

Grace Guide



AUGUST 11-17

“Toiling In Obscurity”

God sees what the world overlooks.

MONDAY
8/11

ISAIAH 57:14-21

God is exalted beyond human reach, dwelling in holiness and glory, yet he chooses to dwell with the contrite and lowly. Too often, the world admires the proud and powerful, but God moves toward the brokenhearted, the overlooked, and those who humbly acknowledge their need. His peace is not for the rebellious, but for those who turn to him in quiet desperation. In a world that rewards self-promotion and overlooks the humble, God brings healing, presence, and peace to those who the world deems insignificant.

1. In what ways have you experienced God meet you in moments of brokenness or humility?
2. What parts of your life might need to be surrendered before God?

TUESDAY
8/12

1 KINGS 17:7-24

When God sent Elijah to the widow at Zarephath, he chose someone the world would never expect: a poor, foreign, grieving mother preparing her last meal. Yet through her, God provided for the prophet and performed a miracle of provision and resurrection for the widow. The world sees scarcity, loss, and hopelessness. God sees opportunity, faith, and life. God's eyes are not drawn to status or abundance but to faith, obedience, and deep need, even when hidden in unlikely places.

1. Why does God seem to use unlikely people?
2. Where in your life might you be focused on scarcity, loss or hopelessness and how might you trust God for opportunity, faith and life?

WEDNESDAY
8/13

LUKE 7:11-17

When Jesus approaches a funeral procession he comes face to face with a widow mourning her only son. No one asked for his help. No one expected a miracle. But Jesus saw her. His heart was moved with compassion, and he restored her son to life. The world might have passed her by, seeing only another tragedy. But Jesus stopped, noticed, and acted. God sees those the world ignores. He is not distant from our grief or indifferent to our sorrow, he enters into our grief, bringing life where there once was loss and hope where there once was sorrow.

1. What does the fact that no one asked Jesus for help suggest about God's knowledge of our hurts and our deep needs?
2. Jesus noticed someone most people would have overlooked: how can you slow down and notice the people around you the way Jesus did?

THURSDAY

8/14

JAMES 2:1-13

In this direct and challenging passage, James confronts a behavior still common today: favoritism based on wealth, status, or appearance. When we give special attention to the rich and ignore the poor, we are not reflecting the heart of God. God does not judge by outward appearances but sees the heart, and he honors the faith of the poor far above worldly power. God's people are called to live by the "royal law" of love, extending mercy and dignity to those the world disregards. When we see with God's eyes, favoritism fades and love takes over.

1. In what ways have you (even unintentionally) shown favoritism in your relationships or decisions?
2. What does God truly see in people and truly value? How can you look at people through those lenses?

FRIDAY

8/15

PSALM 113

This Psalm paints a striking contrast between the greatness of God and his tender concern for the lowly. Though God is exalted above the nations, he stoops down to lift the poor and honor the barren woman (then an image of worldly shame) with a home and family. The world may ignore the powerless, but God does not. God's greatness is shown not just in majesty but in mercy. He delights in raising up those who have been cast down, giving them a new story of dignity and joy.

1. Why does the God who created all the universe and who sits enthroned in holiness and power care about our hurts and concerns, especially those of the weak and broken?
2. What have been some "ash heap" moments in your life that God has redeemed?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY**
8/16-17

ACTS 9:32-42

Tabitha (also known as Dorcas – Aramaic and Greek names) lived a life full of quiet service, clothing widows and doing good. She may not have been well-known outside of her town, but in her community, her love was unforgettable. When she died, God moved through Peter to raise her to life. This miracle wasn't about fame, it was about honoring a woman whose faith had been lived in humble service. God sees the impact of quiet, faithful lives. He sees the ones who serve in obscurity, and he calls them precious.

1. How does Tabitha's story challenge our view of what "important" ministry looks like?
2. Who are the "Tabithas" in your life, those who quietly serve, and how can you honor or encourage them?

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right."

(James 2:8)

NOTES
