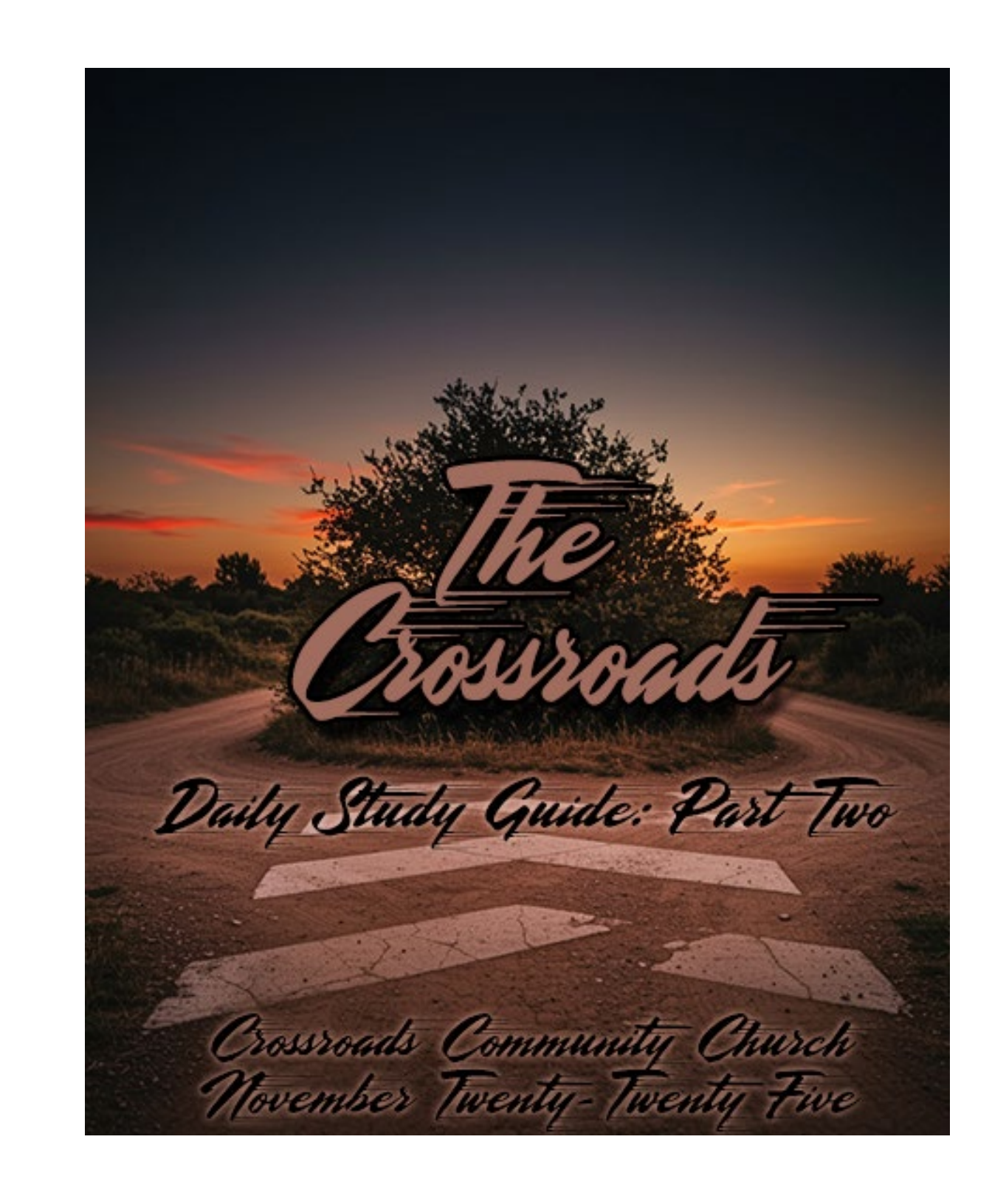




The Crossroads

Daily Study Guide: Part Two

*Crossroads Community Church
November Twenty-Twenty Five*

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Welcome to Crossroads Community Church Study Guide, we are glad you joined us!

We offer this series study guide to be used as a resource for deeper understanding in tandem with weekend messages and it is our hope that you will find this useful in your faith journey and spiritual growth.

We believe The Bible, God's word, is inspired by Him, through the Holy Spirit and is sufficient for everything you need in life – **guidance, wisdom, strength, encouragement and HOPE**. His word reveals His nature and character and His plan of redemption through His Son Jesus Christ, through whom we can have eternal salvation when we choose to follow Him. We also believe the Bible remains relevant in our world today and its power is experienced when personally and consistently applied and practiced.

Part of your journey may include choosing a Bible translation and there are many. To help you choose, it is important to know that a "translation" is word-for-word while a "paraphrase" is thought- for- thought. If you are new to Bible reading or don't yet have one, we offer FREE Bibles that are English Standard Version translation – a very easy to read Bible. Other options are Bible Apps you can download to your phone, or sites like: www.Bible.org, www.biblegateway.com or www.blueletterbible.org.

We invite you to join us for weekend services:

Saturday Evening at 5:30pm. Question and Answer period after service.

Morning Social at 10:00am: A time to connect with others over coffee and donuts.

Sunday Morning at 10:30am

Promiseland Kids' Ministry: Toddler – Sr. High, Sunday at 10:30 am, offers Christian education and worship for children and youth

If you have missed a service, you can view it on our YouTube Channel, "Crossroads Ridgecrest", or go to www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org.

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please call (760)384-3333 Weds. – Fri. 10am-4pm, text (760)301-4840, or email ccc@ccc-rc.org

Week 4



October 13th – October 18th

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21

Monday, October 13th, 2025

Day 1

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [John 14:15-26](#)

Think: Whether we realize it or not, there are many areas in our life we have had the benefit of a navigator... someone who directs the course of a ship, aircraft or other form of transportation. There are navigators for other needs as well, such as healthcare, social work, employment, education – each providing guidance and direction, so- doesn't it make sense that in the most important area of our life, our faith, we would want and need a navigator as well?

Jesus knew His disciples, then and now, would need someone to teach, guide, remind, and encourage them as they faced life without Him. In verses 16 and 26, who is this navigator?

What will He do for us?

In verses 15 and 23 what is the condition for this?

What encouragement does Jesus give in verses 18-21?

How does this encourage you?

Engage: When a person chooses to submit to Christ and follow Him, God sends His Holy Spirit to dwell in them - this is necessary to learn, grow, and have the ability to love and follow His commands. The Holy Spirit will be that voice encouraging us to do the right thing when we are tempted to do the wrong thing. The Holy Spirit gives us understanding of God's word. But the most important thing the Holy Spirit does is help us love God and others more each day. Do you find this happening in your life? How do you know it's the Holy Spirit?

Increased love for God and people, especially those who are hard to love, is not something that comes natural to us – this love is truly supernatural! If you have been walking with God for a while, what are some other changes you've noticed in your life?

Those changes are the result and evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If we say we are Christian but there are no changes, what should we do?

Memorize: *And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

Tuesday, October 14th, 2025

Day 2

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Galatians 5:16-26](#)

Think: Yesterday we learned that God gives us His Holy Spirit to help us navigate life as a Christian – today we will learn some specifics about the very real battle we live in as well as what the Holy Spirit give us to fight. In verse 16, what are we told to do?

What does this help us NOT do?

The word, “walk” in this verse means to live – to make one’s way or progress – to conduct oneself. The Christian faith is not a passive faith, rather it is an intentional and deliberate choice each day to practice what we learn... walking in the Spirit. Why do you think walking/living in the Spirit will help you to not gratify the desires of the flesh?

Let’s put it this way, is it possible to walk both to the right and left simultaneously? This may seem like a silly question, but it makes the point – if we are doing all we can to follow Jesus’ commands, we won’t be following our flesh desires. What are the flesh desires Paul points out in verses 19-21?

What are the fruits of the Spirit he lists in verses 22-23?

If we are focused on practicing the fruit of the Spirit, we will learn to resist the temptations of the flesh. Paul also tells us something else we need to know in verses 17 and 24, what is it?

How does it help to know the struggle of the flesh and Spirit is real and a normal part of life?

Although the battle is real, we must not use it as an excuse to sin, we have a choice and the Spirit to strengthen us.

Engage: What flesh desires do you struggle with?

What have you done to resist temptation or remove the problem (if possible)?

The challenge we face is that even when we successfully resist temptation, we may still deal with the desire or cravings. If this is your experience, how can you use this to help others going through the same battle?

We can also struggle with certain aspects of the fruit of the Spirit... which one is the most difficult for you?

The source of the issue is the same for both – pride. It is our pride and selfishness that wants to be angry rather than practice patience, it is our pride and selfishness that would rather be jealous than practice kindness, and so on. Take a moment to do a “pride” check, keeping in mind Paul’s statement in verse 24, if we belong to Christ, we have and will crucify the flesh, put our desires to death, to faithfully follow Jesus.

Memorize: *And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

Wednesday, October 15th, 2025

Day 3

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Ephesians 5:1-7](#)

Think We will continue the aspect of “walking” in our Christian faith today. In verses 1 and 2, who are we to imitate?

How are we to walk?

Who is the model of this type of living?

How is it possible we can imitate God?

For so many, God is out of reach or His magnitude of power and perfection makes it impossible to even think we could imitate Him. Let's start by reading [Genesis 1:26-28](#), what do you see in these verses about mankind that is in God's image?

We see the ability to create, reproduce, and have dominion... but those are things we can do. That is likely where we misunderstand the idea of imitating God – we are thinking about what we can “do” when we should be focused on what we “are” p imitating God's character. Imitating God is a call to a standard of living in character and nature, turn to [1 Peter 1:15-16](#), how are we to live?

The word “holy” simply means to be set apart - the idea is that we are to live, respond, and interact with others and in the world like God does. God set our standard for living from the beginning, then demonstrated it in real time through Christ. It is important to note that this passage is a portion of a letter written by the apostle Paul to a young church, and like all churches that are filled with people from different walks of life, they are also filled with people coming out of a variety of sinful lifestyles. When we first become a Christian, we may not know what we are supposed to do and stop doing, so we need instruction and guidance. We learned some “not to dos” yesterday, list the ones Paul mentions today.

The people of the 1st century church faced the same sin issues we do today, sexual sin, wanting what others have (jealousy or dissatisfaction with what we have), and impure speech (foul language, gossip, crude jokes). These attitudes and habits should not be associated with Christians, however, what do many people outside the church see? Do they see Christians imitating God or the world? The Christian church has been permeated with the false doctrine of compromise – not fully sinning, but not fully living the way Christ did, leaving us with a mediocre and lukewarm faith. Turn to [Revelation 3:15-16](#), what does Jesus say about this?

Engage: There is no place for lukewarm Christianity – it has the same effect of salt that loses its saltiness – yet so many are satisfied or convinced they are doing enough to please the Lord. Walking in love, sacrificially the way Jesus did and the way Paul teaches in the New Testament letters is not always the easiest thing to do, but if we say we love God, do we have any other choice? When you were a child, did you try to imitate your parents? Why?

Often, what we try to imitate is not necessarily a good thing – if our parents weren't Christian we may have picked up some bad habits – but the idea is we imitate who we look up to. Who did you admire and imitate as you grew older?

How about now as an adult?

God and Jesus are our ultimate goal when it comes to imitating someone, take a moment to list the qualities of God and Jesus you can imitate, then briefly write how you can practice this in daily life (hint: vs 22-23 from yesterday).

Memorize: *And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

Thursday, October 16th, 2025

Day 4

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Ephesians 5:8-14](#)

Think: As Paul continues his instructions to the church, what does he say we once *were* and now *are*?

Did you notice that Paul doesn't say we were ***in*** darkness? There is a big difference in how we understand this when we realize Paul is not saying that we were in darkness, but rather we WERE darkness. How does this change your understanding?

Before choosing Christ, we are darkness – this word means, “*darkened eyesight or blindness; of ignorance respecting divine things and human duties, and the accompanying ungodliness and immorality, together with their consequent misery in hell*” (bible.org). This darkness is a pre-salvation state or condition we are in, then when we choose Christ we are not just in the light, we ARE light! Turn to [John 1:1-4](#), where did this light originate?

Think for a moment, what is the purpose of light?

When the power goes out at night, what do we reach for?

Light houses warn ships of dangers in the water, even in operating rooms special lights illuminate the area of the patient being operated on. Here's one more wonderful fact, in the beginning when God was creating the heavens and earth, what was the first "let there be" ([Genesis 1:3-4](#)) He created?

However, even in the knowledge of the beauty of the Light, there remains a problem, turn to [John 3:19-20](#). In these verses, what did people love more and why?

Engage: We now illuminate and expose the things of darkness by virtue of our new state or condition in Christ. When we walk or live as children of the light, practicing all we have learned so far, the darkness doesn't like it. When you became a believer, did you notice that certain people you hung out with are suddenly uncomfortable around you? Even if we don't say anything, the mere fact that we ARE light naturally exposes darkness and it tries to hide. This is one of those forks in the road where we must choose to remain in the light, or chase after the darkness. When it comes to losing friendships, this can be very difficult and painful, however, Paul's warnings about participating, speaking of, or associating with the fruit of darkness can be our downfall. We must always remember we cannot live with one foot in both worlds. Is there a relationship that hinders your walk with Christ? Read [1 Corinthians 15:33](#), what is the warning in this verse?

It is important to understand that although there may be times we need to end a relationship that is detrimental to our faith, what we need to learn is that there will be those relationships that simply change – the motive now being maintaining the friendship for the purpose of witnessing to them.

Memorize: *And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

Friday, October 17th, 2025

Day 5

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Ephesians 5:15-21](#)

Think: There is now a third component of how we are to walk/live as faithful followers of Christ... according to verses 15 and 16, how are we to walk and why?

How do we do this in verse 17?

You have heard the old saying, “ignorance is bliss”, meaning the less we know the happier we are and the fewer concerns we have. That can be true, in part, but there are numerous issues where ignorance can be deadly, and our salvation is one of them. The problem with this is that ignorance is a choice! In today’s scripture, Paul tells Christians to not be unwise... this word means *foolish*, and the word foolish means *lacking sense, mindless, rash, or egotistical*, so again, we are facing something that we can control – foolishness and being unwise are things we CAN change by pursuing God’s wisdom. According to [Proverbs 1:7](#), what is the beginning of knowledge?

These are things, qualities every believer must pursue – knowledge and wisdom – what the Bible says and application to daily life, by which we learn what God’s will is.

The purpose and power in this goes back to living a life that imitates God, in holiness, and living as light. There are many “freedoms” we may have as Christians that could hinder another’s walk with

God, especially if they are new Christians. Turn to [1 Corinthians 8:9](#) and [1 Corinthians 10:23](#), what do these verses teach about what our attitude toward our freedoms should be?

What are some “freedoms” Christians may have that could cause a seeker or new believer to stumble?

One challenge we have in this is understanding what freedoms we are talking about. This freedom is not permission to continue practicing a sin habit as long as we’re not “hurting other people”. Name a few things that would fall into this category.

The idea that what goes on behind closed doors stays behind closed doors is a fool’s errand. We may be able to hide sin from others, but there is One who sees all. Taking what we have learned about wisdom today, what is the right thing to do?

Engage: With all we have available to us, the Bible, our church, pastors, and leaders to talk to, is there any excuse for not knowing what God wants for us? The changed life of a Christian is meant to send a message of hope to the world. What others see in us will either draw them to Christ or push them away. How important is it to you to represent Christ the best way you can? Knowing that many people see Christians as judgmental, bigoted, and hypocritical, what efforts do you make to show them the truth?

How can you do it without words?

This is the key – many Christians want to TELL others what to think or do, yet did you notice in the last few days of study, Paul didn’t instruct what TO say but what NOT to say? Most of our testimony is how we walk...

Memorize: *And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

Saturday, October 18th, 2025

Day 6

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Proverbs 2:1-15](#)

Think: Where do you go to find knowledge of a new subject? Many of us turn to Google, YouTube, or another source of information. These are perfectly fine to learn how to repair something, find a recipe, or get the latest stats on our favorite team, but are they the best source for godly wisdom? On the flip side of this, where does true wisdom and knowledge come from?

If you said God and the Bible, how does this apply to normal daily life, such as repairing something or finding a recipe? Ok, so the Bible won't direct you to a recipe, but it does give wisdom in more ways than we realize.

Wisdom is basically the application of what we know... for example, we know we should be patient, wisdom is **how** to apply that in a given situation. We know we should forgive others, wisdom is the application of **why** we should, we know we are to hold each other accountable, wisdom is the application of **when** we should do that.

In this portion of Proverbs today, who gives wisdom and what does it do?

This proverb was written by King Solomon, who asked God for the wisdom to lead His people ([1 Kings 3:9-10](#)) so God gave him wisdom in abundance. However, he became prideful and disobeyed God, marrying many women who were of other nations and he worshiped their false gods ([1 Kings 11:1-8](#)) and his heart turned away from the Lord. What happened?

How is it he started so well and ended so poorly? Here's where we find our lesson... Solomon's issue is that the wisdom he used to govern the people, he never used to govern his own life. We must apply wisdom to our own life and circumstances before we can help others, otherwise we could find ourselves in Solomons shoes! The perfect point in this was made by Jesus in [Matthew 7:1-5](#), what does He teach us?

How would following His instruction help us in the application of wisdom and walking as Christians?

Engage: Briefly summarize what you have learned this week about what it means to walk as a Christian. What has God revealed to you about your own walk? List your goals for walking in love, light and wisdom.

Memorize: *And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21*

Week 5



October 20th – October 25th

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1

Monday, October 20th, 2025

Day 1

As you begin today's study, ask God to show you His truth through His word. As you read, listen for His voice in scripture.

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Hebrews 12:1-13](#)

Think: Have you ever tried to run while holding something? Maybe you've tried to run while holding your child, or maybe a set of weights. Even if you haven't, it is easy to see that holding heavy things can slow you down while trying to run, and not just slow you down but zap your energy so you won't be able to finish. This week we will learn more about the endurance it takes to run the Christian race, and we will meet some people who have gone before us to encourage us to not give up.

In today's scripture, what are we told to lay aside?

Who can we look to for encouragement?

How did He perfect our faith?

In these first verses, we are instructed to lay aside every sin – we know what sin is and what sins in our life we need to lay aside, so let's focus on the "weight" we are to also lay aside. This word means *protuberance, bulk, mass, or encumbrance*. During this time in history, athletic games among the Greeks and Romans were common including the Olympic games and it was a common practice for

the athletes to run in the nude, one reason being clothing would be a hinderance to freedom of movement. It is possible, this was what the author of the book of Hebrews was thinking of to explain the things in our life that is not a sin, but prevents freedom of movement, or ability for God to work in us. What are some things in life that are not sin but can prevent us from fully living for Christ?

On the flip side, there is a kind of weight that can help us grow! An athlete who is training to run, may train with a set of ankle weights, sleds or parachutes to help build muscle and endurance - this is good weight! Based on verses 3-8, what is this “good” weight”?

How is discipline good for us?

Discipline is simply the process of learning, but learning can come by instruction, correction, or rebuke. As we learn to walk and run as Christians, we will make mistakes – handle situations poorly, fall into momentary temptation – all of which God will either instruct us, correct us or rebuke us – this “weight” helps us build spiritual muscle and endurance. Our caution is that we don’t feel sorry for ourselves and give up, so if you’re ever tempted to do that, just remember what Jesus endured on our behalf so we can press on.

Engage: Is there anything in your life that is not sin, but is hindering your walk with God? The problem we must face is that we become tolerant of this – we get used to holding onto things and accommodating them and so don’t recognize how they may be holding us back from truly experiencing God’s purposes for us. If you’re unsure about this, ask someone who will tell you the truth (hopefully in a loving way). This weight can also come from painful circumstances or change in life, this is why we are reminded to look to those who have gone before us for encouragement. Is there someone you can go to for help? We are here for you as well! If you need to talk or are struggling with any kind of sin or weight, just give us a call for an appointment, Wed-Fri 10a-4p, 760-384-3333.

Memorize: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1*

Tuesday, October 21st, 2025

Day 2

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Hebrews 11:1-40](#)

Think: Endurance takes faith and faith takes endurance – one builds upon another as they are practiced. This chapter, known as the “Hall of Faith”, briefly highlights just *some* of the people who were obedient and endured to the end for the hope of the promise of God’s salvation through Jesus. Which one(s) inspires you the most?

Why?

Are there any people in history or in your own life you would add to this list? Would you like to be included with these heroes of faith?

Most of us would never consider the possibility we could be part of such an incredible group of people – we say, yes, I’d love to be included, but I could never do that. Why do we think this way?

Every person listed here had their issues, they were by no means perfect... Moses had anger issues, Abraham lied about Sarah being his wife, Rahab was a prostitute, Jacob wrestled with God – need we go on? So, what was the common denominator?

Faith, trust, and obedience – all three are necessary to keep going when we are tired, weak, and discouraged or when life throws obstacles in our way. However, faith, trust, and obedience also need a focus – a goal. What was/were the goals for the people listed in today’s chapter?

What is your goal?

Although heaven is our ultimate goal, how we glorify God while we’re still walking in this life should also be our focus knowing that others are watching us.

Engage: Is there a situation in your life currently that you can practice the same kind of faith, trust, and obedience as those you read about today? What is your goal in this?

We are reminded that our ability to endure successfully and to build faith and trust in God, can only come from one source - turn to [Romans 10:17](#), according to this verse, where does faith come from?

How does abiding in God’s word help keep you focused and stable?

Another key to success is not just hearing God’s word, but also obeying it – Jesus’ half-brother, James, teaches the importance of this in [James 1:22-24](#). What does he tell us is necessary?

What happens if we choose not to be a doer of the word?

In the battle for endurance, we must be careful not to rely on our own strength and wisdom, or the world’s. True strength comes from God alone!

Memorize: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1*

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025

Day 3

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Romans 5:1-11](#)

Think: If someone told you that there was 1 million dollars, in a specified location, and all you had to do was follow the instructions to get there, but that the process would be difficult and filled with dangers, would you do it? Why/why not?

The hope we have as Christians is that our reward is guaranteed – heaven waits for us and unless we just quit and walk away from God, it will always be there. The process, however, can be harder than we want. As we continue to learn about endurance, today we learn what endurance does for us. In these verses what produces endurance?

What does endurance produce?

What does character produce?

What does hope NOT do?

What is this hope anchored to (vs.6-11)?

Is there anyone you would die for? For those who are married or have children, you probably thought of them. However, outside of family, is there anyone you would die for? If you answered yes, what is the reason?

Do you consider them a “good person”? Why?

As noble as it may be, our dying for another person cannot secure their eternity in heaven.

In these verses today, who did Jesus die for?

Were we considered good?

This is amazing grace and the amazing hope all Christians hang on to. Turn to [Hebrews 6:17-19](#), what truth about God anchors our soul?

How does it encourage you to keep going in your faith and in life to know that God is unchangeable and cannot lie?

Engage: In our world today, there is not much we can put our trust in. People lie, deceive, and change their minds, but God does NOT. The hope we have is not an empty hope, it is based in reality and substance, secured by the blood of Christ. One of the reasons we can count on this is due to the evidence we have that Jesus is who He says He is, and He was crucified, buried and was resurrected on the third day. For many people it is evidence that bolsters their faith and helps them endure. If this describes you, turn to, [1 Corinthians 15:3-8](#), what evidence is in this passage?

You can find more evidence in Josh McDowell's book, "More Than a Carpenter" as well as "Evidence That Demands a Verdict". Others who discover facts and evidence are Lee Strobel, author of "Case For Christ" and "Case For Faith". You can also find many links on our website at www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org, click on "Resources", "Brochures and Guides" then "Evidence Resources".

Memorize: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1*

Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

Day 4

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Job 1:1-22](#)

Think: If you are familiar with the Bible, you have likely heard of Job. Even if you're not familiar yet, you may have heard the phrase, "that person has 'the patience of Job'" – the question is why do people say that?

Considered by many to be the oldest book written, scholars place Job somewhere prior to Moses and possibly even between Noah and Abraham. This fact lets us know that Job was living during a time when other pagan nations existed, yet it didn't influence his character or his relationship with God. If he lived prior to Moses, then we also know that Job's life was not simply a matter of following written Commandments. Taking this into consideration, in verse 1, what is notable about Job?

Being blameless is not the same as being sinless – “sin is vertical, blameless is horizontal” (Enduring Word Commentary) – meaning, sin is against God and can be internal as well as external, while being blameless points to Job’s moral character and his interaction with others. This is demonstrated as we read further, in verses 2-4, how would you describe Job’s life?

In verse 5, what did Job do continually?

Who enters the scene in verse 6?

From here through verse 12, what was the conversation between God and Satan?

Why do you think God allowed this?

One of the most difficult characteristics of God for people to understand is His sovereignty. Sovereignty means *kingship or kingly authority*, and as the Creator of all life, He does have authority over us. Some take this to mean He does as He wants in an arbitrary way, but just because we don’t always understand His plans, does not mean they are arbitrary, they are ALWAYS for our good ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)). Often, in His sovereignty, what is GOOD for us is painful, but for the purpose of growing us in faith, character, endurance, AND so we will call to Him in our time of need ([Jeremiah 29:12-13](#)). From the human perspective, the story of Job seems entirely unfair, after all, he was a good person, and he didn’t deserve this! Maybe not, but God sees into the heart of man and although Job was considered upright and blameless, maybe he needed a heart check. Is it possible to do all the right things and do good outwardly but inwardly sin in our heart and mind? This is what Satan was banking on – that the only reason Job was faithful to God was because he was rich and had a wonderful life, so God tested Job. Briefly summarize what happened to Job’s possessions and family.

In verses 20-22, how did Job respond?

What was said of him?

Engage: The rest of the book of Job unfolds the details of what took place in his life during this time. Spoiler alert! It may help to know that even though Job had some pretty low moments, he held fast to his faith in God, and his possessions and family were restored to him. If you were in Job's shoes, how would you handle losing everyone and everything you have and love?

The thing about God's sovereignty, is that we either accept it or we don't, but in accepting it we understand that because of who God is and because we trust Him in all things, we can love the fact He is sovereign. This means that one of the foundational stones our endurance is built on is God's sovereignty in our lives. How can embracing God's sovereignty in your life help you build endurance?

How does Job's story encourage or challenge you?

Go back and read Jeremiah 29:11-13 and thank God for His plans for you, even if you are in a difficult situation, and that He will be found by you when you seek Him.

Memorize: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1*

Friday, October 24th, 2025

Day 5

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Romans 7:7-25](#)

Think: Yesterday we learned more about Job, a man who was considered upright and blameless in his time. Fast forward a few thousand years and we meet another man who would have been considered blameless and upright as well, the apostle Paul. We pick up in Paul's life as a Christian, but before he was saved by Jesus, he was a top religious leader, a Pharisee, of his time (See [Philippians 3:4-6](#)) following the Commands of God through Moses to the letter. However, the one thing the law could not do is save people – it was never salvation, but an instruction for living that would set God's people apart from other nations as well as keep them safe. We pick in today's passage where Paul is explaining what the law did – in verses 7-12, what did the law reveal in Paul?

What was the purpose of the law (vs 13)?

Although all people are born with a sin nature, we don't know what sin is until we are taught. When children behave badly, they don't know it's wrong unless a parent teaches them it's wrong and corrects their behavior. This is basically what Paul is saying about the effect the law has, but there is another effect as well – what is it (vs. 8)?

Sin has an unusual quality to it – it is addictive! Somehow, once we know something is sin and we are told not to do it, it can become the very thing we want to do! Even after becoming Christian, we still battle sin and temptation – how does Paul describe his own internal battle in verses 15-18?

Can you relate to this? After becoming Christian, we have God’s Holy Spirit in us and through Him we now see the things in our life that are sin that we didn’t notice before. We are sensitive to and aware of attitudes, behaviors, words, and thoughts that are sinful that we may have overlooked or excused. As we grow in spiritual maturity, we will continue to become increasingly aware of and sensitive to sin and temptation, so if this is evident in your life, praise God! We are not left without hope in this – what does Paul say in verses 22 and 25?

Now turn to [Romans 8:1-2](#), what wonderful news is here?

Engage: Was there anything in your life, prior to becoming a Christian, you didn’t realize was a sin? After becoming a Christian, what was the process of your learning and becoming aware of the areas of sin in your life?

How did you change?

The battle against sin and temptation will last a lifetime, but it WILL get easier as you practice faithful obedience to Christ, and you will grow increasingly sensitive to sin and your desire to avoid or remove it will become more important. Are you noticing this in your life? If you believe you are Christian but are not striving for or seeing these changes, you may need to take a moment to evaluate your faith. If you are unsure or have questions, we would love to help you through this. Please give us a call to make an appointment Weds.-Fri. 10a-4p, 760-384-3333.

Memorize: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1*

Saturday, October 25th, 2025

Day 6

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [2 Corinthians 11:16-30](#)

Think: In the Christian church world there is a popular doctrine that has permeated many churches and teachings, it is called the “word of faith” movement. The word of faith movement, as we know it, is a mix of mysticism and Pentecostalism and has the basic teaching of “name it and claim it” – meaning we can speak things into existence and our words have power to create our circumstances. One aspect of this movement is also known as “prosperity gospel”, the “God wants you to be rich” teaching that has also swept through many churches and is promoted by many celebrities. The idea is the more you give the church, the more God will give you, and this can include health and wellness. Many teach that to be healed of sickness and disease we must speak it into existence and have faith, which of course means if God doesn’t heal us or we become ill, we must have sinned! Interestingly, this is not a new concept... it was Job’s friends who suggested his situation must have been brought on by something he did wrong! It also sounds a lot like a watered-down version of karma. (For more information on these, check out these links: www.gotquestions.org/Word-Faith.html, www.gotquestions.org/prosperity-gospel.html)

Once again, we look to the apostle Paul for wisdom in these matters. In his ministry, he often found himself needing to defend his position and authority. Many people of his time also believed that if bad things were happening to you, God, or your god(s), must be angry with you or you were failing somewhere. Take a look at the list of trials and persecutions Paul describes, was he whining or complaining?

What was he boasting in?

It is not very common for people to boast about all their persecutions! And even if someone does, they must be careful. Some Christians are eager to share that they must really be doing well as Christians because Satan is after them, but there is caution to be taken in this statement. We should never assume that our challenges in life are always from the devil. Many times, the things we suffer are self-induced by sin or poor choices, past and present. For Paul, his sufferings had a purpose – Acts chapter 9 is the account of how Paul became a believer in Christ. On his way to Damascus to arrest Christians and bring them to Jerusalem, he was met by Jesus and at that moment Paul understood He was the Messiah. Temporarily blinded by holy light, he was instructed to meet a man named Ananias who would tell him what to do next. When the Lord told Ananias He was sending Saul (Paul) to him, Ananias had something to say about it... turn to [Acts 9:10-16](#), what was his concern?

What did the Lord tell him in verses 15-16?

For Paul, he would suffer for the sake of Christ as do all Christians. We will suffer simply for choosing Christ and living faithfully, we will suffer from consequences of past sin, we will suffer from poor life choices, and we suffer from the poor choices of others as well. None of these indicate we are either a “super” Christian OR that we are failing at Christianity – it is just part of life and faith!

Engage: Looking at your life as a Christian, how have you been persecuted simply for being Christian and living faithfully?

What have you endured due to past sin or poor life choices?

What have you endured as a result of others’ sin or poor choices?

This is not an exercise of blame shifting, but being honest with ourselves about personal responsibility. Christians in America do not understand true persecution, although we are beginning to witness it as our country continues to become divided and violence has become the preferred method of dealing with opinions of others. The time is coming though, and we need to be prepared. At this moment, we must be certain that any persecution we may endure will be for the right reason, standing on our faith and willing to share the Gospel in spite of opposition.

Memorize: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1*

Week 6



October 27th – November 1st

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Monday, October 27th, 2025

Day 1

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Exodus 33:7-14](#)

Think: As we walk faithfully with the Lord, wrestle with sin and temptation, and wade through trials, we can honestly just become exhausted. Even the most solid Christian can get to a point of feeling like they just can't keep going – so how do we overcome this very real situation?

How we do this isn't unlike anything else we do as Christians... we rely completely on God and stay grounded in His word. It also helps to know we aren't alone! In the book of Exodus, we read of God's deliverance of His people from the oppression of slavery in Egypt. He led them through the wilderness, providing for their needs, and giving Moses the Ten Commandments, as well as instructions for holy living. Moses had a unique and intimate relationship with God – how does today's passage explain this?

How did God reveal His presence?

If we think about it, this portion of scripture shows us how intimately we can meet with God! When we go to Him, He meets us, and we can talk with Him and in that moment, we experience His rest.

For Moses, he was concerned that God would continue to go with them as they continued toward the land of promise. Are you ever worried that God will go with you as you walk through life? How has He shown Himself faithful?

Engage: What many people fail to realize about God is His relentless mercy and goodness! Even though the Hebrew people had disobeyed God, He was ready to lead them and give them rest at Moses' request. This word "rest" means to be settled or quiet. In this verse it pointed to peace of mind and the security of know God was with them, but ultimately it came to be known for being "settled in the land of promise". Do you find rest in knowing that God is with you? Do you ask Him to go with you everywhere or just some places (situations)? When you pray or do your Bible study, be reminded of how God met with Moses and know that He is meeting with you the same way!

Memorize: *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

Tuesday, October 28th, 2025

Day 2

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Hebrews 3:1-14](#)

Think: The book of Hebrews, like most of the New Testament, is a letter but this letter is written to a group of people rather than a church or person. The author is not named but many believe it was written by the apostle Paul, who as we've already learned, was Hebrew himself. Many of the other letters of the New Testament are written to encourage, instruct, and address specific issues within the church, however this book has a very different feel. It is more historical review but wholly focused on the superiority of Jesus and His sacrifice tying Old Testament to New.

In the Jewish religion, there were high priests who made atonement for the sins of the people, and after Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples who were with Him became known as apostles or ambassadors. In verse 1, what is Jesus called?

In verses 2 and 3, who is Jesus greater than?

For the Jewish people, besides Abraham, Moses, and the history of how God saved His people through Him was a symbol of their heritage and relationship to God, but in reality he was a "type" or foreshadowing of the Messiah to come. Jesus is then the "antitype" or fulfillment and as such is superior to Moses.

The Hebrew people rebelled against God during their journey through the wilderness to the promised land, in verses 8-10 what did the people do?

In verse 11, what did it prevent them from receiving?

In the book of Exodus, it is written how quickly God's people began to grumble and complain, they didn't trust that God would provide food and water, they began to think they were better off under slavery in Egypt and when Moses was on the mountain for 40 days receiving the Commandments, the people grew impatient and created a golden calf to worship, with the approval of Aaron the priest! Because of this, the original group God brought out from Egypt were not allowed to enter the land of Canaan (God's rest) promised to them, but their children and grandchildren were. Such was the pattern and history of God's people then and our caution now. According to verse 8, what do we need to watch out for in ourselves?

How is it that a hardened heart will prevent us from being in God's rest?

As Christians, whether we've been walking with God for a month or years, there can be the temptation to have expectations of what God will do for us and how He will fulfill His promises to us. If we do this, we are setting God up for failure (not that God fails us but we fail Him) and we can be like the people of Israel. The point of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus **IS** our rest. He was the

fulfillment of this when He became the atoning sacrifice for our sins. The land of promise in the Old Testament was also a “type” or symbol of a place of peace for God’s people, but through Christ this isn’t so much a place as it is a state of mind, heart and soul.

Engage: When we become tired and weary in our faith, it can be easy to “look back” at our old life thinking it was easier. Have you ever done this? Was it really easier or does it just seem that way? Although we continue to have trials and temptations after becoming Christian, the difference is there is purpose in them, God wants to use our pain for good. The Bible has much to say about the challenge of growing weary and looking back. In [Luke 9:62](#), Jesus warns of the danger of looking back or desiring to go back to our old life – what is the danger?

[Proverbs 26:11](#) describes the person who chooses to go back to their old life, how is this person described?

Satan will do all he can to convince us that things were better before we became Christian, but we have an encouragement and sure promise in [Galatians 6:9](#) – what is it?

Does this give you the strength to press on? How can you encourage others who are growing weary?

Memorize: *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

Day 3

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Matthew 11:25-30](#)

Think: As God led His people through the wilderness, He also gave them instructions, the most well-known being the Ten Commandments. These basic ten, if you really think about it, cover all of life. Many may say there are several subjects or situations not covered, but is this really true? Turn to [Matthew 22:36-40](#), when asked about which is the most important one, what did Jesus say?

How is this possible?

Does it mean the rest are now not necessary? Read [Matthew 5:17](#), how does Jesus answer that question?

Now in today's reading (and our memory verse for the week) what does Jesus tell us?

What kind of labor is He talking about?

Let's go back to the Old Testament laws for a minute...

The Ten Commandments deal with our relationship with God and others – at the core, they are addressing the need to avoid temptation and sin and stay focused on God. These aren't the only commandments though. It is commonly taught that God gave 613 commandments for His people – does that seem laborious and burdensome to you? Of course it does! Part of the problem is our lack of knowledge in what these commands are, this article from GotQuestions.org (www.gotquestions.org/613-commandments.html) not only explains more but it lists all 613 verses where these commands come from. As you look through it you will notice the variety of instructions ranging from basic hygiene and health issues to legal issues to parenting to social justice, and so on. Do these sound burdensome? Not really, so why do you think Jesus told His listeners to follow His

ways? Did He not follow His own Father's commands? We already know He did. The issue at this point was the religious leaders' *interpretation* of the laws and commands – they added details that God didn't give them – and made following God's commands difficult and legalistic. Turn to [Matthew 23:1-4](#), what does Jesus tell the people to do?

What does He tell them not to do?

Why?

What is the yoke Jesus tells us to take on?

Jesus is pointing to the fact that the commands are not salvation, He is. A yoke is a heavy wooden beam laid across two cattle or oxen, that connected them together when pulling a plow. The demands of the Scribes and Pharisees were like the yoke of oxen, heavy and burdensome – tiring and without hope. Jesus explains His yoke in verse 29, what is it?

To be gentle is to be mild in spirit, and meek (not weak) – to be lowly in heart is to be humble. This doesn't mean we walk around beating ourselves up but serving and loving God and others the way Jesus does, with humility, not to be seen – with gentleness, not demanding and condemning. This is an easy load to bear!

Engage: If you had a boss who was demanding and always pointing out what you were doing wrong, how easy would it be to get up in the morning and look forward to going into work? Now, what if you had a boss who was willing to roll up their sleeves and work alongside the employees, who was kind and didn't demand acknowledgement? How would that change your desire to go to work? In a nutshell, this is what was going on for the Jewish people. Hypocrisy and harshness can kill love and a person's spirit faster than anything, so Jesus came to show the right way to love and obey God's commands in a way that the people would enjoy. When we understand this, how does it give us rest for our souls?

This rest comes from knowing our salvation and eternity doesn't hinge on our ability to perfectly keep the law, it comes from Christ's work on the cross and our faithfulness to live like Him as best we can. It comes from knowing we are loved even when we mess up, it comes from knowing we are forgiven when we repent, and gratitude for His mercy!

Memorize: *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
Matthew 11:28

Thursday, October 30th, 2025

Day 4

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 2:1-3](#), [Exodus 20:8-11](#)

Think: In the very beginning, the earth was without form and there was no life on it. Then God said...

The entire first chapter of Genesis is devoted to recording God's work of creation, from sun, moon, and stars to land and sea to all living things. This He did in 6 days. In the verses from Genesis 2, what did God do on the seventh day?

Why do you think God rested?

When we hear the term rest, we tend to understand it as the need to rest physically from weariness or exhaustion. The word "rest" here is *shabbat* which means to cease from work, so when God

rested it was a cessation from creating... His work was complete and perfect, there was nothing more to add.

In the Jewish culture, they maintain this practice of resting specifically on the seventh day as demonstrated by God and that day is called shabbat or what we know as Sabbath. Reading the verses from Exodus 20, what does God instruct for the Sabbath (shabbat)?

Why do you think God gave His people this command?

The idea behind keeping the Sabbath was not only to give people rest from their work, but to focus on God alone and remember and observe how He delivered them from Egypt. For more on this, go to www.gotquestions.org/shabbat.html. Not only were they to remember the Sabbath but they were to keep it holy, or set apart, different than other days.

Engage: Traditionally, the Sabbath day on our calendar is Sunday and it is the day we attend church. However, the Sabbath day is much more than that. When God rested on the seventh day, it wasn't because He was tired and needed a break, He was setting an example for us. Humans, on the other hand, do need breaks both physically and mentally, from work. What can happen to a person who works 7 days a week with no rest?

God knows our needs and our human limitations, so He set aside a day for us to refresh and recharge, with our focus on Him. What are some ways you can do this?

How can you maintain your focus on God to keep the Sabbath holy?

The Sabbath rest was not only a look back to how God delivered His people from Egypt but it is also a look forward to the true rest we will receive in Christ – a foreshadowing of the rest to come. For more on this, check out this link: www.gotquestions.org/Sabbath-day-rest.html.

Memorize: *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

Friday, October 31st, 2025

Day 5

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Colossians 2:6-16](#)

Think: The Jewish people of the Bible as well as practicing orthodox Jews today, were and are completely devoted to maintaining the letter of the law. Honoring the Sabbath is a way of life, however like the Ten (613) Commandments, the true spirit of the law was lost, and it became more ritual than relationship. This was why the Pharisees confronted Jesus for breaking the Law when he healed people on the Sabbath. Turn to [Luke 13:10-16](#), what was Jesus doing and what day was it?

Who did He call over to Him?

What was her situation and what did Jesus do?

How did the ruler of the synagogue respond to this?

To what did Jesus liken her disability?

Can you imagine what this woman and the people thought when the synagogue ruler basically told her to “come back tomorrow”? Let’s deconstruct this for a moment... if this woman had been disabled for 18 years, why was it just now she was healed? Let’s also look at what we do know...

Jesus points out 3 things about this woman in verse 16 – what are they?

As a representative of God, shouldn't the synagogue ruler or other Jewish religious leaders have compassion on her? Why didn't they offer to heal her or make her situation easier? Wasn't that part of their job?

Even in the Christian world, legalistic attitudes and rituals can overshadow the spirit and heart of faith. What are some current examples of how people who claim to be Christian can have the same attitude as the ruler in this passage of Luke?

Jesus took this opportunity to heal this woman and expose the hypocrisy of the religious leaders setting the path for His church. Now let's take a look at today's reading in Colossians 2. For those who are devoted followers of Christ, or "in Him" how are we changed/described?

In verse 8, what are we not to be taken captive by?

Does this include doctrines found in the church that Christ did **NOT** teach? What are a few of these specific doctrines mentioned in verse 16?

The church in Colosse was a fairly new church with converts both from Jews and Gentiles. For the Jewish people, they were challenged by the fact that they still held to the law of Moses, yet there was something different now. They adhered to their food laws, but found that they were in fellowship with others who did not. In this letter to the church, the apostle Paul doesn't tell the people "don't do this" or "don't do that", rather he says it's a matter of conviction and what is best for others. How does [Romans 14:5 -6](#) and [13](#) explain this?

Engage: Yesterday we learned a little about the Sabbath and how God established it as a day of rest. Clearly in today's passages Jesus "worked" on the Sabbath, so was He breaking His Father's law? If you read the article from yesterday about Shabbat, you saw that the law prohibits work for personal profit or gain – anything that makes money, etc. so when Jesus heals on the Sabbath is it for His profit or gain? Once again, we see how humans twist scripture until it doesn't resemble God's heart at all! Since many people today have work schedules that often have them working on Sunday, what should they do to keep the Sabbath?

Based on what you learned today, is God honored if your Sabbath falls on a Wednesday or Friday?

Is God honored if you help someone in need on your Sabbath day? God can be honored any day of the week... it's not the day itself but the heart behind it.

Memorize: *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

Saturday, November 1st, 2025

Day 6

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Luke 16:19-31](#)

Think: This incredible and unique story about a place called "Abraham's Bosom" is found only here in Luke, and it emphasizes the reality of a conscious afterlife. How is Hades described?

In verses 24 and 25, what does the rich man ask for?

Do you find it interesting that even in this situation the rich man still wants the poor man to serve his needs? What did Abraham tell the rich man?

What reality is described in verse 26?

What did the rich man further ask of Abraham?

How did he answer?

Who else came back from the dead that many people didn't and don't listen to?

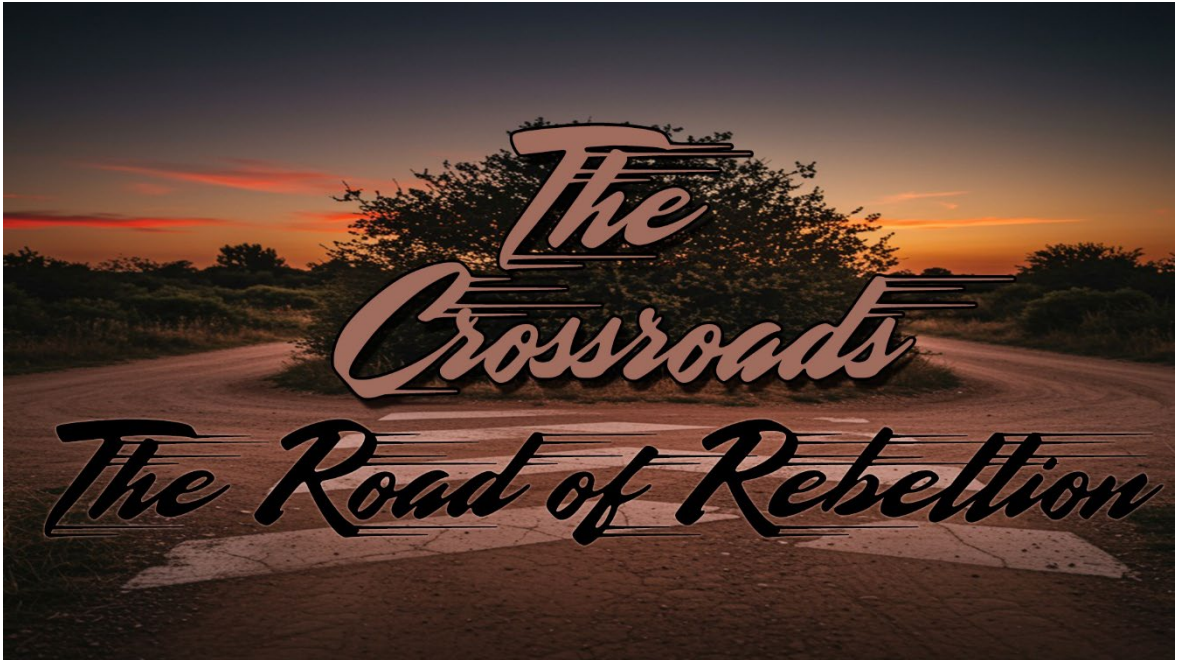
Humanly speaking, we often see rest as having an easy life filled with good things and no worries. But this can be such a deception and distraction from our need for Christ. How easy is it to put off choosing to follow Jesus, when life is good? If a person has all the material possessions they can ask for and never really suffer any kind of need or turmoil, but never know Christ, will they have rest when they die? There are many who simply choose not to believe that hell exists or that it's not as bad as people make it out to be. Put yourself in the rich man's shoes for a minute – what would an eternity of that kind of suffering be like?

On the other hand, those who in this life suffer greatly, but put their trust in Christ, will have their rest in eternity with Him. Is it worth it? Is an eternity free of disability, tears, worry, hunger, pain, and sadness worth every decision to faithfully obey Jesus?

Engage: v Briefly write what you learned about true rest this week. Can you say that you experience the kind of rest only Jesus can give? If not, what can/should you do?

Memorize: *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

Week 7



November 3rd – November 8th

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Monday, November 3rd, 2025

Day 1

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

Think: The history of the nation of Israel is one that is filled with idolatry and rebellion against God. One might ask why, when God had saved them from slavery in Egypt, provided for them, and was giving them a land to call home, they would even think of rebelling. We can find the answer to that question in our own heart! If we look in our own lives, starting in childhood, we often do the same with our parents. They provide for us, teach and guide, and desire only the best, yet the pull to go our own way and do the opposite of what they tell us can lead us down a destructive path. This week we will spend some time exploring the problem of temptation and rebellion, the source of it and how to overcome it.

Starting in today's reading, verses 1-6, the apostle Paul reminds his readers of the history of Israel. In verse 6, why was it recorded?

It can be easy to justify and make excuses for not obeying God, one popular excuse being "I didn't know". Lack of knowledge is a valid reason at first, but once we begin the journey of growing in our faith, we will become more aware of the dangers and pitfalls we should watch for. Looking back and desiring our old way of life is one of those dangers and can cause serious challenges. In verse 7, what does Paul instruct the believers NOT to do?

Paul is quoting a verse from [Exodus 32:1-6](#), read these verses and briefly describe what was happening. At this point, Moses had been on the mountain with God for several weeks and the

Hebrew people whom God brought out of Egypt had grown restless. It didn't take them long to start looking back at their old life in Egypt. The problem was their vision was distorted to the truth.

Have you ever experienced a moment where your memory of the past was inaccurate? Did it seem better or worse than it really was? This is what was happening with the Hebrew people, even though they were oppressed and enslaved, they were comfortable with knowing what to expect. Fear will often distort our view, and as believers we will be tempted to go back to what's comfortable rather than what is true and right. Verse 13 today tells us that these temptations are common, but what does God do for us?

Engage: As humans we can be stubborn, and as Christians we can still be stubborn! Dying to self is not an easy thing to do and when God leads us down a path He chooses, we will be faced with obeying or rebelling. This has more to do with who and what we choose to worship than anything else – God or idols – and even ourselves. When you are tempted by any kind of sin or difficult situation, who is your god? Do you choose God, the sin, the advice of unbelieving friends, or your own thoughts and desires? Even though we will continue to face temptations of all kinds after becoming Christian, we can be thankful that God will always be faithful to us and provide a way out so we can endure the temptation. How can you recognize the way out He provides?

Memorize: *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

Tuesday, November 4th, 2025

Day 2

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [James 1:1-15](#)

Think: In yesterday's study we learned that rebellion is part of human nature, and today we will take a closer look at the source of rebellion.

What types of situations tempt you to want to go your own way versus God's way?

It is frequently during the most difficult and painful trials that we have the hardest time following God's path. When we are being slandered by someone at work or are experiencing pain in a relationship, how hard is it to not retaliate? When we are suffering persecution and rejection for our faith, how hard is it to not compromise or even quit?

The author of this letter, James, was the half-brother of Jesus so he was well aware of both sides. Early in Jesus' ministry, James, as well as Jesus' other brothers, did not believe Jesus was the Messiah ([John 7:3-5](#)). We don't know exactly what their relationship looked like, but do you think it is possible that James persecuted his brother in some way? Then, after watching Jesus being nailed to a cross and raised on the third day, James understood Jesus truly was the Messiah and he would now experience and understand God's plan for trials in the life of a Christ follower.

We've already learned that as Christians we will continue to struggle with temptation, sin, and trials, but we also have a completely new understanding of their purpose. According to verses 2-4, how should we view trials?

Does the fact that trials have a purpose give you encouragement? Why/why not?

It is important to note that taking "joy" in trials is not the same as "enjoying" trials – no one enjoys them, not even Jesus. Joy looks forward to the fruit of spiritual maturity learned in the trial rather than focusing on the trial itself. This is what Jesus did on the cross ([Hebrews 12:2](#)) when He focused on the outcome of His pain – salvation to all people should they choose Him.

What is the hope for the person who remains steadfast during a trial (vs. 12)?

If the promise is blessing from God, then according to verse 13, what is NOT from God?

What do verses 14-15 say where temptations come from?

We are often quick to say we are tempted by God or Satan, yet how often do we admit that temptation comes from our own thoughts and selfish desires? Yes, Satan can tempt us, but the truth is we do a fine job ourselves and it is important we know this if we hope to overcome temptations and see the way of escape God gives us.

Engage: How do we escape, endure and overcome? Let's start with verses 5-8, what should you ask for?

How much wisdom will God give you?

The hard part about wisdom is thinking we will suddenly have amazing knowledge and confidence, but it doesn't really work that way. We see here that faith is a crucial part of godly wisdom – how do these two work together?

At its core, wisdom is the application of knowledge, so if we "know" the purpose of trials and the source of temptation, what role does wisdom play?

How can you practice this?

Memorize: *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

Wednesday, November 5th, 2025

Day 3

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [James 1:19-27](#)

Think: We left off yesterday asking, “how do we escape, endure, and overcome” the temptations and trials we continue to face. Much of our ability to do this comes from knowing specific practices, and thankfully, we find many of those in today’s passage. As you read through these verses, list each habit or discipline believers are to practice.

According to verses 23-24, what happens to us if we hear (read) God’s word but don’t practice it?

What is the benefit of “doing” rather than just listening?

We can think of it this way... you can buy a bottle of sunscreen, but what do you need to do for it to fulfill its purpose? You must apply it! It is the same with our faith – many Christians struggle or fail to overcome habits and temptations simply because they are not practicing what they hear and read. What encouragement and benefit do we read in verse 25 for those who do?

Engage: We've all heard, "practice what you preach", but we also need to practice what we read and hear. Whether we realize it or not, we already do that – we "practice" or demonstrate our political opinions based of what we've read or heard on the news or in social media. We "practice" what we hear when we share gossip about someone. We practice good things too – we "practice" what we hear or read when we decide to follow a diet and exercise plan, yet when it comes to God's word and practicing what it says, we are not as successful. Why do you think that is? If you notice, everything we just mentioned is self-focused and self-serving, but God's ways are others focused which requires we go against what we want. Take a moment to think about the areas you are struggling with – are you practicing what you hear and read? If not, what can you do to start?

If you are, how is it going?

What changes have you seen in your life?

How can you encourage others who are struggling?

Memorize: *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

Thursday, November 6th, 2025

Day 4

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [1 John 2:15-17](#), [Matthew 6:22-24](#)

Think: As we have learned, the source of temptation is often our own desires that start in the mind and flow from there if we don't do something to change it. Much of the challenge has to do with what we are looking at... literally, with our eyes. Science shows us that the eyes send signals/images to the brain and depending on what those images are, they can produce a very real emotional and physiological response. Hormones produced in the brain such as dopamine, adrenaline, and serotonin are very powerful and can have the same impact as addiction to chemical substances. In our world today, studies have now shown the powerful impact of the use of cell phones, tablets, and other technology. Screen time has increased over the years, especially for children, with disastrous results. This link <https://scienceblog.cincinnatichildrens.org/screen-usage-linked-to-differences-in-brain-structure-in-young-children/> shows the results of a study that overuse of screen time in the early developmental years will change the structure of the brain. A quick Google search will offer many articles on these studies, including this study showing the impact of visual stimuli in events and advertising [The Psychology of Visuals: How captivating images can create lasting emotional impact at your next event - SmartSource](#) ,

But this is not a new issue! As you read today's passages, what is the caution?

When we are focused and literally looking at worldly things, what battle takes place in us?

It is impossible to desire and strive for what the world offers and what Jesus offers – there really is no balance between the two. This doesn't mean we can't have nice things or goals for our life, it is simply a matter of priority. So how DO we do this? Turn to [Proverbs 16:9](#), what does this verse teach?

We can make plans but commit them to the Lord! We must always be ready to change course according to what God wants for us, but if we are completely focused on what **we** want, we will either resist, refuse or miss the good plans God has for us.

Engage: What do you focus on?

What kind of TV shows and movies do you watch?

How do they impact the way you think?

If you have children, what are they focusing on?

How does it impact them?

What goals and plans do you have for your life and your family?

What is the motive behind those goals?

If you have not included or taken your goals to God, take some time to pray about this, acknowledge and submit to His will in this. If you have children, how can you teach your children to do the same?

What can you do to protect yourself, your marriage, and your children from the lust and pride of the eyes and flesh?

Memorize: *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

Friday, November 7th, 2025

Day 5

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Isaiah 5:19-24](#) (NLT)

Think: We were created for relationship – with God and people. It is part of our DNA to seek out interaction with others, establish deep friendships, find a mate, and hopefully have children to pass on the family name. However, as we introduced yesterday the damaging effects technology and screen time can have on how we think, it has also created damage in our relationships. Married couples often sit on the couch looking at their phones instead of each other. Social skills in children and adults have declined – in fact, the study from yesterday cited that the more screen time a person has the more likely they will struggle with anxiety when they are apart from it. We are now seeing how the effects of online relationships are impacting people... cyber-bullying, depression, and anxiety over the amount of “likes” a person gets as well as certain groups directed at common interests all play a part in our mental and spiritual health. This is not an anti-technology campaign, but a plea for the awareness of how much it has changed our world and how, as Christians, we can navigate this and encourage others.

When it comes to relationships, they are equally as influential as anything else. There is a significant amount of scripture that teaches and warns us of the kind of people we spend time with, and in today’s society this would include online relationships. In the passage from Isaiah, what kind of person/people does he describe?

What awaits those who live this way?

In other translations the word sorrow is also translated “beware, woe, doom, or cursed.” The idea is that it is an empty life that leads nowhere and ends in eternal destruction. It may offer temporary pleasure but is ultimately futile. Many of us, before Christ, may have lived this way. If this was you, how did God change you?

Even after becoming a Christian, we must take care who we spend time with and allow to influence us. Who are the most influential people in your life right now?

Do they point you to God? How do they impact you?

One of the things we struggle with after becoming Christian is how to handle old friendships that may not be good for us. We don’t want to reject them, but we may not be able to hang out with them anymore, so what do we do? When Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, he was a Jewish man working for the Roman government as a tax collector. He was rejected by his own people, so his friends were other tax collectors. Read [Matthew 9:9-13](#), what did Jesus do after he met Matthew?

What did the Pharisees ask?

How did Jesus respond?

We know from the gospels that Matthew follow Jesus and left his old life behind. What we don’t know is how many of Matthew’s friends also chose to believe in Jesus, but we can assume at least some of them were changed.

Engage: When it comes to our old friendships, our motive changes. We no longer “run” with them, but now we view them as people who need to know Jesus and we can witness to them. However, there remains a caution... Turn to [1 Corinthians 15:33](#), according to this verse, what must we be careful of?

We must be vigilant to not be drawn back into old ways or put ourselves in situations where we will be tempted in our effort with witness to someone. How can you protect yourself from this?

If you are parenting, this is a critical area as our children are exposed to a variety of attitudes and behaviors from other children they go to school with or play with. You will notice how their attitude or behavior changes depending on who they are spending time with, so what can you do as a parent? Teach these biblical principles consistently (See [Deuteronomy 6:5-9](#)) keeping in mind that YOU are ultimately the greatest influence in your child's life. Know who their friends are, what they are doing/watching/listening to online, and don't be afraid to make tough decisions for their benefit. For additional information on God's plan for friendships and relationships for yourself and your family check out the "Dating and Friendship Guide" on our website. There you will find specific characteristics to look for as well as the Bible verses to support them. Go to: www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org, then click on "Resources" and "Brochures and Guides" .

Memorize: *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

Saturday, November 8th, 2025

Day 6

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Ezekiel 36:26-27](#), [1 John 4:7-11](#), [1 John 4:15-21](#), [Mark 7:21-23](#)

Think: Throughout all we have read and learned, one thing remains – and it is THE most important thing as well as the true source of rebellion as well as faithfulness. The heart.

Read through all four passages for today. According to Ezekiel, when we choose Christ, what change takes place?

This is a miraculous transformation! We receive a new heart, one that is tender and responsive to God and is driven by a new definition of love (See [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#)). This is not the empty and selfish love the world offers but a true and deep love that never changes or fails. We understand of ourselves and the world around us based on God's standards. With this new heart and Spirit, there should be evidence of it in our lives. What evidence should we look for in 1 John 4:7-11?

There is another kind of evidence in our lives whether heart change is real or not. Based on 1 John 4:15-21 and Mark 7:21-23, what other evidence can be seen?

These verses can be difficult to face but are vitally important to our faith. We have already discussed the fact that the spiritual battle of sin and temptation is real and continues after becoming Christian, so how do we reconcile this with these verses?

It is truly a heart issue... do we **want and do all we can** to love God and others biblically? Do we strive for peace in all relationships? Do we repent when we fail? Does our sin break our heart and drive us to change? Even the apostle Paul continued in this struggle ([Romans 7:24-25](#)) but knew that because he was IN Christ and served Him with his whole heart, mind, body, and spirit, he was not condemned ([Romans 8:1](#)). We can have that confidence too!

Engage: Take a moment to do the hard thing... examine your heart, thoughts, words, and motives against today's verses. Don't be discouraged to find that there are times when you fail – read [1 John 1:9](#), what does this verse teach?

How does this encourage you?

However, if you find you have no desire to change and walk faithfully with the Lord or that your words reveal the true nature of your heart, take some time to examine your faith and your intention in it. If you need help or would like to talk about any of this, we are here for you! Call the office at 760-384-3333, Weds. – Fri. 10a-4p for an appointment.

Memorize: *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*