restores the broken, and gives a new identity to those who trust in him. Because of his love, our past failures, disappointments, or rejection do not have the final word.

1. Which promise in this passage speaks to you the most powerfully today, and why?
2. Where do you most need to trust that God is at work even when circumstances seem discouraging?

WEDNESDAY
8/12

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

The apostle Paul reminds the believers that many of them were once considered outsiders, separated from God's covenant people and without hope. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, however, those barriers have been torn down. Christ has made peace and created one family made up of people from every background. The church is not built on social status, ethnicity, success, or human achievement, but on the grace of God. As members of God's household, we are called to welcome others with the same love and acceptance we have received from Christ.

1. How can our church better demonstrate that all who trust in Christ belong in God's family?
2. What practical step can you take this week to help someone feel genuinely welcomed and valued?

THURSDAY
8/13

1 PETER 2:4-10

Peter the apostle describes Jesus as the living Stone who was rejected by people but chosen by God (pointing to the prophet Isaiah and Psalm 118). He then says that those who belong to Christ are also "living stones," being built together into a spiritual house. Many believers may feel insignificant or wonder whether they have much to offer, but God sees things differently. He takes ordinary people and gives them an extraordinary purpose. Our identity is no longer determined by the opinions of others, our accomplishments, or our failures. In Christ, we are chosen, called, and commissioned to proclaim God's goodness so that others may come to know him as well.

1. What voices or experiences have shaped the way you think about your own worth, and how does drawing your identity from your relationship with Christ shape and challenge those experience and voices?
2. In what ways does your life "proclaim the mighty acts" of God to those around you?

FRIDAY
8/14

PSALM 113

This psalm begins by calling everyone to praise God, but it quickly reveals one of the greatest reasons for that praise: although God reigns over all creation, he stoops down to care for those the world often ignores. He raises the poor, lifts up the needy, and gives hope to those who feel forgotten. God's greatness is not shown by remaining distant from human need but by drawing near with compassion and mercy. When we recognize how God has graciously lifted us up through Jesus Christ, we are often moved to worship with grateful hearts and then to extend that same compassion to others.

1. What do these verses teach you about God's character that inspires you to worship him?
2. How can praise become more than words and shape the way you live each day?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY**
8/15-16

JOHN 4:4-41

When Jesus stopped at Jacob's well, he began a conversation that no one expected. He spoke with a Samaritan woman, crossing barriers of ethnicity, gender, reputation, and history, and instead of defining her by her past, Jesus offered the woman living water and revealed himself as the promised Messiah. The woman's encounter with Jesus changed her so profoundly that she left her water jar behind and hurried to tell others about him. The people who may once have dismissed her now listened because she had experienced the transforming grace of Christ. God often works through unexpected people to draw others to himself, reminding us that no one is beyond his love or beyond his ability to use for his purposes.

1. What barriers do you see Jesus crossing in this passage, and what does this reveal to you about the heart of God?
2. How has your own experience of Jesus equipped you to tell others about him?

VERSE OF THE SERIES

“And He was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?’”
(Luke 9:23-25)