

Welcome to our 5-Day Prayer Guide: "Embracing Radical Inclusion Through the Heart of Jesus." In the midst of a world marked by divisions and exclusions, we turn our hearts toward the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, who practiced radical inclusion during his earthly ministry. This prayer guide invites you on a transformative journey to explore how we can follow Jesus' lead in embracing, valuing, and welcoming all people, just as He did. Through daily reflections, scripture, and heartfelt prayers, we will seek to embody the spirit of radical inclusion in our lives and communities. Let us embark on this journey together, inspired by the love and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

5-Day Prayer Guide

Day 1: The Calling of Matthew — Matthew 9:9-13

Day 2: The Samaritan Woman — John 4:1-42

Day 3: The Healing of the Centurion's Servant — Matthew 8:5-13

Day 4: The Parable of the Good Samaritan — Luke 10:25-37

Day 5: The Feast at Levi's House — Mark 2:13-17

Podcast: Radical Inclusion | Grace Life (podpoint.com)

Article: Embracing Radical Inclusion like Jesus:

THE CALLING OF MATTHEW

Read Matthew 9:9-13: The story of Jesus calling Matthew, a tax collector, to be His disciple.

Reflection: Consider how Jesus radically included Matthew, someone considered an outcast, into His circle. Reflect on how you can extend similar inclusivity to people you might perceive as outsiders.

Let Us Pray: Today, we pray for the grace to approach others with the same love and inclusivity that Jesus displayed. Help us to see beyond societal labels and judgments, recognizing the inherent worth of each person.

In our prayers, bring to our hearts those who may feel like outcasts, those who may be burdened by guilt or shame, and those who may be seeking forgiveness and a fresh start. May we intercede for them with the same compassion that Jesus showed, extending the invitation to follow Him.

As we reflect on this story, O Lord, inspire us to be instruments of Your love and grace. Help us to mirror Jesus' approach of reaching out to those who are marginalized or considered sinners, offering them hope, forgiveness, and a place in Your family.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

DAY 2

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Read John 4:1-30: The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

Reflection: Contemplate how Jesus, a Jew, engaged with the Samaritan woman, breaking down social and cultural barriers. Consider how you can follow His example by reaching out to those from different backgrounds

Let Us Pray: Today, we pray for the grace to emulate Jesus' radical inclusivity. Help us to break down the walls that separate us from others, to see beyond the divisions that society imposes, and to recognize the inherent worth and thirst for truth in every soul.

In our prayers, bring to our hearts those who may feel like outsiders, those who may have been marginalized or rejected by society, and those who may be searching for meaning and purpose. May we intercede for them with the same radical inclusivity that Jesus demonstrated, extending the invitation to partake in the living water of Your grace.

As we contemplate this story, O Lord, inspire us to be instruments of Your love, unity, and acceptance. Help us to mirror Jesus' approach of offering hope and transformation to all, regardless of their background or history.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE HEALING OF A SERVANT

Read Matthew 8:5-13: The account of Jesus healing the servant of a Roman centurion.

Reflection: Reflect on Jesus' willingness to help and heal someone from a different nationality, highlighting His radical inclusion. Consider how you can embrace those from different cultures and backgrounds.

Let Us Pray: Today, we pray for the grace to embrace radical inclusion in our own lives. Help us to see beyond boundaries, biases, and divisions, recognizing the universal need for Your love and healing.

In our prayers, bring to our hearts those who may be considered outsiders or unfamiliar, those who may be seeking Your help and grace. May we intercede for them with the same radical inclusivity that Jesus demonstrated, offering compassion, healing, and acceptance.

As we reflect on this story, O Lord, inspire us to be instruments of Your love, unity, and transformation. Help us to mirror Jesus' approach of reaching out to all, regardless of their nationality or background, and to offer the hope of Your abundant grace.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

DAY 4

THE PARABLE OF GOOD SAMARITAN

Read Luke 10:25-37: The parable of the Good Samaritan.

Reflection: Ponder the message of the parable, where Jesus challenges societal norms by making a Samaritan the hero of the story. Reflect on how you can be an inclusive neighbor to those who might be different from you.

Let Us Pray: Today, we pray for the grace to embody radical inclusion in our own lives. Help us to see beyond barriers, prejudices, and divisions, recognizing the common humanity that unites us all.

In our prayers, bring to our hearts those who may be in need, those who may have been marginalized or wounded, and those who may require our help and support. May we intercede for them with the same radical inclusivity that Jesus demonstrated, offering assistance, healing, and friendship.

As we meditate on this parable, O Lord, inspire us to be instruments of Your love, unity, and transformation. Help us to mirror Jesus' approach of extending care and kindness without reservation, reminding us that true neighborly love knows no boundaries.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE FEAST AT LEVI'S HOUSE

Read Mark 2:13-17: The account of Jesus dining with tax collectors and sinners at Levi's house.

Reflection: Consider Jesus' act of eating with those deemed "sinners" and how it illustrates His radical inclusion. Reflect on how you can extend hospitality and inclusion to all, regardless of their backgrounds.

Let Us Pray: Today, we pray for the grace to practice radical inclusion in our own lives. Help us to see beyond social norms, prejudices, and divisions, recognizing the humanity and need for Your love in all people.

In our prayers, bring to our hearts those who may feel excluded, those who may be burdened by societal judgment, and those who may be seeking redemption and acceptance. May we intercede for them with the same radical inclusivity that Jesus displayed, offering friendship, compassion, and a path to Your grace.

As we contemplate this story, O Lord, inspire us to be instruments of Your love, unity, and transformation. Help us to mirror Jesus' approach of breaking down barriers and extending Your invitation of hope and salvation to all, regardless of their background or history.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CONCLUSION

In the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, we find an enduring legacy of radical inclusion—a powerful call to transcend barriers, break down walls, and welcome all into the embrace of love and grace. As we've explored throughout this journey, Jesus practiced radical inclusion by associating with outcasts, healing the sick, challenging social norms, and advocating for justice. His message of love and acceptance continues to inspire us to this day.

In our modern world, marked by diversity, division, and disparities, the example of Jesus remains a guiding light. His radical inclusion challenges us to examine our own hearts, biases, and actions. It beckons us to extend a hand to the marginalized, to dismantle structures of exclusion, and to advocate for justice and equity. Through the practice of radical inclusion, we become living vessels of Christ's love, channels of His grace, and instruments of His peace.

Let us remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 3:28 (NIV): "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." In Christ, there are no divisions; there is only unity in love.

May our lives be a testament to the radical inclusion exemplified by Jesus—a testament of a love that knows no bounds, a grace that welcomes the broken, and a compassion that seeks the lost. Let us embrace radical inclusion as a way of life, for in doing so, we reflect the very heart of our Savior, Jesus Christ.