



## MON 11-7

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Exodus 34:6

▼ **THOUGHT** "The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, 'Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.'" [NLT] God is so faithful and filled with perfect love for us. Begin this week with a time of prayer thanking God for the many ways you have been cared for and shown love. Allow your recollection of God's love to fill you up with life-giving joy and gratitude!

▼ **PRAYER** **God of love, when I ponder all the ways you have shown me love over the years, I am so thankful. The small ways and the grand things you have done in my life deserve the highest praise. I love you. Amen.**

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## TUES 11-8

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 145:9

▼ **THOUGHT** "God is good to one and all; everything he does is soaked through with grace." [MSG] What a neat image to keep in mind. Everything God does is soaked with grace! This grace is life-changing and so needed in our culture. We are called to live generously because we have such a treasure to share!

▼ **PRAYER** **Gracious God, help me to keep straight what the real treasures are in my life. Your goodness to me is undeserved, and knowing that you offer complete grace is such a comfort. Help me to look for opportunities to extend that grace to someone today by giving of my time and resources. Amen.**

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## WED 11-9

▼ **SCRIPTURE** Psalm 119:36-37

▼ **THOUGHT** "Turn my heart to your laws, not to greedy gain. Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things. Make me live by your way." [CEB] God's desires are meant to be our desires! Time with God is the antidote to our preoccupation with things that distract us from what really matters. We can focus our days around the things that matter to God when we set aside precious time to listen to Holy Spirit's guidance.

▼ **PRAYER** **Holy Spirit, in these moments of prayer, I ask for your inspiration, guidance, and help. Help me understand your ways more fully and become more aware of the ways I need to change and grow. Amen**

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**THURS 11-10**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** **Matthew 6:33**

▼ **THOUGHT** "Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. [MSG] Just like tea leaves transform ordinary water, the things of God are meant to transform our lives. When we allow this to happen, our thoughts begin to shift from the concerns of everyday life to things that are eternally significant.

▼ **PRAYER** **Almighty God, expand my thinking. Sometimes I get stuck worrying about things that, in the long run, won't matter. Help me to broaden my perspective and spend my time and energy on what truly counts. Amen.**

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**FRI 11-11**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** **Psalm 145:5-6**

▼ **THOUGHT** "I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness." [NLT] The psalmist had it right. We are meant to dwell on the glorious splendor of God! Take a walk outside today and notice the beauty around you. Try to keep your gratitude for God at the forefront of your thoughts and words today.

▼ **PRAYER** **God of grace, I am so glad you offer such goodness to me. I want to choose your ways each day. Thank you for the joyful life you offer for those who wisely seek to follow the example of Christ. Amen.**

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**SAT 11-12**

▼ **SCRIPTURE** **Ecclesiastes 5:10**

▼ **THOUGHT** "Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!" [NLT] There is a difference between hard work to provide and loving money. Our culture makes it difficult to see the difference sometimes. Rely on God for good things rather than trying to find satisfaction elsewhere. God's love is our source of true life!

▼ **PRAYER** **Loving God, how easily I get seduced by money and possessions. I know that material things won't satisfy, but sometimes I get off-track. Forgive me for asking the world for satisfaction that only you can provide. Amen.**

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# DIGGING DEEPER

▼ **Intro**      The materialism trap can prevent us from living a life of joy and generosity. We can so quickly become a slave to our things! Money can buy us all kinds of items, but it can also be used differently--as an expression of our faith and a means to change the world!

▼ **Reflect**

- Growing up, did you struggle with comparing yourself to others? Was the comparison about material things? How has the need to compare changed as you have gotten older?
- Matthew 6:19-21 says, "Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." [CEB] Lately, what would you say you spend significant time thinking about and figuring out how to get? Is it simply a thing, or would you consider it a true treasure?
- What we treasure or crave can tell us something about the condition of our hearts. Think of a time when thoughts of a material possession became unhealthy either for you or someone you know. How did you overcome it? What did you have to adjust to see with a better perspective?
- Think of someone in your life who lives generously. What qualities do you admire in them? Would you say they are living joyful lives?
- In our culture, do you think generosity is valued? Why or why not?

▼ **Prayer**      **Gracious God, I confess that I have longed for money and the things it can buy. I confess that I have treasured earthly things in my heart and taken pride in my possessions. I want to humble myself before you and trust you to supply all my needs. Teach me to be generous in the way that I live because you have been so good to me. Thank you for continuing to help me grow in your ways. 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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