

FALL DEVO GUIDE

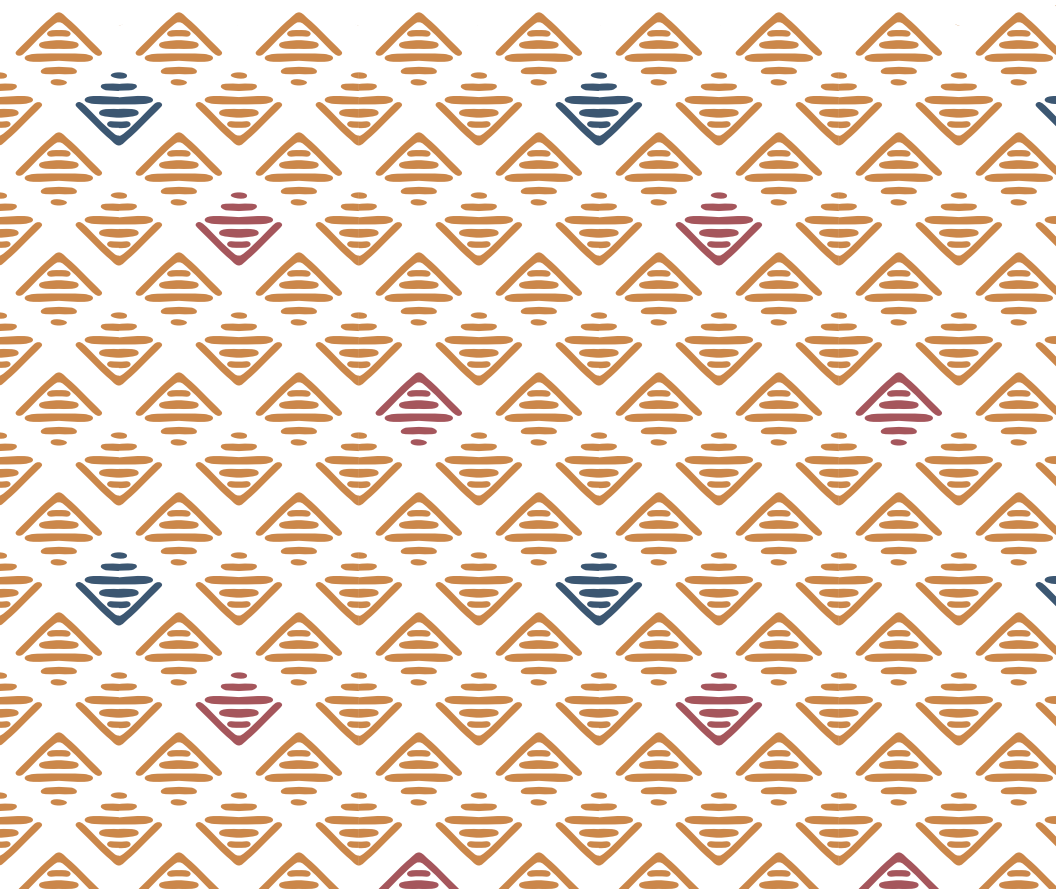


2020



STUDENT
MINISTRIES
FIRST PRES

this guide belongs to:



Dear students,

Before you jump into this devotional guide, here are a few things you should know. First, this guide is designed to connect you to the sermons preached on Sunday mornings, as the passages for Sundays are the same ones included in this guide. The four days following are all passages that connect to the Sunday passage, so you can use those to help dig deeper into what the whole church is learning! This guide is intended to be used daily, six days a week, but this is not homework or another daily assignment; this is an opportunity to spend time with God and learn what it means to have a regular routine around time with Him. We're so excited to see where this takes you!

We have been reading Psalm 139:1–12 and praying that you would experience the presence of God and truly grasp how known and loved you are by Him. We want to share the passage here. It says,

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

This is our prayer for you as you embark on this journey. Thankful to know all of you, and excited to see the ways God works in your life this fall!

Lots of Love,
Your Student Ministries Team



Nathan Richards



Harper Tice



Heather Green



HELPFUL RESOURCES AS YOU GO THROUGH THIS DEVOTIONAL GUIDE!

Before you dive into your daily devotion, spend some time in prayer. This is just one example of a guided prayer exercise you can use.

Adoration – tell God how awesome He is

Confession – ask for forgiveness for how you’ve fallen short

Thanksgiving – thank God for His forgiveness and goodness

Supplication – ask for what you want and need

Then jump into the daily Scripture passage! Each week has its own set of questions, but here is just one tool for reading through Bible passages. You can use this for any passage you read.

Ask – ask that the Holy Spirit would guide you and reveal Himself to you through these words

Scripture – read the scripture passage for your given day (and you can keep using this method with other Scripture passages once you’re done with this guide)

Questions

- What stood out to you from this passage?
- What questions do you have?
- What did you learn about God?
- What did you learn about people?
- How does this affect your life?

Application – how does this affect your life going forward?

Then spend some time silently listening and reflecting on what God might be speaking to you.

These resources above are just ideas and suggestions made to help you. But feel free to use this guide however works best for you! And always know you have your small group leaders as well as Harper, Heather G. and Nathan as resources if you want to talk about anything in here. Praying this guide helps draw you closer to God, and that you would experience His love more and more each day. Now it’s time to begin!

Sunday, September 6

GENESIS 3:8–19

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, ‘Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’”

To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ ‘Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’”

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What animal are you most like and why?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- Why do you think God asks, “Where are you?”
- Why do you think God reacts the way He does to Adam and Eve eating the apple?
- What do we learn about God in this passage?
- What do we learn about people?
- What does this have to do with us?

Monday, September 7

ROMANS 1:18-2

notes:

Tuesday, September 8

Mark 7:21-23

notes:

Wednesday, September 9

JEREMIAH 17:59

notes:

Thursday, September 10

JOHN 3:16-21

notes:

Friday Activity!

Look at the story from Sunday (Genesis 3:8–19) like you would a movie or TV show. To help you do this, ask these questions.

- What actors would you cast in the different roles? (think of the characters' personalities)
- What modern-day place would provide a fitting setting to the story? Why?
- Who's the villain? What's their motivation?
- Who wins the passage (who's our MVP)?
- Who takes the biggest L (this might not always be the villain)?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Sunday, September 13

GENESIS 15:1-6

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- Do you have any irrational fears? If not, what were you afraid of as a kid?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What might God be talking about when He says, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you could count them? So, shall your offspring be”?
- What do we learn about God in this passage?
- What do we learn about people?
- What does this have to do with us?

Monday, September 14

EXODUS 34:6-7

notes:

Tuesday, September 15

PSALM 107:1-9

notes:

Wednesday, September 16

LUKE 15:11-32

notes:

Thursday, September 17

1 JOHN 4:7-10

notes:

Friday Activity!

God always has and always will keep His promises. On Sunday, we saw that Abram had seen God's faithfulness and trusted that His faithfulness would continue. Take a moment to list the times God has been faithful to you in the past. Keep those in mind this week whenever worry and anxiety strike!

[illegible]

Sunday, September 20

ISAIAH 51:1-8

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many. The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

“Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

“Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have taken my instruction to heart: Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals or be terrified by their insults. For the moth will eat them up like a garment; the worm will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, my salvation through all generations.”

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What’s the best way to cheer you up when you’re down?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- Think about the story of creation and the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1 and 2). What do you think Isaiah is saying in this passage when he says, “He will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord”?
- This passage talks a lot about “righteousness.” What do you think that means? Use context clues from this passage. Why do you think Isaiah writes about this so much?
- What do we learn about God in this passage?
- What does this have to do with us?

Monday, September 21

Psalm 20

notes:

Tuesday, September 22

MATTHEW 1:18-25

notes:

Wednesday, September 23

TITUS 3:1–8

notes:

Thursday, September 24

COLOSSIANS 1:9–14

notes:

Weekly Song Suggestion:
O Rock Eternal by Erik Nieder

Friday Activity!

Below, or on a separate piece of paper, create a tree of hope. Draw (or print out) a tree trunk, then add images or words that give you hope—maybe it's someone in your life who is an example of hope, something from the list you created in last week's activity or a specific verse. (You can google "tree of hope" for different examples of visuals!)



Sunday, September 27

HEBREWS 1:1–12

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."

But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain, they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same and your years will never end."

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What's the coolest thing you've ever created? (Art? Legos? Mud pies?)
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- Reread verse two of this passage. What might it mean that God is speaking to us through His Son?
- Have you ever experienced hearing from God? If so, what was that like?
- What do we learn about God in this passage?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this story affect our lives?

Monday, September 28

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

notes:

Tuesday, September 29

ACTS 7:54-60

notes:

Wednesday, October 31

JOHN 1:1-18

notes:

Thursday, October 1

REVELATION 1:12-16

notes:



Friday Activity!

Sunday's passage, Hebrews 1:8–10, has a lot of imagery, like thrones and scepters, garments and robes. Try sketching or painting a picture inspired by this passage and see what you notice about the glory of Jesus it describes!



Sunday, October 4

JOHN 19:16–30

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- If you could have a different liquid come out of each of your fingers, which five would you choose?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- This passage is used in a sermon series about beauty. How can the death of Jesus be beautiful?
- Why is it such great news that this isn’t the end of this story?
- What do we learn about God here?
- What does this have to do with us?

Monday, October 5

ISAIAH 53:1-11

notes:

Tuesday, October 6

ROMANS 6:1-14

notes:

wednesday, october 7

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

notes:

Thursday, october 8

ACTS 2:14-24

notes:

Friday Activity!

We don't often think of the crucifixion as a beautiful event. However, the sacrifice Jesus made for us could be the most beautiful thing! If you watch any movies or TV this week or read any stories, focus on what selfless sacrifice looks like (you'll probably see it in most good fiction!). What is felt and experienced by those who benefited from the sacrifice? How is that sacrifice beautiful?

[illegible]

Sunday, October 11

JOHN 20:11–18

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What's the silliest thing you've cried over? If nothing, please demonstrate what you think an "ugly cry" looks like.
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- Imagine you're Mary in this story. How might you have felt? What would this experience have been like?
- How do you think Mary knew it was Jesus as soon as He spoke to her?
- What do we learn about Jesus here?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this story affect our lives?

Monday, October 12

ISAIAH 25:1-8

notes:

Tuesday, October 13

HEBREWS 2:10-18

notes:

Wednesday, October 14

2 TIMOTHY 1:6-12

notes:

Thursday, October 15

REVELATION 21:1-8

notes:

Friday Activity!

When Jesus appeared to Mary, it was a joyful surprise she never expected. Jump on YouTube and watch one (or all!) of the Some Good News videos with John Krasinski. They highlight moments of joy and hope in difficult situations. Have you ever experienced any good news in a dark time? Take some time to journal about it.

[illegible]



Sunday, October 18

ACTS 1:1–11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What is the craziest true story you’ve ever been part of or heard?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- Imagine you’re in the crowd watching Jesus ascend into Heaven. How might you have felt?
- What do you think it means to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (v.5)?
- What do you think it means to witness to all the ends of the earth (v. 7)?
- What do we learn about Jesus here?
- What do we learn about people?
- What does this have to do with us?

Monday, October 19

PSALM 145

notes:

Tuesday, October 20

MATTHEW 28:16-20

notes:

Wednesday, October 21

1 PETER 2:9-12

notes:

Thursday, October 22

ISAIAH 12:4-5, 61:1-3

notes:

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Sunday, October 25

REVELATION 22:1–13

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.” “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.” I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!” Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What are you most looking forward to right now?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What is the good news in this passage?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about heaven?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?

Monday, October 26

REVELATION 21:22-27

notes:

Tuesday, October 27

JOHN 14:1-3

notes:

Wednesday, October 28

2 PETER 3:11-18

notes:

Thursday, October 29

LUKE 17:20-21

notes:

[illegible]

Sunday, November 1

PHILIPPIANS 1:1–11

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What's the most encouraging thing someone has ever said to you?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What do we learn about God here?
- What do we learn about people?
- Paul wrote the book of Philippians from prison, but he writes a lot about joy and grace and peace. How and why do you think he did this?
- Does being full of joy mean you're happy all the time? What does it mean to be joyful?
- How can we have grace and peace and joy in hard situations?
- What are you thankful for this week?

Monday, November 2

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1–9

notes:

Tuesday, November 3

1 Thessalonians 3:11–13

notes:

Wednesday, November 4

1 PETER 1:1–9

notes:

Thursday, November 5

PSALM 145

notes:

Friday Activity!

This month First Pres is in a sermon series called "Give Thanks."

Spend some time this weekend writing down all the things for which you are thankful. Maybe you even start a journal that's just for this! You can do this every day if you want to create a habit of thankfulness.

[illegible]

Sunday, November 8

PHILIPPIANS 2:1–11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- Think about the people you respect and love; what qualities about them stand out to you?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What is the good news in this passage?
- In verse 5, Paul writes that we are to “have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” What do you think that means?
- What are some of the characteristics Paul gives us in this passage about Jesus? Why might this be significant?
- How does this passage affect our lives?
- What are you thankful for this week?

Monday, November 9

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

notes:

Tuesday, November 10

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

notes:

Wednesday, November 11

1 JOHN 4:7-21

notes:

Thursday, November 12

PSALM 102:12-22

notes:

Friday Activity!

The passage from Sunday says, “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.” How many names for God can you think of? Look up a list of names for God (and Jesus!), and spend some time thinking about which names stand out to you and why. Do you think of God as your Father? Savior? Lord? What other names can you find?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.



Sunday, November 15

PHILIPPIANS 3:7–14

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What accomplishment are you most proud of?
- What is Paul saying in this passage?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- Reread verse 14. What is Paul saying here?
- What do we learn about Jesus here?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?
- What are you thankful for this week?

Monday, November 16

Hebrews 12:1–3

notes:

Tuesday, November 17

EPHESIANS 1:1–14

notes:

Wednesday, November 18

EPHESIANS 2:13-22

notes:

Thursday, November 19

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

notes:

Weekly Song Suggestion:
Ain't No Grave by Bethel Music



Friday Activity!

This week we got to hear about the eternal life we get through Jesus! Using the space below (or on a separate piece of paper), spend some time drawing (or writing) what you think eternal life will be like. Use the passages this week to help you think of ideas!



Sunday, November 22

PHILIPPIANS 4:4–13

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- Tell your cheesiest joke! The cheesier the better!
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What do we learn about God here?
- What does it mean to focus on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy (v. 8)?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?
- What are you thankful for this week?

Monday, November 23

2 THESSALONIANS 1

notes:

Tuesday, November 24

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

notes:

Wednesday, November 25

ROMANS 15:5-13

notes:

Thursday, November 26

PSALM 126

notes:



The passage from Sunday (Philippians 4:4–13) talks about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. Make a list of as many things that can be described that way. What does it look like for you to spend time thinking about those things? Practice that this week!

[illegible]

Sunday, November 29

ISAIAH 64:1–9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.

Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What's the most disgusting thing you've ever seen?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What is the good news in this passage?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about heaven?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?

Monday, November 30

HEBREWS 1:1-4

notes:

Tuesday, December 1

Isaiah 9:2-7

notes:

Wednesday, December 2

LUKE 1:1-25

notes:

Thursday, December 3

ISAIAH 40:28-31

notes:

Friday Activity!

This week, we begin exploring the WONDER of God. On the right side of this page, make a list of the most powerful things you can think of. When you have finished that list, write in front of each item, "God is more powerful than ..." What does it mean to you that this powerful God cares for YOU? Think about that this week.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Sunday, December 6

ISAIAH 40:1–11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What traditions do you most look forward to?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What is the good news in this passage?
- What do we learn about God?
- How do you see God's glory revealed in this passage?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?

Monday, December 7

PSALM 86:8-10

notes:

Tuesday, December 8

ISAIAH 7:14

notes:

Wednesday, December 9

LUKE 1:26-38

notes:

Thursday, December 10

PSALM 33:6-9

notes:

Weekly Song Suggestion:

Great are You Lord by All Sons and Daughters
& Lift Up Your Voices by Sunday Service Choir

Friday Activity!

It's December, and we're in the full swing of the Christmas season. The best news about this month is that we get to celebrate that Jesus is on His way! Grab a posterboard (or tape paper together) and make a "Welcome, Jesus!" sign. On your sign, include words and pictures that show why Jesus' coming is such good news. (We'd love to see these, so post them to Instagram and tag us or email/text them to Harper or Heather!)

[illegible]



Sunday, December 13

JOHN 1:6–18

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What's the most mind-blowing thing you've ever seen?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What is the good news in this passage?
- What do we learn about God?
- How do you see God's glory revealed in this passage?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?

Monday, December 14

1 Peter 12:1–21

notes:

Tuesday, December 15

ISAIAH 40:3–8

notes:

Wednesday, December 16

LUKE 1:31-45

notes:

Thursday, December 17

JOHN 8:12

notes:

[illegible]



Sunday, December 20

LUKE 1:46–55

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- When’s the hardest you’ve ever laughed?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- This passage is a song from Mary, the mother of Jesus. What is she saying here?
- What is the good news in this passage?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?

Monday, December 21

PSALM 111

notes:

Tuesday, December 22

MICAH 5:2-4

notes:

Wednesday, December 23

LUKE 1:49

notes:

Thursday, December 24

MATTHEW 1:18-25

notes:



Mary's prayer in Luke 1:46–55 is a beautiful example of thankfulness. Write a prayer to God, listing what you are thankful for, thinking about what He's done in the past, the present and what He will do in the future.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal orange ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

Sunday, December 27

LUKE 2:22-40

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What character traits do you have now that you had even as a kid?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- Reread Simeon's reaction to meeting Jesus in verses 29-31. Why do you think he reacted this way?
- What is the good news in this passage?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?

Monday, December 28

ISAIAH 63:1-3

notes:

Tuesday, December 29

Isaiah 53

notes:

Wednesday, December 30

LUKE 2:1–20

notes:

Thursday, December 31

GALATIANS 4:3–7

notes:

Weekly Song Suggestion:
I'm a Lover of Your Presence by Bryan and
Katie Torwalt

Friday Activity!

In Luke 2:29, Simeon comments on how, now that he has seen Jesus, God “may now dismiss [His] servant in peace.” When you get to the end of your life, what do you hope and pray you will have seen God do—in the world and in your own heart? Can you find Scripture where God promises to accomplish this? Read and pray about that Scripture this week.

[illegible]

Sunday, January 3

JEREMIAH 31:7–14

This is what the Lord says: “Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, ‘Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel’s father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. “Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’ For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord— the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the Lord.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

- What song would you gladly listen to on repeat?
- What do you notice in these verses? What questions do you have?
- What is the good news in this passage?
- What promises are made in this passage? Why might these promises be important?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about people?
- How does this passage affect our lives?

Monday, January 4

PSALM 121

notes:

Tuesday, January 5

JEREMIAH 23:5-6

notes:

Wednesday, January 6

LUKE 2:22-40

notes:

Thursday, January 7

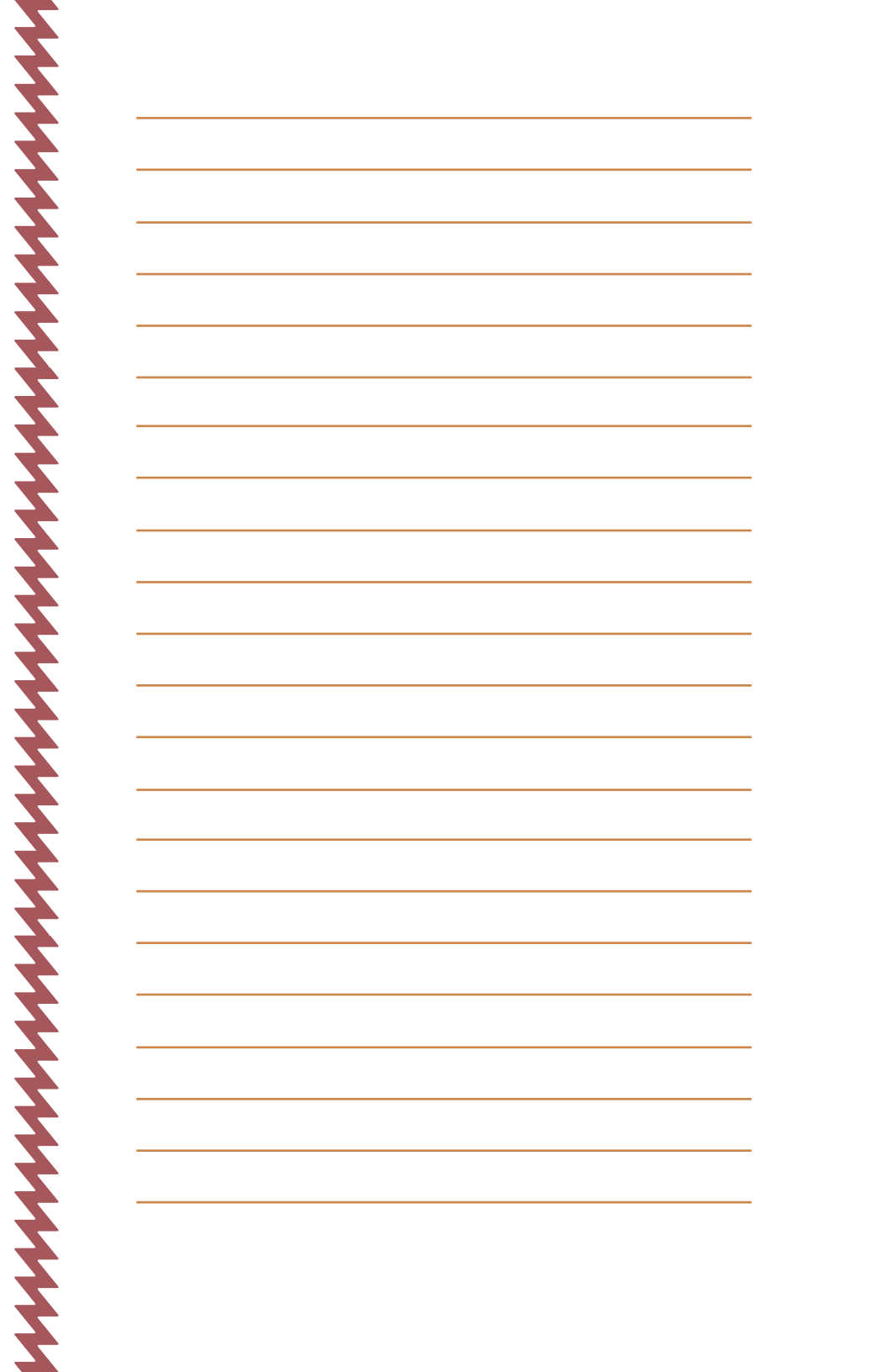
1 PETER 2:9-10

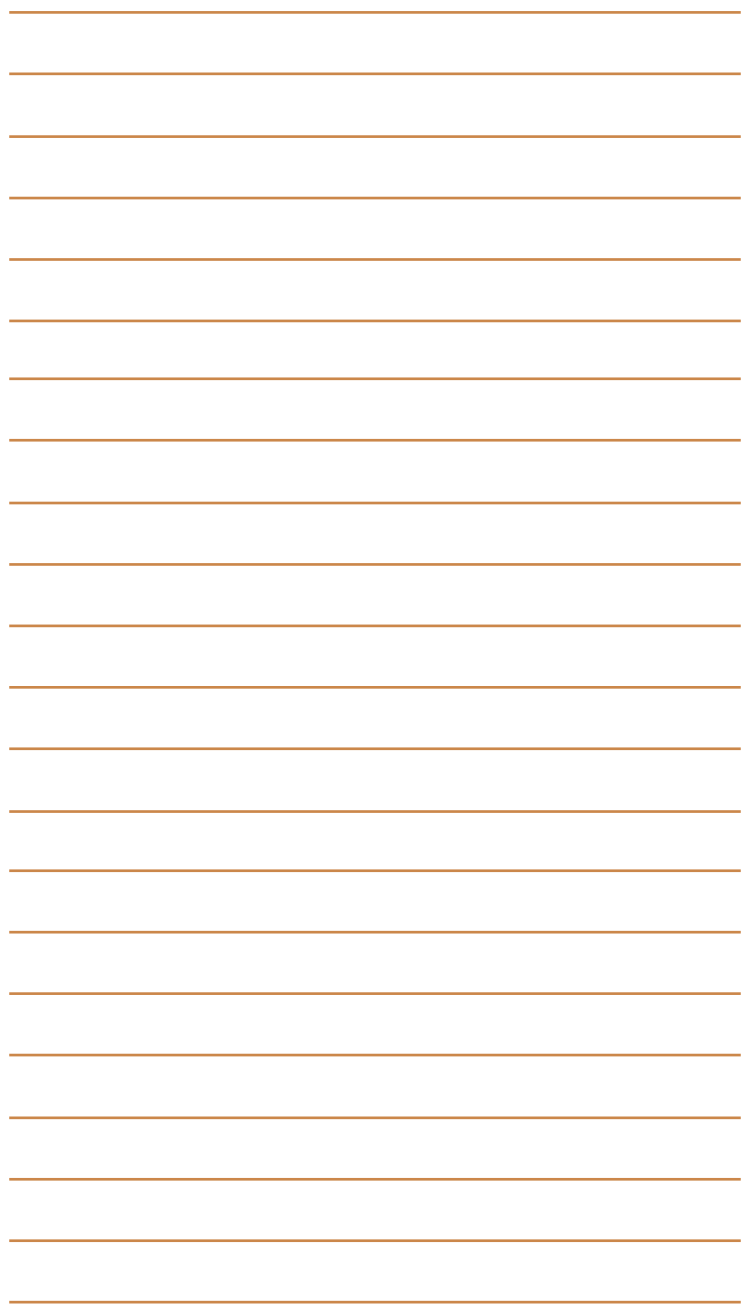
notes:

Friday Activity!

For the last activity, simply take some time to reflect on this devotional guide. What parts stood out to you? What are you taking away? Where do you plan to go from here? Use the next few pages if you need. Just ask God to guide your time and see what He has for you!

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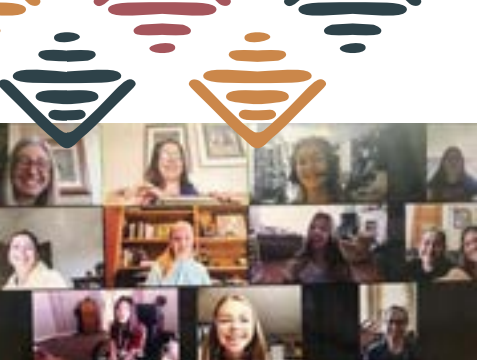


You made it to the end!

What a journey! We hope you found this guide to be helpful and encouraging. But most of all, we hope it has given you a taste of what it looks like to spend time every day with God.

This is the end of this devotional, but this is not the end of your walk with God! There are so many places to go from here, and we hope you will take time to pray, ask small group leaders, and talk to your parents about what you might do next as you continue to pursue God and all the richness of life that He has in store for you. We are thankful to get to walk alongside you in your relationship with Christ!

Lots of Love,
Your Student Ministries Team



STAY CONNECTED THIS FALL

Join a Small Group!

Small groups are the perfect way to stay connected to old friends and make new ones all while learning about God and faith. Not already in a small group? Reach out to Harper or Heather to get plugged in.

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