



MON 6-27

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Deuteronomy 31:6
- ✓ **THOUGHT** "So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you." [NLT] Sometimes we know the right thing to do or say, but natural fear of how someone might respond can tempt us to avoid following through. God will never fail us--we can count on strength to do what is good.
- ✓ **PRAYER** Loving God, thank you that you never change and you never abandon me. Help me stay connected to the love of Christ, which will give me the courage to pursue what is right. Amen.

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TUES 6-28

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 41:10
- ✓ **THOUGHT** "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." [NLT] We can confidently rely on God. How wonderful a picture--God holding us up. What do you need help with today? Is there a difficult situation you are facing? Talk to God about it!
- ✓ **PRAYER** Faithful God, help me to look to you when I am feeling uncertain or afraid to be obedient in what you are guiding me to do. I know you are good, and your spirit will be my help. Amen.

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WED 6-29

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 16:8
- ✓ **THOUGHT** "I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." [NIV] God is always with us, but sometimes our eyes get fixed on other things. Spend a few minutes today in silent meditation, focusing your thoughts on our ever-present God.
- ✓ **PRAYER** God of love, your presence is my comfort and strength. Thank you that I can walk with you through all things, trusting you to be my guide. As I start this day, help me to push aside the things that distract me from being aware of how you are working in my life. Amen.

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THURS 6-30

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Philippians 4:8
- ✓ THOUGHT “And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” [NLT] Is there anything you are preoccupied with that may be taking up too much head space? Stay on track by leaving room in your thought life for the things of God!
- ✓ PRAYER Lord, help me to make a conscious choice today to spend time dwelling on things that lead me to praise and gratitude. Let the light of Christ fill my thoughts. Amen.

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FRI 7-1

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Isaiah 1:16-17
- ✓ THOUGHT “Wash! Be clean! Remove your ugly deeds from my sight. Put an end to such evil; learn to do good. Seek justice: help the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.” [CEB] Seeking justice by helping those in need is a command we see many times in scripture. We can battle our own selfishness by building into our lives regular opportunities to serve others.
- ✓ PRAYER God, cleanse me of any attitudes or actions that are not pleasing to you. I don’t want my life to be focused inward, so please show me practical ways I can share my energy and resources, bringing your love to others. Amen.

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SAT 7-2

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1
- ✓ THOUGHT “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” [NIV] This scripture was fulfilled in Christ (see Luke 4:16-22). This is the mission of Christ and, therefore, should be on our hearts as well! What is one small step you can take to participate in this work of love?
- ✓ PRAYER Precious Jesus, I give you thanks and praise for the way you bring love and light into the world. Use my time and resources to accomplish your mission. Amen.

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DIGGING DEEPER

- ✓ **Intro** **Old Testament prophets would offer the rulers of the day reminders about how to live out the love of God. They offered consistent reminders of two important values: justice for the vulnerable and voiceless and avoiding idolatry.**
- ✓ **Reflect**
- Have you ever found yourself in a cycle that led to repeated mistakes? Can you identify an idol in your life that contributed to the cycle?
 - The Old Testament prophets would often be the voice of warning, and their advice wasn't necessarily welcome. Have you ever been rejected when trying to share wisdom with someone who was headed down the wrong path? Have you ever rejected wise advice?
 - Have you ever been afraid to do what God was nudging you to do or say? What was driving that fear?
 - How is a standard definition of the word *justice* different from the way justice is addressed in the Bible? If you aren't sure, do a quick internet search. Does the information you found change your current view about what that word means to God?
 - Read Jeremiah 22:13-16. Jeremiah was a prophet who described the importance of justice according to the Lord. What does verse 16 reveal about what God values?
 - Consider the ways you might live out God's care for the vulnerable. What are the primary needs in your community right now? What new activities could you explore and include in your life?
- ✓ **Pray** **God of compassion, I want my care and concern for others to mirror yours. Increase my awareness of the needs in my community. Create in me a passion to meet those needs, even if it just means taking some new small steps. Thank you for the way you show me your unfailing love each day. Please inspire and equip me to do your work in the world. Amen.**



DIGGING DEEPER

✓ What did I learn? _____

✓ How might it apply in my life? _____

✓ What is a next step I can take? _____

