



MON 1-24

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Ephesians 5:8
- ✓ THOUGHT "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!" [NLT] When we believe in Christ, we begin a process of transformation. The selflessness of Jesus inspires us to continually transform our thinking so that we can transform our behavior. What conscious choice can you make this week to change one behavior that might show light to someone else?
- ✓ PRAYER God of love, I want to keep moving along the path of becoming more like Jesus. Open my mind and make me aware of something I can change that will make a difference in my relationships. Amen.

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TUES 1-25

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Proverbs 18:1
- ✓ THOUGHT "Unfriendly people look out for themselves; they bicker with sensible people." [CEB] Unity in the church, workplace, or family depends on our willingness to look out for others. It is only then that we can avoid senseless arguments that wear each other down. Spend some time today thinking of important relationships in your life and notice if there is unnecessary arguing present. Ask God for help.
- ✓ PRAYER God, I want my relationships to be life-giving, not marked by strife. Help me to be a friendly, kind person who offers life and peace to those I am around. Amen.

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WED 1-26

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 1:22
- ✓ THOUGHT "You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart." [NLT] Our recognition of the truth requires us to love. That is the message of Christ! Loving each other with all of our heart implies that there is no room for selfish thoughts and desires!
- ✓ PRAYER Lord Jesus, fill my mind with a loving attitude today. May my thoughts be like your thoughts and help me choose words and actions accordingly. Thank you for opening my heart to your truth. Amen.

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THURS 1-27

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Philippians 2:4
- ✓ THOUGHT "Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others." [CEB] Our human nature is to watch out for ourselves, but we are given a new nature in Christ. Being concerned for the common good was precisely what Jesus demonstrated for us as he gave his life so all would be offered God's transformational love.
- ✓ PRAYER Gracious God, help me to embrace an others-centered life. My old nature creeps in sometimes, and I am sorry for the ways I turn my attention inward. Thank you for constantly changing my heart. Amen.

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FRI 1-28

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Colossians 3:10
- ✓ THOUGHT "Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him." [NLT] When we connect with God daily, we learn more and more about our "new nature." We can continually learn about the nature of God through scripture, our experiences, our relationships with mature believers, and through prayer. Seek these things and find renewal!
- ✓ PRAYER Almighty God, thank you for the many ways you reveal yourself to me. Open my eyes to see you at work and help me maintain the desire to make these practices a part of my life. I give you praise for your greatness and love. Amen.

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SAT 1-29

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Philippians 1:27
- ✓ THOUGHT "Most important, live together in a manner worthy of Christ's gospel...Do this so that you stand firm, united in one spirit and mind as you struggle together to remain faithful to the gospel." We bring glory to God when we "live in a manner worthy of Christ's gospel." [CEB] Paul ties unity into the call to stand firm. We are meant to experience our journey of faith united with other believers!
- ✓ PRAYER God, I thank you for the community of believers to which I belong. Help me to reach out and become even more connected so that my faith is strengthened and your love is seen in us. Amen.

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GROUP GUIDE

- ✓ **PRAYER** God, we acknowledge that you are already here. May our hearts be open to your presence and direction. Amen.
- ✓ **BIG IDEA** During this series, we could easily spend small group time debating the hot topics; however, since our goal is to build unity, the group discussion guides are centered around that concept. Unity in the church glorifies God! It demands a transformation from self-focused to outward-focused, which displays love and goodness in us. This process brings God glory as others see and experience this transformational power!
- ✓ **DISCUSS**
 - Have you ever witnessed a major transformation in someone’s life? Share with the group what changed and why you think the change occurred. What was particularly impactful as you witnessed this transformation?
 - When you think about the concept of selfishness, what comes to mind? How does this natural struggle most impact your life right now?
 - Read this passage from Galatians 6:7-10 aloud: Make no mistake, God is not mocked. A person will harvest what they plant. Those who plant only for their own benefit will harvest devastation from their selfishness, but those who plant for the benefit of the Spirit will harvest eternal life from the Spirit. Let’s not get tired of doing good, because in time we’ll have a harvest if we don’t give up. So then, let’s work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity, and especially for those in the household of faith. [Galatians 6:7-10 CEB] This advice Paul gives to the church in Galatia contrasts for us two types of lives we can choose to lead: living for oneself, or living for others. Do you find yourself in both categories depending on the particular relationship? Have there been seasons of life when you have been more inclined toward selfishness or working for the good of others?
 - In John 15:12-13, we read, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” [NIV] Our spiritual transformation hinges on becoming more like Christ. When thinking about unity in the church, what does the command in these verses look like in a practical sense? If we succeed in this, how would it display or illustrate the love of God for those who are not yet a part of the church?
- ✓ **Pray** Loving God, we are thankful for the hope of transformation because of your love. Renew our minds and give us new energy and focus. We are sorry for the ways we have turned inward and become consumed with our own concerns and needs. Help us to be guided by your Spirit as we focus on the good of all. Amen.