



DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Welcome! We are stepping into an important season together where God is inviting us to trust Him in new ways, to prepare the way for those who will come after us. This is about more than a building. This is about hearts surrendered, faith stretched, and lives transformed for His glory.

In this devotional, we will walk together for five days each week, opening the scriptures, reflecting deeply, and praying with expectation. Each Monday begins with a reflection drawn from the previous Sunday's sermon. The remaining days loosely follow the rhythm of **Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.**

When King David prepared God's people for the building of the Temple, he gathered them to bless the LORD, declaring:

"Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name." 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

We want this to be a season of praise and celebration for all the ways that we see God working and providing. We want to be a church that says, "LORD, it's all Yours."

As you open this devotional each day, come ready to **Make Room** for the next generation to know and follow Jesus.

He is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine.



YIELDING TO GOD'S PRIORITIES

WEEK 1 | DAY 1

Read Mark 10:13-16

My platoon had been moving non-stop for nearly 36 hours through hot terrain with minimal sleep. We were tired. Hungry. Hurting. And, oh, the thirst. That is what I remember most. My first priority – my only goal – was getting water for me and my men. The faster, and the colder, the better. Then, the call came in: “All units: Push to Marco Romeo.” Seriously? Ten more miles? Doesn’t this guy know what we’ve been through? He is so out of touch with how we feel right now.

What we didn’t understand then was that our commander had intel that we didn’t. He knew that there was great opportunity ahead if we just could take advantage of it. If we didn’t move, we’d miss the window to make a huge impact in the war. At that moment, while my priority was comfort and recovery, his was mission and opportunity.

We are not alone when we put our priorities ahead of the bigger mission. In Mark 10, Jesus’ disciples had great intentions: protect their Rabbi from the distractions of “lesser” ministry. In His rebuke of the disciples, Jesus challenged them, and us: revise your priorities to match MY priorities. He knows our circumstances and our needs, but He also has a broader perspective. The ultimate perspective.

Changing our priorities to align with God’s, for most of us, can take time and lots of prayer. We need to wrestle with what His priorities are and how He is calling us to respond. The call here – today and in the weeks ahead - is to slow down, to be still, and to listen for His leading. Ask God to help you see His vision for Encompass. Ask Him for how He might have you participate. As you commit to seeking and following His leading, know that there is a team of people praying for and with you as well. You are not alone.



MARK 10:13-16 - ESV

¹³And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.



GREAT IS THE LORD

WEEK 1 | DAY 2

Read Psalm 145

I'm needy. It's pathetic. I know that our Almighty God is not a genie in the sky, just there to give me what I want when I ask. But I feel like even when I spend time in intentional prayer and talking to Him, it is usually me asking for stuff. I've got a list and it's good stuff, needs stuff, concerns stuff. I need to spend some time just praising Him. Read Psalm 145.

Great is the Lord. Unsearchable greatness. Mighty acts. Awesome deeds. Glorious splendor. Wondrous works. Abundant goodness. Graciousness. Mercy. Slow to anger. Abundant in steadfast love. Mighty deeds. Holy.

Wow. That's OUR God. This Psalm includes some guidance for us too. Verse 4 instructs us, "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." As we praise God for who He is, as described in this Psalm, and all the things He has done as evidenced in this passage, let's consider our response.

As the LORD continues to move in our surrounding community, are we ready to **Make Room** at Encompass Church for His work? Let's spend some time praising God for what He's doing in us and around us. Let's praise Him for this opportunity to commend His works to another generation, and declare His mighty acts, to make known to the children of man His mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of His kingdom.

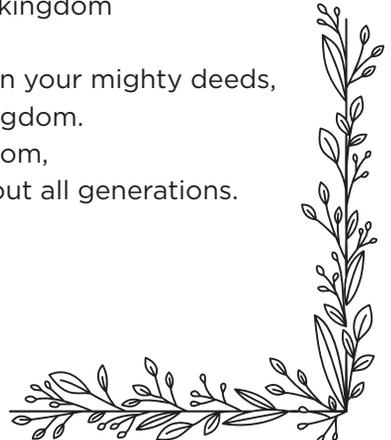
Reflection: *How can I spend intentional time praising God today?*



PSALM 145 - ESV

A Song of Praise. Of David.

- ¹I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ²Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
- ³Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.
- ⁴One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- ⁶They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
- ⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ⁸The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹The Lord is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- ¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!
- ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
- ¹²to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The Lord is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.



THE WEIGHT OF SIN

WEEK 1 | DAY 3

Read Psalm 32:1-5, 1 John 1:9

Her name is Tina. The self-righteous brat in me did some hurtful things to her when we were kids. In high school, she figured out how to use choice words and her elbow in the basketball key to make me pay for it.

At our 10-year class reunion I thought I'd do the "right" thing and apologize. I didn't like the icky feeling when I thought about the tension between us, and I wanted that feeling to go away. Her response was icy; I was rebuffed. In my self-righteousness, I rationalized all my actions. "I was actually trying to APOLOGIZE," I told myself.

Over 25 years (you read it right) I experienced His heavy hand on me day and night. The weight of my sin, my initial treatment toward Tina and my rationalizing were heavy loads. I physically felt them. Nightmares about interacting with her came more and more often. I couldn't shake this burden—my bones were wasting away.

I remember the day that God helped me confess my sin to Him and call it ALL sin. I also remember the tightness in my chest as I messaged Tina that morning on Facebook. My heart raced as instantly those three throbbing grey dots hovered on the page waiting as she composed her response. This time, no ice. "Thank you for this! Apology accepted!" The instant lightness my heart felt, the relief that poured over me in my deepest places overwhelmed me. I was forgiven. Tina added more words. We shared a lot that day. And I felt that relief when He "forgave the iniquity of my sin" (v.5). The tears flowed for days. The nightmares never returned. The relief, His relief.

Reflection: *Unconfessed sin gets heavy. What relief do you need today? Forgiveness feels so good.*



PSALM 32:1-5 - ESV

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah



1 JOHN 1:9 - ESV

⁹If we confess our sins, he is
faithful and just to forgive us
our sins and to cleanse us from
all unrighteousness.



FROM OBLIGATION TO AWE

WEEK 1 | DAY 4

Read Psalm 118:28-29

“Say thank you to that man who held the door for you, Billy,” shouted an embarrassed mom, her words unable to catch up to the blur that was her oblivious son as he bolted through the open doorway into the busy, noisy arcade. A few minutes later, Billy sullenly walked up to that man, with his hands-on-hips mom right behind. With not an ounce of sincerity – only obligation – Billy softly did his duty, “My mom says I need to thank you. So, ‘Thank You.’” The man received Billy’s compelled gratitude graciously replying, “Happy to be of service, kid.” He handed Billy a dollar from his pocket, “Have fun.”

Most of us, I’m sure, can relate to Billy’s mom, trying her best to teach thankfulness to her son who hadn’t yet grasped the concept. If we are honest, though, are we all that different from Billy? We, too, often gloss past the richness of God’s provision, sometimes offering only an obligatory “thanks” when reminded at mealtime.

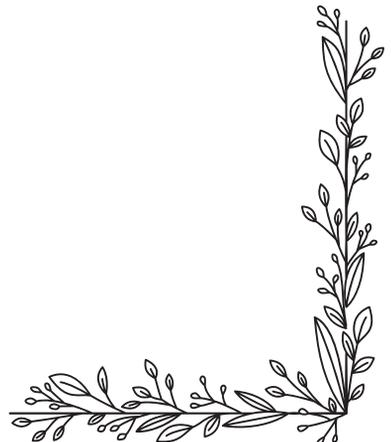
Sure, we learned long ago that “All that we have comes from Him.” But stop for a minute. Do we consciously grasp that reality as deeply as we should? Everything? Whoa. No matter our circumstances, the more we look around, and the more we think about it, we come to understand that “everything” is a lot. And it isn’t just the “stuff” that we have or the bucks at the bank. God has been enormously generous to each of us in unfathomable ways. From the salvation that Christ offers to those who believe in Him to the air we breathe – and everything in between.

Reflection: *Take some time today to recognize God’s blessings in your life. Then, with a heart full of awe, thank God for His boundless generosity.*



PSALM 118:28-29 - ESV

- ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.
- ²⁹Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!



IT'S NOT ABOUT ME

WEEK 1 | DAY 5

Read Romans 12:1-2

The kids were in third grade. Children's Church, we called it, looked different back in the 2010s. And our two silly willies came home with goofy antics and riled-up voice that they mimicked from a man on the Sunday School video, "It's not about ME, it's about HIM!," as bow-legged they danced around the room pointing heavenward.

How many times have we returned in conversation to those silly voices and goofy antics to remind ourselves of the most basic truth of our Christian walk? It is NOT about me. It IS about HIM!

We are a living sacrifice to God. Our offering to Him is a life that is not conformed to this world but one that is set apart and different. So why, then, do we come to God in prayer, with our many supplications, our asks, and they contain all the things that make it look like this life IS all about me?

This passage directs us to be "transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God." It is the will of God for every believer to be a living sacrifice to Christ.

Encompass Church is getting ready to **Make Room** for more families to come discover who Jesus is and to experience a life-changing relationship with Him. We invite you to spend some time praying for the LORD to reveal His will for YOU in this process.

Reflection: *If I were to do an honest gut-check, am I a help or a hindrance to new families and children who come to hear about Jesus? Am I making this campaign about me (my giving, my preferences, my opinions) or about Him?*



ROMANS 12:1-2 - ESV

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



WORRY

WEEK 2 | DAY 1

Read Luke 12:22-23

I've read a lot of Ted Dekker novels - OK, maybe all of them. I love the way he uses new words and phrases that give me a fresh glimpse into the character of God. In his novel A.D. 30, I had my "aha" moment regarding fear.

Maviah has encountered Yeshua, THE Yeshua (Jesus). She faces death in the arena and Yeshua's words come to mind, "Why are you afraid?" In these brief moments, Maviah sorts through all the truths she knows about Yeshua and Yeshua's Father. And she comes to the realization that Yeshua's Father is truly her Father too.

...His response came from the stillness. A breath. His breath flowing over me like life-giving water in the deepest sands. It washed over my face and down my neck and arms. Over my chest and belly and down my legs. You are mine, his breath said. "Yes," I whispered, closing my eyes against the tears that welled.

Trust me.

(Dekker, AD 30, pg 427)

What really do I fear? What is it that causes my mind to race and my worry to overwhelm me and cause me to cry out to my God for rescue? Do I believe that God truly values me and will meet my needs?

Luke gives us God's remedy plainly, "Instead, seek his kingdom (v. 24)." Confess it to the Lord and ask Him to take over that throne again. "Take every thought captive and to turn it over in obedience to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

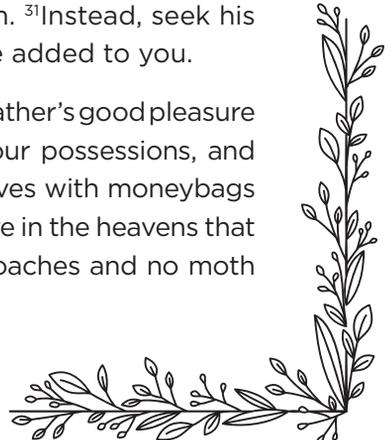
Reflection: *Do an honest self-assessment today. Where do you see worry start to rear its head in your life? What steps can you take today to seek his kingdom, put God back on the throne of your life, and watch him provide all that you need?*



LUKE 12:22-33 - ESV

²²And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.



HEAVEN'S ROAR OF PRAISE

WEEK 2 | DAY 2

Read Revelation 5:11-13

Just for a second, put yourself in the breathtaking scene John records in Revelation 5. You are standing in the throne room of heaven. There is God with Christ seated at His right side. Heaven has gathered around with great anticipation for this moment.

Notice how expansive this worship is. Not just innumerable angels, but every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth is drawn into this crescendo of praise. This cacophony of song for both God and Jesus Christ raises a raucous chorus exclaiming in verse 13 “blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Why were they so enthusiastic? This is the answer to millennia of prayers of countless saints and all the promises that have been spoken about sin being stamped out and evil being vanquished. The time for redemption has come. Finally, there would be total earthly surrender to Jesus Christ, the slain yet victorious Lamb.

What a scene. Can you feel the awe? Can you feel the power? All of creation falling on its collective knees to worship the Creator. Our God in Heaven, and our Savior Jesus Christ, are indeed worthy of this. Power. Riches. Wisdom. Strength. Honor. Glory. Blessing. Is there anything else? They deserve that too.

For a moment, be still. Take it all in. Pray something like this:

Worthy are You, Lord—Lamb and King—of all blessing, honor, glory, and power. In awe, I join creation's song, exalting Your victory, love, and eternal reign, for You have conquered sin and triumph forever. Amen!



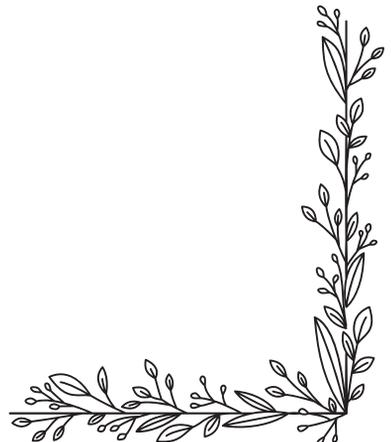
REVELATION 5:11-13 - ESV

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”



WHEN WRONG PRIORITIES SINK US

WEEK 2 | DAY 3

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

At first glance, Paul's instruction in this passage might be interpreted as a reminder to simply "behave well." The reality, though, is that Paul is calling us to consider every action in light of whether it promotes or hinders others from growing closer to Christ. Seeking self-interest above the benefit of others can have perilous consequences.

When launched in 1912, the RMS Titanic was the pinnacle of luxury and modern engineering. The White Star Line, the ship's owner, prioritized image, prestige, appearance, and speed at the expense of what should have mattered more: safety. What began as a monument to progress ended as a memorial to misplaced priorities.

One might argue, "Come on. That's a bit dramatic, don't you think? Sure, I lack humility and proper care for others sometimes, but my occasional self-first decisions don't result in the loss of 1,500 lives in a single night, do they?"

Consider the massive growth that Parker, Elizabeth, and Franktown have experienced in recent years—growth that is expected to continue well into the future. As we enter into this season of vision and sacrifice, Paul's words challenge us to keep first things first. Our self-first priorities in the next few weeks might not have as stark a consequence as those of White Star in 1912, but if we seek God's direction in putting others first, the **Make Room** campaign could set Encompass Church on a path to have a godly impact on many thousands in the next several generations.

***Reflection:** In considering participation in **Make Room**, are you hoping to protect comfort or lifestyle? What might prioritizing the spiritual needs of others look like in this season?*



1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-33 - ESV

³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³²Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.



THANKFUL DESPITE THE THORNS

WEEK 2 | DAY 4

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and John 15:5

Gratitude is easy when the wind is at our proverbial back, the bills are paid and the home front is happy and healthy. But what about when suffering and adversity take center stage? It is when the job is a bit murky or relationships are a bit tense or when any number of a thousand other things aren't going our way that we learn gratitude doesn't come from a strong will. It comes from a surrendered heart.

If we read closely, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 does not say "give thanks for all circumstances," but "in all circumstances." Paul is not asking us to pretend pain is pleasant. He invites us - calls us, even - to be thankful in the midst of difficulty. Why? Because when we do, our hearts are tethered to something unshakable: Christ.

That's where John 15:5 comes in. Jesus reminds us that apart from Him, we can do nothing, not even offer genuine thanks in suffering. When we remain connected to our Lord, we begin to bear fruit that doesn't make sense by the world's standards. As we exhibit joy in struggle and thanksgiving in weakness, those around us will notice. They might even wonder enough to ask "How do you do that?" Not much better of an opportunity to share about Christ than that!

As we abide in Christ and express gratitude even in hardship, our lives become a testimony of hope that is hard to ignore. When a whole church lives rooted in Christ and surrendered in gratitude, we become a beacon to a broken world. Take a moment today to thank God in all circumstances He allows in your life. Also, continue to ask Him for direction on how He might be leading you to help draw our community to the Savior to whom we surrender the deepest challenges of our lives.



1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 - ESV

¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



JOHN 15:5 - ESV

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.



ASKING FREELY, RESTING FULLY

WEEK 2 | DAY 5

Read Philippians 4:6-13

When Paul tells the Philippians not to be anxious, he's not offering shallow advice or wishful thinking. He instructs them, and us, to bring our needs, hopes, and questions to God with honest dependence and grateful hearts.

Bringing our requests to God is more than making a list. It's the act of surrendering our concerns and aligning our desires with God's will. In this text, Paul moves from instructing prayerful trust to describing how he learned contentment in both abundance and need, and how, in both circumstances, Christ was his sufficiency.

What is promised when we surrender our deepest longings to Christ? A heavenly peace (v. 7) and contentment that surpasses our limits (v. 13). Whether we feel full or empty, ready or unsure, our calling is to bring everything—everything—to Him.

This is a season where the Encompass community is joining together to pray about the **Make Room** initiative. Yes, indeed, this is important and should be on your prayer list. But, more pressing matters may be consuming your mind or weighing on your heart. Right now, in this moment, take a deep breath, and surrender these things to Christ. Ask for help and direction. Ask for healing and provision. Plead for restoration or changed hearts or new habits. Whatever burden has taken up residence in your life, lay your requests before the Lord, and seek the peace that can only come from above. As you lift up your requests to God – **Make Room** related or not – know that others are praying for you too, for your needs and also for the Paul-like contentment that comes from a heart surrendered to the Lord. Peace be with you.



PHILIPPIANS 4:6-13 - ESV

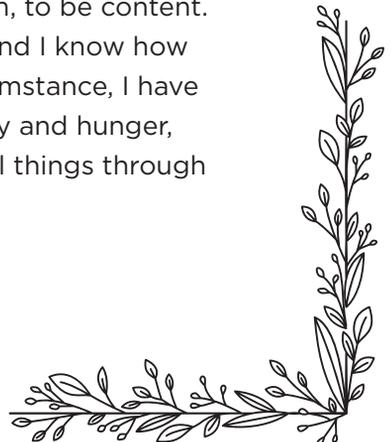
⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content.

¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



MY GENEROSITY

WEEK 3 | DAY 1

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

When you think of being generous, what do you use as the reference to know you've met the "generous" level? We might think of the story of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44 or Luke 21:1-4) and then think, "Oh goodness, I need to give it all" for it to count. But then 2 Corinthians 9:7 tells me to give "not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver," and I stumble all over that phrase "not reluctantly." Can I will my heart into generosity? Let's take a deep breath and take ourselves and our money off the throne for a minute.

Read today's verses. Paul is launching into an outpouring of praise about this church's generosity. But to whom does he give credit for this generosity? He says, "We want you to know about the grace of God that has been given to the churches..."

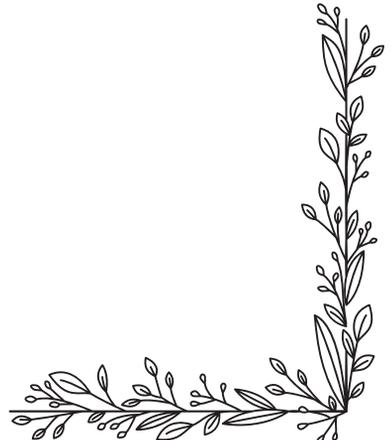
We can reframe our perspective on generosity when we focus on God's generosity first. Perhaps it's helpful to take a minute and list the ways that He's been generous to you. God desires that we act in belief that He will provide, first by giving ourselves to Him, and second by giving to meet the needs of others. Let's focus on that first part, really giving ourselves to Him. We can ask Him to do this generous change in us.

Reflection: *Does my generosity exist because of my own decisions or because of God's grace? Who am I trusting when I give? Do I give within my means, trusting me, or beyond my means, trusting God? Do I give myself to the Lord before I give myself and my gifts to others?*



2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5 - ESV

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints — ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.



WORSHIP IN ACTION

WEEK 3 | DAY 2

Read Psalm 96:1-9

A cheetah print room. She was eight. And that's what she wanted, (sigh). I explained that I was not willing to tediously paint all those walls with an animal print pattern. Besides, that would be hideous (I kept those words in my head, for the mom win). I came across this verse and made that the focus. She did get a cheetah on her wall, lurking in one corner.

Funny that I connect this verse to that room and our beloved friends in various African nations. Because "among the nations" meant us here too! This Psalm, likely written by King David, includes praise to God, looking forward to the kingdom of Christ, to celebrate the glories of that kingdom and rejoicing over the addition of non-Jews to it! That's me, the non-Jew. It's likely you too.

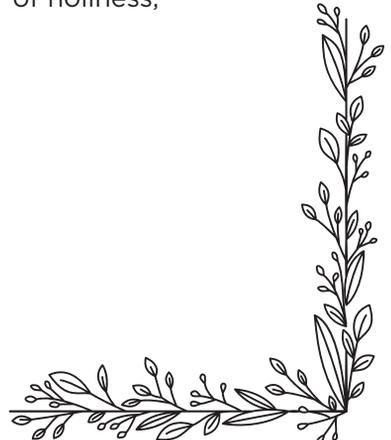
David gives us a great example to follow. "Oh sing to the LORD a new song... tell of His salvation from day to day!... Declare his glory to all people!... Bring an offering and come into his courts.

Reflection: *Have I considered what a big deal it is that God's salvation has been extended to me too? Am I ready to bring an offering as an act of worship to God, praising Him for the way that He is bringing others to Himself?*



PSALM 96:1-9 - ESV

- ¹Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
- ²Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
- ⁴For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
- ⁶Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
- ⁸Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!
- ⁹Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!



CHECK THE CONNECTION

WEEK 3 | DAY 3

Read Isaiah 59:1-3

It was a frantic Monday morning. The most important presentation of my young career was in less than an hour and, of course, this was the moment that my laptop opted to act up. In an utter panic, I called tech support hoping for a miracle. After a long pause, the tech asked, “Can you check to see if it’s plugged in?” I rolled my eyes, muttering words under my breath driven by frustration over the incessant need to start with something so elementary. “Of course it is plu... Oh wait.” Embarrassed, I held the end of an unconnected cord in my hand, I apologized and thanked the tech for her help.

Isaiah 59 opens with a powerful truth: the problem is not with God. His arm isn’t too short. His ears aren’t too dull. He hasn’t moved. He is strong and ready. But sometimes we find ourselves feeling disconnected like my laptop. God feels far off, distant or not listening. Isaiah tells us the reason: our sin separates us from God. Our sin disconnects our power source.

But Isaiah isn’t trying to shame us, he’s inviting us back. For Christians, reconnecting with God — removing this separation — hinges on confession, essentially agreeing with God that our sin is indeed sin. When we name our sin and repent of it, God meets us with mercy, not distance. He welcomes us back into unhindered fellowship.

Reflection: *Ask God today to reveal where sin may have become lodged in your life. Agree with God. Rest in His cleansing and trust in His power to help you overcome. Then, delight in being reunited with God Almighty.*

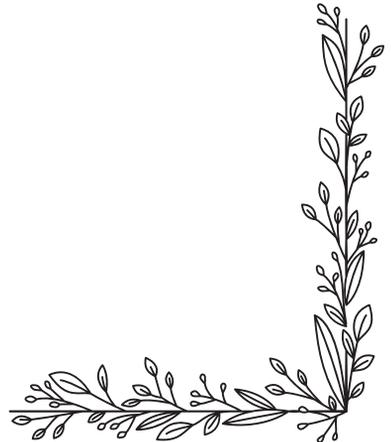


ISAIAH 59:1-3 - ESV

¹Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

²but your iniquities have made a separation
between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you
so that he does not hear.

³For your hands are defiled with blood
and your fingers with iniquity;
your lips have spoken lies;
your tongue mutters wickedness.



REMEMBERING

WEEK 3 | DAY 4

Read Psalm 136

We've been through some hard seasons in our family. I bet you have too. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 commands us to "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Easier said than done. But thanksgiving is not based on feelings or emotions. Thanksgiving is rooted in remembrance – an intentional act of looking back and seeing God's hand in our lives.

Read Psalm 136.

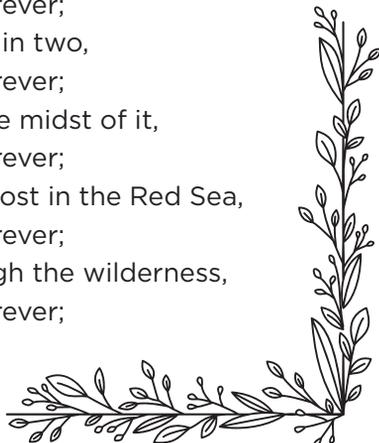
This Psalm gives us 26 verses that tell us to give thanks to the LORD. Each verse is followed by an attribute of God or description of an act that He has performed. When recited, the Israelites weren't just recounting or remembering their history, they were reliving God's faithfulness. Remembering God's faithfulness is the purpose of thanking him. It takes our eyes off ourselves and our circumstances and fixes them on Him.

God is walking us through a season of change at Encompass Church. He's working some new things in and around us and we are getting ready to **Make Room** to do what He's asking us to do. Give thanks to the LORD for he is good. His steadfast love endures forever.

***Reflection:** Remember ways that God has been faithful to you and thank Him for it. As we **Make Room** at Encompass Church, think about how God is equipping you for the work He is doing here. Thank Him for His faithfulness to provide and equip.*

PSALM 136:1-16 - ESV

- ¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ²Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ³Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁴to him who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁵to him who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁶to him who spread out the earth above the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁷to him who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁸the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁹the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁰to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹¹and brought Israel out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹²with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹³to him who divided the Red Sea in two,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁴and made Israel pass through the midst of it,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁵but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ¹⁶to him who led his people through the wilderness,
for his steadfast love endures forever;



PURE HEARTS, LASTING IMPACT

WEEK 3 | DAY 5

Read Psalm 51:7-12

At the heart of Psalm 51 is a raw and honest prayer: “Create in me a pure heart, O God.” David was writing Psalm 51 shortly after being confronted about his sin with Bathsheba. He wasn’t asking God to clean his outward appearance; he was pleading for inward transformation—to have his heart conformed to God’s. David yearned for pure motives in all areas of his life.

That same longing for purity of heart and purpose can be seen in the life of Jonathan Blanchard, a passionate abolitionist, educator, and pastor who became the president of what is now Wheaton College in Illinois in 1882. Blanchard wasn’t driven by pride or prestige. He was motivated by a desire to train the next generation to impact the world for Christ. With no wealthy backers, Blanchard and others prayed that God would move in the hearts of everyday people to give generously, not out of obligation or recognition, purely out of love for Christ and the desire to see young people trained to serve Him.

God provided. Ordinary farmers, merchants, and churchgoers donated sacrificially with little fanfare. Today, Wheaton College is a world-renowned Christian institution, training the next generation of leaders, just as its founders envisioned.

As Encompass looks toward the future and invests in a space for the next generation, Psalm 51 encourages us to make sure our motives are pure. Are we giving out of obligation? Are we giving to please people or to buy God’s favor? Or, is our giving directed by God and in response to an overflow of joy for the grace and mercy He has poured out on us? Pray that God would conform our hearts to His for His glory alone.



PSALM 51:7-12 - ESV

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

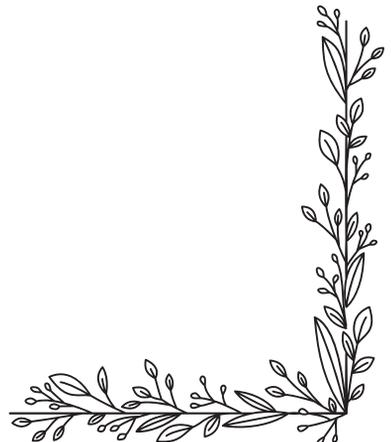
⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.



FAITH DOESN'T FLINCH

WEEK 4 | DAY 1

Read 2 Corinthians 8:6-15

In the 1984 Olympic Games, a collision with Romanian Zola Budd during the women's 3000-meter race left Mary Decker injured and unable to finish. It's a vivid picture of how, despite preparation and intent, unexpected circumstances can arise that threaten completion of our goal.

Spiritually, many of us start strong in our faith and generosity. Maybe over the course of the last several weeks you have been diligent to seek God's direction and have been sensitive to His leading. That's great, praise God! Rest assured: Satan is nervous that Encompass is growing and that this community, in unity, is seeking God's will and following His lead. When Satan attacks with setbacks or distractions, will you hesitate or pull back? Scripture flips that instinct on its head. The call is not to wait until our fears disappear but to make generous plans in faith and then follow through, trusting that God sees, knows, and supplies. Faith doesn't retreat.

While "The Fall" might be what Mary Decker is best known for, most don't know that she came back to win several races in the 1985 season including setting a new world record for the women's mile and raced in the 1988 and 1996 Olympics. She persevered.

We live in a culture that avoids commitment and celebrates instant gratification, but the way of Christ is steady endurance for His purposes. Generosity in the face of setbacks or fear is an act of spiritual grit. Make a plan to give. Trust God to provide. Then take the next step forward. That's how we finish the race well.



2 CORINTHIANS 8:6-15 - ESV

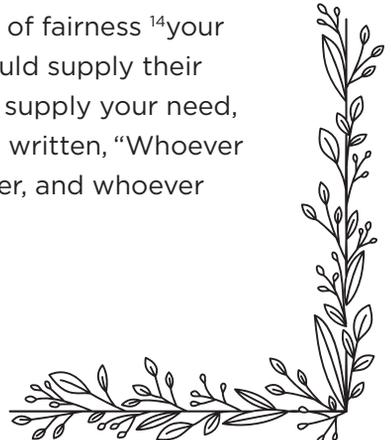
⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.

⁷But as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you — see that you excel in this act of grace also.

⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. ¹¹So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. ¹²For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”



HOLY HOLY HOLY

WEEK 4 | DAY 2

Read Psalm 4:8-11

How do you define the word “holy” when attempting to describe this attribute of God? There are several attributes of God that only belong to Him. No one else can be sovereign, only God. No one else can be eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, or immutable (unchanging). Holy is one of those things we won’t ever be, apart from Christ. God’s holiness is what makes Him distinct from all other beings, more than His sinlessness or His perfection, His holiness is more like His “other-ness” added on top of all these other attributes.

Read Revelation 4:8-11.

Here we are with John, getting a look into heaven at the throne of God. There are four creatures surrounding the throne and in worship they proclaim this word. Otherness. Otherness. Otherness.

This picture reminds me of Isaiah 55:8-9. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” *Otherness.*

Return to Revelation 4:10.

We also see 24 elders who are there. These 24 elders represent the Church, and they cast down their crowns and praise Him. So Church, how are we doing with casting down our own crowns to His otherness?

Reflection: *How does my praise of God reflect my understanding of His holiness? Am I casting down my own crown and giving it to Him as an act of worship? He is worthy.*



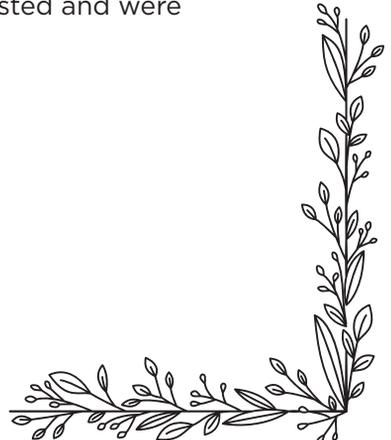
REVELATION 4:8-11 - ESV

⁸And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”



JUST HOW MATURE AM I?

WEEK 4 | DAY 3

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Just how mature am I? Turns out that spiritual maturity is a lot more about my will to give up “me” than it is about how knowledgeable I am about scripture, or how many hours I spend in a church pew. That might feel really freeing to you! It was to me. So, then, how do I get past this stage of being in the flesh and a spiritual infant?

When we become followers of Christ, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Holy Spirit exists and lives inside of me. And God doesn’t want me to live the Christian life. Instead, He wants to live the Christian life through me. But then here comes the ongoing struggle... who is directing my life, me or the Holy Spirit?

If I am a believer but keep taking back control of my life from the Holy Spirit, I can expect to live in defeat. I’ll continue to be a person of the flesh, as an infant in Christ (v.1). But if I allow the Holy Spirit to direct and empower my life, my interests will be directed by Him. “But I don’t know that I have the willpower to keep giving up control of my life to Him.” Good news! I don’t have to.

1 John 5:14,15 promises that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. Is it God’s will that I be controlled by the Holy Spirit? (The answer is YES, AND AMEN!). Therefore, if I ask God to take control of my life with the Spirit, He will. He is the one doing the work in and through me. Thank Him for that!

Reflection: *Where do I need the Holy Spirit to take control of my life? If God is asking me to do something different in this season to **Make Room** for His plans at Encompass Church, will He not change my heart to conform if I ask Him to? Go ahead, ask for it.*



1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-3 - ESV

¹But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?



PROVISION, PROTECTION, AND PLENTY

WEEK 4 | DAY 4

Read Psalm 23:5

In Psalm 23:5, David describes God as the gracious and powerful host who tends to David with lavish care. God provides for him generously, shields him from danger, and meets his basic needs, yes, but then pours out blessing in abundance. God was not stingy with His blessings to David.

This blessing is not just meant to describe how God relates to David. When we look at our lives, we too should recognize how God has blessed us through His provision, His protection, and how He lavishly provides more than enough for us. God has not been stingy with His blessings to us.

For well over 50 years, God has blessed Encompass Church in the same ways. Encompass has faced seasons of immense adversity, yet God has faithfully protected and sustained this church. Looking back, God has provided extravagant blessings to Encompass, some of which include generations of Christ-centered leaders and an outpouring of material resources meeting – and exceeding – our needs. Through God’s grace, generations of people have come to a saving faith in Christ as the gospel has been preached with power and clarity. God has not been stingy with His blessings to Encompass Church.

Let’s Pray: Lord, thank You for the ways You have provided not just enough, but more than enough. Thank You for the legacy of faith You have built through Encompass Church. Show me how I can be part of carrying that blessing forward, so that the next generation may know You and experience Your love. In Christ’s Name, I pray, Amen.



PSALM 23:5 - ESV

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.



IMAGINE MORE!

WEEK 4 | DAY 5

Read Proverbs 3:1-12, Ephesians 3:20-21

The book of Proverbs is full of excellent, normal, everyday-life good advice. It's not a book of promises, necessarily. It's a book of wise sayings that, if followed, generally produce the outcomes described. Of course, we all know the exceptions. But that's not the point of the book. This proverb is full of excellent guidance.

Don't forget the LORD's teachings, trust in the LORD always, submit to Him, He'll make your paths straight. Don't be wise in your own eyes, fear the LORD. Honor the LORD with your wealth. Do not despise the LORD'S discipline.

These lessons challenge the heart! I know I've struggled with all these statements at times (some very recent times!). But what if we really decided to get on board with His guidance here? What if we really did decide to submit to Him in all our ways? What if we really did decide to honor the LORD with our wealth? What if we embraced his discipline, knowing He was making us more like Him as He called out our sin and brought us to repentance? I think He'd do more with us individually, and more with us as the church, than we could ever imagine.

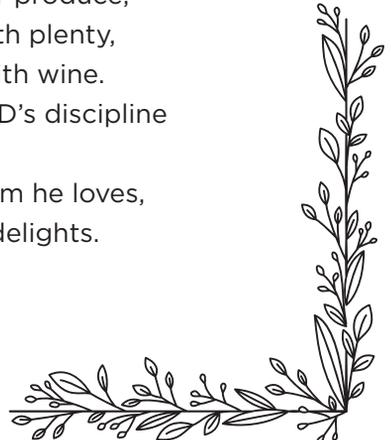
Reflection: *Let's all, as the Church, bring Encompass Church before the LORD today. As He moves us into this season to **Make Room** for the Next Generation, let's ask Him to do more than we could ever imagine, for His glory alone.*

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever. Amen.



PROVERBS 3:1-12 - ESV

- ¹My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
²for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.
³Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man.
⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
⁷Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
⁸It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.
⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.
¹¹My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
¹²for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.





[Encompass.church/MakeRoom](https://encompass.church/MakeRoom)