

Welcome to Summer Parables

Jesus was the greatest storyteller who ever lived.

Throughout His ministry, He often taught through parables—simple stories drawn from everyday life that revealed profound spiritual truths. Farmers, shepherds, seeds, fields, travelers, and neighbors became windows through which people could see the Kingdom of God.

The beauty of a parable is that it invites us to do more than simply learn information. It calls us to reflection, transformation, and obedience. As Jesus often concluded, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." The invitation was not merely to listen, but to **respond**.

This summer, we'll hear from five different communicators, and they will guide us through four of Jesus' most powerful parables:

The Wheat and the Tares reminds us to trust God with what only He can see and control.

The Lost Sheep reveals the relentless love of a Shepherd who pursues us even when we wander.

The Parable of the Sower challenges us to examine the condition of our hearts and cultivate lives that bear fruit.

The Good Samaritan calls us to move beyond good intentions and actively love the people God places in our path.

Together, these parables form a beautiful discipleship journey:

Trust the Farmer.

Follow the Shepherd.

Cultivate the Soil.

Love Your Neighbor.

As you work through this devotional, don't rush. Take time to read the Scriptures, reflect on the questions, pray honestly, and listen for the voice of Holy Spirit. Use the weekly RPMS Check-Ins to evaluate your growth relationally, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Invite God to shape every area of your life.

Our prayer is that this devotional would help you continue your Year of Ascent journey—growing deeper in your relationship with Jesus, stronger in biblical community, and more intentional as an Everyday Missionary.

May these stories move beyond the pages of Scripture and become realities in your life.

May your trust deepen, your faith mature, your heart become fertile soil, and your love for others reflect the love Christ has shown you.

Let's begin the journey.

Love.Serve.Go.

Pastor Ronnie & The Audacity Church Team

Until All Have Heard

Summer Parables: Week 1, Trust the Farmer

Monday, July 6: God Sees the Whole Field

Focus Scripture

Matthew 13:27 - The servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'

Reflection

One of the most difficult realities of following Jesus is learning to trust God when we do not understand what He is doing.

The servants in Jesus' parable saw weeds and immediately wanted action. They assumed the presence of weeds meant something had gone wrong. Yet the farmer was not alarmed. He understood something they did not: he could see the entire field.

We often approach life exactly like the servants. We see one difficult circumstance, one painful relationship, one unanswered prayer, or one setback and wonder where God is. Yet God sees what we cannot see. He sees the beginning, the middle, and the end. He sees what is growing beneath the surface.

The same God who sees your current struggle also sees His future harvest.

Application

What situation are you struggling to understand right now? Instead of demanding answers, choose today to trust God's perspective.

Challenge

Write down one situation you have been trying to figure out. Surrender it to God in prayer and intentionally thank Him for seeing what you cannot.

Closing Prayer

Father, help me trust Your wisdom when I cannot see what You are doing. Remind me that You see the whole field while I only see a small portion. Teach me to trust You. Lord, I trust that Your vision is greater than mine. Help me walk by faith and not by sight. Amen.

Tuesday, July 7: Trusting God's Timing

Focus Scripture

Matthew 13:30 - Let both grow together until the harvest.

Reflection

We live in a world of instant results. We want immediate answers, immediate healing, immediate growth, and immediate justice.

God often works differently.

The farmer refused to remove the weeds immediately because he knew premature action would damage the wheat. His patience was not weakness—it was wisdom.

God's timing can be frustrating because it rarely matches ours. Yet throughout Scripture we see that God's delays are often preparing something greater than we can imagine. Abraham waited. Joseph waited. David waited. Even Jesus waited for the Father's appointed time.

If God seems slow, it does not mean God is absent.

Application

Consider where you have been demanding God's timeline instead of trusting His process.

Challenge

Whenever you feel impatient today, pause and pray: "Lord, I trust Your timing."

Closing Prayer

Lord, forgive me for wanting answers on my schedule. Teach me to trust Your timing and Your process. Father, help me rest in the confidence that You are never late and never rushed. Amen.

Wednesday, July 8: What Looks Like a Weed Today

Focus Scripture

"The farmer saw the whole field." — Matthew 13 (paraphrased)

Reflection

Wendy's sermon reminds us of Saul, the man who persecuted Christians before becoming Paul the apostle.

If we had known Saul before his conversion, many of us would have written him off. Yet God saw something nobody else could see.

Where others saw a persecutor, God saw a preacher.

Where others saw an enemy, God saw a missionary.

Where others saw Saul, God saw Paul.

How often do we make assumptions about people based on their current season?

We forget that grace has the power to rewrite stories.

The person you are tempted to give up on may be the very person God is preparing for His purposes.

Application

Who have you stopped praying for because you think they will never change?

Challenge

Pray intentionally for one person who seems far from God.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help me see people through the lens of Your grace instead of my assumptions. Father, thank You for never giving up on me. Help me extend that same hope to others. Amen.

Thursday, July 9: The Gift of God's Patience

Focus Scripture

Romans 2:4 - God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.

Reflection

The patience we sometimes question is the same patience that saved us.

Think about your own story. Where would you be if God had given up on you after your worst mistake? What if He had stopped pursuing you during your darkest season?

Every believer is living proof of God's patience.

His patience is not permission to continue in sin. His patience is an invitation to come home.

When we remember how patient God has been with us, it becomes easier to extend grace to others.

Application

Reflect on a season when God patiently pursued you.

Challenge

Show patience toward someone today who tests your patience.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for Your patience. Thank You for not giving up on me. Lord, help me reflect the same grace that You have shown me. Amen.

Friday, July 10: The Harvest Belongs to God

Focus Scripture

Matthew 13:39 - The harvest is the end of the age.

Reflection

Many of us carry burdens God never intended for us to carry.

We try to fix people.

We try to control outcomes.

We try to manage circumstances.

We try to enforce justice.

The farmer never asked the servants to become judges of the field. He simply asked them to trust him.

Some responsibilities belong to us. Others belong to God.

Our responsibility is faithfulness.

God's responsibility is the harvest.

When we release control and trust Him, we experience freedom.

Application

Identify one burden you have been carrying that belongs to God.

Challenge

Write down a burden you need to surrender and physically place that paper in your Bible as a reminder that God is carrying it now.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help me release what I cannot control and trust You with what only You can do. Father, I trust You with the field, the timing, and the harvest. Amen.

Saturday, July 11: RPMS Weekly Check-In

Focus Scripture

Psalm 90:12 - Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Reflection

Whole-life discipleship requires intentional reflection. This week we have learned to trust the Farmer with the field, the timing, and the harvest. Today is an opportunity to pause and evaluate how we are stewarding the life God has entrusted to us.

Relational

How am I doing with God?

How am I doing with my spouse, family, and closest relationships?

Who encouraged me this week?

Who did I encourage?

Physical

Did I care for my body this week through rest, movement, and healthy choices?

How is my energy level?

Do I need more Sabbath, sleep, exercise, or margin?

Mental

What thoughts dominated my mind this week?

Did anxiety or trust shape my perspective?

What truth from God's Word do I need to meditate on?

Spiritual

What did the Holy Spirit teach me?

Where am I seeing spiritual growth?

What area still needs surrender?

Prayer

Father, thank You for walking with me this week. Continue to shape every area of my life. Teach me to trust You more deeply, surrender more fully, and follow You more faithfully. Help me become the person You created me to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Summer Parables: Week 2 Devotional Guide, The Lost Sheep

Monday, July 13: The Shepherd Knows Your Name

Focus Scripture

Luke 15:4 - What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost?

Reflection

Jesus tells this parable to reveal the heart of God.

The shepherd notices when even one sheep is missing. He does not simply accept the loss and move on. He does not say, "At least I still have ninety-nine." He goes searching.

This is the heart of our Heavenly Father. You are not a number. You are not a face in a crowd. You are known, loved, and pursued.

Throughout Scripture we see God calling people by name. He called Abraham. He called Moses. He called Mary. He called Saul. He calls us as well.

Before you ever sought Him, He was already pursuing you.

Application

Spend a few moments thanking God that He knows you personally and loves you deeply.

Challenge

Read Psalm 139 and underline every phrase that reminds you God knows you personally.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for knowing my name and loving me completely. Help me never lose sight of how valuable I am to You. Lord, thank You that I am never forgotten and never overlooked. Amen.

Tuesday, July 14: How Sheep Wander

Focus Scripture

Luke 19:10 - The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Reflection

Many people assume sheep intentionally run away. More often, they simply wander. One patch of grass leads to another. One distraction leads to another. One compromise leads to another. Eventually the sheep looks up and realizes it is far from the shepherd.

The same thing happens spiritually.

Rarely do people wake up one day and decide to abandon God completely.

More often, they drift. Prayer becomes inconsistent. Worship becomes optional.

Distractions multiply. Priorities shift.

The good news is that even when we wander, the Shepherd pursues.

Mike and Yaz shared how pain, brokenness, addiction, and trauma slowly pulled them away from God's design, yet God never stopped pursuing them.

Application

Ask yourself honestly: Am I moving closer to Jesus or drifting away from Him?

Challenge

Remove one distraction today that regularly competes with your time with God.

Closing Prayer

Father, reveal any areas where I have drifted from You. Draw me close again. Jesus, keep my heart near You. Amen.

Wednesday, July 15: Pursued by Grace

Focus Scripture

Ezekiel 34:16 - I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

Reflection

Before we ever cry out to God, He is already pursuing us.

That truth is woven throughout Mike and Yaz's stories. Even in addiction, pain, legal trouble, and brokenness, God was actively pursuing them. He never abandoned them. He never stopped reaching for them.

Grace is not simply God's response to repentance. Grace is often what leads us to repentance.

The Shepherd searches because He loves.

No matter how far you have wandered, no matter how many mistakes you have made, God's grace is still pursuing you today.

Application

Reflect on moments in your life when you can now see God's hand pursuing you.

Challenge

Write down three ways God has pursued you throughout your life.

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for chasing after me even when I was far from You. Father, thank You that Your grace is greater than my failures. Amen.

Thursday, July 16: Carried on His Shoulders

Focus Scripture

Luke 15:5 - And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

Reflection

One of the most beautiful details in this parable is what the shepherd does after finding the sheep.

He carries it.

The shepherd does not shame the sheep.

He does not lecture the sheep.

He does not make the sheep find its own way home.

He carries it.

Many believers live as though spiritual growth depends entirely on their own strength. Yet Scripture repeatedly reminds us that God sustains us.

Mike shared Isaiah 46:4: "I have made you and I will carry you." During recovery, grief, and loss, God carried him through seasons he could not survive alone.

The same Shepherd who saves you also sustains you.

Application

Where do you need God's strength today instead of your own?

Challenge

Whenever you feel overwhelmed today, pray: "Shepherd, carry me."

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank You for carrying me when I am weak. Help me depend upon You. Lord, thank You that I never have to walk alone. Amen.

Friday, July 17: From Lost Sheep to Undershepherds

Focus Scripture

Luke 15:6 - Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.

Reflection

The goal of the Christian life is not simply to be found. It is to join the Shepherd in seeking others.

Mike and Yaz's story is a beautiful picture of redemption. Once lost, they now serve as Community Pastors, helping others find healing, freedom, and biblical community.

God often uses rescued people to rescue people.

Your testimony is not just for you.

The comfort you have received equips you to comfort others. The grace you have experienced equips you to extend grace. The healing you have received equips you to help others heal.

The Shepherd invites us to join His mission.

Application

Who in your life needs encouragement, hope, or spiritual direction?

Challenge

Reach out to one person today who may need encouragement or prayer.

Closing Prayer

Father, help me become someone who reflects Your heart for lost people. Lord, use my story for Your glory and for the good of others. Amen.

Saturday, July 18: RPMS Weekly Check-In

Focus Scripture

Psalm 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Reflection

This week we have reflected on the relentless pursuit of the Good Shepherd. He knows us, seeks us, rescues us, carries us, and calls us to help others. Today we pause to evaluate our growth as whole-life disciples.

Relational

Am I connected to biblical community?

Have I encouraged someone this week?

Who has helped strengthen my faith?

Are there any relationships that need reconciliation?

Physical

Did I steward my body well this week?

How is my energy level?

What habits helped me thrive?

What habits hindered me?

Mental

What occupied most of my thoughts this week?

Have I been living in fear or faith?

Where have I seen God's peace at work?

Spiritual

How did I experience God's presence this week?

What has God been teaching me?

Did I spend consistent time in prayer and Scripture?

Who is God calling me to pursue with His love?

Weekly Prayer

Good Shepherd, thank You for pursuing me when I was lost and carrying me when I was weak. Continue to shape me into a disciple who follows You closely and helps others find their way home. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Summer Parables: Week 3 Devotional Guide, What Kind of Soil Are You?

Monday, July 20: The Power of the Seed

Focus Scripture

Luke 8:11 - The seed is the word of God.

Reflection

Jesus begins the Parable of the Sower with a simple truth: the seed is good.

The seed represents God's Word. It carries life within it. Throughout history God's Word has transformed hearts, restored families, freed captives, and changed entire nations. The power is not found in the person sharing the message. The power is found in the message itself.

When God speaks, things happen.

He spoke creation into existence.

He spoke and storms obeyed.

He spoke and the dead were raised.

He speaks today through His Word.

Sometimes we become discouraged when we don't immediately see results. We may wonder if the gospel is working. Jesus reminds us that the problem is never the seed.

God's Word is always powerful.

God's Word is always true.

God's Word is always accomplishing His purposes.

Application

How consistently are you allowing God's Word to be planted in your heart?

Challenge

Spend ten extra minutes reading Scripture today and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight one truth for you.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the power of Your Word. Open my heart to receive what You want to say to me today. Lord, plant Your truth deeply in my heart and allow it to grow. Amen.

Tuesday, July 21: Breaking Up Hard Ground

Focus Scripture

Matthew 13:19 - The one who hears the word and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.

Reflection

The first soil Jesus describes is hard ground.

The seed lands on the path but never penetrates the surface. Birds quickly carry it away.

Jesus explains that this represents hearts that hear God's Word but never truly receive it. Sometimes hardness develops through disappointment. Sometimes through pride. Sometimes through repeated resistance to God's voice.

The danger is not simply hearing truth.

The danger is hearing truth without responding.

A person can attend church, listen to sermons, know Bible stories, and still remain unchanged if God's Word never reaches the heart.

The good news is that God specializes in breaking up hard ground. Through His grace, He softens hearts that have become resistant and prepares them to receive His truth.

Application

Is there an area of your life where you have been resisting God's voice?

Prayer

Challenge

Ask God to reveal one area where you need greater surrender and obedience.

Closing Prayer

Father, soften my heart. Remove anything that prevents Your Word from taking root in me. Lord, make my heart fertile ground for Your truth. Amen.

Wednesday, July 22: Developing Deep Roots

Focus Scripture

Matthew 13:21 - Yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while.

Reflection

The rocky soil initially looks promising.

The seed springs up quickly, but because the roots remain shallow, the plant cannot survive when difficulties come. Jesus says this represents people who receive God's Word with enthusiasm but fall away when trials arise.

Faith that survives difficult seasons requires deep roots.

Roots develop through:

- Prayer
- Scripture
- Worship
- Obedience
- Community
- Consistent faithfulness

No tree develops strong roots overnight.

Likewise, spiritual maturity develops through daily dependence upon Christ.

When storms arrive—and they will—the depth of our roots becomes visible.

Application

What spiritual habits are helping your roots grow deeper?

Challenge

Choose one spiritual discipline to strengthen this week and commit to practicing it daily.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, help me build a faith that remains strong during every season. Father, deepen my roots so I can stand firm in every storm. Amen.

Thursday, July 23: Removing the Thorns

Focus Scripture

Matthew 13:22 - The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word."

Reflection

The thorny soil is perhaps the most challenging soil for many believers.

The seed grows.

The plant develops.

Life is present.

Yet competing priorities slowly choke out fruitfulness. Jesus identifies these thorns as worry, distraction, worldly desires, and misplaced priorities.

Most Christians do not abandon God because of persecution.

Many simply become distracted. Schedules become crowded.

Phones consume attention. Responsibilities multiply.

Entertainment dominates free time.

None of these things are necessarily sinful, but they can quietly crowd out intimacy with God.

The question is not whether God is present.

The question is whether God is first.

Application

What "thorn" is competing for your attention and affection?

Challenge

Identify one distraction you can remove or reduce this week to create more margin for God.

Closing Prayer

Father, reveal anything that is choking spiritual growth in my life. Help me place You first. Lord, help me clear away the thorns so Your Word can flourish in my life. Amen.

Friday, July 24: Bearing Fruit for God's Glory

Focus Scripture

Matthew 13:23 - As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit.

Reflection

The goal of the Christian life is not simply knowledge.

The goal is fruit.

Good soil receives God's Word, protects it, nourishes it, and allows it to transform the heart. The result is a harvest. Some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, some one hundredfold.

Fruit looks like:

Love	Joy	Peace
Patience	Kindness	Goodness
Faithfulness	Gentleness	Self-control

Fruit also includes serving others, sharing the gospel, generosity, holiness, and obedience.

Fruit is not perfection.

Fruit is evidence that Jesus is changing us.

God is not looking for flawless people. He is looking for surrendered hearts.

Application

What fruit has God been growing in your life recently?

Challenge

Ask a trusted friend or family member what spiritual fruit they have noticed growing in your life.

Closing Prayer

Father, continue producing fruit in my life that reflects the character of Christ. Lord, may my life bring glory to You through the fruit it produces. Amen.

Saturday, July 25: RPMS Weekly Check-In

Focus Scripture

Psalm 92:13 - Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Reflection

This week we have examined the condition of our hearts. Jesus reminds us that the seed is always good, but the condition of the soil determines the harvest. Today is an opportunity to evaluate what kind of soil we are becoming.

Relational

Have my relationships helped cultivate spiritual growth this week?

Who encouraged me spiritually?

Have I intentionally invested in someone else?

Am I planted in biblical community?

Physical

Did I steward my physical health well this week?

Am I creating healthy rhythms of rest and renewal?

What physical habits helped or hindered me?

Mental

What thoughts occupied my attention this week?

Did I focus on God's truth or worldly distractions?

What worries do I need to surrender?

Spiritual

What has God been teaching me through His Word?

Have I allowed His truth to take root deeply?

Are there any rocks or thorns the Holy Spirit is revealing?

What fruit is becoming visible in my life?

Weekly Prayer

Father, thank You for faithfully sowing Your Word into my life. Continue preparing my heart to receive Your truth. Break up hard ground, remove rocks, clear away thorns, and produce a harvest that glorifies You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Summer Parables: Week 4 Devotional Guide, Like a Good Neighbor

Monday, July 27: Who Is My Neighbor?

Focus Scripture

Luke 10:29 - And who is my neighbor?

Reflection

The lawyer's question seemed simple enough.

"Who is my neighbor?"

But Jesus answered with a story that shattered assumptions.

The religious leaders listening to Jesus had categories for who deserved their love and who did not. They loved people who looked like them, believed like them, and lived like them. Yet Jesus chose a Samaritan—the very person many of His listeners would have considered an outsider—to become the hero of the story.

The point was clear: our neighbor is not simply the person we naturally like. Our neighbor is the person God places in our path.

We often want to love people who are easy to love. Jesus calls us to something greater. He calls us to love people who are inconvenient, difficult, overlooked, or hurting.

The question is not, "Who qualifies as my neighbor?"

The better question is, "To whom can I be a neighbor today?"

Application

Who has God placed in your path that you may be overlooking?

Challenge

Write down three people you regularly encounter but rarely notice. Pray for them today.

Closing Prayer

Father, open my eyes to the people around me who need Your love. Help me see them the way You do. Lord, help me become the kind of person who sees people the way You see them. Amen.

Tuesday, July 28: Compassion That Stops

Focus Scripture

Luke 10:33 - But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

Reflection

The priest saw the wounded man.

The Levite saw the wounded man.

The Samaritan saw the wounded man.

The difference was not sight.

The difference was compassion.

The priest and Levite kept moving. The Samaritan stopped.

Compassion always interrupts convenience.

One reason we struggle to love our neighbors is because we are busy. We rush from one responsibility to another. We have schedules, commitments, and deadlines. Yet Jesus continually stopped for people.

He stopped for blind beggars.

He stopped for children.

He stopped for lepers.

He stopped for sinners.

Love is often revealed not in grand gestures but in our willingness to slow down enough to notice people.

Application

Where might God be inviting you to slow down and notice someone this week?

Challenge

Take an extra few minutes today to intentionally engage with someone you would normally rush past.

Closing Prayer

Christ Jesus, give me eyes to see and a heart that is moved with compassion. Lord, help me never become too busy to love people well. Amen.

Wednesday, July 29: Time, Talent, and Treasure

Focus Scripture

Luke 10:34 - He went to him and bound up his wounds.

Reflection

The Samaritan's compassion moved beyond feelings.

He gave his time.

He used his abilities.

He spent his resources.

Love always costs something.

The Samaritan interrupted his journey. He cared for the man's wounds. He placed him on his own animal. He paid for lodging and promised additional support if needed. This was not convenient love. This was sacrificial love.

Many people feel compassion.

Fewer people act on it.

The Kingdom of God advances when followers of Jesus move beyond concern and into action.

God has entrusted each of us with time, talent, and treasure—not simply for ourselves, but to bless others.

Application

Which of these is easiest for you to give: time, talent, or treasure? Which is hardest?

Challenge

Serve someone this week in a practical way that requires sacrifice.

Closing Prayer

Father, help me use everything You have entrusted to me for Your glory and the good of others. Lord, teach me to love with action, not merely intention. Amen.

Thursday, July 30: Loving the Difficult People

Focus Scripture

Matthew 5:44 - Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Reflection

The most shocking part of Jesus' story is not that someone stopped to help.

It is who stopped to help.

Samaritans and Jews had generations of hostility between them. Many listening to Jesus would have expected the Samaritan to ignore the injured man.

Instead, he became the example.

Jesus consistently calls His followers beyond ordinary love. Anyone can love people who love them back. The gospel calls us to love people who are difficult, frustrating, and even undeserving.

This kind of love is impossible in our own strength.

It flows from hearts transformed by grace.

After all, every one of us has received mercy we did not deserve.

Application

Who is the most difficult person for you to love right now?

Challenge

Pray specifically for someone who has hurt, disappointed, or frustrated you.

Closing Prayer

Father, help me extend the same grace to others that You have extended to me.

Lord, soften my heart and teach me to love as You love. Amen.

Friday, July 31: Becoming a Good Neighbor

Focus Scripture

Luke 10:37 - Go, and do likewise.

Reflection

Jesus concludes the parable with a challenge.

Not "Go and learn."

Not "Go and think about it."

Not "Go and agree with it."

"Go and do likewise."

The Christian life was never intended to be merely informational. It is transformational.

The Samaritan did not become a hero because he knew the right answer. He became an example because he acted on what he knew.

Likewise, our faith becomes visible when we love our neighbors, serve our communities, and care for those who are hurting.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be known not only for what we believe but for how we love.

This is what it means to live as Everyday Missionaries.

Every day.

Every place.

Every relationship.

Application

How can you intentionally become a better neighbor this coming week?

Challenge

Perform one intentional act of kindness this weekend without expecting anything in return.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help me live out my faith through practical acts of love and service. Father, let my life reflect the love of Jesus everywhere I go. Amen.

Saturday, August 1: RPMS Weekly Check-In

Focus Scripture

1 John 3:18 - Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Reflection

This week we have reflected on what it means to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. The Good Samaritan reminds us that discipleship is not merely about what we know—it is about how we live.

As we conclude both this week and our Summer Parables devotional journey, take time to evaluate how your faith is being expressed through love.

Relational

Who did I intentionally love and serve this week?

Did I strengthen any relationships?

Is there someone I need to forgive or reconcile with?

Who needs encouragement from me this coming week?

Physical

Did I create healthy rhythms that allowed me to serve others well?

Am I caring for my body as a steward of God's gift?

Where do I need more rest or renewal?

Mental

What thoughts dominated my attention this week?

Did I focus on opportunities to love others or primarily on myself?

Where did I see God's perspective changing my thinking?

Spiritual

How have I grown through this Summer Parables series?

What has God been teaching me about trust, grace, surrender, and love?

Where is the Holy Spirit calling me to greater obedience?

How can I better live as an Everyday Missionary?

Weekly Prayer

Father, thank You for teaching me through these parables. Thank You for showing me that You are the Farmer I can trust, the Shepherd who pursues me, the Gardener who cultivates my heart, and the Savior who calls me to love my neighbor.

Continue shaping me into a faithful disciple who reflects the character of Jesus in every area of life. May my life bear fruit that honors You, serves others, and advances Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.