DAY 4 Leaving Behind What's Behind

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.

When you look at yourself "according to the flesh," what do you see? Give those things over to God and ask Him for patience as He begins a deeper work in you.

Literally say out loud, "God, I give over to your hand _____, and trust you to change this in me."

God, I give over to Your hand...

You cannot finish by striving what God began by Grace.

Enjoy the journey as you and God do great things together.

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Welcome to the Family!

What it really means to be Born Again

MEMORY VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week One: "Welcome to the Family!"

Listen for what it means to be born again and welcomed into God's family.

1 John 3:1 | **John 3:3-8** | **Proverbs 4:18** | **2 Corinthians 5:14-17**

Notes from the teaching

DAY 2 Start Feeding Your Spirit

Your spirit needs to be fed. Begin putting three habits into practice in a way that works for your real life.

PRAYER
Keep it short and simple. Matthew 6:5-15 is a good beginning.

SCRIPTURE
Use this week's passages, or begin with a Psalm each day.

WORSHIP
Learn songs from Sunday and let them stir your heart.

How will you practice these this week?

DAY 3 What's Your Testimony of Jesus?

Don't forget: pray, read, and worship today.

Write the highlights of your testimony: your eyewitness account of how God reached out to you, saved you, and invited you into this journey with Him.

Be ready to share this story with your cohort when you meet next.

Why did you decide to follow Jesus?

PRACTICE This Week's Rhythm

Choose one simple time each day to pray, read Scripture, and worship. Keep it small enough to repeat and meaningful enough to remember.

DAY 4 Living by the Strength of Another

Galatians 2:20 describes the exchanged life: the old self was crucified, and Christ now lives in us. We still make choices and take action, but we no longer expect self-effort to produce the life only Jesus can give.

Notice where you are striving to fix yourself, control an outcome, or defeat sin alone. Lay that effort at the cross and depend on Christ's presence. Apart from Him we can do nothing; through Him we can faithfully face what comes.

What are you striving against, and how can you place it back in Jesus' hands?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

What else died on Jesus' cross? (It wasn't just Jesus!)

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What else died on Jesus' cross? (It wasn't just Jesus!)

See how Jesus' cross deals not only with sin's penalty but also the old life that kept you bound. Reflect on living from the new identity He gives.

MEMORY VERSE: GALATIANS 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 2: "What else died on Jesus' cross? (It wasn't just Jesus!)."

See how Jesus' cross deals not only with sin's penalty but also the old life that kept you bound. Reflect on living from the new identity He gives.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 What the Cross Carried

Isaiah 53 looks ahead to the cross and shows Jesus carrying more than the penalty of sin. He bears our griefs, sorrows, transgressions, twisted desires, and deserved punishment. In exchange, He gives peace, healing, and wholeness.

Bring each burden to the cross by name. Ask God to help you see that it no longer defines your future. The old life was crucified with Christ, and His life is now at work in you.

What grief, sorrow, sin, or burden do you need to see crucified with Christ today?

DAY 3 Remembering with Thankfulness

Painful memories can feel larger than years of goodness. Scripture invites us to rehearse what is true, honorable, lovely, and worthy of praise. Gratitude does not deny pain; it refuses to let pain become the only story we remember.

Ask the Lord to show you where He was present even before you recognized Him - through a friend, a teacher, a family member, a timely rescue, or an unexpected kindness. Record those moments as evidence of His faithful care.

Where can you now see that God was present and caring for you?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 The Covenant of Baptism

Colossians 2 connects baptism with the removal of the old nature and new life in Christ. The record of debt that stood against us has been canceled at the cross, and the powers that accused us have been disarmed.

Baptism is also a covenant sign. God has bound Himself to us in Christ and will remain faithful when our love is tested. Remember His commitment and renew your own simple response: I belong to You, and I will follow You.

What faithful response do you want to make as you remember God's covenant with you?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

The Importance of Water Baptism

Understand water baptism as a public act of faith, death, burial, and new life with Christ. Prepare to respond with obedience and a clear testimony.

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 6:4

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 3: "The Importance of Water Baptism."

Understand water baptism as a public act of faith, death, burial, and new life with Christ. Prepare to respond with obedience and a clear testimony.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 What Happened in Your Baptism?

Water baptism is a public act of faith that joins our story to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. We go into the water identifying with the old life laid in the grave and rise to walk in newness of life.

If you have been baptized, remember what God declared over you and celebrate the changes that followed. If you have not, bring your questions to a pastor or mentor and take the next step of obedience.

What does baptism declare about who you were and who you are now in Christ?

DAY 3 Through the Water

Paul describes Israel's passage through the sea as a kind of baptism. God brought His people out of slavery, through the water, and onto a new path. The old master could not follow them into their freedom.

Baptism carries the same picture for us. Sin no longer owns us, and the past does not get the final word. We stand still before the saving work of God, then move forward in the freedom He has opened.

What old claim on your life do you need to leave on the other side of the water?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Releasing Control

Some people hesitate to ask for the Spirit because they fear losing control, appearing foolish, or repeating a painful church experience. The invitation of Jesus begins with the character of the Giver: the Holy Spirit is a good gift from a good Father.

God does not manipulate His children. Bring Him every fear and memory, and let trust grow at a healthy pace. Surrender is not becoming less yourself; it is becoming fully alive through the breath and presence of God.

What fear of surrender is keeping you from receiving more of God's good gift?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

The Baptism of the Spirit (Free refills for life!)

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The Baptism of the Spirit (Free refills for life!)

Learn why the baptism of the Spirit is God's empowering gift for everyday life. Ask the Father for fresh filling, boldness, and dependence on the Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 11:13

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 4: "The Baptism of the Spirit (Free refills for life!)."

Learn why the baptism of the Spirit is God's empowering gift for everyday life. Ask the Father for fresh filling, boldness, and dependence on the Spirit.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 Receiving the Holy Spirit

The baptism of the Spirit is not an unusual reward for a few believers. It is the Father's empowering gift for life in Christ. Jesus promised that those who ask will receive the Spirit, the breath of God filling and strengthening ordinary people.

Read the passages from the teaching and bring your questions honestly to God and trusted believers. You do not need to force an experience. Ask, receive, and remain open to the good gift your Father delights to give.

What question or hesitation do you want to bring honestly to the Father?

DAY 3 Before and After the Spirit

Before Pentecost, Peter's courage failed and he denied knowing Jesus. After the Spirit filled him, the same man stood publicly, spoke the truth with boldness, and invited thousands to respond to Christ.

The Spirit does not erase our personality; He empowers it for God's purposes. The places where fear once controlled us can become places of courage, witness, service, and love as we depend on His strength.

Where have you seen the Spirit make you stronger, freer, or more courageous?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 One in Christ

Culture teaches us to measure worth by race, wealth, status, education, gender, or background. Galatians 3 announces a new family in which those distinctions can no longer decide who belongs or who matters most.

No one earned a place at the Father's table. We all came through the same grace and share the same inheritance in Christ. You are not a lesser member, an outsider, or a guest. You belong, and Jesus defines your worth.

What old measure of worth do you need to replace with your equal belonging in Christ?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

In Christ...

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In Christ...

Explore the riches of being in Christ, where belonging, purpose, and hope are found in Him. Practice seeing yourself through what God has joined you to.

MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him In love.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 5: "In Christ...."

Explore the riches of being in Christ, where belonging, purpose, and hope are found in Him. Practice seeing yourself through what God has joined you to.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 Who You Are in Christ

Ephesians 1 gathers the riches of our identity in Christ. We are blessed, chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, given purpose, sealed with the Spirit, and promised an inheritance. These are not prizes we earn; they are gifts we receive because we belong to Jesus.

Read the passage slowly and notice every phrase that begins with 'in Christ' or 'in Him.' Let those words correct the labels you have carried and shape the way you think, pray, and live.

Which truth from Ephesians 1 most needs to become part of how you see yourself?

DAY 3 Your Origin Story

Life events, family history, wounds, successes, and failures all try to explain who we are. Yet Ephesians reaches further back: God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. Our deepest origin is found in His loving intention.

The past is part of your story, but it is not its author. Bring the good, the painful, and the confusing to Jesus. Let His purpose become the truest frame through which you understand where you came from and where you are going.

How does being chosen in Christ reshape the way you understand your life story?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 The Hall of Faith

Hebrews 11 remembers people who trusted God, but Scripture does not hide their doubts, detours, or fears. They became examples of faith because they kept returning to God's promise and moved forward despite their weakness.

Choose one person from Hebrews 11 and read more of the story. Notice both the struggle and the perseverance. When doubt comes, remember that faith is not the absence of uncertainty; it is continuing with the One who is faithful.

Whose story of faith encourages you to keep trusting through uncertainty?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Learning to Trust God

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 6 COVER

Learning to Trust God

Grow in trusting God beyond what you can see or control. Reflect on where He is inviting you to walk by faith instead of fear.

MEMORY VERSE: HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 6: "Learning to Trust God."

Grow in trusting God beyond what you can see or control. Reflect on where He is inviting you to walk by faith instead of fear.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 Building Faith Through Experience

Faith is not blind. Trust grows as we remember the character and faithfulness of the One we follow. When Israel crossed the Jordan, God told them to gather stones so future generations would remember how He brought them through.

Build your own collection of remembrance. Record moments when God provided, protected, guided, comforted, or opened a way. These memories become steady ground when the next step asks you to trust what you cannot yet see.

What 'stone of remembrance' shows that God has been faithful to you?

DAY 3 Exercise Your Faith

Faith grows like a muscle. It becomes stronger when we act on God's leading, especially when the outcome is not guaranteed. Small steps of obedience prepare us for larger moments of trust.

Name the action you have delayed because of fear. Share it with a trusted believer, ask for prayer, and take the next faithful step. Success is not controlling the result; it is learning to walk with God rather than by sight alone.

What act of obedience would exercise your faith this week?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Truth for the Oldest Lie

The accuser repeatedly tells us that the past proves we cannot belong to God. Romans 5 answers that lie: while we were enemies, Christ reconciled us through His death; now that we belong to Him, His living presence will continue to save and restore us.

Paraphrase Romans 5:1-11 in your own words. Make its promises simple and personal enough to remember when accusation returns. The grace that welcomed you is the grace that keeps you.

How would you answer the accusation that your past disqualifies you from God's family?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Living as a Child of God

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Living as a Child of God

Learn to live as a child of God by receiving the Father's care and character. Practice relating to Him from sonship instead of distance.

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 5:10

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 7: "Living as a Child of God."

Learn to live as a child of God by receiving the Father's care and character. Practice relating to Him from sonship instead of distance.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 Restoring the Younger Son

The younger son returned home carrying shame and a plan to earn a servant's place. The father interrupted the speech with an embrace, clean clothes, a family ring, and a feast. Restoration began with the father's love, not the son's repayment.

You may still carry the smell of places from which God rescued you, but the Father's word is stronger than shame. Let Jesus wash your memory with truth: you are received, restored, and welcomed home as a child.

What shame-filled part of your story needs the Father's restoring welcome?

DAY 3 Restoring the Older Son

The older son stayed near the house but related to his father like a worker. Resentment surfaced when grace was given freely to someone who had failed. Religious striving can leave us physically close to God while our heart feels far away.

The Father is not asking you to earn a better seat. You are already reconciled and included. Rest from comparison, performance, and sibling rivalry, and let the joy of the Father's house form you more deeply than striving ever could.

Where are comparison or performance keeping you from enjoying the Father's grace?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Led by the Spirit

Grace does not make sin harmless. It replaces failed religious striving with a better way: the children of God are led by the Spirit of God. The same Spirit who assures us that we belong also forms the Father's character within us.

Respond to promptings toward what is right, repent quickly when conviction comes, and fill your mind with Scripture so you learn the Spirit's voice. Holiness grows through relationship and responsive trust, not fear of rejection.

What prompting toward obedience or repentance is the Spirit asking you to follow?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

No longer an orphan

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No longer an orphan

Recognize orphan thinking that strives for acceptance, protection, and provision. Practice resting in the Spirit's witness that you belong to the Father.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 3:1

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 8: "No longer an orphan."

Recognize orphan thinking that strives for acceptance, protection, and provision. Practice resting in the Spirit's witness that you belong to the Father.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 The Orphan Within Us All

Orphan thinking looks for identity in achievement, expects rejection, competes with others, mistrusts free gifts, avoids intimacy, and fears discipline as punishment. These patterns may remain after adoption, especially in the way we relate to God and His people.

Recognition is not failure. Bring what you notice to the Father without hiding. He understands where the pattern began and can heal it as you practice belonging, trust, generosity, and honest relationship.

Which pattern of orphan thinking most affects the way you relate to God or His family?

DAY 3 You Have Been Chosen

Adoption carries a beautiful truth: you were chosen. God did not make a mistake when He called you by name and brought you into His household. You carry His name, share the family inheritance, and are being formed into His likeness.

In weakness or failure, return to what Jesus said: 'I chose you.' Your place does not depend on flawless performance. The Father knows your whole story and has not changed His mind about calling you His child.

What changes when you receive your place in God's family as a deliberate choice of love?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Shame Off You

Conviction points to a specific wrong and leads us toward repentance and freedom. Shame attacks identity and tells us to hide because we are beyond repair. Jesus endured the cross and its shame so His children would no longer live beneath that voice.

Name the shame you carry and picture it laid on Christ. Agree with His finished work, receive forgiveness, and reject the accusation that your worst moment defines you. In Christ, shame no longer has the right to name you.

What shame do you need to place on the cross and stop carrying as your identity?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

The Gift of Repentance

Receive repentance as God's gift that brings freedom from guilt and shame. Name where He is inviting you to turn toward life.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 1:7

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 9: "The Gift of Repentance."

Receive repentance as God's gift that brings freedom from guilt and shame. Name where He is inviting you to turn toward life.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 The God Who Sympathizes

Jesus does not shame us for being tempted. He understands weakness from the inside and meets us with sympathy. Hebrews invites us to approach the throne of grace confidently, precisely when we need mercy and help.

Repentance begins by moving toward God rather than hiding. Hear His invitation in the difficult place: 'I understand. Will you let Me help you?' Bring Him the truth and receive grace for the next faithful step.

Where do you need to receive Jesus' sympathy instead of expecting shame?

DAY 3 Walking in the Light

Shame grows in secrecy, but freedom grows in the light. Walking in the light means becoming honest with God and trustworthy believers about our fears, temptations, failures, and needs.

Being fully known and still loved loosens the grip of isolation. Ask God for courage to share wisely with someone safe. Fellowship becomes deeper, and the cleansing work of Jesus reaches what secrecy kept hidden.

What do you need to bring into the light with God and a trustworthy believer?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Living Above the Law

An airplane rises because the law of lift overcomes the pull of gravity. In the same way, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death. We do not overcome by staring harder at the force pulling us down.

Keep Jesus at the center of your attention. Depend on His life within you rather than the rulekeeping no one but Christ has fulfilled. As trust grows, the Spirit gives strength to rise above patterns that once felt inevitable.

Where do you need to depend on the Spirit's life instead of trying harder under law?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Receiving His Forgiveness

Learn to receive forgiveness without penance, hiding, or self-punishment. Practice agreeing with the finished mercy of Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 10: "Receiving His Forgiveness."

Learn to receive forgiveness without penance, hiding, or self-punishment. Practice agreeing with the finished mercy of Christ.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 Unpunishable

The punishment that brought us peace was laid on Jesus. When justice has already been satisfied at the cross, self-punishment cannot add anything to His work. Hiding, penance, and condemnation only keep us from the mercy He purchased.

A broken and honest heart is evidence that new life is present. Confess what happened, receive forgiveness, and refuse the demand to make yourself suffer before returning to God. Christ has already borne the sentence.

Where are you still trying to punish yourself for something Jesus has forgiven?

DAY 3 Unafraid of the Father's Wrath

Perfect love casts out fear because fear expects punishment. The Father does not wait to explode at a repentant child. Like David in Psalm 51, we can return quickly, tell the truth, and ask for a clean heart and restored joy.

God's love does not excuse harm; it creates the safest place to face it honestly and change. Let His welcome overcome the instinct to run. The Father desires restored communion more than prolonged distance.

What would it look like to return to the Father without fear or delay?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Forgiving from the Heart

Jesus calls us beyond correct words to forgiveness from the heart. We cannot force that transformation, but Christ in us can form compassion where pain once ruled. On the cross, He prayed for those harming Him because He saw beyond their violence to their blindness.

Ask Jesus to share His perspective without minimizing your wound. Pray for willingness, healthy support, and the miracle of a heart no longer chained to the person who hurt it.

What would you like Jesus to change in your heart as you continue choosing forgiveness?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Practicing His Forgiveness

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Practicing His Forgiveness

Move from receiving forgiveness to practicing it with others. Reflect on the freedom and courage needed to release debts before God.

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 6:14

For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 11: "Practicing His Forgiveness."

Move from receiving forgiveness to practicing it with others. Reflect on the freedom and courage needed to release debts before God.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 Forgiving the Unforgivable

Corrie ten Boom once faced a former concentration-camp guard who asked her forgiveness. Her emotions could not produce it, but she chose to extend her hand and asked Jesus to supply what her heart lacked. Obedience opened a place for healing love to follow.

Forgiveness does not call evil good or erase wise boundaries. It releases personal vengeance into God's hands. When the wound feels beyond your strength, begin with the smallest act of willingness and ask Christ to meet you there.

What small act of willingness can you offer when forgiveness feels beyond your strength?

DAY 3 Forgiveness Is an Act of Faith

Forgiveness is often a decision before it is a feeling. We release the debt because we have been released from our own, trusting God with justice, consequences, and the slow work of healing.

The choice may need to be repeated whenever the memory returns. This does not mean nothing happened. It means the offense will no longer control your future or decide who you become.

Whose debt do you need to place into God's hands again today?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 The Discipline of the Lord

God's discipline is not punishment; it is disciple-making. A good coach exposes weakness, teaches skill, and prepares people to endure. The Father trains His children because they belong to Him and because He intends them to share His character.

Hard circumstances are not always discipline, but every circumstance can become a place of learning with God. Instead of seeking only the easiest path, ask what righteousness, courage, patience, or trust He may be forming.

What might the Father be teaching or strengthening in your present circumstances?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Knowing God as Father

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 12 COVER

Knowing God as Father

Consider what the Father is really like and let Jesus correct distorted pictures of God. Practice approaching Him with trust.

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 14:7

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 12: "Knowing God as Father."

Consider what the Father is really like and let Jesus correct distorted pictures of God. Practice approaching Him with trust.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 Jesus Shows Us the Father

Distorted pictures of God can make us afraid to draw near. Jesus gives us the clearest correction: whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. The compassion, patience, truth, welcome, and holiness of Jesus reveal exactly what the Father is like.

Write what you know and love about Jesus, then allow those same qualities to reshape your image of God. The Father is not less kind than the Son. Jesus is His perfect image made visible.

Which quality of Jesus most needs to correct the way you picture the Father?

DAY 3 The Glory of God

When Moses asked to see God's glory, the Lord revealed His character: compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and truth, and ready to forgive. Glory is not merely power on display; it is the goodness of God made known.

Ask God to show you His glory in ordinary life. Look for mercy, patience, provision, beauty, and faithful love. His goodness may already be surrounding you in ways hurry or disappointment made difficult to notice.

Where can you recognize the goodness and character of God around you today?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Joy Is for All Times

Paul wrote about rejoicing while suffering and confined. Biblical joy is not pretending that pain feels good. It is a deeper confidence that Jesus remains present, the story is not finished, and sorrow will not have the final word.

When your heart cannot manufacture happiness, turn toward the Lord rather than away. Receive encouragement, worship honestly, and ask the Spirit to restore the strength that joy provides.

How can you open your heart to the Lord's joy without denying what hurts?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Relating with God as Dad

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Relating with God as Dad

Grow in relating to God as Dad, not merely as a distant authority. Reflect on joy, affection, and nearness in everyday communion with Him.

MEMORY VERSE: PSALM 16:11

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 13: "Relating with God as Dad."

Grow in relating to God as Dad, not merely as a distant authority. Reflect on joy, affection, and nearness in everyday communion with Him.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 The God of All Joy

Everything truly enjoyable in creation began in the heart of God. His presence is not gloomy or reluctant; Psalm 16 says it contains fullness of joy. Holiness and joy belong together because freedom from sin restores our capacity for life.

Invite His presence into the places that feel heavy or polluted. Like clean water overflowing a dirty container, grace can displace what has accumulated and awaken delight again.

How will you make room to enjoy God's presence today?

DAY 3 Remembering Our Fathers

Our experience with earthly fathers deeply affects how we relate to God. Some memories are warm, others painful, and most are mixed. Honest reflection can help us receive what was good without excusing what caused harm.

Thank God for every imperfect expression of care, wisdom, sacrifice, or protection you received. Release the failures to Him, and let the perfect Father become the standard that heals and completes what was missing.

What good can you gratefully carry forward, and what hurt do you need to release to God?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 A Wrestling Match for the Ages

Romans 7 gives words to the struggle of doing what we hate and failing to do what we desire. Even Paul knew the conflict between the old patterns of flesh and the new life awakened by God.

The struggle does not end with despair. Paul turns toward Jesus with thanks because deliverance comes through Him. Stay in Christ, bring the conflict into grace, and trust that His life will outlast and overcome what resists it.

What inner struggle do you need to bring back to Jesus instead of fighting under law?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Choosing Life, not Law

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 14 COVER

Choosing Life, not Law

Choose life in Christ over rule-keeping as a source of righteousness. Reflect on where law-based thinking still competes with grace.

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 14: "Choosing Life, not Law."

Choose life in Christ over rule-keeping as a source of righteousness. Reflect on where law-based thinking still competes with grace.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 The Root of Legalism

At Sinai, Israel asked Moses to hear God for them. Rules and a human mediator felt safer than direct relationship. Legalism often begins with the same fear: we prefer someone else to tell us what to do rather than trust ourselves to walk with God.

In Christ, the Shepherd speaks to His sheep and writes His ways on the heart. Take responsibility for your own relationship with Him. Listen, test what you hear through Scripture, and follow rather than hiding behind another person's faith.

Where are you relying on rules or another person instead of relating directly with God?

DAY 3 God's Lament

After sin, Adam and Eve hid from the presence they once enjoyed. God's question, 'Where are you?' reveals the grief of broken communion and His movement toward the people He loves.

We repeat the hiding whenever failure makes us avoid Him. Yet grace keeps calling us back into the light. Trust the Father's desire for communion more than the power of sin to separate you, and step out from behind the trees.

What makes you hide from God, and what would coming into His presence look like now?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Saved by His Life

Romans 5 says that if Christ reconciled us while we were enemies, much more will His living presence save and transform us now. The life of Jesus within us is more powerful than the sin that still tries to pull us backward.

Faith gives influence to what we trust. We can place greater confidence in our ability to fail, or in God's ability to finish His work. Turn your attention toward grace and let His life, not your shortfalls, define what is possible.

Which are you trusting more today: your ability to fail or Christ's ability to transform you?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Living By Grace Pt1

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 15 COVER

Living By Grace Pt1

Begin exploring the almost-too-good news of living by grace. Practice receiving what God gives instead of trying to earn what Christ finished.

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 6:1

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 15: "Living By Grace Pt1."

Begin exploring the almost-too-good news of living by grace. Practice receiving what God gives instead of trying to earn what Christ finished.

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 Amazing Grace

John Newton's life shows grace pursuing a person through rebellion, failure, and delayed repentance. God did not merely forgive a former slave trader; He transformed him, then used his influence in the movement that ended the British slave trade.

Grace is patient without approving evil. It keeps calling us into truth, repentance, and a life that repairs what sin has damaged. No history is too tangled for God to redeem and redirect.

Where have you seen grace patiently pursue and change the direction of your life?

DAY 3 Grace Is Not Permission to Sin

Paul's strong teaching on grace raised an obvious question: should we continue in sin so grace can increase? His answer is no. Cheap grace excuses bondage; true grace gives power to leave it.

Jesus showed this balance to the woman caught in adultery. He refused condemnation and also called her into a new way of living. Grace removes the stones of judgment, restores dignity, and empowers repentance.

Where do you need grace to empower change rather than merely excuse a pattern?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Grace Takes Time

"He who began a good work in you will perfect it…" – Philippians 1:6

Fruit takes time. A tree needs roots, nourishment, pruning, sunlight, and seasons before it bears fruit. In the same way, Jesus patiently forms us as we keep turning toward Him and walking by the Spirit.

This is not an excuse to make peace with sin. It is freedom from condemnation and impatient self-effort. Some struggles may feel powerful today, but as your spirit grows stronger in Christ, things that once tempted you can lose their pull. Jesus has begun a good work in you, and He will faithfully continue it.

Where are you discouraged by slow growth? What evidence of God's work can you already see, and what will you place back in Jesus' hands today?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Living By Grace Pt. 2

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 16 COVER

Living By Grace Pt. 2

Learn to turn toward the grace already present in Christ, feed your spirit, and grow patiently into the freedom God is forming in you.

MEMORY VERSE: HEBREWS 4:16

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 16: "Living By Grace Pt. 2."

Learn to turn toward the grace already present in Christ, feed your spirit, and grow patiently into the freedom God is forming in you.

Hebrews 4:16 **Romans 7** **Galatians 5:13-25** **Philippians 1:6** **Acts 17:28**

What stood out from the teaching, and what do you want to remember?

DAY 2 The Throne of Grace Is Near

"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace…" – Hebrews 4:16

When temptation, weakness, or failure rises up, our instinct can be to hide, make promises to do better, or try harder. Hebrews gives us another response: draw near. Grace meets us in our need, not after we have solved it. Jesus is not waiting for us to clean ourselves up before we come to Him; He invites us to receive mercy and help in the moment we need it.

The teaching reminds us that we do not have to travel somewhere to find God's presence. Christ lives in us. When the pull of sin or shame is strong, we can turn our attention inward toward the One who has already taken up residence in our hearts.

When you feel weak or tempted, do you move toward God or away from Him? Write a short prayer you can pray in that moment.

DAY 3 Feed the Spirit

"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." – Galatians 5:16

There is a real conflict within us, but sin is not our identity. In Christ, we have been given new life and the Spirit's power. The teaching compares this inner conflict to two dogs fighting: the one we feed becomes stronger.

We feed the flesh through patterns, settings, thoughts, and choices that pull us back toward old desires. We feed the spirit through Scripture, prayer, worship, stillness, and intentional awareness of God's presence. Fruit does not come from striving; it grows as we stay rooted and nourished in the life of God.

What has been feeding your flesh lately? Choose one specific way to feed your spirit today.

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Nothing Can Separate You

Romans 8 closes by asking what can stand against a person when God is for them. Accusation cannot have the last word because God is the One who justifies, and Jesus is the One who intercedes. When shame tries to reopen a case that Christ has already settled, we do not need to argue with the accuser. We return to the finished work of Jesus.

Tribulation, distress, failure, loss, and fear may feel powerful, but none of them can separate us from the love of God in Christ. We are more than conquerors because the decisive victory is already His. Ruminate on this truth until your mind agrees with what the Spirit has declared: you are held, God is for you, and His love will not let you go.

1. What accusation keeps trying to pull you back into shame?

2. How can you rehearse the truth of God's inseparable love when that accusation returns?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Let's 'Roman 8'

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

Let's 'Roman 8'

Live from the freedom, sonship, hope, and inseparable love revealed in Romans 8.

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 17: "Let's 'Roman 8'."

Live from the freedom, sonship, hope, and inseparable love revealed in Romans 8.

Romans 8:1-39 **Romans 7** **Hebrews 8** **1 Corinthians 15**

1. Which truth in Romans 8 did you most need to hear today?

2. Where is God inviting you to live by His Spirit instead of your own strength?

DAY 2 No Condemnation

Romans 8 opens with a verdict: there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Paul has already described the exhausting struggle of Romans 7 - knowing what is right, yet finding that effort alone cannot make us whole. The answer is not a stronger will or a harsher rulebook. God has done through Jesus what the law could never do through human weakness.

The teaching points out that living according to the flesh can take two forms. We can follow every craving as though God were absent, or we can return to religious striving and try to make ourselves acceptable by our own discipline. Both depend on us. Life in the Spirit begins when we admit that we cannot produce the life of Jesus by ourselves and receive the strength of the One who now lives within us.

1. Where are you still expecting condemnation even though God has declared you free in Christ?

2. Are you more tempted to indulge yourself or to prove yourself, and what would dependence on the Spirit look like there?

DAY 3 Led as a Child of God

The Spirit does more than help us behave better. He bears witness that we are God's children and teaches us to cry, 'Abba, Father.' We are not slaves waiting for punishment; we are sons and daughters learning the ways of the family. Even our weakness becomes a place of communion, because the Spirit helps us pray when words fail and intercedes according to the will of God.

Sonship does not remove every hard season. Romans 8 speaks honestly about suffering, groaning, and hope. Yet present pain is not the final chapter. God is at work even when we cannot explain the reason for what has happened. He can weave what is broken into His good purpose and finish the work He began in us.

1. What changes when you approach God as a loved child instead of a fearful servant?

2. What situation do you need to entrust to the Spirit when you do not know how to pray?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Read to Be Transformed

Bible study is not a contest to master every detail. It is a way of bringing the mind into agreement with the truth God has already begun writing on the heart. Begin with the Gospels and the New Testament, read whole passages and whole books, and follow the themes or people that stir your hunger. Comparing reliable translations and using study tools can help, but those tools should always lead us back to the text and to Jesus.

Be patient with what you do not yet understand. Move toward the passages that give life, return to harder sections as you grow, and ask the Holy Spirit to form the Author's character in you. We have truly learned the Word when it changes the way we trust, love, forgive, worship, and obey.

1. What simple Bible-reading rhythm can you practice consistently in this season?

2. What truth have you read recently that now needs to become action?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

An Overview of the Bible

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

An Overview of the Bible

Read Scripture as one unfolding story of God restoring His people and creation through Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 18: "An Overview of the Bible."

Read Scripture as one unfolding story of God restoring His people and creation through Jesus.

Genesis 3:15 **John 1:14** **Acts 2:42** **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

1. What helped you see the Bible as one story centered on Jesus?

2. What part of Scripture would you like to understand more clearly?

DAY 2 One Story, One Center

The Bible was written by many people across many centuries, but its story moves toward one Person. From the promise in Genesis that evil would be defeated to the final restoration pictured in Revelation, Scripture points to Jesus. The Old Testament records creation, covenant, history, wisdom, worship, and the prophets' hope. The New Testament reveals Jesus, the birth of the church, and the apostles' instruction for life in the new covenant.

Remembering that center keeps us from treating the Bible as a loose collection of religious sayings. Jesus is the Word made flesh. Every part of Scripture should help us know His character, understand His work, or recognize the story into which He has welcomed us.

1. How does reading the Bible as a story centered on Jesus change the way you approach a difficult passage?

2. Where have you already seen God's promise of restoration running through Scripture?

DAY 3 Context Is King

A verse can be made to say almost anything when it is lifted away from its setting. Good study begins by asking who wrote the passage, who first received it, what was happening around them, and what comes before and after. The old covenant and the new covenant also matter. A command or promise spoken to Israel in a particular moment must be understood in that setting before we apply it to life in Christ.

This kind of study requires humility. Familiar passages can still surprise us, and confusing passages do not need to frighten us. We can remain teachable, use trustworthy help, and let understanding grow as our relationship with God matures. The goal is not to win an argument about the Bible, but to hear the Author faithfully.

1. What question about context could help you better understand a passage you have been reading?

2. Where might familiarity be keeping you from approaching Scripture with a teachable heart?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Respond to the Quiet Prompting

Clarity grows through obedience. When the Spirit quietly prompts us to speak kindly, make something right, avoid a harmful choice, or take a faithful step, our yes makes us more attentive the next time. Repeatedly ignoring that prompting can make the heart dull, while simple obedience produces the peace and joy that reinforce our trust.

Take God's communication seriously without forcing meaning into every event. Write down words of encouragement, recurring themes, dreams, or repeated impressions that seem significant, then test them patiently through Scripture, prayer, and wise counsel. The goal is not to chase signs. It is to stay open to the creative ways the Father may draw our attention while remaining anchored in Him.

1. What small prompting have you delayed obeying?

2. What have you sensed from God that would be helpful to record, pray over, and test?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Hearing God's Voice

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 19 COVER

Hearing God's Voice

Learn to recognize the Good Shepherd's voice through Scripture, relationship, discernment, and obedience.

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 19: "Hearing God's Voice."

Learn to recognize the Good Shepherd's voice through Scripture, relationship, discernment, and obedience.

John 10:1-30 **Hebrews 4:12** **1 Samuel 3:1-10** **Philippians 4:7**

1. What did the teaching clarify about the way God speaks?

2. When have you recognized God's direction through Scripture, prayer, or a quiet inner prompting?

DAY 2 You Can Know His Voice

Jesus said His sheep know His voice. If you responded to Him in the first place, then you have already experienced God awakening your heart to recognize what is true. Hearing Him is not reserved for pastors or prophets. It grows through relationship, much like recognizing the voice of someone you have known and trusted for years.

God's voice is often more familiar than dramatic. Samuel first mistook it for Eli's voice, and we may overlook God's prompting because it seems to arise quietly from within. Christ lives in us, so we learn to listen from that place of communion. Scripture gives us the clearest vocabulary for His character and keeps our listening rooted in what He has already revealed.

1. What expectation about hearing God may be making it seem more complicated than it is?

2. How can you make room this week to listen as well as speak in prayer?

DAY 3 Test What You Hear

We can mistake our desires, fears, or other people's opinions for God's direction. That is why discernment matters. God's voice agrees with Scripture and reflects the character of Jesus. It may correct us or call us into something costly, but it will not manipulate us into sin or contradict the truth He has already spoken.

For an important decision, bring what you sense to mature believers who will pray with you rather than control the outcome. Submit your preference honestly to God and pay attention to the peace that remains after fear, urgency, and wishful thinking have settled. God is not playing hide-and-seek with His will; He is forming a heart that is ready to say yes.

1. Does the direction you are considering agree with Scripture and the character of Jesus?

2. Who is a wise, trustworthy believer you can invite to pray and discern with you?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Mercy for the Road Ahead

The Lord's Prayer gives us a daily clearing of accounts: forgive us as we forgive. We receive mercy we could never earn, then release others from the debt we keep demanding they pay. This does not call harm good or remove wise boundaries. It refuses to let resentment rule the heart that grace has set free.

We also ask the Good Shepherd to order our steps away from temptation and deliver us from evil. We stay close enough to follow His leading through the valley, then end where prayer began - in worship. The kingdom, power, and glory belong to Him. Used slowly and thoughtfully, this prayer becomes a framework for communion throughout the day, not a formula to recite without the heart.

1. Whom do you need to release from a debt while trusting God with justice and healing?

2. Where do you need the Shepherd's guidance and protection today?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Praying Like Jesus Prayed

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 20 COVER

Praying Like Jesus Prayed

Let prayer become ongoing communion with the Father, shaped by Jesus' way of seeing and doing.

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 6:9

Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 20: "Praying Like Jesus Prayed."

Let prayer become ongoing communion with the Father, shaped by Jesus' way of seeing and doing.

John 5:19-20 **Matthew 6:9-13** **Ephesians 3:14-15** **Psalm 23**

1. Which line of the Lord's Prayer opened up in a new way for you?

2. How would your day change if prayer became your first response rather than your last resort?

DAY 2 Our Father, Holy and Near

Jesus begins prayer with relationship: 'Our Father.' We do not approach a distant ruler as strangers, but the Father of the family into which Christ has brought us. The word our also reminds us that prayer is never merely private. We join brothers and sisters across generations and nations who are welcomed at the same table.

At the same time, His name is hallowed. God is near and knowable, yet above every limitation of creation. His holiness means His character is perfectly trustworthy: loving, just, merciful, and true. Prayer begins by turning our attention away from the size of our need and toward the identity of the One to whom we are speaking.

1. When you pray, do you find it easier to see God as close Father or holy King?

2. What part of His character do you need to remember before bringing Him your requests?

DAY 3 Your Kingdom Come

Before Jesus teaches us to ask for provision, He teaches us to want the Father's reign: 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.' Prayer aligns us with what God is doing rather than asking Him merely to bless what we have already decided. His kingdom comes wherever people freely yield to the King of peace and begin to live the life of heaven here.

Then we ask for daily bread. This is not anxiety about tomorrow; it is grateful dependence today. Work, ability, resources, and every good gift still come from God. Asking for bread acknowledges both our ordinary needs and our deeper need for the Father who sustains us.

1. Where are you asking God to support your plan instead of surrendering to His will?

2. What daily provision can you receive with fresh gratitude today?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Do Not Fight Alone

The shield of faith answers every flaming accusation with confidence in the Father's ability to keep us. Roman shields were designed to lock together, which gives the teaching an important picture: faith is personal, but the battle is shared. Shame tells us to hide; grace invites trusted brothers and sisters to stand beside us and lend strength where ours is weak.

The helmet of salvation guards the mind from thoughts that do not belong to Christ. The sword of the Spirit gives us Scripture with which to answer lies, just as Jesus did in the wilderness. Prayer keeps every part connected to the living God. We stand alert, invite His perspective into each situation, and ask for help rather than trying to carry the battle alone.

1. What lie needs a clear answer from Scripture?

2. Whom can you invite to lock shields with you in prayer and honest support?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Stand Your Ground

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 21 COVER

Stand Your Ground

Stand in Christ's victory with the truth, righteousness, faith, peace, Word, and prayer God supplies.

MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 21: "Stand Your Ground."

Stand in Christ's victory with the truth, righteousness, faith, peace, Word, and prayer God supplies.

Genesis 3:1-15 **Ephesians 6:10-18** **Romans 8:31-39** **1 John 1:7**

1. Where do you feel pressure to question God's love or abandon what He has given you?

2. Which part of the armor of God speaks most directly to that pressure?

DAY 2 The Battle Is for Your Faith

Spiritual warfare is not a struggle against flesh and blood. The enemy's schemes aim to distort the way we see God, ourselves, and our circumstances until we loosen our trust in Jesus. The battle can feel intimate, like wrestling, because it often takes place in thoughts, emotions, and interpretations of painful events.

The command is not to win in our own strength, but to stand in His. The armor of God is a picture of remaining clothed with Christ. If suffering cannot pull us away from His love, peace, joy, and presence, then the enemy has not gained the ground he wanted. Watchfulness begins by noticing the small compromises and discouraging thoughts that try to move us from that place.

1. What circumstance is tempting you to interpret God as distant or unfaithful?

2. What would standing firm in Christ look like before that circumstance changes?

DAY 3 Truth, Righteousness, and Peace

The belt of truth holds Christ close: the truth of who He is, whose we are, and what His Word says. Truth also means integrity - refusing a hidden double life and choosing to walk in the light. The breastplate of righteousness protects the heart as we act on what we know. We do what is right and turn quickly when the Spirit convicts us, not to earn love but to keep the heart tender within it.

The gospel of peace gives our feet a firm place to stand. Fear, anger, and anxiety try to push us around, but the Prince of Peace lives within us. Returning to the good news - that we are reconciled, received, and held in Christ - helps us dig in rather than be driven by the emotion of the moment.

1. Is there an area where walking in the light would strengthen you?

2. What truth about the gospel helps you recover peace when fear or anger rises?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Take the Thought Captive

Strongholds begin to fall when we confess our need and submit to the Spirit's work. The gospel has power to save completely, not merely to give us a future in heaven. We replace agreement with lies by continuing in truth, and we strengthen that truth through obedience. Sometimes the next faithful step is simple even before all our emotions understand it.

Some wounds and entrenched patterns need patient help from mature believers, pastors, counselors, or other qualified support. Asking for help is not failure. It is refusing isolation and giving truth room to reach places we cannot untangle alone. Take each thought captive, test it against Christ, and keep building on the rock until His truth becomes the heart's new reflex.

1. What truth will you practice when the old thought appears again?

2. Who can safely help you bring this pattern into the light and walk toward freedom?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Old Habits Die Hard

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RESTORED WEEK 22 COVER

Old Habits Die Hard

Bring entrenched thoughts and patterns into the light, and let Christ dismantle every stronghold.

MEMORY VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 22: "Old Habits Die Hard."

Bring entrenched thoughts and patterns into the light, and let Christ dismantle every stronghold.

Romans 7:15-25 **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** **Romans 12:2** **John 8:31-36**

1. What pattern of thought or reaction did the teaching help you recognize?

2. What truth about God challenges the belief beneath that pattern?

DAY 2 A New Heart in Old Habits

When an old pattern returns, it can make us wonder whether anything truly changed. Romans 7 describes that inner conflict honestly. Yet the presence of a struggle does not prove that our heart is bad. In Christ we have a new heart living in a body and mind trained by old experiences, reactions, and habits. Those habits may be deeply practiced, but they are not our identity.

A stronghold is a trusted argument or way of interpreting life that has been built around a lie. It can sound like, 'No one is safe,' 'I will always be rejected,' or 'I have to protect myself at any cost.' The belief may have formed around real pain, but it now resists the freedom and love God is offering. Recognition is not condemnation; it is an invitation to healing.

1. What repeated reaction seems larger than the present situation?

2. What belief about yourself, other people, or God may be underneath it?

DAY 3 Expose the Argument

Strongholds protect themselves through speculation: 'I already know how this will end,' 'They will never listen,' or 'Obedience will only make things worse.' Those conclusions keep us from faith, forgiveness, vulnerability, and love before we have taken a step. They raise themselves against the knowledge of a trustworthy Father whose purposes are good.

Pay attention when truth makes you defensive, unusually angry, or eager to explain why it cannot apply to you. That resistance may reveal the argument at work. Bring it into the light without shaming yourself. Ask what happened, what you came to believe because of it, and how Jesus sees that part of your story.

1. What outcome have you decided is inevitable before giving God room to lead?

2. How does the character of Jesus answer the argument you have been protecting?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Renew the Mind on Purpose

Transformation brings the outer life into agreement with the new life already within us. The mind is renewed as we repeatedly turn toward what is true and give it expression. Scripture, prayer, worship, fellowship, and honest repentance are not religious chores; they are practices that keep the heart open to the Spirit's forming work.

Make those practices easy to return to. Keep Scripture where you can hear or read it. Gather songs that turn your attention toward God. Stay connected to people who strengthen faith. When an old path calls, do not stare backward at it; set your eyes on Jesus and choose the next action that agrees with who you have become.

1. Which daily rhythm most consistently turns your heart toward Jesus?

2. What practical change can make that rhythm easier to continue this week?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

New Habits Are Built on Purpose

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RESTORED WEEK 23 COVER

New Habits Are Built on Purpose

Build life-giving patterns through continued obedience to Jesus, renewed thinking, and Spirit-led practice.

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 8:31-32

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 23: "New Habits Are Built on Purpose."

Build life-giving patterns through continued obedience to Jesus, renewed thinking, and Spirit-led practice.

Matthew 7:24-27 **John 8:31-32** **Hebrews 12:1-2** **Romans 12:2** **Psalm 51**

1. What truth from the teaching is ready to become a repeated practice?

2. What old habit needs to be replaced rather than merely resisted?

DAY 2 Build on the Rock

Jesus ended the Sermon on the Mount with two builders who heard the same words and faced the same storm. The difference was action. The wise builder practiced what Jesus said and built on rock; the other heard without obeying and built on sand. Knowing truth can feel like progress, but truth becomes a foundation only when it enters our choices.

Old habits were built one agreement and one repeated action at a time. New habits are built the same way, now in partnership with grace. Every yes to the Spirit places another stone on the foundation Christ is building. Freedom is often less like one dramatic moment and more like a new response practiced until it becomes strong.

1. What teaching of Jesus do you understand but have not yet put into practice?

2. What small repeated action would begin building on the rock today?

DAY 3 Continue as a Disciple

Conversion turns us toward Jesus; discipleship keeps following Him. Jesus did not say that information alone would make us free. He said that those who continue in His word become true disciples, know truth by experience, and are set free. Continuing means we keep walking through progress, setbacks, conviction, repentance, and renewed obedience.

A stumble does not mean salvation failed. The grief we feel over sin can be evidence that the Spirit is alive and calling us forward. We avoid both pretending sin does not matter and punishing ourselves as though Christ had not paid for it. We get up, receive mercy, learn, and take the next step with Him.

1. Where are you tempted to stop because growth has been slower than you hoped?

2. What would it look like to receive mercy and continue rather than punish yourself or give up?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Practice Real Fellowship

The early church devoted itself to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Fellowship was more than sharing a room. It meant sharing life. Real community grows as we prioritize time together, share what God has given, speak honestly about our needs, forgive, and take small risks of trust.

Walking in the light allows others to know where care and healing are needed. It also gives us the joy of being known without pretending. Begin with a small circle of trustworthy believers who point your heart toward Jesus. Learn to receive love, offer your part, and stay present when family life tests the patience and grace God is growing in everyone.

1. Who are the trustworthy people with whom you can practice honest, Christ-centered fellowship?

2. What step of sharing, forgiving, receiving, or serving would deepen that fellowship?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

The Family of God

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 24 COVER

The Family of God

Receive the gift of shared life in Christ: one Father, one family, and many needed members.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 1:3

What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 24: "The Family of God."

Receive the gift of shared life in Christ: one Father, one family, and many needed members.

1 John 1:3 **Acts 2:42-47** **John 17:19-23** **Ephesians 2:18-22** **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

1. What part of belonging to God's family feels most life-giving to you?

2. Where is God inviting you to move from attending community to sharing life within it?

DAY 2 One Father, One Family

When God became our Father, His people became our family. The New Testament calls believers brothers and sisters because our fellowship is not based on matching backgrounds, personalities, cultures, or opinions. We share Christ. That common union can gather people who would otherwise have little in common and make them genuinely one.

Jesus prayed that His people would share the unity He has with the Father. This unity is not sameness and it does not require pretending differences are unimportant. It is the settled recognition that everyone welcomed by the Father belongs at the table. Our shared love becomes a visible answer to Jesus' prayer and a testimony that the world can see.

1. What difference in another believer have you treated as a barrier instead of an opportunity to love?

2. How can you help someone experience that there are no outsiders at the Father's table?

DAY 3 You Are a Needed Member

Paul describes the church as one body with many members. No single person displays everything about Jesus, and no member can say to another, 'I have no need of you.' God gives different strengths so that we learn both to offer help and to receive it. Independence may feel safer, but it cannot form us into the fullness of Christ.

When one member suffers, the body moves toward the pain; when one is honored, the body rejoices. Your presence, experience, compassion, skill, and spiritual gifts are not accidental. They are ways God intends to care for His household. The family needs what He placed in you, and you need what He placed in others.

1. Where do you need to let another member of Christ's body help you?

2. What gift or strength can you use to build someone else up this week?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Speak the Truth in Love

When someone sins against us, Jesus teaches us to go privately first. The purpose is to win a brother or sister, not to win an argument. Gossip spreads the wound and gives other people an offense that is not theirs to carry. Loving confrontation protects both truth and the dignity of the person we hope to restore.

If a private conversation is not heard and the harm continues, Jesus describes bringing one or two appropriate witnesses and, when necessary, trusted church leadership. Every step should keep the same aim: repentance, safety, and restoration rather than humiliation. Love can be both warm and firm. It refuses to hide destructive behavior, yet keeps its arms open to genuine return.

1. Have you spoken about an offense to others before speaking with the person involved?

2. How can you approach the next conversation with both clarity and a sincere desire for restoration?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Reconciled with God and His Family

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 25 COVER

Reconciled with God and His Family

Let God's reconciliation produce mature love, truthful speech, forgiveness, and restored relationships.

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 25: "Reconciled with God and His Family."

Let God's reconciliation produce mature love, truthful speech, forgiveness, and restored relationships.

John 13:34-35 **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** **Ephesians 4:15** **Psalm 51** **Matthew 18:15-17**

1. Which relationship came to mind as you listened to the teaching?

2. What would loving that person as Jesus has loved you require now?

DAY 2 Love as Jesus Loved

Jesus raised the measure of love beyond treating others as we want to be treated. He said to love one another as He has loved us. His love moved toward us while we were still far away, kept the door open for reconciliation, and told the truth without withdrawing compassion. This love is humanly impossible apart from the life of Christ within us.

Spiritual gifts, knowledge, sacrifice, and courageous faith cannot substitute for love. Family life exposes how much love has actually formed us because people misunderstand, disappoint, and offend one another. We have not reached the goal simply because conflict is absent. We grow when the love of Jesus governs how we respond in the middle of it.

1. When conflict comes, are you more likely to withdraw, attack, or move toward loving truth?

2. What part of Jesus' love do you most need Him to form in you?

DAY 3 Repair What Was Broken

The teaching gives a healthy flow for repairing relationship: repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restitution. Repentance owns the wrong without excuses or blame. Forgiveness releases the debt. Reconciliation restores fellowship as trust begins to heal. Restitution asks whether anything practical can be done to repair the damage.

Words matter, but love is willing to clean up what it spilled. We may not be able to undo every consequence, and the other person may need time or boundaries. Still, taking initiative communicates that we understand the harm and value the relationship. Tested relationships can become stronger when truth, mercy, and changed action meet.

1. Is there a wrong you need to own without adding an explanation that shifts the blame?

2. What practical act of repair could demonstrate the sincerity of your repentance?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?

DAY 4 Press On

Paul did not claim to have arrived. He left what was behind and pressed toward the purpose for which Christ had taken hold of him. The past can teach us, but it cannot lead us. We keep our eyes on Jesus, hold the ground grace has gained, and move toward what He is still forming.

Do not end this course in isolation. Remain in fellowship, continue the practices that feed your spirit, and invite others into the journey. In time, offer the same patient encouragement you have received. The finish of one season is a launching point for a life that keeps becoming more loving, more faithful, and more like Christ.

1. What do you need to leave behind so you can press forward with Jesus?

2. What specific rhythm and relationship will help you keep growing after this course?

Keep pressing forward in the life Jesus is forming in you.

Never Stop Growing

RESTORED by Pastor Steve Blayer · Hillside Christian Fellowship

RESTORED WEEK 26 COVER

Never Stop Growing

Treat the end of the course as a beginning for lifelong growth in perseverance, maturity, and love.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 TIMOTHY 1:5

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

DAY 1 Watch the Teaching

Watch Week 26: "Never Stop Growing."

Treat the end of the course as a beginning for lifelong growth in perseverance, maturity, and love.

1 Timothy 1:5 **1 John 2:12-14** **2 Peter 1:3-8** **Matthew 6:33** **Philippians 3:12-16**

1. Where can you already see that Jesus has grown you during this course?

2. What area of love and maturity is He inviting you to pursue next?

DAY 2 Measure Growth by Love

The goal of instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Prayer, worship, Scripture, repentance, and freedom from strongholds all serve that end. Growth is not mainly measured by how much information we collect, but by whether loving God, His people, and even our enemies is becoming a more natural response.

John describes children who know the Father's forgiveness, young believers growing strong through the abiding Word, and mature fathers and mothers who know God deeply and help others grow. These are not rigid labels. They remind us that spiritual life develops, and maturity eventually turns outward to strengthen the next person.

1. Where has forgiveness, patience, or compassion become more natural in you?

2. Who might God be preparing you to encourage or help grow?

DAY 3 Add to What God Has Given

Peter writes that God's power has already given us everything needed for life and godliness, then calls us to apply diligence. Faith grows into moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. Grace supplies the life; we participate by practicing what He gives.

Much of this growth happens slowly. Like a child growing under a parent's eyes, change may be hard to notice from one day to the next. Do not despise gradual progress. Keep seeking the kingdom, stay close when you do not feel strong, and let each season add depth to the qualities Christ has already planted in you.

1. Which quality in 2 Peter 1:5-7 needs deliberate practice in this season?

2. What evidence of slow growth have you been overlooking?

PRACTICE Carry It Forward

Choose one simple response to keep practicing this week as you continue walking with Jesus.

What will you carry into the week ahead?