

Grace Guide



OCTOBER 6-12 LAITY SUNDAY

MONDAY
10/6

LUKE 14:25-27

This is a challenging verse for us to think about. Sometimes Jesus said things in ways that make us stop and pay attention. “Whoever does not hate their father or mother... cannot be my disciple.” Jesus challenges us to prioritize our relationship with Him above all else. Our love for God should be so all-encompassing that every other love pales in comparison. To emphasize this point, in particular, Jesus reminds us that being a Christ follower involves sacrifice, “whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

1. What are some of the things or relationships in your life that sometimes compete with your devotion to God? How can you ensure that your love for God remains the most significant?
2. Carrying our cross implies bearing the challenges and burdens that come with following Jesus. What difficulties are you currently facing in your walk with Christ, and how can you rely on His strength to overcome them?

TUESDAY
10/7

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

The first verses (4-5) here are remembered as an ancient daily prayer (along with verses from Deuteronomy 11 and Numbers 15) known as “The Shema,” the first word here in Hebrew (*shema* means “hear” or “listen”). Jesus affirmed that loving God and loving neighbor was the core of our faith (see Matthew 22:35-40). Here, Moses instructs the Israelites to love God with their whole being and to make God’s commandments a constant part of their lives. God desires nothing less than our complete devotion.

1. How do you express your love for God in your daily life? Are there ways you can more intentionally integrate His commandments and teachings into your routines?
2. Think about the people in your life, especially younger generations. How can you pass on the importance of loving God with all your heart, soul, and strength to them?

WEDNESDAY
10/8

JOHN 15:1-8

Jesus teaches us about the importance of remaining in Him. He is the source of our spiritual life and fruitfulness. Just as branches need to stay connected to the vine to bear fruit, we must stay connected to Christ to live a life that is meaningful and impactful.

1. When are you tempted to not “abide in” Christ? What are some practices or habits that can help you stay connected to Him?
2. Consider the idea that “apart from [Christ] you can do nothing.” What does this mean for your sense of dependence on God and the priorities you set in your life?

THURSDAY

10/9

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Paul encourages us to fix our hearts and minds on heavenly things. As believers, we are united with Christ, and our true life is found in Him. This perspective reminds us that God should be the most important focus in our lives, and our ultimate hope lies in the promise of sharing in His glory.

1. What are some practical ways you can "set your hearts on things above" in the midst of your daily routines and responsibilities?
2. How does the anticipation of appearing with Christ in glory impact your choices and priorities in this life?

FRIDAY

10/10

PSALM 27

This psalm is part cry to God for protection and rescue, part reminder of the strength and salvation of God. In verses 4 and 5 the psalmist expresses his singular desire: to be in the presence of the Lord always, finding refuge and strength in Him. May this devotion to God as the ultimate source of safety and joy inspire us to make God the central focus of our lives.

1. What does it mean for you to "dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of your life"? How can you prioritize spending time in His presence regularly?
2. How does knowing that God provides refuge and security in times of trouble impact your perspective on life's challenges? How can you trust Him more in difficult times?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
10/11-12**

GALATIANS 2:19-21

Paul reminds us that our old selves, bound by the law and selfish desires, must die so that we can live for God. Christ's sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate demonstration of God's love for us, and it should be the driving force behind our lives. When we truly grasp this, we understand that nothing else can compare to the importance of our relationship with Him.

1. Reflect on the idea of being crucified with Christ. What aspects of your old self do you need to let go of in order to live a life fully devoted to God?
2. How does the concept of living by faith in Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us, impact the way you approach your daily decisions and priorities?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

(Galatians 2:20a)