

09

THE SON HAS TRUTH

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE


the **GOSPEL**PROJECT

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ADULTS



FALL | 2026

GOD'S WORD FOR YOU

A SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

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THE EDITOR

For some of us, the events of Jesus's life seem like stories in a children's book that we have gotten used to over the years. Yet if we truly shape our minds to visualize the complications, the confrontations, and the controversies surrounding all He did, we would be reminded of the truth and the power to which He spoke and lived.

Jesus spoke with precision in His parables. He wanted the crowds, the Pharisees, and His disciples to seek the truth of His words.

He revealed His authority over all—over this earthly domain, over disabilities, over diseases, over demons, over death. They all submit under His command and control.

He brought physical and spiritual healing with compassion and care like only God could and would. The way He lived is an example for us to follow.

Jesus's life of ministry was a picture of love and sacrifice even before His crucifixion. He endured temptation, opposition, hunger, fatigue, and grief as a human because of His desire to rescue us from sin.

As Paul stated in Philippians, Jesus “who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity” (Philippians 2:6-7).

In His humanity and deity, He is our King. He proved His authority and godhood through miracles only He could do. And as we shall see, He gave up His life for us and overcame the power of death for our salvation. That is the Jesus we worship and trust in truth.

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The Gospel Project for Adults

The Gospel Project®
Adult Personal Study Guide
Fall 2026
Volume 3, Number 1

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Printed in the United States of America

The Gospel Project®: Adult Personal Study Guide (ISSN 3065-3363; Item 005849182) is published quarterly by Lifeway Christian Resources, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707. © 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources.

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(Unit 25, Sessions 1-4)

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SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

The Gospel Project for Adults aspires to point people to the gospel of Jesus Christ through weekly group Bible studies and additional resources that show how God's plan of redemption unfolds throughout all of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. This curriculum provides theological yet practical studies that immerse your group in the STORY of the gospel, helping to develop a gospel CULTURE that leads to gospel MISSION.

GOSPEL STORY

Our aim is to help people understand the storyline of Scripture and to see the thread from the beginning to the end that weaves through it all—God's plan to rescue and redeem His creation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL CULTURE

Our hope is that the message of the gospel saturates our understanding of Christ, increasing our joy in Him and helping doubters become believers who become declarers of the gospel.

GOSPEL MISSION

Our desire is to encourage believers to live on mission, declaring the good news of the gospel in word and deed for God's glory and the growth of His kingdom.

VOL 01:
CREATION AND COVENANT

(Genesis; Job)
Fall 2024

VOL 02:
LAW AND LIFE

(Exodus–Deuteronomy)
Winter 2024–25

VOL 03:
LAND AND LOSS

(Joshua–1 Samuel)
Spring 2025

VOL 04:
FOOLISHNESS AND WISDOM

(1 Samuel–1 Kings; Wisdom Literature)
Summer 2025

VOL 05:
DIVISION AND DEFIANCE

(1 Kings–2 Chronicles; The Prophets)
Fall 2025

VOL 06:
PROPHETS AND PROVISION

(The Prophets; Ezra–Esther)
Winter 2025–26

VOL 07:
THE SON HAS COME

(The Gospels)
Spring 2026

VOL 08:
THE SON HAS AUTHORITY

(The Gospels)
Summer 2026

VOL 09:
THE SON HAS TRUTH

(The Gospels)
Fall 2026

VOL 10:
THE SON HAS RISEN

(The Gospels; Acts)
Winter 2026–27

VOL 11:
THE CHURCH HAS A MISSION

(Acts; The Epistles)
Spring 2027

VOL 12:
THE CHURCH HAS A FUTURE

(The Epistles; Revelation)
Summer 2027

HOW TO USE THE PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

The Personal Study Guide is a vital tool in your personal and group experience with The Gospel Project for Adults. Here's how to make the most of your time with it:

1) READ THE WORD DAILY

Begin each week by reading the Scriptures according to the Daily Readings. These Bible readings will help you mentally and spiritually prepare for the group experience each week while also building healthy Bible study habits for personal growth. The daily readings will help you understand the context of the Bible story for each week's session and fill in the gaps between sessions. The weekly psalm reading will help you think worshipfully and prayerfully about the story's place in the greater redemptive narrative of the Bible. And the timeline will give you a visual perspective so you can place the Bible story in the larger context of the Bible's storyline.

- **Daily Readings**
- **Chronological Timeline**



TIMELINE

Jesus Appoints His Twelve Disciples (Luke 6:12-16)

Jesus Delivers His Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)

SESSION STUDY:
Jesus Teaches and Explains the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15)

Jesus Calms a Storm (Luke 8:22-25)

Jesus Heals Two Daughters (Luke 8:40-56)

Daily Readings

☐ Day 1: Luke 8:1-8	☐ Day 4: Mark 4:10-12
☐ Day 2: Luke 8:9-15	☐ Day 5: Mark 4:13-20
☐ Day 3: Mark 4:1-9	☐ Day 6: Psalm 81



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

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2) STUDY THE PERSONAL PREPARATION

The Personal Preparation section contains the Scripture passages you will examine and discuss with your Bible study group. As you read each Scripture passage, a Bible study prompt will help you highlight, underline, or jot notes to help you engage with the Scripture and to provoke discussion with your group on the following Sunday. A brief commentary with thought-provoking questions will help you dig deeper into the text and reflect on what the text teaches you about God and yourself. You have the full week to work on your personal preparation, so whether you prefer to break it up into parts or do it all in one day, the flexibility is there for your schedule.

- Scripture
- Commentary
- Questions

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 8:11-15

GOD'S WORD NEEDS TO BE HEARD AND INTERNALIZED FOR TRANSFORMATION.
Highlight how Jesus defines these parts of the parable: seed, seed along the path, seed on the rock, seed among thorns, and the seed on good ground.

11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. **12** The seed along the path are those who have heard and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. **13** And the seed on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy. Having no root, these believe for a while and fall away in a time of testing. **14** As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit. **15** But the seed in the good ground—these are the ones who, having heard the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, produce fruit."

VOICES FROM THE CHURCH

"We win the [spiritual] war for the Word when we look to bear fruit with patience (Gal 1:2-4). We're not trying to rush into maturity or skip the things that produce growth. We just steadily read, believe, and apply the Bible, and let patience have its perfect work in our lives."
—Thabiti Anyabwile

Key Concept: Jesus taught the importance of receiving the Word and producing fruit from doing so.

Jesus explained that the seed in the parable represents God's Word. A sower scatters seed with a purpose—he intends for the seed he scatters to germinate, thrive, and produce fruit. Although Jesus knew that not every gospel seed would be received, He preached with the expectation that some would bear fruit. For others, there would be obstacles.

Seed sown on hardened hearts cannot bring salvation, as Satan quickly snatches the truth away to prevent understanding and belief. The gospel offers abundant life, but the thief seeks to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Seed sown on shallow hearts, though received joyfully, cannot endure for lack of nourishment ("no root"; Luke 8:13). Without the work of the Holy Spirit to transform the heart, shallow belief falls away during testing. Seed sown on a heart rife with thorns—"worries, riches, and pleasures of life" (v. 14)—is slowly strangled as worldliness and misplaced priorities prevent living faith.

Which of these obstacles to receiving the gospel have you encountered in yourself or a loved one?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Scripture teaches us that Jesus is the way to salvation, and following Him by faith with the Holy Spirit will lead to true transformation.

With such powerful obstacles at war against the gospel, it is a miracle that any seeds of faith survive to bear fruit. Yet that is exactly what happens with the fourth seed—this person receives the Word and holds fast to it, so that it endures and bears plentiful fruit. The difference lies in the soil of the heart. But how is it possible to have "an honest and good heart" (v. 15) suitable to receive God's Word and bear fruit? This requires the work of the Holy Spirit, who exchanges a heart of stone for a heart of flesh, enabling believers to trust God and obey with a heart of love (Ezekiel 11:19-20).

How should the expectation that some seeds will bear fruit motivate us to spread gospel truth?

3) PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP EXPERIENCE

The Group Experience for each session includes an activity and interactive questions designed to make the most of your group experience. Depending on your leader, he or she may have you do the activity on your own before doing it together as a group, or your leader may want you to wait until group time. Either way, the personal prep you've put into the days leading up to your group time will provide a richer discussion and more thoughtful theological applications to mutually encourage each other during group time.

GROUP EXPERIENCE

FOUR SOILS, FOUR RESPONSES

Read Luke 8:4-15. Record what Jesus said each type of soil represented, any corresponding obstacles to faith, and how to overcome those obstacles.

THE SEED ALONG THE PATH	THE SEED ON THE ROCK
THE SEED AMONG THORNS	THE SEED IN GOOD GROUND

How should this parable encourage us as we share the gospel with others?
What "fruit" should we expect to see in our lives as believers in God's Word?



- Group Activity
- Interactive Questions
- Theological Applications

4) TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

At the conclusion of your group time, consider how to apply the day's Scripture lesson by walking through the Head, Heart, and Hands application questions. Share and discuss answers to the questions for the mutual benefit of everyone in the group. Then take time in your group, and during the week after, to read and pray through the designated psalm, focusing your thoughts and words once more upon God's Word. And finally, record prayer requests and praises as you wrap up your group time. Space is provided to jot those down in your guide for prayer during the following week.

Key Concept: Jesus taught the importance of receiving the Word and producing fruit from doing so.

**HEAD**

What are some ways we can keep God's Word in our mind and heart?

**HEART**

What evidence do you see in your life that the Holy Spirit has given you "an honest and good heart"?

**HANDS**

For whom will you pray and share the gospel this week?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

As you read Psalm 81, pray that you would not have a stubborn heart that refuses to listen to God. Ask God to help you listen, to walk in His ways, and to be satisfied with the richness of His goodness.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



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- Application Questions
- Scripture-Based Prayer
- Prayer Requests

THE SON HAS TRUTH

By David McLemore

Theologian A. W. Tozer wrote, “What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.”¹

That statement raises an important question: Where did you get your thoughts about God?

There will come moments in your life when your ideas about God won’t remain theoretical. You will suffer, and in suffering, what you believe about God will either sustain you or crush you. And what’s more, one day you will face death, and what you believe about God will either be your hope or your terror.

So, where can you find thoughts about God that are true to who He actually is? The answer is from His self-revelation. God wants you to know Him. He doesn’t want you walking through life in the dark about the most important questions. He wants you to know way down deep that at the very bedrock of your existence is the everlasting arms of the good God who loves you and wants you to know how deep His love for you really is. That’s what the whole Bible is about. This volume draws our attention to that reality by showing how God’s truth is revealed most fully and finally in His Son.

THE SON

We worship a triune God, so what we see in Jesus, the Son, is who God is. In other words, there is no version of God that doesn’t look like Jesus.

The passages explored in this volume show how Jesus reveals God not in fragments but in fullness. He is the Word of God (John 1:1). He is the King of God’s kingdom (Luke 19:28-40). He is the Creator of all (Mark 4; Matthew 14:22-33). He is the divine Healer (Luke 8:41-56; Mark 7:24-37). He is the gracious Provider (Matthew 14:13-21). He has power over death (John 11:38-44). He gives sight to the blind (John 9). He’s the Seeker of the lost (Luke 19:1-10). He is coming again (Mark 13). He is the Mediator of the new covenant (Mark 14:22-24).

In Jesus we see the truth of God’s personhood through His words, compassion, and authority. We see His heart. We see who He really is way down deep. And what we find explicitly in Jesus, backed up by His Word, is a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, who won’t let injustice reign but will settle it once and for all (see Exodus 34:6-7).

THE SON HAS TRUTH

In Jesus, truth puts on flesh. Jesus said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). In Jesus, truth became visible, touchable, knowable. And the amazing thing is not just that Jesus revealed truth but the beauty of the truth He revealed. He is not just a creator; He’s a redeemer. He’s not just sovereign; He’s loving. He’s not just powerful; He’s tender. He’s not just transcendent; He’s immanent. He’s not just a judge; He’s a just and merciful one.

In Jesus we see
the truth of God’s
personhood through
His words, compassion,
and authority.
We see His heart.

The truth is that God is not just a god but the best possible God. He’s perfect. There is no flaw in Him. There is no downside to Him. There is nothing in Him that should turn our hearts away from Him. There is nothing in Him that our hearts don’t long for and desperately need. Again and again, the passages in this volume show us God’s heart toward sinners and sufferers. When

we sin, He forgives. When we mourn, He comforts. When we stray, He seeks. When we are betrayed, He stands by us. When we die, He welcomes us and will one day resurrect us.

Consider what Jesus shows us of God’s heart for sinners and sufferers like us. He welcomes the weary and heavy laden (Matthew 11:28-29). He receives all who come to Him (John 6:37). He has compassion on the broken (Luke 7:13; Mark 1:40-41). He lays down His life for us (John 10:11; 13:1). He intercedes for us now (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25). He one day will make all things new (Revelation 21:5).

Jesus is good and does good, and He loves you. He wants you to know that way down deep. That’s not just written in the Bible but proved on the cross. What is there in God that you don’t need? What do you need that doesn’t have an answer in God?

God’s revelation not only corrects our view of Him but, perhaps more importantly, reveals His view of us. He loves us. He wants to save us. The truth of God is His lovingkindness toward us. That’s a truth worth believing and obeying.

David McLemore aims through his teachings and writings to help believers read the Bible faithfully and see how every part of Scripture points to Jesus Christ. He writes on his website, *Things of the Sort*, and serves as an elder at his church.

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

UNIT 25

THE TRUTH OF HIS POWER



MARK; LUKE



MEMORY VERSES

“He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Silence! Be still!’ The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Then he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?’ And they were terrified and asked one another, ‘Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!’”

—Mark 4:39-41



POWER OF GOD'S WORD

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 8:4-15

CONTEXT

Jesus traveled from town to town preaching the good news of the kingdom with His disciples. Jesus's preaching ministry was both the context and the subject of His parable of the sower. As Jesus traveled, He indiscriminately spread the seeds of the gospel far and wide. The four Gospels record a diversity of responses to Jesus's teaching: rejection, doubt, fear, joy, sadness, anger, and belief. In the parable of the sower, Jesus classified people's responses into four general categories as He illustrated the power of the Word and the danger of rejecting it.

KEY CONCEPT

Jesus taught the importance of receiving the Word and producing fruit from doing so.

As you examine Luke 8:4-15:

- Discover why Jesus taught in parables: to expose who truly was seeking truth.
- Recognize that we are transformed and bear fruit when we hear and trust the gospel.



TIMELINE

Jesus Appoints His Twelve Disciples (Luke 6:12-16)

SESSION STUDY:
Jesus Teaches and Explains the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15)

Jesus Heals Two Daughters (Luke 8:40-56)

Jesus Delivers His Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)

Jesus Calms a Storm (Luke 8:22-25)

Daily Readings

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Day 1: Luke 8:1-8 | ☐ Day 4: Mark 4:10-12 |
| ☐ Day 2: Luke 8:9-15 | ☐ Day 5: Mark 4:13-20 |
| ☐ Day 3: Mark 4:1-9 | ☐ Day 6: Psalm 81 |



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 8:4-10

IF WE TRULY SEEK GOD'S WISDOM, HIS TRUTH WILL BE REVEALED TO US.

Circle the four types of soil on which the seed is scattered. Then underline the phrases that describe what happened to the seed in each soil type.

4 As a large crowd was gathering, and people were coming to Jesus from every town, he said in a parable, **5** “A sower went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some seed fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the sky devoured it. **6** Other seed fell on the rock; when it grew up, it withered away, since it lacked moisture. **7** Other seed fell among thorns; the thorns grew up with it and choked it. **8** Still other seed fell on good ground; when it grew up, it produced fruit: a hundred times what was sown.” As he said this, he called out, “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen.” **9** Then his disciples asked him, “What does this parable mean?” **10** So he said, “The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given for you to know, but to the rest it is in parables, so that ‘Looking they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’”

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE: Because of the vast difference between God's wisdom and ours and because of humanity's sinful state, human beings are incapable, on our own, of fully grasping spiritual truth without being aided by the Holy Spirit through illumination. When it comes to understanding the meaning of God's Word, Christians do not rely ultimately upon human reason in interpretation, nor do we rely solely upon an institution or body of scholars. Instead, a Christian's ultimate reliance is upon the work of the Spirit of God, who illuminates the Scriptures in the heart and mind (John 14:15-18; 16:7-15).



As crowds gathered around Jesus, He told them a parable about a sower who scattered seed. The agricultural setting would have been familiar to Jesus's audience, and the simple descriptions easy to follow. The sower and the seed remain the same in each example, but the condition of the soil changes throughout, producing drastically different results.

A path consisted of very hard, packed-down soil. The seed that fell there could not penetrate the soil and was trampled or eaten by birds. Likewise, neither the seed scattered on rocky ground nor the seed sown among thorns survived for long due to the constraints of their environments. By contrast, the final seed nurtured by good soil grew and produced fruit in abundance. After reciting the parable, Jesus said, "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen" (v. 8).

What does Jesus's exhortation to listen tell us about Jesus's desire for His audience?

At the conclusion of the parable, the disciples realized that though they heard Jesus's words, they did not understand Jesus's spiritual point, so they asked Him to explain it. Before answering, Jesus briefly explained the purpose and limitation of parables.

Jesus's parables contain within them nuggets of kingdom truth, but these mysteries cannot be unlocked merely by hearing or personally dissecting their component parts. Their wisdom must be given, and only Jesus holds the keys to their riches (Colossians 2:3). The disciples were granted this wisdom because they asked Him. Like Lady Wisdom in Proverbs 8, Jesus called out and invited all to pay attention. The disciples came to Him in faith and were rewarded with understanding. The rest only heard a story about a sower scattering seed.

How does the fact that wisdom must be sought in a Person change the way we approach Bible study?



PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 8:11-15

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GOSPEL CONNECTION

Scripture teaches us that Jesus is the way to salvation, and following Him by faith with the Holy Spirit will lead to true transformation.

With such powerful obstacles at war against the gospel, it is a miracle that any seeds of faith survive to bear fruit. Yet that is exactly what happens with the fourth seed—this person receives the Word and holds fast to it, so that it endures and bears plentiful fruit. The difference lies in the soil of the heart. But how is it possible to have “an honest and good heart” (v. 15) suitable to receive God's Word and bear fruit? This requires the work of the Holy Spirit, who exchanges a heart of stone for a heart of flesh, enabling believers to trust God and obey with a heart of love (Ezekiel 11:19-20).

How should the expectation that some seeds will bear fruit motivate us to spread gospel truth?



FOUR SOILS, FOUR RESPONSES

Read Luke 8:4-15. Record what Jesus said each type of soil represented, any corresponding obstacles to faith, and how to overcome those obstacles.

THE SEED ALONG THE PATH	THE SEED ON THE ROCK
THE SEED AMONG THORNS	THE SEED IN GOOD GROUND

How should this parable encourage us as we share the gospel with others?

What “fruit” should we expect to see in our lives as believers in God’s Word?

Key Concept: Jesus taught the importance of receiving the Word and producing fruit from doing so.



HEAD

What are some ways we can keep God's Word in our mind and heart?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

As you read Psalm 81, pray that you would not have a stubborn heart that refuses to listen to God. Ask God to help you listen, to walk in His ways, and to be satisfied with the richness of His goodness.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HEART

What evidence do you see in your life that the Holy Spirit has given you "an honest and good heart"?



HANDS

For whom will you pray and share the gospel this week?

