



MON 7-4

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Galatians 5:13
- ✓ THOUGHT "For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love." [NLT] Freedom means different things to different people. Reflect on your freedom in Christ and how it has changed your life. Decide on one thing you can do this week to serve someone else because of the love of Christ in your life.
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, the gift of Christ and the freedom of forgiveness has changed me. I am so grateful for your transformational love. Inspire me each day to be a part of that transformation for others. Amen.

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TUES 7-5

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 John 2:1-2
- ✓ THOUGHT "My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world." [CEB] Jesus is the answer. Our shortcomings are not seen by God because of the love of Christ that we embrace!
- ✓ PRAYER God of grace, sometimes I become discouraged by my mistakes. Remind me that it is simply my trust in Christ that saves me, making me clean in your eyes. Thank you for your amazing love. Amen.

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WED 7-6

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 4:6
- ✓ THOUGHT "God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ." [CEB] People all around you are struggling with the darkness of illness, grief, loneliness, addiction, financial need, and so many other things. How can you reflect the light of Christ today to help cut through the darkness?
- ✓ PRAYER God of light, I pray that your truth, love, and compassion would shine in me. Let all that I say and do be a part of bringing your hope into this world. Thank you for illustrating who you are in the face of Jesus. Please inspire me to become more like him as I seek you each day. Amen.

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THURS 7-7

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Romans 5:1
- ✓ THOUGHT “Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” [NLT] God desires connection and peace with us! Sometimes we complicate it in our minds, but the truth is that all it takes is our faith in Christ. Are you holding on to shame about a mistake unnecessarily? Ask God to help you believe the words of this verse!
- ✓ PRAYER God of grace, it is a relief to know that you do not remember my mistakes. It’s sometimes hard to remember and believe that type of love exists, but please remind me daily. Amen.

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FRI 7-8

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Psalm 100:5
- ✓ THOUGHT “For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.” [NLT] The love of God is as solid as a rock. The assurance we have in the unfailing nature of God’s love is a powerful force in our lives. We all have our struggles, but God’s promise endures through anything we will face.
- ✓ PRAYER Unfailing God, you are wonderful, and I praise your name for your kindness, mercy, goodness, and grace. Use everything about me and every experience I have to share your love with others. Amen.

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SAT 7-9

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Isaiah 1:18
- ✓ THOUGHT “‘Come now, let’s settle this,’ says the LORD. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.’” [NLT] Though this was written to Israel, it is true for us in Christ! What a marvelous transformation we are able to experience. When we begin to see ourselves as God does, we can make choices that reflect who we are in Christ. Our old ways become transformed by God’s love.
- ✓ PRAYER Amazing God, I want the power of your love to completely change me. Thank you for your forgiveness and for never giving up on me. Amen.

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DIGGING DEEPER

- ✓ **Intro** As we move into the New Testament, we must start with the big picture. What is the crux of the story of Christ? Atonement is a word that paints a picture of wholeness. Christ brought us from a broken relationship with God to a place of complete restoration.
- ✓ **Reflect**
- Do you enjoy putting together complex puzzles? Why or why not? Have you ever put together a puzzle only to come down to the end and discover there are missing pieces? Describe that feeling.
 - Throughout the ages, God revealed the truth of his nature to the world progressively as the people could handle and understand it. We now have the gift of the example of Christ when we need clarification about what God is like. Read Colossians 1:15-23 aloud. What portions stand out to you the most, and why?
 - According to the above passage, Jesus is the fullness of God in a human form--the image of the invisible God. When you think about your perception of God's nature or character, does it align with what you know about Jesus? What questions about God can the life of Jesus clarify for you?
 - Verse 21-23 describes the essence of atonement. This word can be thought of as *at-one-ment*. This is a picture of God bringing the broken world back to wholeness, making us one with God because of God's love for us. When you think about your life, try to identify an example of something broken that God has brought back together.
 - Verse 22 points out that because of Christ, we are presented to God as holy and blameless, without fault--no missing pieces! Is there any part of you that has a hard time believing this truth about yourself? Is there someone in your life that you struggle to see this way? God sees all of us as forgiven!
- ✓ **Pray** God of mercy, thank you for the beauty of your love in my life. Thank you for the ways you have provided restoration and the ways you continually bring me closer to you. Help me to live like I am forgiven and enjoy the peace that you offer in Christ Jesus. Amen.



DIGGING DEEPER

✓ What did I learn? _____

✓ How might it apply in my life? _____

✓ What is a next step I can take? _____

