



**MON 9-12**

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE**
- ▼ **THOUGHT**

**Ephesians 2:8**

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God." [NLT] Grace is not earned by the way we live, how we grew up, or because of someone else's faith. It is freely given by God to anyone who wants it. Our salvation is to be treasured because of the generosity of the giver, not because we have earned it. This generous gift inspires us to live a life that shares it with others. Thanks be to God!

- ▼ **PRAYER**

**God of Grace, I praise you today for saving me. Thank you that every day is a chance to experience your grace and love more fully. Amen.**

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**TUES 9-13**

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE**
- ▼ **THOUGHT**

**Psalms 103:2-4**

"Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies." [NLT] Don't let this week fly by without pausing to give praise for all the ways that God has changed your life for the better. When we remember to offer our praise, it changes our perspective so we can live lives of gratitude.

- ▼ **PRAYER**

**Lord Jesus, my life is filled with hope because of the way you love me. I want to allow that love to change me inside and out. Take control of my heart, mind, and soul, so everything I am glorifies you. Amen.**

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**WED 9-14**

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE**
- ▼ **THOUGHT**

**1 Peter 3:8**

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." [NIV] As we look around us, we are called to show compassion, knowing we each are in need of the same grace. None of us are more or less deserving than another. Keep your eyes open today for someone who might just need an encouraging word.

- ▼ **PRAYER**

**Loving God, I want to be a humble person who doesn't think more highly of myself than I do of others. I thank you that despite my flaws, you still offer me grace. Help me today to increase my awareness of the needs of others and to be ready to provide hope for someone. Amen.**

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**THURS 9-15**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 111:4

▼ **THOUGHT** "He causes us to remember his wonderful works. How gracious and merciful is our Lord!" [NLT] Remembering is so important! Taking time regularly to look back on the faithfulness of God provides so much encouragement for us during hard times. Remembering the depth of love Christ has demonstrated for us also reminds us how we are to love each other!

▼ **PRAYER** Merciful God, your work in my life is evident when I quiet my mind and remember. I am sorry for taking your faithfulness for granted at times. Thank you for the example of Christ to keep me on track. Amen.

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**FRI 9-16**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Ephesians 5:1

▼ **THOUGHT** "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children..." [NIV] God's example for us was the life of Jesus! At the last supper, Jesus showed us what it is like to behave humbly with the heart of a servant toward others. He washed the feet of the men for which he was about to sacrifice everything. What a personal, hands-on act of care and service!

▼ **PRAYER** Lord Jesus, open my mind to see opportunities all around me to get involved in people's lives. Sometimes, I tend to avoid the nitty gritty ways I can meet needs, but that was your example. Help me to follow. Amen.

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**SAT 9-17**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Luke 6:36

▼ **THOUGHT** "Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate." [CEB] God shows us unconditional love, but in our own strength, we are not capable of such love! The love of Jesus living inside us gives us the power to act in ways outside our nature. When we ask for the spirit to guide us in love, we will be able to reflect God's beauty in the way we show care for the people around us.

▼ **PRAYER** God of love, I need your help every day so I can turn my attention away from myself and toward you and your children. Help me to be a light because of your power at work in my life. Amen.

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# DIGGING DEEPER

- ▼ **Intro**      **Sacraments are outward signs of the inward grace that we receive because of Christ. The idea is to use something ordinary like bread as a reminder of something extraordinary, like the sacrifice of Christ. When we receive communion, we look back at what Christ did, we look around and experience Christ with other believers, and we look ahead with the anticipation of meeting Jesus face to face.**
- ▼ **Reflect**
- Growing up, what was your understanding of or experience with communion?
  - How is your current understanding of communion different?
  - Communion is a time of remembrance. As we look back, we remember what Jesus did and why. Read Romans 5:6-9. Discuss the concept of "while we were still sinners..." Why is that statement significant?
  - During communion, we look around and experience Christ together with other believers. This shared experience of grace reminds us that Jesus loves all people, and we are all alike in our need for forgiveness. Have you ever had to remind yourself that your struggles with sin are no different in God's eyes than anyone else's? Do you tend to consider your sin to be more or less forgivable? Why?
  - Read Matthew 26:17-30. What phrases stand out to you? Why?
  - Consider that Jesus invited Judas to the table to eat with them knowing he would betray him that very evening. Does that give you reassurance, or does it bother you? Why?
- ▼ **Prayer**      **God of Grace, thank you for this special way of remembering the gift of mercy that you offer each of your children. As I remember your choice to sacrifice for my sake, help me to grow in my compassion and mercy for others. Help me not to consider myself to be better or worse than others but rather to see us all as children of yours, forgiven and free. Amen.**



# DIGGING DEEPER

▼ 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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