



## MON 11-21

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Matthew 4:16

▼ **THOUGHT** "...the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined." [NLT] Spiritual darkness can feel like shame, vulnerability, or isolation. Jesus has overcome darkness, and we are called to help others find hope in the midst of these types of struggles. Bring to mind someone you know who might need some encouragement today.

▼ **PRAYER** **God of light, shine through me today. Fill me with your hope and peace and strengthen me as I move out of my comfort zone to share your light with those who so desperately need it. Amen.**

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## TUES 11-22

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Ephesians 2:10

▼ **THOUGHT** "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." [NLT] God's purposes for each of us are unique and special. Though we all have the common goal of doing God's good work, we each have an important role to discover and fill. Our talents and resources help complete the grand masterpiece of love that is meant to change the world.

▼ **PRAYER** **Creator God, thank you for shaping me in your image. Please show me your path today as I make choices about how to use what you have so graciously given me. Amen.**

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## WED 11-23

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Matthew 20:28

▼ **THOUGHT** "That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage." [MSG] Jesus gave everything so that people would be freed from the darkness of not experiencing God's love. We are charged with living as Christ did--as a servant. How can you grow in your servant mentality? What are you willing to give so someone else would be set free?

▼ **PRAYER** **Lord Jesus, forgive me for the ways I have kept your precious love to myself. I want others to find hope in you just like I have. Thank you for loving me by humbling yourself. Show me how you are calling me to make a difference in my community by doing the same. Amen.**

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## THURS 11-24

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 145:3

▼ **THOUGHT** "The LORD is great and so worthy of praise! God's greatness can't be grasped." [CEB] The magnitude of God's greatness is more than we could ever comprehend. How amazing and encouraging that no matter the hills and valleys of life, God is always great, and we can trust that steady constant presence each day. On this day of thanks, take a few moments to gaze into the heavens and meditate on God's wondrous works.

▼ **PRAYER** **God of the universe, I am comforted by your unchanging nature. I am in awe of the vastness of your glory and love. Inspire me to respond in new ways to the kindness you have shown me as I grow in faithfulness. Amen.**

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## FRI 11-25

▼ **SCRIPTURE** 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

▼ **THOUGHT** "Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all." [NIV] Everything belongs to God! How does that change the way you view the comforts you enjoy? Hopefully, it sparks feelings of gratitude and a willingness to obediently disperse God's love and provision to bless others.

▼ **PRAYER** **Precious Lord, thank you for being the architect of our world. You are King over all, and I give you thanks for the hope I have in you. Help me be your servant today, partnering with you to share hope with others. Amen.**

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## SAT 11-26

▼ **SCRIPTURE** 1 Chronicles 16:11

▼ **THOUGHT** "Search for the LORD and for his strength; continually seek him." [NLT] When we neglect time with God, our joy begins to wane, and our resolve to make selfless decisions can diminish. It takes perseverance to live a life of faith. We must stay in connection with God to keep our priorities straight, as we joyfully live a life that makes an impact.

▼ **PRAYER** **Loving God, thank you for always being there, even when I don't show up. I am grateful for the loving way you are always drawing me back into your presence. Remind me every day that you are my source of life, hope, and peace. Amen.**

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# DIGGING DEEPER

▼ **Intro**      What is our *why* behind how we choose to use our money? We give *so that* the world is made better by the love of Jesus. Jesus talked a lot about money because of the way it can take hold of our lives. The key is for us to value the power of the love of Christ in people's lives more than we value what money can buy us!

▼ **Reflect**

- Think about the function of light and list a few of the things that come to mind.
- Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." [CEB] What stands out to you in these verses as you read them aloud?
- Why do you think Jesus would choose this metaphor to describe his followers?
- Our very existence, along with all of creation, is meant to bring glory to God as we share God's love. If that is the purpose of our *existence*, is any part of our lives exempt from being used for God's purposes? Why do you think it is so difficult for our culture to apply this to the way we use our material wealth?
- Think about your time, money, & possessions. Have you ever had any "spirit nudges" about ways you might leverage what you have to bless others? If you haven't followed through yet, what do you think is the primary thing holding you back?
- Think of one new thing you could do or provide for someone else *so that they* might get a glimpse of the light of Christ shining in you. Share your idea with someone!

▼ **Prayer**      **Light of the world, thank you for trusting me to shine your light, illuminating the path of life for others. I want my life to help others grow in their understanding of your magnificent, transforming love. Help me fight against my tendency to hide my light and instead allow you to position me in such a way that I make the greatest impact for you. 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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