

EASTER DEVOTIONS

30 DAILY DEVOTIONS
AND LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



CLAYTON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2024

PREFACE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

Our Theme this year, "**More than Able**," is taken from Ephesians 3:20, reflecting the spiritual blessings we've received in Christ (Ephesians 1:3) through His victory on the cross.

This 30-day devotional, curated by the Leadership team and church members, aims to encourage you as we approach Easter.

Remember, our God is more than able!

The booklet includes 4 Life Group Discussion notes for group sessions.

Consider doing the devotional together with your Life Group, sharing insights when you meet.

Additionally, commit to memorizing 1 or 2 verses weekly.

Start each day with prayer and reflection and journaling. The **ACTS** model can be a good prompt.

Adoration- Worship God for who He is.

Confession - Humbly confess any sin, seeking His mercy.

Thanksgiving- Thank God for His life-giving Word, and blessings.

Supplication- Ask God to help you apply today's lesson and guide your actions.

Finally, make a conscious effort to put into practice what the Lord reveals to you through His Word and your reflection on it.

DAY 1

2 MARCH

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.

Genesis 17:1-2

Reflecting on these verses, I'm struck by how God steps into our lives, especially during tough times, to give us hope through personal encounters with Him.

Take Abram, for example. When we think about him being 99 years old, it's not just a number. It represents a long period of waiting and doubting, dealing with physical limitations, and the huge challenge of not being able to have children. But in that crucial moment, God shows Himself as El-Shaddai, the Almighty who always keeps His promises. He proves that He's enough and capable, going beyond our limits, situations, and flaws. When we see God fulfilling His promise to Abraham with the birth of Isaac, it reminds us of how faithful El-Shaddai truly is.

This revelation of God as El-Shaddai resonates deeply as we approach Easter. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ show us the ultimate example of God's power and sufficiency. For at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly (Romans 5:6).

This truth reminds us that what Jesus did on the Cross totally works. It's enough to wash away our sins, to make us new creations, and to restore broken relationships.

It shows us that no matter what we're going through, God's power is way bigger, bringing the redemption and healing we're longing for.

Chee

REFLECTION

Indeed, He is El-Shaddai - God Almighty! Hence there is nothing that's impossible for Him. Yet, He chooses us, just like Abraham. "Serve Me faithfully and live a blameless life!" In our weakness, we cannot fully fulfill this. But Jesus can and did it and paid the price for our redemption! So, clothed with Christ and filled with His Spirit, let us live out His call! Where will He lead me today?

DAY 2

3 MARCH

And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?’ Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

Genesis 18:13-14

Sarah had been listening to the conversation that Abraham was having with his visitors, one of whom was the Lord. She was 90, Abraham was 99, way past the age of child bearing let alone running after a toddler, so I don't think any of us would have had a different response.

But this wasn't the first time God had made this promise. In Genesis 17:15-16 God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

So if we were in this position and we were challenged by the question, 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?', of course we would say, 'No! But I can't see how you will do it in and through me... that is, from my current vantage point of age, financial position, health, let alone faith... I just can't see it'.

But the Lord sees on a different plain, outside the limits of time and people. He saw clearly that nations and kings would come from Sarah and ultimately Jesus the saviour of the world. And the Lord sees you and me in his master plan, beyond our circumstance and beyond our level of faith.

So I see no other way forward than to answer the Lord's question with, 'No, nothing is too hard for you Lord, but give me faith today to see what you see, even if I don't understand it and to be content in the knowledge that I am part of your beautiful plan'.

Paul

REFLECTION

Let us bow down and worship! Surrender to His perfect will! Indeed the scripture itself testifies “Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing.” (Genesis 18:11) Yet, “Is anything too difficult for the LORD?” Surely Not!, for He is the Creator, Lord of Heaven and Earth. Let us learn like Abraham and Sarah to walk by faith and not by sight!

DAY 3

4 MARCH

The LORD said to Moses, “Is the LORD’S power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not.”

Numbers 11:23

Numbers 11 recounts the frustration and anger of the people Moses led out of slavery in Egypt into the wilderness to meet with God on the way to the Promised Land.

Despite the Lord's provision of Manna during their journey in the wilderness, which “was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers with honey” (Exodus 16:31), the people seemed to forget His care, promises, and displays of power and love.

When faced with hardship, they not only forgot His past deeds but also doubted His identity.

Reflecting on this, do we underestimate the Lord's capabilities?

Have we forgotten His past interventions and promises for us?

Now is an opportune moment to recall God's faithfulness, His promises, and anticipate what He has in store for us.

Phanin

REFLECTION

Very challenging! The people asked for meat! “Life was better in Egypt!”, they say. Moses, himself complains “The burden is too great!” God promises to give the people meat! Meat for a month!! For 600,000 families!! Even Moses can't believe it! BUT it's GOD who speaks and who will do it! He also eases Moses' burden by anointing 70 elders with the Spirit!! HE IS MORE THAN ABLE!

DAY 4

5 MARCH

**God is not a man, that He should lie,
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Nor a son of man, that He should repent;
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?**

Numbers 23:19

This verse is part of a discussion between two very interesting people. It is a word from God, given to Balaam, a prophet who did evil and was willing to sell-out Israel, to tell Balak, a king who was wanting to destroy parts of Israel.

Balaam in his desire to get a reward for doing evil first consults God with the hopes of getting approval for the evil he wants to do. God responds with a declaration of His holy nature which is opposite to the nature that Balaam is displaying.

I see God declaring that he does not go back on his word, that he does not lie or cheat, God declaring that He is able to fulfill his promises, that He is always faithful. Basically, God is explaining that his holy nature is different from sinful human nature, and He can always be trusted.

I am encouraged in reading this to keep God as the first place I put my trust. If I put my trust anywhere other than in God, I know that eventually my trust will be broken in some way. No person or thing can stay true and faithful to every promise like God can. I cannot trust my health, my finances, my relationships, or any other thing I can list to never fail me. But I can trust God to always deliver on every promise He has made.

Kyle

REFLECTION

Wow! How assuring it is that God's promises to us are signed and sealed, and not up for negotiation by some hostile higher bidder! Balaam knew that God can not be corrupted, yet he was enticed by the rich treasures offered to try. Let us take courage, God does not change His mind! And He is for us, not against us! How can this make a difference to what you may be facing now?

DAY 5

6 MARCH

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:8-9

When we are called to step into uncharted territory or the unknown, many a times we are instantly guided by our practical, worldly mind where fear and doubt takes over. But here I'm reminded to be like Joshua. To believe in advance what will only make sense in reverse - where God is calling Joshua to a high level of faith - where God's presence will be with him wherever He goes and the key to a prosperous way, is obeying the Living Word.

When we focus on God's Word, something supernatural is happening in the spiritual realm, the unseen. The clearing of our mind from worldly thoughts and desires to God's truth bringing release, restoration, strength, power and hope. When we hear and obey the Living Word, we are actually working with God to see change in us and others.

Joshua 1:9 is such an encouragement where God is reminding us that He is with us no matter what comes our way. For us to be strong (ie. able to withstand force, pressures of life), and be courageous (ie. not deterred by danger or pain and able to face fear without flinching), do not be afraid (ie. do not be worried or full of apprehension) and do not be discouraged (ie. lose confidence or enthusiasm or be disheartened).

These two verses are a beautiful reminder on how to live like Christ, holding all things loosely except Him, His words and His promises.

Shamilla

REFLECTION

Priceless! God shares with Joshua the secret to prosperity and success! It's amazing! People would pay large sums for this! But God shares it for free! Do not look at the troubling mountains, but look at your God! Put your trust in His unfailing Word, let it be a light to your feet! And trust in the unshakeable promise of His presence! Let us take Him at His Word and follow His lead!

DAY 6

7 MARCH

Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken.

Joshua 14:12

As a recovering perfectionist, I used to assess whether I wanted to start or do something based on whether I thought I'd be good at it. I didn't enjoy losing, failing, or feeling stupid. I wanted full control of whatever I was getting myself into and I wanted to be as sure as I could about whether or not I would succeed as though I had something to prove!

When Moses sent twelve scouts to explore the bountiful promised land the Lord had commanded, instead of delight, they immediately jumped to conclusions about many things: "the giants living there are stronger than we are", "we will die in battle", "our wives and little ones will be carried off as plunder..." Like me, the Israelites were too focused on what they were capable of in and of themselves, and as a result, failed to look to and obey the Lord.

Of the twelve scouts, only Caleb and Joshua looked beyond themselves and saw a greater God than any giants, obstacles or challenges that stood in their way. They knew that if the Lord was with them, they could overcome anything just as the Lord had said... Because it was never about them or what they could do as mere humans. Rather, it was always about what God willed. When He calls, when He speaks, and when He promises, He's always the one making it come to pass.

In what ways have I disobeyed God or limited myself by focusing on the wrong things?

Sheron

REFLECTION

Caleb and Joshua listened to God and took Him at His Word. Then they stepped out in faith trusting in His promise. Who do I listen to? Compare Caleb and Joshua to their ten fellow spies. Looking at the outcome, who would you rather be? What changes do you need to make?

DAY 7

8 MARCH

Behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you. I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honour, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days.

1 Kings 3:12-13

The Lord came to Solomon in a dream saying, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you". Instantly Solomon thanked the Lord for how he had blessed his father David and asked for wisdom to govern his people well. God was pleased with this request and made the decision to not only give what he had asked but more.

This passage makes me see the Lord as a loving father to Solomon who is proud of his child. Proud that he had not asked for a selfish request such as long life, wealth or the death of his enemies but rather, wisdom to lead the Lord's people well. Because of this, God wants to give his child more. It reminds me that when we ask for things in line with what God desires, God is not only able to provide what we ask, but desires to give us more.

It encourages me because when I ask the Lord to grow me, to help me overcome any fears or anxieties, to learn to have more patience or love in my relationships and to become more like Christ, He will and more. And I can claim this in faith and believe wholeheartedly, for He is a loving father who longs for me to become the woman that He has called me to be.

Naomi

REFLECTION

Solomon approached God in a humble way, seeking nothing for himself but only for the good of God's people. GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. (1 Peter 5:5). How can you live this out today?

DAY 8

9 MARCH

If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

The backdrop of this statement is about the covenant between God and the nation of Israel; and it connects to the temple that Solomon built and dedicated to the Lord. God tells Solomon that God will respond to the cries of His people in the place, the descendants of Abraham whom He has chosen, if they humbly confess and turn from their sins, and seek to please Him. God assures that He will give heed to His people's prayers and bring the blessings back to the land if these conditions are met.

Today we are not Israelites but we have the New Covenant made through Jesus - who does what Solomon could never do - obeying God perfectly, and Jesus Himself is the temple! This New Covenant is not about a nation but about people who have faith in God. "If my people ... will turn from their wicked ways" reveals to us that before the greater blessings of God, there has to be a turning on our part! It is not just about who we turn to, but also what we now choose to turn away from, ie repent of.

When we - God's people called by His name - turn to Him, humble ourselves, repent, and pray in the name of Jesus, He will bring us healings. This new covenant does not focus on material blessings but on the mission of bringing God's message to the world and for us to live as God intended: to glorify His name by reflecting Christ's life to the world.

May we, God's people through Jesus Christ, humble ourselves and seek only after God by turning away from sin, so that we can be His vessels in this world.

Phoebe

REFLECTION

Amazing! What a privilege we have! Imagine trying to get an audience with the PM of a country. But here God assures us, His people, that His ears are attentive to our prayer, so long as we turn away from evil and seek His face! All because of Jesus' work on the cross! How can we thank Him today?

DAY 9

10 MARCH

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will going to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

Esther 4:15-16

Speaking up for what is right is not always easy. Especially when it may result in your death!

The Book of Esther is a beautiful story about a young heroine whose brave action saved her people from annihilation. Esther was a Jewish girl living in Persia who, by reason of her beauty, found herself with access to the King. King Xerxes' right hand man, Haman, became enraged at a Jew, Esther's uncle Mordecai, for refusing to bow before him. So much so, that he convinced Xerxes to issue a decree that all Jews be killed.

Mordecai heard of the decree and, through a messenger, appealed to Esther to step in and ask Xerxes for mercy. Even as Queen, Esther knew that for her to enter the King's presence uninvited was to risk death.

She asked her people to fast, while committing to do the same. "If I perish, I perish" is her declaration of faith in, and obedience to a Sovereign God. Esther put obedience to God before her own survival! Esther's approach to the King was successful and in the end Mordecai was honoured, while Haman was hanged.

Is there a situation in my family, school, work, or even in my church where I should speak up for what is right? Has God given me particular access to government? Can I use my influence to advocate for the good welfare of others? Will I step out and speak up believing that God is more than able?

Robin

REFLECTION

Mordecai knew the Lord and trusted in His sovereignty and promises to His people. Esther took her uncle's faithful advice, and based on his godly counsel, after seeking intense prayer (fasting), abandoned herself unto God's mercy. Who do I choose to listen to and follow? Let's follow Esther's example!

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love.

Ephesians 1:4

1. These are humbling revelations that the Apostle Paul shares here

- GOD chose us!
- In Christ! (because of Jesus!)
- Before the World was formed!

Share how these insights impact you.

2. God chooses us and therefore He issues a call on our lives, that is the same as God's call to Abraham; "to be holy and blameless before Him". We note that only God is intrinsically holy, and there is no holiness without a healthy relationship with God!

Share how you feel about this call on your life & your response.

3. Watch the Bible Project Video on "Covenants" (eg in the App or on YouTube)

- How does God see our relationship?
- What has He done for this?
- What is His expectation on us?

4. Consider Sarah's response in Genesis 18:13 (Day 2) and the outcome in Genesis 21:6.

Share why it can be difficult to trust God and why it is worth it.

5. Consider 2 Chronicles 7:14 (Day 8), "If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Noting also that now is the season of Lent, let's put this promise into action! Spend some time in worship, confession and seeking the Lord's face!

WEEK 1

MY PRAYER AND REFLECTION

DAY 10

11 MARCH

**I know that You can do all things,
And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.**

Job 42:2

God is a God of possibilities, nothing is impossible. God spoke and the world came into being. His power is displayed all around us. When sin entered the world, could His plan to be in relationship with Adam and Eve, be stopped? NO! He made a way through to ensure that we can be right with Him again. There is nothing that He can't do, to accomplish the plans and purpose He has.

No matter what twist and turns your life has taken, how your faith may have wavered during this time, when we return to Him, we see God's plans are still there. He can still accomplish all He planned for you, our mistakes, our pain does not negate who He is, He is still faithful and His plans stand.

God never promised a life without hardship, he never promised a smooth road, in fact He tells us we will face these things but take heart for He has overcome the world, and He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Right now don't look at where you have been, how you have messed up, how hurt you've been, look at Him, look to Him. Draw in to Him and know that His plans and purpose for you, can still be accomplished and it can start right now.

"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."
(1 John 5:14)

Sim

REFLECTION

Wow! How can we thank our God enough? He is all powerful! He has a good purpose in mind for us! And none of His purposes can be thwarted! How marvelous! So let's move forward in that confidence and draw into his presence!

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.**

Psalm 23:5

King David writes prophetically of his experience of the Lord as His Shepherd. David was a shepherd himself from youth, and a good shepherd indeed, fighting the lion and the bear to redeem a young lamb. But David suffered intense persecution from king Saul who fiercely sought David's death, and several times David escaped death only just.

He knew the experience of the "valley of the shadow of death" first hand. But David also knew the Lord's provision, ie "a table prepared before him", in the midst of the persecution. And more than that he was intimately aware of the Lord's presence and His choosing ("anointing") of David! David was secure in the Lord His God! "He will dwell in the Lord's house forevermore."

All of scripture ultimately points to Jesus! The Psalms are divinely arranged as a divine prayer book that overall tells God's story and what it means as a believer to walk with God. Psalm 23 sits in a series of Psalms that foretell the coming of Messiah. Psalm 22 foretells the crucifixion and Psalm 24 introduces the Messiah as the coming king of Glory.

In Psalm 23 prophetically we see "the greater David", Jesus, living His life utterly depending on God and trusting in His goodness and deliverance even in the face of the "shadow of death"! Our God is more than able! Let us likewise fully entrust ourselves to the LORD and as His chosen people be assured of His Goodness even amidst trials.

Frank

REFLECTION

The "shadow of death" was real for David, repeatedly he was in grave danger. But he chose to look beyond the obvious to what God has provided nonetheless and what God will do for him. Where do I look in my daily troubles?

DAY 12

13 MARCH

**Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.**

Psalm 37:4

Psalm 37 has been called the “Fret Not Sermon”. See the guidelines it gives that show us how to avoid becoming fretful or irritated. Consider envy which is a bitter condemnation of another’s success. Acknowledge our need to confidently trust in the Lord, as well as delight in the Lord. He promises to give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart. Confidently trust in Him today.

Sixty-three years ago, I approached the throne of Grace with a petition which seemed impossible to resolve. As verse 39 says . . . the consistently righteous is of the Lord; He is their refuge and secure stronghold in the time of trouble.

My husband and I fully trusted Jesus Christ to answer our petition for Ron’s recovery from cancer but the answer was not what we desired. Ron was called ‘home’ and I was left with the deep pain of his death. What else could I do but accept God’s answer? I learned to identify with the Christ of the Cross and His suffering. Thirty-two years later, I walk life’s journey with the Bible as my guide and my eyes upon Jesus.

This Easter, find a bitter-sweet delight as you join the Saviour in the Garden, see the cruel cross, the open tomb.

He is not there.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Hallelujah!

Win

REFLECTION

“Do not fret” counsels David in this Psalm. In all David’s troubles, he would have had much to fret and complain about. But instead he chose to trust fully in God’s promises and delight in Him. Is there a “David” in me?

DAY 13

14 MARCH

**But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel,
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are Mine!**

Isaiah 43:1

I've loved this verse for a long time, but not because of God's promise to redeem me. I love this verse because it is proof that I have an inherent identity and value as a child of God.

For a large part of my life, I've struggled with pride. And the most invasive means by which pride crept into my life was in how I viewed myself. Any accomplishment or success became a testament to my own skill and hard work. Any failure or rejection became proof of what I dreaded most: that I could not be good enough. It was like I was walking through life with a nametag, and the nametag simply read my latest win or loss. That's how I saw myself.

However, this verse says that when God sees me, he doesn't think of my latest win or loss, he simply thinks "Mine". If I were to have a nametag in the spiritual realm, I reckon it might just read "God's".

This shatters pride. Because it means the thing that redeems me isn't my latest promotion, or how well my relationship is going, or how joyful I am in my serving, or by working hard to be a good person; it's because of who my father is. It comes by inheriting the love and protection of my God. My God that looks at me and says 'I see you. I know you. And I will fight for you because you are mine.'

Oliver

REFLECTION

God knows my name! And He sees me and calls me out of the crowd. Isn't that amazing! How humbling! And for whatever I fear, He says "Fear Not! For I have redeemed you!" How can I let this sink in and shape my outlook today?

DAY 14

15 MARCH

Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?

Jeremiah 32:27

This verse in context is the word of God that came to Prophet Jeremiah, approximately 700BC, and says that the LORD is going to allow the kingdoms of the east to conquer Jerusalem and Israel and take them captive to Babylon. Jeremiah reminds the people of God about the warnings He has been sending through His Word all through their lives. However, people didn't listen. God has His own ways of bringing His people back to Him, and during those days He allowed Babylonians, Assyrians, and later Persians to rule over the people of Israel His chosen ones when they rebelled against Him and chose to worship idols.

This verse proclaims the Almighty, sovereign God who is creator of all things and is not dependent on any creation. Applying this in my life and to most of us, we could be rebellious sometimes, hard-hearted, or misunderstand God due to the challenges or situations we pass through in our lives. And we only realise later how He works it for our benefit. All through the Bible we see such characters like Moses, David, Jonah, Peter, and Paul. Their ordinary lives are similar to ours. It is only when they realise how God works in each one's life, that they choose to become completely dependent and surrender to do His Will.

As we read Scripture and learn to know God better and how He deals with people, we read how keen He was for each one of them. The Good news is, the God who created us, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through His indwelling Holy Spirit is eager to have a relationship with us, and working through our lives to fulfill His plan and purpose in each of our lives.

No matter how our circumstances are, He is the LORD, God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for Him? Let's build our trust and faith in the everlasting God who in His Son brought us everlasting life. Praise God!

Morris

REFLECTION

Jeremiah is faced with a seemingly senseless decision. But God challenges him, "I am God ... is anything too difficult for me?" God has a good plan in store, fully planned out. Whatever challenge I need to face today, will I choose to walk by sight, or by faith in God?

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”

Malachi 3:10

For context, the setting in the book of Malachi was about 100 years after Israel's return from exile in Babylon. They began to grow weary of God's promises. In particular the promise of the Messiah that would come and set up God's Kingdom over Israel bringing peace and justice. Just like their predecessors, their weariness causes them to fall into idolatry and unfaithfulness.

How does it apply to us? Just like them, we have a tendency to do the same. When I think about my life, I too have the tendency to bring my half hearted offerings to God. I say I want to fully trust God but when life gets a little rough, I turn to controlling things in my own way.

The verse says "Bring the full tithe" which reminds me of the boy brought who his five loaves and two fish to Jesus which He used to feed over 5000 people. What a great example of releasing what we have available to God and watching Him multiply the blessings many times more to even more people.

The ultimate example of God's eternal blessing is the life and sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate example of someone who brought His everything to the Father and through Jesus and His sacrifice, God's abundant redeeming grace is available to generations like you and I.

How are we able to "bring our full tithe"? By knowing that we have all we really need in Christ. We are able to give all we have because God has given all He has through Christ.

David

REFLECTION

God does not need our money. But He longs to see the expression of our faith and trust in Him. He is no man's debtor and the store houses of heaven are at his disposal. When He looks at my giving does He see faith and trust?

DAY 16

17 MARCH

But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many ... resulting in justification.

Romans 5:15-16

Recently, working as a teacher, I had an encounter with one of my students, that really made this verse come alive. She had been absent from class and needed to complete a report. During lunchtime I found her sitting by herself in a corner in the library.

Our encounter went like: "Hey, We missed you in class, you still need to finish your report. If you have time I can go through it with you." "Oh, uh... , I'm suspended..."

Turns out, she had received an internal suspension for an incident on an excursion. I listened to her share about her struggle. It was an awful mix of issues, that led her to consistently make poor decisions and get in trouble. She really wanted to change, but the vicious cycle made her feel trapped and robbed her of any sense of identity and joy .Heartbreakingly, at the end she said to me - "You're the first teacher who actually listened and understood me".

At that point, I just felt the Holy Spirit tell me to first push the science report aside, and just speak graciously to her, sharing with her about God's gracious gift of the cross that breaks the cycle, gives us forgiveness, makes us right with God, and allows us to take on a new identity as a child of God.

What she needed to break the cycle was the gracious gift of Jesus Christ. The cross remains the one, and only answer to sin in our lives. No amount of punishment, self-motivation or accountability can ever make us right with God. Not only do we receive for ourselves this grace through His blood, we are empowered to infect the lives of others with it. We find Christ in the fabric of our everyday lives and we die it red with his blood, full of God's gracious gift.

Duc

REFLECTION

"Amazing grace! That saved a wretch like me. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me! And like a flood His mercy reigns. Unending Love! Amazing Grace!" The greatest miracle of all is a life touched and transformed by the saving grace of Christ! God's gift is Free for the taking! "Freely you received, freely give!" How can I share in this today?

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.

Ephesians 1:5

1. Think about this! God so much cares for us that in His kindness He makes good plans for us, He predestined us to the adoption as sons through Jesus!

- “Predestined”- can be comforting or “scary”. What do you think, do we have a choice in this?
- How do we know that we are adopted as sons of God? (Romans 8:14-17)
-

2. From Numbers 23:19-23 we see that God is true to His Word! But only His Word! The prophet Balaam was enticed by offers of riches to prophesy against God’s chosen, but He could not! Why is it important to know God’s will and His Word?

3. Joshua (Joshua 1:8-9) was told to meditate on God’s Word and then and only then would he succeed in entering and claiming the Promised Land. Why is it important to dwell in God’s Word and let it be our guide?

4. The Scriptures are full of prophecies (several 100) about the Messiah that are fulfilled in Jesus (Luke 24:26-27).

- **Watch:** Prophecies of Jesus Fulfilled by Josh McDowell (first 20 min only) - <https://bit.ly/prophecies-josh-mcdowell>
- Seeing how God carefully watched over His Word in order to fulfill it in regard to Jesus the Messiah, what confidence does this give you for trusting yourself unto God’s promises.

5. Caleb took God at His Word! And entrusting himself to God he was able to take the hill country of Amalek, the “land of giants”. Mordecai & Esther relied on God’s covenant with Israel and (after fasting and stepping out in faith) successfully saw deliverance for the people of God.

- How can we learn from their faith and apply this to our own life?

WEEK 2

MY PRAYER AND REFLECTION

DAY 17

18 MARCH

Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

In all of Scripture, we have seen that God is more than able. He created the entire universe by merely speaking, creating everything out of nothing. He protected and preserved the Israelites many times against all odds.

Some of our most beloved stories in the Bible demonstrate God's limitless power: the 10 plagues of Egypt, stopping the sun for Joshua's army, the defeat of Goliath by a mere boy, stopping the lions' mouth for faithful Daniel etc.

As I self-reflect, despite being undeserving, God has blessed me with the best parents, husband, parents-in-law, children, friends, church etc. that I could have ever imagined. He surprises me every day with His omnipotent power and boundless love. He has restored relationships, broken sinful habits, eliminated shame, silenced fears, healed illnesses, etc.

But the best example of God's power and love is shown through Christ Jesus. No one could have imagined that God would be willing to sacrifice His only Son on a cross to atone for our sins. The Jewish leaders didn't believe it. And the devil didn't expect that Jesus would rise again. He got the biggest surprise!

So whatever you are facing today, have full confidence that God is able to do far beyond what we can think of or even dare to ask for. His power knows no bounds. He is not limited by our doubts or finite understanding. He longs for us to trust in Him wholeheartedly and surrender to His plans, allowing His limitless power to save, strengthen, and sanctify us!

Cecylia

REFLECTION

Paul prayed that God may "strengthen us with power through His Spirit in the inner man", that we may "grow deep roots" and "Christ fully dwell in us". God is more than able! Are we ready? Is Paul's prayer also my prayer for me today?

DAY 18

19 MARCH

When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:25-26

I was born in Australia to Cambodian refugees who fled the "Killing Fields" genocide. At 19, I heard the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ from bold Christians who loved God and obeyed His commandment to go out and make disciples. I believed and received Jesus Christ. My faith in God outweighed my fears of being different from my family. Thanks be to God and His Church that have supported me in my Christian journey! I was the first in my family to graduate, follow the call to missions, and marry a faithful Christian spouse.

I don't want to be like the rich young ruler who met Christ Jesus and didn't understand His need for a Saviour. Instead, he sought public recognition and reward from a renowned teacher for his success and for being good to others. He believed that his treasures could save him and secure his future rather than the Creator and Giver of life Himself. If only the rich young ruler believed and obeyed Jesus Christ, perhaps many people could have been blessed by his riches and heard the good news. What a missed opportunity!

As I look to Christ Jesus, I am willing to let go of my worldly comforts, and He will take care of my every need as He always has for the past twenty years. Reflecting upon how God led my family from Cambodia to Australia, He saved and prepared me to return to Cambodia to be an Eastern-Western cultural bridge to effectively connect people to God in global missions. Now, I serve in Cambodia to help others hear the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

All this is only possible because of God who saved me!

I thank God that salvation is found only in Jesus Christ and for the opportunity to serve in making a lasting impact for the Great Commission.

Ange

REFLECTION

What an amazing story and journey of faith! God works in every nation so that they might "seek God ... and find Him". There is no mountain high enough, no ocean wide enough that He could not reach us. But He chooses to work through His people! How can I join in His work today?

For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17

Wow, what a transaction Jesus made on the cross! In the past, sin has reigned in our lives, through Adam, but now through Christ, we have the “abundant provision of grace”! It is not a little grace, but overwhelming, complete, total satisfaction.

Sometimes I forget how significant it is what Christ did on the cross for me. It is not just a nice story but a transaction of eternal consequence. I no longer need to fight for my redemption; I no longer need to work to make God happy. He has done it for me! It is truly “God’s abundant provision of grace”.

Because we have received this gift of grace and righteousness, what is our position? We reign. We reign in life through Christ. We don’t have to be defeated anymore. We don’t need to seek the affirmation of others anymore. We are no longer NOTHING. We have authority in the name of Jesus! We have victory! Amen! We have fulfillment! Amen! We have salvation! Amen! We have a relationship with GOD! Amen! Amen!

I am encouraged – what used to pull me down no longer needs to pull me down. I am “more than a conqueror through him who loved us”! (Romans 8:37) More ... not sometimes a conqueror ... more than a conqueror ... through the cross ... through his abundant provision of grace!

Hold on to these thoughts TODAY in the challenges that you face and thank Him for his abundant provision of grace.

Derek

REFLECTION

This is amazing news! Shout it from the rooftops! All because “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8). We are destined to be Overcomers through Christ! Rest in this certainty today! Jesus won the victory on the Cross!

DAY 20

21 MARCH

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Romans 16:25-27

In late spring 2021, we planted a whole lot of new plants in our garden. Some were little baby tubestock plants, others were a little more advanced in their growth but all were new to their place in our garden. Over the next months, we took care to water, feed, prune and mulch our new plants. Our goal for the plants to become established in our garden, producing new roots, new growth and eventually able to thrive through the seasons and withstand even hot summers and cold frosty winter nights.

As I read this verse in Romans, I am so encouraged because it says that my Creator God, the ultimate Gardener is able to establish me! He makes me strong enough to live a lifespan full of hills and valleys.

God is interested in my spiritual growth. So He sent His Spirit to help me and to open my mind to understand His Word. He cares so much He sends comfort and hope when grief strikes so I would stay close to Him. He cares so much that He sends rebuke and gently calls me back when I lose my way. And what about the times He blessed and provided beyond what I could anticipate?

As I look at my garden and think about God's work in my life, I am reminded that developing roots in His truth, growing in maturity takes time and work. In every season He is actively engaged in helping me thrive. So I give thanks for all that comes my way and take His Almighty hand as he leads the way.

Julia

REFLECTION

Amazing truth! God does not just leave us alone. No! He is the good shepherd - the good gardener - who cares for us and watches over us to establish us complete in Christ! How can I thank Him today? How can I work along with Him?

DAY 21

22 MARCH

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labour, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Colossians 1:28-29

In the context of the passage, the Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus has reconciled us to God, so that we are no longer enemies, people who are holy to God and free from accusation (v. 21). This is such a wonderful news that Paul was willing to suffer for the sake of proclaiming it to others.

Not only that, but Paul was also willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel of Christ, and to labour in discipling believers so that he could present them perfect and complete before Christ (vv 24-27).

While I have often been excited to join in the Great Commission of sharing the good news and making disciples of Christ, I have also been discouraged at times by rejections, lack of fruits, or even personal failures.

At such times, I draw encouragement from Scripture – that we are witnesses and the Holy Spirit is the one who convicts; for what we are doing in serving Christ is not in our own strength, but “with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me”.

Christ is both our source, and our goal. We are not on our own. We just have to share our own personal story of how Christ has changed our lives and given us hope, especially as we celebrate Easter – a new birth!

Moses

REFLECTION

Wonderful news indeed! And what a privilege to be called to work alongside our Saviour! Lord take my hands and take feet, take my lips and let me be a swift messenger for Thee!

DAY 22

23 MARCH

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

In these verses, I find a comforting reassurance. The God we serve is not just a distant superhero but the God of Peace, who has demonstrated his love to us through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As the great Shepherd, God commits to equipping us for His purpose, and lets us know that our journey does not need to be navigated alone. The God of peace is active in our lives, blessing us and providing us tools we need to fulfil His will. He is constantly present and willing to provide, waiting for us to open up our hearts to him.

I know that sometimes I confuse God's will with my own will. With the busyness of life I can sometimes assume that I know what God has planned for me and take things into my own hands. I sometimes listen to the worldly view such as my friends opinions or my parent's expectations. I am reminded to pause and seek God's guidance. The only opinion that actually matters. This verse simply outlines God's will for our lives, and that it is to praise God and give glory to him forever and ever!

This means that in every decision we make, every word that comes out of our mouth, every action that we take should be made to glorify our almighty God. May we find peace in surrendering our plans to him, trusting that he knows what is best for us. The God of peace.

Lashuana

REFLECTION

Amen! Amazing! What wonderful news! Hudson Taylor said "God's work done God's way will never lack resources". This verse tells us why! The promise is sealed by His eternal covenant and His good purpose for us! Let Him Lead you today! The God who raised Jesus from the dead will guide and equip you!

DAY 23

24 MARCH

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

2 Peter 1:10-11

When God tells us to “Love Thy Neighbour”, it is not something we’re expected to be able to do straight away. We start with faith and end with love.

There are so many steps in between where we are shown or taught how to love by the God who first loved us. It is something that we continue to add to, increasing in measure. We don’t possess all knowledge, faith, self control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. We continue to learn more about it, to have our understanding of it tested in different scenarios. And as we learn to love others and deepen in our understanding of the depth of Christ’s love for us, we also learn to see ourselves the way that God sees us.

I’m reassured that I don’t have to love my enemies right away. That God doesn’t expect godliness from me the moment I believe. But that I can take my time to know why, to examine myself and to remember the depth of His love and mercy in the utter helplessness of my sin, and to make a conscious effort to go beyond godliness and brotherly kindness and to truly love my neighbour, whether they are easy to love or not.

Lord, help me to renew my faith in You, that I may see the world as you do. Open my horizons to see beyond my own journey and to be conscious of my neighbours around me, who I can journey with as I grow deeper in faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

Cheryl N

REFLECTION

Praise God that He is patient with me! He is kind, He is good, He wants to bring me life abundant to make my joy complete! Let me then be found as a pleasing child in His eyes, always struggling but always persevering to follow Him!

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Ephesians 1:7

1. God declares Himself as Our Redeemer in Isaiah 42:1. In fact, God repeats this promise of future redemption over 20 times in Isaiah beyond chapter 40. After 39 chapters full of warnings and of judgments, comes the turning point in Isaiah 40 where God says "Comfort My People!" and starts to outline His future plan for a "New Hope" for God's people, written 700 years before Jesus. How does this encourage you that God's ultimate aim is always to "Redeem" us?

2. How does this encourage you that God promised and carefully planned our redemption (eg. Isaiah 9 predicts the virgin birth of the Messiah, and Isaiah 53 predicts the crucifixion of the Messiah and His resurrection) from ancient time? And then stood by His Word to carefully execute it?

3. God's good plan did not come without a price to be paid. But Jesus was willing to pay the price for our redemption.

Our redemption was bought

- through His blood
- according to the riches of his grace
- for the forgiveness of our trespasses (sin)

How do you feel about God's amazing redemption? Imagine someone just saved your life during an accident? What should be our response?

4. In Galatians 4:4 the apostle Paul puts it like this:

"But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law." Galatians 4:4

MSG

- Note God's precision timing- "at the set time" - He is never late!
- Effectively we were like someone kidnapped for ransom. We needed to satisfy the kidnapper and pay the ransom in order to live and be free. But the ransom required was way out of reach!

In the midst of whatever trial you are facing, how do these facts encourage you? How can you apply this to your situation?

WEEK 3

MY PRAYER AND REFLECTION

DAY 24

25 MARCH

Yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Romans 4:20-21

It's interesting that Paul described Abraham as one who "did not waver".

Reading Genesis 12-25, wasn't Abraham the guy who, just to save his own life, lied about his relationship with his wife to 2 different kings (First to Pharaoh in Genesis 12:10-20, then to king Abimelech in Genesis 20:1-17)? Abraham also bent under his wife's influence to have a child through a female slave (Genesis 16:1-16), a decision which had negative implications on the family in many ways!

It looked like Abraham was "wavering" as he drifted through being fearful for his own life, the stressful expectation of producing an heir, on a background of other events like famine, family disputes and God's fiery destruction of sinful cities. Yes, Abraham fumbled with some questionable decisions and even laughed at God's promise of a son (Genesis 17:17).

But Abraham "didn't waver through unbelief! Rather we see many examples of Abraham taking obedient action after God spoke to him. We see Abraham repeatedly building altars and calling on the name of the Lord (Genesis 12:9, 13:4, 13:18). Through multiple conversations between God and Abraham across the latter's lifetime (Genesis 12:1-5, 13:14-18, 14:18-20, 15:1-21, 17:1-26, 18:1-15 and 16-33, 22:1-19), God consistently repeated and reaffirmed His promise to Abraham. Through every conversation and life event, God strengthened Abraham's faith. And Abraham's character development ultimately brought glory to God, the One who is faithful and unwavering even in the most impossible circumstance.

Sze-Ning

REFLECTION

Walking with God is a life journey! "In hope against hope he believed", credits Him the Lord. In the various trials and the harsh reality of their aging bodies, he did NOT lose faith. Instead he "grew strong in faith", assured about God's promise and God's ability to deliver despite it all! Let's follow Abraham's lead!

Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.

2 Corinthians 3:5

In 2009 I moved to live in Almaty, Kazakhstan. I had prepared for this move since 2004. Like an athlete that spends 4 years preparing for the Olympics I was ready and had complete confidence in my abilities. I had studied Cultural Anthropology, Working in a Cross Cultural Setting, and in fact all the Mission subjects that I could study. I had sought counsel from as many experienced missionaries as I could.

I had experience and training in evangelism and discipleship, I was at the top of my game. I was all set to reach the Unreached Peoples of Central Asia.

Nothing would prepare me though for the inability to communicate the simplest of things in another language. It was as if I had regressed to be a child again. It was pure and utter frustration to not be understood, to struggle to put words into a constructive sentence. How would it be possible to convey the message of the gospel?

I was very quickly humbled to realise that despite my competency, despite my qualifications, despite my experience that without God I was nothing.

So often in life we place our identity in ourselves, our qualifications, our status, our possessions, our positions. Yet it is in placing our everything in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that we become a useful instrument for His Glory.

It is in this humbling that God is able to use us to build His Kingdom. It is in this humbling that the impossible for man becomes possible for God.

Nathan

REFLECTION

Wow, what a life lesson! It had to be learned by every hero of faith! Jesus reminds us "he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). We need to learn to "humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time" (1 Peter 5:6). Praise God that it is His mighty power at work in us!

DAY 26

27 MARCH

Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

70% off makes it an enticing offer, so you step into the shop only to read the fine print that says only for marked items. You then proceed to browse and began to realise the marked items are in fact limited items and are really marked!! You leave the shop disappointed thinking to yourself it was too good to be true...and there lies the world we live in, full of promise and headlines only to be disappointed with the conditions attached to it.

But the story of the gospel and the hope of salvation doesn't come with strings attached. Once I've taken that faith step forward, I don't find any fine prints that dictate the things I have to do, types of food I can or cannot eat or the rituals I must follow and keep in earning my salvation. Instead, what I find is the all-embracing love of Christ, love of God that saves me completely, no fine print.

Christ my Saviour intercedes, advocates for me, stands for me and He does so because of His one act of love on the cross, once for all time reconciling me back to God. It is Christ, God saying I am His and He is mine forever, completely. No sin or wrongdoing or mistake too hard for Him to forgive and save me. Completely!

This is an incredible offer still open to all who will receive it.

So, what is it that you think is too good to be true? That Christ who intercedes for us gives salvation or that salvation is free to anyone who believes in Him? There is no small print here, it is completely true.

Desmond

REFLECTION

Indeed it sounds too good to be true by the standard of the world. But not so with God! For "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Romans 10:13). All it takes is simple faith in the Saviour! Jesus is waiting!

DAY 27

28 MARCH

Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of God.

1 Peter 2:2-3

What would happen to a baby if it had no milk? At first, they would cry. Over time, it would affect its growth and development. Terrible I know.

This passage talks about spiritual milk, most significantly the Word of God. So what happens to us without spiritual food? At first, we would probably cry out for help. Over time, it would stunt our spiritual growth and eventually, we would be spiritually dead. Tragic right... It's easy to forget the severity and importance of this. Living in this world, it is easy to crave things other than the Word of God. It's also easy to fall into the trap of going to church and only feeding off the sermon each week. But just like a newborn baby we need daily spiritual nutrition.

So how can we feed ourselves spiritually? Of course, there is nothing better than reading God's Word directly. However, there are so many other ways to get spiritually fed... and we often need variety, eg. listen to the Bible while in the car.

Be intentional to find great devotional resources

- Join a Bible study like BSF.
- YouTube Biblical content - eg, the Bible Project
- Follow spiritually aspirational people on social media. What is your Social Media or Instagram feed giving you? Think about that for a second.
- Surround yourself with spiritually mature people who reflect Christ.

As Christians, we need to make sure we are consuming the right things in our lives. If we are only consuming the things of this world, we will grow distant from God. However, if we are consuming the things of God... it's there that we can truly experience the fullness of His salvation.

Charles

REFLECTION

A new baby born is a reason for rejoicing! But then the real work starts. Helping the new born child to safely develop in all aspects! We are spiritually born again. Let's yearn for the pure milk of the Word of God and also progress towards maturity and apply what the Lord teaches us!

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

Daniel 3:17

The choice that these men made to go to the furnace instead of worshipping an idol can only be the result of years of submission to and trust in God. Previously, we learn that these men have trusted God in other instances in their captivity at great personal risk. These stories show me that these responses to trials are well-trained and practiced responses over many years of following God faithfully, and learning to trust in His goodness and sovereignty over all things.

I am challenged to consider 2 things:

1. How often do I allow my feelings and emotions to dictate my responses to difficult situations, rather than my trust in God? For example when I am personally wronged do I attempt to take justice into my own hands by spreading gossip about how I have been wronged, or am I characterised by peace, forgiveness and kindness? Should I tell a small lie to cover an uncomfortable truth, or rather work towards reconciliation with honesty?

2. What does it look like in 2024 to live a life that demonstrates I believe God is sovereign over all earthly powers, despite being surrounded by a society that doesn't share this belief? For example, do I move in with my boyfriend because our culture models this relationship norm, or do we entrust our relationship to God's authority and aim to remain obedient to Him?

Every day, I am still faced with many tiny decisions that call my motives and allegiance to God into question. I pray that I will use these small choices as a training ground for building trust with God to enable me to respond in faith to bigger challenges.

Rachel

REFLECTION

Great faith is not born overnight. It starts small but with nurture and testings, it grows strong and mature! Daniel's friends exercised their faith consistently in small ways, so they were prepared, having known their God! Jesus knew the Father from eternity and fully submitted to His will! "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." (Luke 23:46) Let us trust in our God!

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

In recent years, the impact of Covid, the rise in the cost of living and other challenges have affected many people. As a family, we have not been worry-free with health issues, grief and a recent break-in in our workplace. It is easy to succumb to anxiety or worry and be focused on doubt and insecurity.

Matthew 6:33 has challenged our priorities. What makes us feel secure? What makes us fulfilled? Is it success, recognition or the fulfilment of personal desires? We sometimes lean on our own strengths only to remain unsettled.

But the words of Jesus are a powerful reminder. They provide us with a transformative solution which is a shift in priorities and mindset. The key to a fulfilled life is to prioritize seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness above all else. It is an ongoing journey of growth and transformation where I strive to reflect God's character in my decisions, relationships and daily life. As I seek His righteousness, I discover the purpose and joy of living.

God understands and recognises our tendency to be preoccupied with the concerns of life.

He reassures us that "all these things will be given to you." He is not only aware of our needs but He is also fully capable of meeting them. Just as God provides for the birds of the air, He also cares for His children with boundless love. God is faithful and what an assurance to trust that He is working all things for our good. We are not alone in this journey, our God is with us every step of the way!

Yin Chen

REFLECTION

"Seek first His kingdom", its fundamental to Jesus' life and message. He lived it out fully. From the start of His ministry, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!" all the way to the end, where Jesus was in agony in Gethsemane but He nonetheless prayed "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:42). Let us follow His example!

Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:3

As I meditate on 2 Peter 1:3, I praise and thank God for He has given us everything we need to live a godly life. He has, by His divine power, broken the power of sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ, and He has also given us the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.

As God has done His part, we also need to do our part. In response, we can develop an intimate relationship with Him by spending quality time in His Word and prayer so that our life can be transformed to be more like Him.

In our busy life, we have many commitments and the constant distractions of social media and technology which is an uphill battle for many of us.

A while ago I came across this statement : "I once was a scuba diver in the sea of His Word. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a jet-ski". How true that is for many of us! We really need His wisdom to set the right priority in our lives.

Many years ago , I was going through a period of spiritual dryness. Then one day, I was listening to a sermon, and the preacher remarked: "As a believer, do you want to grow as a bonsai tree just for display, or a big tree where the birds can make their nests and weary souls can rest under the shade of the tree?"

This challenged me that I should continually strive to be useful with the gifts and talents and the time given to me for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

As His children, we are to love Him, to honour Him, to serve Him and to share His goodness as the Holy Spirit empowers us, pleasing God and not men.

Yin Chin-Lenn

REFLECTION

Praise God! We serve a Risen Saviour! He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me, along life's narrow way! Not only this, but because Jesus has risen and ascended to the Father, we also have "New Life" through His Spirit! He has indeed "granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness"! Let our lives tell the story that HE LIVES! HE lives in us!

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.

Ephesians 1:11

1. Each person choose a devotional where God particularly spoke to them, and then.

- Share with your Life Group how God spoke to you through this devotional
- What specifically encouraged you in this devotional?
- What aspect challenged you personally in this devotional?
- What can we learn and apply as a life group from this lesson?

2. How was the Life Group encouraged and inspired by this Easter Devotional? Was there anything specific that you remember?

WEEK 4

MY PRAYER AND REFLECTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

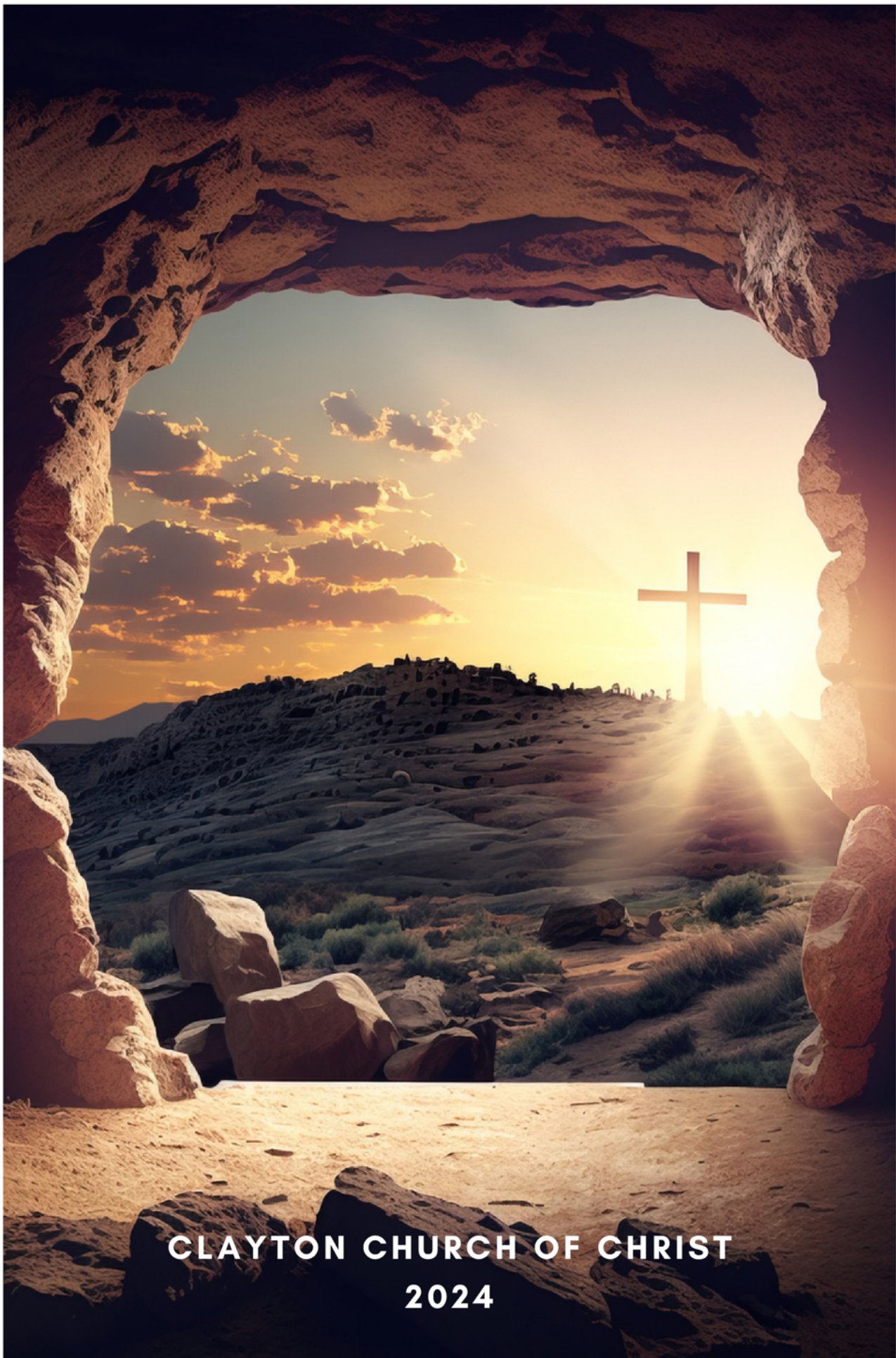
I always thank God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:4

Many thanks to our wonderful contributors to this year's Easter devotional booklet and Life Group Discussion Guide.

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Ps Paul Tucker
Ps Phanin Soeur
Shamilla Thiruganaselvam
Ps Kyle Schroder
Ps Sheron Wong
Ps Phoebe Chan
Naomi Tran
Robin Clarke
Sim Tucker
Frank Ruhl
Win Morgan
Oliver Morris
Morris Ediga
David Tay
Duc Tran

Cecylia Kee
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