



STUDY GUIDES

WEEK 1 — FEAR NOT

Monday: Fear Less Because You Are Sent by Jesus

Read: Matthew 10:1–15

Key Verse: *"As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'"* (Matthew 10:7)

Jesus did not wait for His disciples to become fearless before sending them. He called ordinary people, gave them authority, and sent them into a world that would not always welcome them. Their confidence was not based on their abilities but on His authority.

Fear often tells us we're not ready or not enough. Jesus reminds us that when He calls us, He also equips us. *OBEDIENCE COMES BEFORE CONFIDENCE.*

What fears keep you from sharing your faith or serving others? How does knowing Jesus gives His authority to His followers change your perspective? When has God helped you do something you didn't feel capable of doing? What is one opportunity this week where you sense Jesus inviting you to trust Him instead of your fears?

Prayer Focus: Ask God for courage to obey His calling, even when you feel inadequate. Pray for a willing heart that trusts His power more than your limitations.

Tuesday: Fear Not When Facing Opposition

Read: Matthew 10:16–25

Key Verse: *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves."* (Matthew 10:16)

Jesus never promised an easy life. He honestly prepared His disciples for rejection, criticism, and hardship. Yet He also assured them they would never face those challenges alone.

Fear often grows when we expect life to be comfortable. Jesus replaces unrealistic expectations with faithful confidence. *DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT MEAN*

GOD HAS ABANDONED US—THEY OFTEN BECOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS TO SHINE.

What kind of opposition makes you most fearful? Why is honesty about hardship actually encouraging? How can wisdom and gentleness work together when facing conflict? What does it look like to remain faithful without becoming fearful?

Prayer Focus: Pray for strength to remain faithful when your beliefs are challenged. Ask God for wisdom, gentleness, and perseverance.

Wednesday: Fear Not Because God Sees Everything

Read: Matthew 10:26–31

Key Verses: *“So do not be afraid...”* (Matthew 10:26). *“So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”* (Matthew 10:31)

Three times in this section Jesus tells His followers not to fear. Why? Because God knows something about us. Nothing hidden escapes His notice. Nothing spoken for Him is forgotten. Even the smallest details of our lives matter to our Heavenly Father. If God notices every sparrow and even knows the number of hairs on our heads, then we can trust that He sees every burden, every prayer, and every struggle.

OUR VALUE COMES FROM GOD'S LOVE—NOT FROM PEOPLE'S OPINIONS.

Which fear is hardest for you to surrender to God? How does God's intimate knowledge of you bring comfort? Why do we often give more weight to human opinions than God's? What would change if you truly believed God is always watching over you with love?

Prayer Focus: Thank God for His constant care and attention. Pray for freedom from anxiety and confidence in His loving oversight.

Thursday: Fear God More Than People

Read: Matthew 10:32–39

Key Verse: *“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 10:32)

Many fears are rooted in wanting approval. Jesus calls His followers to value His approval above every other voice. Following Christ sometimes creates tension, even with those closest to us. Yet Jesus reminds us that eternal priorities outweigh temporary acceptance. When our greatest desire is to please Him, the fear of disappointing others begins to lose its power.

In what situations are you tempted to hide your faith? How does seeking people's approval affect your decisions? What does it practically mean to put Jesus first? What would courageous faith look like in one relationship this week?

Prayer Focus: Ask God to strengthen your commitment to Christ above all else. Pray for boldness to represent Him with humility and love.

Friday: Fear Not—Your Reward Is Secure

Read: Matthew 10:40–42

Key Verse: *“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.”* (Matthew 10:40)

Jesus ends this chapter with encouragement. Every act of faithfulness matters. Even something as simple as offering a cup of cold water in His name is seen and remembered by God.

Fear often whispers that our efforts are insignificant. Jesus says otherwise. Nothing done for Him is wasted. Every act of obedience, every sacrifice, every quiet kindness has eternal value.

WE DON'T SERVE BECAUSE WE ARE FEARLESS; WE SERVE BECAUSE JESUS IS FAITHFUL.

How does knowing God notices small acts of faith encourage you? Where have you underestimated the impact of simple obedience? What "cup of cold water" could you offer someone this week? Looking back over Matthew 10, what truth about fear has impacted you the most?

Prayer Focus: Thank God that your faithfulness matters to Him. Ask Him to help you live courageously, trusting that every act of obedience has eternal significance.

Closing Reflection

Jesus never says there is nothing to fear. Instead, He repeatedly teaches us who to trust when fear comes.

In Matthew 10 we discover: Jesus gives us His authority. Jesus prepares us for hardship. God knows every detail of our lives. God's approval matters most. Faithful obedience is always rewarded. *WHENEVER FEAR RISES, REMEMBER THE REPEATED INVITATION OF JESUS: “FEAR NOT.”*
His presence is greater than your circumstances, His care is deeper than your worries, and His promises are stronger than your fears.

WEEK 2 — SIN NOT

Monday: Grace Before Change

Read John 8:1–11

Key Verse: *"And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'"* (John 8:11)

Jesus met a woman caught in adultery with compassion before correction. He didn't excuse her sin, but He also refused to condemn her. *JESUS'S GRACE CREATED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TRANSFORMATION.*

What stands out most to you about Jesus' response to the woman? Why do you think Jesus addressed the woman's accusers before speaking to her? Have you ever struggled to believe that Jesus offers both forgiveness and truth? How does grace motivate change more effectively than shame?

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help you fully receive His forgiveness and to believe that His grace is greater than your failures.

Tuesday: What Does "Sin No More" Mean?

Read Romans 6:1–14

Key Verse: *"So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 6:11)

Jesus wasn't asking for instant perfection. He was calling the woman into a new direction of life. Because of Christ, believers are no longer slaves to sin but are empowered to live differently.

What is the difference between struggling with sin and living in unrepentant sin? According to Romans 6, what has changed about your relationship with sin? What habits or attitudes keep pulling you back? How can you rely more on God's power than your own willpower?

Prayer Focus: Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you to resist temptation and help you pursue holiness one day at a time.

Wednesday: Repentance Leads to Freedom

Read Psalm 51:1–12

Key Verse: *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."* (Psalm 51:10)

David's prayer in today's Psalm shows that genuine repentance isn't simply feeling guilty—it is turning back to God with a sincere heart. *GOD DELIGHTS IN RESTORING THOSE WHO COME HONESTLY BEFORE HIM.*

What emotions do you hear in David's prayer? What is the difference between guilt and genuine repentance? Is there anything you've been hesitant to bring before God? How does God's forgiveness change your view of yourself?

Prayer Focus: Confess any known sin to God and ask Him to renew your heart, restore your joy, and create a deeper desire to please Him.

Thursday: Walking in the Spirit

Read Galatians 5:16–26

Key Verse: *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”* (Galatians 5:16)

Victory over sin doesn't come through determination alone—it comes by walking daily with the Holy Spirit. As we stay close to Christ, the fruit of the Spirit begins to grow in our lives.

Which fruit of the Spirit do you see growing in your life? Which one do you most need God to develop? What practical habits help you stay connected to Jesus? How can you recognize when you're relying on yourself instead of the Spirit?

Prayer Focus: Invite the Holy Spirit to shape your character and produce His fruit in every area of your life.

Friday: Living a New Life

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

Key Verse: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Jesus' words, "Go and sin no more," point toward a new identity. In Christ, you are a new creation. Forgiven people become transformed people who reflect God's love to the world.

What does it mean to you to be a "new creation"? How has Jesus changed your identity? What specific step of obedience is God calling you to take this week? How can your story of grace encourage someone else?

Prayer Focus: Thank God for making you new through Christ. Ask Him to help you walk faithfully in your new identity and be a witness of His grace to others.

Closing Reflection

Over these five days, we've seen that Jesus' words, "Go and sin no more," are not words of rejection—they are words of redemption. Before He called the woman to leave her sin, He extended mercy. Before He challenged her to live differently, He assured her that she was not condemned.

The same is true for us. Jesus never minimizes sin, but neither does He define us by our failures. Through His death and resurrection, He offers forgiveness, freedom, and the power to live a transformed life. His command to "go and sin no more" is not an impossible standard to earn His love; it is an invitation to walk in the new life His grace has already made possible.

As you finish this study, remember that spiritual growth is a daily journey. There will be victories to celebrate and moments when you'll need to return to God's grace in repentance. *DON'T LET FAILURE DRIVE YOU AWAY FROM CHRIST—LET IT DRAW YOU BACK TO HIM.* His mercy is new every morning, and His Spirit faithfully empowers those who seek Him.

This week, ask yourself: Where have I experienced God's grace in a fresh way? What is one area where Jesus is calling me to greater obedience? How can I depend on the Holy Spirit instead of my own strength? Who needs to hear about the hope and freedom I've found in Christ?

May you leave this study with a deeper appreciation for the heart of Jesus—a Savior who forgives completely, transforms continually, and calls His followers to live in the freedom of His grace.

WEEK 3 - DOUBT NOT

Learning to trust Jesus even when circumstances are uncertain, difficult, or beyond our understanding.

Monday: Stepping Out in Faith

Read Matthew 14:22–33

Key Verse: *"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. (Matthew 14:29)*

Peter experienced the impossible because he responded to Jesus' invitation. Faith often requires stepping out before knowing exactly how everything will work. Jesus calls us to trust His voice more than our circumstances.

What "boat" of comfort or security is Jesus asking you to step out of? Why do you think Peter was willing to leave the boat when the others stayed behind? What does this passage teach you about taking risks in obedience? When have you seen God meet you after taking a step of faith?

Prayer Focus: Ask God for the courage to obey Him even when you cannot see the outcome. Pray for faith that responds to His invitation instead of fear.

Tuesday: When Doubt Creeps In

Read Matthew 14:30–31

Key Verse: *"Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'" (Matthew 14:31)*

Peter walked on water until he shifted his focus from Jesus to the wind and waves. Doubt often grows when we focus more on our problems than on God's presence. Even when Peter faltered, Jesus immediately reached out to rescue him.

What "wind and waves" most often distract you from trusting Jesus? How do fear and doubt affect your spiritual walk? What does Jesus' immediate response to Peter reveal about His character? How can you intentionally keep your eyes on Christ this week?

Prayer Focus: Pray for God to strengthen your faith and help you recognize His presence in the middle of life's storms.

Wednesday: Trusting Jesus When You Don't Understand

Read John 6:53–68

Key Verse: *"Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" (John 6:68)*

Many disciples walked away because Jesus' teaching was difficult to understand and accept. Peter didn't claim to understand everything, but he knew Jesus was trustworthy. *GENUINE FAITH IS NOT BASED ON HAVING EVERY ANSWER—IT IS BASED ON KNOWING THE ONE WHO DOES.*

Why do you think many disciples chose to leave Jesus? Have you ever struggled with something Jesus taught? What does Peter's response teach you about commitment? How can you remain faithful even when God's ways don't make sense?

Prayer Focus: Ask God for a heart that trusts His wisdom above your own understanding. Pray for perseverance when faith becomes challenging.

Thursday: Faith That Grows Through the Storm

Read James 1:2–8

Key Verse: *"But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."* (James 1:6)

God doesn't waste our trials. Difficult seasons often become the place where our faith matures. Instead of allowing hardship to produce doubt, God invites us to let it develop endurance and steadfast trust.

What trial has strengthened your faith the most? Why does James connect wisdom with faith? How can you seek God's guidance with confidence? What practical habits help strengthen your trust in God?

Prayer Focus: Pray for steadfast faith that remains anchored in Christ regardless of circumstances.

Friday: Worship After the Storm

Read Matthew 14:32–33

Key Verse: *"Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'"* (Matthew 14:33)

The miracle ended in worship. Jesus didn't calm the storm simply to amaze His disciples—He revealed His divine identity so they would know Him more deeply. Every trial is an opportunity to discover more of who Christ is.

How has God revealed Himself through past difficulties? What does genuine worship look like during uncertain seasons? How has your understanding of Jesus grown through this study? What is one specific area where God is asking you to trust Him more?

Prayer Focus: Thank Jesus for His faithfulness. Commit your future, your fears, and your unanswered questions to Him, choosing to worship Him regardless of your circumstances.

Closing Reflection

Throughout this week, we've watched Peter step out of the boat, struggle with doubt, and experience the saving hand of Jesus. We've also seen another moment in Peter's life when many people abandoned Jesus because His teaching was difficult. Yet Peter remained, declaring, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* (John 6:68).

These two accounts reveal an important truth about faith. Faith is not the absence of questions, fear, or uncertainty. Peter experienced all of those. *FAITH IS CHOOSING TO KEEP TURNING TOWARD JESUS, EVEN WHEN THE WAVES ARE HIGH OR HIS WORDS ARE HARD TO UNDERSTAND.*

There will be seasons when life feels overwhelming, prayers seem unanswered, or God's plan doesn't make sense. In those moments, Jesus offers the same invitation He gave Peter: "Come." And when our faith falters, He responds with the same compassion: reaching out His hand to lift us up.

Rather than asking, "How strong is my faith?" perhaps the better question is, "Where are my eyes fixed?" When our focus remains on Christ, we discover that He is faithful in every storm. He may not always remove the waves immediately, but He always remains present in them.

As you leave this study, remember that Jesus is still calling people to trust Him. He is still inviting us to step beyond fear, to believe His promises, and to follow Him even when we don't understand everything. Like Peter, may your heart continually declare:

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

May your faith grow stronger—not because life becomes easier, but because you know more deeply the One who walks on the water, calms the storms, and never lets go of those who trust Him.

WEEK 4 - WORRY NOT

Learning to trust God with our needs, our future, and the things we cannot control.

Monday: Your Heavenly Father Knows What You Need

Read Matthew 6:25–33

Key Verse: *“For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.”* Matthew 6:32

Jesus begins His teaching about worry by reminding us of something incredibly important: God knows what we need. We often worry because we believe everything depends on us. We carry tomorrow's problems today and try to solve circumstances that haven't even happened yet. But Jesus reminds us that we have a Father who already knows our needs. Worry tells us we are alone; faith reminds us that God is with us.

What are the things you find yourself worrying about most often? Why do you think knowing that God already knows your needs can change the way you face those concerns? What is the difference between being responsible and being consumed by worry? Are there areas of your life where you are acting as though everything depends entirely upon you? What would it look like to place those concerns into God's hands?

Prayer Focus: Pray for trust. Give God the specific things you are worried about and remind yourself that your Heavenly Father already knows what you need.

Tuesday: Look at the Birds

Read Matthew 6:25–30

Key Verse: *“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.”* Matthew 6:26

Jesus tells His disciples to “look around them”. The birds don't spend their lives worrying about whether God will provide. Jesus isn't saying we should be irresponsible or passive. He is reminding us that creation itself testifies to the Father's care. If God cares for the birds and flowers, how much more does He care for His children? *SOMETIMES THE ANTIDOTE TO WORRY IS SIMPLY TO STOP, LOOK AROUND, AND REMEMBER WHO GOD IS.*

Why do you think Jesus used birds and flowers as examples? What does creation teach you about God's character? When you are anxious, do you tend to focus more on your circumstances or on God's faithfulness? What are some ways God has provided for you in the past? How can remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen your trust today?

Prayer Focus: Pray for perspective. Ask God to help you see His faithfulness instead of allowing your circumstances to become the biggest thing in your vision.

Wednesday: Tomorrow Has Enough Trouble

Read Matthew 6:34; Philippians 4:4–9

Key Verse: *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* Matthew 6:34

One of the greatest sources of anxiety is “tomorrow”. We replay yesterday, worry about today, and fear tomorrow—all while missing the life God has placed directly in front of us. But Jesus doesn't promise that tomorrow won't contain difficulties. Instead, He tells us not to live tomorrow's troubles today. *GOD GIVES US GRACE FOR TODAY. WHEN TOMORROW ARRIVES, HIS GRACE WILL BE THERE TOO.*

How often do you find yourself worrying about something that hasn't happened yet? What is the difference between planning for the future and worrying about the future? What would it mean for you to live more fully in today's grace? What "tomorrow" are you carrying today? How does Philippians 4:6–7 challenge the way you handle anxiety?

Prayer Focus: Pray for today's grace. Give God tomorrow and ask Him to help you faithfully live the day He has given you.

Thursday: Seek First the Kingdom

Read Matthew 6:31–34; Colossians 3:1–4

Key Verse: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* Matthew 6:33

Jesus doesn't simply tell us what “not” to do. He tells us what to “do instead”. Don't let worry become the center of your life. “Seek first God's kingdom.” Worry turns our attention inward—“What will happen to me?” Faith turns our attention toward God —“What does God want me to do?” When God's kingdom becomes our priority, our circumstances don't necessarily change, but our perspective does.

What tends to occupy your thoughts more than God? What does "seeking first the kingdom of God" look like in everyday life? How can worry become a distraction from God's purposes? What is one area where God may be asking you to trust Him and focus on His kingdom? If you truly believed God would take care of your needs, what might change about your priorities?

Prayer Focus: Pray for proper priorities. Ask God to move your attention from what you fear toward what He is calling you to do.

Friday: Give Your Anxiety to God

Read 1 Peter 5:6–11; Psalm 55:22

Key Verse: *"Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."* 1 Peter 5:7

Peter gives us one of the most beautiful pictures of what to do with worry: "Cast it on God." We don't have to carry everything ourselves. Notice why Peter tells us to give our anxieties to God: "Because he cares for you." We aren't giving our worries to a distant God who doesn't understand. We are giving them to a Father who cares. *FAITH DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE NEVER FEEL WORRIED. FAITH MEANS THAT WHEN WORRY COMES, WE KNOW WHERE TO TAKE IT.*

What does it mean to "cast" your anxiety on God? Why do you think we sometimes pick our worries back up after giving them to God? What does God's care for you mean personally? What is one burden you need to consciously surrender to God? How might your life change if you practiced giving your worries to God every day?

Prayer Focus: Pray for surrender. Name your worries before God and intentionally release them into His hands.

Closing Reflection: "What Are You Carrying?"

Jesus' words, "Do not worry," are not a command to ignore reality. Jesus knows that life contains real problems, real uncertainty, and real pain. Instead, Jesus invites us to face those realities with a different understanding of God — God knows what you need. God sees you. God cares for you. God is with you. The question isn't whether difficult circumstances will come. They will. The question is "Who will carry them with us?"

Worry tells us, "You have to figure this out." Jesus says, "Trust your Father."

Worry tells us, "What if everything goes wrong?" Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom."

Worry tells us, "What about tomorrow?" Jesus says, "Tomorrow will take care of itself."

And when the burden becomes too heavy, Scripture gives us this invitation: *"Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."* — 1 Peter 5:7

As you finish this study, take a moment to identify one worry you have been carrying that God is asking you to surrender. Write it down. Pray over it. Then say: "Jesus, this belongs to You. I trust You with it."

You may have to say those words again tomorrow. And the day after that. That's okay. Trust is often not one giant decision. It is a thousand small decisions to place our lives back into God's hands.

WEEK 5 - JUDGE NOT

Learning to see people through the eyes of Jesus rather than through quick assumptions, labels, and judgments.

Jesus' words in Matthew 7 are often reduced to the phrase, "Don't judge me." But Jesus is teaching something deeper. He challenges us to examine the way we look at other people, the assumptions we make about them, and our tendency to decide who they are based on what we see.

Jesus doesn't call us to abandon wisdom or discernment. Instead, He calls us to examine our own hearts first, extend grace to others, and remember that a person's present circumstances do not necessarily tell us their whole story.

Monday: Don't Size Me Up

Read Matthew 7:1–5

Key Verse: *"Judge not, that you be not judged."* Matthew 7:1

Let's be honest for a moment. We all make judgments. We look at someone's clothes, behavior, mistakes, past, personality, family, job, or even the way they worship—and we can quickly form an opinion about who they are. Jesus challenges that tendency.

"Do not judge" means: "Thou shall not size me up AND write me off."

The problem isn't recognizing that someone has made a mistake. The problem comes when we take one part of someone's story and use it to define the whole person. Jesus reminds us that we don't know everything about someone else's heart, history, struggles, or future.

What does "size me up and write me off" mean to you? Have you ever been judged based on one mistake or one part of your story? Why are we sometimes so quick to form opinions about other people? What assumptions might we make without knowing someone's whole story? How might your relationships change if you intentionally looked for the person behind the behavior?

Prayer Focus: Pray for compassion. Ask God to help you slow down before forming conclusions about people and to see them as people created in God's image.

Tuesday: Look in the Mirror First

Read Matthew 7:3–5; Psalm 139:23–24

Key Verse: *"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."* Matthew 7:5

Jesus doesn't begin by telling us to fix everyone else. He tells us to "look in the mirror." It's easy to see someone else's problems. Their mistakes can seem obvious while our own weaknesses somehow become understandable exceptions. Jesus isn't saying we can never help someone. In fact, He says that after we deal honestly with ourselves, we can see clearly enough to help. The order matters:

EXAMINE YOURSELF → RECEIVE GRACE → SEE CLEARLY → HELP OTHERS.

Why is it easier to see someone else's faults than our own? What "logs" might keep you from seeing others clearly? How does receiving God's grace affect the way you treat someone else's failures? When have you been corrected by someone who approached you with humility rather than superiority? What would change if you prayed for yourself before criticizing someone else?

Prayer Focus: Pray for self-examination. Ask God to reveal attitudes, prejudices, pride, or behaviors that need His attention.

Wednesday: See the Person, Not the Label

Read John 4:1–30; 39–42

Key Verse: *"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"*
John 4:29

Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman is a powerful example of refusing to write someone off. She carried multiple labels. Samaritan. Woman. Outsider. Someone with a complicated relationship history.

But Jesus saw more than the labels. He saw a person who needed living water. And He didn't allow her past to determine her future. That is what grace does. Grace doesn't pretend the past didn't happen. *GRACE REFUSES TO BELIEVE THE PAST IS THE END OF THE STORY.*

What labels did other people likely place on the Samaritan woman? How did Jesus treat her differently than others might have? What labels do we sometimes put on people today? Have you ever allowed someone's past to determine what you thought their future could be? Who might God be asking you to see differently?

Prayer Focus: Pray for transformed vision. Ask God to help you see the person behind the label and the potential behind the past.

Thursday: Grace Doesn't Mean Ignoring Truth

Read John 8:1–11; Galatians 6:1–2

Key Verse: *"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness."* Galatians 6:1

Not judging does not mean “not caring”. Jesus didn't tell the woman caught in adultery that her actions didn't matter. He said: *"Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."* Jesus combined grace — *Nor do I condemn you* — and truth — *Go and sin no more*.

There is a difference between saying: *"You did something wrong, and I want to help you find a better way."* ...and saying: *"You did something wrong, therefore you are a terrible person and I am finished with you."* One seeks restoration. The other writes someone off. Christian correction should never be about proving that we are better than someone else. It should be about helping one another become more like Christ.

What is the difference between condemnation and loving correction? Why is gentleness important when helping someone who has made a mistake? Have you ever experienced correction that actually helped you grow? How can we speak truth without making someone feel worthless? Is there someone you need to approach with grace rather than judgment?

Prayer Focus: Pray for wisdom and gentleness. Ask God to help you know when to speak, when to listen, and how to speak truth with love.

Friday: Leave Room for God's Work

Read Matthew 7:12; Romans 12:17–21; Philippians 1:6

Key Verse: *"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."* Philippians 1:6

One of the greatest problems with writing people off is that we assume we know how their story ends. But we don't. The person who frustrates you today may be someone God is transforming tomorrow. The person who has failed repeatedly may eventually become someone who helps others avoid the same mistakes. The person you have counted out may become one of the greatest testimonies of God's grace.

GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH PEOPLE.

And that includes us.

If we believe God is still working on us, we should leave room to believe He is still working on everyone else.

Who have you been tempted to "write off"? What would it mean to leave room for God to work in that person's life? How does remembering your own need for grace affect the way you see others? Can you think of a time when someone surprised you by changing or growing? What would it look like to become a person who gives others room to grow?

Prayer Focus: Pray for hope. Ask God to help you believe in the possibility of transformation—not only for yourself but for the people around you.

Closing Reflection: "Don't Write the Story Too Soon"

Jesus' words, "Judge not," challenge one of our most natural human tendencies: we see a moment and assume we know the whole story. We see someone's mistake and decide who they are. We see their past and assume their future. We see their weakness and overlook their potential. We see their behavior and forget their humanity.

But Jesus says: Slow down. Look at yourself first. Remember your own need for grace. And then look at the other person differently.

"DO NOT JUDGE = THOU SHALL NOT SIZE ME UP AND WRITE ME OFF."

That doesn't mean we ignore sin. It doesn't mean we abandon discernment. It doesn't mean we call everything good. It means we refuse to assume that someone's worst moment is the sum total of who they are.

Jesus saw Zacchaeus and saw more than a tax collector.
Jesus saw Peter and saw more than a man who would deny Him.
Jesus saw the Samaritan woman and saw more than her reputation.
Jesus saw the woman caught in adultery and saw more than her sin.
And Jesus sees YOU as more than your worst mistake.

A Final Thought — Before you write someone off, remember: God isn't finished with them.

And before you write yourself off, remember: God isn't finished with you either.

The same Jesus who tells us not to judge others is the Jesus who offers grace to sinners, restoration to the broken, and new beginnings to people who thought their story was already over.