

JUL - DEC 2026  
BOOK 2

2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030

**ALWAYS**  
*ready*



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# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

If someone asked you, “What defines your life?” — what would you say?

## SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 2:20

*“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Paul’s confession in Galatians 2:20 is one of the most personal and profound statements in all of Scripture. The gospel is not just something Paul preaches — it has redefined his very identity. To be “crucified with Christ” means dying to the old self, the self that sought righteousness through the law or through human effort. Now, Paul says, his life is no longer his own; it belongs entirely to Christ.

This is not loss but gain. The Christian life is not about adding a little bit of Jesus to our own agenda but about surrendering fully so that Christ may live in us. It is a union so intimate that Paul can say Christ Himself is the animating presence of his life.

Notice the motivation: “who loved me and gave himself for me.” The cross is not a distant doctrine but a personal reality. Paul is compelled by the love of Christ, which transforms his priorities, his mission, and his very existence. The life he now lives is a life of faith — trusting daily in the Son of God who gave everything for him.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Paul writes Galatians to counter false teachers who insisted Gentile believers must observe the Jewish law to be justified. Paul insists that justification is by faith in Christ alone (Gal. 2:16). Verse 20 flows out of this argument: if righteousness could be gained by the law, Christ died for nothing. But because of the cross, believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection.

Theologically, this is the doctrine of union with Christ — the believer shares in Christ's death (crucifixion), resurrection (new life), and indwelling presence (Christ lives in me). It is both positional (we have died with Christ) and experiential (we live daily by faith). This union is at the heart of salvation and sanctification.

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 16:5–6, 11**

*“Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;  
you make my lot secure.*

*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
surely I have a delightful inheritance...*

*You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”*

Just as Paul testifies that his new life is in Christ, the psalmist rejoices that God Himself is his portion, inheritance, and joy. Both passages point us away from self-rule toward the fullness of life found only in God.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What does Paul mean when he says, “I have been crucified with Christ”? How does this connect with Romans 6:6–8 about dying to sin?
- What aspects of your old self still resist being “crucified with Christ”?
- Why does Paul emphasise “Christ lives in me”? How does this shape our understanding of the indwelling presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit?
- What would change in your daily life if you lived more consciously aware that Christ Himself lives in you?
- How do the words “who loved me and gave himself for me” anchor Paul’s identity in grace rather than in works of the law?
- In what ways do you struggle with adding your own “works” as a way of trying to prove your worthiness before God? How can this verse free you from that burden?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, thank You that You loved me and gave Yourself for me. Teach me what it truly means to be crucified with You, so that my life is no longer my own but Yours. Fill me with faith to live each day in Your presence and power. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 1:3-5

*“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Paul opens his letter not with small talk but with the Gospel. In just a few words, he reminds the Galatians of the heart of their faith: Jesus gave Himself for our sins to rescue us. The cross was not an accident but the will of God — His plan from the beginning to bring salvation.

Notice how Paul describes our condition: we needed rescue. The present age is marked by brokenness, rebellion, and evil we cannot escape on our own. But in Christ, deliverance has come. Grace is not advice for better living; it is rescue for the perishing.

Out of this rescue flows peace — reconciliation with God and the deep well-being of being secure in His love. The only fitting response is worship: “to whom be glory for ever and ever.”

Every time we hear the Gospel, it should pull us back to this reality — Jesus gave Himself, we are rescued, and God is glorified.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does remembering that you were rescued, not just improved, change the way you live today?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for giving Yourself for my sins. Rescue me daily from the pull of this world. Let my life bring glory to You forever. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 1:6–9**

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.*

*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul writes with urgency and deep concern — the Galatians were drifting toward a distorted gospel. This shows us how quickly our hearts can wander from the pure grace of Christ to something mixed with human effort or cultural approval.

A “different gospel” is not always obvious. It may sound spiritual and even use Christian language, but if it shifts our confidence from Christ’s finished work to our own performance, it ceases to be the good news.

Paul’s words remind us that the Gospel is not ours to edit. We are stewards of the truth, called to guard it and keep pointing people back to Jesus alone.

We live in an age of countless competing messages. To remain faithful, we must keep returning to the cross — the place where God’s grace was fully revealed.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Are there subtle “different gospels” you might be tempted to believe today?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, keep me anchored in Your true Gospel. Guard my heart from false teaching. Let my confidence be in Christ alone.  
Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 2:19–21**

*For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live*

*by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

These verses capture the heart of Christian identity: we have been united with Christ in His death and resurrection. Our old self, striving for righteousness by law-keeping, has been put to death. This is not a metaphor Paul uses lightly. Being “crucified with Christ” means surrendering every claim to self-rule and every hope of earning God’s favour apart from grace.

Now, Christ lives in us. The Christian life is not a self-improvement project — it is a Christ-in-dwelling reality. Every act of obedience flows from faith in the One who loved us and gave Himself for us.

To set aside grace is to cheapen the cross. But to embrace grace is to live each day in the freedom and power that come from His presence within us.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can you live today with a deeper awareness that Christ lives in you?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for uniting me with Christ. Help me to live by faith in Him today. Let His life be seen in me. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 5:1**

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Freedom in Christ is not freedom to live however we want — it is freedom to live as we were made to live: in loving, joyful obedience to God without fear of condemnation.

Paul warns the Galatians not to return to the slavery of legalism. The temptation to measure ourselves by rules or rituals is strong, because it feels controllable and predictable. Grace, however, calls us to trust entirely in what Christ has done, not what we can do.

Standing firm in freedom means holding fast to the truth that our acceptance before God is secure because of Jesus. It means resisting both the pull of sin and the pull of self-righteousness.

True freedom produces love, joy, and peace — the fruit of the Spirit that grows in the soil of grace.

#### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Are you standing firm in Christ's freedom, or are you slipping toward self-reliance or legalism?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for setting me free. Help me stand firm in Your grace. Let my life bear the fruit of true freedom. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 6:9-10**

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Doing good can be exhausting, especially when results seem slow or opposition is strong. Paul's encouragement is rooted in a promise — God's timing is perfect, and the harvest will come. This hope keeps us from giving up. Even small acts of faithfulness are seen by God and will bear fruit in His time.

Paul also reminds us that our goodness should be expansive — for all people — but especially tender and committed toward fellow believers. The family of God is to be a living testimony of His love. Perseverance in doing good is not powered by willpower but by the Spirit. As we draw strength from Him, we can keep sowing seeds of grace until the day of harvest.

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where is God calling you to keep doing good, even if the harvest is not yet visible?

**PRAYER**

Lord, strengthen me to keep doing good. Help me trust Your timing for the harvest. Let my life bless others in Your name.  
Amen.

**CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**





# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

If someone gave you an inheritance today, what's the first thing you would do with it?

## SCRIPTURE READING: EPHESIANS 1:3

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians with a song of praise. Before he tells the church what they must do, he reminds them of what God has already done. The heart of this verse is abundance: every spiritual blessing is ours in Christ. We are not waiting for scraps of God's grace; we have received the full riches of His love.

Notice the direction of these blessings: they are “in the heavenly realms.” This means they are rooted in eternity, not subject to decay or loss like earthly treasures. They come to us because we are “in Christ.” Union with Christ is the channel through which every gift flows — forgiveness, adoption, redemption, the Spirit's indwelling, hope of glory.

Paul wants us to see that the Christian life is not lived from a place of scarcity but from fullness. We do not strive to earn God's blessing; we live as those already blessed. The natural response is worship: “Praise be to the God and Father...” Gratitude becomes the atmosphere of the believer's life.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Ephesians was written while Paul was imprisoned in Rome (around AD 60–62). It reads more like a circular letter than one tied to local issues, aiming to give the church a sweeping vision of God’s eternal purposes in Christ.

Theologically, verse 3 serves as the opening to a long doxology (1:3–14), one of the richest passages in the New Testament. It unfolds the Trinitarian work of salvation: the Father elects, the Son redeems, the Spirit seals. “Every spiritual blessing” encapsulates the totality of God’s saving work, available to believers not because of merit but because of grace.

This verse also introduces the theme of the heavenly realms, which Paul uses five times in Ephesians. It highlights the cosmic dimension of salvation — God’s plan in Christ encompasses heaven and earth, uniting all things under His lordship.

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 103:1–5**

*“Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.*

*Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—  
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with  
love and compassion,  
who satisfies your desires with good things so that your  
youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”*

Psalm 103 mirrors Paul’s call to bless God, listing the abundant blessings poured out by His grace. Both texts remind us never to forget that our lives are overflowing with His benefits.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What does Paul mean by “in the heavenly realms”? How does this shape our understanding of spiritual blessings as eternal rather than temporary?
- When you think about your life, do you tend to focus more on what you lack or on the blessings you already have in Christ?
- Why does Paul anchor every blessing “in Christ”? How does this relate to the doctrine of union with Christ?
- What practical habits can help you live daily with gratitude for the “every spiritual blessing” you already possess?
- How does this verse set the tone for the rest of the doxology in Ephesians 1:3–14?
- How would your perspective on trials or disappointments change if you believed, deeply, that you already have “every spiritual blessing” in Christ?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Father, thank You for blessing me with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Forgive me when I live as though I am poor, when in You I am rich beyond measure. Teach me to live in gratitude, praise, and confidence, knowing that all I need is already mine in Jesus. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: EPHESIANS 1:3

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Paul opens his letter with an explosion of praise. Before giving any instruction, he lifts our eyes to what God has already done in Christ. The believer’s life begins not with what we must do, but with what God has already given.

“In Christ” we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. Nothing is lacking. We are chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, and sealed. These blessings are not temporary or fragile; they are anchored in heaven, secure in Christ’s finished work.

Too often, we live as if we are spiritually impoverished, waiting for something more to make us whole. But Paul reminds us: in Christ, we already have every blessing we need. The Christian life is not about striving for more but living into what God has already given.

This truth leads us, as it did Paul, to worship. Gratitude is the natural response when we realise the riches of grace we have received.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How might your day look different if you lived with the awareness that you already have every spiritual blessing in Christ?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for every blessing You have given me in Christ. Help me to live in gratitude rather than striving. Let my life overflow with praise to You. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: EPHESIANS 1:13–14**

*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul paints a breathtaking picture of our security in Christ. The moment we believed, God sealed us with the Holy Spirit. In the ancient world, a seal was a mark of ownership and protection — no one could tamper with what the king had sealed.

The Spirit is not only a seal but also a deposit — a down payment on our eternal inheritance. This means our future with

God is not a vague hope; it is guaranteed by His own presence living within us. The Spirit's work is both present and future. Right now, He comforts, guides, and empowers us. In the future, He will bring us into the fullness of our redemption when Christ returns.

Knowing this should bring deep assurance and unshakable joy. We are not our own; we belong to God, and He has pledged Himself to bring us safely home.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does knowing you are sealed with the Holy Spirit change the way you face uncertainty?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for marking me as Your own. Let Your Spirit guide me each day. Fill me with hope for the future You've promised. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: EPHESIANS 2:4-7**

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of*

*his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

These verses remind us of the depth of our transformation in Christ. We were not simply struggling — we were spiritually dead. But God, motivated by His great love, brought us to life with Christ.

This is resurrection language. Just as Jesus was raised from the grave, we have been raised from the death of sin into the life of grace. We are already seated with Him in the heavenly realms — a present spiritual reality that points toward our future glory.

The purpose of our salvation is not merely rescue but revelation: for all eternity, God will display the “incomparable riches” of His grace through our lives. Every act of kindness we experience from God now is a foretaste of endless kindness in the age to come.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can you live today as someone already seated with Christ?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for making me alive in Christ. Let my life display Your grace. Keep my eyes fixed on the hope of heaven. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## Devotional Day 4

### SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

#### SCRIPTURE READING: EPHESIANS 3:16–19

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

#### DEVOTIONAL

Paul's prayer for the Ephesian believers is breathtaking in scope. He prays not for their circumstances to change, but for their inner being to be strengthened so they can fully grasp the love of Christ.

The love of Christ is vast — beyond measure, beyond comprehension — and yet Paul prays that we might truly know it. This is not head knowledge alone, but heart-deep experience.

We are rooted and established in love — like a tree with deep roots drawing nourishment, or a building on a firm foundation. Everything in the Christian life flows from this love.

To be “filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” is to live in such intimate fellowship with Him that His character and presence overflow in our lives.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How could you make space today to encounter the love of Christ afresh?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, strengthen me to know Your love. Let my roots go deep in You. Fill me with the fullness of Your presence. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: EPHESIANS 6:10-11**

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul closes Ephesians with a call to spiritual readiness. The Christian life is not lived on neutral ground — we face an enemy who seeks to undermine our faith and witness.

Our strength does not come from ourselves but from “the Lord and His mighty power.” Just as soldiers prepare for battle by putting on armour, we are to clothe ourselves with the spiritual resources God provides.

The armour of God is not optional. Without truth, righteousness, readiness, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer, we are vulnerable. With them, we can stand firm.

Spiritual warfare is not about aggression but about steadfastness — holding ground, resisting lies, and remaining faithful to Christ.

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Which part of God's armour do you most need to "put on" today?

**PRAYER**

Lord, make me strong in You. Clothe me with Your armour. Help me stand firm against every scheme of the enemy. Amen.

**CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**





# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

When was the last time you laughed so hard you couldn't stop?  
What was it about that moment that made it so joyful?

## SCRIPTURE READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Paul's words to the Philippians burst with joy — not superficial happiness, but a deep, abiding gladness rooted in Christ. What makes this command so striking is its context: Paul is writing from prison. He is chained, uncertain of his future, and yet his letter resounds with joy more than any other.

To "rejoice in the Lord" is to find one's deepest delight not in circumstances but in Christ Himself. Our joy is anchored in His unchanging character and finished work. Circumstances shift — health fails, finances tighten, relationships strain — but the Lord remains the same. That is why Paul can insist, "always."

He repeats himself — "I will say it again: Rejoice!" — because joy is not optional for the believer. It is both command and gift. Joy springs from remembering who Christ is, what He has done, and what He promises yet to do. In a world heavy with anxiety and sorrow, Christian joy is a witness to the unshakable hope found in Jesus.

## HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Philippians was written around AD 61–62 during Paul's imprisonment in Rome. Unlike letters correcting errors (like

Galatians) or addressing crises (like 1 Corinthians), this epistle is often called Paul's "letter of joy." He thanks the Philippians for their partnership in the gospel and encourages them to live with unity, humility, and perseverance.

Theologically, Philippians 4:4 highlights that joy is both eschatological and Christological. Our joy is rooted in the Lord's nearness (v. 5) and in the hope of His coming kingdom. It is also tied to Christ's example in chapter 2 — He humbled Himself, was exalted, and now reigns as Lord. Thus, rejoicing is not mere optimism but an act of faith: delighting in the Lord who reigns, even when present circumstances seem bleak.

#### **REFLECTION: PSALM 16:8–11**

*"I keep my eyes always on the Lord.  
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.  
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest secure,  
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the  
dead,  
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.  
You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand."*

Psalm 16 shows the same truth: joy is not in circumstances but in God's presence and promises. Paul's rejoicing echoes this eternal gladness rooted in God Himself.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think Paul repeats the command to rejoice? What does this reveal about the importance of joy in the Christian life?
- How does rejoicing “in the Lord” differ from rejoicing in circumstances or possessions?
- What connection do you see between this verse and the “Christ hymn” in Philippians 2:5–11?
- What practices (prayer, worship, thanksgiving, fellowship) help you cultivate joy even in hard times?
- How does the phrase “always” challenge our assumptions about joy? Does Paul mean joy is constant emotion, or something deeper?
- What would it look like for your life to bear witness to the world through a joy that circumstances cannot shake?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, You are my joy and my song. Teach me to rejoice in You always, not just when life is easy, but even in the struggles. Help me find gladness in Your presence, hope in Your promises, and peace in Your Spirit. Fill my heart with joy that overflows to others. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6

*“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Paul begins his letter to the Philippians with gratitude and joy. Even though he writes from prison, his heart overflows with thankfulness for these believers and their faithfulness in partnering with him in the Gospel.

What gives Paul such confidence is not the Philippians' strength but God's. The One who began the good work of salvation in them will not abandon it halfway. He is committed to carrying it through to completion in Christ. This truth is deeply reassuring. Our Christian life is not sustained by our effort alone but by God's faithful hand. He does not give up on what He has started. Even when we stumble, He continues shaping us, refining us, and leading us toward the day when Christ will be fully revealed.

Paul's joy flows from this confidence — and ours can too. Gratitude, joy, and assurance are the fruit of trusting in the God who always finishes what He begins.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does knowing that God will complete His work in you give you hope today?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for beginning Your good work in me. Give me confidence that You will bring it to completion. Help me live with joy and gratitude in Your faithfulness. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:20–21**

*I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul's words are startlingly countercultural. The world measures life by what we can accumulate, achieve, or experience. But Paul sees life through a single lens: Christ Himself. Living means knowing Him, serving Him, and making Him known. Death, far from being a loss, is "gain" because it brings us into His presence forever.

This perspective frees us from the fear of loss and gives us courage in every circumstance. If Christ is our treasure, nothing can ultimately rob us of joy. It also challenges us to examine our

daily priorities. Are we living in such a way that Christ is exalted in our bodies — in what we do, say, and value?

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

If “to live is Christ” shaped your day today, what might change?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, help me to see my life as Yours. May I exalt You in all I do. Give me courage to live and die for Your glory. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:5–8**

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul urges us to take on the mindset of Jesus — the mindset of humble, self-giving love.

Christ, though fully God, did not cling to His rights or status. Instead, He emptied Himself, becoming a servant, entering our

humanity, and embracing the lowest place. His obedience went all the way to the cross.

This is not just a theological truth to admire; it is a pattern for our lives. In God’s kingdom, greatness is measured not by how many serve us but by how many we serve. When we choose humility and self-sacrifice for the sake of others, we reflect the heart of Christ and bear witness to His transforming power.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What would it look like for you to “take the lowest place” in a relationship today?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, give me the mindset of Christ. Help me to serve willingly and love sacrificially. May my life reflect Your humility. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:7–9**

*But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul's spiritual ledger has been radically rewritten. All that once counted as gain — status, reputation, achievement — is now seen as loss compared to knowing Christ. This isn't a call to despise good things, but to refuse to let them compete with the supreme value of Jesus. He is worth more than anything we could possess or accomplish.

Our standing before God rests not on our efforts but on the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ. That righteousness is a gift, not a wage. To “gain Christ” is to treasure Him above all and to rest in the security of His finished work.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Is there anything in your life that's competing with Christ for your highest devotion?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, I want to gain You above all else. Help me to hold lightly to everything but You. Thank You for the righteousness that comes by faith. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which*

*transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

These verses are a well-loved antidote to anxiety — but they are also a call to active trust. Paul doesn't simply say, "Don't worry." He invites us to bring everything to God in prayer.

Prayer is not just a spiritual ritual; it is the ongoing practice of handing over our burdens to the One who cares for us. And thanksgiving is not an afterthought — it shifts our focus from what is missing to what God has already provided.

The peace God gives is beyond human understanding because it is not dependent on our circumstances. It flows from His presence and promises. That peace acts as a guard, protecting our hearts from fear and our minds from despair, as we rest in Christ.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What anxiety can you hand over to God today in prayer and thanksgiving?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, I bring You my worries. Fill me with Your peace. Guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**







# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

What's something in your life that feels like it's "holding everything together" — maybe a schedule, a habit, or even coffee? How does it feel when that thing falls apart?

## SCRIPTURE READING: COLOSSIANS 1:17–18

*"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

At the heart of Colossians is this breathtaking vision of Christ: preeminent, eternal, and supreme. Paul is writing to a church tempted by false teachings that tried to add spiritual extras to Jesus. Against this, Paul declares that Christ is enough — more than enough. He is before all things, and all things hold together in Him.

This truth is both cosmic and deeply personal. On a cosmic level, Christ sustains the universe — galaxies spin, stars burn, and atoms stay intact because He holds them together. On a personal level, the same Christ holds together our lives when they feel fragile and frayed.

He is also the head of the church — not just its founder but its living leader. And through His resurrection ("the firstborn from among the dead"), He has inaugurated new creation. Supremacy belongs to Him not only because of who He is but also because of what He has done: creating, redeeming,

sustaining, and ruling.

To embrace this vision is to reorient our lives. If Christ is supreme in all things, then He must be supreme in our priorities, our values, and our daily decisions. Every part of life belongs to Him.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Paul wrote Colossians around AD 60–62 during his imprisonment in Rome. The Colossian church, though small, was facing pressure from teachings that blended Jewish ritual, Greek philosophy, and pagan spirituality. Some suggested that believers needed angels, visions, or extra laws to be truly spiritual. Paul’s answer: Christ is all.

Theologically, Colossians 1:15–20 is one of the richest Christological passages in Scripture, often called the “Christ Hymn.” It portrays Jesus as:

- Preexistent — “He is before all things.”
- Sustainer — “In him all things hold together.”
- Head — of the body, the church.
- Resurrected Lord — “the firstborn from among the dead.”
- Supreme — over creation, redemption, and history.

This hymn teaches the absolute sufficiency of Christ. Nothing more is needed.

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 93:1–2**

*“The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure. Your throne was established*

*long ago; you are from all eternity.”*

The psalmist proclaims God's eternal reign, echoing Paul's declaration that Christ is before all things and holds them secure.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What does it mean that “in him all things hold together”? How does this shape your understanding of Christ's ongoing work?
- Where in your life do you feel like things are falling apart? How can you lean on Christ as the one who holds all things together?
- Why do you think Paul emphasises Christ's supremacy over both creation and the church?
- What practical steps can you take to make Christ supreme in your daily decisions and priorities?
- How does linking Christ's supremacy with His resurrection change how we view life, death, and eternity?
- How could your life bear witness to the supremacy of Christ in a culture that often treats Him as optional or secondary?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, You are before all things and in You all things hold together. Forgive me when I forget Your supremacy and chase after lesser things. Teach me to trust You with the universe and with my own fragile life. May You be first in everything I do.  
Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: COLOSSIANS 1:9–10

*“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Paul’s prayer for the Colossians is not first about their circumstances but about their walk with God. He longs for them to be filled with the knowledge of God’s will, not as abstract information but as Spirit-given wisdom that shapes their lives.

The goal of this knowledge is practical: to live lives worthy of the Lord and pleasing to Him. That life is described as fruitful — abounding in good works — and as a journey of continual growth in knowing God more deeply.

This reminds us that the Christian life is both relational and transformational. It is not static but dynamic, a daily growing in intimacy with God that overflows into action.

Paul’s prayer can become ours: that God would so fill us with His Spirit that our lives bear fruit and reflect the beauty of His will in every area.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What is one area of your life where you long to bear more fruit that pleases God?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, fill me with the knowledge of Your will. Help me to live a life that pleases You. May I grow in knowing You and bear fruit for Your glory. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: COLOSSIANS 1:15–17**

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

In Jesus, the unseen God becomes visible. He is not merely a messenger from God — He is God's very image, the perfect revelation of the Father.

Paul reminds us that Christ is the source, means, and goal of all creation. Everything exists through Him and for Him. This means our lives are not random or self-defined — they are rooted in His purpose.

Not only did He create all things, He holds them together. Your breath, your heartbeat, the turning of the earth — all are sustained by His constant care.

When life feels chaotic, this truth steadies us: Christ is holding all things, and He will not let go.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What changes when you remember that your life is held together by Christ?

### **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, You are my Creator and Sustainer. Hold me steady in Your care today. Let me live for Your purposes. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: COLOSSIANS 2:6–7**

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

The Christian life begins with receiving Christ as Lord, but it doesn't end there — it continues in daily dependence on Him. Paul pictures our lives as rooted like a tree and built up like a house, both drawing their strength and stability from Christ.

Roots anchor us and supply life; a solid foundation supports the structure. Without Him, we cannot stand.

To be “strengthened in the faith” means to grow deeper in what we believe and in our trust in the One who is faithful. This growth naturally overflows into thankfulness, because the more we see of His grace, the more grateful we become. Faith, like a tree, flourishes when it is constantly nourished. And that nourishment comes from abiding in Christ.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might you need deeper roots in Christ right now?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, help me to be rooted in You. Strengthen my faith. Fill my life with gratitude. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: COLOSSIANS 3:1–3**

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Our identity in Christ changes our perspective. We are no longer bound to the old way of life — we have been raised with Christ into a new way of living. Paul calls us to set both our hearts (our desires) and our minds (our thoughts) on what is above — on the realities of God’s kingdom and the presence of Christ.

This doesn’t mean ignoring the world around us, but living in it with our eyes fixed on eternal truths rather than temporary distractions. Your life is “hidden with Christ in God” — secure, protected, and defined by Him. No circumstance can change that reality.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What would it look like to live today with your heart and mind set on “things above”?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, lift my eyes to You. Shape my desires and thoughts after Your ways. Thank You that my life is hidden in You. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: COLOSSIANS 4:5–6**

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul sees everyday life as an opportunity for mission. Our actions and our words can either open the door to Christ or close it. Wisdom means knowing how to live in a way that reflects Christ's character in every interaction. Making the most of every opportunity means being alert to God's leading, even in ordinary moments.

Grace should be the flavour of our speech — kindness, gentleness, and truth spoken in love. “Seasoned with salt” suggests speech that is preserving, purifying, and life-giving, not bland or empty. When our words and lives align with the gospel, we are ready to answer questions about the hope we have in Christ.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can your words today be both gracious and full of truth?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, guide my actions and words. Help me make the most of each opportunity. May my speech be gracious and full of Your truth. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

# AUGUST

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# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

What's something you once valued highly (a hobby, possession, or habit) that eventually lost its hold on you? How did that change your perspective?

## SCRIPTURE READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:9-10

*“You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

The Thessalonian church began with radical change. When they heard the gospel, they didn't just add Jesus to their lives — they turned from idols and to the living God. Conversion is never just about saying yes to Christ; it's also about saying no to the false gods that once ruled us.

Paul celebrates their transformation: they now serve the true God and wait with hope for His Son's return. This is a picture of Christian life in two directions — active service in the present and active hope for the future.

Notice, too, the rescue at the centre: Jesus delivers us from wrath, not by avoiding suffering but by defeating death through His resurrection. The Thessalonians had embraced costly discipleship in a culture filled with pagan worship and emperor devotion. Their faith showed the world that idols have no power compared to Christ.

For us, idols may look different — comfort, success, money, approval — but the call is the same. To turn from them is to embrace the freedom of serving the living God and to anchor our lives in the hope of Christ’s return.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians around AD 50–51, making it one of his earliest letters. The church in Thessalonica had been founded during Paul’s second missionary journey (Acts 17), but fierce opposition forced him to leave quickly. From Corinth, Paul wrote this letter to encourage new believers under persecution.

Theologically, these verses show the shape of authentic conversion:

- Turning — repentance from idols.
- Serving — worship and obedience to the living God.
- Waiting — hope in the return of Christ.

The mention of “wrath” connects to God’s final judgment. Yet the focus is not fear but rescue — Christ’s victory ensures that believers are safe in Him.

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 115:2–4, 8**

*“Why do the nations say, ‘Where is their God?’*

*Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.*

*But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands...*

*Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.”*

This psalm contrasts lifeless idols with the living God — just as

Paul highlights in Thessalonica.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What does Paul mean when he describes God as “living and true” in contrast to idols?
- What are some modern “idols” that people are tempted to serve today? How do they compare to the living God?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus connect to His role as rescuer from wrath?
- How do you balance the call to serve actively in the present with the call to wait expectantly for Christ’s return?
- Why do you think Paul highlights both “turning from” and “waiting for” as markers of authentic faith?
- What practical steps can you take this week to turn away from an idol in your life and more fully serve Christ?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Living God, You have called us out of the emptiness of idols to serve You in freedom and joy. Thank You for raising Jesus and giving us a sure hope in His return. Help us to keep turning from false gods and waiting with endurance for the day He comes again. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-3

*“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Paul begins his letter with gratitude, not only for the Thessalonians themselves but for the evidence of God’s grace in their lives. Their faith was not idle; it produced work. Their love was not sentimental; it prompted labor. Their hope was not vague; it inspired endurance.

Faith, love, and hope — the three great Christian virtues — are more than inward attitudes. They take visible shape in the way we live. Faith energises our actions. Love drives us to serve others. Hope gives us strength to persevere when life is hard.

Paul’s thanksgiving shows us how God’s Spirit transforms ordinary people into a living testimony of His kingdom.

It also invites us to reflect: is my faith bearing fruit? Is my love active? Is my hope resilient? When these three virtues grow together, the church shines as a community rooted in Christ and alive with His power.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where do you see faith, love, and hope at work in your own life — and where do you long for them to grow stronger?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for the work of faith, love, and hope in my life. Grow these virtues more deeply in me. May my life bear witness to Your transforming grace. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

# **Devotional Day 2**

## **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8**

*Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians wasn't just about delivering a message; it was about sharing life. His tone was tender, like a mother's care — patient, nurturing, self-giving. He didn't hold back. The gospel wasn't delivered as an impersonal speech but woven into the fabric of relationships. Love and truth went hand in hand.

In a world where ministry can be reduced to programs or events, this is a reminder: real gospel work is personal. It's entering

people's stories, celebrating joys, bearing burdens, and pointing them to Christ in the everyday. When the gospel is shared through a life of love, it becomes both credible and compelling.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Whose life might you step into more fully so they see both the gospel and your love?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, let my love for others be real. Help me share both Your truth and my life. Make my ministry personal and full of grace. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-13**

*May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Love that is from God doesn't stagnate — it grows and overflows. Paul prays that this divine love would fill the Thessalonians until it spills over to everyone they meet.

He ties love and holiness together. Love is not just an emotion

but a shaping force, strengthening our hearts so that our lives reflect the character of God.

This kind of growth doesn't come from self-effort; it comes from the Lord's work in us. That's why Paul's prayer is not a command but a plea for God to do what only He can do.

Our love will be fully formed when Christ returns, but every day until then is a step in that direction.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where do you need God's love to overflow more in your life?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, grow my love until it overflows. Strengthen my heart in holiness. Prepare me for the day I see You face to face. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18**

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

The return of Christ is not a distant doctrine — it is a living hope. Paul's words are filled with anticipation, not fear. When Christ returns, death will be undone. Those who have died in Him will rise, and those still alive will join them. The climax is not the event itself but the reality that “we will be with the Lord forever.”

This hope is meant to encourage us in the trials and griefs of life. Our story doesn't end at the grave; it ends in the eternal presence of Christ. Encouraging one another with this hope keeps us anchored when the waves of life threaten to pull us under.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Who in your life needs encouragement from the hope of Christ's return?

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise of Your return. Strengthen my hope. Help me encourage others with Your coming. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18**

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Three short commands capture a whole way of life. Rejoicing always doesn't mean ignoring pain, but finding joy in God's presence even in hardship. Praying continually is a posture of the heart — walking through the day in constant awareness of and connection to God.

Giving thanks in all circumstances doesn't require thanking God for evil or suffering, but recognising His goodness and faithfulness no matter what surrounds us. These are not burdens to carry but invitations to live in step with God's will, which is always for our good in Christ Jesus.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Which of these — joy, prayer, or thankfulness — do you most need to grow in right now?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, fill me with joy that endures. Teach me to walk with You in prayer. Give me a grateful heart in all things. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**







# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

What's something you've held on to tightly over the years (an object, tradition, or truth) because it reminds you of what matters most?

## SCRIPTURE READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:15

*“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

The Thessalonian believers lived in uncertain and turbulent times. False teachings about the return of Christ had begun to unsettle them. Some feared they had already missed it; others were confused by conflicting voices. In the midst of this instability, Paul urges them to “stand firm” and “hold fast” to the true apostolic teaching.

Christian faith is not built on shifting speculation but on the firm foundation of God's Word. To “stand firm” is not passive stubbornness but an active rooting of life in the truth of the gospel. To “hold fast” is to cling tightly to Christ and the teachings handed down, refusing to let them slip through our fingers when trials, doubts, or cultural pressures push against us.

For us today, this call is just as urgent. We live in a world of endless opinions, half-truths, and ideologies. The temptation is to drift with the cultural tide or loosen our grip on biblical truth to avoid pressure. But Paul reminds us: strength and security

come not from novelty but from faithfulness to the gospel of Christ. When we hold fast to Him, He holds fast to us.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Paul likely wrote 2 Thessalonians around AD 51–52, only months after his first letter. Reports had reached him that some believers were confused about the “day of the Lord,” thinking it had already come (2 Thess. 2:1–2). False teachings were spreading, and some were abandoning their responsibilities, living in idleness.

Theologically, this verse affirms the authority of apostolic teaching — both spoken and written. For Paul, the gospel tradition is not a human invention but divine truth entrusted to the church. Standing firm requires endurance, discernment, and confidence that God’s promises remain true even when circumstances are confusing.

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 119:89–90**

*“Your word, Lord, is eternal;  
it stands firm in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness continues through all generations;  
you established the earth, and it endures.”*

This psalm highlights the eternal stability of God’s Word, the same stability Paul calls believers to cling to.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why does Paul emphasise both “stand firm” and “hold fast”? What do these metaphors suggest about the Christian life?

- What false teachings, pressures, or cultural narratives today tempt believers to loosen their grip on the truth?
- How does the authority of Paul's "word" and "letters" point forward to the formation of the New Testament canon?
- What practices help you to hold fast to God's Word in a world full of distractions?
- In what ways does standing firm in the gospel bring assurance of Christ's return, even when the world feels unstable?
- Who in your life models what it looks like to stand firm in Christ, and how can you learn from their example?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, You are the firm foundation of our faith. In a world of shifting voices and uncertain times, help us to stand strong in Your Word and hold fast to the truth of the gospel. Strengthen us to live with courage, hope, and faithfulness until the day You return. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:2

*“Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Paul begins his letter with a familiar but profound blessing — grace and peace. These are not empty greetings, but gifts that flow from the very heart of God. Grace is God’s unearned favour, His kindness poured out on us in Christ. It reminds us that our standing before Him is not based on performance but on His mercy. Peace is the result — a wholeness and rest that comes when we know we are reconciled to God and held in His love.

This blessing anchors the entire letter. The Thessalonians faced hardship, confusion, and persecution, yet Paul starts by grounding them in what cannot be shaken: God’s grace and Christ’s peace.

We often hurry past greetings like this, but perhaps we should pause. To receive grace daily is to remember we live by gift, not merit. To rest in peace daily is to trust that God is with us in every circumstance.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How might you slow down today to receive afresh God’s grace and peace?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for Your grace that sustains me. Fill me with Your peace that calms my heart. Anchor me in Your love today. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:3–4**

*We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul opens this letter with gratitude — not just for the Thessalonians' faith, but for the fact that it is growing. Faith is not static; it deepens and strengthens through life's seasons.

Their love for one another is also increasing. In God's economy, faith and love are inseparable. A growing faith will always lead to a growing love for others.

Paul highlights their perseverance under persecution as a testimony to other churches. Sometimes our steadfastness in suffering encourages others far more than we realise.

When God grows both faith and love, even trials become platforms for His glory.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What circumstances in your life right now might be opportunities for your faith and love to grow?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for growing my faith. Increase my love for others. Help me persevere with joy in every trial. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:11–12**

*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul's prayer is deeply practical — that God would make believers worthy of their calling and empower them to live it out. Notice the balance: God's power fuels our desires for goodness and our deeds prompted by faith. We don't strive in our own strength; we depend on His.

The ultimate aim is not our recognition but Christ's glory. When His life is seen in us, He is honoured, and we share in His joy. Every act of goodness, every faith-driven choice, can become an offering of praise to Him.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can you invite God's power into your desires and deeds today?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, make me worthy of Your calling. Empower my faith with Your strength. Be glorified in all I do. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:16–17**

*May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul prays for “eternal encouragement” — a hope that does not fade. It comes from knowing we are loved by God and secured in His grace. This encouragement is not just for inner comfort but also for outward action. God strengthens us for “every good deed and word,” reminding us that what we do and say matters in His kingdom.

When our hearts are encouraged in Christ, our lives naturally overflow in service, kindness, and truth. His grace sustains both our hope and our work.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What good deed or word could you offer today out of the encouragement you have in Christ?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, fill me with Your eternal encouragement. Strengthen my heart for good works. Let my words honour You. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:3–5**

*But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

The faithfulness of God is the anchor for the believer. Paul assures the Thessalonians that the Lord will strengthen and protect them, not because they are strong, but because He is. Spiritual perseverance flows from two sources: God's love and Christ's endurance. His love keeps our hearts soft; His perseverance keeps our steps steady.

Confidence in others' obedience comes not from their ability but from the Lord's ongoing work in them. In trials, we rest not in our willpower but in His unchanging faithfulness.

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where do you most need to experience God's strengthening and protection right now?

**PRAYER**

Lord, You are faithful. Strengthen and protect me. Direct my heart into Your love and endurance. Amen.

**CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**



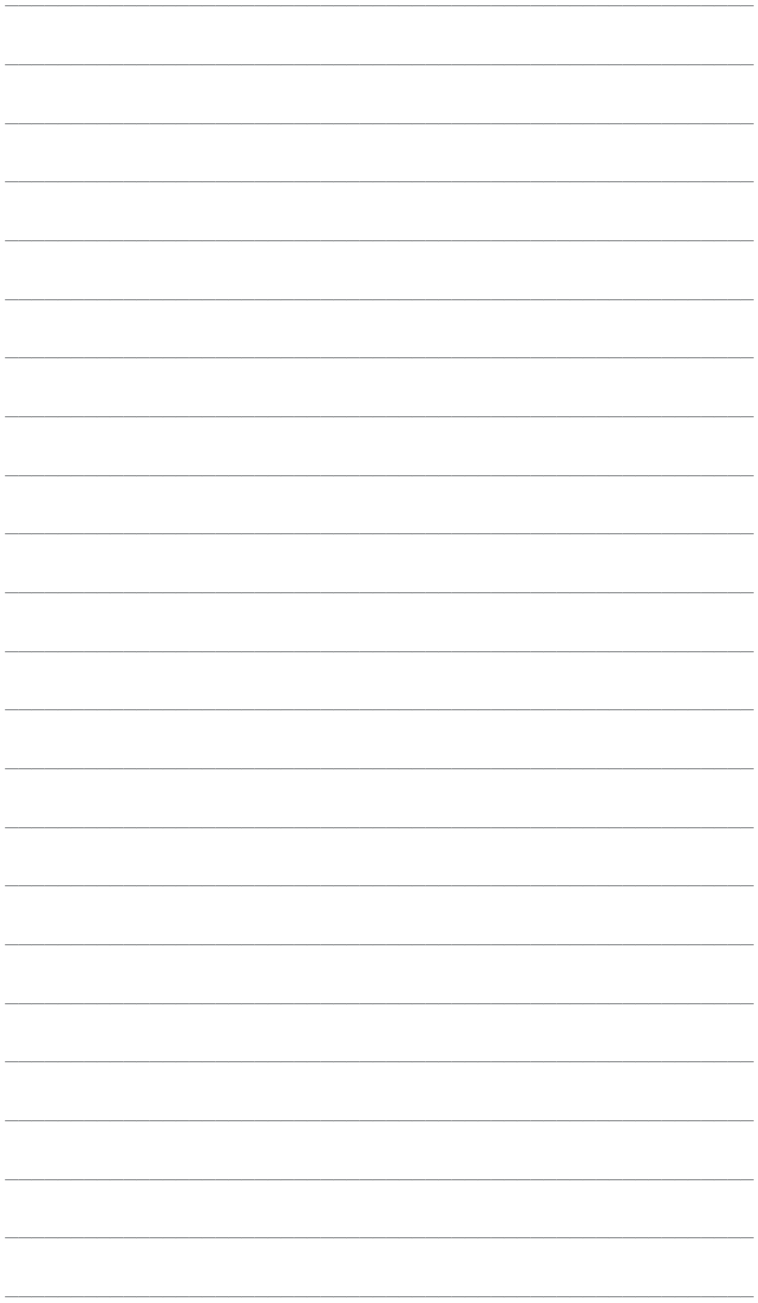














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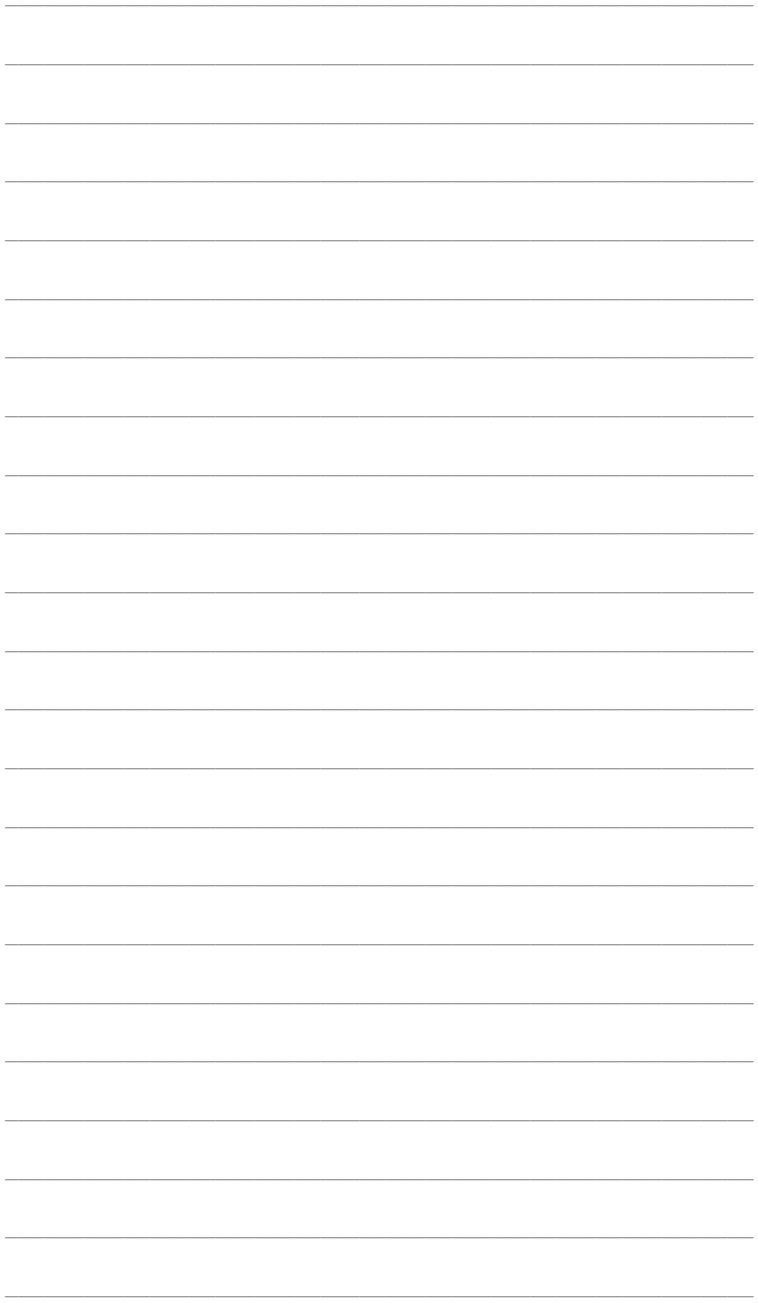
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# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

“What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given — and did you follow it?”

## SCRIPTURE READING: 1 KINGS 4:29–30

*“God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Solomon’s reign in 1 Kings begins with extraordinary promise. God blessed him with unparalleled wisdom, a gift that made his kingdom flourish and drew the attention of nations far and wide. Solomon became a living example of the truth that wisdom comes not from human striving, but from God Himself.

Yet, as the story unfolds, Solomon’s wisdom could not keep him from sin. His heart turned toward foreign gods, and the kingdom eventually fractured. The wisest man of his age revealed the limits of human wisdom — it cannot save us.

In Christ, we see the greater Solomon (Matthew 12:42). Jesus is the wisdom of God in human flesh (1 Corinthians 1:24). Unlike Solomon, His wisdom is joined with perfect obedience and steadfast love. His kingdom will never fail, and His words bring eternal life. When we turn to Him, we receive not only guidance for life, but also the power of God to transform our hearts.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

The reign of Solomon (c. 970–930 BC) marked the height of Israel’s monarchy. The kingdom was united, wealthy, and at peace. Wisdom literature flourished during this time, with Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes traditionally linked to Solomon. His wisdom was legendary, attracting visitors such as the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10).

Wisdom, in the ancient Near East, was prized as the key to ruling well, navigating life, and understanding the divine order. Egypt and Mesopotamia had their own wisdom traditions, but the writer of Kings emphasises that Solomon’s wisdom surpassed them all — because it came from Yahweh.

Theologically, Solomon’s story reveals both the gift and the limitation of wisdom. Wisdom is essential, but apart from covenant faithfulness it collapses into folly. This tension sets the stage for Christ: the ultimate revelation of divine wisdom, who embodies God’s truth and righteousness. Paul’s letters often contrast worldly wisdom with God’s wisdom, which seems foolish to the world but is revealed in the cross of Christ.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think people from all over the world were drawn to Solomon’s wisdom?
- How can wisdom without obedience to God become dangerous?
- In what ways do you see Jesus as the true and greater Solomon?
- Where do you most need Christ’s wisdom to guide your decisions today?

**REFLECTION: PSALM 111**

This psalm praises God's works and faithfulness, ending with the declaration: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." It echoes the truth that wisdom is not self-generated but comes from reverence and trust in God. For Solomon it was a gift; for us, it is fulfilled in Christ, who embodies wisdom perfectly.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord of all wisdom, thank You for revealing Yourself not only in words but in Your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess that our own understanding often leads us astray. Teach us to walk in reverence and trust, looking to Jesus as our wisdom, righteousness, and redemption. May His words shape our choices, and His Spirit guide our steps. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: 1 KINGS 3:9

*“So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”*

### DEVOTIONAL

When Solomon ascends to the throne, God gives him a stunning invitation: “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” His request is not for wealth, long life, or victory in battle, but for wisdom to govern well.

This prayer reflects a heart that recognises dependence on God. Solomon knew the weight of the task before him and that wisdom was essential for leading God’s people. His humility pleased the Lord, who granted him wisdom and more besides.

For us, the New Testament tells us to ask God for wisdom without doubting, and He will give generously (James 1:5). In Christ, we have not just wisdom for leadership, but for all of life — a wisdom that is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Where do you most need God’s wisdom in your life right now?

### PRAYER

Lord, you are the source of all wisdom. Give me a discerning heart to follow your ways. Let your truth guide me. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

### **Devotional Day 2**

#### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 KINGS 4:29–30**

*“God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight...  
Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the  
people of the East.”*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Solomon’s reign begins with a golden glow. God grants him surpassing wisdom, and the kingdom flourishes. The temple is built. Peace is maintained. Foreign nations marvel at Israel’s king.

And yet... the story fractures. Solomon’s heart is divided. His wisdom is not matched by obedience. Still, Solomon’s wisdom foreshadows something greater. Jesus would one day say, “Now something greater than Solomon is here” (Matthew 12:42). Where Solomon’s wisdom failed to keep him from idolatry, Jesus’ wisdom leads to perfect faithfulness—even to the cross.

In 1 Kings, we see both the brilliance of God-given wisdom and the need for a King who will never waver. Jesus is that King—wisdom incarnate, full of truth, purity, and peace.

#### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does the wisdom of Jesus shape your decisions differently from the wisdom of the world?

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, you are wisdom from God. Guide me through the complexities of life with your truth. Help me treasure obedience more than success. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 KINGS 8:10–11**

*“When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.”*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

At the dedication of Solomon’s temple, God’s presence is made visible through a cloud of glory that fills the house. The moment is so overwhelming that the priests cannot even stand to minister.

God’s glory has always been both awe-inspiring and humbling. It is a reminder that He is not a God we manage or control — He is the holy and majestic Lord who graciously chooses to dwell among His people.

In the New Covenant, His glory does not dwell in a building but in His people through the Holy Spirit. The wonder of the temple dedication points forward to the greater wonder that we are now the temple of God, filled with His Spirit to reflect His glory in the world.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Do you live with a daily awareness that God's presence dwells in you?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, your glory is beyond my comprehension. Thank you for dwelling with me through your Spirit. Make my life a place where your presence is seen. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

# **Devotional Day 4**

## **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 KINGS 18:38-39**

*“Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, ‘The Lord — he is God! The Lord — he is God!’”*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

On Mount Carmel, Elijah stands against the prophets of Baal in a dramatic contest. After hours of futile shouting and cutting from the false prophets, Elijah prays a simple prayer — and fire falls from heaven. The people are left in no doubt: the Lord is the true God.

This moment reveals the futility of idols and the unmatched power of God. It also shows that God's work is not dependent on human theatrics or volume; His power is revealed through

His word and sovereign action.

In Christ, we see God's decisive victory over all false gods. The cross and the resurrection declare to the world, "The Lord — He is God!" and call us to wholehearted allegiance.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Are there any "idols" in your life that compete for your worship?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, you alone are God. Expose the idols that pull my heart away from you. Draw me back to worship you alone. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 KINGS 19:11–12**

*"Then a great and powerful wind tore through the mountains... but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake... but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire... but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper."*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

After the triumph on Mount Carmel, Elijah finds himself afraid, exhausted, and ready to give up. God meets him in a surprising way — not in dramatic displays of power, but in a gentle whisper.

This teaches us something vital about God's character. He is not limited to the spectacular; often, He works in the quiet, unseen moments. His voice is not always thunder; sometimes it's the softest nudge in our spirit.

In Jesus, we see the same truth. The Kingdom came not with military might, but with the humble arrival of a baby in Bethlehem. God's ways often overturn our expectations — and His whisper can be more powerful than any earthquake.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might God be speaking to you in a “gentle whisper” today?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, help me to hear your voice in the quiet. Still my heart so I can recognise your leading. Teach me to trust your gentle ways. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**







# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

“What’s the most memorable warning you’ve ever ignored — and what happened as a result?”

## SCRIPTURE READING: 2 KINGS 17:13

*“The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: ‘Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.’”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

The story of Israel in 2 Kings is sobering. Despite God’s repeated warnings through His prophets, the people persisted in idolatry and rebellion. Their refusal to listen led to exile — first for the northern kingdom (Israel), and later for Judah.

This verse summarises the heart of God’s message: “Turn from your evil ways.” Behind the warnings lies God’s mercy. He longed for His people to repent, to live, to flourish in His covenant love. Yet time and again, they hardened their hearts.

Christ comes into this story as the final and faithful Prophet. Unlike the many prophets who were ignored, rejected, or killed, Jesus not only spoke God’s word — He was the Word made flesh (John 1:14). He not only warned of judgment but also bore it in our place. On the cross, He took the curse of exile upon Himself so that all who believe might be brought home to God. In Him, every warning is joined with an open door of grace.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

By the time we reach 2 Kings 17, the northern kingdom of Israel is on the brink of collapse. Assyria conquers Samaria in 722 BC, scattering the ten tribes. The author makes clear this was not merely political misfortune but divine judgment for persistent idolatry — especially the worship of golden calves and Baal.

The prophets (such as Elijah, Elisha, Amos, and Hosea) had repeatedly warned of God's coming judgment if the people did not repent. Their message was covenantal: God is faithful, but His people must respond with loyalty. To ignore the prophets was, in effect, to reject God Himself.

Theologically, 2 Kings underscores both the justice and mercy of God. Justice, because persistent rebellion leads to exile. Mercy, because God never stopped sending prophets to call His people back. This sets the stage for Christ: the ultimate Prophet, greater than Moses, who not only delivers God's word but embodies it. Unlike Israel, He perfectly obeyed. Unlike the prophets, He bore the judgment Himself, offering salvation to all nations.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think God kept sending prophets, even though the people rarely listened?
- How do you typically respond to correction or warning — with humility, or resistance?
- In what ways does Jesus go beyond the Old Testament prophets?
- What “prophetic warnings” might God be placing on your heart today that you need to heed?

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 81**

Psalm 81 echoes the theme of warning and invitation: “Hear me, my people, and I will warn you — if you would only listen to me, Israel!” (v. 8). Like 2 Kings 17, it shows God’s heart yearning for His people to turn back. The psalm also promises blessing for those who listen, pointing us to Christ, who not only warns but restores us to God’s favour.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Righteous and merciful God, thank You for Your patience in warning and calling Your people to return. Forgive us for the times we have ignored Your voice. Thank You for sending Jesus, the faithful Prophet, who not only spoke truth but gave His life to save us. Help us to listen to Him and to walk in obedience by the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: 2 KINGS 2:9–10

*“When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?’ ‘Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,’ Elisha replied. ‘You have asked a difficult thing,’ Elijah said, ‘yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours — otherwise, it will not.’”*

### DEVOTIONAL

The passing of the prophetic mantle from Elijah to Elisha is a moment of both grief and hope. Elisha’s request for a “double portion” isn’t greed — it’s the language of inheritance, asking to carry forward Elijah’s ministry with the fullness of God’s Spirit.

God grants this request, showing that His purposes are not bound to one person. His work continues from generation to generation, often in fresh and surprising ways.

For us, this points to the promise of the Spirit poured out at Pentecost. In Jesus, we receive the presence and power of God not in a limited measure, but abundantly, to equip us for the ministry He calls us to.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What “inheritance” of faith or ministry has God entrusted to you to carry forward?

### PRAYER

Lord, thank you for those who have gone before me in faith. Fill me with your Spirit to serve you faithfully. Help me carry your work into the next season with courage. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 KINGS 4:2–4**

*“Elisha replied to her, ‘How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?’ ‘Your servant has nothing there at all,’ she said, ‘except a small jar of olive oil.’ Elisha said, ‘Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars... Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.’”*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

The widow in this story is desperate. Her debts threaten to take her children as slaves. Elisha’s solution begins with a simple question: “What do you have?” In her eyes, she has nothing — but God can work with even the smallest thing.

As she obeys, the oil miraculously flows until every borrowed jar is full. God’s provision meets her need and restores her dignity. In Christ, we see the same principle: He takes what we have, however small, and multiplies it for His glory. A few loaves, a small coin, a jar of oil — in His hands, they become more than enough.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might God be inviting you to offer Him the “small jar” you have?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, I offer you what I have, even if it feels small. Multiply it for your purposes. Let my life be a testimony to your provision.

Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 KINGS 6:16–17**

*“Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered. ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Elisha’s servant sees only danger: an enemy army surrounding the city. But Elisha sees a deeper reality — God’s protection is already in place. When the servant’s eyes are opened, he sees the heavenly armies ready to defend.

This story is a reminder that our perspective is often limited. We see the visible threat, but God is at work in the unseen realm. In Christ, we are assured that nothing can separate us from God’s

love. Even when the enemy seems overwhelming, the truth remains: “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What fear in your life might change if you could see it from God’s perspective?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, open my eyes to see your presence and power. Remind me that I am never alone. Give me courage in the face of fear. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 KINGS 17:13**

*“The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets... ‘Turn from your evil ways.’”*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

The book of 2 Kings is sobering. Kingdoms crumble. Kings turn away. Prophets are ignored. Both Israel and Judah are taken into exile. What began in glory under David and Solomon ends in ruin and scattering. Yet even in judgment, God’s voice remains.

Through Elijah and Elisha, and then later prophets, God keeps calling His people back. A faithful remnant survives. Hope is not

extinguished. Jesus steps into history as the fulfillment of this remnant—faithful where all others failed. He is the true King, the final Prophet, the One who embodies obedience, calls for repentance, and brings restoration from exile. In the ashes of Israel’s collapse, the gospel seed remains, ready to bloom.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where have you seen God remain faithful, even when everything around seems to fall apart?

### **PRAYER**

Faithful God, you do not give up on your people. Even in judgment, you offer mercy and a way home. Help me stay faithful to you in both peace and trial. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 KINGS 22:11, 13**

*“When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes... ‘Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord’s anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book.’”*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

King Josiah’s reign is marked by a rediscovery of God’s Word. When the Book of the Law is found and read, he responds with

repentance and urgency. He knows that the nation has strayed, and he humbles himself before the Lord.

God's Word still has the power to awaken hearts today. When we encounter it with open ears, it exposes sin, calls us to repentance, and points us to the grace of God in Christ.

The reform Josiah began reminds us that true revival begins with God's Word and hearts that are willing to be changed by it.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How has God's Word recently confronted or encouraged you?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, let your Word shape my life. Give me a tender heart that responds to your truth. Lead me in repentance and renewal.  
Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**







# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

“When was the last time you were in awe of something so magnificent — like a view, a performance, or a moment — that it left you speechless?”

## SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CHRONICLES 29:11

*“Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

This verse captures the heart of worship at the end of David’s reign. As he gathers resources for the temple Solomon will build, David breaks out in a doxology, acknowledging that everything — greatness, power, glory, majesty — belongs to the Lord. David knew his throne was only a reflection of God’s ultimate kingship.

In Christ, this vision of glory finds its fulfilment. He is the King who embodies the greatness, power, and majesty of God, yet comes humbly to serve and to save. In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray words that echo David’s: “Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.” Worship in 1 Chronicles points us forward to worship around the throne of the Lamb (Revelation 5), where Christ is praised with unending splendour.

## HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

1 Chronicles retells Israel’s story with a focus on worship, the

temple, and the Davidic line. Written likely after the exile, it gives hope by highlighting God's faithfulness and Israel's identity as His people. Unlike 1–2 Samuel and 1–2 Kings, which often focus on Israel's political failures, 1–2 Chronicles emphasise the centrality of God's kingship, worship, and covenant promises.

In chapter 29, David is preparing to hand the kingdom to Solomon and ensuring provision for the temple. His prayer in verses 10–19 is both a hymn of praise and a model of humility. He recognises that all Israel has — wealth, strength, land, and future — comes from God. Theologically, this text affirms God's sovereignty over all creation and reminds us that earthly kingship is derivative of God's ultimate rule.

Christ fulfils this kingship. He is the true Davidic Son whose throne is forever. Unlike David and Solomon, whose reigns were marked by sin and eventual decline, Jesus reigns in perfect righteousness. His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36), yet it encompasses heaven and earth. The praise of 1 Chronicles 29 is ultimately directed to Him, the One exalted as “head over all.”

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think David emphasised that all greatness and power ultimately belong to God, not to himself or Israel?
- How does seeing God's sovereignty change the way we think about our own possessions, power, or influence?
- What does it mean for you personally that Christ is the true King exalted above all?
- How can our worship today echo David's — full of humility, gratitude, and awe?

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 145**

Psalm 145 is a majestic hymn that declares God's greatness, goodness, and everlasting kingdom: "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations" (v. 13). Like 1 Chronicles 29, it places all glory and honour in God's hands. The psalm anticipates Christ's reign, where His power is joined with compassion, and His glory shines forever.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord of glory and majesty, Yours is the greatness, the power, the splendour, and the kingdom. Thank You for sending Jesus, the true King who reigns with justice and mercy. Lift our hearts in worship, and help us to live each day acknowledging that everything we have belongs to You. May our lives reflect the glory of Your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Chronicles 4:9–10

*“Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, ‘I gave birth to him in pain.’ Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.’ And God granted his request.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

The prayer of Jabez stands out in a long list of genealogies. He was marked from birth by a name linked to pain, yet he turned to God in bold faith. His request was not self-centred ambition, but a deep desire for God’s presence, protection, and favour.

God answered. The story is brief, but it reminds us that no matter our past, our identity is defined by God’s response to our prayers, not by the labels we’ve been given.

In Christ, God’s hand is with us, His blessing rests on us, and His grace transforms our story. Our cry for His presence is always met with His nearness.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What label or limitation do you need to bring to God in prayer today?

### PRAYER

Lord, enlarge my faith to believe your promises. Place your hand

on my life for your glory. Keep me close to you in every season.  
Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Chronicles 13:11–14**

*“Then David was angry because the Lord’s wrath had broken out against Uzzah... The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house for three months, and the Lord blessed his household and everything he had.”*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

David’s attempt to bring the ark to Jerusalem began with celebration but ended in tragedy when Uzzah touched the ark. It was a sobering reminder that God’s holiness is not to be taken lightly.

Yet, in the home of Obed-Edom, the presence of God brought blessing. God’s presence is both awe-inspiring and life-giving. When we approach Him rightly — with reverence and obedience — His nearness transforms our lives.

Through Jesus, the Holy One draws near to dwell with us. In Him, God’s presence is no longer a cause for fear but for joy, because He has made us holy by His blood.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can you approach God's presence with both reverence and joy today?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, teach me to honour your holiness. Thank you that through Jesus I can draw near. Let your presence bring blessing to my life and those around me. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Chronicles 16:8–10**

*“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.”*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

David's song of thanks after the ark was brought to Jerusalem overflows with worship. Praise is not silent — it proclaims, sings, and tells of God's wonderful acts.

This is more than private devotion; it's public testimony. God's people are called to make His name known among the nations. Praise is part of our witness, inviting others to see the goodness of God for themselves.

In Jesus, we have the ultimate reason to sing. His life, death,

and resurrection are the greatest acts of God's salvation, and our joy in Him is meant to be contagious.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can your praise for God today point others to His goodness?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, let my lips and life tell of your greatness. Fill my heart with joy in your presence. Use my praise to draw others to you.  
Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Chronicles 17:12–14**

*“He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.”*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

In this promise to David, God speaks of a son who will build a house for the Lord and whose throne will be established forever. At one level, these words point to Solomon, who built the temple in Jerusalem. Yet Solomon's reign, like every earthly reign, was temporary. His throne did not last forever, and his

kingdom fell.

This prophecy points beyond Solomon to a greater Son of David — Jesus Christ. He is the true temple builder, not of stone and timber but of living people, a spiritual house where God dwells by his Spirit. His throne is everlasting, for he rose from the dead and reigns at the right hand of the Father.

The promise that God would never remove his love finds its ultimate fulfilment in Christ. Unlike human kings who failed, Jesus reigns in perfect righteousness and faithfulness. His kingdom is not shaken by time, politics, or death. It is an everlasting kingdom of peace, justice, and joy.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where in your life do you most need to remember that Christ's kingdom cannot be shaken and will last forever?

### **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, you are the true Son of David. Thank you that your throne and your kingdom will never end. Help me live today with hope in your everlasting reign. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Chronicles 29:11–12**

*“Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in*

*heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things.”*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

In David’s final public prayer, he declares that all greatness belongs to God. Everything comes from Him — wealth, honour, power, and glory. This perspective is the foundation of generous living. David goes on to give freely for the building of the temple, knowing that he is simply returning to God what already belongs to Him.

In Christ, we learn to hold everything with open hands. Our lives, resources, and opportunities are all for His kingdom and glory. True joy comes when we recognise that He is the rightful owner of all.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What is one area of your life you need to surrender afresh to God’s rule?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, everything I have comes from you. Help me to live with open hands and a willing heart. May my life bring glory to your name. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**







## LifeHub Material

### OPENER

“Have you ever been in a moment where you felt completely overwhelmed by beauty, power, or majesty — maybe at a concert, in nature, or in a sacred place? What was that experience like?”

### SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CHRONICLES 7:1–3

*“When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, ‘He is good; his love endures forever.’”*

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

When Solomon completed his prayer of dedication for the temple, God responded with fire from heaven and His glory filling the house. It was a visible confirmation that the Lord Himself would dwell with His people. Israel’s response was awe-filled worship: bowing down, confessing His goodness, and celebrating His enduring love.

This moment reveals the holiness and nearness of God. He is not a distant deity but one who makes His presence known among His people. Yet, it also shows the limits of human approach — the priests could not enter because His glory was overwhelming.

In Christ, God's glory dwells among us in a new and greater way. John writes, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory" (John 1:14). Jesus is the true temple, the place where heaven and earth meet, the visible presence of God in human flesh. At the cross, the fire of judgment fell, and at Pentecost, tongues of fire rested on the disciples — signs that God's Spirit now fills His people as His living temple.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

The Chronicler, writing for a post-exilic community, emphasises the centrality of worship and the temple. The dedication of Solomon's temple (chapters 5–7) is a high point in Israel's history: God's promises to David realised, God's people settled in the land, and His presence confirmed in the temple. The fire from heaven and the cloud of glory recall earlier events — the tabernacle dedication in Exodus 40 and God's fire consuming sacrifices in Leviticus 9.

Theologically, this passage affirms:

- God's holiness: His glory is unapproachable in human strength.
- God's faithfulness: His dwelling affirms His covenant promises.
- God's mercy: The people's cry "He is good; his love endures forever" is a refrain of covenant grace (Exodus 34:6).

For Christians, 2 Chronicles 7 points forward to Christ. He is the greater Solomon (Matthew 12:42), the true temple where God's glory resides. The veil torn at His death signifies access to God's presence through Him. The church, filled by the Spirit, is now

God's temple on earth (1 Corinthians 3:16–17). The glory glimpsed in Solomon's temple will one day be fully revealed when Christ returns, and God's dwelling will be with His people forever (Revelation 21:3, 23).

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think God responded to Solomon's prayer with fire and glory? What does this show us about His presence?
- How does Israel's response — worship, confession of His goodness, gratitude — shape the way we respond to God today?
- In what ways does Jesus fulfil and surpass the temple as God's dwelling place?
- How does it encourage you to know that you are now part of God's living temple through His Spirit?

### **REFLECTION: PSALM 24**

Psalm 24 celebrates the King of glory entering His temple: "Lift up your heads, you gates... that the King of glory may come in." It asks, "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?" and answers, "The one who has clean hands and a pure heart." This psalm frames the temple as the place where God's glory dwells and His people worship. In Christ, the King of glory enters His people's lives, making us pure and able to stand in His holy presence.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Glorious God, You are good and Your love endures forever. Thank You for dwelling among Your people, first in the temple, and now in Christ, the true temple. Thank You for sending Your Spirit to make us Your living temple today. Fill us with awe at

Your holiness, gratitude for Your mercy, and longing for the day when we will see Your glory face to face. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CHRONICLES 1:7-10

*“That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, ‘Ask for whatever you want me to give you.’ Solomon answered God, ‘You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. Now, Lord God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed... Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?’”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Given the chance to ask for anything, Solomon requests wisdom, not wealth or long life. He recognises that leadership over God’s people requires divine guidance, not human cleverness.

God delights in such a request. He grants Solomon wisdom and adds the things he didn’t ask for. This reflects Jesus’ teaching: “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” In Christ, we too can ask boldly for the wisdom we need. James 1:5 assures us that God gives generously without finding fault to those who ask.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What would you ask God for if you knew He would grant your request?

### PRAYER

Lord, give me wisdom for every decision I face.

Teach me to value your kingdom above all else. Lead me in the path that honours you. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CHRONICLES 5:13-14**

*“The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord... Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.”*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

When the ark of the covenant was brought into Solomon’s temple, the musicians and singers united in praise. Their worship was so wholehearted that God’s glory visibly filled the temple.

This is a picture of what happens when God’s people gather to honour Him. True worship welcomes His presence. It’s not about performance or preference, but about exalting Him with one heart and voice.

In Christ, we are God’s temple, and His Spirit fills us. When we worship together in unity, His presence becomes tangible, encouraging faith and transforming lives.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can you join in wholehearted, unified worship this week?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, fill my heart with praise for you. Make me eager to join your people in worship. Let your presence rest on us as we lift your name high. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CHRONICLES 7:1–3**

*“When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering... and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.”*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

The temple dedication in 2 Chronicles is breathtaking. God’s presence descends like fire. Worship fills the air. The covenant seems secure. Yet over time, compromise sets in. Idolatry creeps back. Eventually, the temple is destroyed. But the promise is not revoked. One day, a greater temple would come—not built of stone, but in the person of Christ.

Jesus would say, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” He wasn’t talking about bricks—but His body (John 2:19–21). Jesus is the presence of God among us. In Him, God’s glory fills not a building, but a life. And now, through the Spirit, we become His temple—a people marked by His holiness and

love.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What does it mean that you are now part of God's living temple in Christ?

### **PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the true and living temple. Let your glory fill not just places, but people—starting with me. Shape me into a dwelling where your Spirit is welcome. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CHRONICLES 20:15–17**

*“He said: ‘Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you.””*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

When faced with a vast army, King Jehoshaphat sought the Lord, and the prophet Jahaziel brought this message of hope: the battle belonged to God. God’s deliverance didn’t mean passivity — the people still had to take their positions — but it did mean they could face the enemy without fear, trusting in His power to save.

In our battles, whether visible or unseen, we too can stand firm in the victory of Christ. He has already overcome the world, and our role is to trust, obey, and watch His salvation unfold.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where do you need to remember that the battle is the Lord's?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, help me to stand firm in your promises. Remind me that victory is found in you alone. Give me courage to face every challenge with faith. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CHRONICLES 34:29–31**

*“Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. He went up to the temple of the Lord... He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant... The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord — to follow the Lord and keep his commands...”*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

King Josiah's reforms were sparked by the rediscovery of God's Word. Hearing it read moved him to lead the whole nation in covenant renewal. The Word of God is powerful. When we read it, it confronts us, calls us back to the Lord, and renews our hearts. It doesn't simply inform; it transforms.

Through Jesus, we are called into a new covenant, written not on tablets of stone but on our hearts by the Spirit. Each time we open Scripture, God invites us afresh to walk closely with Him.

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How has God's Word recently called you back to deeper obedience?

**PRAYER**

Lord, thank you for the gift of your Word. Let it shape my heart and renew my faith. Help me to walk in the covenant of your grace. Amen.

**CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**



# OCTOBER

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## LifeHub Material

### OPENER

“Have you ever found it hard to keep loving someone who kept letting you down? What made you continue—or give up?”

### SCRIPTURE READING: HOSEA 11:8–9

*“How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man— the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities.”*

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Hosea’s prophecy is a window into the very heart of God. Israel has been unfaithful, repeatedly breaking covenant with the Lord, yet here we see God wrestling with His own justice and mercy. Unlike human beings who grow weary of forgiving, God’s love and compassion rise up and prevent Him from abandoning His people. His holiness is not revealed in cold detachment but in tender, passionate mercy.

This passage points us straight to the cross of Christ. God’s burning question—“How can I give you up?”—finds its ultimate answer at Calvary. Instead of giving up His people, God gave up His Son. Jesus bore the judgment that Israel (and all of us) deserved, so that compassion could triumph over wrath. In Christ, the Holy One is indeed “among us,” not to destroy, but to redeem.

The depth of God's love here reminds us that salvation is not earned by human faithfulness, but flows out of God's unshakable covenant love. His mercy runs deeper than our sin, and His holiness is displayed in a love that will not let go.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Hosea prophesied in the 8th century BC during a time of political instability, moral decline, and rampant idolatry in the northern kingdom of Israel. Israel had turned to Baal worship, forsaking the God who redeemed them from Egypt. Earlier in Hosea, Israel is portrayed as an unfaithful spouse (Hosea 1–3) and a rebellious son (Hosea 11).

Admah and Zeboyim (v. 8) — These were cities destroyed along with Sodom and Gomorrah (Deut. 29:23). God recalls this history but declares He will not treat Israel the same way.

The Holy One among you — Holiness here does not mean distant wrath but merciful otherness: God's holiness sets Him apart from human bitterness and vengeance. His holiness is shown in steadfast compassion.

Divine compassion and justice — This is one of the most intimate portraits of God's inner being in the Old Testament. It shows us that God's heart is not divided between justice and mercy; rather, His justice is ultimately expressed through His merciful plan of redemption.

Theologically, this passage anticipates the gospel:

- God's compassion triumphs — His covenant love restrains His wrath.

- The cross fulfils God’s dilemma — Instead of abandoning His people, God provides atonement through Christ.
- Incarnation of the Holy One — Jesus, “God with us,” came not to condemn but to save (John 3:17).

In the New Testament, Paul echoes this reality: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How does Hosea 11:8–9 challenge our view of God’s holiness?
- Why is it significant that God chooses mercy over judgment here?
- In what ways does the cross of Christ answer God’s question, “How can I give you up?”
- How does knowing God’s relentless love change the way we respond when we fail Him?

### **REFLECTION: PSALM 103:8–10**

*“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.”*

Psalm 103 echoes the heart of Hosea 11. Both reveal a God whose compassion outweighs His anger and whose love is greater than our rebellion. In Christ, these words find their fullest expression: the God who does not treat us as our sins deserve but pours grace upon us through His Son.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Holy and compassionate Father, thank You that Your love never lets us go. Even when we turn away, You draw near with mercy and grace. We praise You that in Jesus Christ, You bore the judgment we deserve so that compassion might triumph. Teach us to rest in Your steadfast love and to extend that same mercy to others. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: HOSEA 2:14–15

*"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope."*

### DEVOTIONAL

Hosea's marriage to Gomer is a living picture of God's relentless love for His unfaithful people. Here, God speaks of alluring His people into the wilderness — not as punishment, but as a place of renewal. In the stillness of that wilderness, He promises to speak tenderly, to restore, and to transform the Valley of Achor ("trouble") into a door of hope.

This is the heart of God's grace: He meets us where we are, even in our rebellion, and leads us to places where His voice can be heard clearly. The wilderness is not wasted. It becomes the place where we are stripped of false loves and reminded of His faithful love.

In Jesus, this promise reaches its fullness. He calls us to Himself, often away from the noise and distractions, so that He can restore us and replace our trouble with hope.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Where might God be using a "wilderness" in your life to draw you closer to Him?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You that You pursue me with tender love. Turn my places of trouble into doors of hope. Help me listen for Your voice above all others. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: HOSEA 3:1–2**

*"The LORD said to me, 'Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites...'"*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Hosea's purchase of Gomer from slavery is a vivid image of redemption. He pays the price to bring her back, even though she has been unfaithful. This is not mere sentiment — it is costly, pursuing love.

The Lord uses this act to show His love for His people. We too have wandered, but Christ has paid the ultimate price — His own life — to redeem us. Redemption is not simply a transaction; it is a restoration of relationship, a bringing home of the beloved.

This kind of love changes us. Knowing we are bought at such a price inspires us to leave behind the chains that once bound us and to live in the freedom of being His.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does remembering the price Jesus paid for you shape your love for Him?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for redeeming me at such great cost. Help me never to take Your love for granted. Lead me to live in the freedom You have won. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: HOSEA 6:1–3**

*"Come, let us return to the LORD... He will revive us... let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him."*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

In the midst of judgment, Hosea calls the people to return to the Lord. God's discipline is real, but it is not vindictive — it is aimed at restoration. He wounds to heal, He disciplines to revive.

There is urgency here: "Let us press on to acknowledge him." This is not a passive faith but an active pursuit of the One who has promised to come to us "as surely as the sun rises." God's faithfulness is not in question; the only question is whether we will turn to Him.

In Christ, this revival is ours in full measure. Through His death

and resurrection, He brings us from spiritual death to life, from coldness to renewed passion.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What would it mean for you to “press on” in seeking the Lord this week?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, draw me back to You with all my heart. Revive me with the life only You can give. Help me press on to know You more. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: HOSEA 11:8–9**

*“How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?... I am God, and not a man— the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities.”*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Hosea’s life became a parable of God’s heart. Called to marry an unfaithful woman, Hosea embodied the pain of a faithful God loving a wandering people. Again and again, Israel turned to other gods. Again and again, God called them back—not with cold judgment, but with aching mercy.

God’s love in Hosea is fierce and faithful. It is a love that disciplines, but never discards. “How can I give you up?” He

asks —a question that finds its answer in Christ. Jesus is God's answer to Hosea's cry. On the cross, He bore the cost of our unfaithfulness, so we could be restored forever. His love is not earned, and it cannot be undone. Hosea's story shows us a love stronger than betrayal—God's everlasting covenant love.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where in your life have you felt the mercy of God pursuing you in spite of failure?

### **PRAYER**

Faithful God, you love me with an everlasting love. Even when I run, you pursue me with mercy. Keep my heart tender and turned toward you. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: HOSEA 14:4–5**

*"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily."*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Hosea's prophecy ends not in judgment but in healing. God promises to cure His people's waywardness and love them freely. This is the gospel in miniature — a love not earned, but given freely, because His anger is turned away.

The image of God as dew is beautiful. Dew comes gently, refreshing the land in the stillness of the morning. It is life-giving and sustaining, enabling growth and beauty. In Christ, God's love refreshes our souls daily, enabling us to flourish.

Our hope rests in His initiative. He does not wait for us to fix ourselves before loving us. He heals, He refreshes, and He causes us to blossom.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where do you need God's gentle, refreshing love to renew you today?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for loving me freely. Heal my wandering heart and make me whole. Refresh me so I may flourish in Your love. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**





## LifeHub Material

### OPENER

“When have you seen a group of people suddenly come alive with energy and purpose—like a sports crowd, a music festival, or even in church? What made it so powerful?”

### SCRIPTURE READING: JOEL 2:28

*“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”*

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Joel’s prophecy came in a time of devastation. A plague of locusts had stripped Israel’s fields bare, leaving the people empty and hopeless. But God promised renewal—not just of their crops, but of their very hearts. Joel looks forward to a day when God’s Spirit will be poured out not on a select few, but on all His people.

This verse is fulfilled at Pentecost in Acts 2, when the Spirit descended on the disciples like tongues of fire. Peter declared that what Joel had prophesied had come true: men and women, young and old, slave and free—all could now receive the Spirit.

In Christ, this promise expands beyond Israel to every tribe, tongue, and nation. The Spirit unites believers to Jesus, empowering them to live as His witnesses in the world. Prophecy, dreams, and visions are not signs of human achievement, but gifts of God’s presence dwelling within His people. Through the Spirit, God’s power no longer dwells in a temple of stone, but in the living temple of His people.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Joel's prophecy is set against a national crisis in Judah, where a devastating locust swarm had ruined the land (Joel 1). While some debate the exact date of Joel's writing, the message is timeless: God uses even disaster to call His people to repentance and renewal.

“Afterward” — This points to the messianic age, when God's saving work would usher in a new era of the Spirit.

“I will pour out my Spirit” — In the Old Testament, the Spirit came upon particular individuals for particular tasks (e.g., prophets, kings). Joel's prophecy marks a radical shift: the Spirit would be lavishly poured out on all God's people.

Universal scope — Sons and daughters, old and young, even servants—no one is excluded. This equality before God anticipates the church of Christ, where every believer shares in the Spirit's gifts.

Theologically, Joel 2:28 is central to understanding the work of Christ:

- Fulfillment at Pentecost — Acts 2 directly applies Joel's words to the outpouring of the Spirit after Jesus' resurrection and ascension.
- Christ as the giver of the Spirit — Jesus promised in John 14–16 that He would send the Spirit to guide, comfort, and empower His disciples.
- Mission of the Church — The Spirit enables the proclamation of the gospel “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Through Joel, we see that God's plan was never just to restore land or crops, but to renew hearts through His Spirit poured out in Christ.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What difference does it make that God's Spirit is poured out on all believers, not just a few?
- How does Joel's promise find fulfillment in Acts 2—and in your own life?
- What role does the Spirit play in empowering us for mission and daily obedience?
- Where do you see God giving His people “dreams and visions” of His kingdom today?

### **REFLECTION: PSALM 104:30**

*“When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.”*

Joel speaks of God pouring out His Spirit to renew His people; Psalm 104 reminds us that the Spirit is also the breath of creation and renewal. Together they reveal the Spirit's life-giving power, from creation to new creation, culminating in Christ who makes all things new.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, thank You for sending Your Spirit to dwell within us. Thank You that no one is left out—young and old, men and women, every nation and people. Fill us again with Your Spirit's power to live as Your witnesses and to carry Your good news into the world. Pour out Your Spirit on us, Lord, until all things are made new in You. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: JOEL 1:2-3

*“Hear this, you elders; listen, all who live in the land. Has anything like this ever happened in your days or in the days of your ancestors? Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Joel begins his prophecy with urgency — a disaster unlike anything before has struck the land. The devastation of the locust swarm was not to be forgotten but remembered and passed on through the generations. God’s people were to treat this moment as a spiritual wake-up call.

When crisis comes, we often just want to move past it. But Joel insists that God’s people must pay attention, reflect, and pass down the lessons learned. The devastation was not meaningless — it was meant to draw the nation back to God in humility and repentance.

In Christ, we learn to see even our hardest seasons through the lens of redemption. The cross itself looked like utter devastation — the end of hope — yet it became the beginning of new life. Our calling, like Joel’s hearers, is to remember God’s works and to pass on the story of His mercy and salvation to the next generation.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What story of God's faithfulness could you share with the next generation to strengthen their faith?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, help me to see Your hand even in times of hardship. Teach me to remember and tell of Your faithfulness. Let my life bear witness to Your redeeming love. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: JOEL 1:13–14**

*"Put on sackcloth, you priests, and mourn; wail, you who minister before the altar. Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you who minister before my God... Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD."*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Joel's prophecy begins in a season of devastation — locusts have consumed the land. The prophet calls the priests and the people to respond, not with quick fixes, but with deep repentance. Mourning is not just sadness; it's a spiritual turning of the heart toward God.

The urgency of Joel's summons — "call a sacred assembly" — reminds us that repentance is not a private affair only. God's

people are called together to acknowledge their need for Him, to cry out in humility and dependence.

When the church today faces crisis — whether moral, spiritual, or cultural — our first step is still the same: to humble ourselves before God. And in Jesus, we have the assurance that our cries are heard, for He has opened the way to the Father.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What might it look like for you, personally or with others, to “call a sacred assembly” before God in repentance?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, teach me to come to You first in times of need. Give me a humble heart that seeks Your mercy. Renew my hope as I turn back to You. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: JOEL 2:12-13**

*"'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity."*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

“Even now.” These are words of incredible grace. No matter how far God’s people have strayed, the invitation to return stands open. Joel reminds them — and us — that God wants more than outward shows of repentance; He desires hearts torn open in genuine surrender.

God’s character is the foundation of this invitation: gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, overflowing with love. This is the same God revealed in Jesus, who calls sinners to Himself, not with condemnation but with grace. To “rend your heart” is to allow God’s truth to pierce deeply, to expose what needs healing, and to invite Him to bring transformation. This is repentance that leads to life.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might God be saying to you, “Even now... return to Me with all your heart”?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You that it is never too late to return to You. Break open my heart so You can heal it fully. Let my repentance lead to joy in Your presence. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

## **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

## **SCRIPTURE READING: JOEL 2:28–29**

*"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.*

*Your sons and daughters will prophesy... Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Joel's prophecy bursts with hope — the Spirit of God will not be limited to prophets or kings, but poured out on all people. Sons and daughters, young and old, servants and free — no one is excluded.

Peter quotes this passage on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), declaring that the promise is fulfilled in the risen Christ. The Spirit's outpouring means that God's presence and power dwell within every believer.

This changes everything. We are no longer limited by our own strength, wisdom, or courage. God Himself empowers us for witness, service, and holy living. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does knowing God's Spirit has been poured out on you shape the way you live today?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Spirit. Fill me afresh today with Your presence and power. Use me to proclaim Your good news to others. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: JOEL 3:16**

*"The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel."*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

The image of God roaring from Zion is one of awesome power. His voice shakes creation — a reminder that He is sovereign over all. For those who oppose Him, it is a sound of judgment; but for His people, it is a declaration of safety.

“The LORD will be a refuge for His people.” In Jesus, this truth is magnified. He is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. He is our stronghold, our refuge.

One day, His voice will once again shake heaven and earth, bringing all things to their rightful end. Until that day, we take refuge in Him, knowing that His power is for our protection.

#### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where do you need to take refuge in the Lord's strength today?

#### **PRAYER**

Lord, You are my refuge and my stronghold. Keep me safe in the shelter of Your love. Help me trust Your promises. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**







# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

“Can you think of a time when you saw something unfair or unjust, and you wished someone would step in and make it right? How did it make you feel?”

## SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 5:24

*“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Amos was a shepherd and farmer from Tekoa, called by God to speak to the wealthy and powerful of Israel. His message was not one of comfort but of confrontation. Israel was enjoying prosperity, but their worship had become empty—full of songs, sacrifices, and festivals, but lacking the heart of obedience. God was not impressed with ceremonies while injustice crushed the poor and vulnerable.

This verse paints a vivid picture: justice flowing like a river, righteousness like an unending stream. Amos declares that God’s true desire is not ritual, but a society shaped by His character—where truth, fairness, and mercy overflow like living waters.

In Christ, this vision is fulfilled. Jesus not only preached justice and righteousness but embodied them. He healed the broken, lifted the marginalised, and challenged the powerful. On the cross, He bore injustice Himself so that God’s justice and mercy could meet in Him. Through His resurrection, He offers a righteousness that transforms individuals and, through them,

communities.

Following Christ means allowing His Spirit to shape us into people of justice and righteousness, so that our lives reflect the river of God's heart in a thirsty world.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Amos prophesied in the 8th century BC, during the reign of Jeroboam II. Israel enjoyed economic success but was spiritually bankrupt. The wealthy trampled on the poor (Amos 2:6–7; 4:1), and religious practices had become hollow (Amos 5:21–23).

Justice (mishpat) — This is more than legal fairness; it is restorative, ensuring the vulnerable are protected and the oppressed lifted up.

Righteousness (tsedaqah) — Right relationship with God and others, lived out in everyday actions.

Theologically, Amos 5:24 reminds us that God's covenant people are called to reflect His character. Justice and righteousness are not optional extras but the very essence of true worship.

In the New Testament, this finds its climax in Christ:

- Jesus fulfils justice — By taking sin's penalty, He satisfies God's justice (Romans 3:25–26).
- Jesus embodies righteousness — He is the Righteous One (1 John 2:1) who makes His people righteous through faith.
- The Spirit empowers justice — Believers are sent to live out

kingdom values, echoing Jesus' concern for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

Thus, Amos points us to the cross, where justice and righteousness flow together in Christ like an endless river.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think God values justice and righteousness over rituals and ceremonies?
- How does Jesus embody Amos's vision of justice rolling like a river?
- In what areas of your life or community might God be calling you to pursue justice and righteousness more intentionally?
- How can the church today be a visible stream of God's justice and righteousness?

### **REFLECTION: PSALM 72:1–2**

*"Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice."*

Psalm 72 prays for a king who rules with justice and righteousness. Amos declares God's longing for those qualities to flow through His people. Both point forward to Christ—the true King—whose reign brings perfect justice and righteousness forever.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Righteous Lord, we confess that it is easy to worship You with our lips while our hearts are far from Your ways. Forgive us when we neglect justice or overlook those in need. Let Your Spirit

shape us into people of righteousness, so that our lives become streams of living water in a dry and unjust world. May Your justice and mercy flow through us, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of Your glory. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 1:2

*“The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Amos begins his prophecy with an image that is both terrifying and majestic — the roar of the Lord from Zion. His voice shakes the land, drying up pastures and withering mountains. God is not silent about injustice, corruption, or unfaithfulness. His roar declares that He sees and He will act.

The roar of God is a warning, but it is also an invitation. To hear His voice is to be called back to holiness, to realign our lives with His righteousness. It is His mercy that speaks before judgment falls.

In Christ, the roar of God is transformed into the Word made flesh. Jesus came not only to confront sin but to bear its judgment in our place. At the cross, the thunder of wrath and the whisper of love meet together. For those who belong to Him, God’s voice is no longer condemnation but the assurance of salvation.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How do you need to respond to God’s “roar” — His clear call to turn from sin and walk in His ways?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, help me not to ignore Your voice. Teach me to hear both Your warning and Your invitation. Lead me back into Your mercy through Christ. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 3:7-8**

*"Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared— who will not fear? The Sovereign LORD has spoken— who can but prophesy?"*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Amos reminds us that God is not distant or silent. Before He acts, He speaks. His prophets receive His word, and their calling is to deliver it — even when the message is difficult.

The lion's roar in this verse echoes the voice of God — a sound impossible to ignore. When God speaks, He calls for attention, reverence, and response. His word is never idle; it is alive, active, and purposeful.

In Christ, God's final and clearest word has been spoken (Hebrews 1:1-2). The gospel is His roar into a world asleep in sin — a call to wake, to turn, to live. If we have heard His voice, our call is to pass it on with faithfulness and love.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might God be calling you to speak His truth with courage?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, help me hear Your voice clearly. Give me boldness to share Your truth in love. Let my life echo the roar of Your gospel. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 5:14–15**

*"Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph."*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

The people of Amos' day claimed God's presence, but their lives told a different story. God's call is clear: to seek good, to hate evil, and to uphold justice. This is not optional; it is the evidence of a life truly aligned with Him.

Seeking good is active — it means pursuing what reflects God's character. Hating evil is equally active — it means resisting what opposes His ways. Justice in the courts, fairness in our dealings, compassion toward the vulnerable — these are the

marks of His people.

In Jesus, goodness and justice meet perfectly. He lived without compromise, confronting evil and extending mercy. As His followers, we are called to embody the same pattern.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What step could you take this week to actively seek good and oppose evil?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, align my heart with Yours. Help me love what You love and reject what You hate. Make my life a witness to Your goodness and justice. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 5:24**

*"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

God rejects empty religion that sings loudly on Sunday but ignores injustice on Monday. Through Amos, He calls for justice and righteousness to flow like an unstoppable stream — constant, refreshing, life-giving.

Justice addresses the wrongs in society; righteousness reflects

the holiness of God in personal and communal life. Together, they form a river that blesses all it touches.

In Christ, we see this river most clearly. His cross confronts the ultimate injustice of sin and secures the righteousness that is credited to us. Through the Spirit, that righteousness begins to flow out of us into a thirsty world.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What does it look like for justice and righteousness to flow from your life?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, may my worship be matched by my walk. Let justice and righteousness flow through me. Make me a channel of Your mercy and truth. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 9:11–12**

*"In that day I will restore David's fallen shelter— I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins— and will rebuild it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name," declares the LORD, who will do these things.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Amos ends with hope. God promises restoration — the

rebuilding of David's fallen house — pointing to the coming of Christ, the Son of David, whose kingdom welcomes people from every nation.

This prophecy is quoted in Acts 15, when the early church affirmed that Gentiles were included in God's people without having to become Jews. In Jesus, the walls of division are torn down, and the dwelling place of God is restored.

The One who roars in judgment is also the One who speaks tenderly in grace. His plan is not only to confront sin but to redeem and rebuild what is broken — in nations, in communities, and in us.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where do you need to trust God's promise of restoration in your life?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for Your plan to restore all things in Christ. Rebuild what is broken in my life and in Your church. Let my hope rest fully in You. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**



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# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

“Have you ever seen a small, overlooked person or team achieve an unexpected victory over someone much stronger? How did it make you feel?”

## SCRIPTURE READING: OBADIAH 1:21

*“Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord’s.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament—just 21 verses—but it carries a powerful message. It announces judgment on Edom, Israel’s long-standing rival, who had gloated over Jerusalem’s downfall and even participated in her suffering. Yet the book does not end with destruction—it ends with hope.

The final verse points beyond Edom to the ultimate story: God Himself will raise up deliverers on Mount Zion, and His kingdom will prevail over every rival. History does not end with the triumph of human empires but with the reign of the Lord.

In Christ, this promise is fulfilled. Jesus is the Deliverer who comes from Zion (Romans 11:26). He defeats not just Edom but the greater enemies of sin, death, and Satan. Through His resurrection, He brings God’s kingdom near, and one day He will return to establish it fully. What began in Bethlehem and was won at the cross will culminate in the day when “the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah” (Revelation 11:15).

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

**Historical:** Edom was descended from Esau, Jacob's brother. The hostility between Edom and Israel stretched back centuries (Genesis 25; Numbers 20:14–21). In Obadiah's time, Edom stood aloof when Jerusalem fell, perhaps during the Babylonian conquest in 586 BC, and even profited from Judah's misery. For this betrayal, God pronounced judgment.

**Theological:** Obadiah assures us that God sees every injustice and will bring it to account. Human kingdoms rise and fall, but God's kingdom endures forever.

**Christological:** The prophecy of "deliverers" going up Mount Zion anticipates Christ as the ultimate Deliverer. He embodies God's justice against evil and brings salvation to all who trust in Him. His reign ensures that one day every rival kingdom will bow, and "the kingdom will be the Lord's."

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think the book of Obadiah ends not with judgment, but with hope and God's kingdom?
- How does Obadiah's message challenge our view of power, politics, and human kingdoms today?
- In what ways have you seen God's kingdom advancing quietly, even when it seems overlooked?
- How does Jesus' role as Deliverer shape your confidence about the future?

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 2:6–8**

*"I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain. I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, 'You are my*

*son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.”*

Psalm 2 declares the Lord’s anointed king set upon Mount Zion, ruling over all nations despite their rebellion. Obadiah’s vision of deliverers ascending Mount Zion and God’s kingdom prevailing echoes this psalm’s theme: human powers may rage, but God’s Messiah will reign.

The psalm not only anticipates David’s line of kings but ultimately points to Christ. He is the Son given authority over all nations, the true King installed on Zion through His resurrection and exaltation. Together, Obadiah and Psalm 2 remind us that while human kingdoms rise and fall, the Lord’s kingdom is certain, global, and everlasting in Christ.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Sovereign Lord, You are the King above all kings. We confess that we often fear the rise and fall of earthly powers, yet You remind us that Your kingdom is unshakable. Thank You for sending Jesus, our Deliverer, who conquers sin, death, and every enemy. Strengthen our faith to live as citizens of Your kingdom now, and fill us with hope as we await the day when all will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: OBADIAH 1:3–4

*"The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?' Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.*

### DEVOTIONAL

Edom's pride was its undoing. They thought their location was secure, their defences impenetrable, their future unshakable. Pride convinced them they were untouchable — but God saw through their illusions.

Pride is deceptive. It convinces us we don't need God, that our own wisdom or strength is enough. But the truth is, everything we have and are depends on Him. The higher we climb in self-sufficiency, the greater the fall when reality catches up.

In Christ, God calls us to humility — the very opposite of Edom's spirit. Jesus had every reason to exalt Himself, yet He "made Himself nothing" (Philippians 2:7) and became our servant. His humility is our example, and His grace our rescue from the ruin of pride.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Where might pride be blinding you to your need for God?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, keep me humble before You. Expose the lies pride whispers to my heart. Let me trust in Your strength alone. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: OBADIAH 1:10–11**

*"Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever. On the day you stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them."*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Edom's guilt was not only in what they did, but in what they failed to do. They stood by as Jerusalem suffered, watching without helping, treating their brother's pain as someone else's problem.

God calls His people to act with compassion, not indifference. The parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that true neighbour-love crosses boundaries and steps into the need of others — even when it's costly.

Jesus is the ultimate neighbour. He did not stand aloof from our suffering, but entered it fully, bearing our shame to bring us salvation. His love compels us to reject apathy and to step into the brokenness around us with mercy and courage.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Who around you might need you to step in rather than stand back?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, forgive me for the times I've stood by in silence. Fill me with Your compassion for those in need. Make me ready to act in love. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: OBADIAH 1:15**

*"The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head."*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

The "day of the LORD" is a recurring theme in the prophets — a day of justice when God sets things right. For Edom, it would mean the consequences of their actions returning upon them.

This verse reminds us that God's justice is certain and universal. No nation, no person, escapes His notice. Injustice will not go unaddressed forever. The scales will be balanced, and wrongs will be righted.

For those in Christ, this day is both sobering and hope-filled. It reminds us that sin is serious, but also that Jesus has borne the

judgment we deserve. The justice that could have fallen on our heads fell on His at the cross, so that we might stand forgiven.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does the certainty of God's justice shape the way you live today?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for the justice and mercy that meet in the cross. Help me live with both urgency and hope as I await Your return. Make my life reflect Your righteousness. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: OBADIAH 1:17**

*"But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy, and Jacob will possess his inheritance."*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Amid words of judgment, Obadiah offers a promise: deliverance will come, holiness will be restored, and God's people will inherit what He has promised. Edom's pride and violence will not have the final word. God's plan is bigger, His covenant more enduring, His salvation more certain.

Mount Zion becomes the symbol of God's faithful presence with His people. Though they had been humbled and scattered, He would gather them again, cleanse them, and give them back

their inheritance. This was not based on their strength, but on His redeeming grace.

In Christ, we see the fullness of this promise. He is the Deliverer who brings holiness, the One through whom we become heirs of the kingdom. Our inheritance is not fragile or fading; it is “kept in heaven” for us (1 Peter 1:4). When the world feels uncertain, this promise anchors us in hope.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does the assurance of an eternal inheritance in Christ strengthen you today?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for the deliverance found in Jesus. Help me live as one made holy by Your grace. Keep my heart fixed on the inheritance You have promised. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: OBADIAH 1:21**

*"Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the LORD's."*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

The book of Obadiah ends with a note of hope — the kingdom will be the LORD's. His rule will be established, His justice complete, His peace unshakable.

This is the ultimate end of history: God reigning without rival, His people secure in His presence. For Edom, this meant the end of prideful opposition. For God's people, it means the beginning of eternal joy.

In Christ, the kingdom has already broken in. He is the Deliverer who has ascended the true Mount Zion, bringing salvation for all who trust Him. And one day, His reign will be seen in all its fullness.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What hope does the promise of God's final reign give you in the present?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You that the kingdom belongs to You. Help me live now in light of Your coming reign. Keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, my Deliverer. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**















# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

What is something you've been proud to share with others, even if they didn't always appreciate it (a book, a team, a movie, a hobby)?

## SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 1:16

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Paul opens his letter to the Romans with a bold declaration: he is not ashamed of the gospel. This is remarkable, because in the ancient world the cross was a symbol of shame and weakness. Yet Paul insists that what the world despises is, in fact, the very power of God for salvation.

The gospel is not good advice, self-help tips, or religious inspiration. It is the good news that God has acted decisively in Jesus Christ to rescue sinners. The Greek word *dynamis* (power) points to God's active, unstoppable energy. Salvation is not earned—it is received by faith.

Paul emphasises that this salvation is for "everyone who believes"—Jew and Gentile alike. The gospel smashes barriers of race, class, and background. In a city like Rome, filled with status-seeking and social division, this was radical. And today, it remains just as radical: the gospel is for all, and it levels the ground at the foot of the cross.

The challenge for us is this: will we be bold with the gospel, or will we shrink back in fear or embarrassment? Paul reminds us that this message is God's power—not ours. To share the gospel is to unleash the very power of God into lives.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Romans was written by Paul around AD 57, likely from Corinth, as he prepared to travel to Jerusalem with aid for the saints. Rome was the empire's capital, the hub of power, wealth, and culture. To declare allegiance to a crucified Messiah in that city would seem foolish and dangerous. Yet Paul insists the gospel is greater than Rome's power.

Theologically, Romans 1:16 sets the stage for the entire letter. The themes of justification by faith, salvation for Jew and Gentile alike, and the power of God revealed in the gospel run throughout the epistle. Paul will go on to explain how God's righteousness is revealed (Romans 1:17) and how it transforms lives.

The phrase "first to the Jew, then to the Gentile" reflects salvation history: God's promises were first given to Israel, but in Christ they extend to all nations. The gospel fulfills Israel's story and opens it wide to the world.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What makes people feel "ashamed" of the gospel today? Do any of these struggles resonate with you?
- How does remembering that the gospel is God's power (not ours) change the way you think about evangelism?
- Who in your life seems "out of reach" for the gospel? How

does this verse challenge that assumption?

- What barriers (cultural, relational, personal) might God be asking you to cross in order to share Christ's love?

### **REFLECTION: PSALM 98:1–3**

*“Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”*

Psalm 98 anticipates the worldwide salvation of God. Romans 1:16 shows its fulfilment—salvation revealed to Jew and Gentile alike through the gospel.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for the power of the gospel that brings salvation. Forgive us when we shrink back in fear or embarrassment. Fill us with courage to speak of Jesus, knowing that Your power is at work through the message. May our lives and our words point others to Christ. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 1:16–17

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

Paul’s letter to the Romans begins with a bold declaration: the Gospel is God’s power to save. It is not an opinion, an idea, or an optional extra — it is God’s action breaking into the world to rescue.

This salvation is for “everyone who believes,” breaking down barriers of ethnicity, culture, and background. The same grace is offered to both Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female.

The heart of the Gospel is the righteousness of God — His perfect character and His faithful covenant love. And this righteousness is given to us as a gift through faith, not earned by works. From beginning to end, the Christian life is lived by faith. We start with trust in Christ and continue in that trust until the day we see Him face to face.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Where might shame be keeping you from speaking or living

boldly for the Gospel?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You that the Gospel is Your power to save. Help me to live unashamed of Jesus. Teach me to walk by faith from first to last. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 3:23–24**

*“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
and all are justified freely by his grace through the  
redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul does not mince words: all have sinned. There are no exceptions, no categories of “better” and “worse.” Every human being stands in need before a holy God. This truth humbles us, stripping away pride and self-righteousness.

But Paul does not stop at diagnosis — he announces the cure. Those who have fallen short are “justified freely” by God’s grace. To be justified is to be declared righteous, not by our performance but by Christ’s redemption. His death paid the cost, His resurrection secured the victory.

These verses bring together the honesty of our condition and the wonder of God’s grace. The glory we lost in sin is restored in

Christ. What was impossible for us has been made possible through Him. The Gospel, then, calls us to humility and gratitude — humble because we cannot save ourselves, grateful because salvation is given as a gift.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does remembering both your sin and God's grace keep you humble and thankful?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, I confess I have fallen short of Your glory. Thank You for justifying me freely in Christ. Keep me humble and grateful for Your redeeming grace. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 5:6-8**

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

We often imagine love as a response — given when someone is loveable. But God's love is different. He loved us when we were powerless, ungodly, and still in rebellion against Him.

The cross is the ultimate demonstration of that love. It is not just a symbol, but a decisive act in history, showing us the depth and cost of God's commitment to us.

The timing was perfect — “at just the right time” — reminding us that God's plans are never late and never rushed. His rescue came exactly when we needed it most.

In the light of such love, we are called to rest in His grace and extend that same kind of love to others — not waiting until they “deserve” it, but loving as He loved us.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does knowing that Christ died for you “while you were still a sinner” shape the way you view others?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for loving me at my worst. Help me to trust Your timing in all things. Teach me to love as You have loved me.  
Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 8:38–39**

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,*

neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul's conviction is absolute: nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ. These verses are the mountaintop of Romans 8, offering a breathtaking view of the security we have in Him.

The list covers every conceivable threat — spiritual forces, life's circumstances, time itself, even death. There is no loophole, no hidden clause. God's love holds us fast.

This is not wishful thinking; it is grounded in the finished work of Christ. His death and resurrection are the unshakeable proof that His love endures forever. When fear whispers that God has abandoned us, we can answer with this truth: His love is stronger than anything that could come against us.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Which fear or anxiety in your life most needs to hear this promise today?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You that nothing can separate me from Your love. Help me to stand firm in that truth. Let Your love drive out my fear. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 12:1-2**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

The Gospel is not just something to believe — it's something to live. Paul begins Romans 12 with a call to worship that encompasses all of life.

We offer ourselves as “living sacrifices” — daily choosing to surrender our will to God's. This is not a dead, once-for-all offering, but a living, ongoing act of devotion.

Transformation comes through the renewing of our minds. As the Spirit reshapes our thinking through God's Word, we begin to see and desire what God sees and desires.

In this way, we discern His will — not as a burden, but as something good, pleasing, and perfect. Worship and obedience flow naturally from hearts captured by His mercy.

#### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What area of life is God inviting you to place on the altar today?

**PRAYER**

Lord, I offer myself to You in worship. Renew my mind and transform my life. Help me to walk in Your good, pleasing, and perfect will. Amen.

**CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**





# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

Have you ever experienced a time when what seemed weak or foolish turned out to be the wisest or strongest choice?

## SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:23–24

*“...but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

At the heart of Paul’s preaching is not human eloquence, clever philosophy, or dazzling rhetoric—it is the message of a crucified Christ. To many, this seemed absurd. How could a man executed in weakness and shame be the Saviour of the world? Yet Paul boldly proclaims that the cross, despised by some, is in fact the place where God’s power and wisdom are most clearly revealed.

For the Jews, the expectation was of a Messiah who would conquer through strength, liberate Israel, and restore glory. The cross looked like weakness and defeat. For the Greeks, who valued wisdom and intellectual brilliance, the idea of salvation through crucifixion was offensive and irrational. But to those who are called by God, the cross is neither weakness nor folly—it is the true power that defeats sin and death, and the true wisdom that reveals God’s plan of salvation.

This truth still confronts us today. Our world celebrates strength, success, and sophistication, but God’s power is shown through

humility, sacrifice, and love. To follow Christ means embracing the way of the cross: not relying on our own wisdom or strength, but trusting the crucified and risen Lord.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Corinth was a bustling, cosmopolitan city—known for its wealth, diversity, and moral corruption. The Corinthian church reflected its environment: divided, prideful, and tempted to chase after human wisdom and impressive speech. Paul writes to remind them that the gospel is not about showing off wisdom or power by the world’s standards.

Theologically, this passage sits at the core of Paul’s “theology of the cross.” The cross overturns human expectations: it is both scandal (skandalon, a “stumbling block”) to Jews and foolishness (moria, “madness”) to Gentiles. But in God’s economy, it is the very instrument of redemption. Christ crucified is God’s wisdom (because it fulfils His redemptive plan) and God’s power (because it achieves victory over sin, Satan, and death).

This anticipates themes Paul will develop: boasting only in the Lord (1 Cor. 1:31), the folly of worldly wisdom compared to God’s revelation (1 Cor. 2), and the call for believers to embody the cross in their life together (1 Cor. 11–13).

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- In what ways does our culture view the cross as “foolishness” or “weakness”?
- Where in your own life are you tempted to rely on human wisdom or strength instead of God’s?

- How can you demonstrate the “power” and “wisdom” of Christ in your daily choices?
- How might boasting only in the cross transform the way you share your faith?

**REFLECTION: PSALM 118:22–23**

*“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.”*

Just as the psalmist declares that what was rejected has become central, Paul proclaims that the crucified Christ—despised by many—has become the cornerstone of God’s salvation.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, thank You that the cross, once seen as shame, is now our glory and our hope. Help us not to be swayed by the world’s definitions of strength and wisdom, but to trust in You alone. May we live as people shaped by the cross, proclaiming Your power and wisdom to the world. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

*“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.”*

### DEVOTIONAL

From the very beginning of his letter, Paul addresses the problem of division in the Corinthian church. Rivalries had sprung up — some claimed allegiance to Paul, others to Apollos, others to Peter, and still others to Christ. The result was a fractured community.

Paul’s appeal is not for uniformity of opinion, but for unity in Christ. The cross, not human leaders, is the centre of faith. When we allow personal preferences or personalities to become the focus, division follows. But when Christ is the foundation, unity is possible.

This unity is not superficial — it is rooted in the Spirit who binds us together. Being “perfectly united in mind and thought” means living with a shared commitment to the Gospel above all else.

The same call comes to us today. In a world marked by division, the church is to be a living sign of reconciliation and oneness in Christ.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might you need to shift your focus from personalities or preferences back to the centrality of Christ?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, forgive me when I allow division to grow. Help me keep my eyes fixed on Jesus. Unite us as Your people around the cross of Christ. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26–31**

*Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul reminds the Corinthian believers of their humble beginnings. The church was not built by the world's elite or the socially powerful, but by those the world considered insignificant.

God works this way intentionally — choosing the weak and the overlooked — so that the glory belongs to Him alone. Our salvation is entirely His work, from start to finish.

In Christ, we receive what we could never earn: wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and redemption. Each is a gift that transforms our identity and shapes our future.

This truth guards us against pride. Our only boast is in the Lord, the One who called us, saved us, and is making us new.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can you boast in the Lord this week rather than in your own strength or achievements?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for choosing me in Your grace. Keep me from pride and self-reliance. Help me to boast only in You. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## Devotional Day 3

### SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

#### SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19–23

*Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.*

*To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.*

*To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

#### DEVOTIONAL

Paul's passion for the Gospel is seen in his willingness to adapt for the sake of others. He does not compromise the truth but adjusts his approach so that more might hear and believe.

This is a call to intentional, sacrificial mission. It means stepping into another's world, learning their language, entering their story, and meeting them where they are.

Such flexibility requires humility. It means letting go of personal preferences for the sake of someone else's eternal good.

The motivation is not personal gain but the joy of sharing in the

blessings of the Gospel — seeing lives changed, hope restored, and Christ glorified.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might God be calling you to step out of your comfort zone for the sake of the Gospel?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, give me a heart that loves people enough to adapt. Help me to meet others where they are. Let my life reflect Your mission. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–14**

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body — whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

The church is not an organisation or a club; it is a living body with Christ as the head. Each believer is a vital part, connected by the Spirit into a single, unified whole.

Unity does not mean uniformity. The body is made up of

different parts, each with a unique function. Diversity is not a threat to unity — it is essential for health.

This truth challenges both pride and insecurity. No part is unnecessary, and no part can claim superiority. Every gift, every role, every believer matters. When we recognise this, we begin to see one another through the eyes of grace and work together for the glory of Christ and the good of His people.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can you affirm and value the gifts of others in your church this week?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for making me part of Your body. Help me to value and encourage others. Teach me to work in unity for Your glory. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:54–58**

*When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*

*“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory*

*through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul ends his great resurrection chapter with a triumphant vision: death defeated, sin overcome, and immortality given through Christ. This victory is not just for the future; it shapes how we live now. Because death has lost its sting, we can serve the Lord with confidence and perseverance.

Our labour in the Lord is never wasted. Even when we see little fruit, we can trust that God is working through us in ways that will last forever. In light of eternity, we are called to stand firm, unmoved by the trials of life, and to give ourselves fully to the work God has given us.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How does the promise of resurrection change the way you face challenges today?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for the victory we have in Jesus. Help me to stand firm in that hope. Let my labour in You bear eternal fruit. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**



# DECEMBER

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# LifeHub Material

## OPENER

Can you think of a time when something you saw as a weakness or limitation actually drew you closer to God or helped others see His power?

## SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

*“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”*

## DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Paul knew hardship, pain, and limitation. In this passage, he describes his mysterious “thorn in the flesh”—an ongoing struggle that he pleaded with God to remove. Instead of deliverance, Paul received a deeper revelation: God’s grace is enough. Weakness is not a disqualification from God’s work; it is the very place where His power is revealed.

In a world obsessed with self-reliance, achievement, and control, the message of this verse is profoundly countercultural. God does not always remove the difficulties we face, but He promises His sustaining grace in them. Our insufficiency becomes the stage on which His sufficiency shines.

This truth liberates us. We no longer need to pretend to be strong or hide our weaknesses. Instead, we can embrace them as opportunities for God’s power to rest upon us. The Christian life is not about personal glory but about pointing to Christ. When we are weak, He is strong; when we are humbled, He is exalted.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

In 2 Corinthians, Paul defends his ministry against critics who doubted his authority because of his hardships, sufferings, and lack of worldly eloquence. In Greco-Roman culture, strength and rhetorical brilliance were prized. By contrast, Paul emphasizes that true apostolic authority comes not through outward success but through weakness that reveals Christ's strength.

Theologically, this passage encapsulates Paul's understanding of grace. Grace is not merely forgiveness but God's ongoing empowering presence. Weakness, far from being a hindrance, is the condition in which grace flourishes. This is central to the gospel: Christ Himself was crucified in weakness but raised in power (2 Cor. 13:4). The cross is both the model and the means of God's power made perfect in human frailty.

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 73:25–26**

*“Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.”*

This psalm, written by Asaph, mirrors the lesson Paul learned. The psalmist admits human frailty—our flesh and heart inevitably fail—but finds strength in God alone. In seasons of suffering or weakness, we are reminded that God Himself is our portion, our sufficiency, and our strength. Just as Paul learned to boast in his weaknesses so that Christ's power might rest on him, the psalmist confesses that God alone is his unshakable refuge. Both voices remind us: our strength is not in ourselves,

but in the God who never fails.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What “thorn” or area of weakness in your life tempts you to feel disqualified or discouraged?
- How have you experienced God's grace sustaining you in hardship?
- In what ways could you learn to boast in your weakness—so that Christ's power, not your own, is displayed?
- How might embracing weakness actually make you a more faithful witness to the gospel?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Gracious Lord, thank You that Your grace is always enough. Teach me to lean not on my own strength but on Your power, made perfect in weakness. Help me to trust that even in my struggles, You are at work, bringing glory to Your name. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–5

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.*

### DEVOTIONAL

Paul begins this letter by lifting our eyes to the character of God — the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. He is not distant from our pain; He is present in it, drawing near to strengthen and sustain us.

God's comfort is never meant to be hoarded. He comforts us so that we can comfort others. Our trials become a training ground for ministry; our wounds can become the very places where His grace flows out to others.

This does not minimise our pain, nor does it romanticise suffering. It simply recognises that God wastes nothing — He can use even our deepest struggles to bless someone else. The same Christ who meets us in our suffering also fills us with an overflowing comfort that can change lives.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How might your experience of God's comfort equip you to comfort someone else today?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for meeting me in my pain. Help me to share Your comfort with others. Let my trials bear fruit in someone else's healing. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

# **Devotional Day 2**

## **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9**

*"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead."*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul speaks with startling honesty about his struggles. Far from portraying himself as unshakable, he admits that he was "under great pressure" and even "despaired of life itself." The apostle who preached bold faith also knew crushing weakness.

Yet even here, God was at work. Paul recognises that these trials taught him something invaluable: not to rely on himself but

on God who raises the dead. When every human resource was exhausted, resurrection hope sustained him.

This passage reminds us that faith does not mean avoiding hardship; it means finding God in the middle of it. Our troubles can strip us of self-reliance and lead us into deeper dependence on the One whose power brings life out of death. When we are overwhelmed, God's resurrection power meets us there. He is not only the God who comforts but also the God who delivers.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where in your life might God be calling you to move from self-reliance to resurrection-trust?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for being my strength when I am overwhelmed. Teach me to rely on You, not myself. Fill me with resurrection hope today. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 3**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6–9**

*For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;*

*perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul uses a striking image: we are like fragile clay jars holding a priceless treasure — the light of the Gospel. This imagery humbles us. The power is not ours; it belongs to God.

Our weakness is not a flaw in God's plan. It is part of the plan. When people see His power working through our fragility, He receives the glory.

Paul's list of hardships is sobering. Yet, for every blow, there is a divine "but" — crushed? No. Despairing? Never. Abandoned? Not once. Destroyed? Impossible. This is the resilience of those who belong to Christ: we endure because His power holds us.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

How can you embrace your weakness as a place where God's power can be displayed?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, I offer You my weaknesses. Let Your power shine through my fragility. Be glorified in my life today. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 4**

## **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

## **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17–20**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

## **DEVOTIONAL**

In Christ, we are not just improved — we are new creations. The old self, with its guilt and shame, is gone. The new has come, rooted in God's work of reconciliation. But this transformation is never private. God calls us to join Him in His reconciling work, carrying His message into the world. We are His ambassadors, representing His kingdom in every conversation and relationship.

This is a sacred trust. God makes His appeal through us — through our words, our love, our patience, and our example. Living as ambassadors means living with purpose. Every encounter becomes an opportunity to reflect His heart and invite others to be reconciled to Him.

## **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might God be calling you to act as His ambassador this week?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for making me a new creation. Help me to live as Your ambassador. Let my life point people to You. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 5**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7–10**

*Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” remains a mystery, but its purpose is clear: to keep him dependent on God’s grace. We often pray for God to remove difficulties, but sometimes He chooses instead to display His strength through them. His grace does not merely get us through; it transforms weakness into a platform for His power.

Paul’s response is radical — he boasts in his weaknesses. He sees them not as hindrances but as opportunities for Christ to

be magnified. This is the paradox of the Gospel: true strength is found not in self-reliance but in utter dependence on Him.

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What weakness in your life might God be using to display His power?

**PRAYER**

Lord, thank You that Your grace is enough for me. Help me to see my weakness through Your eyes. Let Your power rest on me today. Amen.

**CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**





## LifeHub Material

### OPENER

Can you think of a time when someone you thought of in one way suddenly became much more than that to you? Maybe a co-worker who became a friend, or a neighbour who became like family?

### SCRIPTURE READING: PHILEMON 16

*No longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.*

### DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Paul's short letter to Philemon is one of the most personal in the New Testament. It centres around Onesimus, a runaway slave who had come to faith in Christ through Paul's ministry. Paul now sends him back to Philemon with this radical appeal: welcome him not as a slave, but as a brother.

This verse is revolutionary in its implications. In the Roman world, slavery was a deeply entrenched institution, defining status and identity. Yet the gospel cuts across these boundaries. In Christ, social hierarchies lose their power. Slave and master become brothers in the Lord.

Paul doesn't overturn slavery by political decree, but he plants the gospel seed that makes it unthinkable to treat someone as property when they are your brother or sister in Christ. The grace of Jesus redefines relationships, dignity, and belonging.

This truth challenges us today as well. Wherever we are tempted

to see people in categories—by race, class, status, background—the gospel calls us to see them as brothers and sisters, loved by God, equal at the foot of the cross.

## **HISTORICAL & THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

Philemon lived in Colossae and hosted a church in his home. Onesimus, his slave, had apparently run away and found Paul (likely in Rome). Under Roman law, Philemon had the right to punish Onesimus severely, even to the point of death. But Paul's letter redefines the situation: Onesimus is no longer to be seen through the world's categories but through Christ's lens.

Theologically, this verse reflects the reality of the new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). In Christ, old identities are not erased but transformed. Brotherhood in Christ supersedes cultural, social, and even economic status. This passage anticipates the fuller vision of Galatians 3:28—“there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

## **REFLECTION: PSALM 133:1**

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

The Psalm celebrates the beauty of God's people living as true family. What Paul envisions for Philemon and Onesimus is nothing less than this kind of Spirit-formed unity.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Why does Paul frame Onesimus not merely as free, but as a “dear brother”? What does this say about identity in Christ?
- Who in your life do you need to start seeing less by their

“role” or “status” and more as a brother or sister in Christ?

- How radical was Paul’s request in the cultural setting of the Roman Empire?
- In what ways can the church today embody this same transformation of relationships in a divided world?
- How does Philemon model reconciliation as a gospel-shaped practice?
- What barriers in your relationships might Christ be asking you to break down in order to embrace true unity?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Father, thank You for making us brothers and sisters in Christ. Teach us to see one another not through the world’s categories, but through the eyes of Jesus. Break down dividing walls, and may our relationships reflect the unity of Your kingdom. Amen.

# Devotional Day 1

## SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

### SCRIPTURE READING: PHILEMON 1-3

*Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—also to  
Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and  
to the church that meets in your home: Grace and peace  
to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### DEVOTIONAL

At first glance, Paul's opening words in Philemon might seem like a standard greeting, the sort of polite introduction common in letters of the time. But when we slow down and listen, we hear the heart of the gospel woven into every phrase. Paul identifies himself first, not as an apostle, but as "a prisoner of Christ Jesus." This is not just a statement of circumstance — it's a confession of allegiance. He is imprisoned by Rome, but he belongs to Christ. Paul's identity is not defined by chains or status, but by the One who has claimed his life.

This is a subtle but important reminder: our situation in life is never the truest thing about us. Whether we are free or bound, rich or poor, healthy or ill — what matters most is whose we are. For Paul, even his imprisonment became a stage upon which the glory of Christ could be displayed. It reframed his suffering as service, his limitation as opportunity.

He then writes "to Philemon, our dear friend and fellow worker," which reveals the deep relational bonds of the early church. Ministry was never a solo performance — it was always shared

work, undertaken in love and mutual respect. Paul also includes Apphia and Archippus, affirming the shared leadership and responsibility within the household church. This shows us that the gospel doesn't just gather individuals; it builds communities bound together in Christ.

The greeting ends with "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Grace — God's undeserved favour — and peace — the deep wholeness that comes from reconciliation with God — are not just nice sentiments. They are the very lifeblood of Christian existence. Paul is reminding his readers that all they are about to hear, all he is about to ask, will rest on these two unshakable realities.

In these opening lines, Paul is quietly setting the stage for what will follow — a bold request for reconciliation that will test the limits of love and forgiveness. But before he speaks of action, he roots everything in identity, relationship, and the grace of God. It's a lesson for us: before we face difficult conversations or step into hard obedience, we must be anchored in who we are in Christ and in the unchanging grace and peace that come from Him.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

What difference would it make in your outlook today if you viewed your current circumstances through the lens of "I belong to Christ"?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, remind me that my truest identity is found in You. Anchor me in Your grace and peace, whatever my situation. Let every

action I take today flow from belonging to You. Amen.

## **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## **Devotional Day 2**

### **SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: PHILEMON 4-7**

*I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Paul's prayer for Philemon is drenched in gratitude. He doesn't begin with correction or persuasion — he begins with thanksgiving. This is more than good manners; it is a recognition that the work of God in someone's life is a gift worth celebrating. Too often, we focus on what others lack or where they need to grow. Paul reminds us to first see the evidence of God's grace in them.

Paul has heard about Philemon's love for God's people and his faith in Christ — two qualities that cannot be separated. Love for others flows from faith in the Lord; faith in the Lord inevitably produces love for others. These are the twin signs of spiritual maturity. The church thrives when these two qualities flourish together, and Paul is careful to affirm that in Philemon.

His prayer is that Philemon’s “partnership” (koinonia) in the faith will be effective in deepening his understanding of “every good thing” they share in Christ. Partnership here is more than teamwork; it’s a shared life, a mutual investment in one another’s growth and mission. This kind of fellowship doesn’t just make ministry possible — it reveals Christ to the world.

Paul then speaks of the joy and encouragement he has received from Philemon’s love, noting that he has “refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.” The word “refreshed” here evokes rest and renewal, like cool water to the weary. Ministry, especially in difficult times, can be exhausting. People like Philemon are gifts to the body — their presence and kindness restore strength to others.

Before Paul asks anything of Philemon, he reminds him of the kind of man he already is by God’s grace. He affirms his faith, his love, and his track record of encouragement. This is a wise example for us in our relationships: encouragement builds trust, softens hearts, and prepares the way for hard but necessary conversations.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Whose faith and love could you affirm today, to refresh their heart in Christ?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, help me to see the work of Your grace in others. Give me words that affirm and encourage. Let my life refresh weary hearts in Your name. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## Devotional Day 3

### SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

#### SCRIPTURE READING: PHILEMON 8-11

*Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.*

#### DEVOTIONAL

Paul is about to make his request, but notice how he frames it. He has the authority to command, but he chooses the way of love. This is the Christ-shaped pattern of leadership — influence through relationship, not domination through power. True spiritual authority is exercised not in issuing orders, but in appealing to hearts.

The appeal is for Onesimus, a runaway slave who has become a Christian through Paul’s ministry. Paul calls him “my son,” showing that the bond between them is more than that of teacher and student — it’s the love of family. Conversion is never just a change in belief; it’s an adoption into God’s household, binding believers together as brothers and sisters.

Paul also acknowledges the past: Onesimus had been “useless” to Philemon, perhaps due to his flight or wrongdoing. But in Christ, his story has changed. He is now “useful” — a play on the meaning of his name — to both Paul and Philemon. The

gospel doesn't ignore the past, but it transforms it. What was once broken can be made whole; what was wasted can be redeemed.

By speaking of Onesimus in such personal and affectionate terms, Paul is already inviting Philemon to see him through new eyes — not as property or problem, but as a brother. This shift in perspective is essential if reconciliation is to happen. It begins not with action, but with a change in how we view the other person in light of Christ.

In this moment, Paul is embodying the ministry of reconciliation he describes in 2 Corinthians 5. He stands between two people separated by hurt, appealing for restoration on the basis of love. This is our calling too — to be bridge-builders, confident that the cross has already laid the foundation for peace.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where is God calling you to make an appeal on the basis of love, rather than standing on your rights?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, teach me to lead like Jesus — with gentleness and love. Give me courage to step into the work of reconciliation. Help me see others not as they were, but as they are in You. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## Devotional Day 4

### SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

#### SCRIPTURE READING: PHILEMON 12-16

*I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favour you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.*

#### DEVOTIONAL

Paul's words here drip with tenderness: "who is my very heart." This is not transactional; it is deeply personal. In sending Onesimus back, Paul is sending a part of himself. This is the cost of love — sometimes letting go of someone you value deeply for the sake of God's bigger plan.

Paul is also careful to respect Philemon's agency. He will not force compliance, even for a good cause. True gospel obedience must be voluntary; it cannot be coerced. Forced acts may achieve external conformity, but only willing acts reveal a heart transformed by grace.

Then Paul dares to suggest a divine purpose behind the painful separation: "Perhaps the reason he was separated from you...

was that you might have him back forever.” What a shift in perspective — from loss to gain, from temporary absence to eternal fellowship. In Christ, even disruptions and losses can be woven into a greater story of redemption.

The transformation is radical: Onesimus is no longer merely a slave, but a “dear brother” in the Lord. The gospel dismantles social hierarchies and redefines relationships. In the kingdom of God, worth and dignity come not from status but from being in Christ. This is not just theology; it’s meant to reshape daily life, relationships, and community.

Paul leaves Philemon with a choice — to receive Onesimus not with the cold formality of a master reclaiming property, but with the warmth of a brother embracing family. The gospel always invites us to move beyond duty into delight, beyond obligation into love.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Who in your life might God be calling you to receive not as they were, but as a beloved brother or sister in Christ?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, open my heart to see others as You see them. Transform my relationships with the power of the gospel. Help me choose love over mere obligation. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**

## Devotional Day 5

### SILENCE & STILLNESS BEFORE GOD (2 MINUTES)

#### SCRIPTURE READING: PHILEMON 17-25

*So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

#### DEVOTIONAL

Paul now brings his appeal to its peak: “welcome him as you would welcome me.” This is extraordinary. Paul is asking Philemon to treat a runaway slave with the same honour he would give an apostle. That is the levelling power of the gospel — it erases the social distinctions that divide and replaces them with the equality of the family of God.

Then Paul goes even further: “If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.” He offers to take Onesimus’s debt upon himself. This is a living picture of substitution — one person absorbing the cost so another can go free. It’s the very heart of the gospel, where Christ takes our

debt and pays it in full.

Paul writes this “with my own hand,” perhaps as a binding personal note, but also to emphasise the sincerity and weight of his promise. He gently reminds Philemon of his own spiritual debt: “you owe me your very self.” This is not manipulation, but a reminder of grace received — the same grace now to be extended to Onesimus.

The letter ends with confidence: Paul believes Philemon will not only obey but exceed his request. This trust reflects Paul’s conviction that the gospel produces generosity beyond what is asked. He even expresses hope to visit soon, anchoring the request in ongoing relationship.

Paul closes with the familiar benediction of grace — the same grace that has shaped every line of this letter. It began with grace and peace; it ends with grace resting upon the spirit. Reconciliation, restoration, and transformed relationships are all the fruit of grace at work.

### **QUESTION TO CONSIDER**

Where might God be calling you to absorb the cost of reconciliation so that another can go free?

### **PRAYER**

Lord, thank You for taking my debt upon Yourself. Help me to extend that same grace to others. Make my life a witness to the power of reconciliation in Christ. Amen.

### **CONCLUDE WITH SILENCE (2 MINUTES)**















