

08

THE SON HAS AUTHORITY

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT.

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ADULTS



SUMMER | 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 on the third day, 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

Jesus, there is no one like Him. He graced the paths of Israel two thousand years ago, and He graces the pages of our Bibles today. But even better, He graces us with His presence in our hearts.

If you have been a Christian for many years, it might be easy to read the stories of Jesus in this volume with pride, thinking you already know these passages. But I pray that the Spirit would enlighten your mind and revive your heart to see something new or learn something different about who Jesus is—His heart, His character, His purpose. There is much that we already know about Him, but being God, there is still much for us to learn.

Like the crowds, let us be in awe as if seeing Him heal or cast out demons for the first time. But even more, let us be like Peter's mother-in-law, who served Jesus after being healed. Or like the man with leprosy who proclaimed about Him because of his joy. Or the friends of the man with paralysis who brought him to Jesus knowing He could do anything. Or like the disciples who obeyed when He called. Or the woman who was a sinner who gave Jesus her all.

There is something to learn from all these people who were changed because they encountered Jesus. This should make us reflect on our story of our encounter with Jesus. Whether we have chosen to trust in Him or not, our encounter with Jesus will forever change us. If you have not placed your faith in Him, know that He beckons to you now. Choosing to follow Jesus will change your trajectory. He did that for the people in these passages, and He continues to do that in people's lives today.

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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.

3 YEAR PLAN

**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**

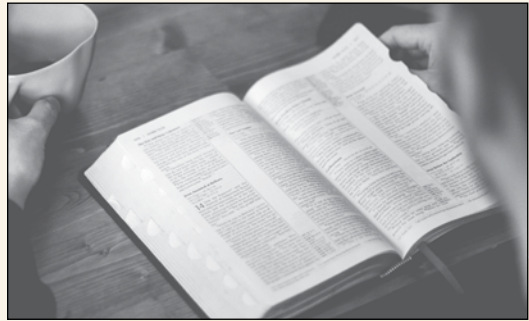
(The Epistles; Revelation)
Summer 2027

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 Is Tempted in the Wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)

SESSION STUDY: Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30)


Jesus Heals a Leprous Man (Mark 1:35-45)

Jesus Ministers in Galilee (Luke 4:14-15)

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority in Capernaum (Mark 1:27-34)

Daily Readings

<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: Luke 4:14-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: Luke 5:17-26
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: Luke 4:31-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: Luke 5:27-39
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Luke 5:12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Psalm 31



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

25

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 4:16-21

JESUS FULFILLED SCRIPTURE AS THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE.

Underline the things the Spirit anointed Jesus to do.

16 He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written: 18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. 20 He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

CHRIST AS PROPHET: As one of His offices, Jesus fulfills the role of prophet: He alone is the ultimate teacher and has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Jesus is also God's ultimate revelation of Himself, the very Word of God (John 1).

Key Concept: Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.

Jesus frequently went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. On this particular day, He was given the opportunity to read the Scripture passage. He stood up and read Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus's reputation and miraculous works had already caused people to question His identity. Could Jesus, in fact, be the Messiah? Through Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus confirmed His identity as the anointed Savior who came to preach good news to the hopeless. The captives would be set free from sin. The blind would see, not just when He healed them physically but when they saw the spiritual truth that Jesus is Lord. It was the year of the Lord's favor because His Son had come.

What does Jesus's habit of attending the synagogue teach us?

Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Jesus's humble beginnings show us an unexpected Savior full of grace and truth. The people were looking for a Savior who would come with high accolades and would establish an earthly kingdom independent from Roman rule. But Jesus came to rescue captive souls from sin. Knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of Scripture is a joyous hope and confirmation of His identity as the Messiah.

How does Jesus's claim from Isaiah and His miraculous works affect how you see your mission?

VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

—C. S. Lewis (1898–1963)

Jesus sat down immediately after reading Scripture and said that day Isaiah's prophecy had been fulfilled. We are privileged to know the entire narrative of Scripture, but imagine the perspective of the people in Nazareth. They just heard Jesus claim that He fulfilled this prophecy. Jesus, the son of a carpenter, claimed to be the Christ. His hometown of Nazareth was not a place of high prestige. Even Nathanael, one of Jesus's disciples, asked, "Can anything good come from

3) PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP EXPERIENCE

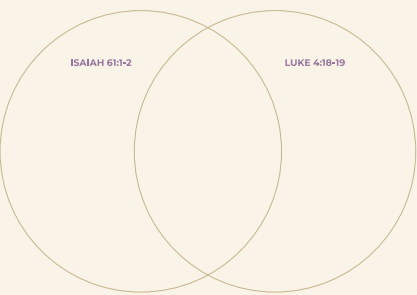
The Group Experience for each session includes an activity and interactive questions designed to make the most of your group experience. Depending on your leader, he or she may have you do the activity on your own before doing it together as a group, or your leader may want you to wait until group time. 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

THE LORD'S ANOINTED

Read the Bible passages below. Compare the similarities and differences between Isaiah's prophecy and Jesus's message in Nazareth.

ISAIAH 61:1-2



LUKE 4:18-19

How does Jesus's proclaiming good news and freedom give you comfort?
What part can you play in bringing the good news to the oppressed?

30 Unit 22 | Session 2 | The Hometown Rejected



- **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's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.


HEAD
Why do people have a hard time accepting the facts of Jesus's identity even though He has shown Himself to be true?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE
Read Psalm 31. Thank God for His protection and deliverance because of His faithful love. Jesus came to heal and restore. Praise Him as He is our rock and fortress. Rejoice and plead daily for God's grace to cover you.

HEART
What can you do when doubts arise about God, Scripture, or your faith?

HANDS
How can you be faithful in sharing Jesus Christ with a world that may be apprehensive to Him?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



31



- Application Questions
- Scripture-Based Prayer
- Prayer Requests

THE SON HAS AUTHORITY

By Caleb Boss

Authority is a concept with which most humans have a love-hate relationship. On one hand, authority intrigues us, especially when it comes to our desire for power. On the other hand, as fallen creations, we do not like the idea of submitting to someone else's authority. It's in our nature. You see, our sin obscures the true essence of authority. True authority is not something we can obtain for selfish gain, but it is wielded by God, who is our loving Creator. Our sin separates us from God, and God, who is holy and righteous, is fully just in demanding repayment for our sin. That repayment is not anything you or I could offer, so God is within His rights to demand the only payment that fits the debt we owe—eternal death for we who are bound in our sin. Yet God didn't leave us hopeless in our sin. Instead of wielding His authority to condemn, He used His authority to offer redemption for our sin. What a beautiful display of grace with His boundless authority!

In this volume, we will see many accounts of Scripture in which Jesus proved Himself to be the long-awaited Messiah and Son of God. We also will see that Jesus's identity as the Son of God grants Him authority over all things. Let's take a quick bird's-eye view together to see how we should understand

that Jesus is the Son of God and that He has been granted authority over all things from the Father.

THE SON

Jesus showed a multitude of signs that pointed to His identity as the Son of God. Throughout this volume, we'll see that Jesus performed many miraculous signs, such as healings and casting out demons (Mark 1:21-45; John 4:46-54). He also fulfilled Old Testament prophecy by proclaiming good news to the poor and declaring the coming of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:16-30). He even publicly forgave sins (Mark 2:1-12). Jesus's own people rejected His claims and called Him a blasphemer because they believed God is the only One who can forgive sins. In this they were correct, but what Jesus's own people rejected out of spiritual blindness, we recognize explicitly: Jesus is in fact the Son of God! He Himself is the fulfillment of the law, and He demonstrated His divine nature by performing miracles only God could do.

As a New Testament Christian, I am reminded of what John, an eyewitness and Jesus's beloved disciple, said in his Gospel account:

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31).

What an incredible claim and promise! The things Jesus did and said all point to His identity as the Son of God. I hope you are encouraged to see His identity revealed as you dive into each account of Jesus's ministry recorded in this volume.

The things Jesus did
and said all point
to His identity as
the Son of God.

THE SON HAS AUTHORITY

Jesus's identity as the Son of God points us to His authority. While it is true that the Son of God is our Messiah, it is also equally true that He is our Lord. Jesus was, and is, a man of flesh and blood, and He is also fully divine. His divinity means lordship.

He has authority over all things, for Jesus Himself said, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). In each Bible story in this volume, we will see Jesus's authority carried out. He demonstrated His authority over creation, which is fitting because we are told in Scripture that all things were made by Him (Colossians 1:16). When desperate people came to Him, He healed every sickness and disease. He cast out demons, and the demons had no choice but to obey His commands. Unlike our fallen desires to use authority for our own selfish gain, Jesus used His authority to display His glory and to extend His gracious hand out of love for others. Jesus's authority is not heavy-handed; it is a blessing to His people. He demonstrated authority over His creation ultimately to show us that He has authority even over sin and death itself. Jesus alone is the Lord of life, and by faith in His grace alone are we saved.

As we read through this volume, understand that Jesus's authority over creation is but a small glimpse of the authority He has to grant salvation to the lost. His identity and authority put on display as the Son of God ultimately led Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the grave on the third day. He has defeated death, and He is still saving people from sin that would lead them to eternal death. What a blessing to see with eyes wide open the authority and victory that the Son of God has over our sin.

Caleb Boss is the student pastor at New Oak Grove Baptist Church in Alachua, Florida. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children: David, Emily, and Henry. Caleb is an MDiv graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

UNIT 22

RESPONSES TO JESUS



MARK; LUKE; JOHN



MEMORY VERSES

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

—Luke 4:18-19



THE OFFICIAL BELIEVED

CORE PASSAGE: JOHN 4:46-54

CONTEXT

After Jesus met with the woman at the well in Samaria, she believed Jesus was the Messiah and told the people in her town. Many people in Samaria believed in Jesus as the Messiah. Two days later, Jesus resumed His travels in Galilee. While in Cana, He was stopped by an official who was in great distress because his son was at death's door. Yet his son was in Capernaum, roughly twenty-five miles away. Jesus revealed His authority over sickness in a way that showed His messiahship.

KEY CONCEPT

Faith includes believing in Jesus's authority and power.

As you examine John 4:46-54:

- Reflect that Jesus is compassionate even when people look for signs to believe.
- Emphasize that faith is believing without seeing, but seeing leads to deeper faith.



TIMELINE

Jesus Performs His First
Miracle at the Wedding
in Cana (John 2:1-12)

Nicodemus Visits Jesus at Night
(John 3:1-21)

SESSION STUDY:
Jesus Performs His Second
Miracle in Cana (John 4:46-54)

Jesus Cleanses the Temple
(John 2:13-22)

Jesus Speaks with a Samaritan
Woman (John 4:1-42)

Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth
(Luke 4:16-30)

Daily Readings

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: John 4:43-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: John 6:1-21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: John 5:1-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: John 6:22-71 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: John 5:24-47 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Psalm 142 |



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

PERSONAL PREPARATION

JOHN 4:46-50

JESUS'S WORD IS POWERFUL AND ABLE TO HEAL.

Highlight words that depict the official's state of mind when he approached Jesus.

46 He went again to Cana of Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a certain royal official whose son was ill at Capernaum. **47** When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to him and pleaded with him to come down and heal his son, since he was about to die. **48** Jesus told him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." **49** "Sir," the official said to him, "come down before my boy dies." **50** "Go," Jesus told him, "your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and departed.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

FAITH: Biblical faith is the resting, or trusting, in Christ alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Christ as Lord and Savior of one's life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Key Concept: Faith includes believing in Jesus's authority and power.

Jesus returned to Cana of Galilee and was quickly approached by an official who was distraught over his son's condition. His son was dying and needed more than what a physician could offer. He approached Jesus with the expectation that Jesus would come with him to heal his son. In the same way that this official expected Jesus to come with him, we too have the tendency to come to God with preconceived expectations. Our downfall as broken people is to plead with God for what we think we need when we think we need it rather than trusting that God is faithful to our needs. Instead of anxiously expecting signs from God to work out our circumstances the way we want them to be handled, we must trust in His promises found in His Word.

In what ways have you had anxious expectations in your requests from the Lord?

Though the official may have thought his request would be received with urgency, Jesus unexpectedly responded, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe" (v. 48). It is so easy to become entranced with the miracles rather than who the miracles point to. In this moment, Jesus taught us that He is the source of authority and power. The official believed that Jesus was able to heal his son as long

as Jesus came to his house. Maybe he felt Jesus had to touch his son for the healing to happen. But Jesus, to demonstrate His authority and compassion for the official, said that his son would be healed roughly twenty-five miles away. Then the official, in faith, departed.

Often times God does not work in the way we think He ought to. He alone is sovereign, and our requests are not. Faith in His authority, power, and grace is what He desires from us.

How does the reality of Jesus's authority and power affect how you approach Him in prayer?

VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"It often happens that while our Heavenly Father may not grant our desires in every particular, he nevertheless helps us in unexpected ways, so that we may learn not to dictate to him in anything."¹

—John Calvin (1509–1564)

PERSONAL PREPARATION

JOHN 4:51-54

JESUS'S POWER AND AUTHORITY REALIZED LEADS TO FAITH.

Underline the father's reaction to his son's healing and the effects that Jesus's grace had on his entire family.

51 While he was still going down, his servants met him saying that his boy was alive. **52** He asked them at what time he got better. "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him," they answered. **53** The father realized this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." So he himself believed, along with his whole household. **54** Now this was also the second sign Jesus performed after he came from Judea to Galilee.



VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"The way to increase faith is to exercise faith. And the true parent of perfect faith is the experience of the blessings that come from the crudest, rudest, narrowest, blindest, feeblest faith that a man can exercise."²

—MacLaren of Manchester (1826–1910)

Key Concept: Faith includes believing in Jesus's authority and power.



Before the official even reached his house, his servants met him with wonderful news—his son was now well! Jesus's compassion for the official was proven faithful. Although this father had not seen his son's healing, his servants' report led his mind back to what Jesus had said, even noting the time Jesus said it. Though we may not initially see God at work in our circumstances, when He does prove Himself faithful, His faithfulness should lead us to deeper faith. The official remembered what Christ had said, and Christ was proven to have healed the boy as He said He would. At times we may display weak faith or a lack of trust in God due to our expectations, yet His grace is sufficient at the right time to solidify our trust in Him alone.

Why do you think we feel we need to see to believe? How has God shown you grace to deepen your faith in Him?

Jesus face to face or witnessed His miracles, we do not have a blind faith. We have God's inerrant Word. We have the historical accuracy of His Word. We see the effects of salvation by the Holy Spirit upon the lives of believers. If you are a believer in Christ, you are evidence of Christ's continued work and are called to be a witness to those who do not yet believe.

In what ways does your life bear witness to the authority and power of Jesus?

The official and his entire household believed because of Jesus's compassion. You see, Christ's selfless love and His authority affect people. His faithfulness unto death on a cross gives us hope to believe that there is salvation from sin and restoration with God. We share the same faith as the official and his household. Although we have not seen

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus's power to heal from afar points to His authority over all. That authority reveals itself in His victory over sin and death through His crucifixion and resurrection. We merely need to have faith in Him.

HEALING AND RESPONSE

Read the Bible passages below. Compare them by writing down the nature of the healing that Jesus performed and the people's responses.

	HEALING	RESPONSE TO THE HEALING
MARK 1:29-31		
MATTHEW 8:5-13		
MATTHEW 9:27-30		
JOHN 4:46-54		

How does Jesus's authority to heal shape the way we view illnesses and sin?

How does Jesus's familiarity with pain and suffering lead us to a greater faith in Him?

Key Concept: Faith includes believing in Jesus's authority and power.



HEAD

How do the accounts of Jesus's ministry draw you closer to Him?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE



Pray through Psalm 142. Pray for God's grace and mercy to pour over you, for where you are weak, He is faithful. Readily lay down your requests before God, for He desires to hear from you. Thank God for His faithful work in you and around you, for He is your refuge.



HEART

In what ways can you cast your burdens upon the Lord?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

How can you be a faithful witness who proclaims Christ's authority, identity, and grace to others this week?

