





## Seeds of Success Living the Christ-Centered Life



Do you want to have greater success in your relationship with God and others this Fall?  
Do want to experience a deeper sense of peace, purpose and power in your life?

Here's what could happen in your life by committing about 15 minutes a day for the next eleven weeks:

- Your walk with God will deepen as you daily stay centered on Christ and discover the joy of hearing His voice.
- Your relationships will improve. At home, at work, in your neighborhood, people will see in you a more positive, patient and loving person.
- You'll become productive at home and at work because you'll have prayerfully considered God is calling you to use your God-inspired creativity in your given tasks.
- You'll internalize a pattern of prayer that will help you handle the pain in your life as you learn the art of finding joy in suffering.

### **Beginning September 11, 2022**

Set aside 15 minutes a day to center yourself on Christ either at the beginning or ending of the day by reflecting on 11 scripture passages and praying 11 short prayers.

How To Plant the Seeds of Success Daily:

- 1) Bring this devotional guide to worship and take notes during each sermon to prepare for the coming week.
- 2) Read the verse for the week each day, plus the commentary. The goal is to memorize the verses by the end of the week.
- 3) Reflect either in quiet meditation or by writing your thoughts in a journal for five days during the week (Monday – Friday). You will find some days are very similar to the previous day and some are dramatically different. Let the Holy Spirit direct you.
- 4) Use the Prayer for Today throughout your day.

During these 11 weeks, we'll have testimonies of how God is working through this journal in worship. We'll also gather the evening before Thanksgiving for a Night of Praise as we live out our final seed from Psalms.

If you have time, share your experience on the PCH Disciples Facebook page and visit our website for more useful resources.

**Week One:**  
**Purpose: Receive the Love of God and Others**

Sermon Notes – Sunday, Sept 11

**Verse for the week:**

**Isaiah 62:4-5**

“No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called My Delight, and your land Married; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married. As a young man marries a maiden, so will your children marry you; **as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.**”

*These words were written by the prophet Isaiah to the people of Israel who were exiled into Babylon for 70 years. As a people, they had turned away from God, forgetting His love and His commands. When the Babylonians decimated Jerusalem, the people thought God had deserted them. They were called a desolate people. And then....*

*God restores them. God finds joy in restoring His people. Just like in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the father enjoyed inviting both his sons to the party and welcomed them into his love.*

*And God finds joy restoring YOU to live the life He has for you. The LORD rejoices over you like a groom over his bride at a wedding. You are God's delight!*

*A Christ-centered life begins with receiving God's love. One way that happens is by receiving the love of others. Will you receive God's love today? Will you allow others to show God's love to you? It's going to be a great day.*

## Monday

**Read** Isaiah 62:5 again slowly. Now, read Isaiah 62:1-5. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** What would help you feel God's delight today? If there are things getting in the way of your experiencing God's joy right now, write them below, and with this verse in mind, imagine what God might say to you.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you" -- Isaiah 62:5**

**Pray:** Give thanks for the people in your life who show you love. Ask God to help you to receive more and more of His love. Finish your prayers each day this week with the "Prayer For Today" below.

### *Prayer for Today:*

*Today, I prepare for a successful day confronted by this overwhelming truth: **God finds joy in ME!** God enjoys when we spend time together. That's how much He loves me. The successes or mistakes of yesterday do not determine His joy in my returning to Him. At this moment, I give thanks for God's love and joy in our time together.*

## Tuesday

**Read** Isaiah 62:5 again slowly. Now, read Isaiah 62:1-5. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** What would help you feel God's delight today? If there are things getting in the way of your experiencing God's joy right now, write them below, and with this verse in mind, imagine what God might say to you.

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## Wednesday

**Read** Isaiah 62:5 again slowly. Now, read Isaiah 62:1-5. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** What would help you feel God's delight today? If there are things getting in the way of your experiencing God's joy right now, write them below, and with this verse in mind, imagine what God might say to you.

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## Thursday

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**Reflection:** What would help you feel God's delight today? If there are things getting in the way of your experiencing God's joy right now, write them below, and with this verse in mind, imagine what God might say to you.

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## Friday

**Read** Isaiah 62:5 again slowly. Now, read Isaiah 62:1-5. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

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## Week Two

### Give Love to God and Others

Sermon Notes – Sunday, Sept 18

#### Verse for the week:

**Matthew 22:37-40**

“Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

*At the very center of our walk with God is a four-letter word: LOVE.*

*In Jesus’ day, rabbis and other religious leaders used to debate this critical question: “Out of the 613 commands God gave to Moses, which is the greatest?” They could debate this question for hours.*

*In the midst of one of those debates, Jesus replied, “Love God with everything you have and love your neighbor as yourself.” With that answer, Jesus silenced the debate, because everyone knew He nailed the response. To love God and to love others summarized all that was said in the Hebrew scriptures.*

*We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). When Christ lives at the center of our lives, we will love our neighbor and our enemies. As you begin your day receiving God’s love, consider how you might show God’s love to others today – how will you show His love in your words, actions and attitude?*

## Monday

**Read** Matthew 22:37-40 again slowly. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In your mind, walk through all the things you have planned for today. On your mental stroll consider how you can show God's love today by the way you interact with everyone you come into contact with. In the space below, write down some of your plans.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
" 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

**Pray:** Take time to express your love to God by giving thanks for the many blessings in your life. Choose five people you know and pray for them as a way to show love to others at the start of your day. End your prayer with the "Prayer for Today."

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, of the many things I need to do, ultimately my greatest success comes in loving God and loving others. Lord, I love you! Today, be at the forefront of my heart, my mind and my soul. Let your love flow through me as I see and talk with others. Give me your eyes to see each person as you see them – with great love.*

## Tuesday

**Read** Matthew 22:37-40 again slowly. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In your mind, walk through all the things you have planned for today. On your mental stroll consider how you can show God's love today by the way you interact with everyone you come into contact with. In the space below, write down some of your plans.

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*Let your love flow through me as I see and talk with others. Give me your eyes to see each person as you see them – with great love.*

## Thursday

**Read** Matthew 22:37-40 again slowly. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In your mind, walk through all the things you have planned for today. On your mental stroll consider how you can show God's love today by the way you interact with everyone you come into contact with. In the space below, write down some of your plans.

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## Week Three Prayerful

Sermon Notes – Sunday, Sept 25

### Verse for the week:

**John 15:5**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

*Guess what happens when a branch with grapes disconnects with the vine that is bringing it water and nutrients? That's right, they dry up, and you have raisins. In fact, without being connected to the vine, the entire branch is worthless – except for fire wood.*

*The same is true in our walk with Christ. If we do not remain or spend time with Him throughout the day, we will eventually dry up. Our faith is completely dependent on staying connected through prayer, scripture and loving others.*

*As Christ becomes more and more the center of your life, people will begin to notice. The Holy Spirit will impact both big and little decisions you make each day with this result – fruitfulness. Peace, joy, love, gentleness, patience, self-control will become a part of your character. You won't need to practice these things; they will grow out of you.*

*Remember, Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. Enjoy the day.*

## Monday

**Read** John 15:1-8. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** As you consider your day, are there things today that will easily distract you from staying connected to Christ? What can you do today to make sure you stay connected all day long, knowing you'll experience a fruitful day?

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**

**Pray:** Take time to count your blessings in prayer. Give thanks for the many ways you see God working in your life. Also, talk with God about those things that are heavy on your heart. Pour out both thanks and concern. End your prayer with the "Prayer for Today."

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I will be more fruitful, experience greater success in my work and relationships as I stay connected to God. Apart from my relationship with Christ, I will not do anything of eternal value. Lord, grant me wisdom as I face the challenges and opportunities you have for my day. With you I can do all things, because you give me strength.*



## Tuesday

**Read** John 15:1-8. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** As you consider your day, are there things today that will easily distract you from staying connected to Christ? What can you do today to make sure you stay connected all day long, knowing you'll experience a fruitful day?

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
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## Wednesday

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## Week Four Penitence

Sermon Notes – Sunday, Oct 2

### Verse for the week

**1 John 1:8-9**

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

*Do you want the good news or the bad news?*

*Okay, first the bad news. You are not perfect. You never have been and you never will be. In fact, you are not only not perfect but sometimes you will unintentionally and unknowingly do stuff that hurts you, hurts others and dishonors God. We all do. It's part of being human.*

*Now the good news. Those things that hurt ourselves, hurt others and dishonor God (let's call it what it is, sin), that sin can not only be forgiven, but you can change.*

*Grace. God's gift of forgiveness and transformation. While you may not be perfect, you can be better today than you were yesterday, and you are free to stop committing the same sin over and over again. Jesus went to the cross so that we might know God's forgiveness – Jesus paid the price for our sins and created a new way for us. Simply ask God for forgiveness and then to purify (clean you out) from the sin that so easily gets you all tangled up.*

*God also sent the Holy Spirit to live in us so we can experience a different life. Today, when you confess your sins, you'll be forgiven because God is faithful and just. Jesus made it possible so that you don't have to live a “less than” life. Enjoy God's grace!*

## Monday

**Read** 1 John 1:1-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Do a mental inventory of yesterday. Are there things that you did, said or thought that you need to confess? Do so now. After confessing your sins, repeat the verse and give God thanks for His complete forgiveness in your life. Then commit to living better today in that area of your life.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”**

**Pray:** Talk to God about forgiveness and your desires to live more fully for Him. After your conversation with God, close with the “Prayer for Today.”

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I remember that I am not perfect and I never will be. My success depends on recognizing that I HAVE given into selfishness and self-centeredness. Today, Lord, I confess those things that have marred my relationship with you and with others in my life. I also confess the ways I have hurt myself by my actions. Receive my confession. Thank you for your forgiveness.*

## Tuesday

**Read** 1 John 1:1-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Do a mental inventory of yesterday. Are there things that you did, said or thought that you need to confess? Do so now. After confessing your sins, repeat the verse and give God thanks for His complete forgiveness in your life. Then commit to living better today in that area of your life.

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**Pray:** Talk to God about forgiveness and your desires to live more fully for Him. After your conversation with God, close with the “Prayer for Today.”

### *Prayer for Today*

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## Wednesday

**Read** 1 John 1:1-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Do a mental inventory of yesterday. Are there things that you did, said or thought that you need to confess? Do so now. After confessing your sins, repeat the verse and give God thanks for His complete forgiveness in your life. Then commit to living better today in that area of your life.

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**Pray:** Talk to God about forgiveness and your desires to live more fully for Him. After your conversation with God, close with the "Prayer for Today."

### *Prayer for Today*

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## Thursday

**Read** 1 John 1:1-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Do a mental inventory of yesterday. Are there things that you did, said or thought that you need to confess? Do so now. After confessing your sins, repeat the verse and give God thanks for His complete forgiveness in your life. Then commit to living better today in that area of your life.

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### *Prayer for Today*

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## Week Five Playfulness

Sermon Notes – Sunday, October 9

### Verse for the week

John 10:10

“Jesus said, ‘The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’”

*Can you hear the voice of your shepherd?*

*You might be thinking that’s an odd question. Most of us don’t even know a person who takes care of sheep. It’s true. And for many people of faith, we say: “The Lord is my Shepherd.”*

*Want to hear something interesting? Back in the day of Jesus, religious leaders and even kings were considered shepherds – people who had the responsibility to take care of others. That’s why Jesus claims to be the Good Shepherd.*

*There are others, however, who are not good shepherds. People who want to manipulate and use others. Spiritually speaking, the Evil One is a type of shepherd who wants to kill, steal and destroy your walk with God. But Jesus has other plans for you – He wants your life to be filled with abundance. That can be yours today. What do you need to do? Choose to listen to His voice. So, can you hear the voice of your Shepherd today?*

## Monday

**Read** John 10:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Identify any voices in your day today that will keep you from hearing God's voice. Write in the space below what you can do today to better hear God's voice throughout the day – and then do it.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"Jesus said, 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'"**

**Pray:** Express your praise to God for the ways He has given you a life of abundance. Also, confess times in which you have listened to the voices that kill, steal and destroy, then recommit to hear the voice of your Good Shepherd. End by praying the "Prayer for Today."

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I choose to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd, who wants to give me a life that is full and abundant. I reject the voices that want to steal my joy, kill my hope and destroy my purpose in Jesus Name. Lord Jesus, I know you have my best interest at heart. Speak to me throughout the day, and create in me the ability to receive the words of love and challenge you have for me.*

## Tuesday

**Read** John 10:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Identify any voices in your day today that will keep you from hearing God's voice. Write in the space below what you can do today to better hear God's voice throughout the day – and then do it.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"Jesus said, 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'"**

**Pray:** Express your praise to God for the ways He has given you a life of abundance. Also, confess times in which you have listened to the voices that kill, steal and destroy, then recommit to hear the voice of your Good Shepherd. End by praying the "Prayer for Today."

### *Prayer for Today*

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## Wednesday

**Read** John 10:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Identify any voices in your day today that will keep you from hearing God's voice. Write in the space below what you can do today to better hear God's voice throughout the day – and then do it.

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**Pray:** Express your praise to God for the ways He has given you a life of abundance. Also, confess times in which you have listened to the voices that kill, steal and destroy, then recommit to hear the voice of your Good Shepherd. End by praying the "Prayer for Today."

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## Thursday

**Read** John 10:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Identify any voices in your day today that will keep you from hearing God's voice. Write in the space below what you can do today to better hear God's voice throughout the day – and then do it.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"Jesus said, 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'"**

**Pray:** Express your praise to God for the ways He has given you a life of abundance. Also, confess times in which you have listened to the voices that kill, steal and destroy, then recommit to hear the voice of your Good Shepherd. End by praying the "Prayer for Today."

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## Friday

**Read** John 10:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Identify any voices in your day today that will keep you from hearing God's voice. Write in the space below what you can do today to better hear God's voice throughout the day – and then do it.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"Jesus said, 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'"**

**Pray:** Express your praise to God for the ways He has given you a life of abundance. Also, confess times in which you have listened to the voices that kill, steal and destroy and recommit to hear the voice of your Good Shepherd. End by praying the "Prayer for Today."

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I choose to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd who wants to give me a life that is full and abundant. I reject the voices that want to steal my joy, kill my hope and destroy my purpose in Jesus Name. Lord Jesus, I know you have my best interest at heart. Speak to me throughout the day, and create in me the ability to receive the words of love and challenge you have for me.*



## Week Six Productive

Sermon Notes – Sunday, October 16

### Verse for the week

#### Genesis 1:28

“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’”

*Any guesses as to what kind of words God spoke to the newly formed humans in the creation story?*

*A blessing. Yes! A blessing. And it was a blessing to be fruitful. A blessing to create. A blessing to take care of creation. God designed us to produce, create and add to this world. And when we do, we are blessed.*

*In fact, you’ll experience a sense of purpose and well-being (that’s the blessing we were just discussing), when you take the path God has for you to add something to the world. God has given you this day to be productive and creative and to add beauty, order and grace in your life and the lives of all who encounter you today.*

*A Christ-centered life impacts your home, your work and your family relationships because you live out God’s blessing to be productive and creative - to produce a better world. You can make that happen today.*

## Monday

**Read** Genesis 1:27-31. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** You will be blessed today as you do the work you've been given. Preview your day in your mind (or write it out). How can your work today be both productive and creative? Decide on one or two ways you'll use your time today to add something positive to the work you have to do.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"**

**Pray:** Talk with the Holy Spirit about your day, asking Him to guide you to use your time with wisdom. Give God your specific tasks and pray that you are able to accomplish with creativity what He has for you.

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I resolve to be productive and creative at home, at work and in my relationships. Lord, help me to see the priorities that will produce the best results for my given tasks. Grant me great productivity. Thank you, Lord, that at the end of this day, I can feel the joy of having had a positive and productive impact at home, at work and in the community.*

## Tuesday

**Read** Genesis 1:27-31. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** You will be blessed today as you do the work you've been given. Preview your day in your mind (or write it out). How can your work today be both productive and creative? Decide on one or two ways you'll use your time today to add something positive to the work you have to do.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"**

**Pray:** Talk with the Holy Spirit about your day, asking Him to guide you to use your time with wisdom. Give God your specific tasks and pray that you are able to accomplish with creativity what He has for you.

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I resolve to be productive and creative at home, at work and in my relationships. Lord, help me to see the priorities that will produce the best results for my given tasks. Grant me great productivity. Thank you, Lord, that at the end of this day, I can feel the joy of having had a positive and productive impact at home, at work and in the community.*

## Wednesday

**Read** Genesis 1:27-31. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** You will be blessed today as you do the work you've been given. Preview your day in your mind (or write it out). How can your work today be both productive and creative? Decide on one or two ways you'll use your time today to add something positive to the work you have to do.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"**

**Pray:** Talk with the Holy Spirit about your day, asking Him to guide you to use your time with wisdom. Give God your specific tasks and pray that you are able to accomplish with creativity what He has for you.

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I resolve to be productive and creative at home, at work and in my relationships. Lord, help me to see the priorities that will produce the best results for my given tasks. Grant me great productivity. Thank you, Lord, that at the end of this day, I can feel the joy of having had a positive and productive impact at home, at work and in the community.*

## Thursday

**Read** Genesis 1:27-31. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** You will be blessed today as you do the work you've been given. Preview your day in your mind (or write it out). How can your work today be both productive and creative? Decide on one or two ways you'll use your time today to add something positive to the work you have to do.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"**

**Pray:** Talk with the Holy Spirit about your day, asking Him to guide you to use your time with wisdom. Give God your specific tasks and pray that you are able to accomplish with creativity what He has for you.

### *Prayer for Today*

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## Friday

**Read** Genesis 1:27-31. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** You will be blessed today as you do the work you've been given. Preview your day in your mind (or write it out). How can your work today be both productive and creative? Decide on one or two ways you'll use your time today to add something positive to the work you have to do.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"**

**Pray:** Talk with the Holy Spirit about your day, asking Him to guide you to use your time with wisdom. Give God your specific tasks and pray that you are able to accomplish with creativity what He has for you.

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I resolve to be productive and creative at home, at work and in my relationships. Lord, help me to see the priorities that will produce the best results for my given tasks. Grant me great productivity. Thank you, Lord, that at the end of this day, I can feel the joy of having had a positive and productive impact at home, at work and in the community.*

## Week Seven Proactive

Sermon Notes – Sunday, October 23

### Verse for the week

**1 Samuel 17:48**

“As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.”

*The Israelite army was paralyzed with fear. Goliath, a huge Philistine warrior, challenged any warrior of the Israelites to battle to the death – winner take all. The army was stuck.*

*When David saw what was happening. instead of looking at Goliath, he turned his eyes to the God of Israel. David did not wait to deal with this huge problem; he went directly to the king to get his approval to fight. When Goliath saw this young lad, he was indignant and planned to feed him to the birds. David did not hesitate but ran toward the giant with the confidence of God’s ability to defeat this huge problem. David quickly dispatched him with a stone and Goliath’s own sword.*

*David was faithfully proactive. Instead of ignoring the problem and getting stuck not knowing what to do, he found his confidence in God’s ability to work through him.*

*What problem or situation are you facing today which causes you to be paralyzed with fear? What things have you been putting off because you feel you don’t have the knowledge or ability to address them? As you remember God’s faithfulness in the past, you’ll experience God’s presence and power to address those things you’ve been putting off.*

## Monday

**Read** 1 Samuel 17. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** David did not wait for his problem (Goliath) to come towards him, but he ran towards the giant with the faith that God would deliver him. Are there problems that you've been avoiding? Consider what you can do today to proactively address those things, and then write ideas in the space below.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him."**

**Pray:** Sit quietly and ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding to address areas in your life that you've been avoiding.

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I will face my challenges with confidence and faith. I will proactively address those areas where I have been procrastinating. Fear will not hold me back. Lord, with your power and my actions, I will confront my problems. I will no longer pray "God, here is my problem" but rather "Problem, here is my God!" And then I'll get to work.*



## Tuesday

**Read** 1 Samuel 17. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** David did not wait for his problem (Goliath) to come towards him, but he ran towards the giant with the faith that God would deliver him. Are there problems that you've been avoiding? Consider what you can do today to proactively address those things, and then write ideas in the space below.

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him."**

**Pray:** Sit quietly and ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding to address areas in your life that you've been avoiding.

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## Wednesday

**Read** 1 Samuel 17. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** David did not wait for his problem (Goliath) to come towards him, but he ran towards the giant with the faith that God would deliver him. Are there problems that you've been avoiding? Consider what you can do today to proactively address those things, and then write ideas in the space below.

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**Pray:** Sit quietly and ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding to address areas in your life that you've been avoiding.

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## Thursday

**Read** 1 Samuel 17. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** David did not wait for his problem (Goliath) to come towards Him but he ran towards the giant with the faith that God would deliver him. Are there problems that you've been avoiding? Consider what you can do today to proactively address those things and write ideas in the space below.

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## Friday

**Read** 1 Samuel 17. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** David did not wait for his problem (Goliath) to come towards him, but he ran towards the giant with the faith that God would deliver him. Are there problems that you've been avoiding? Consider what you can do today to proactively address those things, and then write ideas in the space below.

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## Week Eight Patient

Sermon Notes – Sunday, October 30

### Verse for the week

#### Ecclesiastes 3:10-11

“I have seen the burden God has laid on all people. **He has made everything beautiful in its time.** He has also set eternity in the hearts of humanity; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

*A Christ-centered life takes time to develop. Even when we are proactive like David, things do not change overnight. Sometimes God has us in a season in which the work will simply take time. One of the gifts that God gives us is patience – that’s a fruit of the Spirit.*

*We learn to wait on God when we take time to identify the season of life God has us in, knowing that eventually God will make all things beautiful.*

*Are you in a season of personal growth? Or is this a season of rest and renewal? Are you experiencing the joy of a new job or a season of re-evaluation of work? Perhaps you are walking through a season of grief. Maybe a season of joy and celebration because of a new baby.*

*God has designated a time for every activity under heaven. As the seasons change, we will develop a closer walk with Christ as we find Him working in the midst of each and every season. Jesus promised to give you peace in the midst of whatever you are going through.*

## Monday

**Read** Ecclesiastes 3:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what season God has you in at this point in your life. What is God teaching you in this season? As you reflect on your day, what can you do today to live fully and completely into the season where God has you?

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God has made everything beautiful in its time."**

**Pray:** Ask God to give you patience to live into the season God where has you. Also, if you are unclear, seek wisdom to understand why God has you in this present season. Close by praying the "Prayer for Today."

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I commit to rest patiently in my spirit knowing that God will make all things beautiful in His time. I know that a key to living a successful life in Christ is to pay attention to the season of life that I am experiencing. Lord, as I follow you and proactively pursue problems, keep my heart patient with the absolute knowledge that you work all things together for good. Thank you, Lord, that I can rest even as I work knowing you are making things beautiful.*

## Tuesday

**Read** Ecclesiastes 3:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what season God has you in at this point in your life. What is God teaching you in this season? As you reflect on your day, what can you do today to live fully and completely into the season where God has you?

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God has made everything beautiful in its time."**

**Pray:** Ask God to give you patience to live into the season where God has you. Also, if you are unclear, seek wisdom to understand why God has you in this present season. Close by praying the "Prayer for Today."

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## Wednesday

**Read** Ecclesiastes 3:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what season God has you in at this point in your life. What is God teaching you in this season? As you reflect on your day, what can you do today to live fully and completely into the season where God has you?

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God has made everything beautiful in its time."**

**Pray:** Ask God to give you patience to live into the season where God has you. Also, if you are unclear, seek wisdom to understand why God has you in this present season. Close by praying the "Prayer for Today."

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## Thursday

**Read** Ecclesiastes 3:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what season God has you in at this point in your life. What is God teaching you in this season? As you reflect on your day, what can you do today to live fully and completely into the season where God has you?

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
**"God has made everything beautiful in its time."**

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## Friday

**Read** Ecclesiastes 3:1-10. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what season God has you in at this point in your life. What is God teaching you in this season? As you reflect on your day, what can you do today to live fully and completely into the season where God has you?

**Remember:** Each day take time to memorize these words to say throughout the day:  
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## Week Nine Positive

Sermon Notes – Sunday, November 6

### Verse for the week Philippians 4:8

“Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”

*“You’ve got to accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative,” the old song goes.*

*In a sense, the apostle Paul was singing that tune over 2,000 years ago from a prison cell. Chained to a Roman guard, Paul defined his life by the work that Christ had given him. He walked with Christ daily. In that same prison cell, when he considered whether he would live or die, they both seemed like good options – live and do the work Jesus had for him. Die and be with Christ. Win – Win.*

*As you seek to live a Christ-centered life, you have the opportunity each day to choose to see what God is doing, in the midst of any circumstance. As you walk with Christ, remember, He is walking with you. He’s the vine that is making your life fruitful.*

*Today, look for those things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy in any circumstance. Choose to see the way God is creating something beautiful in all things.*

## Monday

**Read** Philippians 4:2-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what is right and good about your family, your work, your life with Christ. Make a list of those things for which you can truly give thanks today.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

**“Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”**

**Pray:** Tell God what is right and lovely about your life. Spend time in prayer this morning thinking about what is truly excellent and praiseworthy – take your time and enjoy the process. End your prayer with the “Prayer for Today.”

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I choose to see what is right about my life. Every day I can choose to see the positive or the negative, and today I choose the positive. Lord, thank you for the way you are working in my life and in the lives of those I know. Help me to pay attention to what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. I will look today to give praise for all that is excellent.*

## Tuesday

**Read** Philippians 4:2-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what is right and good about your family, your work, your life with Christ. Make a list of those things for which you can truly give thanks today.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

**“Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”**

**Pray:** Tell God what is right and lovely about your life. Spend time in prayer this morning thinking about what is truly excellent and praiseworthy – take your time and enjoy the process. End your prayer with the “Prayer for Today.”

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I choose to see what is right about my life. Every day I can choose to see the positive or the negative, and today I choose the positive. Lord, thank you for the way you are working in my life and in the lives of those I know. Help me to pay attention to what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. I will look today to give praise for all that is excellent.*

## Wednesday

**Read** Philippians 4:2-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what is right and good about your family, your work, your life with Christ. Make a list of those things for which you can truly give thanks today.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

**“Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”**

**Pray:** Tell God what is right and lovely about your life. Spend time in prayer this morning thinking about what is truly excellent and praiseworthy – take your time and enjoy the process. End your prayer with the “Prayer for Today.”

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I choose to see what is right about my life. Every day I can choose to see the positive or the negative, and today I choose the positive. Lord, thank you for the way you are working in my life and in the lives of those I know. Help me to pay attention to what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. I will look today to give praise for all that is excellent.*

## Thursday

**Read** Philippians 4:2-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what is right and good about your family, your work, your life with Christ. Make a list of those things for which you can truly give thanks today.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

**“Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”**

**Pray:** Tell God what is right and lovely about your life. Spend time in prayer this morning thinking about what is truly excellent and praiseworthy – take your time and enjoy the process. End your prayer with the “Prayer for Today.”

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## Friday

**Read** Philippians 4:2-9. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** Consider what is right and good about your family, your work, your life with Christ. Make a list of those things for which you can truly give thanks today.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

**“Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”**

**Pray:** Tell God what is right and lovely about your life. Spend time in prayer this morning thinking about what is truly excellent and praiseworthy – take your time and enjoy the process. End your prayer with the “Prayer for Today.”

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I choose to see what is right about my life. Every day I can choose to see the positive or the negative, and today I choose the positive. Lord, thank you for the way you are working in my life and in the lives of those I know. Help me to pay attention to what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. I will look today to give praise for all that is excellent.*



## Week Ten Painful

Sermon Notes – Sunday, November 13

### Verse for the week

#### Romans 5:3-5

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

*A Christ centered life begins when we acknowledge our sinfulness. Remember the good news and bad news from Week Three. God not only forgives us, but the Holy Spirit pours into us the possibility of living a whole new life.*

*Even with the new life, we still suffer. The sins of others, our own brokenness, the attack of the Evil One and living in a world of natural and human disasters all cause suffering in our life. But even with that, there is still good news.*

*We can find joy in our suffering. Not joy because of our suffering but joy in our suffering. When the Holy Spirit engages our hearts and minds, we persevere in hard times. We not only endure but we prevail. And then, God begins to change our character – we become more compassionate, loving and wise. That character change gives us hope. Nothing can separate us from God’s love.*

*A Christ-centered life experiences transformational suffering. You, too, can be transformed. Today, God is with you. Let Him do His work in you.*

## Monday

**Read** Romans 5:1-11. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out the different times you have experienced God's power and presence when you were going through a hard time. As you remember, also consider how your life changed as a result of your suffering.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

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**Pray:** In your prayer today, give thanks for the ways you have seen God work in the midst of difficult times. Let your memory become a prayer. If you are in the midst of a difficult time today, ask God for grace and strength to continue to persevere.

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I remember that I am not a victim of my suffering. All people suffer but not all people find hope in the midst of pain. When I face the difficult circumstances that all humans face, I will give thanks because I know God uses suffering to build in me perseverance, character and hope. Lord, teach me today the faithfulness of Jesus as I endure difficulties thrown at me by circumstances and those working against my good. Let your love continue to be poured into my heart.*

## Tuesday

**Read** Romans 5:1-11. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out the different times you have experienced God's power and presence when you were going through a hard time. As you remember, also consider how your life changed as a result of your suffering.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

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## Wednesday

**Read** Romans 5:1-11. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out the different times you have experienced God's power and presence when you were going through a hard time. As you remember, also consider how your life changed as a result of your suffering.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

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## Thursday

**Read** Romans 5:1-11. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out the different times you have experienced God's power and presence when you were going through a hard time. As you remember, also consider how your life changed as a result of your suffering.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

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## Friday

**Read** Romans 5:1-11. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out the different times you have experienced God's power and presence when you were going through a hard time. As you remember, also consider how your life changed as a result of your suffering.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

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## Week Eleven Praise

Reflections on Night of Worship – November 20

### Verse for the week

#### Psalm 100:4-5

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

*When we praise God, we simply say back to God what we know about His character and attributes.*

*For example, “Almighty God, I praise you because you created the world and all that is in it. I also praise you, Emmanuel, because you are always with me. No matter what happens, I can trust in you.”*

*Gratitude gives us a way to thank God specifically for what He does in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Thanksgiving helps us remember that all that we have is a gift of God.*

*The Israelites were a people of praise. The entire book of Psalms was songs written for worship in a large group – praise came when times were good and when times were difficult.*

*A Christ-centered life will be a life of praise – we were designed to worship. We experience that when we stand in the midst of nature and feel that sense of one-ness with the creation and a desire to say thanks to the One who made it. You were made to praise God.*

## Monday

**Read** Psalm 100. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out words of praise beginning with describing the character and attributes of God. If you have time, write your own Psalm, expressing your praise for God for what you see in creation.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:  
“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

**Pray:** Nothing but gratitude today. Take five minutes and write out all the things for which you are grateful.

### *Prayer for Today*

*Today, I will praise God for who He is. Today I give Him praise for His goodness and love. I will give thanks for the blessings I have received and for the very fact that I've been given life.*

*Life is a gift, so I choose to give thanks and praise to the Eternal Gift-Giver.*



## Tuesday

**Read** Psalm 100. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out words of praise beginning with describing the character and attributes of God. If you have time, write your own Psalm, expressing your praise for God for what you see in creation.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:  
“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

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## Wednesday

**Read** Psalm 100. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out words of praise beginning with describing the character and attributes of God. If you have time, write your own Psalm, expressing your praise for God for what you see in creation.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

**“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”**

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## Thursday

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**Reflection:** In the space below, write out words of praise beginning with describing the character and attributes of God. If you have time, write your own Psalm, expressing your praise for God for what you see in creation.

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## Friday

**Read** Psalm 100. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying?

**Reflection:** In the space below, write out words of praise beginning with describing the character and attributes of God. If you have time, write your own Psalm, expressing your praise for God for what you see in creation.

**Remember:** Memorize these words to say them throughout the day:

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## **Seeds of Success Memory Verses**

### **Isaiah 62:4**

“As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”

### **Matthew 22:37-40**

“Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

### **John 15:5**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

### **1 John 1:8-9**

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

### **John 10:10**

“Jesus said, ‘The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’”

### **Genesis 1:28**

“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’”

### **1 Samuel 17:48**

“As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.”

**Ecclesiastes 3:10-11**

“I have seen the burden God has laid on all people. **He has made everything beautiful in its time.** He has also set eternity in the hearts of humanity; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

**Philippians 4:8**

“Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”

**Romans 5:3-5**

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

**Psalms 100:4-5**

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”