



MON 10-10

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Acts 17:28

▼ **THOUGHT** "For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'" [NLT] Begin this week with some extra time in prayer and silence with God. God is our source of life, the source of our very existence. When we make time to focus on this life-giving connection, it changes our outlook, impacting everything we say and do.

▼ **PRAYER** **Amazing God, I need you every hour. I don't always seek you, but I recognize my need for spiritual growth, and I want to make it more of a priority in my life. Thank you for an open invitation into your presence. Amen.**

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TUES 10-11

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Romans 14:1

▼ **THOUGHT** "Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion." [CEB] When someone doesn't share your ideas about faith, does it bring up any certain feelings? Paul encourages us to welcome them but not with the intention to argue! He goes on to remind us that we each answer to God, so we don't need to look down on one another.

▼ **PRAYER** **God of love, you draw each of us closer to yourself in amazing and unique ways. Help me to trust your love and goodness and to let go of my feelings of judgment toward your children. Amen.**

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WED 10-12

▼ **SCRIPTURE** John 13:35

▼ **THOUGHT** "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." [NLT] The greatest proof of our devotion to Christ is how we treat the people around us. Think of a way that you can show love to someone today. Maybe it is an overdue phone call, card, or visit. Maybe someone could use your help with a project. Maybe someone needs a listening ear. Pray, and then take action!

▼ **PRAYER** **Lord Jesus, I need your direction. Who needs me to show them love today? Help me to be willing to sacrifice my time and energy to make it happen. Thank you for loving me so willingly. Amen.**

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THURS 10-13

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 86:15
- ▼ **THOUGHT** "But you, O LORD, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness." [NLT] What a blessing in our lives! God is slow to get angry. When we consider how much that means to us, we can grow in our empathy for others.
- ▼ **PRAYER** **God of compassion, I fail often, but you always offer me your love. Thank you for the patience you have shown me. Let it inspire me to make allowances for the failings of others who are imperfect, just like I am. Remind me daily of your perfect and abundant kindness. Amen.**

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FRI 10-14

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE** 1 Peter 1:22
- ▼ **THOUGHT** "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart." [NIV] The rubber meets the road when we recognize that our new life in Christ must lead to new ways of living out love in our day-to-day activities. Being forgiven is step one, and all the steps that follow must be guided by love.
- ▼ **PRAYER** **Loving Christ, help me to develop a sincere love for the people you have placed in my life. Help me intentionally search for ways I can bless them so they may experience your love through me. Amen.**

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SAT 10-15

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 136:4
- ▼ **THOUGHT** "Give thanks to the only one who makes great wonders—God's faithful love lasts forever." [CEB] The God of the universe loves each one of us. That love will never change and has no end. The wonder of God's love inspires us to move in closer and let it transform us. Consider taking a few moments to write out a prayer of thanksgiving to start your day.
- ▼ **PRAYER** **God of wonders, your goodness is more than I can fathom. I give thanks with my whole being! Remind me to show my gratitude each day with my words and actions toward all of your children. 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. This will help us protect unity in the church, demonstrating selfless love to those not yet connected.**

▼ **Reflect**

- Christians have been criticized for their treatment of people groups with differing religious beliefs throughout history. Have you ever experienced a professing Christian reject someone of another faith? Why do you think this has been a repeated conflict?
- Genesis 12:1-3 says, "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.'" [NLT] What stands out to you in this passage?
- God made great promises to Abraham, including "a land I will show you" and "I will bless you." Such promises tempt human nature to think, "God likes me more than anyone else!" But God blessed Abraham so that he and his descendants would share the blessing. "All the families on earth will be blessed through you." Do you think this excludes or includes people with other faith traditions? If God intended to use Abraham to bless all people, how should that influence the way today's Christian church interacts with other faith communities?
- There are some conflicts our country has experienced that have led to stereotypes of other cultures and their religions. Would you say you have struggled with this issue? How would Jesus counsel us about this?

▼ **Prayer** **Lord Jesus, sometimes I struggle with my biases about others who hold different spiritual beliefs than I do. But, you call me to change my attitude. Guide me as I wrestle with a change of spirit. Put in me a heart to bless all people of the earth, partnering with you. Amen.**



DIGGING DEEPER

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

▼ What did I learn? _____

▼ How might it apply in my life? _____

▼ What is a next step I can take? _____

