



followers of  
**THE WAY**  
a discipleship pathway

**“However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers *as a follower of the Way ...*” Acts 24:14**

**ABIDE IN CHRIST – Part Six**

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# Table of Contents

## Abide

Introduction – Followers of the Way: A Discipleship Pathway .....	1
Abide 1 – Establish Time to Abide in Christ.....	3
Abide 2 – Does God Speak Today? .....	13
Abide 3 – Quiet Yourself to Hear God’s Voice.....	23
Abide 4 – The Importance of Journaling .....	33
Abide 5 – Why You Need To Hear God’s Voice .....	41
Abide 6 – The Bible Is the Primary Way to Hear God.....	51
Abide 7 – Ways in Which God Speaks .....	59
Abide 8 – Listening for God’s Guidance .....	67
Abide 9 – Balance in Listening for God’s Guidance .....	77
Abide 10 – Memorization Will Help You Renew Your Life .....	85
Abide 11 – Jesus Expects You to Obey .....	95
Abide 12 – Repent & Confess .....	103
Abide 13 – Prayer as Praise & Thanksgiving.....	113
Abide 14 – Prayer Changes Everything! .....	121
Abide 15 – Jesus is to be Functional Lord of Your Life .....	131

## Additional Material

<b>History &amp; The Gospel Part 1.....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>History &amp; The Gospel Part 2 .....</b>	<b>147</b>



# History & The Gospel - Part 1

## Day 1

### Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

#### The Beginning of It All: Creation & Fellowship

It is now time to consider a key question. How did humanity get to a place of great opportunity, where it can ABIDE with Jesus? Why do you have the privilege and blessing of being a FOLLOWER of the Way?

Did you know that God created you in his own image, and you are fearfully and wonderfully made? (see **Psalm 139:14**) Early in the Bible it states it clearly, **Genesis 1:27 (NIV)** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* This is incredible and is so foundational to understanding abiding! That is, it creates the POTENTIAL for you (and all people) to be connected to God.

It can be said that when people were created they were, “of him.” Put another way, they were made by him and like him in some important ways. For example, people can use logic and reason, unlike animals. Further, imprinted in people is the desire for relationship with God and others! This is one reason why Adam and Eve closely walked with God in the garden of Eden. In fact, this was the first *fellowship* of humans with God.

The creation of people is a part of what God said was, “very good.” Fellowship is important to God because he is, “three persons, one God.” Father, Son, and Holy Spirit fellowship with each other. Do you understand this? Maybe not. Will you ever understand it fully? No. After all, it only makes sense that the “created” will not completely comprehend what the Creator is like.

It’s important that you praise God for creating you and for giving you the potential to be connected to him. Paul put it this way, **Colossians 1:16 (NIV)** *For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*

### For Your Journal

#### Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today’s reading.
2. Why do you (and others) have the potential for relationship with God?

#### Life Application (James 1:22)

1. Think through your life. Can you see a pattern of desiring a relationship either with God or others? Write down 2 or 3 examples.
2. Has there been a season (even a week) in your life where you felt really connected with God? Did you feel that you were experiencing some of the potential of a relationship with him, where you were, “walking with him?”

## Bible Reading

1. Please read Galatians 1:1-10.
2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## Day 2

### Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

#### The Beginning Of It All: Sin & Brokenness

Adam and Eve had perfect fellowship with God! They walked with him. And then it ended. Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God. In other words, they sinned. Sin is to disobey God by either doing what you should not do or not doing what is good. You can read about their sin in Genesis 3. It is a devastating story with massive consequences. One of the consequences can be called, "brokenness." This brokenness includes a wrecked relationship with God.

How is this brokenness illustrated?

1. People start to feel shame

When someone sins and rebels against God, a result is shame before others and before God. Adam and Eve went through this, **Genesis 3:7 (NIV)** *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.* Relationships get very messy because of this shame! Truthfully, there is much about one's brokenness that causes relationships to experience significant conflict and pain.

2. God removes them from his presence

God is holy, which means that he is, "set apart." And sin and his holiness do not mix together. As a result, Adam and Eve are banished from the garden where the tree of life is found. This was a place of God's presence, but is also a picture of missing out on something – on the life that is found in fellowship with God and through following his ways.

3. The sin DNA is passed on

You have DNA, which passes specific characteristics on to you. Well, because of the sin of Adam and Eve, the desire to sin was passed on to their offspring – all the way down to you! This is highlighted in so many ways. For example, in Genesis 4, Cain kills his brother Abel. Paul sums it up this way when he says, **Romans 3:23 (NIV)** *... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

To fall short of the glory of God is another way of saying that you're short of God's standards, have experienced brokenness and no longer can connect with him in the same way. You have experienced this, have you not? Or as James expresses, **James 1:14 (NIV)** *But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.*

All of the above is another way of concluding, there's a big mess! And it's this mess that causes a deep separation between people and God. It's something that every human experiences whether they acknowledge the source of their emptiness or not.

## For Your Journal

### Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today's reading.
2. What is the cause of a broken relationship with God? Where did this all start?
3. What are 3 ways that this brokenness is illustrated?

### Life Application (James 1:22)

1. All people are broken because of the impact of the DNA of sin that has been passed on to them. Write down 2 or 3 examples of where you have seen this brokenness in your life.
2. A follower of the Way will pray for others. Spend some time praying for those who do not follow Jesus. Pray that they would understand where the brokenness of people comes from.
3. Memorize Romans 3:23.

### Bible Reading

1. Please read Galatians 1:11-24
2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## Day 3

### Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

#### The Rescue Begins – With A Person

On Day 2, you saw the mess that people are in because of sin. There is now great difficulty in trying to connect with God. BUT God is gracious! God loves those he created! And so he begins a major rescue plan.

Early in the Bible there are hints of this rescue plan. It's important to recognize this because it will help you find joy in reading all parts of your Bible. If you can see the major threads or themes that run through the Bible, it will help you marvel at how much God has done for you!

What are these hints?

#### 1. Someone will crush Satan

On Day 2, the role of Satan in the sin of Adam and Eve wasn't mentioned. In reality however, he started it all by tempting Adam and Eve. And yet, praise God, this enemy does not escape punishment! However, when his punishment is announced, the first hint about God's rescue plan is given.

You can read it in **Genesis 3:15**. It says, *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."* Think really hard here!

- God is speaking to Satan. He says that he will put enmity (which means "hostility") between the woman (Eve) and Satan
- This hostility will also continue between Eve's offspring and those who follow Satan. There is a war going on!

- However, eventually Eve’s offspring will crush Satan’s head. Yes, Satan will be able to strike the heel of Eve’s offspring, but this is nothing compared to a crushed head!
- Looking at this through the lens of the New Testament you learn that this offspring of Eve is Jesus. This is what is meant when it’s said that the “rescue begins with a person”

## 2. God’s response to righteousness

But Jesus did not enter the scene right away. Does this mean the rescue plan was on hold? Not at all! It was unfolding, over centuries. It would actually shift from person to person, which are clear signs or indicators that God had not forgotten his plan.

For example, God was looking for those who would act rightly, which means in a righteous way. So even as God continues to punish sin, he spares Noah from a massive flood, pointing to his desire to rescue. Or as the Bible reports, **Genesis 7:1 (NIV)** *The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.*

## 3. A promise to Abraham

Next, a third person is introduced that will play a significant role in God’s rescue plan, Abraham. Here is a promise given to him, **Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)** *I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you ... I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

How will all peoples on earth be blessed? This relates to what is called the gospel, and connects back to Jesus.

## For Your Journal

### Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today’s reading.
2. What are 3 hints that relate to God’s rescue plan?

### Life Application (James 1:22)

1. Today you read that Satan was a part of Adam and Eve’s sin. Can you think of a time in your life when perhaps Satan was attacking you? He is still doing his evil work today!
2. Write out a prayer, praising God for loving you enough to start a rescue plan. Spend some time also praising him for being in control over world history. That’s a big prayer – but it is vital that you appreciate this truth.
3. Review Romans 3:23.

### Bible Reading

1. Please read Galatians 2:1-16.
2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.



## Day 4

### **Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)**

#### **The Rescue Continues – With A People**

At the end of Day 3, a promise given to Abraham was highlighted. It said that God would make him into a great nation and that all peoples would be blessed through that nation. That people is the nation of Israel!

As Abraham had children, and grandchildren, and so on – a nation rose up to which God gave the name Israel. This is why Israel is a central part of God’s rescue plan. Here’s what it says in Exodus, **Exodus 6:7 (NIV)** *I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.*

For many years, the people of Israel had been oppressed as slaves by Egypt. Even here God rescued them, as part of his bigger rescue plan! You can trust God to work out his plan! Even this specific rescue event – which is called “the Exodus” – was a way for God to reveal himself to the Israelites. Why? So that they could be his people. God is seeking to restore fellowship again! What an amazing God!

God also gave them a law to follow. This was a way of reminding them what right behaviour is, so that they could thrive, including in relationships. Or as Joshua puts it, **Joshua 1:8 (NIV)** *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

Then God highlighted sacrifices and offerings they were to commit to, in an attempt to deal with the consequences of their sin. You see, God’s rescue plan wasn’t finished yet, so the solution to sin had not been completed either.

Finally, the Israelites were commanded to first build a tabernacle, then they constructed a temple. This was a sign of God’s presence in their midst, a place to meet with him. Again, the pathway to being connected to God was being re-established! This is what you should think of when you read about these events in the Old Testament.

### **For Your Journal**

#### **Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)**

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today’s reading.
2. Try to explain in your own words the role that Israel plays in God’s rescue plan.

#### **Life Application (James 1:22)**

1. You have seen how God has this incredible plan. He also has an amazing plan for each individual life. Spend some time writing down how past events (good or difficult) have benefited you.
2. Take what you wrote down in the previous question and share it with someone else.
3. Review Romans 3:23.

#### **Bible Reading**

1. Please read Galatians 2:17-21 and Galatians 3:1-14.
2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.

3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## Day 5

### **Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)**

#### **Only A Temporary Solution**

As you take note of God's rescue plan unfolding, hopefully you are led to praise him. Followers of the Way should take many, "pauses for praise." God is worthy to be thanked! Of course, as exciting as this plan is, the parts that you've looked at so far were only temporary.

As powerful as the declaration to Satan was (that his head would be crushed), as gracious as sparing Noah was, as wonderful as the promise to Abraham was, and as incredible as God's work with Israel was – there were still serious problems.

Noah, after being freed from the flood, gets drunk. Abraham tries to fulfill God's promises his own way by sleeping with his wife's servant. Israel complained and rebelled many times. Or as Judges notes, **Judges 21:25 (NIV)** *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.* And of course, even Israel's best king – David – ends up committing adultery with a woman named Bathsheba and has her husband killed!

If you read through the entire Old Testament, you see sin after sin, evil after evil. You may look back and wonder, "what was wrong with those people?" But really, they were not very different from people today. Paul describes the experience everyone has, **Romans 7:15 (ESV)** *For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*

It is still a mess, even when you arrive at the end of the Old Testament. All of the Old Testament deals with something that is called the, "old covenant." A covenant is an agreement or contract and the problem with the old covenant is that the things put in place could not deal with the sin DNA in people. Further, even the sacrifices made for sin (e.g. with blood of bulls and goats) only had a temporary impact.

Something more was needed. Some really good news was required if the rescue plan was to be successful.

### **For Your Journal**

#### **Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)**

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today's reading.
2. Why was the rescue plan not completed in the Old Testament? What problems still existed?

#### **Life Application (James 1:22)**

1. Can you remember times in your life when you vowed to get better at something, but kept failing? Write down 1 or 2 examples.
2. What is a sin that you are struggling with right now? Are you willing to start a journey of finding victory? Write this down. Pray that God would help you move ahead in this area.

## **Bible Reading**

1. Please read Galatians 3:15-29.
2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## **Day 6**

### **Weekly Review & Obedience**

1. Review John 15:5-6 & Romans 12:2 & Romans 3:23.
2. Try using SMORP again. Use the memory verses this time. It can increase their impact!



# History & The Gospel - Part 2

## Day 1

### Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

#### Lost & Presumed Dead

In the previous lesson, you saw how sin has damaged humanity. It's a mess that has impacted every human who has ever lived – every race and generation! Truly, **Romans 3:23 (NIV)** ... *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* Or just a few verses earlier it affirms, **Romans 3:10 (ESV)** ... *none is righteous, no, not one.*

Perhaps you've heard news stories about someone who has gone missing in a stormy ocean or a barren wilderness. After some time, these reports turn more grim and sobering words are now used – “lost and presumed dead.” This sad declaration can also describe the situation a person is in with no solution for their sin. They are lost.

Or to use another phrase – “they are dead in their sin.” Death is the penalty of sin. Or as it says in the Bible, **Romans 6:23 (NIV)** *For the wages of sin is death ...* What kind of sin leads to death? Any kind. Lying. Stealing. Sexual sin. Gossip. Greed. Even one sin.

Without a solution to sin, a person is impacted by three things – the PENALTY of sin (death), the POWER of sin (that overwhelming inner desire to not do what is right) and the PRESENCE of sin (because you live in a world corrupted by sin).

Some may object – “but I'm a good person!” or, “I'm at church every week.” The Bible teaches that you cannot be good enough, or “right enough,” (righteous) unless you ARE perfect. But no one is perfect. Consider how the prophet Isaiah puts it, **Isaiah 64:6 (NIV)** *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

Another way to understand this is the idea of separation. Without a way out of the lostness and brokenness of sin, a person is separated from the life that is found in God. They cannot abide in him, or spend eternity with him. Isaiah again says it well, **Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)** *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

Is there a solution? In the previous lesson, you saw that God had a rescue plan. The old covenant — Step 1 - was only a temporary solution. Tomorrow, you have the opportunity to look at the greatest rescue plan ever!

### For Your Journal

#### Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today's reading.
2. What 3 things impact every person on earth, due to sin? They all start with the letter “P.”

## Life Application (James 1:22)

1. Can you think of times where you experienced the penalty, power, or presence of sin? Write this down. Does this seem like something negative? It is! But it can give you an appreciation for the solution!
2. Turn some worship music on. Spend some time praising God for not forgetting you, even when you have personally sinned. Thank him for specific times in your life where he showed you mercy. Perhaps tell someone about this over the next day or two.

## Bible Reading

1. Please read Galatians 4:1-20.
2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## Day 2

### Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

#### The Greatest Rescue Plan Ever!

It's time for some REALLY good news! God's rescue plan was brilliant, and at just the right time, he sent the perfect rescue party! You've seen that, **Romans 6:23 (NIV)** *For the wages of sin is death ....* But that verse continues on and declares, *"but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Hallelujah! (this means, "praise the Lord")

This can be unpacked a bit. And if you are veteran follower of the Way, please do not tune out. Here are some questions for those who are experienced – do you have a consistent and overflowing gratitude for what God has done for you? Do you share this with others? Do you regularly encourage other believers to share? Everyone can grow in these things!

What does Romans 6:23 teach?

**First:** what God has done for you is a GIFT

It is not earned at all. The word "grace" is used a lot in the New Testament. It's receiving what you do not deserve. Or as Paul notes, **Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)** *For it is by grace you have been saved ...*

**Second:** this gift is a gift of ETERNAL LIFE

Yes, this means that you can spend eternity with God, in heaven! Praise God! Therefore, it refers to a period of time – forever and ever. Yet eternal life also refers to a new KIND of life. Here's how John puts it, **John 10:10 (ESV)** *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* It is an abundant life that is filled with joy, hope, and peace.

**Third:** this is possible because of the rescue party, "CHRIST JESUS our Lord"

Jesus Christ, mysteriously both God and a human, was the perfect sacrifice. As the Son of God and Son of Man, this was his purpose for coming to earth. Luke says, **Luke 19:10 (NIV)** *For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.* That's you!

This, as was noted, is REALLY good news! But it also means that there is no other way to re-connect back to the Father. In other words, there is only one way to the Way. It is through Jesus. Here is how the book of Hebrews explains it; you find restoration with God, **Hebrews 10:20 (NIV)** ...*by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body ...*

## For Your Journal

### Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today's reading.
2. Describe God's rescue plan as it is explained in what you read today.
3. What is a simple definition for grace?

### Life Application (James 1:22)

1. It was mentioned today that the gift of eternal life is a different kind of life or quality of life. If you are a follower of Jesus, write down 1 or 2 examples of how you have experienced this life. If you have not committed to being a follower, write down what is holding you back.
2. Memorize Romans 6:23.

### Bible Reading

1. Please read Galatians 4:21-31.
2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## Day 3

### Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

#### Your Response: Repentance

Jesus has made a Way for you (and others) to be connected to the Father again! What a gift! There are various "R" words in the Bible to describe what God desires to do in your life:

- *Redeem* (from slavery to sin)
- *Restore* (to what God made you to be)
- *Reconcile* (to a beautiful relationship)
- make *Righteous*

Of course, with God being perfect in love, he does not force anyone to choose this path. Instead, a person must respond by saying, "Yes." This positive response includes another "R" word, repentance. To repent is a commitment of the mind and will. It's to agree that you will turn from all that God calls "sin," and to turn away from any attempt at trying to save yourself. It is more about receiving, than striving!

**Matthew 3:2 (NIV)** "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.*" The "kingdom of heaven" is a phrase the Bible uses to describe not only heaven – an actual place - but where Jesus reigns in a person's heart. That's why he said it is "near." He's saying, "you can grab this abundant life now!" But this first includes a person's choice to repent, to turn. Consider how Luke says it, **Luke 17:20-21 (NIV)** *Jesus replied, "The*

*kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."*

Who is willing to repent? What kind of person? It is those who are humble, soft of heart, and recognize their need for a new Way.

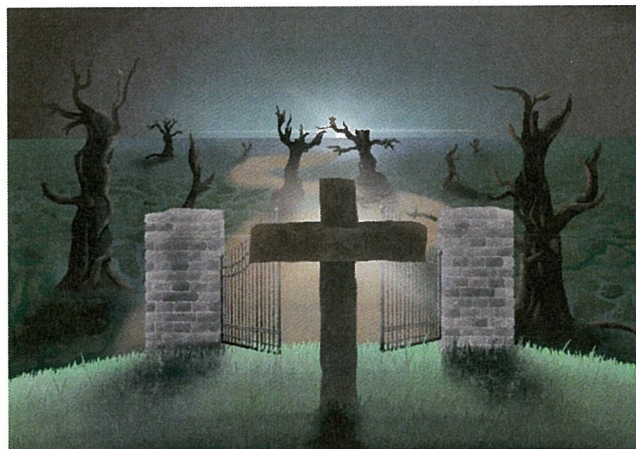
### **Your Response: Faith**

After a person turns, or repents, they are asked to trust God for their salvation and with their life. This trust is what the Bible calls "faith." Hebrews describes it this way, **Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)** *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

Does it feel like your faith is very small, or very weak? Thankfully, God responds to even the weakest faith because he is a God of mercy, grace, and love. You simply need to cry out to him in your need! Or as Romans declares, **Romans 10:13 (NIV)** ... *for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Imagine that a person has been on a journey that leads to nowhere. They are tired of being lost, feeling empty, stuck with no purpose. They are separated from their father and the rest of their family, with the taste of conflict and tension still weighing them down like a massive burden.

Now consider the picture below. This person now turns to find a better way.



Eventually they come across this new path that in the distance leads to a place of great light. The gate to this way used to be shut (think of Adam and Eve being banned from the garden and God's presence), but now it's wide open!

However, there is only one way to start on this path to life. The person must go through the cross. Perhaps they feel – "this is silly, believe in that?" or, "is it really that simple?" The cross, of course, was not simple. Jesus was tortured, rejected, and then killed on that cross. But now it's empty! Jesus rose from the dead, with power! And he waits for all who want to begin this journey, a journey that is winding, with unexpected turns, even through a barren land – yet it is on a rock-solid (Jesus and his ways



are the rock!) path and leads to heaven. It is far from silly or simple. It's what brings a person back to God, to his Way, and it's why they can abide in him. Praise God!

Or as Jesus himself declared, **Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)** *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

## For Your Journal

### Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today's reading.
2. What 2 responses are required of a person to be restored into right relationship with God? Describe them as best you can.
3. What kind of person is willing to repent?

### Life Application (James 1:22)

1. Think of 1 time when you repented in your life and 1 time when you trusted Jesus for something. Write these down.
2. Write out a prayer, praising God for this new way. If you are already his follower, thank him for the life that you have already found – be specific. If you are not his follower, why not write out a prayer committing your life to him? He is so good!
3. Review Romans 6:23.

### Bible Reading

4. Please read Galatians 5:1-15
5. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
6. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## Day 4

### Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

#### You Are Adopted!

The gift of God is so GENEROUS that it is like a gift that comes with many blessings. Put another way, it's the ultimate gift that keeps on giving! Or as Paul says, **Romans 8:32 (NIV)** *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Wow!*

When you decide to place your faith in Jesus, your identity actually changes! You become a child of God because he has adopted you into his family. You become his son or his daughter! Here's how John explains it, **John 1:12 (NIV)** *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God ...* You might not always FEEL like his child, but this too is believed by faith. After all, feelings can be deceptive.

To further highlight the generosity of this blessing, consider how another verse describes it, **1 John 3:1 (NIV)** *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!* Don't you love this word, "lavished?" How often the devil, the enemy of God, wants to lie about the generosity of God. Do not believe him! Learn to resist! There is much that God has in store for those who love him. The Bible says that the devil attacks you with fiery darts to defeat you.

### **You Received Power!**

Previously, you saw that the consequences of sin included the PENALTY of sin. Jesus dealt with this on the cross! But what about the POWER of sin? That's another consequence! Well again, there is great news! When you become a child of God, you also receive yet another gift – the Holy Spirit begins to live inside of you. And this Spirit gives you strength to overcome the power of sin!

Paul liked to talk about this strength. One time he describes it as, **Ephesians 1:19-20 (NIV)** ... *his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.* Do you realize what this is saying? You have received the same power that conquered death!

When Jesus died for you, he died for your sins. This forgiveness is beautiful. But he also died so that you can sin less and less. It's the least that you can do for a Father who has lavishly loved you! As it says in the Bible, **1 John 5:3 (NIV)** *This is love for God: to obey his commands ...*

Are these commands hard to keep? No longer, as this same passage concludes, **1 John 5:4 (NIV)** ... *and his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.* You have a new birth, with new power! And again, you walk this Way with faith!

### **For Your Journal**

#### **Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)**

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today's reading.
2. What else do you receive when you place your faith in Jesus? 2 things are noted today. Please write them down.

#### **Life Application (James 1:22)**

1. When have you realized that you are child of God? Have there been times when the enemy tried to cause you to doubt this? Write down your experience regarding this truth.
2. Spend some time thanking God for his power. And write down where you need his power in your life right now. Ask him to fill you with his power for this need. Thank him, in faith, that he will answer.
3. Review Romans 3:23.

#### **Bible Reading**

1. Please read Galatians 5:16-26.

2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## Day 5

### Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

#### The Rescuer Is A King

Anyone who is a follower of Jesus needs to both understand who he is, AND walk according to who he is. He is a Saviour, as you have seen. He is also one who calls you to a very specific Way, with commands, with the expectation that you will abide in him. This is a privilege, yes, but also a responsibility. It's because he is also a King. Or as Revelation describes Jesus, **Revelation 19:16 (NIV)** *On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

His place as King is why his followers are commanded, **Ephesians 5:1 (NIV)** *Be imitators of God, as dearly loved children ...* It is why you need to keep abiding. Will you grow weary, even though you have the power of God within you? Yes you will! It is because this world still has sin in it. There is still evil. And it will get worse as time goes on.

The penalty of sin and the power of sin have been dealt with through Jesus and the Spirit, but what about the presence of sin? Paul describes this difficult situation, **Romans 8:22 (NIV)** *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.* Does that ever explain it! Is there good news here as well? Yes!

#### Jesus, The King, Is Coming Back

One day, Jesus the King will come back! He will come back and destroy all that causes sin. At this time, he will fully establish his kingdom on earth. The book of Revelation, with much vividness, describes what will happen before this time, during his return, and what will happen after.

Here is just one such passage from that book, **Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV)** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

Please notice that God will dwell with those who belong to him – again, fellowship is always his goal! And there will be no more death or pain. Praise God! What an amazing rescue plan! Any difficulties that you face on this journey will be worth it.

### For Your Journal

#### Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

1. In your own journal, write down something that stood out to you from today's reading.
2. What does Jesus still plan to do? What difficulties do people still face before his return?

### **Life Application (James 1:22)**

1. The best way to respond to today's reading is to thank Jesus that he is coming back! Write out a prayer to him, telling him what you're looking forward to.
2. Talk to someone else and ask them – are you looking forward to the return of Jesus? This may take some boldness, but followers of the Way are to be bold (even if their personality is meek).

### **Bible Reading**

1. Please read Galatians 6.
2. Write down 1 or 2 verses from the passage that stuck out to you.
3. Take time to quiet yourself before Jesus and meditate on the verses. Write down any thoughts that come to mind.

## **Day 6**

### **Weekly Review & Obedience**

1. Review John 15:5-6; Romans 12:2; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23.
2. Is there something you need to confess, to Jesus the King? An area where you have not been following his leadership?