



DEVOTIONAL

*AN EIGHT-WEEK JOURNEY REVEALING
HIDDEN HEROES GOD USES EVERY DAY*

VISION
C H U R C H

THE
JOURNEY
RESOURCE

BEFORE WE BEGIN THIS 8 - WEEK JOURNEY

A NOTE FROM THE TEAM AT VISION CHURCH

This devotional is an invitation to slow down, to read differently, to see people. Some of the names in these pages will be familiar; others you may have heard only a couple of times, but every one of them mattered. These aren't distant names on a page. They were people who woke up with thoughts, fears, and questions. People who had to make decisions without knowing how things would turn out. People who felt.

We say their names so easily now, but these were not perfect people. They were present. They were willing. They moved, sometimes afraid, sometimes unsure, but they moved with God.

And now... here we are. Reading their stories with more clarity than they had, more evidence than they had, more understanding than they had.

And still, sometimes slower to trust. Slower to move. Slower to say yes. This devotional isn't here to overwhelm you. It's here to ask gently:

What would it look like to live like this... today?
What will this journey look like? Each week, we'll focus on one part of the journey:

Week 1: *Identity. Becoming who God says you are, not who fear says you are.*

Week 2: *Encouragement. Learning to see the potential in others and becoming someone who builds people.*

Week 3: *Courage. Taking the step, even when it feels uncomfortable.*

Week 4: *Compassion: Choosing to notice, care, and to respond when others walk by.*

Week 5: *Influence. Living in such a way that your life quietly points others toward God.*

Week 6: *Obedience. Learning to say yes, even without full understanding.*

Week 7: *Trust. Staying, even when it's slow, unclear, or hard.*

Week 8: *Faithfulness. Remaining steady in the ordinary, trusting that God is at work even when no one else sees it.*

You don't need to have it all figured out before you begin. You don't need perfect faith. You don't need the right words. Just a willingness to pause, to reflect, and maybe, just maybe, to take one small step forward. Take this one day at a time. Let it meet you where you are. Let it challenge you gently. Let it stay with you a little longer than expected. Because these stories? They're not just meant to be read. They're meant to be lived.

Before you turn the page...pause: What are you hoping will change in you over the next 8 weeks?

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Day 1 – The Story That Didn't Define You (Your past doesn't disqualify you)

Scripture: Joshua 2:11

Some memories have a way of following you. Quietly, like familiar steps behind you. Things you wish had gone differently; things you wish nobody knew. Decisions, regrets, versions of yourself you quietly hope stay buried. And even while moving forward... A small voice tries to remind you: This is who you are. Rahab knew that feeling. Her life didn't fit the kind of story people expected God to use. Wrong background and reputation, at least according to everyone else. Until one day, she heard about God. She heard enough to believe there might be something bigger outside the walls she had always known, and she made a decision. She moved toward God while still carrying the labels, and God did something beautiful.

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

He didn't simply rescue her from a city; He rewrote her place in the story.

Maybe that's where we are today, too. Standing between who we are and who we are becoming, but maybe grace has always worked differently. Maybe God has never been waiting for the perfect timing, the perfect history, or the perfect people; maybe he has always been taking ordinary people with messy stories and writing something beautiful in the middle of them.

Pause Moment

What if my past isn't proof that I'm disqualified, but the place where God begins?

Practice

Take one step forward without needing your story to be "perfect."

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Reflection Questions

1. What part of my past still feels like it defines me?
2. What would change if I believed God could use me as I am?

If I moved like Rahab today, I would (circle one):

- stop waiting to feel “worthy.”
- choose faith over my past

Prayer

Father, You see my whole story, and You still call me.
Help me stop holding onto what You're ready to
redeem. Amen.

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Day 2 – The Moment You Realized You're Fully Seen. (Seen and Chosen)

Scripture: John 4:29

Most of us become editors of ourselves. We soften certain stories, skip certain details, and laugh before things get too serious. We know that being fully known can feel like standing in bright light after sitting in the dark, and it can make us wonder... If they knew everything, would they still stay? The Samaritan woman lived with that question. She knew what people said, she knew the looks, she knew what people decided about her before she ever spoke. And then she met Jesus. On an ordinary day, at an ordinary well... He saw her, not the edited version; He saw everything. And instead of stepping back, He stayed. Maybe that's where we are today, too.

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Expecting to be fully seen yet end in loss. But her story shows us that Jesus didn't push away; He drew closer.

Pause Moment

What if being fully seen doesn't lead to rejection?

Practice

Be honest with God about something you've been hiding

Reflection Questions

1. What part of me do I try to hide the most?
2. What would it look like to believe God already sees it and stays?

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

If I moved like The Samaritan Woman today, I would (circle one):

- stop hiding parts of my story
- trust that being seen doesn't mean being rejected

Prayer

Jesus, You already see me fully. Help me stop hiding and trust that Your presence doesn't leave when truth is revealed. Amen.

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Day 3 – The Life I Never Thought I'd Live. (Transformation)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sometimes the hardest thing to believe is that God can change a life; it's that he can change yours. You remember too much... Habits, reactions, failed promises. The version of you that felt normal for so long, and then one day, you start noticing something strange. You paused before responding; you chose peace where anger used to arrive first. Maybe you started praying without forcing it, and the quiet thought appears: Wait... is that really me? Paul knew that feeling. Before anyone called him Paul, he was Saul. And his story wasn't small; he fought against the very people he would later stand beside. When Jesus met him, he didn't simply improve him; He transformed him completely.

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Paul reminds us that we don't have to spend the rest of our lives trying to fight the old us. Just like Paul, we can learn to walk into someone new, slowly and one step at a time. Transformation can feel unfamiliar, but unfamiliar is not fake. Maybe it's just proof that God's grace is working.

Pause Moment

Am I holding onto who I was more than who I'm becoming?

Practice

Take one step that reflects who you're becoming, not who you were

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Reflection Questions

1. Where do I still see myself as who I used to be?
2. What would it look like to walk in who God is shaping me into?

If I moved like Paul today, I would (circle one):

- let go of the version of me that no longer fits
- embrace growth, even if it feels new

Prayer

Father, You are making me new, even when I don't yet fully see it. Help me walk in who You're calling me to be, not who I used to be. Amen.

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Day 4 – The Thing You Can't Ignore Anymore. (Acting on what God placed in your heart)

Scripture: Nehemiah: 2:17

Some things keep finding their way back to you. A thought while washing dishes, a conversation that lingers longer than it should, a dream you keep setting down, and you tell yourself: maybe later. Nehemiah knew that feeling. He heard that Jerusalem's walls had fallen, and to everyone else it may have sounded like news, but to him it felt personal. Because what broke his heart wasn't simply broken walls, it was people. Home, loss, hope, and eventually, he understood this wasn't just sadness; it was a calling. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Maybe the idea, the burden, the conversation, the dream isn't interrupting you; maybe it's your calling. Not because you are qualified, but because God placed something in your heart before he places it in your hands.

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Pause Moment

What have I been feeling that I keep trying to ignore?

Practice

Write down one thing that has been on your heart consistently

Reflection Questions

1. What has been stirring in me that I haven't acted on?
2. What would it look like to trust that this feeling has purpose?

If I moved like Nehemiah today, I would (circle one):

- stop ignoring what keeps coming back
- begin, even if I don't see the full picture

Prayer

Father, help me pay attention to what You're placing on my heart. Give me the courage to act, even in small ways. Amen

**DON'T IGNORE THE CALL
NEHEMIAH 2:17**

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Day 5 – The Wisdom That Changes Everything. (Responding instead of reacting)

Scripture: 1 Samuel 25:32-33

Some moments arrive without warning. A text, a comment, a look across the room, and immediately something inside you rises. Maybe it's your side of the story, your defense. The words are already lining up before the other person finishes speaking. Reacting feels fast and even justified. Abigail stepped into a moment like that. The tension wasn't small, anger was already moving, decisions were already made, and someone else's foolishness was about to spill over onto everyone else. She could have stayed quiet, but she didn't; she moved. She wasn't trying to prove she was right; she saw where things were heading before anyone else did, and she stepped into the middle of chaos with peace in her hands. Maybe that's where we are today, too.

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

Maybe asking: how fast can I respond instead of where is this leading? Because not every moment needs more heat, sometimes God is calling you to use the wisdom he has given you and be willing to cool the room. Maybe he's calling you to pause long enough to see beyond the moment.

Pause Moment

What if my response right now can shift everything?

Practice

Choose a response that brings clarity, not more chaos

Reflection Questions

1. Where am I reacting instead of responding?
2. What would wisdom look like in my next decision?

WEEK 1: IDENTITY

If I moved like Abigail today, I would (circle one):

- pause instead of reacting immediately
- choose peace without losing truth

Prayer

Father, give me wisdom in my responses. Help me slow down, see clearly, and choose what brings peace instead of confusion. Amen.

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON... STAY HERE FOR A MOMENT

You've read. You've paused. Maybe even felt something shift. But reading alone doesn't change us. It just... inspires us. And inspiration, without action, fades faster than we think. This week wasn't about information. It was about invitation. To trust. To listen. To move. To stay.

So, before you turn the page...
Don't rush. Sit with it.



What stayed with me this week:

What I know I need to act on:

One step I will take:

If you're wondering where to begin

You don't have to have everything figured out.

You don't have to clean yourself up first.

You just have to come.

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON... STAY HERE FOR A MOMENT

1. Acknowledge: None of us are perfect. We've all fallen short in different ways.
2. Believe: Jesus came, lived, died, and rose again, not just as a story, but as a way back to God.
3. Respond: You can choose Him.

Not perfectly. Not fully understanding everything.
Just... willingly.

You don't need a perfect life to begin... just an open heart.

Prayer

Jesus, I don't have it all together. But I want to know You. I believe You came for me. Help me follow You, one step at a time. Amen.

Tell someone. Don't walk this alone. Don't just turn the page. Turn towards him.

HOW TO BE SAVED

1. ADMIT YOU NEED HIM

Every one of us has sinned and fallen short of God's standard. We can't fix ourselves. Salvation begins when we honestly admit our need for forgiveness and turn to God for grace.

Romans 3:23

1 John 1:9

2. BELIEVE IN JESUS

Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for your sins and rose again. Trust that His sacrifice is enough to forgive you and give you a brand new life.

John 3:16

Romans 10:9

3. CHOOSE TO FOLLOW HIM

Choose to follow Jesus as Lord. Surrender your life to Him and begin walking daily in obedience and relationship with Him.

Let us know—your journey starts now. Scan the QR code to let us know your decision to follow Jesus!



WEEK 2 : ENCOURAGEMENT

Day 1 – The Person Who Saw More in You.

Scripture: Acts 4:36-37 Acts 9:26-27

Think about the people who have changed your life. Somewhere along the way, they saw something in you that you couldn't yet see in yourself. Barnabas became that kind of person. His name wasn't always Barnabas. He was born Joseph, but the apostles began calling him Barnabas, which means son of encouragement. Imagine living in such a way that people around you begin to know you by the hope you leave behind everywhere you go. Barnabas was able to step in, listen, and believe. He looked beyond people past and saw what God was beginning to do. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Learning to notice people's potential before their failures. Learning to understand that God is still writing their story.

WEEK 2: ENCOURAGEMENT

Or maybe you are on the other side of that. Wondering if anyone sees more in you than your mistakes, your fears, or your unfinished story. Barnabas reminds us that encouragement is choosing to believe that God is still at work in others and in ourselves. Sometimes, one person believing in us changes everything. Sometimes God invites us to become that person for someone else.

Pause Moment

Who first saw something in me that I couldn't yet see in myself?

Practice

Encourage one person today by telling them something you genuinely see in them.

WEEK 2: ENCOURAGEMENT

Reflection Questions

1. Who has been a Barnabas in my life?
2. Am I known more for pointing out faults or for calling out potential?

If I moved like Barnabas today, I would (circle one):

- Speak life over someone.
- choose to see who God is shaping them to become instead of only who they have been.

Prayer

Father, thank you for the people You have placed in my life who believed in me when I struggled to believe in myself. Help me become that kind of person to others. Amen.

WEEK 2: ENCOURAGEMENT

Day 2 – The Name You Earn

Scripture: Acts 4: 36-37 Proverbs 11: 25

Most of us don't wake up one morning and decide who we'll become. It happens much more quietly than that; it happens during a hard conversation, a disagreement at work, it happens through how we decide to answer our kid after a long day. Little by little, we build a reputation without even realizing it. Some people become known for their patience, their generosity, and their wisdom. Others for bringing tension or pain, all of this through thousands of small, everyday moments. Barnabas understood that.

Maybe that's his reminder to us. The invitation to let encouragement be what continuously overflows from our hearts, because every conversation leaves something behind, every interaction plants something.

WEEK 2 : ENCOURAGEMENT

Pause Moment

What do people consistently receive when they spend time with me?

Practice

Intentionally leave one person more encouraged than you found them.

Reflection Questions

1. What space do I create for others?
2. What kind of name am I building through my everyday actions?

WEEK 2: ENCOURAGEMENT

If I move intentionally, creating my reputation, I would (circle one):

- Choose patience over argument.
- Leave someone feeling more hopeful.

Prayer

Father, thank you for the people You have placed in my life. Shape my heart so that encouragement becomes my everyday life.

WEEK 2 : ENCOURAGEMENT

Day 3 – The People God Isn't Finished With

Scripture: Acts 9:26-28 Acts 15:36-39

Sometimes we quietly stop believing in people. Maybe it happens after we've been hurt or after someone disappoints us one too many times. Without saying it out loud, we begin writing the ending of someone else's story. We start telling ourselves, "They'll never change." "This is just who they are". Barnabas refused to live that way. When Saul came to Jerusalem after meeting Jesus, the believers were afraid to let him in. They remembered the man who had persecuted Christian. They remembered who Saul had been. Barnabas remembered what God could do. Barnabas wasn't ignoring the past; he simply believed God's grace was greater than Saul's past. Maybe that's the invitation today. To believe and love with wisdom, and to leave room for God to keep writing.

WEEK 2 : ENCOURAGEMENT

To remember that every one of us is grateful someone didn't close the book on us too soon.

If you are reading this today, carrying disappointment toward someone or wondering if your own failures have become your identity... Know this today: God is still writing.

Pause Moment

Have I decided someone's story is already finished?

Practice

Before assuming the worst about someone today, pause and pray for them instead.

WEEK 2 : ENCOURAGEMENT

Reflection Questions

1. Is there someone I've stopped believing God can change?
2. Am I allowing God to keep writing my own story?

Today I will (circle one):

- Leave room for God's grace to keep working.
- Remember that people are more than what I see.

Prayer

Father, thank you for never giving up on me. Give me wisdom to see clearly and hope to trust that You are still writing the story.

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

MINISTRY CAN HAPPEN

Your generosity makes real impact beyond these walls. It allows us to show up, serve consistently, and bring the love of Jesus to people who need it most.

TERRACE RIDGE

At Terrace Ridge, we love on the elderly through song, food, and meaningful conversation. These moments may seem simple, but they bring joy, dignity, and the presence of God into everyday lives.



GIVE ONLINE TODAY!

Safe and secure



WEEK 2 : ENCOURAGEMENT

Day 4 – When the Encourager Needs Encouragement

Scripture: Psalm 121:1-2, Isaiah 40:29-31

We all know someone who seems to carry everyone else. They're the first to check in, the first to notice when someone is struggling, the first one to celebrate someone else's victory. From the outside, they look strong, but strength has a quiet side that we don't always see. Sometimes the strongest person in the room is also the most tired. The one who keeps pouring everyone else eventually wonders who will pour into them. Barnabas wasn't the source of encouragement. God was. You can only pour from a cup that is continually being filled. Maybe you have spent so much time checking on everyone else that you haven't stopped long enough to notice your won heart. Some seasons will bring people who encourage you and some seasons wont. But every season will bring the presence of God.

WEEK 2: ENCOURAGEMENT

The same God who asks us to strengthen others also invites us to come honestly with our own weariness. He meets you at your exhaustion and sometimes the most faithful thing you can is to stop long enough to receive what only God can give.

Pause Moment

What have I been carrying that I haven't brought to God?

Practice

Spend 5 minutes with God today, simply be honest about how you are doing.

WEEK 2 : ENCOURAGEMENT

Reflection Questions

1. Have I been trying to pour into others from an empty heart?
2. Where is God inviting me to receive His strength instead of relying on my own?

Today I will (circle one):

- Bring my weariness to God.
- Receive his encouragement before I encourage anyone else.

Prayer

Father, thank you because I know you see the places where I'm tired or running empty. Teach me to come to You before I try to carry everyone else.

WEEK 2: ENCOURAGEMENT

Day 5 – Becoming a Source of Hope.

Scripture: John 15: 5; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Hope has a way of spreading. One encouraging conversation can change the direction of someone's day. One person believing in us can give us the courage to try again. One reminder that we are not alone can quiet fears we've been carrying for weeks. Barnabas understood that. Everywhere he went, he seemed to leave people with a little more courage than they had before. He reminded people that God was still working. The beautiful thing about him is that he never tried to become the source, he simply stayed closed to the source. Jesus said, "Apart from Me you can't do anything". That includes encouragement, we cannot give away hope we have never received. We cannot remind others of God's faithfulness if we have forgotten it ourselves. Barnabas spent his life reminding people who they will become.

WEEK 2 : ENCOURAGEMENT

Jesus spends His life reminding us who we are.
Everything Barnabas gave away first flowed from the hope he had already found in Christ.

Pause Moment

Who around me needs someone to remind them that God hasn't given up on them?

Practice

Pray for that someone in your mind and ask God to fill you with hope and strength to talk to them.

Reflection Questions

1. Have I been trying to pour into others from an empty heart?
2. Where is God inviting me to receive His strength instead of relying on my own?

WEEK 2: ENCOURAGEMENT

Today I will (circle one):

- Am I trying to be the source?
- Am I staying connected to the source.

Prayer

Father, thank you for never given up on me. Please keep me close to You so that whatever I give away come from Your love and not my strength.

WEEK 3 : COURAGE

Day 1 – The Moment You Stop Calling It Normal. (Courage to see differently)

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:26

Some things don't shock you anymore. The tension. The distance. The patterns you grew up around. You've seen it so many times that it just feels... normal.

"This is just how it is."

"This is how people are."

"This is how it's always been."

So, you adapt. You stay quiet. You move around and learn how to survive beside things you were never meant to make peace with. David knew that feeling. A giant stood in front of them, loud, intimidating, constant. And over time... Everyone adjusted to him. Fear became normal. Silence became normal. Avoidance became normal. Then David arrived.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Not the strongest, oldest, or the king we know today... Just a shepherd boy who still remembered who God was, and because of that, he saw differently. While everyone else saw something impossible, David saw something that should never have been accepted in the first place. But David's story didn't end with Goliath; later, the same David who once stood bravely before giants would also stand face to face with his own brokenness. He would become powerful. Celebrated. Respected. And somewhere along the way, he would make devastating choices. Choices that hurt people. Choices he tried to hide. Choices that revealed he was still deeply human. And maybe that's the part we don't talk about enough, because we like the version of David holding stones with courage, but not always the version crying on the floor in repentance. Yet both were David. The brave shepherd and the broken man begging God for a clean heart, and somehow through all of it... David kept returning.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Not perfectly, not without consequences or grief, but honestly.

Maybe that's where we are today, too.

Not standing in front of giants with swords and shields, but standing in front of patterns we've slowly accepted. Fear, pride, emotional distance, silence...

The parts of ourselves we excuse because "that's just how I am."

Maybe courage isn't only confronting what's outside of us; maybe it's allowing God to confront what's happening inside of us, too. Maybe it's remembering that repentance is not weakness... It's returning.

Pause Moment

What have I been calling normal that God is asking me to confront?

Practice

Identify one pattern you've accepted as "just the way it is."

SEE WITH COURAGE
1 SAMUEL 17:26

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Reflection Questions

1. Where have I normalized something that is rooted in fear?
2. What would it look like to see this situation through faith instead?

If I moved like David today, I would (circle one):

- challenge what I've been silently accepting
- step forward instead of shrinking back

Prayer

Father, help me see clearly again. Give me the courage to face what I've gotten used to and remind me that You are bigger than what I'm afraid of. Amen.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Day 2 – The Moment You Stop Staying Silent. (Courage in the place you've been positioned)

Scripture: Esther 4:14

You're sitting with something uncomfortable. A conversation you keep avoiding. A moment where silence feels safer than honesty. So, tell yourself: "Maybe this isn't my place". "Maybe someone else will say it." "Maybe I should just leave it alone." And fear starts sounding like peace. Esther knew that feeling. She had a position and access to the king himself, but speaking up could cost her everything. And for a moment... Silence felt safer. Then came the question that changed everything: "What if you are here for such a time as this?" And suddenly... the position she once saw as comfort became responsibility. Not because Esther stopped being afraid, but because she realized that staying silent would cost something too.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

And maybe that's where we are today, too. Standing in places God intentionally positioned us; our homes, friendships, families, workplaces, conversations... Yet shrinking back because fear sounds safer than obedience. Maybe the very thing that makes us uncomfortable is the thing we were meant to stop ignoring. Esther reminds us that courage is not loud confidence. Sometimes is trembling honesty, a shaking voice, a hard conversation, a quiet step forward anyway. She didn't wait to feel fearless; she chose to move while still afraid.

Pause Moment

Where have I been staying silent, because fear feels safer than obedience?

Practice

Speak honestly in one place where you've been tempted to stay quiet.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Reflection Questions

1. Where has fear disguised itself as wisdom in my life?
2. What would it look like to trust that I've been placed here on purpose?

If I moved like Esther today, I would (circle one):

- speak even if my voice shakes
- trust that I'm here for more than comfort

Prayer

Father, You see where I am and why I'm here. Give me the courage to speak, to move, and to trust that You are with me, even in fear. Amen.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Day 3 – The One Who Thought He Wasn't Enough (God uses you before you feel ready)

Scripture: Judges 6:12

You try to stay small. Blend into your routines. Avoid what feels uncomfortable. Tell yourself, "I'll deal with it later." And when something bigger shows up, you shrink. Because the first thought isn't: "I can do this." It's: "What if I'm not enough?" "What if I mess it up?" "What if I don't know what to say?" So, you hesitate. You collect reasons, explanations. Proof for why it probably shouldn't be. Gideon knew that feeling. When God found him, he wasn't standing confidently in front of crowds; he was hiding. Trying to survive quietly, trying not to be noticed. And somehow, in that moment, God called him "Mighty warrior." Not after victory, confidence, or after he became fearless... before all of it. And Gideon's response wasn't bold faith; it was doubt.

WEEK 3 : COURAGE

He immediately began listing every reason why God must have the wrong person... my family is weak, my tribe is insignificant, I am the least. And honestly, that feels very human, because we quietly assume courage belongs to other people. To the brave, confident, gifted people, but Gideon's story says something different... Fear and calling can exist in the same heart. Even after God called him, Gideon kept asking for reassurance, and God stayed patient. Not because Gideon had perfect faith but because God already knew who Gideon would become before Gideon did. And then God did something unexpected... He reduced Gideon's army. Because the strength was never supposed to come from what Gideon had. It was supposed to come from who was with him. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Not lacking purpose, just buried under hesitation. Waiting to feel ready before we move, waiting for confidence to magically appear... While God keeps calling us forward anyway.

WEEK 3 : COURAGE

Maybe the stretching isn't proof that you don't belong.
Maybe it's proof you've outgrown the place you've
been hiding in.

And maybe God sees something in you that you
haven't fully seen yet.

Pause Moment

What if I'm not disqualified just afraid?

Practice

Take one step with what you already have.

WEEK 3 : COURAGE

Reflection Questions

1. Where am I disqualifying myself before even trying?
2. What am I holding onto that I think I need, but God might be asking me to release?

If I moved like Gideon today, I would (circle one):

- stop doubting what God already sees in me
- move forward even if I feel unqualified

Prayer

Father, You see something in me that I don't always see in myself. Help me trust Your calling more than my fear and remind me that I don't need to have it all, I just need You. Amen.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Day 4 – The Fall that Didn't Disqualify You. (Failure is not the end)

Scripture: Matthew 14:30–31, Luke 22:61-62, John 21:15-17

You meant it when you started. The promise, the prayer, the healing, the change. You really were trying, and for a moment... it even felt like you were walking above what used to pull you under. But somewhere along the way, you lost focus. Fear got louder, pressure got heavier, old habits returned faster than expected, and suddenly you're sitting with the kind of disappointment that feels personal. Not just "I made a mistake" but "Maybe I'm not who I thought I was." Peter knew that feeling. He was the disciple bold enough to step out of the boat while everyone else stayed inside. For a moment, he walked on water, until he looked at the wind, the waves... and he sank.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

But that's the part we forget: Jesus did not stand at a distance watching him drown. He reached immediately. Not after Peter fixed or proved himself, he did it immediately. And later, Peter failed again. The same Peter who once said, "I would never leave you." Maybe that's why it hurts so much, because failure feels different when you really meant it. When you really loved him, when you were really trying. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Sitting with the ache of: "I thought I was stronger than this." But Peter's story was never about someone who never fell; it was about someone who kept returning. Because after the denial... Jesus came back for him, not with humiliation or rejection, but with restoration. Slowly, painfully, beautifully... Peter became the man Jesus always saw in him, not perfect but transformed. Maybe growth is not about never sinking again, maybe it's about learning that falling is not the same thing as being abandoned. Maybe this moment is not proof that you are disqualified, maybe is proof that God is still working on you.

HELD EVEN WHEN FALLING
MATTHEW 14:31

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Pause Moment

What if this failure is not the end of my story but part of how God is shaping me?

Practice

Don't let one mistake define your direction; bring it to God honestly.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have I let failure convince me to stop?
2. What would it look like to try again?

If I moved like Peter today, I would (circle one):

- get back up instead of staying stuck
- believe that I'm still called, even after I fall

Prayer

Jesus, You see me in my failure, and You still reach for me. Help me not stay where I fell but rise again with You. Amen.

HELD EVEN WHEN FALLING
MATTHEW 14:31

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Day 5 – The Life That Stays the Same. (Quiet Faith under pressure)

Scripture: Daniel 6:10

It rarely starts loudly. Usually, it sounds reasonable. "Just let it go." "It's not that serious." "Why make things harder than they need to be?" So little by little... You adjust. A smaller opinion here, a quiet conviction there. You stop bringing certain things up, stop standing firmly, stop praying openly, and stop being as honest about what matters to you. You still care, but fitting in feels easier than constantly resisting. Before you notice it... You are not fully standing where you once were. Daniel knew that kind of pressure. His whole environment changed around him. New culture, new rules, new expectations. Babylon tried to reshape everything about him, and eventually, the pressure became personal.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Praying to God could cost him everything, yet Daniel still went home, opened a window, knelt, and prayed just as he had before. Daniel did not suddenly become dramatic when pressure arrived; he simply refused to become someone different because of it. He wasn't louder, performative, or rebellious; he was just rooted.

Maybe that's where we are today, too. Feeling the quiet pressure to soften parts of ourselves just to make life easier, to become more likable and agreeable but slowly compromising ourselves. This has a cost, too. Daniel reminds us that faithfulness is often quiet. It looks like consistency, like staying grounded, like refusing to abandon what matters simply because pressure showed up. And yes, Daniel faced consequences, but even there God remained with him. Maybe courage is not always loud bravery; sometimes it's simply remaining the same person when everything around you asks you to change.

WEEK 3: COURAGE

Pause Moment

Am I changing who I am to make things easier?

Practice

Stay consistent in one quiet area of your life

Reflection Questions

1. Where am I feeling pressure to “just go along”?
2. What part of me needs to stay the same?

If I moved like Daniel today, I would (circle one):

- stay rooted in what I believe
- choose quiet consistency over easy compromise

Prayer

Father, help me stay grounded. Not louder, not smaller, just faithful. Give me the strength to remain who You've called me to be, even when it costs me. Amen.

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON... STAY HERE FOR A MOMENT

You've faced a lot this week.

Fear, silence, stepping forward. Maybe doubt, failure, responsibility, and maybe... You saw yourself in more than one of those moments.

Take a second.

Not to rush or to do better, but to notice where God has been speaking to you.



What part of my life is asking me to grow in courage right now?

You were never meant to do this alone.

Not the growth, the healing, or the becoming.

You don't have to carry it yourself.

You don't have to figure it out alone.

You don't have to keep everything inside.

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON... STAY HERE FOR A MOMENT

This is the reminder:

You belong. You have a place here.

At church, you'll find friends who walk with you through every season. Small groups are where real conversations happen, where you can be real, be encouraged, and be supported.

Taking the first step can feel like a trust fall, but here is the truth: You might be surprised to find out that there are hands already waiting to catch you.

Don't walk this alone. Don't just turn the page. Turn towards community, connection. Turn towards him.

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Day 1 – The Person You Almost Missed (Choosing to notice)

Scripture: Luke 10:33

Some moments don't announce themselves. They pass quietly... in the middle of busy schedules, full minds, and places we've walked a hundred times before. A face you almost didn't look at. A need you almost didn't see. A moment that could have stayed ordinary.

The priest and the Levite both passed by. Maybe they had reasons. Maybe they had places to be, responsibilities to carry, things that felt important at the time. But the Samaritan stopped. Not because it was convenient. Not because it fit into his plans. But because he noticed. And noticing changed everything. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Moving through moments quickly, not realizing how often compassion begins with simply seeing what's right in front of us. Because sometimes the difference isn't ability. It's attention.

LOVE PAYS ATTENTION
LUKE 10:33

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Pause Moment

What might I be overlooking because I'm moving too fast?

Practice

Slow down and intentionally notice one person today

Reflection Questions

1. Where have I been too distracted to see others?
2. What would it look like to be more aware of people around me?

If I moved like the Samaritan today, I would (circle one):

- slow down enough to notice
- choose to see, not just pass by

Prayer

Father, help me slow down and see what You see.
Open my eyes to the people around me. Amen

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Day 2 – The Feeling You Almost Ignored (Choosing to care)

Scripture: Colossians 3:12

Sometimes you feel it before you think it. A quiet nudge. A pull in your heart. A moment where something in you says... this matters. But it's easy to move past it. To tell yourself it's not your place. That someone else will step in. That it's not that serious. Compassion often begins as a feeling. But it doesn't stay there unless we let it. Jesus didn't just see people. He was moved by them. Their pain didn't stay distant. It reached Him. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Standing in moments where we feel something... but we're not sure what to do with it. But maybe compassion isn't about having all the answers. Maybe it's about allowing your heart to stay open long enough to respond.

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Pause Moment

What feeling have I been quick to dismiss?

Practice

Don't ignore the nudge—pause and acknowledge it

Reflection Questions

1. When was the last time I felt compassion but didn't act on it?
2. What would it look like to let my heart stay open instead of guarded?

If I moved like Jesus today, I would (circle one):

- allow myself to care
- stop dismissing what I feel

Prayer

Jesus, soften my heart. Help me not ignore what You're stirring in me. Amen.

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Day 3 – The Step That Feels Inconvenient (Choosing to respond)

Scripture: 1 John 3:18

Compassion doesn't always fit neatly into your plans. It interrupts. It asks for time you didn't set aside. It invites you into moments that feel uncomfortable, uncertain, or inconvenient. The Samaritan didn't just notice. He didn't just feel. He moved. He crossed the road. He got close. He responded. And that response cost him something. Time. Energy. Resources. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Feeling the tension between what's easy and what's right. Because love isn't just something we say. It's something we do. Even when it stretches us.

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Pause Moment

What is compassion asking of me right now?

Practice

Take one action, even if it feels small or inconvenient

Reflection Questions

- Where am I hesitating to act?
- What would it look like to respond instead of delay?

If I moved like the Samaritan today, I would (circle one):

- take action, even if it costs me something
- step in instead of staying comfortable

Prayer

Father, give me the courage to respond. Help me move beyond intention into action. Amen.

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Day 4 – The Kindness That Stays (Going beyond the moment)

Scripture: Hebrews 13:16

It's one thing to help in a moment. It's another to stay invested beyond it. The Samaritan didn't just stop and leave. He made sure the man was cared for even after he walked away. He stayed involved. He made provision. He thought beyond the immediate need. Compassion doesn't always end in a single act. Sometimes it continues. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Learning that love isn't always quick and done. Sometimes it asks us to stay. To follow through. To care even after the moment has passed.

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Pause Moment

Where is God inviting me to go beyond what's easy?

Practice

Follow up on someone you've already helped

Reflection Questions

1. Where have I limited my compassion to just a moment?
2. What would it look like to stay consistent in caring?

If I moved like the Samaritan today, I would (circle one):

- follow through with care
- stay committed beyond the moment

Prayer

Father, teach me to love consistently. Help me not just start well, but stay present in caring for others. Amen.

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Day 5 – The Heart That Reflects God (Living compassion daily)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:32

Compassion isn't meant to be occasional. It's meant to shape how we live. In our words. In our reactions. In the way we treat people when no one is watching. Kindness, forgiveness, patience... They all flow from a heart that understands the compassion it has received. Because we've been seen. We've been cared for. We've been met in our need. And now, we reflect that to others. Maybe that's where we are today, too. Learning that compassion isn't just something we give. It's something we become.

WEEK 4: COMPASSION

Pause Moment

How is compassion shaping the way I live daily?

Practice

Choose kindness in a moment where it doesn't come naturally

Reflection Questions

1. Where do I struggle to show compassion the most?
2. What would it look like to reflect God's heart in that area?

If I moved like Jesus today, I would (circle one):

- choose kindness intentionally
- reflect the compassion I've received

Prayer

Jesus, shape my heart to look more like Yours. Help me live with compassion in every part of my life. Amen.

Don't do life alone...

FIND A SMALL GROUP TODAY.

Faith was never meant to be lived alone. Real growth happens when you're surrounded by people who know you and walk with you.



Small groups create space for real conversations and real life change. You don't have to have it all together—just show up and be open.

We have groups for couples, students, men, women, and young adults. There's a place for you to grow, belong, and build lasting relationships. Scan the QR code to learn more!



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