



MON 2-7

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Psalm 139:13-14
- ✓ THOUGHT "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." [NIV] We can celebrate each others' unique characteristics knowing that God purposefully created us to be who we are--wonderful representations!
- ✓ PRAYER Loving Creator, thank you for your wisdom and care in the way you have made me to be who I am. Help me to nurture the gifts you have given me, and celebrate the strengths of others. Amen.

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TUES 2-8

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:9
- ✓ THOUGHT "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." [NIV] We are called to declare the praises of God. We do that in a number of ways, including using our specific talents and abilities to help others and show the love of Jesus. Have you found a way to do that?
- ✓ PRAYER Lord Jesus, show me opportunities for me to use the abilities you have given me to show your love to others. Thank you for bringing me out of darkness and into your wonderful light. Amen.

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WED 2-9

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Psalm 119:73-74
- ✓ THOUGHT "Your hands have made me and set me in place. Help me understand so I can learn your commandments. Then those who honor you will see me and be glad because I have waited for your promise." [CEB] The way you live your life can bring others gladness and hope. Take a moment to think about something you can do this week to live into that purpose.
- ✓ PRAYER God, show me how I can bring some gladness to someone this week. I am thankful for the people you have placed in my life, and I want to do what I can to live in a way that points them to your love. Amen.

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THURS 2-10

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:8
- ✓ THOUGHT "And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand." [NLT] God has a plan for each one of us. When we allow our minds to be opened and shaped by the Spirit, we continually grow and change to be more like Jesus. Do you feel stuck? Pray that God would renew your mind and help you to recognize ways to foster spiritual growth in your life.
- ✓ PRAYER Gracious God, I don't want to stay just as I am today. I am thankful you bring me new experiences and ideas. Help me to stretch myself for the sake of continual spiritual development so I can most effectively reflect your love in my life. Amen.

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FRI 2-11

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Matthew 10:29-30
- ✓ THOUGHT "What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows." [NLT] You matter so much to God! Your place in this world is necessary and unique. Draw near to God today and thank him for his care for you.
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, when I think about the love you show each of your children, it is hard to comprehend. When I am feeling insignificant, help me remember to seek you to be reminded that you care deeply. Amen.

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SAT 2-12

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 3:12
- ✓ THOUGHT "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." [NIV] Our love for each other should continually increase and overflow. As we learn more about the thoughts and experiences of those around us, we are called to increase in our love and appreciation for each other. Rather than seeing differences as things that divide us, we can choose to view these differences as valuable and special to God.
- ✓ PRAYER God, I want to see your children as valuable just like you do. When I encounter someone with a viewpoint that is different than mine, help me to find value and worth in that diversity. 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 does not mean uniformity. We are stronger because of our diversity of thought and the way we embrace the unique contribution of each member of the body of Christ.
- ✓ **DISCUSS**
 - Share an example of when you have felt that your experiences, ideas, or unique abilities were recognized or utilized in a particular situation. How did that feel?
 - Have you experienced a time when your unique strengths were not celebrated or maybe even caused tension? What would you say was the source of that tension?
 - What do you think is the biggest stumbling block for people when it comes to identifying and utilizing their unique abilities and ideas within the church?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 aloud. "There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good." [CEB] Unity requires us to agree that we have one Spirit guiding and equipping, one God we glorify, and one mission--to share the love of Jesus with all people. It does not require that the how, where, and when are the same! In fact, the more diversity in the methods, the farther the reach of the Church will be. Share with the group how your individual strengths and experiences might contribute to the mission of the Church.
 - In verse 7 of the above passage, we read, "A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good." [CEB] The New Living Translation says, "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." Our uniqueness is for the benefit of each other and should be celebrated! This verse suggests that the whole is strengthened by its diversity, yet sometimes we try to conform or force conformity. Why do you think that might be the case?
- ✓ **Pray** Gracious God, we give thanks for the many ways you are represented by your people. Help us remember that your greatness is so immense that it takes all of us together to reflect that greatness, each in our own unique ways, to those who need to experience your love. Amen.