

# Day 1

**Chrissy Davis**

**Read**

Romans 5:3-5

3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

**Think**

How could we possibly find joy in hard things coming our way. My reaction is usually to be sad, disappointed and afraid of the difficult things in my life. When Paul is talking about finding joy in our troubles he says we can do so because it grows us. The way we grow in hard times is by turning towards Jesus. When we find our hiding place in Jesus he will shape us and grow us in ways we never could be if we tried to get at it alone on our own.

**Reflect**

When is the last time you ran to Jesus when something hard happened? Do you respond by trying to fix everything? By running away from everything? We can practice and grow our faith when we allow ourselves to turn to Jesus for our comfort, clarity and calming peace. He will not fail us.

**Pray**

Jesus, life has been hard this past week in so many ways, thank you that you have been with me every step of the way. Would you help me to grow endurance in this tough season. Would I choose grit over quit because you are working in me. Amen.

# Day 2

## Marty

### Read

Romans 5:16-17

“And the result of God’s gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but God’s free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.”

### Think

For the sake of argument, Paul related everyone’s struggle against sin to living in one of two realities. And according to Paul, everyone lives in one of two realities: In Adam or in Christ.

To live in Adam is to sin, feel condemnation, and experience spiritual death. This is when we do something wrong, feel bad about it and promise God we will never do it again. When we inevitably sin again, we feel terrible, walk in shame, and repeat the process all over again. To live in Jesus is to receive God’s free gift of righteousness, and to accept his wonderful grace. We know we don’t deserve it, but we through faith we are made right with God. As a result, we walk in grace, and triumph over sin and death through Christ.

### Reflect

In my life, there have been times where I get caught in this “Adam Cycle.” I sin, feel bad, promise God I’ll never do it again, only to sin again, feel even worse, and repeat the cycle. I walk in shame and condemnation that leads to more shame. But God has something better. When we trust the grace of God, Jesus breaks the cycle. We live from a place of acceptance and grace, trusting we have been made right with God because of Christ. What reality are you living in today? Guilt, shame and condemnation? Or grace, acceptance and righteousness? Are we in Adam, or are we in Christ?

### Pray

God, thank you for your wonderful grace, and free gift of righteousness to us. Thank you that we can't earn or deserve our way into freedom. Help me to trust in Christ as my hope for being accepted, forgiven and made right with you. In Jesus name, Amen.

## Day 3

**Dayne Scanlon- WCC**

### **Read**

Romans 5:6-8

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Think**

The cross is the clearest picture of Godly love in the entire bible. That God would come down in human form, and die in place of people who betrayed him, ought to humble us to our core. Beyond that we are called to live in a sacrificial way also. The life of the Christian is a life of sacrifice, and of self denial. Think of the ways that you can demonstrate your love for the people in your life this week.

### **Reflect**

Where in your life have you been shown sacrificial love? Where in your life have you shown sacrificial love? God is calling you and I to live like Jesus, and sacrifice our comforts, for the sake of other people. I don't think God is calling us to physically die for other people, but what other ways can you "die" for others this week? Maybe it's as small as turning off your xbox, so your sister can use the TV, maybe it's as big as giving money to people who are in need. Whatever it is, ask God to show you where he's calling you to live sacrificially for the sake of others this week.

### **Pray**

God,

Thank you for demonstrating perfect love for me, even though I do not deserve it. God, I receive and accept your grace, and acknowledge full well, that I'm in need of it. I pray that this week you would give me the ability to see where you're calling me to step out and love others sacrificially. Give me the courage to love people the way that you have loved me this week.

AMEN

# Day 4

Chrissy

## Read

### Romans 5:10-11

10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

## Think

How do you view God? Would you describe him as far off and the one making the rules for your life? Paul is telling us that because of Jesus's death we can be friends of God. That means God wants to be a part of your life like a close friend. The one who you share your happiness with and your secrets, your hard days and your true feelings about things.

## Reflect

If God really is your friend how would you take a step closer to him in that context? Maybe you talk to him about something you are annoyed with. Or about a relationship that has been extra hard. There is nothing off limits in our relationship with God. The best part is he never gossips about you and he always gives the best advice.

## Pray

God who am I that you would want to be friends with me? Thank you for caring about every part of my life. Today I want to share my heart with you like I would with a close friend.  
Amen

# Day 5

**Braden Curalli**

**Read**

Genesis 22:1-3, 9-11

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill[a] his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

**Think**

This may be one of the most interesting stories for how famous it is. The call that God places on Abraham is incredibly frightening. Why would God call Abraham to something like this? Maybe it was God testing Abraham's loyalty, or maybe it was God calling Abraham to lay down his biggest idol. Both interpretations can make sense depending on how you read the story, but no matter what, no matter how you interpret, it is recognized that God calls Abraham to a place that was uncomfortable.

**Reflect**

I want to highlight one verse/phrase. Repeated throughout the entirety of the story Abraham responds to God and Isaac in three simple words saying, "Here I am." Despite the discomfort presented in the situations, Abraham responds with "Here I am." This week, when God calls you to something uncomfortable, what if we follow in Abraham's footsteps and respond with "here I am."

**Pray**

God,

I pray that you would be with us this week as we learn what it means to walk uncomfortably. Help us to trust in you, walk with you, and love like you.

Lord, may your call be great this week  
Here I am