

Grace Guide



MAY 11-17

“In But Not Of...”

MONDAY
5/11

DANIEL 1:1-17

Daniel and his friends found themselves captives in exile, surrounded by a culture that did not honor God. Everything around them pressured them to blend in, compromise, and slowly forget who they were. Yet Daniel quietly resolved to remain faithful in the middle of Babylon. His obedience was not loud or rebellious, it was steady, thoughtful, and rooted in trust that God was still with him even in exile. Many believers today live with similar tension. We work, study, and interact in places where faith may not be valued or understood. Daniel reminds us that holiness is often formed not through dramatic moments, but through daily choices that keep our hearts aligned with God even when the world around us pulls in another direction.

1. What pressures in your daily life tempt you to compromise your faith or values and how do you remain faithful?
2. Where have you seen God remain faithful to you in difficult or spiritually challenging environments?

TUESDAY
5/12

LUKE 10:1-12

When Jesus sent out the seventy-two disciples, he did not send them away from the world but directly into the messiness of everyday life. They entered towns filled with uncertainty, resistance, and people who did not always welcome their message. Yet Jesus called them to go with peace, humility, and dependence upon God. Followers of Christ are not meant to isolate themselves from the world around them. Instead, we are sent into ordinary places carrying the hope, mercy, and truth of Christ. The disciples were instructed to trust God for what they needed and to remain faithful whether people listened or rejected them. Faithfulness is not measured by popularity or comfort, but by obedience to the One who sends us.

1. In what ordinary places or everyday relationships might Jesus be sending you to represent him right now?
2. Why is it sometimes difficult to remain peaceful and gracious when others reject our faith?

WEDNESDAY
5/13

ROMANS 12:1-2

The apostle Paul urges believers not to conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. The world constantly shapes people through its values, fears, ambitions, and desires. Without realizing it, we can slowly begin to think, speak, and live just like everyone around us. But transformation happens when we continually place ourselves before God and allow God to reshape our hearts and minds. This renewal does not happen instantly. It comes through prayer, worship, Scripture, repentance, and obedience over time. As God changes us from within, we begin to recognize his will more clearly and reflect his nature and character more faithfully in the way we live.

1. What influences most shape the way you think and respond to life? Where do you notice pressure to conform to unhealthy attitudes or values?
2. How can you intentionally make space for God to renew your mind this week?

THURSDAY

5/14

1 PETER 1:13-16

Peter calls believers to prepare their minds for action and to live disciplined lives rooted in hope. Holiness is not simply about avoiding wrongdoing. Living a life of godly holiness is about belonging fully to God. Because God is holy, those who follow Christ are called to reflect his character in every part of life. That calling touches our speech, attitudes, priorities, relationships, and decisions. In a world that often encourages people to follow every impulse or desire, holiness can seem strange or restrictive. Yet God's holiness is not meant to crush joy but to lead us into true life. As we grow closer to Christ, our hearts begin to desire what honors him rather than what merely satisfies us for a moment.

1. What does holiness look like in practical everyday situations?
2. How can preparing your mind for action help you resist unhealthy influences?

FRIDAY

5/15

PSALM 26

David asks God to examine his heart and test his motives because he desires to walk in integrity and remain close to God rather than being swept into the ways of those who live without regard for God's will and God's ways. David is not claiming perfection. Instead, he is expressing a sincere desire to live faithfully before God. This kind of honesty requires humility. It is easy to compare ourselves to others while ignoring the deeper condition of our own hearts. But spiritual maturity grows when we invite God to search us, to correct us, and to lead us more deeply into truth. Integrity (holiness) is formed in us when our private lives and public lives begin to match.

1. How comfortable are you with asking God to examine your heart honestly? Why?
2. Where in your life do you demonstrate integrity in small, unseen choices? How do those moments make it easier (or harder) to respond in the face of larger, more public challenges?

