



**MON 10-24**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Micah 6:8

▼ **THOUGHT** "He has told you, human one, what is good and what the LORD requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God." [CEB] It is not a mystery what God desires from us! This scripture very plainly connects our faith with the way we walk through life. Sometimes it is easy to talk in generalities about these ideals, but a little more challenging to make it practical. Pray that this week God would nudge you in a specific way to add a practical to-do!

▼ **PRAYER** **Faithful God, I thank you for this clarity in scripture about my purpose. I pray you would help me understand how these words translate into action for me this week. Amen.**

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**TUES 10-25**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 58:10

▼ **THOUGHT** "Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon" [NLT] This was encouragement for the people of Israel that is still meaningful for us today. What a cool picture it paints for us--the way we care for others will brighten *our* lives as well as theirs. Love drives out darkness!

▼ **PRAYER** **Light of the world, I want your love to surround me, as I busy myself with showing love to others. Guide me as I prioritize my time and energy and let my light shine brightly, sharing hope with everyone I encounter. Amen.**

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**WED 10-26**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 57:10

▼ **THOUGHT** "For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds." [NLT] This comparison of God's love to the vastness of the sky is so encouraging. Spend a few moments outside today, gazing at the clouds. Let it be a comforting reminder that God is greater than we can think or imagine, yet still cares deeply for us. The faithful, steady love of God sustains us and energizes us!

▼ **PRAYER** **Almighty God, when I stop to ponder just how great you are, I am in awe. Help me to remain in this mindset, letting your great love inspire me to continue your good work in the world. Amen**

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# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

## THURS 10-27

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Luke 10:36-37

▼ **THOUGHT** "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?' Jesus asked. The man replied, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Then Jesus said, 'Yes, now go and do the same.'" [NLT] The Good Samaritan story reminds us that Jesus' message of mercy was a primary theme that transcends our feelings. Even people we struggle to get along with deserve kind and merciful treatment from us as Christ-followers.

▼ **PRAYER** **Merciful God, some of my neighbors may not be my favorite people, but I know they are yours! Help me see them through your eyes and develop greater empathy, compassion, and patience. Amen.**

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## FRI 10-28

▼ **SCRIPTURE** James 3:13

▼ **THOUGHT** "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." [NIV] What do you suppose is the connection between good deeds and humility? Perhaps as we grow in humility, we recognize that none is more deserving than another, making service more palatable. Is there anyone in your life with whom you need to practice more humility?

▼ **PRAYER** **God of love, give me a servant's heart just like Jesus displayed. Forgive me when I have felt like I was above completing a task to serve someone else. Help me always remember what Christ taught about humility. Amen.**

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## SAT 10-29

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 18:27-28

▼ **THOUGHT** "You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty. You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light." [NIV] The humble recognize their need for God, inviting the light to take over! Think of an area where you need God to help you grow and pray specifically about

▼ **PRAYER** **Lord Jesus, thank you for illuminating my life with your love. Forgive me when I forget my need for you and begin to act in ways that are not humble. I recognize my limitations, and I am grateful for your help and strength in my life. Shine your love brightly in me. Amen.**

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# DIGGING DEEPER

▼ **Intro**      **In this series, we'll focus on the biblical ideas of kindness, love, and good deeds that are meant to be our way of life as followers of Jesus. As we head into the political campaign season, these are virtues that we want to highlight and unpack. Our faith is the catalyst for our good works!**

▼ **Reflect**

- Have you ever met someone whose faith truly drives their behavior to always be kind and loving? Describe their influence on your faith practices.
- Amos 5:21-24 says, "I hate all your show and pretense—the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won't even notice all your choice peace offerings. Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living." [NLT] Ouch! Amos was a prophet sent by God who observed Israel's outward religiosity had no effect on the way they treated others. How do you feel about this observation and the way it might apply today?
- If Amos was writing to today's culture what issues do you think he might point out that get in the way of bringing justice and righteousness to our communities?
- James 2:18 reminds us, "I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, 'Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department.' Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove." [MSG] Sometimes believers are unsure about the balance of faith and works. Think about your own life, would you say you are more faith-heavy, or works-heavy, or is it equally balanced?
- Brainstorm ways you can be on alert for opportunities that bring about justice and kindness in your every day life. How might this play out at work, during leisure activities, or as you run errands?

▼ **Prayer**      **God, keep my eyes and heart open to see your face in the faces of hurting people around me who need your touch. I want to live a life that honors you. I offer you my best, today and every day, so your love reaches those you have placed in my path. Amen.**



# DIGGING DEEPER

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**

▼ What did I learn? \_\_\_\_\_  
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▼ How might it apply in my life? \_\_\_\_\_  
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▼ What is a next step I can take? \_\_\_\_\_  
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