

SOAR

Welcome to SOAR

When we know God intimately, we soar! To soar is to "to climb swiftly or powerfully." The power of God is available to you to overcome and live in freedom! SOAR (a four-part study) is designed to create in you a longing to know our loving God more and more fully. To know Him is to know the love and the power of the living God that can soar far above any mountain in your life. Spiritual growth begins and is maintained with intimate fellowship with the living God through Jesus Christ.

SOAR can be used individually but for maximum blessings we hope you can experience it in a group, as well.

You will learn to seek God, obtain truth from reading and studying the Bible, strengthen your ability to walk in the Spirit more than your flesh and diligently pursue the calling God has for your life through Reach. You will never be the same.

From Amy and Sheri

SOAR Participant,
You made it! You are officially in the final part of SOAR, REACH OUT!

REACH OUT is our opportunity to embrace our God given gifts and take it into a broken world! Are you ready? We are sure that you have dreams deep in your heart and through REACH our prayer is that those dreams will surface. We pray that God will grow your confidence and trust in Him to carry out His special calling for you!

We cannot express how much we have enjoyed this journey with you.

We love you!

Amy and Sheri

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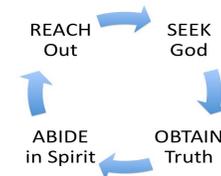


SOAR

God is orderly. Seeking Him should always come first. Seek God first for relationship, not for results. Out of seeking to know Him with all our heart, you will find Him. His Word will become meaningful and personal to you.

It's a continuing process of seeking God, renewing your mind, keeping in step with the Spirit and reaching out to others.

When you SOAR you:



As you trust Him and His Word takes root in your heart, you will learn to walk by His voice. You learn to discern God's voice. Once you have learned to hear and obey God, He can direct your daily steps, which enables you to fulfill His purposes on this earth!

SOAR Scripture

Let's look at the key Scriptures that fuel the vision for what we will explore in our study time together.

SEEK GOD

Know God intimately

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

OBTAIN TRUTH

Find freedom in God's Word

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

ABIDE

Live from the Spirit of God

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Galatians 5:25

REACH OUT

Share the Good News

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his field." Matthew 9:37

REACH OUT OVERVIEW

Jesus trained the disciples, He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his field." Matthew 9:37

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REACH is the final part of SOAR. You have been trained and encouraged in the following:

- Seeking to know God more
- Prayer and worship
- Knowing your identity in Jesus Christ
- Listening to the voice of God
- Living in and by the power of God

Now is the time to put to work all the transformation and revelation that you obtained through SOAR!

REACH is all about releasing you as a laborer for Christ. It's your turn to go boldly into the world to sow Truth and to harvest souls for the glory of God. REACH will motivate, encourage, and help you get started!

Maybe you recognize that you do not yet have a relationship with Father God. If you are ready to invite Him into your life, pray the following:

Father, I confess that I have sinned against you. Please forgive me. I ask you to be my Savior. I realize that I could never earn salvation on my own. I put my trust in Jesus. I believe that Jesus took the punishment for my sin on the cross. I believe that You love me and that Jesus died and rose again so that I can be forgiven and know You. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I give You my life. Thank you for loving me and giving me new life. I trust that I am Yours and am now sealed with Your Spirit! In Jesus name, Amen.

Now, leave your old life of sin and rebellion because you have been made new, clean, and holy! This study is a perfect way for you to begin to grow in your understanding of what you now have in Christ Jesus and renew your mind to become more like Him! Welcome to the family of God!

Our prayer for you is that you will know God more and more every day, that He will flood the eyes of your heart with revelation and that you will continually surrender your life to Him, moment by moment!

SOAR Leader's Guide

LEAD!	Pray, Prepare, Lead, Love, Seek
SHARE!	Small group time
RENEW!	Individual study time
SERVE!	Give back
LIVE!	Fellowship

LEAD! Leader preparation

Leaders, you were called for a time such as this! We want you to love leading your group, build meaningful relationships with them and become an even more sold-out follower of Christ!

PRAY for yourself and your group members.

PREPARE by seeking God daily and being in the Word. Be prepared to get the group discussion started by sharing your own personal-growth moments.

LEAD by example. Don't allow any one person to dominate the discussion (this includes you). Teach them how to study the Bible. Lead their hearts away from distractions to the greatness of God's love and presence. Lead them to seek God for relationship rather than results.

LOOK for wounds, bondage and practical needs in those you lead. Create a safe environment. A good leader cares and is sensitive to the needs of God's people because he loves them. Pray and ask God for discernment.

LOVE your group with prayer. Pour into them. Know what is going on in their life. Help them find a mentor or whatever they need. Write them a note to build them up and encourage them in the Lord! You are a light upon a hill. Love them like Jesus would.

SEEK. Search the people in your group to find their special gifts, callings, talents, etc. Encourage them to fully utilize the gifts you see in them.

SHARE! Small Group time

SOAR can be used individually but for maximum blessings we hope you can experience it in a group, as well.

Our heart's goals for small group time are:

- That each person will have a safe environment so they can be transparent.
- That they will make meaningful connections to truly begin building biblical community with one another.

Here are some suggested ideas for your small group time:

- Discuss the previous week's study lessons.
- Pray and worship together.
- Teach your own short lesson (10-15m) to the group.
- Have a sign-up for members of the group to give a devotion (mini-lesson) or testimony. Sometimes you need to ask them personally to do this. Encourage them out of their fears or apathy.

Again, we encourage you to be transparent with your own personal examples so that your group will follow your lead.

RENEW! Individual study time

This is your daily time to renew your mind with God's Truth! Leaders encourage your group to invest in the weekly homework. The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. (Mark 4:24). However, above all growing in their relationship with God is more important than completing the homework assignment.

CRAVE! More Study Time

There is a Crave section at the bottom of most days. This section is designed for the person who just didn't get enough from the homework and want more scriptures or more truth.

SERVE! Love others

Be intentional servers! Identify serving opportunities within the group, in the community, or within your church. If someone you know needs prayer, take your group to pray with him or her. If someone has a family member at a nursing home, take your group there. Maybe you could even go on a mission trip together! Check with your church mission's leader for more ideas to engage in serving others. Consider assigning a group member a leadership role for planning and communicating your ministry ideas.

LIVE! Fellowship

Share life together. Spend time together just talking about the Lord and all the good things He has done. Develop prayer partners, mentors and accountability friends. Throw parties and have dinner together. Share in Communion. Help each other out with life's emergencies and share the moments for celebration. Cry and rejoice together. Enjoy each other.

WEEK ONE

APPOINTED AND ANOINTED

AMY GROESCHEL

THE WEEK

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:44-45

DAY 1 – LIVE LIKE JESUS

DAY 2 – MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

DAY 3 – LOVE IN WORD AND DEED

DAY 4 – APPOINTED AND ANOINTED

DAY 5 – GO AND DO LIKEWISE

VIDEO REVIEW

The bad news: _____
The good news: _____

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed."
Luke 4:19 and Isaiah 61

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. 1 John 2:6

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. John 15:16

I am to carry on the King's mission and be a:

Restorer of _____
Repairer of _____
Isaiah 58:12

IS CHRIST LIVING HIS HEART & PURPOSES THROUGH ME?

One big enemy: _____

I am called to be a _____.

Romans 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

When should I reach out?

_____ IT, _____ IT!

DAY ONE – LIVE LIKE JESUS

I have many personal biases. Especially when it comes to my children. I want their soccer teams to win their games. I favor their dance performance over another child. Why? Because they are my babies! I do care about other kids but not near to the degree that I do my own. Do you ever show favoritism? Is this acceptable to God? Can we genuinely serve Christ if we play favorites?

SEEK GOD

Humble yourself before the Holy One. Magnify and worship Him for who He is. Christ is your life. Abandon your life wholly to Him. Be still and experience His presence in prayer.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read and meditate on the memory verse. Write down this week's memory verse on a note card or in your notebook so you can work on committing it to memory throughout your week.

Read James 2.

Are you ready to start a new SOAR notebook? I am! Let's get started. Write the following heading in your notebook: "Favoritism and Faith." Read James 2 and record the essential instructions given about these two subjects. For example, "Love your neighbor as yourself." What is God's instruction and how can you practically carry it out?

ABIDE

Jesus' earthly life was one of loving, sacrificial service. His life was the exact representation, mission and heart of God the Father. Now, this is your mission according to 1 John 2:6: You are to walk as Jesus walked! Let that sink in a minute. Do you feel the power of this mission you have been given?

Jesus never showed favoritism. Everyone was a candidate for His compassion, friendship, healing, love and grace. Jesus was the perfect example of faith in action! His love was never dormant or idle.

Jesus asked a gut-wrenching question in Luke 6:46 when He admonished a crowd of listeners saying, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

1 John 3:16-18 states, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Ask God to help you hear His promptings when He asks you to reach out.

REACH OUT

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to live out what you've just read in His Word.

Who can you reach out to in love this week?

Below, circle those in need who are in your life right now:

- Your Spouse – Neighbor – Your child – Coworker – Poor
- Abused – Homeless – Lost – Persecuted – Sick – Orphaned
- Widowed – Imprisoned – Elderly – Grieving – Discouraged
- Addicted – Lonely – Depressed – Uneducated – Physically disabled
- Weary – Anxious – A single parent – A hurting marriage – A hurting teen

What are the needs of your family? Spouse, child, parents, siblings, etc.

What can you do to begin reaching out today? Write down your first action step. If you haven't stepped out before, one good way to start is to identify the easiest thing you can accomplish from start to finish. Start there.

Action Step #1:

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:44-45

DAY TWO – MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

When Jesus was only twelve years old, His parents found Him in the temple courts of Jerusalem. He asked his worried parents, "Why did you seek me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49

God has Kingdom work for all His children. The question we should all want answered then is: What does God want us to do?
We can know His will. Thankfully, He shows us the way through His Word!

In Matthew 6:10, Jesus taught his disciples to pray for God's work to be accomplished throughout this earth when he prayed, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Jesus even declared the unthinkable, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." John 15:15

SEEK GOD

Cherish and treasure your Father in prayer today. In view of God's sacrifice for you, wholeheartedly offer your all to Him. He is Worthy!

OBTAIN TRUTH

Remember to review your memory verse.

Read Ephesians 2:10, Romans 12:9-21 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11-24

Take out your notebook and place "My Father's Business" as your heading. As you study today's passages, list your God-given mandates. Respond to the Father's instructions with joyful obedience.

ABIDE

Are you wondering what the Father's will is for your life? This is His will for you: You and I were created to know Him and to do His good works! It's so simple that we can often miss it.

It's simply SOAR. Seek God. Obtain His Truth. Abide in Him. Reach out to others. It's basic, yet profound.

The God-given mandates you listed are not the typical way of the world. It's weird to be kind to those who hurt you and to love your enemies. Some will think you are foolish. You will probably look like a fool to the masses. But wouldn't you rather be a fool for Christ than a fool without Christ?

Here's a question we should ask ourselves everyday: Do I want to be a "foolish Christian" or a "fool for Christ?"

All throughout the Bible, God gave His children straightforward and specific codes of conduct. And all throughout the Bible we find one tragic example after another of people who reject God's ways to live life their way.

Be a fool for Christ! To this you were called. A "fool for Christ" will risk it all for the sake of the King. It won't always be easy or make sense, but God will guide you and has equipped you in every way for His Kingdom purposes.

God has often led me to reach out to others in ways that I haven't understood. Like me, you might send a letter, serve the needy, give away resources or make a friendly phone call all in faith, believing God directed you. Sometimes you will have the joy of knowing the beautiful impact that a simple act of love has made. Other times you'll be left wondering, feeling uncertain and a bit foolish because your attempt seemed fruitless. The Father's ways and thoughts are higher and He simply wants us to stay the course of lovingly following His plans. When you leave all the results up to Him, it takes the pressure and focus off you.

REACH OUT

After some time of prayer and reflection, write down what you know you are specifically called to live out. Seek God and ask Him to reveal your next step.

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:44-45

DAY THREE – LOVE IN WORD AND DEED

You can advance the Kingdom of God one step at a time.
Just love!

Love is never silent even when words are not spoken.
Love is never lazy even in times of rest.
Love is always reaching, stretching forward.
Love is available for every opportunity it's given.
Love is a consuming fire destroying the devil's schemes.
Love is never small. It's always big, always significant.
Small acts of love are the path to big change.

SEEK GOD

Enter prayer with your Father in joyful confidence. Allow yourself ample time to worship the King, make requests, and listen for His guidance.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read your memory verse today.

Read Isaiah 58 and 61:1-3.

From today's reading, Isaiah 58 and 61:1-3, write a list of all the Kingdom work God wants you to pursue. Star those that make your heart beat with passion or get your imagination spinning with "what ifs."

ABIDE

Do you feel a little overwhelmed by all the trouble and needs of people in this world? Don't be. God is able! He tells you so in Isaiah 41:10, "*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*"

Who is God calling you to encourage, strengthen, or train? Who can you share Jesus Christ with? Who can you nurture? Provide for materially? Rescue? Disciple? Correct? Mentor? Assist? Befriend? Visit? Pray for? Honor? Bless? Hold accountable? Sharpen? Listen to? Who has God shown you to offer mercy, grace and forgiveness to?

Has God been whispering to you? Ask Him to direct you to people that you can pour your life into. Now, simply go forward in faith, trusting that God will be faithful to direct your path.

REACH OUT

Pray. Ask God to direct your heart and mind. Act promptly and obediently to God's convictions and assignments.

Don't wait. Respond to a need today.

If you do not know what your next step is, try one of these ideas:

- Call your church staff and ask if you can help them or someone they know.
- Go online and research the needs of your local community or state.
- Ask around on Twitter, Facebook, via text, etc.

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:44-45

DAY FOUR – APPOINTED AND ANOINTED

The fact that you are called and set apart by God is pretty special... Unfathomable, actually! It's absolutely incredible that God could use the likes of you and me. Yet He does. How? Why? Let's look into this wonder of wonders today.

SEEK GOD

Devote yourself to a moment of sincere prayer. Ask God to give you the power to follow Him in all things. Praise Him for times past when He gave you the courage to follow Him!

OBTAIN TRUTH

Don't forget to review your memory verse.

"Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:44-45

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10.

Examine God's provisions and sovereign plans in the prophet Jeremiah's life in Jeremiah 1:4-10. As you make these observations, use the titles "God's Role" and "Jeremiah's Responsibility" and write down your findings.

ABIDE

Think about who God is for a moment.

God the Father is the Almighty One, the Creator of the Universe. He is Jesus Christ the Messiah, the Savior of the World, the Redeemer, the Prince of Peace and the King of Kings.

God is the Sovereign Lord and the Source of all Sources. And this same God is *with* you and *for* you.

He appointed you and set you apart for His glorious purposes. I pray these truths completely blow your mind and that you'll never tire of thinking about them. Truthfully though, you won't always feel that you're cut out for fulfilling any glorious purposes of God. You know all too well your weaknesses. Guess what? So does God. But you might be forgetting that your very life is empowered by God. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 the Holy Spirit told Paul, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

Paul's response in the last part of the verse mentioned above should be ours. *"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."* Why would God work through our weaknesses except to better reveal His greatness and glory? If we can do God's will in our own strength, then what glory does God receive? None, of course! Yet, we have no real strength apart from Him. But, we are never apart from Him! It's in Him we live and move and have our very being!

Jeremiah's calling from God wasn't about Jeremiah's ability—but God's ability. God appoints and anoints you. He is faithful and he will do it through you!

REACH OUT

Write out two separate lists. Compile a list of five of your weaknesses and make another one with *just* five of God's strengths. Next, compare your lists!

You are appointed and anointed for this day! Now go reach out in the strength God provides!

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:44-45

DAY FIVE – GO AND DO LIKEWISE

I like comfort. I have a very soft, comfy bed and pillow to sleep on at night. I often realize that many do not have such luxuries. So, I am beyond grateful. However, some mornings I find it hard to leave my comfortable bed and face the day's many and sure challenges. But I know I must. We all must, if we want to follow Christ. Serving Christ will never be on the easy, comfortable and most traveled road.

SEEK GOD

What are you holding onto? Are you being real and transparent with God in your prayer time? Lay it down before the Father. He is better than a best friend. You can tell Him all things. You can truly lay down all of your burdens – right now. Immerse yourself in passionate prayer with the Father.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Do you have your memory verse down yet? If so, recite it for someone. If not, continue reviewing it.

Read Luke 10:25-37.

Answer the following questions:

- What real or possible sacrifices did the Samaritan make for his neighbor?
- What excuses might the priest and Levite have had for not helping?
- Do you think these excuses were acceptable? Why or why not?

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 1Peter 2:21

ABIDE

We can be such wimpy Christians. Our spirit desires to reach out in love, but our selfish flesh often interferes and provides us with all kinds of creative excuses to ignore the Holy Spirit's call.

James 4:17 declares, "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

We forget that following Christ means carrying a cross. Think a bit about really, physically carrying a cross – a big, heavy, scratchy wooden one. Ugh. Nope. I do not want to sign up for that job.

Thankfully, literal cross carrying is not mandatory. Yet consider the cost. Following Christ means sacrifice, opposition, weariness as well as joy, peace and freedom. *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.* 1 Corinthians 15:58

J. Oswald Sanders told the story of a native missionary who walked barefoot from village to village preaching the gospel in India. After a long day of many miles and great discouragement he came to a certain village and tried to share the gospel, but was driven out of town and rejected. So he went to the edge of the village and lay down under a tree and slept from exhaustion.

When he awoke, people were hovering over him, and the whole town was gathered around to hear him speak. The village headman explained that they came to look him over while he was sleeping. When they saw his blistered feet, they concluded that he must be worthy to listen to, and that they had been wrong to reject him. They wanted to hear the message he was willing to suffer so greatly for.

Has reaching out to someone ever caused you to have to endure some suffering? If so, did this tempt you to give up or compel you forward?

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7

If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. Matthew 5:41, 42
Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:9, 10

REACH OUT

Pray and ask God to reveal to you a way to go the extra mile for someone today. Ask God to give you the strength to be a fool for Him. Ask God to help you go and live like Jesus did.

Expect God to direct your thoughts in this decision.

Write down what God is leading you to do. Now, go! Reach out! God will give you the strength and love through the Holy Spirit to carry it out!

CRAVE

Read Matthew 25:14-46. The small things we do matter. What are some small ways that you can live faithfully for God? Write down at least three ideas.

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:44-45

WEEK TWO

ARMED IN ATTITUDE

SHERI YATES

THE WEEK

MEMORY VERSE

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children." Ephesians 5:1

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

DAY 1 – CHOOSING HIS AGENDA
DAY 2 – YOU ARE QUALIFIED
DAY 3 – PIT STOP ATTITUDE
DAY 4 – ATTITUDE OF ACQUISITION
DAY 5 – GOD'S LABORERS

VIDEO REVIEW

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. Ephesians 1:4

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses Acts 1:8

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

Attitude of acquisition – To be on a mission to possess or acquire.

Christ had the ultimate _____!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

Attitude of acquisition – To be on a mission to possess or acquire _____.

Jesus' Attitude Lived Out

1. _____
2. Reach Out - _____
3. _____ Interruptions
4. _____ Lives

I take up Christ's attitude of acquisition.
I know I'm qualified, not by training or skill, but by the Holy Spirit.
I am a connector between God and the lost. I expect to be interrupted.
In fact, I schedule time for interruptions.
I am an alien to this world. Everywhere I go I am on a mission to take back territory for the kingdom of God.
I lay down my will, my agenda, and my life to take up the will of God no matter the cost me. In Jesus name!

DAY ONE – CHOOSING HIS AGENDA

Wouldn't you have loved to have been one of the twelve disciples? Imagine what it would be like to experience Christ in day-to-day life and be directly trained by Him?

The disciples gave up everything to follow Jesus. They served along side Him and performed miracles by His name. Yet they were still shocked, amazed, and doubtful when they saw His awesome works. Without the Holy Spirit, they couldn't really know Him.
(John 16:12-13)

SEEK GOD

Seek God through prayer first thing in your day. Find a quiet place so you can not only pray, but also listen.

OBTAIN TRUTH

You have two memory verses this week. They are both amazing and if you place these deep within your heart, you will remember them at the perfect time.

Today's reading: Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 26:47-56, John 21:1-14,

In your notebook, write down everything you learn from reading about the life of the disciples before, during and after Jesus' ministry.

Old habits and traditions are hard to change. It's easy to migrate back to your old way of doing things.

Do you think the disciples ever felt abandoned or failed by Jesus? Do you think they forgot Jesus' last words to them? They drifted back to their old training - their old lifestyle before Jesus. Fishing.

Can you relate to them? If so, how?

ABIDE

In John 10:17-18 Jesus said, *"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."*

Jesus had authority over His own life. Jesus could have followed His own agenda, if He so desired, or He could lay it down. Thankfully, for you and me, He laid it down!

You have this same right. You can take up your own agenda to do life your way or you can lay it down to pick up the agenda of God.

Which will you do? This is not a one-time decision. It's a daily choice.

REACH OUT

What agenda(s) do you need to lay down to make room for God's agenda in your daily life?

I was on pace to become partner in one of the world's largest accounting firms. Then one day I realized I needed to lay down my career and drive for success to be a stay-at-home mom and minister.

What is it for you? Most likely, you know exactly what it is. You may be feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit right now. Just start by writing it down. Ask God to reveal your hidden and obvious self-appointed agendas. Now, ask Him to help you lay them down.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children."
Ephesians 5:1

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

DAY TWO – YOU ARE QUALIFIED

When I graduated from college, I thought I was a big shot. I had my accounting degree and I was ready to take on some important job. It wasn't long until I discovered that all my college training didn't prepare me for my "big time" job. I had no idea what I was doing! It was as if my training started all over again. It wasn't until I started using what I had learned that everything I knew started to gain some value.

SEEK GOD

Pray. Seek God. Ask Him to help you know Him better. Then listen. He will reveal Himself to you more and more – if you just ask and listen.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Review this week's memory verses.

Read Acts 1:8, 2:14-41, Acts 4, Acts 5:12-16, Acts 8:4-8, Acts 9:32-43, Acts 13:42-52

From Acts 1:8 in today's reading, what qualified the disciples to witness and reach out?

From today's verses, write down answers to the following:

- What did the disciples do once they were qualified?
- How did other people view the disciples and the works they did after they were qualified?

Compare your notes from day one with today's notes. How are the disciples different after they were truly qualified (Acts 1:8)?

What qualifies you to reach out in the name of Jesus Christ?

Do you believe you are qualified? Why or why not?

ABIDE

If you still do not believe you are qualified, then it could be due to one of two reasons:

- 1) You don't have a personal relationship with Jesus.
 - No problem! God is calling you or you wouldn't be here right now. He has been pursuing you for a long time. Just believe and receive His life in exchange for yours today. Confess openly to God that you need a Savior and believe He took your place on the cross. Give Him your life today.
- 2) You do not know what you have!
 - I once had hidden a hundred dollars away. I totally forgot about it until I found it ten years later! Gasp! I couldn't use what I didn't know (or remember) I had. Maybe this is you?
 - Ephesians 1:19-20 says that you have the same power that raised Christ from the dead. You may not know what you have.
 - If you aren't sure what you have been given through Christ, return to the Abide section of SOAR (week 4) for a refresher.

REACH OUT

You are empowered and qualified by God Himself! Share your salvation testimony with one person today or tomorrow. Set a goal to share your story more often. Can you make a commitment to share it once a month, once a week, once a day or more? Revelation 12:11 reads: *They overcame him (the evil one) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.*

Your story will change someone's life...if you share it.

Ask God whom you should share it with. Listen. Pay attention and seize the opportunity when it presents itself.

MEMORY VERSE

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.
Ephesians 5:1

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

DAY THREE – PIT STOP ATTITUDE

SEEK GOD

What's burdening you today? Do you have a transparent prayer relationship with God? He knows your thoughts before you ever speak them (Psalm 139). Talk openly to God. Lay down your burdens and any condemnation at His feet. Don't rise up from prayer time until you are refreshed.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Don't forget to review this week's awesome memory verses! Are there other verses you want to remember? If so, write them down.

Read John 4:1-42

Label two new pages in your notebook: "Samaritan Woman" and "Jesus."

Answer the following questions:

Samaritan Woman

- What was she like before her encounter with Jesus?
- How was she changed by this encounter with Jesus?
- What impact and reputation do you think this woman had in her community before she went to the well that day?
- What impact do you think she had in Samaria after she went to the well?

Jesus

In this encounter with the Samaritan lady, it was as if Jesus was on a road trip. He stopped in at the gas station for a soda, yet he ended up postponing His trip two days because of what happened at this pit stop!

- Why did Jesus talk to this woman?
- How did Jesus make her feel?
- What was His true purpose at the well?
- Just for fun: do you think He ever quenched His thirst with a drink of that yummy well water?

If you were on a road trip, would you be aware enough of others at a pit stop to recognize a need?

Your light could transform a person at a pit stop, but would you be willing to divert your plans for a day or two if it meant you could minister to a whole town? What do you think would prohibit you from doing so?

ABIDE

Abiding in the Spirit is a moment-by-moment, step-by-step decision. It's the life that continually surrenders each moment to the will of God rather than your own "to do" list. Jesus was trying to get somewhere, but having the attitude of Christ isn't a destination. It's a journey.

REACH OUT

This week, make time for pit stops. Maybe you need to give up something that has kept you from having any margin in your life.

When we have the attitude of Christ, we'll willingly accept divinely scheduled interruptions because we know our schedule is not our own. However, I want you to reframe this thought to:

Schedule Your Interruptions!

In your daily calendar, schedule time for interruptions. With the attitude of Christ, we will be interrupted. Instead of being caught off guard, schedule it!

Arrive places early so you can be interrupted. Plan to leave late so that you can see a need and fill it. Go to work and start your day looking for needs rather than jumping straight into the pile of work on your desk. When you go out, look for someone to encourage, to share Christ with, and to pray with. Don't give yourself thirty minutes to do a one-hour job and be in a rush so that you miss the moment to reach out!

If you are not sure how to or whom to reach out to, look up the following verses:

Matthew 5:43-48, James 1:27, 1 Timothy 5:3-16, Acts 4:32-35, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15, Hebrews 3:13

MEMORY VERSE

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children."
Ephesians 5:1

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

DAY FOUR – ATTITUDE OF ACQUISITION

When I was a kid, a lot of people talked about UFO's. I thought they could be super-powered aliens that may come take over the Earth. May I remind you of something? You *are* an alien! You belong to another Homeland and have been armed with the power and authority of God.

1 Peter 2:11 says, "*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*"

SEEK GOD

Pray to your God today. Ask Him what it means to be His alien. Ask Him to open your eyes to all that you possess in Him.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Review the memory verses.

Read Genesis 17:8 and Mark 16:13-19

From these verses, write down what Christians should be doing with their time.

We are aliens to this world. In Genesis 17:8, God told Abraham that He would give him all of the land where he was a stranger. God gave Abraham an "attitude of acquisition."

Jesus had an attitude of acquisition. Let's define these two words.

- Attitude means a way of thinking or feeling, reflected in a person's behavior.
- Acquire means to buy or obtain an asset for oneself.

Because God loved you so much (John 3:16), Jesus' attitude was reflected in His behavior. He came to this earth to acquire your freedom and to reconcile you to Himself.

Do you have this kind of attitude? Ephesians 5:1 says, "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children." Pray for your attitude to be an imitation of God.

Jesus gave us this command in Mark 16:15, *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*

You and I have an attitude of acquisition for *something*. But God has not given you the same power that raised Christ from the dead simply to acquire your next flat screen television.

Are your thoughts and attitudes in line with God's?

ABIDE

You are an alien now. An alien listens to "mission control." You should no longer be in control, but you must surrender to *your* mission control: God. Aliens should have Christ's attitude of acquisition.

Read the following poem aloud. Post it and share it with others.

I take up the attitude of acquisition and surrender to the will of God.
In Christ, I'm an alien to this Earth.
Through Him I have had the new birth.

I will celebrate the pit stops in my life.
I will serve those in need, feed the hungry, and resolve strife.

In scheduled interruptions, I will make Christ known.
Future generations will know God is on the throne.
Yes, I take up the attitude of acquisition and surrender to the will of God.

REACH OUT

What territory has God given you to acquire? What hearts are lost in your family, friends and co-workers? People need what you have. What corner of your world can you possess and share God's love, God's forgiveness, God's prosperity, His peace, His healing, and His freedom? Make a list of all the people you know that don't know Christ.

Put them in order of those who may be most likely to accept the goodness of Jesus to those most difficult. Ask Father God for wisdom in this. Start down the list and share Jesus with them until you are finished.

Have the attitude of acquisition with your immediate family, then your neighbors and everywhere you go – restaurants, grocery store, work, airport, or sports events – anywhere you are.

Are you willing to lay down your life in order to be an alien in Christ no matter the cost?

There are countries where you could be imprisoned or killed if you lived outwardly as God's alien. In the United States, where I live, we are still free to live as aliens. If you and I can't live boldly in a free country, how could our faith possibly uphold in times of true persecution?

If you want to see sold-out aliens in action who are facing persecution, check out <http://www.persecution.com/>.

Go! Reach! Be God's alien and take possession of lost souls in your land: in the stores, in your college, in your office, and every place you go!

MEMORY VERSE

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children." Ephesians 5:1

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

DAY FIVE – GOD'S LABORERS

SEEK GOD

Ask Father to give you an attitude of acquisition and action steps to go along with it. God wants to use you. Ask Him to make you usable. Tell Him what's on your heart. He always wants to hear from you.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Don't forget about the memory verses this week.

Read Luke 22:42, Matthew 9:37, John 14:12, Mark 16:17-18, and 1 Timothy 2:3-4

From today's Bible reading, write down the answer to this question: What does God want to accomplish through you, Alien?

ABIDE

Jesus had the ultimate attitude of acquisition! He paid the price of His life in exchange for yours. He anguished in His soul before going to the cross, yet He knew what He had to do. He surrendered to the will of God.

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

He did it for you. He did it for me. He did it for your enemies. He did it for the friend you may have never forgiven. He did it for all humanity so they could have the opportunity to know Him personally.

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3-4

Since Christ did all this, what right do we have to think we can place our agenda higher than God's?

Living in the attitude of Christ is not an easy task. Jesus himself sweat drops of blood.

It is hard work. It's hard to lay down your busy agenda. You may have to give up something you treasure to help someone else. For example, one of our friends recently gave up his own kidney to an old high school friend who needed a transplant.

Living this way may seem too much to ask, but there are rewards in laying down your life and picking up the attitude of Christ:

- You will get to see the greater works of God!
I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12
- You will receive eternal rewards in heaven!
His work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15

REACH OUT

Understanding that you are an alien *will* transform you into a laborer. Jesus said that there was a harvest ready, but there are not enough laborers to bring in the harvest.

Have you ever had a garden? When the produce is ripe, if it's not harvested, it spoils.

I wonder if that could happen with people? If they are ready to receive Christ and we don't give them the good news, do they lose their opportunity? I'm not sure. What I do know is that I do not want that happening on my watch!

We've been given a mighty wonderful gift and we should reach out according to God's will, not ours. Are you with me?

After *Seeking God*, what do you believe God wants to do in and through you?

Make this your confession. Write it down and place it on your mirror.

Before I leave the house today, I will adjust my attitude – in Christ I'll stay. Every door I enter, I will look for the lost and seize the opportunity to share of His cross.

CRAVE

Are you really hungry to know how God has qualified you to share His light among men?

Read the book of Acts.

Make a list of the bold behaviors of the disciples throughout Acts. How did others perceive them? How were lives changed? I pray this motivates you: *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.* Ephesians 5:1

MEMORY VERSE

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children." Ephesians 5:1

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

WEEK THREE

FAITHFULLY EQUIPPED

AMY GROESCHEL

THE WEEK

MEMORY VERSE

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3

DAY 1 – INDISPENSIBLE

DAY 2 – FULLY ASSURED

DAY 3 – FULLY EMPOWERED

DAY 4 – FULLY EQUIPPED

DAY 5 – FOR GOD'S GLORY

VIDEO REVIEW

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

1. God has given you _____.
2. The gifts are for _____ others.
3. God wants _____ of the gifts He gives.

Do you know what gifts you've been given?

Do you know how you are called to use your gifts?

God Faithfully _____!

Three faithful ways of God in the lives of three men:

1. Gideon: God is faithful to _____!
2. Moses: God is faithful to _____!
3. Jonah: God is faithful to _____!

Have you ever wanted a different gift and calling?

Jesus + You + Me = _____!

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11

DAY ONE – GOD'S LABORERS

You are equipped with gifts and a unique purpose in the body of Christ. God has prepared a role especially for you to carry out. You are needed. You are *indispensible!* (1 Corinthians 12:22)

SEEK GOD

In your time of prayer, ask God for a greater depth of insight to know Him more fully.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read your memory verse aloud two times. Consider writing it down on a note card so you can work on it throughout your week.

Read 1 Corinthians 12

Create a two-column list with the headings, "God Provides" and "The Body." As you read in 1 Corinthians, record the key information about God and His body. You will discover how God planned for His Church, the body, to function together in unity for His glory.

ABIDE

Teaching and mercy are two of my dominant gifts. I love to study the Word and tell whoever will listen about its greatness and meaning. I'm also thrilled when I can respond to others needs with compassion and serve them.

However, I have always longed for the gift of encouragement or what some call exhortation. Encouragers are some of the most enjoyable people to be around. They make you feel great about yourself!

Shouldn't we all try to become better encouragers? In Hebrews 3:13, we are actually instructed to build each other up through encouragement.

Years ago, I began praying and asking God for this gift. I also started to practice using my words to build others up. It was quite awkward at first. Although, I'm still not characterized by this gift, over time, I have actually become a better exhorter.

However, comparing my gifts with others takes the focus off God and places it on me. And I do *not* want to live this way. I still eagerly desire all the gifts. In the meantime, I choose to embrace and serve in the various ways He has uniquely called and equipped me.

God had specific plans in mind for you when he chose you to be on His team. He knows exactly how you fit into His Design.

Learn to embrace your God-given gifts and roles. After all, God is a genius! All the parts of His body are absolutely necessary. His body is designed for breathtaking, world-shaking greatness!

Jesus + you + me = Wow!

REACH OUT

Have you identified your God-given spiritual gifts?

Go online to www.spiritualgiftstest.com to identify your gifts. It's fast and free! It's an easy and effective way to affirm what God has already placed in you.

MEMORY VERSE

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

DAY TWO – FULLY ASSURED

There is no need for insecurity and worry when you know that God has called you to a certain task. God is with you! But wait. Are you really sure it's God guiding you? How can you *truly* know? Today, we will look at a similar struggle in the life of Gideon.

SEEK GOD

Enter the throne room of grace and sit with your Mighty Father. Surrender all your fears and insecurities to Him.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read your memory verse aloud two times.

Read Judges 6 and 7

As you read the story of Gideon in Judges, take notes. Record God's words and how He helped Gideon overcome his insecurities.

Now answer the following questions:

- Why do you think Gideon was so uncertain of God's presence with him?
- How many times did God provide Gideon assurance? And by what means?
- What are some ways that Gideon eventually displayed his confidence in God?

ABIDE

Okay, so, I think Gideon and I may be twins (or a least distant cousins). I can easily relate to his lack of confidence and need for repeated reassurance. Can you? Even when God has made Himself and His call quite obvious to me, for days or even weeks later, I'm *still* asking Him for more confirmation. Yes, I've laid out my share of fleeces; strange fleeces too. This was insecurity and perhaps immaturity on my part.

God desires our relationship with Him to be strong so that when He speaks we know it's Him. Then our faith can immediately and unhesitatingly move into action.

Why do you think Gideon was unsure of God's strategy and provision?

Your past experiences do not determine your future successes in Christ.

God is always at work in and behind the scenes. When God says it's time to act, it's time to act. But you serve a patient and generous God! Praise the Lord that even in your lack of confidence, He's willing to supply what you need to move forward in confidence.

REACH OUT

Are you struggling with insecurities and doubts concerning something you believe God is leading you to do?

- In your notebook, write out your concerns in a prayer to God.
- Next, list any and everything you need to confidently take your very next step of obedience.
- Ask God to meet you at your point of need(s).
- Now wait expectantly, as He shows Himself faithful.

MEMORY VERSE

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

DAY THREE – FULLY EMPOWERED

You have everything you need for life and godliness. God is with you. Listen for Him to whisper, "I Am." You've been supplied with the Great I Am as your Help and Strength. If God is for you, who then can be against you?

SEEK GOD

Come before the Father completely humble and eager for His life to be manifested through you. Seek Him. As you do He will increase and you must decrease. (John 3:30)

OBTAIN TRUTH

You'll want to have this week's memory verse hidden in your heart. When you hit a roadblock or you feel discouraged, this verse could renew your hope. Meditate on it. It's powerful.

Read Exodus 3 and 4

From today's reading, write down your answers to the following:

- What were all of Moses' doubts concerning God's instructions?
- What were God's reactions and solutions to Moses' issues?

ABIDE

I love power: electric lights, refrigeration, central heat and air; battery-powered laptop computers, cell phones, fuel-powered automobiles and airplanes! Sheer blessings from above!

These "powers" have made my life more global-minded, informed, timely, connected and comfortable. I've learned to rely on them everyday. Life comes to a near standstill when a power-outage hits our home. It's frustrating and awkward to be without power.

Do you ever feel powerless? Sure. We *all* have.

It can seem pretty awkward and bad when we feel incapable or out-of-control in life. This shouldn't be. The truth that God is in control and that we are filled with His power and might is deeply ingrained in us, right? – Or is it?

I know am called to teach. Yet, sometimes I question my ability to write a message and present it. Why? I am called to parenthood. However, at times I wonder if Craig and I can make the right decisions for our children. Why? I am called to lead. But, I can doubt whether or not I can become a better leader for God's church. Why? I am called. Why is that not enough?

Do you feel inadequate? Does this make you unwilling or hesitant to obey a calling of God in your life? If so, you are looking at yourself instead of the One and Only, "I Am."

You think you don't have what it takes? Listen up! No one has what it takes! Only through God can we live, move and have our being. God is your Almighty Power Source. He never runs low, goes out, or short-circuits! He supplies every ability and gift you need to fulfill His will.

Praise the Father, that we can do *all* things through Christ who is our strength! (Philippians 4:13)

REACH OUT

Write out any role where you feel inadequate and try to explain why.

Take the time to really think this through. In all your weaknesses, the Father wants to empower you with His strength.

Acknowledge your need and depend on Him. Stop looking at yourself and focus on Him.

How will you rely on God's power, today? Write down one or two specific answers.

MEMORY VERSE

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

DAY FOUR – FULLY EQUIPPED

As you study the book of Jonah, I pray that God will overwhelm you with the realization and magnitude of His great faithfulness. He is the supplier of *all* you need: the gifts, power, encouragement, time, provision, grace, guidance, and even compassion.

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

SEEK GOD

Give all your attention to prayer with your Father. Devote yourself completely to Him. Listen for His guidance.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read your memory verse aloud a few times. Is it sticking yet? Share it with someone today. It's sure to encourage them.

Read the book of Jonah. (It's only four short chapters.)

While you read, take notes concerning the attitude of Jonah and the character of God.

- What was Jonah's overall attitude toward the people of Nineveh?
- What do you think he needed to change about his attitude? Why?
- In what ways did God provide for Jonah? For Nineveh?

ABIDE

Several times as a young teen, my parents "forced me" to go with them on Lay Renewal ministry trips. For those who don't know what a Lay Renewal is, it's when a group of ministry-minded church members (hence, the word "lay," meaning non-pastor) are invited to minister for an entire weekend at another church. Well, the very idea of spending my treasured weekend with a bunch of people that I didn't know and doing things I didn't want to do was just too much to ask. But being under my parents' leadership and authority, what choice did I have? So I always went.

Needless to say, my attitude was rather stinky. I wasn't concerned about the spiritual condition of people at other churches—at least not enough to want to do anything about it.

I love the statement, "Obedience brings understanding." It's absolutely true. Each time I complied and went on a renewal weekend with my parents, my heart softened and my attitude changed. These experiences taught me a great deal about the heart of God, the hearts of His people and the beauty of Christian church ministries. I was always blessed beyond measure. It's bringing up deep emotions for me now just thinking about it.

Like Jonah, I needed to have the Father's heart. I needed to have concern and compassion. Jonah and I were both reluctant to follow God's call because we didn't genuinely care for God's people. You see, even though Nineveh was filled with evil deeds beyond description, God cared for them. He loved them enough to warn them to repent. The same was true for you and me.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:6

Jesus is your Leader! Don't try to run and hide if He guides you to reach out to your enemy or a group of people you've never even noticed before. Be aware, willing and ready to follow His lead, even if it takes you down a path that is far from your expectations and ideals. As you go, your obedience will bring understanding.

A burdened heart does *not* always precede a calling from God. God will provide you with His heart as you follow Him in obedience.

REACH OUT

Let's dig deep to overcome some hurdles that may keep you from reaching out.

Are you willing to reach out to *anyone*? Have you ever prayed for or ministered to an enemy? If not, are you willing to? Maybe it could be someone that hurt you, offended you, or let you down. Or perhaps it could be someone that was out of your normal safe circle: an offender, a predator, a prostitute, an annoying person, an abuser, or a persecutor?

Would you really minister to them? Would you show them mercy, hope, love and encouragement or would you turn your back and walk away from them?

Is there a part of town that you avoid because of the "reputation" of the people there?

Have you had a judgmental attitude toward people who are different than you: a different race, culture, appearance, income level, religion, or denomination?

God saved you out of your sin and darkness. Isn't His grace big enough for everyone else? Maybe God wants to use you to reach the very people you've judged.

If you have had this unholy attitude toward others, stop right now. Repent. Ask God to give you His heart for all people.

Ask God to clearly show you an unlikely person or group that He wants you to reach out to or commit to pray for. For example, God led me to commit to pray for persecutors of Christians, communist government leaders and sexual predators

MEMORY VERSE

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

DAY FIVE – FOR GOD'S GLORY

I'm not good. You're not good. We're not good. God is Good!

Christian ministry, missions, serving and giving are all about healing the world and strengthening the Church for the glory and praise of our good God.

SEEK GOD

Worship God in prayer for who He is. Don't rush this time. Seek to bless the Lord with your genuine pursuit to bring Him the praise He is due. Ask Father to reveal more of Himself to you.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read your memory verse aloud two more times. Rejoice in its truth.

Read 2 Corinthians 4.

As you read chapter 4, carefully observe each mention of God. In your notebook, take notes under the heading, "Ministry is all about..."

ABIDE

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest." Luke 9:46-48

Can you believe the disciples argued about this? Who's the greatest? Well, at least these men weren't hypocrites pretending to be humble. Jesus said the greatest is the least among us. How fascinating and backwards from the world's perspective.

History is filled with the power struggles of man trying to climb to the top. But ultimately, Jesus is the greatest! Therefore, we should always pursue making His name known and not our own.

Examine the following verses and notice the common theme.

- *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11*
- *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31*
- *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17*

Let's knock out pride! The good deeds you do for people, for the Church and for the Lord are not about you. Our gifts and abilities are given to heal the world, serve and strengthen the Church and reflect the King's glory.

What you do is not about you but about the building up of God's church. Simply put, your gifts are for giving. It's imperative that you and I not only understand this, but that we live it out daily.

REACH OUT

Have you been wrongly motivated to serve in order to gain attention for yourself?

Father God gave me these words. I believe He wants you to hear Him speak these words to you. Listen closely:

Come, draw near and follow me. I want your whole heart, not just part of it. I want your full devotion now instead of yesterday's leftover sentiments. I will never leave you or forsake you. Turn your heart fully to me alone. All other love and fondness pales in comparison to knowing and loving me. My love for you is endless and began before I laid the foundations of my earth. There is nothing I desire more than your heart. Whatever you may do in my name should merely be an overflow from our relationship. I will guide you. You can trust me. I am faithful. Faithful and True is my name. Look to me in all things. Depend on me and I will lead you on the paths that you must take. Because I love you, you need not be afraid. Your strength is in me. Without me you are weak and vulnerable, blind and unstable. But with me you have everything you need.

Spend time in prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

WEEK FOUR

VIDEO REVIEW

REVIVE THE DREAM

SHERI YATES

THE WEEK

MEMORY VERSE

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."
Ephesians 3:20

DAY 1 – UNCOVERING
DAY 2 – POWER BY FAITH
DAY 3 – REMEMBERING
DAY 4 – REDISCOVERING
DAY 5 – TAKING ACTION

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."
Ephesians 3:20

Imagination - mental images; concepts that are not perceived through the senses.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1

Your imagination will take you somewhere:
THE WILDERNESS or THE PROMISE LAND

How are you in the wilderness?

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
Romans 1:21 (KJV)

How to climb out of the wilderness:

- _____ God!
- _____ God.
- _____ thoughts and imaginations that agree with Truth.

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)

Surrender your thoughts, imagination and dreams to God.

Remember God's Works: *Write it! Stick it! Read it!*

Revive Your Dreams: *Share it! Stick it! Sort it! Step it! Share it!*

Some versions of this week's memory verse (Ephesians 3:20) say, *"to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we think, ask, imagine or dream."* Dreaming or imagining is the process of forming mental images of what is not actually present.

God is able to do more than you can think, ask, imagine, or dream. But what are you thinking, dreaming and imagining? When I was a little girl, I had a vivid imagination. I dreamed of being a singer, dancer, writer, and an actress.

But as a child, I suppressed my dreams because people told me I could never do those things. I eventually gave up on my dreams

Has the fire of your dreams been extinguished like mine was?

God wants His children to dream and imagine again so He can use us fully to fulfill His purposes on this earth!

By the end of this week, I pray you'll be asking, thinking, imagining and dreaming from the very heart of God again!

Where do you see yourself in one of the following three categories?

1. *Dream killer* – Dream killer's response to a dream is "can't, shouldn't, no, or never." They fear failure more than they know and fear God. Their faith is in what they see which reflects how little they trust God.
2. *Dreamer* – Dreamer's dream big dreams, but get little accomplished. They see themselves accomplishing great things, but still fear failure at their core. They trust God in the things they know for sure will not result in failure.
3. *Dream lifter* – Dream lifters recognize the full power of the cross. They intentionally stay outside their comfort zone because they trust in God. They encourage others into action with their excitement and hope for life in Christ!

DAY ONE – FOR GOD'S GLORY

SEEK GOD

Pray and seek God about this week's memory verse. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what this verse means and to uncover the dreams He has placed inside your heart.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13, Matthew 7:7-8, Romans 12:1-2 and Matthew 25:14-30.

In your notebook write the headings, "What I should do?" and "What God will do." Write down your findings.

What do these verses mean to you as you seek to uncover your dreams?

ABIDE

Is something suppressing your ability to dream? If so, what is it? There are many things that can suppress dreams. Fear. Failure. Devastation. Defeat. Or even just the idea of these things.

In Exodus 14:10-12 we see the Israelites as a good example of what not to do. They let their fear of failure and defeat distract them from their dream of God's promised land.

Fear can cause us to return to our comfort zones. It can cause us to settle for less than God's best.

We have all been there. It can be scary to climb out of our ruts, but it's the best place to be. It puts us right into God's hands. He intended it to be this way.

Consider these thoughts on the parable of the talents then add to your notes in the *Obtain Truth* section:

The one-talent investor is a dream killer. He doesn't know God. Therefore, he doesn't trust God. He knew what he had heard and it made him fear God's wrath. His interest is in protecting himself from harm.

Because he was selfish, this dream killer also avoided doing the hard work of investing. His imagination was focused on the worst possible outcome. God knew his heart and his potential. God is not surprised by the outcome.

The two-talent investor is a dreamer. He pursues endeavors in which he can only succeed. Those successes inflate him with pride in what he delivers to God. However, he really doesn't know God. He only attempts what he's confident he can accomplish. He refused to live by faith.

His actions overflow out of what he knows, understands and comprehends. God still rewards his tiny faith, but the investor is oblivious to the fact that his self-preserving mindset limited his opportunity to serve the master.

The five-talent investor is a dream lifter. He knows and trusts God. He risks everything to serve the master. He would rather risk everything for his master than be concerned with himself. His past experience with serving God had proven successful. His hope carried his imagination. His hard work isn't even a consideration or concern.

REACH OUT

Remember the category you placed yourself in: dreamer, dream killer, or dream lifter. Release past failures, fears and despair. Give it all to God. Today.

Are you dreaming big dreams without any action? Ask God to reveal where you might not fully know his love and power in your life. Ask others around you to help you identify blind spots where you might not trust God.

If you trust God and are executing on your dreams even in small ways – celebrate! Whether you have accomplished tangible results is not important. Faith is built by trusting God and taking action without fear of failure.

MEMORY VERSE

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."
Ephesians 3:20

DAY TWO – POWER BY FAITH

The second part of this week's verse is important: "...according to his power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20

Have you ever met someone that seems like they have more of God working in them than you? I have! It can be intimidating. I have wondered how they have it and I don't. Is it a special gift from God? Or is it something I can have also?

SEEK GOD

Ask Father to reveal to you His power in and for you. Ask Him how you can allow Him to work more mightily through you.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Commit this week's verse to memory.

Read Hebrews 11.

It's impossible to be a follower of Christ without faith. We have faith in God's Word and in Christ that He died for our sins. In Matthew 17:20, Jesus spoke to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

God's power works through our faith.

Look at how Hebrews 11:1 defines faith: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Now this is very interesting. Faith is being "sure of what we hope for." Can you physically see what you hope for? No, first it has to be perceived. How do you perceive something that you do not see? You literally think and imagine it. You have to imagine it before you can hope for it.

You could say that your imagination ignites your hope. Faith happens after you have perceived something through your thoughts and imagination and then become "certain" of this thing you cannot see.

God's power works through our faith. Now, read about the people of faith in Hebrews 11. Write down all that you learn about their faith, dreams and callings.

ABIDE

It is very likely that these "big faith" people were thankful to God. Why else would Noah agree to build an ark? Why would he commit 120 years of his life when it had never rained before? That makes no logical sense.

Noah had to have his mind and imagination laser focused on God. His focus enabled him to hear, see and carry out God's dreams for him. Your imagination is always working. It is working for you (hope) or against you (despair)? In Romans 1:21, the thoughts and imaginations of men worked against them.

REACH OUT

Decide today: Will you surrender your imagination to God?

How do you surrender your imagination to God?

- Praise God at all times.
- Be thankful to God. Even if a situation seems unbearable, find something to be thankful for.
- Take captive thoughts and imaginations that don't line up with the Bible: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)
- Read the Bible! Read Romans 10:17 to see how your faith can operate more effectively.

MEMORY VERSE

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20

DAY THREE – REMEMBERING

Maybe your dreams have been suppressed because you have forgotten the wonderful works God has done in the Word and in your own life.

SEEK GOD

Pray and meditate on this week's memory verse. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and revelation to remember His hand in your life.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Review your memory verse today. Read Psalm 78. Make two columns in your notebook titled: "God's Words and Actions" and "God's children's words and actions." As you read along, write down your findings. When you are finished, answer these questions:

- What do you think God's children were focused on?
- What do you think His children were thinking and imagining?
- How did God respond?

ABIDE

Romans 1:21 says, *"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

Notice this downward spiral of their thinking:

1. They neither glorified him as God.
2. They didn't give thanks to him.
3. Their thinking became futile.
4. Their hearts were darkened.

In Psalm 78:41, because God's children didn't remember the Lord's works, they vexed the Holy One of Israel. The Hebrew word translated as vexed can also be translated as, "limited, pained and provoked."

Matthew Henry's commentary suggests that the Israelites limited the Holy One to *their way* and *their timing*. They limited God because they didn't remember His great works and miracles. They didn't remember! They forgot how big, powerful, graceful and mighty their God was because they were thinking about being hungry and not about being rescued.

Another way of limiting God is to tell Him how to fix your problems. I am guilty of this. I seem to think I know best and God needs to get in line with my plan. For example, my husband owns a business. When we were in a very slow season, I prayed and ask God to give him enough work to feed our family.

Immediately after I said "Amen," I remembered how much God loved my family and realized it was nonsense to tell God how to care for us. I prayed, "Father scratch that. You love us. I know you will meet our needs. In this time, Father, just direct my husband's steps and show him how to use this free time. Show me how to love him in this season...and how to be quiet."

At first, I prayed a limiting prayer. However, my replacement prayer fully trusted God with the outcome. He loves me and has my best interest at heart! I rest in that!

Have you limited God in your mind?

When we stop worshipping God and giving Him thanks, we can also limit God to our own way and timing. When our minds aren't remembering the awesome wonders He's done for us, worry, fear, panic, and despair set in.

God Himself cannot be limited. His purposes will be carried out. However, the extent to which you are used in those plans is up to your willingness to surrender your will to God's way.

REACH OUT

Before we can reach out, we need to remember the Lord's hand in our lives.

Today, create a permanent record of God's goodness in your life. Record major battles the Lord has won for you in the last five years! You can also write down some of the awesome miracles in the Bible – like when He parted the Red Sea!

Write down your list in a location where you can see it and read it daily. Our family places ours on sticky notes and writes them on our mirrors. Remember God's hand and goodness as the Spirit leads you!

This is one of my favorite things to do! It is an amazing thing to have when you are going through a battle. I whip out my list of victories and miracles to remind me of how good God has been. It strengthens me! Our God is for us! He wants us to remember we can count on Him and He will make the desires of our heart His desires.

He wants all of your thoughts and imagination to be focused on His goodness and surrendered to Him. He wants to do more than you can ask, think or imagine through you (Ephesians 3:20).

Now, spend some time praising Him because He is for you!

MEMORY VERSE

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."
Ephesians 3:20

DAY FOUR – REDISCOVERING

Yesterday we stirred up our minds and imaginations to remember how awesome our God is! Today you will create a "dream wall" by literally identifying and posting your dreams on a wall. Imagine the dream wall as a personal billboard reminding you daily of your heart's desire.

This wall is an opportunity to stir up some old dreams God planted in your heart. For me, my dreams were so suppressed, I was literally afraid to share them with anyone! Building the dream wall ripped off band-aids I had placed on my heart years ago.

SEEK GOD

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to show you His dreams for your life and to put His desires in your heart. Ask Him to direct your steps. Rest in God's presence and begin to ask Him for His desires for your life.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read and review this week's memory verse.

Read Matthew 19:26, Mark 9:23, Philippians 4:13.

What are some dreams you have that you think are impossible? How do these scriptures speak to those impossibilities? Spend some time journaling about what these truths mean to you as you begin to rediscover how to dream.

ABIDE

Do you know what dreams you have that you want to fulfill? Do you know if those dreams are from God?

Jeremiah 29:11-13 tells us that the Lord has plans for each and every one of us. Yet how do we know what those plans are? How do we discern His will for our lives? The answer to that is found in Jeremiah 29:13. *"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."*

If you want to know God's plan for your life, spend time listening. He will open your eyes to the dreams and desires He has for you.

When you humbly seek God, you can trust that He will direct your heart. In the Amplified version, Psalm 10:17 says, *"O Lord, You have heard the desire and the longing of the humble and oppressed; You will prepare and strengthen and direct their hearts, You will cause Your ear to hear."*

REACH OUT

It's time to build your dream wall! Don't be intimidated. Some find it hard to let loose and dream. Remember, God will guide you. This is a simple way to trust God...and not worry about what anyone else thinks of your dreams – including you!

The steps below are great fun with friends or family. Pull them together. Tell them you need their help to uncover the dreams of your heart. Who can resist that request?

Here is what you need to do *Share it! Stick it! Sort it! Step it! Share it!*

1. Grab some sticky notes, preferably the same color.
2. Ask yourself, "What would you like to see different in the world? If you could change something for the better, what would it be?" Dreams are often born out the things you love or the things you can't stand.
3. Remember the unreasonable childhood dreams you dismissed? Uncover your buried dreams. Dig out the dreams others said were impossible.
4. Write every dream you can think of on separate sticky notes. Keep them coming until you are drained of thoughts.
5. Post these sticky notes on the wall or somewhere easily viewed.
6. After you have exhausted brainstorming, you might find that some of your dreams are similar. Sort and group your sticky notes by similarity. Do you see a pattern of your passions?
7. Now for each group, sort them into the most simple to the most difficult to accomplish. You want the dreams that are the most easily conquered at the top of the list.
8. You did it! In this simple step, God has revealed the passions in your heart. We will talk about next steps tomorrow.

Celebrate the dreams you have uncovered. Praise God!

DAY FIVE – TAKING ACTION

SEEK GOD

Rest in God's presence. Continue to seek God and ask Him to make His desires known.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 16:9, and Matthew 6:25-34.

What are you responsible for? What has God promised you? Spend some time journaling about how these verses can motivate you as you dream.

ABIDE

How do you know if you are pursuing the right dreams?

First, do not worry. If you are seeking after Jesus and renewing your mind, then you can trust that God's desires for you are in your heart.

Second, ask God to change your desires towards His dreams. Proverbs 16:9 says, *"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."* Ask God to direct your steps towards the dreams that He wants you to pursue and to curb the desires for the dreams your flesh longs to accomplish.

Thirdly, remember to simply acknowledge Jesus in everything you do. (Proverbs 3:5-6) If you are acknowledging Jesus in everything, you can be certain He will direct your steps.

Colossians 3:15 says, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."* If you don't have a deep internal peace about something, don't do it!

REACH OUT

It's time for the next step on your dream wall to turn your dreams into actions. It is simpler than you think.

Grab sticky notes; a different color from yesterdays. For each of your dreams, ask yourself this: "What is the next thing I need to do to accomplish this dream?"

Write down only the very next step for each dream that is the easiest to accomplish. For example, if your dream is to share Christ with the world, your very next step might be to meet your neighbors.

Then, before you do anything else – take these steps! Don't start on any other dreams. Just do the next thing.

Why should you stay so focused on the next thing? Your spiritual enemy wants to distract and discourage you from God's dreams. Keep the enemy behind you with simple successes.

If you will be faithful in the smallest next thing, you will see God do a great work in your heart. Faithfulness in these small next-step actions will build your hope and faith to do the next thing after that.

After you have completed the next step, you can take the second, third and fourth step, and so on...one at a time. Before you know it, you have accomplished a dream!

This process helped me train my mind and physical body, my temple, to submit to the Spirit of God rather than my natural impulses.

Now is a great time to share your dream wall with someone you love and trust. Don't be afraid to invite others into your dreams. Those who love you most can support you, pray for you, encourage you, and help you do more than you could ever do on your own!

CRAVE

Write down a list of people to share your dream wall with this week. Many are suffering from dream suppression. Revive someone's dreams today!

WEEK FIVE

VIDEO REVIEW

MULTIPLY TOGETHER

AMY GROESCHEL & SHERI YATES

THE WEEK

MEMORY VERSE

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2

DAY 1 – A MULTIPLYING MISSION FIELD

DAY 2 – MULTIPLY ON THE HOME
FRONT

DAY 3 – MULTIPLY TOGETHER

DAY 4 – TEAMWORK

DAY 5 – SOWING AND REAPING

Are you a "do it all, be it all" person?

Jesus believed in teams!

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two (36 groups) ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:1-2

To grow and multiply, teamwork is a must!

Benefits of Teamwork

- Friendship
- Efficiency
- Shared Load
- Effectiveness
- Glorifies God

Say yes to community and relationships!

Which are you: a dreamer, dream killer, or dream lifter? Commit this week to seeking God and obtaining His truth. Listen to God and I pray that by the end of this week, you will be a dream lifter!

DAY ONE – A MULTIPLYING MISSION FIELD

SEEK GOD

Pray for the Kingdom of God to multiply! Ask the Father to continue to send out teams of believers into the entire world to share the Gospel.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Meditate on and review this week's memory verse. Take the time to commit it to memory to help renew your mind.

Read Acts 1:8

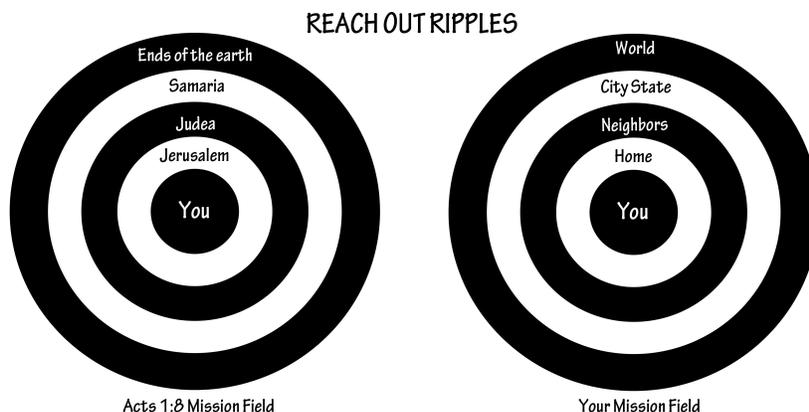
As you read this verse, write down the order of ministry. Where should ministry begin? Notice the outward progression. Have you ever missed any of these steps along the way?

ABIDE

Have you ever thrown a rock into water? What do you see? Ripples. Ripples start at the point of impact and continue out from that point.

Jesus faithfully empowered and called His disciples to be witnesses. Jesus began The Great Ripple that would eventually reach the likes of you and me some two thousand years later!

The same can be true with us. What if an outreach effort began with you?



When you throw a rock into water, you cannot stop it from making ripples. It is just a natural process. This should happen to you as well. As the power and love of God transforms you, you'll naturally flow in His love into others.

Once your heart is in love with God, reaching out is a supernatural response – not a dutiful work. It just becomes who you are.

Imagine the mighty ripples that can take place when God's uses you to reach out and the affect it will have in your circle of influence – all for God's glory! As God multiplies, that ripple will continue to impact future generations!

Often, reaching out starts with those closest to you and eventually works its way out. But it takes time and God's power to multiply! Reach out right where you are. Start at home. I have seen too many people minister to others while their home life was on the verge of breaking apart.

You cannot effectively minister until you lose your life. It is in losing your life that you find it (Matthew 16:25).

Jesus said in John 12:24, "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

REACH OUT

Ask God to reveal where He wants to multiply through you. Where should you reach out: home, work, neighbors, in your city or state, in a foreign country? God is faithful. He will direct you.

Evaluate your mission fields:

My Heart

Has God invaded my life and radically changed me? Do I seek God daily in prayer and in His Word? When this study ends, will my pursuit continue?

Home

Am I respectful and honoring of others in my home? Do I serve lovingly, without selfish motives?

Neighbors

Pray for them and ask God to reveal ways to minister to them. Introduce yourself first! Neighbors are also the people that we daily share our life with – co-workers, the dry-cleaners, the grocer, extended family, friends, teammates, etc. Are you serving and sharing the love of Christ with your neighbors? Write down a few ways to demonstrate love to them.

City/State

Do you know the needs in your city? If you haven't already researched this, maybe it's time to get started. What is the teen pregnancy rate? Any prison ministries? Can you volunteer to help foster kids, homeless or other local ministries that may feed or provide for local impoverished families?

World

Some people are called to go to a foreign nation to raise-up Christ followers. Is this you? Whether you're called to live abroad or not, there are many ways to have a global impact right from your home.

Two ways to help you start today:

Pray! There are many resources that can help direct you in what and how to pray. One of my favorites is the VOM Prayer Calendar, a smart phone app.

Give! You can give to dig water wells, provide disaster relief, fight human trafficking, sponsor a child or support a missionary. You don't have to be wealthy to make a difference. Your generosity will make kingdom ripples no matter the amount!

Ask God to show you if you're to partner with a ministry or begin a new work. Write out additional, specific prayers and action-steps to take.

DAY TWO – MULTIPLY ON THE HOME FRONT

SEEK GOD

Pray for salvation and love to multiply in your home.

OBTAIN TRUTH

How do you memorize best? Find a method to help you remember this week's verse.

Read Mark 5:1-20.

Read today's text and write down your findings.

- When the restored man asked Jesus if he could go join Him and the disciples, what was Jesus' response? Where did the man's ministry start as a result?
- What obstacles could have stopped this man from sharing his story with others?

ABIDE

What fear or limitation is holding you back from reaching out right where you are: fear, embarrassment, pride, or lack of knowledge.

What impact would the restored man have had if he had these thoughts:

- What difference can I make? My family will never listen to me.
- I don't have time to share my story – I have too much ministry work to do.
- I don't know any Bible verses. I'm just a baby Christian – someone else would do a better job telling them about Christ.
- What if they reject me or don't believe me?

What excuses have kept you from sharing your faith in your home and community?

Your role is to faithfully reach out. God's role is to faithfully multiply.

REACH OUT

Everyone has a story. What is your story? How did Jesus change your life? If asked, could you share your story in sixty seconds? Five minutes?

Ask God to help you narrow in on your story. Write it down. Practice your story so you will be ready to share it.

Read Galatians 1.

Notice how Paul shared his testimony and the Gospel. Write the heading, "Paul's convictions and concerns about the task of sharing the Gospel" in your notebook. Record all of your discoveries.

I love how Paul shared his testimony in two short verses in Galatians 1:13,14. But in verse 15, he basically said, "but God!" Then Paul spent the rest of Galatians talking about God's grace. In this example, God gets the glory, not Paul's awful, sin-filled past. He spent more time declaring God's redemptive work than on his many past failures.

Keep your eyes open this week for opportunities to share your story!

MEMORY VERSE

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.
Luke 10:2

DAY THREE – MULTIPLY TOGETHER

I (Amy) really like eating a great dinner followed by watching a classic movie for a little rest and relaxation. Entertainment and eating are some of the most pleasurable things we do in life. But not if we are alone! To me, there's something significantly missing when life's joys, sorrows, and even the mundane are experienced in solitude.

We aren't meant to live in seclusion. You and I were God-ordained for teamwork, celebrations, marriage, families, communities, cooperation. Together we build, laugh, dance, learn, work, love, mourn, inspire, encourage, worship, pray, battle – I could go on and on.

Today we are going to look at the significance of our relationships with people.

SEEK GOD

Praise and give thanks to God for your relationships.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Review your memory verse by reading it aloud two times.

Read Matthew 4:18-22 and John 1:35-51

What was Jesus doing in these passages? And more importantly, why?

ABIDE

Jesus recruited a group of men to be by His side at the onset of His public ministry. The Disciples became students or mentees under Jesus' tutelage because Jesus was after multiplication. Jesus knew that to effectively transfer the Kingdom's Gospel message to the ends of the earth He would need transformed and trained disciples.

Scripture reveals that Jesus' followers became his friends and met many of His practical support and fellowship needs. One example of this is at the Garden of Gethsemane in Mark 14:34 when Jesus said, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," He said to them, "Stay here and keep watch."

If Jesus needed others in His life, how much more do we? You can do some good on your own but being part of a team will bring a far greater impact! Increase the Kingdom's influence by working alongside others for a common goal! Multiply!

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

REACH OUT

- Who are you doing life with?
- Are you serving alongside other believers as a team?
- Who's on your Life's Board of Directors? These people are significant and direct voices in your life. Have you told them they sit on your board?
- Are you in a consistent small group with other believers?
- Do you have a friend that holds you accountable?
- Is there someone committed to pray for and with you?
- Do you have a mentor/mentee relationship with someone?
- Are you intentionally engaged and encouraging with those living in your home?

If you need more community, ask God to lead you to the right relationships. He will show you if there's a person or group that you need to connect with.

MEMORY VERSE

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2

DAY FOUR – TEAMWORK

SEEK GOD

Focus your heart, mind and strength in prayer with your Father. Ask Him to reveal an area in your life where you need to ask for and receive assistance.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Review your memory verse.

Read Exodus 18:13-27

Write "What a Thriving Ministry Needs" as your notebook's next title page. Record your observations. Be sure to process the text for less obvious insights too.

Consider Moses' decision to accept Jethro's plan:

- Why do you think Moses did all this work by himself?
- What do you suppose Moses had to sacrifice to allow others to lead with him?
- What do you think he gained from this change?
- What did the people gain?

ABIDE

Have you ever thought, "If it's going to be, then it's up to me" and then set out to accomplish a goal alone? If so, what do you think led you to this attitude and decision?

Consider the following possibilities:

- The last time someone helped it proved to be more trouble than it was worth.
- You didn't know whom to ask.
- You were too impatient and busy to stop and ask for help.
- You were sure no one else could do the task as well as you.
- Other: _____

Identify one or two of the situations above that you've experienced. Is there a root cause that goes deeper than these statements that you need to deal with? Let God do a work in you right now. Don't wait until you're overwhelmed with too much on your plate before trying to figure out a better plan.

Like Moses, I've (Amy) tried to do it all and be all to everyone. It took years for me to learn to say the word "No." I'm still learning the art of delegating and building up a team of leaders. These lessons are vital for healthy, sustainable ministry and I'm committed to mastering them.

Are you growing as leader? Are you willing to?

REACH OUT

Spend time in thoughtful prayer.

Is there someone you need to join or ask to join you in a certain task? Ask God to show you where you need to make changes in your ministry. By the way, all of a Christian's life is ministry. You are an Ambassador called to live as Christ!

MEMORY VERSE

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.
Luke 10:2

DAY FIVE – SOWING AND REAPING

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22

SEEK GOD

Spend time with your Father today. Ask Him to make you useable for His purposes, not your own. He will!

OBTAIN TRUTH

Review today's memory verse.

Read Matthew 13:1-43

How does God naturally multiply on this earth? What obstacles prevent it?

ABIDE

God created the world with a seedtime and a harvest time.

The reproducing process that God provided for in nature, He expects from His children in supernatural fruit. The good fruit we grow and bear in our lives is multiplied through small seeds – Seeds that were at one time sown in us.

A good seed of faith is sown through reading, hearing and applying the truth of the Word of God. Other believers may have sown seeds of faith and love in your spirit as well.

Sown seeds are designed to reproduce; but seeds that are unused remain unchanged. There can be no new life without seed sowing.

Write down the names of the people that have sown good seed into your life? What did they do?

Now multiply their work! Imitate them and sow new seeds into others from your personal harvest!

What are you currently sowing? What will it reap? Pray and ask God for insight into this. Each person will have a different response. The Lord is speaking to you. Are you listening for His whispers?

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:7-10

REACH OUT

"Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed." Robert H. Schuller

God is the multiplier of all that you plant and harvest. He knows the outcome so you don't have to worry about the results. When you stop to count your results, you aren't working. Stop counting and measuring; just sow and reap.

Ask God where you should be sowing.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously... Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:6 and 10

CRAVE

When you reach out together, there will be opportunities for strife or unity. Decide to be a peacemaker. Check out what Jesus says about unity below.

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:22-23

This unity among God's children is what Jesus said would cause the world to know that Jesus is the Son of God.

Read the following verses. Write down "Unity is..." as a title in your notebook and fill in your insights from these Scriptures:

- Psalm 133:1
- John 17:20-23
- Romans 6:5
- Colossians 3:14
- 1 Corinthians 1, 2 and 3
- Ephesians 4

WEEK SIX

VIDEO REVIEW

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

AMY GROESCHEL & SHERI YATES

THE WEEK

MEMORY VERSE

"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone." Mark 16:15 (NLT)

DAY 1 – NOT SO GOOD NEWS
DAY 2 – GOOD NEWS
DAY 3 – NO PLAN B
DAY 4 – ONE MATTERS
DAY 5 – GRACE IS FOR THE
HUMBLED

Share the good news with urgency and boldness.

Are you actively sharing Christ?

Roadblocks to Sharing Christ:

- Fear
- Unsure how
- Make assumptions
- Live in Christian Bubble
- Busy

An **urgent** attitude comes from understanding the severity of the Consequences: Hell

Prepare to share Christ.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

Urgency results in **boldness**.

Be bold! Paul requested, "And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike." Ephesians 6:19 (NLT)

God draws man to himself

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:44

I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews... To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. 1 Corinthians 9:19-20

Who would you regret not sharing Christ with if they died today?

DAY ONE – NOT SO GOOD NEWS

To understand the Good News, it's important to understand the not so good news. Hell. Hell is real.

SEEK GOD

Ask Jesus to give you understanding today. Try praying this prayer. Father, grant me revelation from your Word. Ignite in me a passion to tell others about you. Interrupt me. Awaken me. Lord, place in my path unbelievers so I can share your life and love. In Jesus name, amen.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read Luke 16:19-31 and Matthew 25:31-46.

Title a new page, "Hell is..." Make an exhaustive list of your findings. Use your imagination to enhance your understanding.

Now answer the following questions:

- Is the rich man in Hell because of the way he treated Lazarus?
- Is the rich man ever able to escape his torment?
- Why is Lazarus not able to go to the rich man?
- Would Lazarus or someone else want to go help the rich man?

ABIDE

Have you ever flown in first class? I haven't. On an eight-hour flight home from Hawaii, the business class passengers in front of us laid their chairs back (they were now in our faces). I slept off and on, but my poor husband did not sleep one minute. He was miserable. He constantly looked longingly through the dividing wall at the first class seats, feeling envious and pondering why he didn't spend the extra money for better seats.

It reminded me of this story in Luke. The rich man could see the comfort and blessed life Christ's children enjoyed while he suffered.

Hell is real. I have heard many people say, "How could a good God make good people suffer in such an awful place?"

Hell's original purpose was not for man, but for the devil and his angels. "*Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'*" Matthew 25:41

God doesn't want man in Hell. He doesn't want any man to perish, but to have eternal life.

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*** 2 Peter 3:9

But, as you read the text in Matthew, you see that sin caused a huge problem and unfortunately, those who do not know the Lord, will go there.

Glorious Good News is coming on Day 2. Read on. Stay with us.

REACH OUT

After completing today's homework, is there really anyone that you dislike enough that you would want them to spend eternity in hell – like the rich man? What about the people you love? No, of course not. You would not even want them to suffer here on earth.

The problem is that we do not like to think about the consequences of not knowing and believing in Jesus. If we refrain from sharing Christ, in essence we are leaving them to a certain fate. That's not ok with me.

You have an opportunity to share the greatest gift with your family, neighbors and the world! Do not see it as a burden, an embarrassment or a non-urgent matter. It is urgent. Jesus calls us to do this: "*Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.*" Make 16:15 (NLT)

God wants you to spread the word. He wants you to tell others about what He has done for you. He wants everyone to hear His Good News. He doesn't want even one person denied the opportunity to be saved.

Write down the names of people you know that do not personally know and believe in Jesus? Pray for them. Begin to reach out to them.

However, refuse to stop there. Do not be afraid to spread the name of Jesus to every person you know and meet – a server at a restaurant, a clerk, a new friend at the gym. Tell everyone.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you seek to tell others about Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.
Mark 16:15 (NLT)

DAY TWO – GOOD NEWS

SEEK GOD

Thank you Father for becoming a man so that you could save me! Father, equip me to share your sacrifice with every person in my path. I ask for words of knowledge and insight to speak your truth into others. I want to share your love.

Father, make me bold. Help me to become a selfless laborer. Make me usable. I surrender and give you freedom to do with my life whatever your heart desires. I am all in. May your way be my way, Father! In Jesus name, amen.

OBTAIN TRUTH

To share life with others, you must deeply understand your own need for a Savior. You must fully understand that Jesus suffered for you. You must dig deep. Don't grow weary. Allow God to do His work in and through you!

Review this week's memory verse.

Read John 19, Isaiah 52:13- 53:12.

Label a new page "The Good News is..." and "How Jesus suffered for me." Reread the text, but this time think about and write down, "Why Jesus suffered for me."

ABIDE

Reviewing the message of God's Good News will help us be sharp and ready to share it at any moment. Take a fresh look at some key Scriptures that are useful when communicating the Gospel:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
Every person falls short of God's righteousness and needs a Savior. One sin equals death. It's that simple. It's not how far you fall short. It's that you DO fall short.

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. James 2:10

Some might argue, "Well, I am not as bad as Hitler so how could God send me to hell? Isn't He a loving God? Surely a loving God wouldn't do that?"

God does not take sin lightly: *For the wages of sin is death...Romans 6:23(a)*

Some cannot understand the offensiveness of sin. God will not just change His mind about sin. Sin must be judged.

Jesus was God manifested in human body. His life was worth more than all our lives together. He was holy and pure. Jesus took the punishment for the sins of the whole world. God put all our sins onto Jesus – His blood paid for every individual sin such as, lying, murder, stealing, greed, homosexuality, etc.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

Get ready. Are you paying attention? If you can understand this then you can understand why there is a hell:

*When he (talking about the Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, **because men do not believe in me.** John 16:8-9*

The only sin outstanding against mankind is rejecting Jesus. Thereby, you reject the awesome price He paid for you to be free. You neglect the opportunity to know God and to have eternal life. The wages of sin is death! But, Jesus took your place! God did not recall His word or this consequence. He paid it for you!

Hell is for those who reject God Almighty. He loved them enough to come to earth as a man and die for their sins. Sin caused a huge problem, but God Himself paid the full price! **This is the Good News!** This is the gospel Jesus talks about in this week's memory verse.

REACH OUT

Now that you've reviewed the Good News, could you put it your own words to be prepared to share? Consider this: write it down, vocally record it, or meditate on it.

Practice in your small group, with family, friends or a co-worker.

MEMORY VERSE

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Mark 16:15 (NLT)

DAY THREE – NO PLAN B

SEEK GOD

Give God thanks today. Thank Him for opening the eyes of your heart. Thank Him for saving you and all that He's done for you!

OBTAIN TRUTH

Review this week's memory verse.

Read Mark 16:14-20 and Acts 2:14-41.

Who did Jesus commission in Mark? What did He commission them to do?

ABIDE

Jesus didn't have a "Plan B." He left His entire ministry with the eleven men He trained for three years. We are followers of Christ today because these men faithfully shared the Good News with someone.

God doesn't have a Plan B today either. He is counting on you and me to share His message – The Good News!

REACH OUT

You are called, commanded and commissioned! What are you going to do about it? Write down something short-term and long-term and add it to your dream wall. Do not delay.

MEMORY VERSE

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.
Mark 16:15 (NLT)

DAY FOUR – ONE MATTERS

SEEK GOD

Ask God to provide opportunities for you to express your faith with lost people. Ask Him to multiply one person into thousands.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Review this week's memory verse.

Read Matthew 18:12-14.

Write down answers to the following questions:

- Why was one sheep so important when there were still 99 left?
- Why do you think God is so willing to go after the one that is lost?
- Do you think God calls us to do the same? Why?
- What are some ways you think God reaches out to His "lost sheep"?
- How can you practically begin reaching out to the "lost sheep"?
- How can you realistically bring in a harvest of one hundred? One thousand? One million or one billion?

ABIDE

Have you stopped trying to reach out to someone because you think it is a waste of time? Have you grown weary in sharing the name of Jesus?

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

We cannot grow weary! We may never know how much of an impact we have on somebody. God's word does not return void.

"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

Trust and listen to Holy Spirit to lead you to where you need to be.

REACH OUT

Start by reaching out to the one. Teach them to be a disciple of Jesus. When they are ready, send them out. Let them become the teacher. God will multiply from one life committed to Him.

Consider investing in a group of people. You could work together to learn how to train others to be disciples of Jesus. Even having just three other people in your group can start a chain reaction.

Billy Graham preached the Gospel in person to more people than any other person in history. According to his staff, more than 3.2 million people responded to accept the Savior, Jesus Christ, at Billy Graham Crusades.

His own personal relationship with Christ can be traced back to a Sunday school teacher. Look at this chain of conversions:

- Sunday School teacher Edward Kimball helped lead Dwight L. Moody to Christ;
- J. Wilbur Chapman was converted at a Dwight L. Moody evangelistic meeting;
- Billy Sunday was converted at a Chapman meeting;
- Mordecai Ham was converted at Billy Sunday meeting;
- Billy Graham was converted at a Ham meeting.

One person can make a BIG difference! You can read more about Graham's conversion in the second chapter of his autobiography, *Just As I Am* (HarperCollins, 1997).

MEMORY VERSE

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.
Mark 16:15 (NLT)

DAY FIVE – GRACE IS FOR THE HUMBLD

SEEK GOD

Spend a quiet moment with the Father. Ask Him to open up opportunities for you to share His good news of salvation.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Practice your memory verse today.

Read Luke 18:9-27 and Luke 19:1-10.

Write the titles "The Self-righteous" and "The Humble," in your notebook. Record the characteristics you see in these two kinds of people.

In what ways did Jesus reach out to these men?

What were the rich man's problems?

What does wealth possess that causes man to stumble?

Why do suppose that Zacchaeus was ripe for salvation?

ABIDE

I (Amy) was a child when I asked Jesus to forgive and save me. I still remember realizing the gravity of my sin and my need for a Savior. That night, at an outdoor revival, I came to Jesus as a humble desperate child and my life forever changed.

As Jesus lived and walked on the earth, we see that He wanted everyone to repent and be saved. He could supernaturally discern mans' heart and know who was ripe for the harvest.

The **self-righteous** and proud do not see that they are lost. Or they simply aren't willing to lay down the things of the world for the One True Thing. We need to pray for the lost, proud person to be humbled – to have their darkened eyes opened to their need for the Savior.

Who do you know like this?

Humbled people know they are in need. We need to be ready to recognize the broken people around us that are ripening for a harvest. This could likely be a person that has been going through a significant trial. Suffering may have brought them to a place of humility and searching for spiritual truth.

Some people are also ripe to receive Christ at the top of their game (this was my husband, Craig). Life's pleasures and successes have proven empty and meaningless and they're desperate for lasting peace.

Do you know someone in one of these situations? Pray for an opportunity to share Christ with them!

REACH OUT

Stop. Take a moment and think about what life was like when you were lost. Remember all that changed for you after you repented and were forgiven.

Make a commitment to actively seek to share the Good News with someone who is in humble or proud circumstances.

Write down the names of at least two people to pray for and share Christ with.

This week, declare God's plan for salvation with someone on your list. If you discover that they already know Christ, then rejoice! But if they do not know Him, how can you keep silent?

Love them enough to overcome any fear or discomfort. God's love was poured out for them as well as for you. Reach out to someone today.

MEMORY VERSE

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.
Mark 16:15 (NLT)

CRAVE

Read Revelation 8, 9 and 10.

Write down a journal heading, "End Times." When my eight-year old read these chapters, she immediately gained an urgency to share the gospel with everyone! She shares with others and asks us to even when we are reluctant.

Even though no one knows when the end times will happen (Mark 13:32), these are *your* end times. Your life is short. James 4:14 says, "*What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*" Make your life count!

We added this commentary to this week's study because it gives insight into the suffering of Jesus Christ. Rejecting this amazing gift is the greatest sin of all! Reach out to someone today.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on Luke 22:41-44: Just consider the deep agony Jesus faced for you and all people in this world. We pray this gives you a broken heart for the lost and suffering.

"That, when Christ was in his agony, there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him, v. 43. (1.) It was an instance of the deep humiliation of our Lord Jesus that he needed the assistance of an angel, and would admit it. The influence of the divine nature withdrew for the present, and then, as to his human nature, he was for a little while lower than the angels, and was capable of receiving help from them. (2.) When he was not delivered from his sufferings, yet he was strengthened and supported under them, and that was equivalent. If God proportion the shoulders to the burden, we shall have no reason to complain, whatever he is pleased to lay upon us. David owns this a sufficient answer to his prayer, in the day of trouble, that God strengthened him with strength in his soul, and so does the son of David, Psalm 138:3. (3.) The angels ministered to the Lord Jesus in his sufferings. He could have had legions of them to rescue him; nay, this one could have done it, could have chased and conquered the whole band of men that came to take him; but he made use of his ministration only to strengthen him; and the very visit which this angel made him now in his grief, when his enemies were awake and his friends asleep, was such a seasonable token of the divine favor as would be a very great strengthening to him. Yet this was not all: he probably said something to him to strengthen him; put him in mind that his sufferings were in order to his Father's glory, to his own glory, and to the salvation of those that were given him, represented to him the joy set before him, the seed he should see; with these and the like suggestions he encouraged him to go on cheerfully; and what is comforting is strengthening. Perhaps he did something to strengthen him, wiped away his sweat and tears, perhaps ministered some cordial to him, as after his temptation, or, it may be, took him by the arm, and helped him off the ground, or bore him up when he was ready to faint away; and in these services of the angel the Holy Spirit was putting strength into him; for so the word signifies. It pleased the Lord to bruise him indeed; yet did he plead against him with his great power? No, but he put strength in him (Job 23:6), as he had promised, Psalm 89:21; Isaiah. 49:8; 50:7.

2. That, being in an agony, he prayed more earnestly, v. 44. As his sorrow and trouble grew upon him, he grew more importunate in prayer; not that there was before any coldness or indifference in his prayers, but there was now a greater vehemency in them, which was expressed in his voice and gesture. Note, Prayer, though never out of season, is in a special manner seasonable when we are in an agony; and the stronger our agonies are the more lively and frequent our prayers should be. Now it was that Christ offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears, and was heard in that he feared (Hebrews 5:7), and in his fear wrestled, as Jacob with the angel.

3. That, in this agony, his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Sweat came in with sin, and was a branch of the curse, Genesis 3:19. And therefore, when Christ was made sin and a curse for us, he underwent a grievous sweat, that in the sweat of his face we might eat bread, and that he might sanctify and sweeten all our trials to us. There is some dispute among the critics whether this sweat is only compared to drops of blood, being much thicker than drops of sweat commonly are, the pores of the body being more than ordinarily opened, or whether real blood out of the capillary veins mingled with it, so that it was in color like blood, and might truly be called a bloody sweat; the matter is not great. Some reckon this one of the times when Christ shed his blood for us, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission. Every pore was as it were a bleeding wound, and his blood stained all his raiment. This showed the travail of his soul. He was now abroad in the open air, in a cool season, upon the cold ground, far in the night, which, one would think, had been enough to strike in a sweat; yet now he breaks out into a sweat, which bespeaks the extremity of the agony he was in."