

Cadence of Grace — October 5–11, 2026 • Before I Could Choose, God Was Already at Work

Word in Rhythm™

Annual Theme: God's Unchanging Hand

Quarterly Theme: The Hand That Establishes

Week 6: Judges — God Meets Us

Focal Scripture: [Judges 13:1–7, 24–25, KJV](#)

Memory Verse — Judges 13:5, KJV

“For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

There are parts of my story I never chose. The family into which I arrived. The conditions surrounding my beginning. The limitations I encountered before I understood what freedom meant. And there are circumstances that came later—interruptions, responsibilities, disappointments—that I would not have selected for myself.

Lord, You know how easily I can spend my strength arguing with what has already happened. Meet me there. Teach me to respond faithfully to the life before me.

Before Samson was born, You spoke into his mother's circumstances. Where she knew barrenness, You announced a birth. Where Israel lived under oppression, You announced the beginning of deliverance. Neither the household's limitations nor the nation's bondage had placed the future beyond Your reach.

Your grace was already moving before the child could recognize it.

Help me receive that truth without pretending every painful circumstance is good or every hardship carries an explanation I can discover. I do not have to call evil good to trust Your goodness. I can grieve what wounded me and still believe You are able to meet me, restore me, and form me for faithful service.

Samson's preparation began with instructions. His calling carried boundaries before it displayed strength. Teach me to receive the boundaries You give. Let obedience take root in the quiet places of my life, where no one applauds and little appears to be happening.

And keep me humble about my calling. Samson's story will show that being chosen for an assignment does not make every subsequent choice faithful. A gift needs stewardship. Strength needs surrender. The work entrusted to me must remain under the authority of the One who entrusted it.

This week, as we walk through Leviticus, teach me to treasure the holiness of Your presence and the mercy by which You make approach possible. As we listen to the Psalms, give me language for seeking, confessing, trusting, and waiting. As we follow Jesus through the Gospels, draw my attention to the Savior who obeyed the Father faithfully and gave Himself for us.

Jesus, let my study become fellowship with You. Let understanding deepen worship. Let worship shape obedience. Let the people around me experience the fruit of time spent in Your presence.

When I cannot choose the circumstance, help me choose a faithful response. When I cannot see the whole assignment, help me obey the word You have made clear. When I discover how much growing remains, keep me close enough to receive correction as well as comfort.

Samson was appointed to **begin** a work of deliverance. Teach me to be faithful to my portion. Free me from the need to accomplish everything, receive every acknowledgment, or see every result. Some seeds I sow will grow beyond my sight. Some work I begin will be carried forward by others.

Today, I can listen. Today, I can surrender. Today, I can take the next obedient step.

This week's posture: Lord, I did not choose every circumstance, but I can surrender myself to You within it.

Prayer

Father, meet me in the places where I feel unprepared, restricted, or uncertain. Heal what needs healing, correct what needs correcting, and cultivate what will bear fruit. Through Jesus Christ, deepen my trust in Your goodness and my willingness to obey. Make me faithful with the life and responsibilities before me, and let my service reveal Your grace. Amen.