Grace Guide

NOVEMBER 9-15

"This Is How We Know…"

MONDAY
11/9

JOB 29:11-17

In this midst of his suffering, Job remembers a time when his life was marked by respect, influence, and the opportunity to help others. But what stands out most is not his position or accomplishments, it is the way he used his influence to care for those who were vulnerable. He became eyes for the blind, feet for the lame, and a defender of those who had no one to speak for them. Job understood that the blessings and abilities he had been given carried a responsibility to help others. Our lives are not meant to revolve around our own comfort or success. God places people in our paths who need encouragement, assistance, protection, or someone willing to stand beside them. When we use what we have been given to serve others, we reflect the compassionate heart of God. What we do for others reveals something important about what we believe.

1. When have you witnessed someone using their position or influence to stand up for another person? How did that reflect the character of Christ?

2. What abilities, resources, or influence has God given you that could be used to help someone who is struggling or vulnerable?

TUESDAY
11/10

ZECHARIAH 7:8-10

Through the prophet Zechariah, God reminds his people that genuine faith must be reflected in the way they treat others. The people had only been concerned about religious practices and traditions, but God wanted them to understand that worship was never meant to be separated from how they lived their everyday lives. He called them to practice justice, show mercy and compassion, and refuse to take advantage of those who were vulnerable. These instructions reveal that God cares deeply about how we treat people, especially those who have little power or influence. It is possible to participate in religious activities and still miss what God desires most from us. Our faith should shape our attitudes, decisions, and relationships. When we show compassion, seek fairness, and treat others with dignity, we demonstrate that our relationship with God is making a difference in our lives.

1. Why do you think God places such importance on how we treat people who have little power or influence?

2. When faced with a situation in which doing what is right might cost you something, what helps you choose compassion and justice over convenience?

WEDNESDAY
11/11

LUKE 10:25-37

When a religious expert asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus responds by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. In the story, two religious leaders see a man who has been beaten and left for dead beside the road but they choose to pass by. A Samaritan, someone who would have been considered an outsider by Jesus' original audience, stops to help. He does not simply feel sorry for the injured man, he takes action, provides care, and even makes arrangements for his continued recovery. Jesus uses this story to challenge our tendency to define who deserves our love and attention. The question is not simply, “Who is my neighbor?” but whether we are willing to become a neighbor to someone in need. Following Jesus means allowing compassion to move us beyond our comfort zones, prejudices, and busy schedules. Love is more than something we feel or say, love is something we demonstrate through the choices we make.

1. What are some reasons we might recognize someone's need but still choose not to get involved?

2. When have you experienced the kindness of someone you might not have expected to help you?

THURSDAY
11/12

2 CORINTHIANS 81-15

The apostle Paul points to the churches in Macedonia as an example of extraordinary generosity. Despite experiencing hardship and poverty themselves, they gave generously and joyfully to help other believers in need. Their generosity was not measured by how much they had, but by their willingness to share what God had entrusted to them. Paul explains that their generosity flowed from their relationship with Christ, who became poor for our sake so that through his poverty we might become rich. This is the heart of Christian stewardship: recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and that we are called to use those gifts for the good of others. Generosity is not simply about giving what we have left over after taking care of ourselves. It is about developing a heart that reflects the generosity of Jesus. When we understand how much we have received through Christ, we begin to see our possessions, resources, and opportunities differently.

1. The Macedonian churches gave generously even in the midst of their own difficulties. What would inspire a church or a person to practice generosity when life is not particularly comfortable or convenient?

2. Is there an area of your life where you tend to hold tightly to what you have rather than trusting God enough to share it? What might taking a step toward greater generosity look like?

FRIDAY
11/13

PSALM 112

The psalmist describes the character of someone who reveres God and delights in following God's ways. This person is not simply known for religious devotion but for living with generosity, compassion, and concern for others. The psalm particularly highlights someone who gives freely to the poor and conducts their life with justice and righteousness. Their generosity is not an occasional act intended to gain recognition, it is a reflection of a heart that has been shaped by a relationship with God, because a life grounded in God produces a different kind of security. Rather than finding confidence in wealth, possessions, or circumstances, the righteous person trusts in God. This is a countercultural way of living in a world that often encourages us to accumulate more, protect what we have, and look out primarily for ourselves. When our confidence rests in God, we are free to live with open hands and generous hearts.

1. Why can it sometimes be difficult to give freely without expecting recognition, appreciation, or something in return?

SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
11/14-15

1 JOHN 3:16-18

How do we know what genuine love looks like? John points us to Jesus, who demonstrated his love by laying down his life for us. Jesus did not simply tell us that he loved us, he showed us what love is through his actions and his willingness to sacrifice himself for our sake. John then challenges us to follow that example. If we see someone in need and have the ability to help but choose to turn away, how can we claim that God's love lives within us? Our words and good intentions are not enough. Love must become visible through what we do and how we treat others. This does not mean we must solve every problem or meet every need, but it does mean we cannot ignore the opportunities God places before us to show compassion and generosity. The love we have received through Jesus is meant to flow through us into the lives of others. The way we use our time, resources, abilities, and opportunities becomes a reflection of the love of Christ.

1. John points to Jesus' willingness to lay down his life as the ultimate example of love. What does sacrificial love look like in the ordinary, everyday circumstances of your life?

2. How can you distinguish between simply feeling compassion for someone and actually allowing that compassion to influence your decisions and actions?

3. What might prevent you from responding when you become aware of someone else's need? Is it fear, inconvenience, uncertainty, or something else?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”
(1 John 3:16)