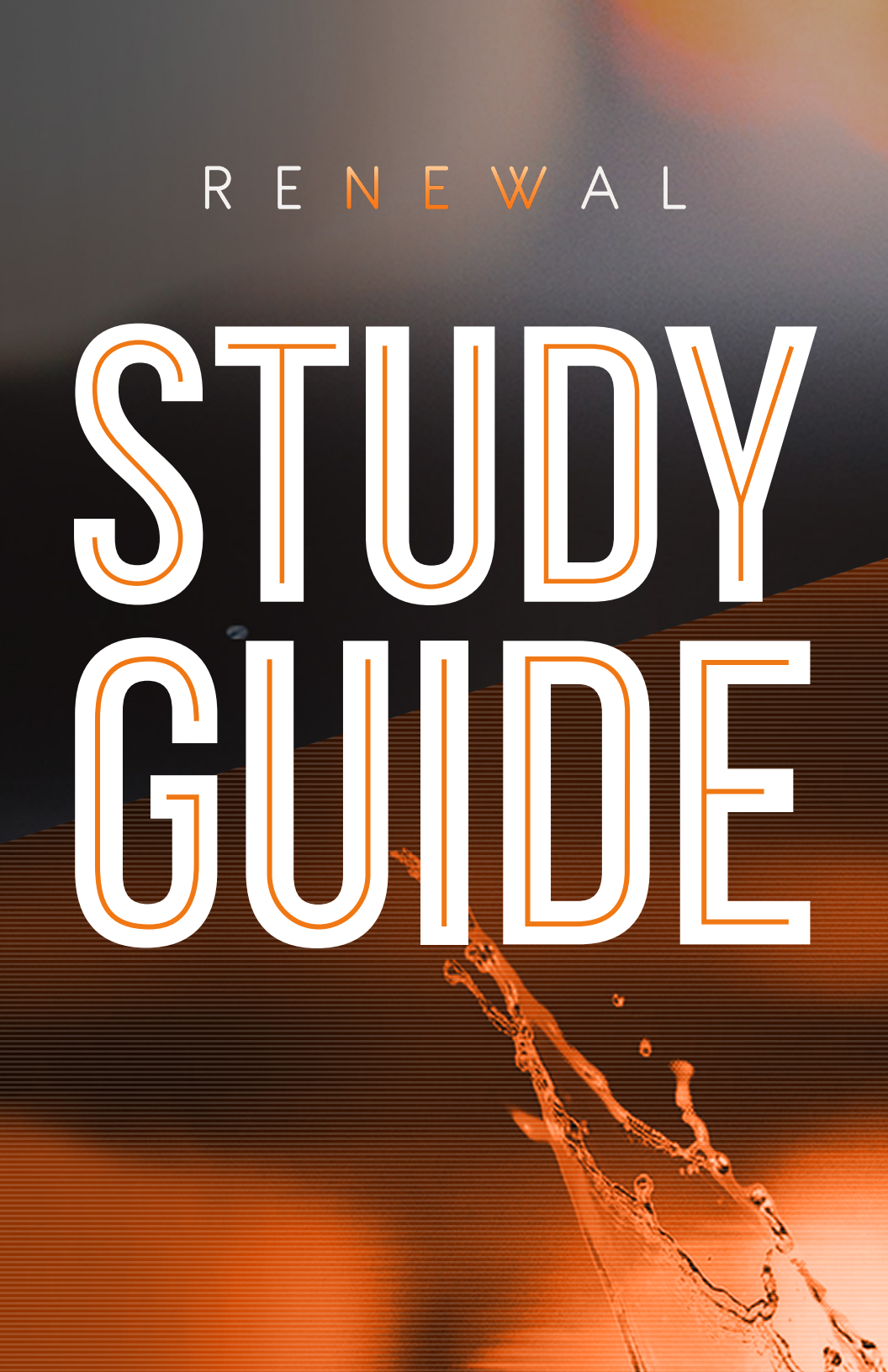


R E N E W A L

# STUDY GUIDE



# THE JOURNEY



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

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**A  
MESSAGE  
FROM PAUL**



# IN THIS BOOK, YOU WILL FIND

- A Place to Take Weekend Message Notes
- Daily Devotions & Prayers
- Small Group Questions
- Family Activities
- Scripture Memory
- Prayers from Christians Throughout the Centuries

# TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

We have some other resources that will create support for you as you enter this journey.

- The School of Unlearning Podcast
- The Jacob's Well Church App
- [www.jacobswellchurch.church](http://www.jacobswellchurch.church)
- RightNow Media
- Small Groups
- "In the Know" with Kenzie



“Renewal is a season to renew our commitment to following Christ, become active in our spiritual formation, and wholeheartedly participate in the process of discipleship with one another as we all take steps to know and become like Jesus.

I want to invite you to join me as we all seek God in His Journey of Renewal—a journey to make us more and more like His Son.

*Paul M. Beckman*



SMALL  
GROUP  
STUDY  
GUIDE  
INTRO





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

**Psalm 51:10 (ESV)**

*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you.*

**Philippians 2:12b-13a**

**Psalm 51** is a calling for renewal. Years ago, as I read this passage, I was struck by two words in verse 10—**create** and **renew**. These two words seem to be at the heart of growth. After a season of drift, lethargy, and no direction, we need God to create something new in us and renew something once established in us. That is the heart of Renewal.

2020 was traumatic for all of us as individuals and as a people. Understandably, we have been doing our best to survive, maintain, and get through a unique and challenging season. This has left us with the need to rediscover the joy of following Jesus. As we seek Him first, God creates something new in His relationship with us while renewing our foundation in Christ. Growth in Him changes us, and does not let us return to life as before.

## **GOD IS ALREADY WORKING ON US**

Experiencing Renewal in our relationship with God requires resolve from each of us.

**Philippians 2:12-13** says

*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” The power of this passage is our partnership with God in His work in our inner life. God invites us to join Him in the work He is already doing in our hearts, minds, and actions.*

**Romans 8:28-29** teaches us that God has a plan to have Christ formed in us. Think about that truth: Jesus is working to make you a better version of yourself. Our destiny is to become like Jesus.

## **NOT JUST TRYING HARDER AND DOING MORE**

Let's be clear. Renewal is not a pep talk from the self-help world that tells us to “try harder.” Instead, God invites us into a deeper relationship with Him. For this time of Renewal, we will walk together with the Spirit to know and become like Jesus, no matter where we are on our journey.

## **IT IS ABOUT A JOURNEY**

Wherever we are on our journey, we will take steps together to know and become like Jesus. This is the vision statement of Jacob's Well and remains our core focus, as it has from the start of the church. At Jacob's Well, we often ask two important questions that are central to following Jesus. They will be central as we dive deeper with God in this time of Renewal:

# THE JOURNEY TOOL

For many of us, the greatest adventure we will experience during Renewal is to gain a deeper understanding of the process of transformation. Deep life change is always discovered as a journey. As a church we are going to rediscover our Journey Tool. This tool is designed to help us slow down and answer the two central questions:

**Where am I on my spiritual journey? | What is my next step?**

# THE JOURNEY



Over the next eight weeks we are going to grow in our understanding of what the pilgrimage of growth looks like in a believer's life. We will understand how to grow. Remember, this is not about you trying harder. This is about you joining God who is at work in your life to deepen you to know and become like Jesus. This is not about you doing more. In fact, for some of you this season may be a call for you to do less. This is not for us all to make the same changes, but it is a personal journey in which the Spirit speaks into your life about the changes He wants to grow in your life. This is not a journey you will take alone, but a journey that is best taken with others, because deep life change happens best in community.

R E N E W A L

IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS

JACOBSWELLCHURCH.CHURCH/LEGACY-RENEWAL



**HOW TO  
SPEND TIME WITH  
GOD**



## INTRO

At Jacob's Well, we believe it is essential for each person to spend daily time with God individually and to be in a consistent community with other believers (a small group, for example) for discussion, learning, and group prayer. Why do we believe that having an intentional, consistent time with God and others is so important? We believe that "Wherever we are on our journey, we need to take steps together to know and become like Jesus." To more fully know Jesus, we must deepen and strengthen our relationship with Him and with one another. To become like Him, we must know Him in a relationship and then let that relationship change our individual lives and our lives with one another.

We are all different. Each of us will have a unique relationship with God. For this reason, it is important to understand that there is not one specific devotional pathway that will be a perfect fit for each person. Learn more about this here, by taking a Spiritual Temperament Quiz: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/your-spiritual-temperament-quiz/>. Take time to discover your best way of connecting with God. Determine what rhythm to create in your life to study God's Word. Pick out a location and time of day that helps you feel most connected with Him, and let this time of Renewal move you forward in your relationship with Him and with others in fellowship.

## SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR PERSONAL QUIET TIME:

- Establish a time of day and a specific place to begin.
- As you sit with God, start by becoming quiet. You can do this through a few deep breaths. Make sure your phone is in another room. Turn off the television and do your best to remove distractions.
- Sometimes it helps to have a pad of paper. If distractions come, write them down so that you can work through them later. For example, if you remember you need to do something, make yourself a note so that you can let it go during your time with God.
- Start with a prayer asking God to open your heart to Him and His message.
- Jacob's Well provides you with this study guide that will guide you in choosing Scripture passages and will lead you through your quiet time with God.
- As you finish your time, be silent and wait for a while to see how God works in your heart and mind. Don't rush away. You might miss something He is trying to say to you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see what He might be speaking to you through the Scriptures and the teachings during Renewal.
- End your time in prayer, expressing Praise, Confession, Prayers for others, and Prayers for yourself and your family.

## SOME SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR SMALL GROUP:

- If you do not complete all of your devotions for the week, please continue to participate with your group.
- As you meet each week, begin by discussing the weekend message and then discuss the week's Small Group Study Guide devotions.
- Make sure everyone has a chance to participate.

- Be respectful. Listen to each other and encourage each other. (Remember we are not counselors!) Make prayer a priority.
- Believe God. He desires to deepen our relationship with Him as individuals, group members, and as a church. Renewal is going to be an inspiring time. As God works, take notes and be ready to share your stories because we want God to receive all the glory for what He is about to do in us and through us!
- As in your personal quiet time, end your time in prayer, expressing Praise, Confession, Prayers for others, and Prayers for yourself and your family.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

### WEEK 1

#### **1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (ESV)**

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So, run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable. So, I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

### WEEK 2

#### **John 4:13-14**

*Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'*

### WEEK 3

#### **Matthew 7:7-11**

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

### WEEK 4

#### **John 17:3**

*And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

### WEEK 5

#### **Philippians 2:12-13**

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

### WEEK 6

#### **Philippians 3:13-14**

*Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

### WEEK 7

#### **Hebrews 10:24**

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and do good works.*



# SPECIAL NOTE FOR GROUP LEADERS FROM PASTOR PAUL

Dear Group Leaders,

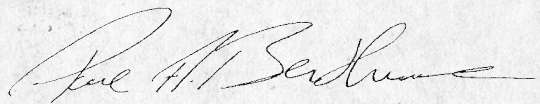
Thank you for your leadership at Jacob's Well! What a privilege to partner with you as we come alongside one another, taking steps together in community to know and become like Jesus. Because we find ourselves in unprecedented times, it will require creativity to engage your members in Zoom or other means to gather together while following guidelines to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your dedication!

In whichever way you meet, build a growing sense of trust and safety within your group through wisdom, humility, and compassion. Be sensitive to individual personalities and needs among your group's participants. Before instructing someone to read aloud, for example, make sure they feel comfortable and willing to do so. The more those in your group know you genuinely care for them and want them to have a good experience, the more their sense of trust and safety will grow, which means they'll be more fully able to experience the depth God has for them as part of your group.

In this study, our discussion questions will use the English Standard Version (ESV).

As always, our Formation Team staff is here for you! As you prepare to lead your group this semester, email Annie at the church [askoyen@jacobsowellchurch.church](mailto:askoyen@jacobsowellchurch.church) with any questions or feedback, or call the church office at 715-833-2050.

Our staff can't wait to take this journey of Renewal together with you!





# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP QUESTIONS  
FOR FEBRUARY 1 - 13  
AS WE PREPARE FOR RENEWAL



# JACOB'S WELL VISION STATEMENT

**Wherever we are on our journey, we will take steps together to know and become like Jesus.**

1. As you think about Jacob's Well's vision statement, highlight the most meaningful words to you. Why did you highlight these words?
2. How active are you in your pursuit of Jesus? Would you describe your journey with Him as indifferent, casual, or passive, or would you describe it as active, engaged, central, and a priority? Why?
3. When you experience longing, dissonance, and dissatisfaction in your journey, what do you do? For example, do you ignore it? Do you feel shame? Do you assume it means you are weak and unspiritual? Do you cover it up with unhealthy choices? Maybe you cover up the ache with acts of service? Perhaps you become angry, frustrated, and distant in your relationships? What do you do with your response?

## **Read Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)**

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

4. What do you think it means that God is at work in you? Does that surprise you? Does that encourage you?
5. What does it mean to, "work out your own salvation?" What if we put it a different way, "work salvation into every part of your life"?

## **Read Romans 8:28-30**

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

6. This verse says God has a plan for you. What is the priority of His plan?
7. Do you trust God's will for your life? Do you agree with this statement? "When we submit to God's will, we ultimately find out that this is what we wanted all along."

## Read Philippians 1:6

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

8. Does this verse describe spiritual growth (knowing and becoming like Jesus) as an event, or as a process over time? Which better describes your own experience?
9. Here are two essential questions to dive deeper with God in this time of Renewal. How do you feel about those Questions? As we begin this journey, how would you answer these questions?

### **Where am I on my spiritual journey? What is my next step?**

In these questions, we are reengaging with God because He desires us to grow in our relationship with Him. Our relationship with Him changes us from the inside out when we partner with Him to grow spiritually. Will you commit to participating with your Jacob's Well Church family in Renewal?

## PRAYER

**Pray for each other, and pray the words of Ephesians 3:14-21 over each other:**

### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

*<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup>that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

GROUPS  
MESSAGES  
*and*  
DEVOS

# STORIES OF COMMITMENT



WATCH  
THE  
VIDEO



"I MADE MY COMMITMENT TO  
LEGACY BECAUSE OF  
GENERATIONS TO COME"

—DAVID MORTIMER, OVERSEER

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS



# WEEK 1 INTRO

Most of us long to vacation, taking a trip somewhere fun to rid us of the hardship of our experience the last 12 months. Typically, we picture a destination to relax, a place to unwind, a time of refreshment and renewal. Removing ourselves from the repetitive nature of life is necessary to revive our weary souls. Maybe you long to get away and have some adventure to change things up and find some excitement for the weariness you feel. Perhaps you feel stuck and want to make a change, but you realize a vacation will only provide limited relief from your experience.

What if you discovered amid life's journey that there is a journey worth taking in every day? In the ordinary of each moment of daily living, there is a journey waiting—a journey we must prepare for, and a compelling quest calling our name. The destination is not a specific place on earth, but rather a call to live eyes wide, ears intently listening, and hearts open to a deeper relationship with the Creator of the Universe. This journey is intentional and may encounter obstacles. However, it is not a journey of escape, but rather, it is a voyage of being in the presence of One who waits for

us to end the distractions of daily pursuits to instead pursue Him. God calls us to embrace a life-long adventure in our relationship with Him. This journey of a relationship with Him slowly moves us from a constant focus on our outer world to an ever-increasing realization of God's extraordinary presence in our inner world through the Holy Spirit. We experience a deeper realization of our identity as a child of God and respond to a kind of forever destiny in Him.

If you realize you have been living for yourself first, and feel stuck and want to make a change, the answer is not in trying harder. This devotional invites you into a place of study in how God is walking us through this world to know Him more in a love relationship through the gift of His Son. In the journey of knowing Him more by putting Him first, we find His unconditional love in Jesus. In finding His unconditional love in Jesus, we find the courage to let Him begin to grow and mature us more and more into His Son's character. Our lives become His. In becoming His, we find whom He created us to be.

This week we are going to take intentional steps to make room for God in our lives. With focus, we can organize our lives to have the breadth to listen and learn from Him. In seeking Him first, He will help us discern where we are on our journey. By the power of His Holy Spirit, we let Him work first to change us and then the environment in which we live. The environment includes all areas of our life.

This time of Renewal begins with an understanding that change in Christ is a process and a journey. He is central to all change. Over the next seven weeks, we will rediscover an active pursuit of God by using the Journey Tool as a new way of thinking about our lives as active and engaged in our relationship with God. He is at work in us. Let's join Him on the journey, and come alongside one another encouraging each other where we are.

The journey moves us toward a glorious future in Christ. We can have hope because of the end we are moving toward in the relationship we have with the Lord. Our immediate place in the journey may not be clear, but we can step confidentially into discovery because we are in God's Hands. God is good. He has good plans in mind, and we can trust Him. He is working to make each of us into the reflection of His Son.

**Wherever we are  
on our journey,  
we will take steps  
together  
to know and  
become like Jesus.**



# **GROUP CURRICULUM**

**FOR THE WEEK of  
FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

# WEEK

# 1

GROUP CURRICULUM  
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT?

*Most significant, deep life change does not happen as an event or a single decision. It happens as a journey.*

## READ ALOUD TOGETHER

### 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So, run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So, I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

## DISCUSS

1. Why do you think Paul compares Christian formation to a race? How is a race like a Journey? What other metaphors could you use to describe Christian growth?
2. Share a time when God changed something significant in the way you think, feel or act. Would you describe it as a journey?
3. How do the two following questions we are considering during Renewal relate to **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**?

**Where am I on my spiritual journey?**

**What is my next step?**

# WEEK

# 1

**GROUP CURRICULUM**  
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

4. In your life, have you ever felt like you were running aimlessly?
5. Have you every been a person fighting battles and not knowing what you are fighting for, or why?
6. What do you think Paul means by, "The Prize?"
7. In your experience, what is strict training in the journey to follow Jesus?
8. What is the importance of being specific and having a plan when doing spiritual formation?

Take time to pray for your group members and this time of Renewal.





**“JOURNEY”  
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

**WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021**







# WEEK

# 1

## “JOURNEY” MESSAGE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021

The week’s memory verse is 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

Write the verse here:

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Keep this verse in front of you this week. Write it on a notecard and keep it where you can read and recite it as you go through your day. Maybe place it on your bathroom mirror, your car’s dashboard, or on your refrigerator door. Find the place that best works for you!

God calls us to embrace a life-long adventure in our relationship with Him. In **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**, the Apostle Paul engages an athletic metaphor to describe his life as an Apostle. The Corinthians would have understood Paul’s comparison as Corinth hosted the biennial Isthmian games. Paul encourages his readers to see their pursuit of God as a race meant for each of them to participate with focus and determination. He describes the process of our life-long adventure journeying with God as a race. Can you imagine other metaphorical illustrations of running a race? Perhaps reading a long book from start to finish, completing a project from idea to fulfillment, receiving a degree, taking a noble quest, fighting a battle, climbing a mountain, taking a canoe down a river, driving across the desert, participating in a treasure hunt, a ropes course, a swim meet, sailing across the ocean or taking a trip across the country? Other ideas?

What is your favorite image?

# WEEK

# 1

“JOURNEY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

The winner of the race in Corinth won a perishable wreath as a crown. Only one winner won the prize in the games, but Paul urges the Corinthians to see that their journey to pursue God in love is a journey toward an eternal reward for everyone who runs.

Taking steps to know and become like Jesus does not happen without intentionality. We must participate with focus and determination because Christ is central to all change.

Taking steps to know and become like Jesus, however, does not mean a hectic life. The prize is not external works of service. The pursuit of knowing and becoming like Jesus offers a deep relationship with God first and foremost. He is the prize now and for eternity. The transformation of our life results from seeking God first and living to know Him more. We learn to believe Him and believe He is at work in us. This is how we learn to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. (**Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, and Luke 10:27**)

If someone came alongside to examine your life, what crown might they say you are running to win? Why?

“Heavenly Father, during this time of Renewal, please give me the courage to wholeheartedly follow Jesus. **Matthew 6:19-20** says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

God, help me to avoid accumulating treasures on earth. Help me invest in the eternal. In the process, as I run, remind me that the prize I am running for now and for eternity is imperishable.”

# WEEK

# 1

“JOURNEY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Try listening to God’s Word. Perhaps record **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** on your phone so that you can listen to it as you drive, take a walk, wash dishes or work around your house or yard. You can also go to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and listen to the verse through the website. Play the verses through several times as you memorize the passage this week. (We have been using the English Standard Version or ESV in this study guide.)

The journey of a relationship with God slowly moves us from a constant focus on our outer world to an ever-increasing realization of God’s extraordinary presence in our inner world. Before we determine where we are on our journey, it helps to evaluate our priorities in life. It is easy to believe we are running our race with purpose, as **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** teaches, but the reality of our life may not match our perception. Mark out the race you are running by measuring how you spend your time. Estimate the time you spend on daily activities in the chart below.

READING THE BIBLE		HOUSEHOLD CHORES	
PRAYER/JOURNALING		SHOPPING	
WORSHIP		TIME SPENT WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS	
EATING		TIME SPENT IN A SMALL GROUP	
SLEEPING		TIME SPENT ALONE	
WORK/SCHOOL		TIME SPENT WITH NEIGHBORS	
LISTENING TO MUSIC		DRIVING	
WATCHING TV		EXERCISING	

# WEEK

# 1

“JOURNEY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Consider adding a spiritual discipline or giving up something for God during the season of Lent (which begins Wednesday, February 17) to create more space and time for Him. It takes intentionality to discover God and His principles in a more profound way. Pray and ask God for His wisdom, guidance, and direction. Ask Him to give you focus and determination in your decision.

“*Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you; I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so I need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence. For you are my Father.*”

## Prayer of Abandonment

<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/prayer-of-abandonment>

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Try reciting **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** out loud to see if you have any of the passage set in your memory. Continue to work on reciting the verses as you drive, take a walk, wash dishes or work around your house or yard.

If you realize you have been living for yourself first, and if you feel stuck and want to make a change, the answer is not in trying harder. This devotional invites you into a place of learning to try softer, try different, and try together as we study how God is walking us through this world to know Him more in a love relationship. This love relationship begins with salvation.

Jesus knew His purpose on earth. He spent His time honoring His Father, and He went to the cross on our behalf.

### Read John 12:27.

Lent, which begins today, is a time to reflect on Jesus' suffering and death. It is also a time to recognize our faith in Jesus is a response to God.

As we begin the season of Lent, first ask, "Have I truly submitted my life to Jesus as Lord?"

God calls us to believe in Jesus, His life, death, burial, and resurrection. God accepts us not because of what we do, but because we humble ourselves before Him and receive the gift of salvation given in His Son.

If you realize today that you have not received the gift of salvation in Jesus, read **Romans 3:21-26**. All of us sin and fall short of the glory of God. Each of us needs God's grace in Jesus because we are trapped in sin and need a Savior. We are rescued by God's grace because He sent His Son Jesus to take the penalty of our sin by dying on the cross. When we recognize this truth, confess our sin, and ask Jesus to be Lord of our life, His Holy Spirit takes residence inside us, and we are given eternity with God. **Romans 10: 9-10** says, "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes and is justified, and with the mouth, one confesses and is saved."

# WEEK

# 1

“JOURNEY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

If you realize you need to ask Jesus into your life, pray to Him now using **Romans 10:9-10** as your guide. Let one of the church staff members know of your decision so that the church can celebrate with you!

If the decision to ask Jesus into your life is a decision previously made, complacency can settle in over time. This booklet is a tool to get back on track to run the race with purpose.

Remember, our own efforts, however sincere, cannot save us. As long as we think, even subconsciously, that it was possible to contribute to our salvation, we will not put God in the place we should. We will not worship Him with the humility, dependence, and thanksgiving He deserves.

Contemplate where you are on your journey with God in His gift of salvation in Jesus.

Pray **Psalm 13:5**: “But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.”

Pray the words of **Psalm 70:4** over our congregation and all who have decided to participate in Renewal:

“*May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You!  
May those who love Your salvation say evermore,  
'God is great!'*”

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Write out **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** by memory as best you can. Keep working! You are doing great!

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### Read Romans 6:11-13 and Galatians 5:17

In finding God’s unconditional love in the gift of salvation, we are called to grow--to find the courage to let Him begin to mature us more into the character of Christ. Trust in God is an essential component of spiritual growth.

Who and what do you trust for growth? Do you trust your best thought, an expert, or popular culture?

In **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**, Paul talks about the importance of discipline. Discipline gives us the focus to run the race with purpose. More importantly, disciplining ourselves to read Scripture, pray, and participate in worship is how God communicates His grace to us. Long-lasting change comes by understanding His grace and learning to trust Him with every part of our lives.

**1 Timothy 4:7a-8** says, “Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

Is Jesus integrated into every part of your life, or are there parts of your life you have not handed over to Him? Why?

Jesus is our companion walking with us on the journey. We have to trust Him as our guide. He loves us. He knows what is going on inside of us. When we realize we are walking with Him, we begin to let go of the burden of figuring everything out on our own. God knows the right pace and our best next step in the journey. God is not meant to be the place we turn only when things are hard. God is our life, and this is what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Is God part of your life, or is He your life?



# WEEK

# 1

“JOURNEY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Eternal life is lived in relationship with God now and for eternity. Renewal is an intentional way to guide us back to living in a known relationship with God. God desires our whole life. We are to give it all to Him in love, and this is what it means to be in a relationship with Him.

The Journey Tool we will be learning during Renewal is a tool to connect with God to know Him first and learn to trust Him. If you realize you lack trust in God, that is okay. Over the next six weeks, your confidence in Him will grow. Allowing Him to work in us to trust Him is hard at first, but if we recognize He is at work in us, we have a new perspective on our relationship with Him. The more we learn how His love and grace are at work in our inner being, the more we learn to trust Him. The more we trust He is at work in us, the more we find peace and contentment in the process of His work to change us to be more and more like His Son.

Jesus liberates us from ignoring our sin or putting confidence in ourselves for righteousness. Christian obedience is the reflection of the Spirit’s work in transforming our minds and hearts. Obedience is not automatic. Faithfulness to God does not come by ignoring Him or our sin, and it does not come by trying harder to please Him. Trust comes by understanding His dedication to us as His children, which comes by placing ourselves in His Presence day in and day out, learning He is at work in us as we seek Him. This time of Renewal is for this purpose.

Meditate on **Psalm 119:9-16**. Pray the words of the Psalm as your own.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021

Challenge yourself to recite **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** by memory as best you can.

### Read Luke 6:31-35

We have the Holy Spirit at work in us, but we must participate by listening and following His direction. We must battle against the enemy and sin’s continuing influence in our life. Renewal will be a gift to help get back on course, running the race with purpose and fighting the battle of faith.

The battle of faith needs our attention, but many of the arguments we engage in keep us off track. Do you feel like you have been fighting? Do you know why you are fighting?

Sometimes we fight because we are afraid. How did the past year create fear in you?

This last twelve months put all of us under a tremendous amount of pressure. Looking back, did fear cause you to embrace an attitude that you realize now made you fight battles that were not important?

Remember, righteous anger is not born out of fear. If you are angry, do you know why are you angry?

God calls us to fight the battle of faith. Futile fights with one another do not draw us closer to God in love. These useless fights also do not attract others to follow Jesus.

In running the race with purpose, our internal motivation is God’s central concern. We seek God first. As we engage in discussion with others, we remain calm and speak the truth in love. If the conversation begins to escalate, it is best to pray and trust God rather than insisting on being right.

Over the next six weeks, our focus will be on the internal work God desires to do in us as individuals. We focus on His work in us, but His work in us also shows us how to love one another. As you look back over 2020, did you engage in a heated discussion with others over the pandemic, politics, the election, racial, and social injustices?

Do you realize you acted in a way that did not shine the light of Christ?

# WEEK

# 1

“JOURNEY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

As we get started on the journey, is there anyone you need to offer an apology? Maybe someone treated you with disrespect, and you are holding a grudge. Who might you need to forgive? Spend time in prayer. The next six weeks will need our full attention as we wholeheartedly seek God to know Him more, learn His love, and grow in His character.

“*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth. Lord God heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*”

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/meaning-of-glory-to-god-in-the-highest-and-peace-to-his-people-on-earth.html>

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

How are you doing memorizing this week’s verse  
**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**? Try writing it out or typing it on your computer by memory.

### **Read Romans 6:21-22**

Here are two crucial questions to dive deeper with God during this time of Renewal:

#### **Where am I on my spiritual journey? What is my next step?**

We are reengaging with God in these questions. Each week for the next six weeks as part of Renewal, we will dive deeply into six themes that make the journey process life-changing in our relationship with Christ: thirst, search, know, experience, depth, and community. Renewal aims to remind us that worship is the way we live. Every part of our life is a place to give to God in worship. The journey requires discipline. Over the next few weeks, we will learn a tool to help us stay on course. We will spend our entire lives growing closer to God, and the Journey Tool is a tool we can return to over and over again in our spiritual walk. In this process we find hope to believe in God for change and to believe He is working in our life.

This week has helped prepare us to reengage in the journey of transformation. The journey draws us closer to God, and eventually will lead us into eternal life with Him. When we stand before Him, our desire at that moment will be to tell Him we ran our race to know Him more, to receive His love, to live His grace, and to share Him with others. We do not need to beat ourselves up for how we have lived, but instead turn our focus to Him for the future. This study is an opportunity to move forward.

Prayer is a guide: Pray that any misperceptions you have of God are renewed with His truth. Pray for help in avoiding idleness in your pursuit of Him. Pray that God’s faithfulness leads you to a deeper and more profound dedication in your devotion to Him. Have you decided to let go of something to discover God and His principles more deeply? How are you creating more space and time for God in your life? How are you offering Him the priority in your life?

# WEEK

# 1

“JOURNEY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

During Renewal, seek God to know Him more in a relationship. Seek Him for wisdom on how He is at work in your inner life. What might He be at work to help you see in this season? How might He be at work to plant seeds to grow the Fruit of His Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) in your relationships, health, finances, work, or school?

If you are married or are a parent, how may He be at work in your marriage or parenting? Would you like Him to help you communicate more clearly with those you love? If the time spent in prayer and reflection each day would mean growth in your relationship with God, which in turn would grow your other relationships, would you be willing to try? Real, authentic, two-way communication starts as we yield our will to God’s.

“Lord, I pray that You would teach me to yield myself to Your Spirit, Holy Spirit, teach me to trust You as a living person who leads my life and my prayers. Help me to understand your ministry and power. Help me to understand You as my Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, and Strengthener. I long to see a demonstration of Your power in my life just as the Apostle Paul did (**1 Corinthians 2:2-5**). I thank You that You indwell, seal, sanctify, and empower me. You guide me, teach me, and pray through me. Help me to partner with You in everything I do. Transform my life completely with Your power. Make me sensitive to Your promptings, and teach me to partner with You in prayer in a deeper way.”

**A Prayer for the Lost- <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/a-prayer-for-the-lost.html>**

# Kids

## RUN THE RACE

I Won!



The race was over an hour ago



## Verse Challenge

Grab a dry erase marker and write this week's Bible verse on your bathroom mirror. Practice learning it together!

*Do you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize. Run in such a way that you may obtain it.*

**1 Corinthians 9:24**

# FAMILY PRAYER



“Jesus, help us to live for and follow You with all the determination of a world-class athlete. Help us be self-controlled, run with purpose, and not be distracted by things in this life that could take our focus off You. Jesus, help us keep our eyes on the prize – life forever with you in Heaven.”

Amen.

# Table Talk QUESTIONS



What's the hardest thing you've ever had to prepare for?  
*sports, music, acting, school tests*

What did you do to help you prepare? What was the outcome?

What are some ways we can prepare to live for and follow Jesus?



Check out our JW Kids webpage for this week's JW Kids' lesson, devotion, and other great resources for your family!

JW Students can follow along and interact with the Renewal study each week on the Jacob's Well App, our Student Life Podcast, our JW Students webpage and our social media accounts.

 **STUDENTS**

# JW STUDENTS TALK ABOUT LEGACY



WATCH  
THE  
VIDEO



*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN

“I WANT MY LEGACY TO BE...”

GOD DRIVEN • BEING A KIND FRIEND • LOVING LIKE JESUS  
LIVING THE GOSPEL • STANDING FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN  
SHARING GOD’S WORD • GIVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY  
PRAYER IS SECOND NATURE • BEING A GOOD ROLE MODEL

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN  
CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS





# **GROUP CURRICULUM**

**FOR THE WEEK of  
FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

## READ ALOUD TOGETHER

### Psalm 63:1

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

## DISCUSS

1. Can you remember a time when you were very physically thirsty? How is that like having a spiritual or emotional thirst? Have you ever had a deep spiritual thirst? Have you ever felt like the psalmist in **Psalm 63:1**?

2. What are some other words for thirst? Longing, discontent, dissatisfied, troubled. What other words come to mind?

3. Often, Christians believe that it is a sign of weakness to have spiritual thirst. But what if thirst is an indication that something is missing. Do you agree with the following statement?

Thirst is not an indication that we have done something wrong but that the Holy Spirit is stirring something in us to bring a positive change.

4. Do you believe spiritual thirst is evidence that the Holy Spirit is calling us to a deeper place in our relationship with the Lord? Why or why not?

5. Read **John 4:1-15**. In this story, how does Jesus use the metaphor of thirst?

6. Are there unhelpful ways people try to quench their thirst either physically or spiritually? What are some ways you have made this mistake?

### **Read the memory verse together**

"Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'"

### **John 4:13-14**

7. Discuss this statement:

Without physical thirst we would not seek water and would die of dehydration, even so, without spiritual thirst and longing we would not seek God and would spiritually die. Thirst is a gift from the Holy Spirit.

8. Being thirsty is unpleasant. Will God allow us to become uncomfortable so that we will seek things that really matter?





**“THIRST”  
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021



# WEEK

# 2

**“THIRST” MESSAGE**  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

# NOTES

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## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

The week’s memory verse is **John 4:13-14**.

Write the verse here:

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Keep this verse in front of you this week. Place it where you can read and recite it as the week progresses. Maybe make it the lock screen on your computer or phone. Maybe highlight it in your Bible and leave your Bible open. Each time you pass by your Bible or open up your laptop or phone, practice the verse silently or out loud.

### **Read John 4:1-8**

Jesus’ human nature caused Him to be weak, tired, hungry, and thirsty.

### **Read Hebrews 4:14-16**

Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses because He was human. As we begin to talk about what it means to thirst, the first thing to remind ourselves is that we can confidently draw near God’s throne of grace in our physical need because Jesus understands. He knows what it is like to be weak, tired, hungry, and thirsty.

Do you realize we can also confidently draw near God’s throne of grace when we are spiritually thirsty? Jesus understands our physical weaknesses, but He also understands the yearning and longing we feel as we grapple with our spiritual thirst. Physical thirst calls us to pay attention to our bodies. We are unable to think about much else until we quench the thirst that parches our throat. Spiritual thirst calls us to pay attention to God. We can confidently draw close to God when conflict brews in our inner world. When we feel the friction inside as we contemplate where we are in life and where we are with God, it is tempting to turn away from Him because spiritual thirst is uncomfortable. We may try to dull spiritual thirst with world comforts, but only God can satisfy the longing growing inside of us.



# WEEK

# 2

“THIRST” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Spiritual thirst is God calling out to us and asking us to pay attention to where we are on our spiritual journey. If we settle into the world's comforts, we lose our way. We will seek the comforts of this life over Him. Thirst helps loosen our ties to the world's comforts and brings us on a journey closer to God. God calls us to listen to the longing in our inner world. He encourages us to pay attention to the yearning instead of pushing it away. The natural inclination is to ignore it, but spiritual thirst is evidence that the Holy Spirit is calling us to a deeper place in our relationship with the Lord.

What concerns you about facing your spiritual thirst with God?  
What excites you about facing your spiritual thirst with God?  
Talk with God about how you answered the above questions.  
Speak with honesty.

## Pray this prayer by St. Augustine

“Late have I loved thee, O beauty so ancient and so new; late have I loved thee: for behold you were within me, and I outside; and I sought you outside and in my unloveliness fell upon those lovely things that You had made. You were with me, and I was not with You. I was kept from You by those things, yet had they not been in You, they would not have been at all. You called and tried to break open my deafness: and You sent forth Your beams and shone upon me and chased away my blindness: You breathed fragrance upon me, and I drew in my breath and I do now pant for You: I taste You, and now hunger and thirst for You: You touched me, and I have burned for Your peace.”

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Write this week’s memory verse, John 4:13-14, on a notecard leaving every other word with only the first letter. Practice the verse with the missing words using the first letter as a clue to help you remember.

### Read John 4:9-26

Strict followers of Jewish law would not pass through Samaria because they believed the Samaritans would make them unclean. The Samaritans assimilated with non-Jewish people, intermarrying with the Mesopotamian colonists. Constant tension challenged the two groups. The Jewish people considered the Samaritans to be in a continual state of uncleanness, so the Jews avoided the Samaritans by taking a longer route when traveling from Judea to Galilee. Jesus traveled through Samaria. He risked scandal and uncleanness to meet the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s Well.

Jesus comes to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day, to draw water. Typically, the village women would come to the well to draw water in the morning or evening when the temperature was cooler, but the Samaritan woman arrives when she knows no one else will be there. The woman is an outcast as a Samaritan, but she is even an outcast with the Samaritans due to her sinful life. Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well, breaking all cultural norms and traditions, even asking her for a drink of water.

As you contemplate Jesus taking risks to meet the Samaritan woman, what stirs in your soul?

Jesus seeks the woman out, and He does not shy away from confronting her with her sin. With kindness and compassion, He reveals her sin while sharing knowledge of her entire life. When God confronts us with our sin during times of thirst, our first reaction is to focus on the problem, but God’s focus is His love for us. In Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, His omniscient knowledge comes with kindness and compassion. In thirst, God is working for good, but sometimes we misinterpret good. God aims to help us realize His Presence in our thirst. We have to remember He is in control, and He is at work to draw us closer to Him in love. Without Him, we are lost for eternity, but in Jesus we have a life with Him now and for eternity as He tells the woman at the well.

# WEEK

# 2

“THIRST” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## CONTINUED...

When spiritual thirst makes us uncomfortable, we tend to lean into life's comforts. God desires us to lean into Him. His purpose in confronting our sin is to grow us into a better place in life by knowing Him in a deeper relationship. He is calling us in love. He wants us to become like Him by the power of the Holy Spirit, and slowly, over time, continually move closer and closer to Him and further and further away from sin. We will never be perfect. Perfection is not the goal. The goal is to love God and to follow as He leads.

## Read Romans 5:8

As you contemplate God going out of His way to meet us in our sin, what stirs in your soul?

## Pray this prayer by A.W. Tozer:

“O God and Father, I repent of my sinful preoccupation with visible things. The world has been too much with me. Thou hast been here and I knew it not. I have been blind to Thy Presence. Open my eyes that I may behold Thee in and around me. For Christ's sake, Amen.”

# WEEK

# 2

“THIRST” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Write this week’s memory verse, **John 4:13-14**, on a notecard leaving the opposite words you did yesterday with only the first letter. Practice the verse with the missing words, using the first letter as a clue to help you remember.

### Read John 4:27-42

In verses 32-34, we see that Jesus’s focus is not on physical food but spiritual food. The disciples did not understand. Neither do we. More often than not, we do not want to face our spiritual thirst. We prefer a quick fix. Human nature prefers a fast result over a slow period of change. Our spiritual journey takes time, and this can create frustration because we are impatient creatures. It takes courage to face God in our spiritual thirst.

Do you prefer a quick fix, or are you willing to do the hard work of change?

Worldly remedies that dull the longing are temporary fixes, and the more we choose the quick answers, the deeper our thirst will grow.

Each time God calls us closer to Him in a new way, the journey starts hard but moves with a gradual release of the tension found at the start line. The world’s way is easy at first, and it is tempting to take the easy path, but Jesus calls us to move toward Him in love. He stirs spiritual thirst within us, and we must pay attention and become dependent upon the Holy Spirit’s work. As we surrender our will to God’s, we see fruit over time, but it takes focus and determination to let spiritual thirst drive us to dependence.

In following Jesus, has there been a time when you let Him lead you to change? What happened?

If not, what has kept you from growth and change?

# WEEK

# 2

“THIRST” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Thirst is an indication of God calling us to change. Change can be challenging to accept, especially if we come to the Lord believing God’s will is to make us happy, bestowing material blessings on us and giving us what we desire. The Samaritan woman tried the things of this world, but when she met with Jesus at Jacob’s well, she realized He is the answer. The living water He gives springs up in us by the power of His Holy Spirit, giving us life in Him, now and for eternity.

In our human nature, we will not be able to produce a spiritual life on our own. Once we realize Jesus is the only way to eternal life and true fellowship with God, we must lay down our will for His. When we do, we begin to rely on His Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings the change needed, but requires our participation. God provides times of thirst to call us back to Him in dependence. As we surrender to His Spirit, God brings good in our life through inward change. The pathway of change begins when we start uncovering our spiritual thirst with God in His Word and prayer.

Meditate on **Isaiah 43:18-19**

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Challenge yourself to recite **John 4:13-14** by memory as best you can.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** says,

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”*

In our focus and determination to follow Jesus, the goal is to progress toward Him continually. When things are going well, though, it is easier to trust our abilities rather than to follow Him.

Is this something you have found to be true in your life? Why or why not?

**Read Proverbs 3:7-8 and Matthew 7:24-27**

How can thirst be a path to wisdom in God?

Thirst reminds us of our need for God. It sends us on the journey of finding confidence in Him rather than in ourselves and our abilities. If our faith rests in ourselves, we will not have Him as our foundation when difficult times come. Thirst can be the beginning of a deepening trust in Him as we move beyond our understanding, letting knowledge about Him move from what we know in our minds to a deep trust and reliance on Him in our relationship.

Thirst seems to be a roadblock in our spiritual journey, but what if we saw spiritual longing as a way to help us find the road back to dependence on God for life’s journey? How might our perspective change?

**Jeremiah 6:16a**

*“Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’”*

When our souls’ thirst, we find rest when we look to God for direction.

# WEEK

# 2

**“THIRST” MESSAGE**  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Take a few minutes to contemplate if you earnestly seek God. If you realize you do not, reflect on why this is true. Is it because you are busy? Maybe you know you have been living religious rules rather than a relationship. Perhaps, you are beginning to realize you do not trust God. It could be you are afraid of earnestly seeking Him for what you believe He might say. Discovering why you do not earnestly seek God in your life will give you guidance and direction forward in your spiritual thirst. Sit quietly with God for a few minutes. Spend time in prayer about what you are discovering with Him.

## Pray the words of Psalm 63:1

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Challenge yourself to recite **John 4:13-14** by memory to a friend or family member.

A significant gap can exist between who we profess to be and how we live. God’s Presence guides us to do things pleasing to Him while helping us be consistent with what we say and how we live. Sometimes thirst rises because of the inconsistencies displayed in our life.

Thirst is an invitation to return when inconsistencies arise in our spiritual journey.

In **1 Timothy 6:11-12**, the Apostle Paul tells Timothy,

*“But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

Thirst calls us back to pursue the Father and follow Him in the good fight of faith. Thirst is an invitation to return to Him in righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Thankfully, God does not call us to focus on each of these individual characteristics all at one time. He calls us first to focus on Him and allow Him to pinpoint where He sees inconsistencies displayed in our life. We can’t get to intimacy with Him except when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable, real and honest.

Do you feel God working through spiritual thirst to pinpoint areas of inconsistencies in your walk with Him? For example, how might you expect righteousness and commitment in others but not live the same standards you expect? It could be that you are frustrated when others do not live their faith in love and gentleness, yet you realize you also do not live what you profess.

During this time of Renewal, how may thirst may be at work to reveal inconsistencies in your walk with Him?



# WEEK

# 2

“THIRST” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

CONTINUED...

Meditate on the words of:

**1 Peter 3:10-12**

*“Whoever desires to love life  
and see good days,  
let him keep his tongue from evil  
and his lips from speaking deceit;  
let him turn away from evil and do good;  
let him seek peace and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer.  
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*

And Paul’s words from **Ephesians 4:1-3**

*“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021

Text **John 4:13-14** by memory to a friend or family member.

### **Isaiah 55:1-3**

*“Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.”*

Thirst calls us to come to God. God is calling our souls to thirst for Him above all else. Thirst makes us feel lost, but God is calling us to be found in Him. He is waiting for us to come to Him in our thirst.

### **Psalm 34:8** says,

*“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”*

Thirst calls us to taste and see that the Lord is good. When we take refuge in Him in our thirst, we will be satisfied. Let spiritual thirst call you to taste and see the Lord is good. Come to Him. Open your heart to Him and receive His love, mercy, kindness, and compassion. He is good, and when we allow our thirst to move us toward Him, we begin to understand how He is good. We learn to live like Him. His goodness changes us from the inside out, which is painful at first but eventually brings peace, inner joy, and contentment.

Imagine living with true peace, inner joy, and contentment. How different would your life be?

# WEEK

# 2

“THIRST” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Discovering Him, His will at work in our heart, mind, and soul, changes us inside. Our circumstances might not change, but when we lay our heads down on the pillow at night, we rest knowing we are safely in His Hands. The world may move in one hundred different directions (Ephesians 4:14 says “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”), but our heart moves to Him in love keeping the direction of our life on course towards God. He is our true north. Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Thirst calls us back to our true north.

## Pray the Lord’s Prayer

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.”

# Kids SO THIRSTY!



## VERSE CHALLENGE



Grab a dry erase marker and write this week's Bible verse on your bathroom or bedroom mirror and practice learning it together! Each day erase 1-2 words and see if you can still say the verse.

*Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."*

**John 4:13-14**

# FAMILY PRAYER

*"Jesus, help us stay close to You. When we are tempted to fill our hearts with things that don't last, like being popular, being good at school or sports, having all the coolest things; help us remember that what we really need is You. It's our friendship and relationship with You that is most important and what will last forever. We love you."*

Amen.

# Table Talk QUESTIONS



When you are thirsty, what's your favorite thing to drink?

What's your favorite thing to do to feel close to Jesus?

*ex: talking a walk in nature, worshipping, praying and talking to Jesus*



Check out our JW Kids webpage for this week's JW Kids' lesson, devotion, and other great resources for your family!

JW Students can follow along and interact with the Renewal study each week on the Jacob's Well App, our Student Life Podcast, our JW Students webpage and our social media accounts.

 **STUDENTS**

# LEAH & GARRETT HULKE'S STORY



"TITHING IS A CALLING FROM  
GOD...A CALLING WE  
NEED TO RESPOND TO"

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS



3

**GROUP  
CURRICULUM**

**FOR THE WEEK of  
FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

## READ ALOUD TOGETHER

### **Matthew 7:7-12**

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 'Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

1. Are you comfortable asking questions? Why or why not?
2. Does the idea of asking God questions comfort or disturb you? Why?
3. Did you grow up in an environment that encouraged questions? If not, what did you do with times of search? Are you patient with people who ask a lot of questions?
4. How important is asking questions for growth in all areas of life?
5. Why do you think God requires us to ask? Why does He not simply give us what we need? Is there something about going through a process of asking and searching that is of benefit?

### **Read Jeremiah 29:13**

*You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*



# WEEK

# 3

**GROUP CURRICULUM**  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

6. God has given us a pathway to seek Him called search. Sometimes search makes us uncomfortable. How have times of search found you uncomfortable in the process?
7. Often, we do not receive the full benefit of search because we make it a passive activity. How can we make the process of search active? What does the process of search look like in practical terms?
8. We need to make room in our lives to ask questions and enter the process of search. Has anyone in the group given up something or added something (like a new Spiritual discipline) during the season of Lent to create more space and time for God?
9. One of the mistakes we can make in Renewal is to try harder. It may be that we need to try softer, try different, or try together. Be encouraged that God is working in each of us. He will give us the courage to move forward together as we seek Him to know and become like Jesus. What is God teaching you during Renewal? What are you asking Him for during Renewal?

Take time to pray for your group members and this time of Renewal.





**“SEARCH”  
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

**WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021**



WEEK

3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

NOTES

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# WEEK

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“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021

The week’s memory verse is **Matthew 7:7-12**.

Write the verse here:

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Keep this verse in front of you this week. Place it where you can read and recite it as the week progresses. Maybe print the verse out on a piece of paper and hang it in a hallway in your home. Each time you pass by the verse, work on putting the words to memory.

God is omnipresent, which means His divine presence encompasses the entirety of the universe. In simple terms, it means He is everywhere all the time. There is nowhere that is void of the presence of God.

**Psalm 139:7-8** says,

*Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!*

Though God’s Presence is everywhere, we must be active in recognizing He is with us and at work in us. Search (the next step on the Journey Tool) is not a passive activity. Seeking God requires action on our part. Contemplate what it means to seek God as you read the verses below:

**Deuteronomy 4:29:** *But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

**1 Chronicles 16:10-11:** *Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!*

**1 Chronicles 22:19a:** *Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God.*

# WEEK

# 3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

CONTINUED...

**Psalm 105:4:** *Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!*

**Jeremiah 29:13:** *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*

Seeking God requires action on our part, but remember, anytime we add something new to our life--a pattern, behavior, or new way of thinking as we are doing during Renewal--it usually requires us to remove something. In Week One of Renewal, we asked you to consider letting go of something during Lent. Did you know that by participating in Renewal you are seeking God? You are creating more space and time for God in your life, a practical step of search. Be encouraged! You are actively seeking God by participating in Renewal.

**Pray this prayer by St. Augustine**

“O Lord my God, I believe in you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Insofar as I can, insofar as you have given me the power, I have sought you. I became weary and I labored. O Lord my God, my sole hope, help me to believe and never to cease seeking you. Grant that I may always and ardently seek out your countenance. Give me the strength to seek you, for you help me to find you and you have more and more given me the hope of finding you. Here I am before you with my firmness and my infirmity. Preserve the first and heal the second. Here I am before you with my strength and my ignorance. Where you have opened the door to me, welcome me at the entrance; where you have closed the door to me, open to my cry; enable me to remember you, to understand you, and to love you. Amen.”

# WEEK

# 3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

Write this week’s memory verse, **Matthew 7:7-12**, as you read it out loud.

Do you realize we can fully face God with our questions?

Asking God our questions with a desire to know Him more leads us to Him in the midst of search. Asking our questions in search is not to question God’s Sovereignty, but to be truthful with Him about where we are in the journey.

Do you realize there are over 3,000 questions in Scripture? The Bible is a book of questions! It is okay to ask questions. It is courageous to come to God with your questions, pouring out your heart in honesty. The Psalms, for example, are filled with honest questions. The Psalms authors do not shy away from asking God about their hurt, doubt, disappointment, anger, fear, feelings of loss, rejection, and abandonment. For example:

**Psalm 10:1:** *Why, O LORD, do you stand far away?  
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?*

**Psalm 42:9:** *I say to God, my rock: “Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”*

**Psalm 43:2:** *For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*

**Psalm 44:23-24:** *Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!  
Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?*

Did you grow up in an environment in which you were allowed to pursue God with your questions? If not, what did you do with your questions? Did you ignore them? Did you hide them? Did you discount them? Did you shame yourself for having them?



# WEEK

# 3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

CONTINUED...

**Read John 11:30-35**

How does Jesus address Mary's disappointment?

**Read John 20:24-29**

How does Jesus address Thomas' doubt?

Take time to be honest with God. Discuss with Him your hurt, doubt, disappointment, anger, fear, feelings of loss, rejection, abandonment, or other places of struggle which cause you to have questions. In the Psalms, we discover it is okay to ask questions, but we also learn how to end our time of seeking God in our questions as we wait on Him to work and move in our hearts, minds and souls. Through the Psalms, we know to praise Him for who He is and remind ourselves of His character and love. End your prayer time in the same way as the Psalmists. Remind yourself of how Jesus spoke with Mary and Thomas. Thank Him for His kindness, love, and compassion as we ask questions and search.

**Psalm 10:17-18:** *O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.*

**Psalm 42:11 and 43:5:** *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.*

**Psalm 44:26:** *Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!*

# WEEK

# 3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

Write this week’s memory verse, **Matthew 7:7-12**, as much as you can without looking. Fill in the places you are still working on remembering.

**Lamentations 3:25:** *The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.*

Often, we experience God’s sovereignty, wisdom and kindness revealed in challenging circumstances. Search requires us to stay in pursuit of God while waiting for Him to work.

Think about a time in your life in which you were searching for answers to a challenging circumstance. Maybe you experienced confusion and pressure as you tried to determine what to do about a job. Perhaps you lost a job. Maybe you experienced a painful breakup or the loss of a close friend. It could be you failed at something you believed was a sure thing. Maybe you turned to something to cope and what you turned to is now an addiction from which you desperately want to be freed. Possibly you or a loved one were diagnosed with a health issue. Maybe anxiety and depression have enveloped your world, and you feel lost and discouraged. It could be your loved one has taken a destructive path, and you do not know how to help. Perhaps you grew up in a dysfunctional family, and you are trying to figure out what it means to be healthy. Maybe you are in a difficult marriage. Possibly, you are not getting along with family or close friends. Perhaps you spent too much money and have found yourself in credit card debt. Maybe you are struggling with getting older. It could be you are caring for a child with special needs or an aging loved one.

When contemplating where you are on your spiritual journey, do you automatically focus on specific aspects of your life? Why or why not?

It is easy to imagine our spiritual journey separate from everyday life, but daily life is our spiritual journey.

Once we have accepted Christ as our Savior, He becomes our life. With Him at work in us as we follow Him each day, every part of our world becomes His as we open up to Him.

# WEEK

# 3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Therefore, any problem is a problem that we take to Him. Our human nature tells us to figure it out and fix it, but God is calling us to follow Him, seek Him, and pursue His wisdom. As we search Him for answers, slowly, He is at work to change us in the challenging circumstances.

The struggles we experience will vary, but we lose our way each time we solely focus on the battle. God is asking us to focus on Him. Search guides us to learn to trust God as we seek Him day in and day out.

## Read Psalm 9:10

Sometimes everything in our life is going well, yet, the longing, dissonance, and dissatisfaction we experience in times of thirst keep us up at night. We don't understand where it is coming from, but it is coming from God. He is stirring these feelings to draw us closer to Him. As we persist in the thirst, letting it drive us to search, we find a pathway to focus on God. We seek Him to understand what is going on inside. God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows why we think, feel, and behave the way we do. He knows what is best for us. Through a time of search, He may lead us to a new job, to further our education, or to a different plan of His that we currently do not understand or recognize.

What is God showing you through this time of Renewal?  
Talk to Him in prayer about what you see.

## Pray the words of Psalm 139:1-6:

“O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.”

## THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021

Challenge yourself to recite **Matthew 7:7-12** by memory as best you can.

Search calls us to discover God and His goodness in a broken world. As we turn to God in surrender, He will begin to shape our character and conduct through His Spirit, who is already at work in us. Search brings us back to God’s Word as His guide. Search requires us to study the Scriptures, seeking God first.

If we turn the yearning of thirst into a longing to seek God, we will begin to see how He and His ways are good. God’s Word helps us learn God’s goodness and how we can pursue Him in faithfulness. Seeking to know God, to know and become like Jesus, will not happen void of the Bible being a part of our life.

The Gospel of John teaches us that Jesus’ character displays the qualities for which we learn God’s character. In Colossians, we learn that the incarnation of Jesus makes the invisible God visible by showing us what He is like and how He behaves.

**Colossians 1:15:** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

**Colossians 1:19:** *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.*

The human being Jesus is at the same time the Son of God who came into our world to first save us from sin and then lead us, by the power of His Spirit at work in us, day by day in this life and eventually for eternity.

**Romans 6:22:** *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.*

Search brings us back to God’s Word, helping us learn who God is, who Jesus is, and who the Holy Spirit is. Search guides us to set our minds on God first through His Word, to discover Him, His ways and how He is at work in us to change us from the inside out.

# WEEK

# 3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## CONTINUED...

As you seek God to discover where you are on your journey, start with prayer and God’s Word. They are essential components in search. Maybe today you realize your next step is to reengage with God in the Scriptures.

**Hebrews 4:12:** *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**John 8:31-32:** *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

Over and over again, God will guide us as He puts us on a path to a new area of growth and freedom in Him. We will go through this process repeatedly in our relationship of knowing Him and becoming like Him. Each time the process begins with thirst and then moves to search. Over the next few weeks, we will see how the process continues to a place of know, experience, depth, and community in God.

For today, thank God that from the beginning, He had a plan for us in Jesus. Thank Him for His Word and how in it we see history moving throughout the Old Testament, pointing to Jesus. Thank Him for the New Testament which tells of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection and His promised return. Thank Him for His great love and for His Holy Spirit, who resides in us and brings us new life. Thank God for the hope we have in Him now and for eternity because of who Jesus is. Thank God for His love and His grace.

## Pray Romans 15:4

“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.”

# WEEK

# 3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021

Challenge yourself to recite **Matthew 7:7-12** by memory to a friend or family member.

When we experience times of thirst, we must choose to step into search on our journey. It is easy to protest and explain to God that we do not want to experience a time of longing. We can ask Him not to stir it up, and we can decide to ignore it. We can even become angry and distance ourselves from God.

Instead, going to God in the longing presents a pathway to a more profound revelation of Him.

**Psalm 107:9:** *For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.*

Good things in God’s eyes are different than the good things we immediately think are important. When we contemplate good things, we may tend to think of material blessings but God’s goodness works to give us security in His love. Understanding who we are as His child, creates a deeper faith in us which is of greater worth than gold.

**1 Peter 1:6-9:** *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

It is not in our nature to ask God to bring us a greater revelation of Him, as we tend to think only of what we believe will create good in our circumstances. In times of search, what might God be at work to do?

# WEEK

# 3

**“SEARCH” MESSAGE**  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Search creates times when we learn God’s love more profoundly. We grow to believe Him, and we begin to rejoice as we realize who we are in Him now as His child and who He is creating us to be for eternity. Search helps us remember God’s good is the work He is about first in our inner life as He draws us closer to Him in love so that we shine His love in this broken world.

## Pray this prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

“ Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.”

## SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021

Do you have **Matthew 7:7-12** memorized? If not, work on reciting it before you begin today's study.

**Matthew 7:7-12:** *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 'Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

We must come to God in humility. In doing so, we understand that as we ask God in prayer, our priority is to seek Him and His will. As we persevere in the journey, continuing to knock, God will provide for us, but His provision may look different than we expect.

How have you experienced this in your walk with God? Because change in Him is a process, we can feel frustrated when things don't look as we expect them to. Understanding we can try softer rather than harder and try different because God is at work gives us the courage to keep moving forward to knowing and becoming like Jesus. We ask God for what we want, but we come back to the truth that He loves us and will give us what we need. In love, God's priority is to help us know Him more and grow us more and more into His Son's character.

Maybe you have tried to change, but you feel like you have gotten nowhere in the journey to know and become like Jesus. Imagine a woman incredibly hard on herself for not overcoming an issue of unforgiveness in her life. Picture her focused on it to the point of despair. Visualize her heaping shame upon herself and refusing to receive grace in her walk with God. In her anguish, God sends a close friend to remind the woman what



WEEK

3

“SEARCH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

**CONTINUED...**

she has overcome with God in the journey. The friend helps her recall different struggles from her past.

For example, at one time, the woman spent much of her days angry with her husband and children. Now the people who know her rarely witness anger. The conversation with the friend helps the woman see how God has been faithful to help her overcome anger. She realizes God will also be faithful in her journey to learn forgiveness.

Think back over the time in which you have known Jesus as your Savior. In what ways are you more like Him than who you were when you first gave your life to Him?

Celebrate with God in prayer over some of the good changes that have happened with Him in your life.

Talk with a family member and/or friend and spend some time celebrating!

# Kids

# ASK SEEK KNOCK

Knock!  
Knock! →



Hello?



## VERSE CHALLENGE

Grab a pack of post it notes and write "Ask:Seek:Knock". Then put these notes on each family member's bedroom door. As you go in and out of your rooms, practice saying this week's Bible verse.

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

**Matthew 7:7**

# FAMILY PRAYERS



“Jesus, thank you that you always listen to us when we talk to you. We pray that we would seek after you with our whole heart and that you would help us want the things that You want for us.”

Amen

“Our Father who is in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. For yours is the kingdom and power and glory for ever and ever.”

Amen

# Table Talk QUESTIONS



If you could ask Jesus any question,  
what would you ask Him?

When you have questions about  
Jesus, how can you find answers?

*ex: read your Bible, pray, talk to  
parents, JW Kids leaders, trusted  
grown-ups*

When is your favorite time of the  
day to talk to Jesus?



Check out our JW Kids webpage for this week's  
JW Kids' lesson, devotion, and other great  
resources for your family!

JW Students can follow along and interact with the Renewal study  
each week on the Jacob's Well App, our Student Life Podcast, our  
JW Students webpage and our social media accounts.

 **STUDENTS**

# THE LEGACY VISION



WATCH  
THE  
VIDEO



*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN

“LEGACY IS A GIFT...  
HANDLED DOWN FROM  
ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT”

—PASTOR PAUL BERTHIAUME

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN  
CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS



# **GROUP CURRICULUM**

**FOR THE WEEK of  
MARCH 7, 2021**

We come to know Jesus by making Him part of all aspects of our life. We come to know Him by walking with Him every day. He wants to be involved in our daily life choices and behaviors as much as He wants to meet us by going to church and reading the Bible and praying. To know Christ is to walk with Christ. This is the deepest meaning of salvation. Jesus wants to bring salvation to every part of our lives. He wants to transform us into good people from whom good things naturally flow. He wants to change the way we think, feel, and act through our relationship with Him.

## READ OUT LOUD TOGETHER

### John 17:1-5

*Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

1. In the Journey Tool, we are entering into the season of know. In know God starts to give us direction and provides answers to some of the questions and issues we have been searching. When we suspect we know the changes God is leading us to make, it is time to clarify & confirm. We ask "Father, what are the specifics of the changes you want me to make?" We also must consider How we confirm what you believe God is telling you to do? When you believe God is leading you to make a change how do you clarify and confirm His will?
2. God will lead us to have confidence in the things we are coming to know and understand by sharing what we are learning with a person who can listen and ask us further questions. Who is a person you could share with what you are learning?
3. One-way God clarifies and confirms in a season of know is to lead us to make a plan. The plan helps us ask, "How will I integrate what I have come to know into my life with practical steps?" What excites you or concerns you about making a plan? Why?

4. Remember that if the change you are making relates to your life in ways that we don't always think of as spiritual, such as health, relationships, or finances, it is essential to prioritize spending time with God in His Word and prayer. The plan you map out with God will only succeed if you continue to put Him first. Is anyone in the group at a place where they can share the plan God is beginning to direct you to implement? Share how your group members can support you on the journey.

**Read Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-26:**

*I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

5. Our destiny is to be like Christ in every aspect of our life—how we think, act, and feel. Jesus is praying for it, working on it, and has a plan to accomplish it. What would you be like if you were more like Jesus?
6. Does it encourage you that this is God's plan for you?
7. This week we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Jacob's Well. How has God impacted your life at Jacob's Well? How is God leading you now in your walk with Him through His work in His church?

Take time to pray for your group members and this time of Renewal.







**“KNOW”  
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

**WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021**



**WEEK**

**4**

**“KNOW” MESSAGE**  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

**NOTES**

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## MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021

The week’s memory work is **John 17:1-5**:

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”*

The memory work this week is made up of five verses. Today focus on reciting verse one “When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you’” Set a timer throughout the day to remind yourself to practice reciting verse one.

The “know” of the vision statement of Jacob’s Well (“Wherever we are on our journey, we will take steps together to know and become like Jesus”) and the next step on the Journey Tool (know) are two aspects of growth in our relationship with God. To first know Jesus in a relationship, we grow to learn who He is in the Scriptures, prayer, attending church, and alongside others. Knowing Jesus helps us realize we are known, valued, and loved by God.

We also come to know Jesus by making Him part of all aspects of our life. We come to know Him by walking with Him every day. He wants to be involved in our daily life choices and behaviors as much as He wants to meet us by going to church and reading the Bible and praying. To know Christ is to walk with Christ. This is the deepest meaning of salvation. Jesus wants to bring salvation to every part of life. He wants to transform us into good people from whom good things naturally flow. He wants to change the way we think, feel, and act through our relationship with Him. God loves us so much as His child that He has given us His Son and His Holy Spirit.

# WEEK

# 4

“KNOW” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

CONTINUED...

**John 14:16-17**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

Know, the next step on the Journey Tool begins when we live our identity as a child of God. We move from trying hard on our own to be good to living free in Christ. We learn the grace of God as we try softer and different as we partner with the Holy Spirit, who is already at work in us. The Holy Spirit helps us to know Jesus further and become like Him over time, step by step on the journey.

Do you know where you are in your journey? If you don't, let God guide you in this time of Renewal.

If you know where you are in your journey, what concerns you or excites you about where you are?

Wherever you are is entirely okay because, at Jacob's Well, we take steps together. Renewal is a time to support one another as we discover where we are on our journey and our individual next step.

Do you know that from the beginning of Jacob's Well, the church's mission has been to help people discover where they are on their journey and to help them take steps to know and become like Jesus? As we celebrate Jacob's Well's 20th anniversary this week, how have you come to know Jesus in a deeper relationship through God's work in His church?

**Pray:**

“*O Sovereign and almighty Lord, bless all thy people, and all thy flock. Give thy peace, thy help, thy love unto us thy servants, the sheep of thy fold, that we may be united in the bond of peace and love, one body and one spirit, in one hope of our calling, in thy divine and boundless love.*”

**Liturgy of St Mark**

## TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021

The week’s memory work is **John 17:1-5**. It is made up of five verses. Today focus on reciting verses one and two:

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.”*

Set a timer throughout the day to remind yourself to repeat the verses. Knowing where we are on our journey does not mean we know exactly where we are going. The act of seeking God to know Him and know where He is guiding us is a process that takes time.

**Hebrews 11:8** says,

*By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

We learn through Abraham that God will help us discover where we are on the journey, but He doesn’t give an immediate complete and clear picture of how He will work in us and in our life to guide us to know and become like Jesus on our journey with Him. Abraham’s story helps us learn to believe God and to have a favorable view of the future, even when the future is not clear. We know the Holy Spirit is at work to change us, but all we may see is the present moment. Knowing Jesus gives us the security to follow Him in the journey through all the ups, downs, twists, and turns of life. Belief helps us trust God on the journey, taking one step at a time forward in faith.

**Hebrews 11:1**

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

**John 6:28-29:**

*Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”*

All change begins with belief:

- The belief God loves us.
- The belief that God can change us.
- The belief that God is good and the change He has for us will bring life, health and peace.

God is your Father, and He loves you. Do you have faith God loves you? Say the following statement out loud three times:

*God, You are my Father, and I receive Your love and acceptance for me.*

# WEEK

# 4

“KNOW” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

## CONTINUED...

### **John 20:30-31**

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

The Father has gifted you the Holy Spirit. Do you have faith the Holy Spirit is at work in you? Say the following statement out loud three times:

*Holy Spirit, I receive You, and I believe You are working to transform me to think, feel and act like Jesus.*

### **Titus 3:4-7**

*But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

How does the hope of who we are in Christ and our future life with Him help you pursue God in the uncertainties of today as He leads you in your journey to know and become like Jesus?

Read **1 John 5:20**. In March of 2001, when Jacob's Well launched in Delong Middle School, the church followed God in faith. Through the first five years of its existence, every year brought uncertainty as the church waited to see if the school district would renew their lease. The church moved from Delong Middle School to Altoona High School to South Middle School and back to Altoona High School before God opened the door for the land where the church now has its home. Even with the land in place, so many pieces had to come together for the building's first phase.

As we celebrate the church's 20th anniversary this week, let the faithfulness of God for His church bring you comfort as you work through the Know section of the Journey Tool. God gives us the guidance we need to keep moving forward in the journey even though we do not have all the answers. Seeking God helps us keep moving forward in faith one small step at a time.

Pray for God to strengthen your faith during this time of Renewal.

# WEEK

# 4

“KNOW” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

The week’s memory work is **John 17:1-5**. It is made up of five verses. Today focus on reciting verses one, two, and three:

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*

Set a timer throughout the day to remind yourself to repeat the verses.

In our relationship with God, we will grow to know His next step for us in our journey. His ways give us a path that we can see as we know Him.

**Psalm 16:11:** *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

**Psalm 25:4:** *Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.*

**Proverbs 2:6:** *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

**Psalm 119:105:** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Know is the section of the Journey Tool to investigate and confirm how we believe God is leading us. We start with the Scriptures, pray, journal, contemplate where we are in the journey, and God begins to show us our next step. He reveals the path in front of us. In this process, it is helpful to talk with trusted mentors and friends. Having deep conversations with those we trust, praying, and seeking God together, helps us confirm how we believe God is leading us in our journey.



# WEEK

# 4

## “KNOW” MESSAGE WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

### CONTINUED...

- Why is it essential to test what we believe to what the Scriptures say?
- How do you confirm what you believe God is telling you to do?

Now is the time to create a plan for the next step in the journey. As you start to see how God leads, sit with Him, and map out a plan for change. In the plan, make sure you resolve to have fun in the process with God. Connect with Him in love. Seek others who will help you in the journey. The thought of change can overwhelm us, but remember Jesus is at work in you through the Holy Spirit. Be inspired to learn a new path with Him rather than focus on a problem.

The plan you map out with God will only succeed if you continue to put Him first. In the practice of doing what you feel He is calling you to do to know and become like Jesus, plan practical steps but set a priority of spending time with God in His Word and prayer above all else. Create space for reflection to talk with Him about how you see His Spirit at work in you.

Pray for wisdom on how best to practice the new skill, replace the unhealthy behavior, or attend to the change. You will need time to actively apply what God teaches you so that the head knowledge acquired moves to action and experience.

What is God showing you about where you are on your journey, and what your next step is through Renewal?

### Pray

“Lord, thou hast given us thy Word for a light to shine upon our path; grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

**Jerome, c 342 - 420**

# WEEK

# 4

“KNOW” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

## THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

The week’s memory work is **John 17:1-5**. It is made up of five verses. Today focus on reciting verses one, two, three and four:

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*

Set a timer throughout the day to remind yourself to repeat the verses.

Meditate on these verses:

**Romans 8:28-30:** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

**Ephesians 1:18:** *[H]aving the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.*

God has a plan to complete His work in us. One day we will be glorious in His Presence, living fully as He created us to be. Contemplate our future reality for eternity with God. What is our destiny in Him?

How does contemplating who we are becoming now and who we will be for eternity give you hope for today?

# WEEK

# 4

“KNOW” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Meditate on **Romans 8:31-39**:

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

What do you learn about how God is for us through **Romans 8:31-39**?

To follow God on the path He is leading us, requires us to believe He is for us and not against us.

Do you believe God is for you? Why or why not?

God has worked for the good of His people in community at Jacob's Well these last 20 years. If you are struggling to understand how God is for you, let the evidence of God at work in the lives of His people encourage you forward in your journey to know and become like Jesus:

Pray:

“May God the Father bless us; may Christ take care of us; the Holy Ghost enlighten us all the days of our life. The Lord be our defender and keeper of body and soul, both now and forever, to the ages of ages.”

**Æthelwold c 908-984**

## FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

The week’s memory work is **John 17:1-5**. It is made up of five verses. Today focus on reciting verses one, two, three and four:

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*

### Read John 17

Knowing and becoming like Christ is a lifelong process. God will work to change our attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors over time. We will begin to think and act more like Jesus because we partner with Him in His work. The fantastic gift of **John 17** is that in verses **20-26**, Jesus is praying for us to live out our faith. He is praying for us to have unity and love in His name, so we reflect Him to the world as individuals and as His church.

Take a few minutes to contemplate Jesus praying for you and all believers.

The past twelve months have required us to withdraw from one another for health reasons. During this Lenten season, we need to reengage in the process of spiritual growth together. We need to renew our commitment to walk alongside one another in our journey to know and become like Christ.

Over the last 20 years at Jacob’s Well, the church’s heart has been to create focused times to help the church’s attendees know and become like Jesus. Renewal is unique, but this season’s goals at Jacob’s Well are the goals the church has had from its inception.

# WEEK

# 4

“KNOW” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

CONTINUED...

These are Pastor Paul's words from the first Jacob's Well Membership Class 20 years ago:

*Welcome! The staff and I are delighted that you chose to attend this session of Membership at the Well. We believe Jacob's Well is all about changed lives. That is why our church exists. We have a core conviction that when people take steps to get closer to God, they are changed, and they become change agents in this world.*

*Our hope is that you would come to know Christ and would better come to know the people and staff at Jacob's Well. And that you would have a clear picture of what this church is all about. Our goal is not to get you to become a member of Jacob's Well. Our goal is that you would be able to identify and take your next step towards God.*

*Most of you have come to Membership at the Well because you believe that was your Next Step towards God. If your next step is to make a commitment to become a member of the Well, we would be delighted. If God leads you in another direction, we will also delight that you are moving closer to God. So, I encourage you to participate, listen, have fun, pray, ask lots of questions (we love questions) as we take our next steps toward God together.*

*Enjoy the Journey, Paul*

During Renewal, God may be leading you to become a member of the church. If so, ask for the date for the next membership class. Maybe your next step is baptism. At Jacob's Well we call people to baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation. If you have received Christ as your Lord and Savior, baptism is a symbol of the new life you have been given in Christ. It is a time to publicly profess your faith. Ask about the date for the next baptism class. If neither of these steps are your next ones on the journey, how might God be leading you in your walk through His work in His church Jacob's Well?

# WEEK

# 4

“KNOW” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

## SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021

Today try and recite John 17:1-5 by memory:

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

Growing to know God’s will and wholeheartedly following Him is an opportune time for the enemy to work against the people of God.

**1 Peter 5:8** *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Spiritual warfare is a real threat on the journey, especially as we seek to know and become like Christ. Part of the process in know is recognizing how the enemy might be at work to stop us in our pursuit of Christ. The devil wants us to quit. He does not want us to experience more of God and grow in-depth in our relationship with the Father. The devil does not want us to change, and He does not want others to see God at work in us as individuals and the church.

Running our race means we do not give up when it gets hard, but we pray for His strength, and we keep going, not trying harder but by trusting God over our fear. We do not need to be afraid of the enemy at work against us, but we do need to be diligent in our pursuit of God. We will grow to know Jesus more deeply in the fight of faith, because God is with us. He will never leave us. He is at work in us, but we will miss seeing how He carries us if we rely on our strength instead of His or if we give up when it gets hard. Change in Jesus is life-giving. As we go through the process of change in Him, circling around and around the steps of the Journey Tool, we will continue to grow and find the abundant life Jesus promises in **John 10:10** “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

# WEEK

# 4

“KNOW” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 7, 2021

## CONTINUED...

During Legacy, Pastor Paul reminded us that:

- As Christians we believe that there is a God who steps into our reality and says: I am the Creator of this universe and I designed everything for a masterful purpose. I define by my nature and character what is noble, pure, right, good and beautiful. I have revealed myself through the design and order of the universe. I have further revealed myself through my Son Jesus as described in the Scriptures.
- I made you on purpose and by design. This means: You are not alone. You do not need to face the very real terrors of this universe by yourself. God almighty is with you. I am with you and I have given you each other to love, support and fight together.
- You are a creation of immeasurable worth. I have made you in my image and your value is seen in the effort I put forth to reveal myself to you and the price I paid for you by sending my Son.
- You are created to be an agent of the good and beautiful. You have a purpose that is worth fighting for. You are to stand against the terror of this universe and the evil that has been unleashed. Your work will be remembered and built upon for all eternity. The small things you do now are the seeds that grow in eternity.

How do Paul's words encourage you? Spend time in prayer.

## Pray

*Lord, be with us this day, within us to purify us; above us to draw us up; beneath us to sustain us; before us to lead us; behind us to restrain us; around us to protect us.*

**Patrick c389-461**

# Kids

# in the KNOW



## VERSE CHALLENGE



Grab a dry erase marker and write this week's Bible verse on your bathroom and/or bedroom mirror.

Practice learning it together!

*And this is eternal life: that people can know you, the only true God, and that they can know Jesus, the one you sent.*

**John 17:3 ERV**

# FAMILY PRAYERS



“Jesus, thank you that you want us to know You and have a friendship with You. As we spend time with you, help us grow to know You more. Change our hearts, attitudes, and actions so that we become examples of You.” Amen

## SALVATION PRAYER

If your child wants to know more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus and be part of God's family forever; check out question #1 on this great video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0kzf9fHcKY>

Starts at 0:31 ends at 3:54



# Table Talk QUESTIONS



If you could spend the afternoon with any person from history, who would you choose and why?

God wants us to know Him so that we can be like Him. What are some ways you can get to know God better?

Who are some people in your life who can help you keep learning and knowing more about God?



Check out our JW Kids webpage for this week's JW Kids' lesson, devotion, and other great resources for your family!

JW Students can follow along and interact with the Renewal study each week on the Jacob's Well App, our Student Life Podcast, our JW Students webpage and our social media accounts.

 **STUDENTS**

# STORIES ABOUT GIVING



"IT'S NOT A HARDSHIP WHEN  
YOU TITHE. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT  
STEWARDSHIP, IT'S REALLY  
AN OPPORTUNITY."

—MARTY & JULIE STROMBERGER

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS

5

**GROUP  
CURRICULUM**

**FOR THE WEEK of  
MARCH 14, 2021**



# WEEK

# 5

**GROUP CURRICULUM**  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## READ OUT LOUD TOGETHER

### **Philippians 2:12-13**

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

1. In the day-to-day experience with God, long-term change takes place. Discuss how this is true.
2. Discuss how God has been at work to change you from who you were when you first gave your life to Him, to now.
3. How is experience different from a focused effort to fix a problem or change a habit?
4. Why is vulnerability necessary in the experience of change?
5. How does self-reflection protect us from becoming prideful in the journey?

# WEEK

# 5

**GROUP CURRICULUM**  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

6. What different tools have you used to discover more of how God created you? What has been the most helpful? Why?
  
7. Why is self-awareness an essential part of spiritual growth?
  
8. Applying God's truth to our lives is meant to be life-giving. Discuss the names of God in Friday's work for the week. Share which name of God is most meaningful to you right now.
  
9. Discuss how our most significant places of failure can be the place in which God works through us the most. Why is this important to remember during the Experience step on the Journey Tool?
  
10. Take time to pray for your group members and this time of Renewal.



A large, semi-transparent number '50' is positioned on the left side of the page. The background is a gradient of orange and red, with a dynamic splash of water in the lower right corner.

**“EXPERIENCE”  
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

**WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021**





# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

# NOTES

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# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Philippians 2:12-13**:

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

Create simple drawings to represent a few of the words in the memory work.

Write out the verses with what you created to help you begin to memorize the words.

This week in the Journey Tool is the week we study the nature of what it means to experience change. At this point in Renewal, you may not have identified with God what you desire Him to help you change, but this week provides information on how to experience change in the journey.

Experience looks like taking the plan you created for change and implementing the steps into your life. Experience is the time in which you start to do the work of change in partnership with God.

**Philippians 1:6** *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

God commits to complete His work in us. He is asking us to commit to Him too.

How committed are you to partner with God for change on your spiritual journey?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that the wide road is the popular path. The wide road starts easy and then gets hard. In the same respect, there is a narrow road that very few people choose on the journey. The narrow road is more challenging to discover. It starts hard and gradually becomes easier as we partner with Jesus for growth and change. As

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Christ-followers, we are to be committed to the narrow road as referenced in Matthew 7:12-14 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. ‘Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.’”

The narrow road is where our relationship with the Lord gives us the courage to begin to do the thing God is calling us to do. Remember, this is not the place we try harder; it is the place to partner in a relationship with God to experience change and spiritual growth.

What does becoming more committed in your spiritual journey look like in practical terms?

## Pray:

“Lord, because you have made me, I owe you the whole of my love; because you have redeemed me, I owe you the whole of myself; because you have promised so much, I owe you my whole being. Moreover, I owe you as much more love than myself as you are greater than I, for whom you gave yourself and to whom you promised yourself. I pray you, Lord, make me taste by love what I taste by knowledge; let me know by love what I know by understanding. I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you. Draw me to you, Lord, in the fullness of your love. I am wholly yours by creation; make me all yours, too, in love.”

**Anselm 1033-1109**

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021

Use the simple drawings you created yesterday to represent a few of the words in Philippians 2:12-13 to continue to practice the memory work. Write out the verses and see how much you can do by memory.

The week’s memory work is **Galatians 6:7-9**:

*Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

Planting the seeds of change requires us to press on with God as we wait for the seeds to take root and grow. Experience takes what we know at a cognitive level and lets it touch our thoughts, feelings, emotions, behaviors, and other areas of our life, and that takes time. In experience we are opening up to God’s influence and committing to Him in the journey. God will mold our attitudes, perspectives, behaviors, habits, values, and character as we open up to Him more and more, letting Him plant and water the seeds as we partner with Him in the journey.

How is experience different from a focused effort to fix a problem or change a habit?

Last week you started creating a plan for your next step in the journey. How did you design your plan to have fun and connect with God in the process?

It seems it would be easier if God would download the skills we need into our brain, but He sets His Spirit in our soul for experience with Him. Real change happens in relationship with God, but the tricky part is that we have to keep working and wait for the change to grow.

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

CONTINUED...

### Philippians 3:12-14

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

As you think about change in the journey, what obstacles stop you? Do you make excuses, focus on past failures, listen to discouraging voices, stay too busy, or possibly live emotionally exhausted?

God is calling us to be trees that bear fruit. Bearing fruit requires the self-discipline to stay focused on God and His work by His Holy Spirit.

How can you better experience the Holy Spirit’s power and guidance in your life as you partner with God to change?

### Read Matthew 7:15-27

The Holy Spirit will bear the good fruit in us, but the Holy Spirit requires our participation. Spend time in prayer. What is God revealing to you?

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Philippians 2:12-13**, Recite the two verses as best as you can by memory.

There is a misperception in the North American Christian mindset that growth occurs when people of faith ignore their feelings. However, without intention to the underlying whys of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, Christ-followers will continue to live from places of defeat. Emotions shape behavior, whether Christians want them to or not.

Change requires honesty and vulnerability. Experience requires us to admit what is going on inside of us. Experience entails being real about our brokenness, disappointments, and limitations. If we feel threatened by being open and honest with God, trusted mentors, and friends, we will stop the process of change.

As we are honest with God, He meets us where we are. He hears our prayers and helps us see how change is possible in Him. We walk with Him in love, asking Him how change will best occur in us. He knows us better than we know ourselves.

Why is vulnerability necessary in the experience of change?

When we take the step of vulnerability, we become more self-aware. Self-awareness is a crucial part of change. We identify our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors with God. We accurately articulate our place in the journey without condemnation and shame. Romans 8:1 says, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Self-reflection with God helps us receive His grace, which is essential when applying God’s wisdom and spiritual truth to our life. John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Self-reflection with God also helps us look at ourselves with honesty. We experience the internal work of the Spirit, helping us understand our blind spots. We see with God’s eyes the places He is at work.

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

In the same respect, Jesus reminds us of the importance of focusing on the work He is about in our life rather than focusing on the change we believe needs to happen in others.

## Luke 6:41-43

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.

How does self-reflection protect us from becoming prideful in the journey?

Spend some time in prayer and self-reflection with God.

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Philippians 2:12-13**, Write the two verses as best as you can by memory.

Self-awareness is a crucial part of change. Understanding how we learn and best experience change is essential. Here are a few suggestions for you to try:

Spiritual Gifts Assessment [www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service](http://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service)

Myers-Briggs [www.mbtonline.com/](http://www.mbtonline.com/)

The Four Tendencies [quiz.gretchenrubin.com/](http://quiz.gretchenrubin.com/)

The Enneagram [www.yourenneagramcoach.com/](http://www.yourenneagramcoach.com/)

The 5 Love Languages [www.5lovelanguages.com/](http://www.5lovelanguages.com/)

Clifton Strengths (formerly known as Strengths Finders) [www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths/](http://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths/)

The Powerful Purpose of Introverts [holleygerth.com/](http://holleygerth.com/)

The more we learn about ourselves, the more we can partner with God as He works inside us for growth and change.

The more information we have creates an awareness of our strengths and weaknesses. Understanding who God created us to be, helps us identify what we best need for growth, recognizing where we are prone to get off track so we can develop our plan accordingly.

Take time to investigate the different tools provided. If this is something you have already done in your journey, go back and revisit what you learned.

How do you best learn?

How do you best experience spiritual growth and change with God?



# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

In learning more about ourselves, we also become aware of how our behavior affects others. We understand how to better live love as God calls us to.

**John 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

## Pray:

“Heavenly Father, Thank You for grace. Please help me move beyond the hurdles that trip me up and give me the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope I run toward in Christ. Please give me the awareness to understand my strengths and weaknesses. Help me create a plan with you to grow and change as you desire. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Philippians 2:12-13**. Recite the two verses as best as you can by memory to a family member or friend. Have them help you with any parts you can’t remember.

Sometimes we believe change will not happen for us. We do not think we are strong enough or good enough to experience change. When this happens, we need to focus on God because change comes by His strength and goodness, not our own. For this reason, today, we are going to look at the names of God.

Study some of the names of God. Highlight the names of God you most need right now in your journey.

**Jehovah - The Self Existent One, I AM** (Isaiah 40:3, 1 Samuel 1:20; Exodus 3:1-22 and 6:1-4; John 6:35, 8:12, 10:7, 11:25, and 14:6)

**Jehovah Tsidkenu - The Lord our Righteousness** (Genesis 15:6, Jeremiah 23:6 and 33:16, Psalm 4:1, 5:8, 24:5, 31:1, 36:10; Matthew 6:33, Romans 4:22, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Philippians 3:9)

**Jehovah M’Kaddesh - The Lord who Sanctifies** (Exodus 31:13 and Leviticus 20:8)

**Jehovah Shalom - The Lord is Peace** (Genesis 49:10, Judges 6:23-24, Psalm 4:8, 29:11; Proverbs 16:7; Isaiah 26:3 and 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

**Jehovah Shammah - The Lord is There** (Genesis 28:15, Ezekiel 48:35, Psalm 23:4, 46:1, 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Amos 5:14; Matthew 18:20; John 14:16-17; Acts 7:48-49, 17:24-28)

**Jehovah Rapha - The Lord Heals** (Exodus 15:26, 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 6:2, 41:4, 103:3, 147:3; Isaiah 19:22, 30:36; Jeremiah 3:22, 17:14; Matthew 8:7 and Luke 4:18)

**Jehovah Jireh - The Lord will Provide** (Genesis 22:1-18)

**Jehovah Raah - The Lord our Shepherd** (Genesis 48:15, 49:24, Psalm 23:1, 80:1; 95:7, Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 34:12; Matthew 25:32; John 10:11-27; Hebrews 13:20-21; and 1 Peter 2:25)

**Jehovah Nissi - The Lord our Banner** (Exodus 17:15)

**Jehovah Sabaoth - The Lord of Hosts** (Isaiah 6:3, 1 Samuel 1:3 and 11, 17:45; 2 Samuel 6:2 and 18, 7:27; 1 Kings 19:14; 2 Kings 3:14; 1 Chronicles 11:9; Psalm 24:10,

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

48:8, 80:4, 80:19, 84:3, Isaiah 1:24, 3:15, 5:16, 6:5, 9:19, 10:26, 14:22; Jeremiah 9:15, 48:1; Hosea 12:5; Amos 3:13; Micah 4:4; Nahum 3:5; Haggai 1:5 and 2:6; Zechariah 1:3; Malachi 1:6; Habakkuk 2:13; Zephaniah 2:9; Romans 9:29, James 5:4, 2 Corinthians 6:18, and Revelation 1:8)

**Elohim - The Triune God, Creator** (Genesis 1:1-3, 3:3; Isaiah 40:28-31, 54:5; Psalm 19:1-6, 33:6, 95:6; Nehemiah 9:17; Job 38:1-41, 39:1-30, and 40:1; Hebrews 1:8 and 11:3) (<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H430>)

**El Deah - The God of Knowledge** (1 Samuel 2:3; Romans 11:33-36, and 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

**El Elyon - God Most High** (Genesis 14:18-22; Psalm 57:2, 61:2, 78:35, and 92:1, and Daniel 7:25)

**El Shaddai - The Almighty, All-Sufficient God** (Genesis 17:1-19, 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3; Exodus 6:2-3; Ruth 1:20; Job 5:17; Ezekiel 10:5 and Psalm 91:1)

**El Olam - The Everlasting God** (Genesis 3:22, 21:33; Psalm 90:1-2, 93:2; Jeremiah 10:10; and Isaiah 9:6, 26:4 and 40:28)

**El Roi - The God who Sees** (Genesis 16:1-16 and Psalm 33:18-19)

**Adonai - Lord and Master** (Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 2:4, 8:1, 97:5, 136:3; Isaiah 1:24, 6:1; Romans 10:9) (<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=h136>)

**Yahweh - Lord, Jehovah** (<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H3068>)

**Abba - Father** (Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6)

**Alpha and Omega** (Revelation 1:8, 1:11, 21:6, and 22:13)

**The Ancient of Days** (Isaiah 46:9-10, Daniel 7:9, 13-14)

Spend time in prayer. Ask God to make known to you who He truly is in Scripture. Ask Him to help you believe Him and to follow Him in perseverance and faith in what He is revealing to you in Renewal.

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Philippians 2:12-13**. Recite the two verses several times to ensure you have them memorized.

A new thought pattern, behavior, or another pathway for change is fun initially, but it may become a challenging routine during the experience part of the journey. For this reason, it is essential that the routine not be the central focus. Focus on Jesus and the fruit He is growing in you by His Spirit. There is a danger in us doing the activity completely in our strength and power. That is why Jesus said we could do nothing without Him.

**John 15:5** *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

If you imagine a perfect life as we partner with Christ in His work in us and through us, please remember God’s ways are not our ways. We will experience good and bad times in life, but the key is staying connected with God in a relationship despite the ups, downs, twists, and turns of life.

In 2 Corinthians 12:5-10, the Apostle Paul shares, “On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

At times in the journey, we will limp into experience. Rather than feeling empowered, we will expect failure. We may wonder why we are giving change another try, but this is

# WEEK

# 5

“EXPERIENCE” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 14, 2021

## CONTINUED...

where God shows His strength. In His love and grace, our most significant places of failure can be the place in which He works through us the most. If we are willing to meet Jesus in all of the challenging areas of our life, God will work to bring redemption. As we give Him everything, God will reclaim the most trying times of the journey as we let Him heal us. God’s strength shines His glory in our weaknesses. If we hold onto God, let Him work, trust Him and persevere, we will experience Him in ways we never imagined.

## Pray:

“Lord, I pray that You would teach me to yield myself to Your Spirit, Holy Spirit, teach me to trust You as a living person who leads my life and my prayers. Help me to understand your ministry and power. Help me to understand You as my Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, and Strengthener. I long to see a demonstration of Your power in my life just as the Apostle Paul did (1 Corinthians 2:2-5). I thank You that You indwell, seal, sanctify, and empower me. You guide me, teach me, and pray through me. Help me to partner with You in everything I do. Transform my life completely with Your power. Make me sensitive to Your promptings, and teach me to partner with You in prayer in a deeper way.”

**A Prayer for the Lost** <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/a-prayer-for-the-lost.html>

# Kids

# DON'T JUST SAY IT DO IT!

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaand.....GO!



## VERSE CHALLENGE



Grab a dry erase marker and write this week's bible verse on your bathroom and/or bedroom mirror.

Practice learning it together!

*It is God who is working in you.  
He helps you want to do what  
pleases him, and He gives you the  
power to do it.*

**John 17:3 ERV**

# FAMILY PRAYER

“God, thank you that you are always working in my life.  
Help me want to do what pleases You, and when it gets  
hard, give me the power and strength to do what you ask  
and to keep following You.”

Amen.

# Table Talk QUESTIONS



A wise man once said, "Character is what you do when no one is looking." Following God is a matter of the heart – doing what you know God would want you to, even if no one is watching.

Is it easy or hard to do the right thing when no one is watching?

If people see you doing the right thing, even when it's hard, what kind of impact might that make on them?



Check out our JW Kids webpage for this week's JW Kids' lesson, devotion, and other great resources for your family!

JW Students can follow along and interact with the Renewal study each week on the Jacob's Well App, our Student Life Podcast, our JW Students webpage and our social media accounts.

 **STUDENTS**

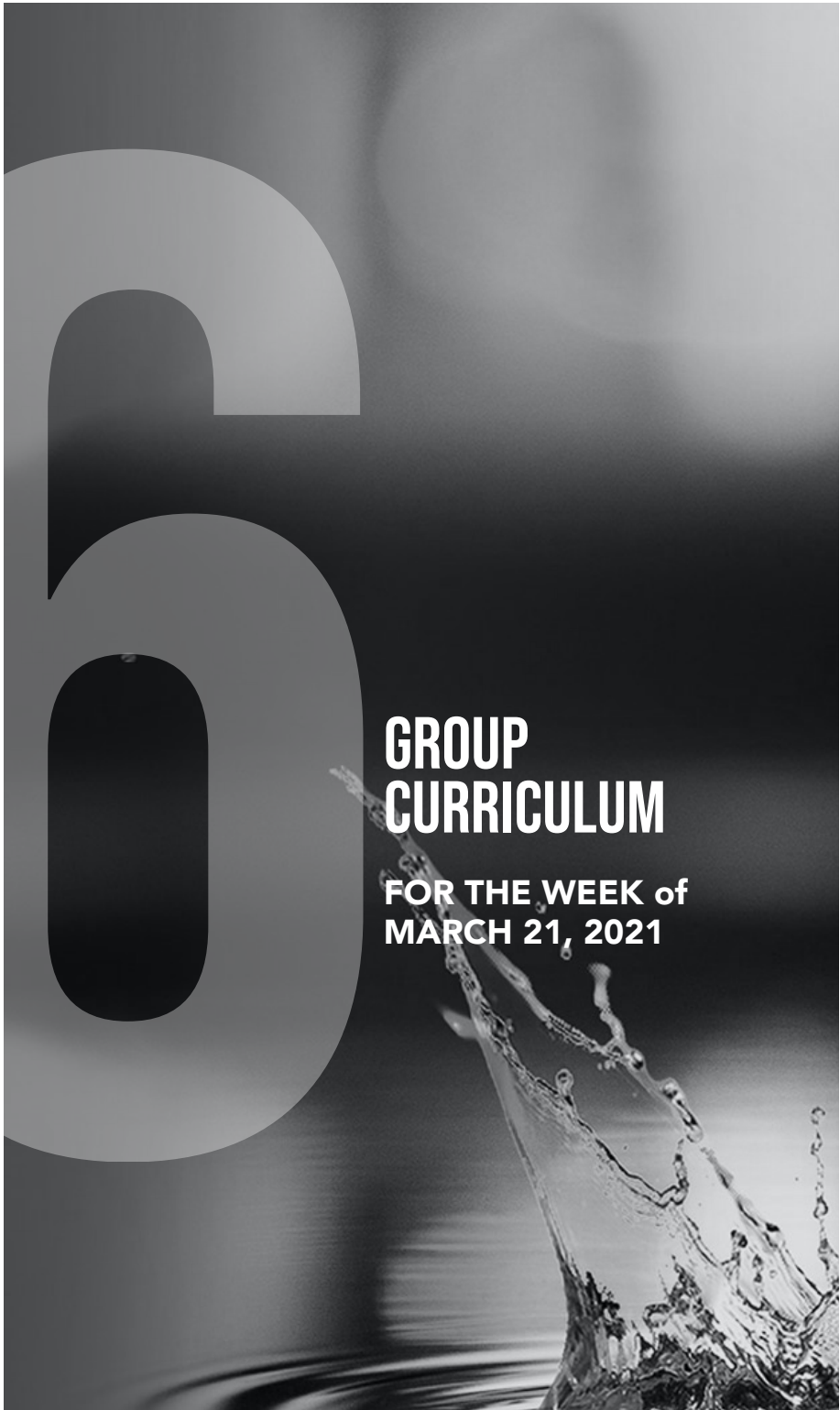
# THE ANDERSON FAMILY'S STORY



"THE COOL THING IS, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO SERVE TOGETHER"

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN  
CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS





66

**GROUP  
CURRICULUM**

**FOR THE WEEK of  
MARCH 21, 2021**

## READ OUT LOUD TOGETHER

**Philippians 3:7-16**

*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order 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 comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.*

1. Fruit-bearing in God's kingdom often requires much work before we see significant results. Because depth is the place in the journey where we begin to see God's fruit, why is it essential we persevere to a place of depth?
2. Depth calls us to move away from the places we once settled for satisfaction, looking to experience God more and more. What might you be settling for instead of pursuing a better way to depth in God?
3. Read the C.S. Lewis quote from *Weight of Glory* found on Tuesday, March 23rd. What happens when we recognize the Glory of God hidden in every person? What changes in how we treat ourselves and others?
4. Why is depth a place of growth rather than a place of arrival?

# WEEK

# 6

**GROUP CURRICULUM**  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021

5. How do we protect ourselves from pride as we come alongside others in depth?
6. Have you experienced a time of serve in which God worked to provide for you or for you to provide for someone else? What happened?
7. In depth, we experience freedom! Celebrate God at work in the members of your group. Take time to share how God is working in Renewal.
8. Celebrate with God together in prayer. Thank Him for His work. Thank Him for His love and grace.





**“DEPTH”  
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

**WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021**



# WEEK

# 6

**“DEPTH” MESSAGE**  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021

# NOTES

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## MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Philippians 3:13-14**

*Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Write out the memory work using a separate notecard for each word. Shuffle the notecards and work to place the cards in the correct order. Keep the notecards and use them to practice the Scripture throughout the week.

Fruit-bearing in God’s kingdom often requires much work before we see significant results. Depth is the place in the journey where we begin to see God’s fruit.

**Romans 6:21-23** *But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

In depth, we gradually begin thinking, feeling, and acting like Jesus. We begin living out our status as God’s children and our destiny in Him.

In C.S. Lewis’ essay “The Weight of Glory,” preached as a sermon in England in 1942 he writes:

*Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*  
**<https://www.wheelersburg.net/Downloads/Lewis%20Glory.pdf>**



# WEEK

# 6

“DEPTH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021

## CONTINUED...

Depth calls us to move away from the places where we once found satisfaction, looking to experience God more and more. What might you be settling for instead of pursuing a relationship with God?

Pursuing God in the depth of a relationship with Him, and as we partner with Him, we will seek the Holy Spirit at work in us producing fruit. It is vital to remember that we should not attempt to produce righteousness through our efforts in depth. If we believe we will think, feel, and act like Jesus only by our actions, we will put energy toward trying harder rather than living in reliance on God's strength.

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's power and guidance in your life to know and become like Jesus?

Be encouraged! This is depth!

## Pray:

“Heavenly Father, during this time of Renewal, please give me eyes to see how I am already partnering in a relationship with You to experience change and spiritual growth.”

## TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Philippians 3:13-14**. Yesterday you wrote out the memory work using a separate notecard for each word. Shuffle the notecards and practice putting the words in order.

What if I told you there are no ordinary people in this world? How would you respond?

Yesterday we discussed a quote from C.S. Lewis’ essay “The Weight of Glory.” Near the end of the same essay, Lewis writes:

*It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously—no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption. And our charity must be a real and costly love, with deep feeling for the sins in spite of which we love the sinner—no mere tolerance or indulgence which parodies love as flippancy parodies merriment. Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbor he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ vere latitat—the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden.*

**<https://www.wheelersburg.net/Downloads/Lewis%20Glory.pdf>**

# WEEK

# 6

“DEPTH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021

## CONTINUED...

A person growing deep in their relationship with God recognizes His image in themselves and every person they meet.

Not only do they desire to live their future in Christ, but they also want to lead others to the same. Because they see the significance of every person, they decide: “I will not hurt, exploit, use, degrade, or mock anyone. In heaven, this person is going to be awesome. I need to value the person in front of me because of who they are in God.”

Imagine the profound difference when we recognize the Glory of God hidden in every person. What would change in how we treat ourselves and others when we live this truth?

Sit quietly with God. Take a few deep breaths and settle into silence.

1. Close your eyes and offer these prayers several times, allowing God full access into your being.
2. **Pray:** “Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, please help me recognize You in me.”
3. **Pray:** “Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, please help me recognize You in others.”

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

The week's memory work is **Philippians 3:13-14**. Shuffle the notecards you made on Monday and practice putting the words in order.

**Psalm 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

It takes courage to allow God to search us, but depth in Him requires that we ask. Let this prayer guide you into His Presence. "The Examen Prayer" is a tool to complete in the evening. It is a time to ask God openly and honestly if His truth is defining who you are as you contemplate your day with Him in love.

**The Examen Prayer**

Taken from The Examen Prayer - Timothy Gallagher

**Introduction to the Examen**

- Growth in relationship with God occurs through revelation.
- The Examen is a way of praying that opens our eyes to God's daily self-revelation and increasingly clarifies our own responses to it.
- The Examen is something we ask God to do. It is not human achievement.
- The Examen is our way of being regularly available to God so that His love can heal our darkness and point the way toward spiritual growth.
- The Examen prayer seeks the awareness of God's daily leading in our lives.
- The Examen is NOT the self-evaluation of a heart in isolation but rather a conversation and dialogue between our heart and God.

**Transition**

- Begin the Examen by becoming aware of God's love. See John 1:48, Mark 2:14, Luke 7:13, Mark 10:21.

**Step One-Gratitude**

- By starting with gratitude, we open the window into the deepest reality of our spiritual lives: God's unbounded love for us and desire for our response.

**Step Two-Petition (Matthew 7:7 and John 14:13)**

- Step one teaches us that all we do and have comes from God.
- Petition is asking for the grace that alone can make our Examen fruitful, recognizing that even the rest of this prayer of the Examen is a gift from God.

## CONTINUED...

- Humbly and sincerely ask for the outpouring of God’s grace and love that enables us to do all things and so empowers us to practice the Examen.

### Step Three-Review

- We review our spiritual experience of the day and ask God to shine light on our experience so that we may remember it well.
- When experiencing desolation (heaviness), ask God for the cause.
- When experiencing consolation (energizing joy), ask “what is the Lord desiring me to do?”
- This step contains enormous potential for growth in our capacity to notice, understand, and respond fruitfully to the spiritual movements of our hearts and to increase knowing God’s love.
- Watch for possible invitations from the Lord for moral growth.

### Step Four-Forgiveness (Luke 15:20)

- This is the privileged daily space of the deep experience of knowing that we are loved and held by God in all our brokenness.
- In this step we reflect upon the times of our mistakes.
- Our asking for forgiveness is simply the gateway for God to respond with His loving embrace.

### Step Five- Renewal

- The first four steps have looked back from the perspective of the present. This step looks ahead.
- In this step look ahead to foresee and plan specifically how to respond to God’s call to growth.
- Which spiritual initiatives will lead most surely to growth?
- What specifically shall we undertake as we prepare for the coming day?
- Will we be able to live concretely the newness that we seek?
- This step will often - though not always - be concerned with seemingly small initiatives. small enough that they would be unnoticed by others.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021

The week's memory work is **Philippians 3:13-14**. Shuffle the notecards you made on Monday and continue to practice putting the words in order.

Each time we go to the point of depth with God in our journey, we experience Him in a way that continues to change us over time. Depth is not a point of arrival. Depth is a place of growth. Take a moment to consider this statement. Is this a new concept to you as a Christ-follower? Why or why not?

**Philippians 2:1-11:** *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

In book 3 of Mere Christianity in chapter 8, titled "The Great Sin," C.S. Lewis writes:

*Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. If everyone else became*

# WEEK

# 6

“DEPTH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021

CONTINUED...

*equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone. . . .*

*Whenever we find that our religious life is making us feel that we are good—above all, that we are better than someone else—I think we may be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the devil. . . .*

*Teachers, in fact, often appeal to a boy’s Pride, or as they call it, his self-respect, to make him behave decently: many a man has overcome cowardice, or lust, or ill-temper by learning to think they are beneath his dignity—that is, by Pride. The devil laughs. He is perfectly content to see you becoming chaste and brave and self-controlled provided, all the time, he is setting up in you the Dictatorship of Pride—just as he would be quite content to see your chilblains cured if he was allowed, in return, to give you cancer. For Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense.*

Anytime we love and admire anything more than we love and admire God, we are taking the wrong path. We can even love and admire our growth in God in such a way it becomes prideful. God wants us to know Him. He wants us to give Him ourselves. If we are growing, we will be authentic over arrogant. Arrogance invites others to look at us. Authenticity invites others to see the work God is doing in us.

How do we protect ourselves from pride as we come alongside others in depth? Spend time in prayer.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021

The week's memory work is **Philippians 3:13-14**. Shuffle the notecards you made on Monday and continue to practice putting the words in order.

Depth begins a process in which we invest in others. In Luke 22, Jesus takes the opportunity raised by the disciple's discord to teach about true greatness.

**Luke 22:24-27:** *A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.*

Depth is the place in the journey in which we recognize true greatness—a greater love for others. We genuinely care about people and their well-being.

In depth, we are not responsible for a person's needs. Instead, we are responsible for being obedient to God's leading. In love and humility, we listen to God and do what we feel He is calling us to do. This might look like picking up the phone to call someone when the Holy Spirit prompts us. It could be we feel compelled to bring groceries, a card, or something of this nature to someone. Maybe we feel God calling us to give our time: cleaning someone's home, fixing someone's vehicle, shoveling their snow, mowing their lawn, raking their leaves, giving financially, or praying for them as He leads.

Have you experienced a time of Serve in such a way?  
What happened?

Perhaps you have been on the receiving end of someone's service. How did another person bless you by following God's leading?



# WEEK

# 6

“DEPTH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021

CONTINUED...

**Galatians 5:13-14** *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

How is Serve a place in which we love our neighbor as ourselves? How might God be calling you to serve someone this week?

**Pray**

“Lord, I pray that You would teach me to yield myself to Your Spirit. Holy Spirit, teach me to trust You as a living person who leads my life and my prayers. Help me to understand your ministry and power. Help me to understand You as my Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, and Strengtheners. I long to see a demonstration of Your power in my life just as the Apostle Paul did (1 Corinthians 2:2-5). I thank You that You indwell, seal, sanctify, and empower me. You guide me, teach me, and pray through me. Help me to partner with You in everything I do. Transform my life completely with Your power. Make me sensitive to Your promptings and teach me to partner with You in prayer in a deeper way.”

**A Prayer for the Lost**

**<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/a-prayer-for-the-lost.html>**

## SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021

The week's memory work is **Philippians 3:13-14**. Shuffle the notecards you made on Monday and continue to practice putting the words in order.

**Read John 12:12-16**

Palm Sunday is when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry in riding into Jerusalem mounted on a donkey as prophesized in **Zechariah 9:9**. The waving of palm branches, which symbolically conveys victory over one's enemy, reveals the people's false understanding. The people believed Jesus would bring national deliverance from the Romans—Israel's political enemies. That is not why Jesus came.

**John 3:16-17** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

As we get ready to celebrate Palm Sunday tomorrow, let's celebrate the real victory we find in Christ.

**Luke 4:16-21**

*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

# WEEK

# 6

“DEPTH” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021

CONTINUED...

*And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*

(Jesus is reading **Isaiah 61** in these verses.)

In what ways do you see God giving you and those you know liberty in Him?

Take time to celebrate how God is at work in you and in those around you. Maybe write a note to someone you see God working in. Perhaps give them a call or send them a text. We can be incredibly hard on ourselves and others. God desires that we celebrate how He is at work, growing us to know and become like Jesus. Create a place to celebrate how God is at work in you and those you know. What would that look like?

In depth, we experience freedom! Celebrate with God in prayer. Thank Him for His work. Thank Him for His love and grace.

# Kids

## EYES ON THE PRIZE



## VERSE CHALLENGE

Write this verse on a post-it note or notecard and stick it in your car. Whenever you go somewhere, practice saying this verse together.

*I push myself forward toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Jesus himself.*

**Philippians 3:14 NIV**

What does this verse mean? Paul said we are in a race. It's not a foot race, but the race of life and Jesus is our finish line. Everyday, we must make up our mind to keep running the race and never give up. We are to keep learning about Jesus, pleasing Him, and doing what is right and good. There is a prize at the end of this race, and it is not just for one person but for everyone who stays in the race and makes it to the finish!

# FAMILY PRAYER



“Jesus, help us do our best to keep knowing you better, to please you and to do what’s good and right throughout life, just like a runner who does his best to win a race. Jesus, help us to keep our eyes on the prize and never give up.”

Amen.

# Table Talk QUESTIONS



Have you ever won a race/game/-contest? How did you feel when you won?

When you finish your race here on earth and see Jesus in Heaven, what do you want him to say to you?

As a family, how can you encourage each other to keep running the race towards Jesus?



Check out our JW Kids webpage for this week's JW Kids' lesson, devotion, and other great resources for your family!

JW Students can follow along and interact with the Renewal study each week on the Jacob's Well App, our Student Life Podcast, our JW Students webpage and our social media accounts.

 **STUDENTS**

# THE MAUER'S STORY



"FOR US TO HAVE OUR KIDS  
FOLLOWING IN THE FAITH  
IS SO IMPORTANT TO US"

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS



# **GROUP CURRICULUM**

**FOR THE WEEK of  
MARCH 28, 2021**

## READ OUT LOUD TOGETHER

### Hebrews 10:24-25

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

1. What does Christian community look like in practical terms?
2. What role has Christian community played in your spiritual development?
3. Read these quotes and discuss them one at a time:

*At times the strength of spiritual community lies in the love of people who refrain from getting caught in the trap of trying to fix everything for us, who pray for us and allow us the pain of our wilderness, our wants, so that we may be more deeply grounded in God.*

### Rosemary Dougherty

*God does not will that I should fashion the other person according to the image that seems good to me, that is, in my own image; rather in his very freedom from me God made this person in His image...To me the sight may seem strange, even ungodly. But God creates every man in the likeness of His Son, the Crucified. After all, even that image certainly looked strange and ungodly to me before I grasped it.*

### Dietrich Bonhoeffer

4. Your gifts, calling, and uniqueness in Christ are inadequate alone. When you join in community, serving alongside others, the body of Christ functions from all of its parts. Share stories of how serving in the community of Christ has helped you better know and become like Jesus.



5. Have you experienced a time in which you received the encouragement you needed in community to better follow Christ? What happened? Can you remember a time in which you encouraged someone in love in community to better follow Christ? What happened?
6. How has God worked to renew you and your group over the past seven weeks?
7. As we end this time together, share with one another:  
Where am I on my spiritual journey? What is my next step?  
How can your group continue to support one another on the journey?

### **Read Colossians 3:1-17**

#### **Pray**

*“Heavenly Father, when I put off my old self, realizing Christ is at work in me, I am being renewed. I begin to bear with one another, forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven me. I put on love, and I let the peace of Christ rule in my heart. I let the word of Christ dwell in me, doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to You the Father through Him. Help me live each day renewed by You.”*





**“COMMUNITY”  
MESSAGE & DEVOS**

**WEEKEND OF MARCH 28, 2021**



# WEEK

# 7

# NOTES

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**"COMMUNITY" MESSAGE**  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 28, 2021

## MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Use a familiar tune to turn the verse into a song. Use the music to help you memorize the verse this week.

God designed our lives as followers of Jesus to happen in community. For this reason, the strategy of spiritual growth must include this essential component. We need a group of people around us to offer support, encouragement, wisdom, and discernment on the journey. Significant life change does not happen without community because it is the setting in which we live out Biblical truth.

What does Christian community look like in practical terms?

Jesus lived in community with the disciples. The disciples came to know Jesus, and they became like Him as they watched Him live a life of love and service. In our day, an online community is not the answer. We are more connected digitally at this time in history, but liking one another’s posts is not real community. Community needs to be the place where we grow to know other Christ-followers, and they come to know us.

Christian community gives us a place to be vulnerable and have accountability. In committing to one another, we determine where we are on the journey and where we need to take a step. We help each other take our next step to know and become like Jesus.

How is Christian community the place in which real transformation in Christ occurs?

Are you currently in a small group? Are you working in close relationship with other Christ followers? Why or why not?

# WEEK

# 7

“COMMUNITY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 28, 2021

CONTINUED...

**Romans 12:9-18:** *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

Paul's words in Romans only become real in our lives in community. It is where we learn to love one another. It is the place we learn how to have difficult conversations and do the hard work of forgiveness. Community is hard, but it is the place of transformation.

What role has Christian community played in your spiritual development and your Christian formation?

Pray about what God is showing you today.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Use the song you created yesterday to help you memorize the verse.

*“At times the strength of spiritual community lies in the love of people who refrain from getting caught in the trap of trying to fix everything for us, who pray for us and allow us the pain of our wilderness, our wants, so that we may be more deeply grounded in God.”*

**Rosemary Dougherty**

*“God does not will that I should fashion the other person according to the image that seems good to me, that is, in my own image; rather in his very freedom from me God made this person in His image...To me the sight may seem strange, even ungodly. But God creates every man in the likeness of His Son, the Crucified. After all, even that image certainly looked strange and ungodly to me before I grasped it.”*

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Community is a place to offer support, encouragement, wisdom, and discernment in love. Christian community is the place we point one another back to Christ at work in us. It needs to be a safe place.

The Jacob’s Well Resource Center offers resources to discover health for ourselves and how to discern healthy people to walk with on the journey. Here are two excellent book examples:



CONTINUED...

## **Codependent No More: by Melody Beattie**

*In a crisis, it's easy to revert to old patterns. Caring for your well-being during the coronavirus pandemic includes maintaining healthy boundaries and saying no to unhealthy relationships. Is someone else's problem your problem? If, like so many others, you've lost sight of your own life in the drama of tending to someone else's, you may be codependent.*

## **Boundaries: by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend**

*Having clear boundaries is essential to a healthy, balanced lifestyle. A boundary is a personal property line that marks those things for which we are responsible. In other words, boundaries define who we are and who we are not. Boundaries impact all areas of our lives: Physical boundaries help us determine who may touch us and under what circumstances -- Mental boundaries give us the freedom to have our own thoughts and opinions -- Emotional boundaries help us to deal with our own emotions and disengage from the harmful, manipulative emotions of others -- Spiritual boundaries help us to distinguish God's will from our own and give us renewed awe for our Creator.*

Who are the positive and mature people you are walking with together in community?

How might you need to take a step to grow to be a better companion?

Who might you need to lovingly create space from so you can grow in your walk with God?

### **Pray**

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*

**James 1:5**

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021

The week's memory work is **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Use the song you created on Monday to help you continue to memorize the verse.

**1 Corinthians 12:12** *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

**Romans 12:3-5** *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

As we follow God's lead, service will encourage our spiritual growth. God's work in us through serving in community grows us on the journey and helps others grow. We need each other! Your gifts, calling, and uniqueness in Christ are inadequate alone. When you join in community, serving alongside others, the body of Christ functions from all of its parts. Thus, for the body to rightly function, every person is vital.

Have you discovered where God has uniquely created you to serve in the body of Christ? If not, here are two resources:

Uniquely You provides a spiritual gift and personality type profile for a small cost.

**<https://uniquelyyou.org/catalog/online-profiles/combined-profiles>**

You can also find a free Spiritual Gifts Assessment here

**<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>**

# WEEK

# 7

“COMMUNITY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 28, 2021

## CONTINUED...

How are you growing in your gifts to become a gift to others? If you are not offering your giftedness in community, what is holding you back?

True service is a lifestyle. We become available to God in community to grow from knowing how to act like a servant to actually becoming one like Jesus.

*“We were designed to love, and when we do, something good develops inside. We feel clean, rich, whole. Even better, we become less concerned with how we feel and more concerned with the lives of others.”*

**Larry Crabb**

Sit quietly with God. Take a few deep breaths and settle into silence.

1. Close your eyes and offer these prayers several times to God in Jesus, allowing His will and love full access in your being.
2. Pray, “Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, help me recognize how you have uniquely created me.”
3. Pray, “Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, help me recognize how You are teaching me to love and serve others.”
4. Pray, “Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, help me recognize You are calling me to become a servant like Jesus.”

## THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Use the song you created on Monday to help you continue to memorize the verse.

As we come alongside others in community, God calls us to stir each other up in love and good works. Sadly, the past year we witnessed too many of our brothers and sisters in Christ stirring one another up in discord. Instead, God calls us to contemplate how we can stir each other up to love and serve Him more.

What helps a person become more loving?

We cannot forsake coming together in community. We need to make community a priority. We also need to allow the hope we have in Christ to remind one another of the goodness and faithfulness of God as we come together. Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, “The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God’s Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged.”

Have you experienced a time in which you received the encouragement you needed in community? What happened?

Can you remember a time in which you encouraged someone who needed it? What happened?

We need to be people who encourage others to know and become like Jesus. We also need people around us who can encourage us on the journey to know and become like Jesus.

**Romans 1:11-12:** *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.*

## CONTINUED...

Growing to know and become like Christ also requires encouragement when we or others in our community have stepped off the path.

- Have you experienced a time in which you received the encouragement you needed to better follow Christ? What happened?
- Can you remember a time in which you encouraged someone in love to better follow Christ? What happened?
- How has God worked in you and through you in community?

## Pray

*“We hold before God: Those for whom life is very difficult; Those who have difficult decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do. We hold before God: Those who have difficult tasks to do and to face, and who fear they may fail in them; Those who have difficult temptations to face, and who know only too well that they may fall to them, if they try to meet them alone. We hold before God: Those who know that they can be their own worst enemies. We hold before God: Those who have difficult people to work with; Those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work. We hold before God: Those who are sad because someone they loved has died; and any who are disappointed in something for which they hoped very much.”*

**William Barclay**

## FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021

The week's memory work is **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

See if you can recite the verse by memory with or without using the song you created on Monday.

**Luke 23:32-43:** *Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'*

Today is Good Friday. Contemplate:

- Who in your life has helped you grow to know and believe how the crucifixion of Jesus gives you life?
- Who on the journey has listened to you when you have struggled with doubt in a time of thirst?

# WEEK

# 7

“COMMUNITY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 28, 2021

## CONTINUED...

- Who has helped you in a time of search, praying for you and encouraging you in the journey?
- Who is the person who comes alongside you and helps you clarify things when you have questions?
- Who is the person who encourages you when you are feeling down or when you have stepped off the path?
- Who is a person of depth for you in your life?

Take today to write a note or several notes to those in your community who have helped you most on the journey.

**1 John 4:7-12:** *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

Pray for the people who have best encouraged and loved you on the journey of knowing and becoming like Christ.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021

The week’s memory work is **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

See if you can recite the verse by memory with or without using the song you created on Monday.

*Mission-shaped church must have its mission shaped by hope; that the genuine Christian hope, rooted in Jesus’ resurrection, is the hope for God’s renewal of all things, for His overcoming of corruption, decay, and death, for His filling of the whole cosmos with His love and grace, His power and glory.” He goes on to write: “To be truly effective in this kind of mission, one must be genuinely and cheerfully rooted in God’s renewal.*

**N.T. Wright**

As we prepare to celebrate the hope we have in Jesus’ resurrection, imagine God’s renewal of all things. Picture God filling the whole of the cosmos with His love, grace, power, and glory. Visualize His overcoming corruption, decay, and death.

Contemplate the genuine hope we have in Christ.

How has God worked to genuinely and cheerfully root you in God’s renewal of His work in you and His work in the world over the past seven weeks?

How has God worked to bring you closer to others on the journey, walking together to help each other with our next step to know and become like Jesus?

What is God teaching you? What is He showing you?

**Read Colossians 3:1-17**



# WEEK

# 7

“COMMUNITY” MESSAGE  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 28, 2021

## CONTINUED...

In celebration of Easter and also the ending of Renewal, meditate on **Colossians 3:4**

*When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

Don't end this time with knowledge alone. Allow all God is teaching you to change you from the inside out. Live Renewal! Let Christ become your life more and more until the day you appear with Him in glory.

## Pray

“Heavenly Father, when I put off my old self, realizing Christ is at work in me, I am being renewed. I begin to bear with one another, forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven me. I put on love, and I let the peace of Christ rule in my heart. I let the word of Christ dwell in me, doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to You the Father through Him. Help me live each day renewed by You.”

# Kids

## WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER



### VERSE CHALLENGE



Grab a dry erase marker and write this week's Bible verse on your bathroom and/or bedroom mirror. Practice learning it together!

*Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works.*

**Hebrews 10:24 NIV**

What does this verse mean? It's hard to be a good Christian all on our own, that's why we need each other. God wants us to love people and honor Him with our actions, and other Christians can help us do that. They can let us know when we're grumpy or mean or doing something we shouldn't, and then encourage us to do the right things

# FAMILY PRAYER



*“Jesus, help our family encourage each other to follow You, love each other, and honor you with our actions.”*

*Amen.*

# Table Talk QUESTIONS



What is your favorite thing to do with your family?

As a family, what does it look like to encourage each other to follow Jesus?



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JW Students can follow along and interact with the Renewal study each week on the Jacob's Well App, our Student Life Podcast, our JW Students webpage and our social media accounts.

 **STUDENTS**



LEGACY STORIES

# JIM & RENEE HURLBURT'S STORY

"HE KNOWS THE BEGINNING,  
THE MIDDLE, AND HE KNOWS THE END"



"TAKE A STEP OF FAITH AND  
SEE WHAT HAPPENS"

*Legacy*  
REWRITTEN CHOOSING  
A LIFE THAT  
MATTERS

JACOBSWELLCHURCH.CHURCH/LEGACY-RENEWAL

# HOLY WEEK REFLECTION

*Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

You may be asking yourself, "What do I do now?" Here's a few ideas:

1. Celebrate what God has done and is doing in your life. Celebrate with Him how you gave something up to create more space and time for Him during Lent. Journal about what you learned and what you want to continue learning going forward.
2. If you haven't yet, create a plan to continue to grow in Christ. Taking steps to know and become like Jesus does not happen without intentionality. We must participate with focus and determination because Christ is central to all change.
3. If you are not in a small group, find community for support on the journey.

Remember, the journey is cyclical. We will continue to journey through these processes through life as we grow to know and become like Jesus. Jesus is our companion walking with us on the journey. We have to trust Him as our guide. He loves us. He knows what is going on inside of us. When we realize we are walking with Him, we begin to let go of the burden of figuring everything out on our own. God knows the right pace and our best next step in the journey. God is not meant to be the place we turn only when things are hard. God is our life, and this is what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

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Because change in Him is a process, we can feel frustrated when things don't look as we expect them to. Understanding we can try softer rather than harder and try different because God is at work gives us the courage to keep moving forward to knowing and becoming like Jesus. We ask God for what we want, but we come back to the truth that He loves us and will give us what we need. In love, God's priority is to help us know Him more and grow us more and more into His Son's character.

What is God stirring in you through Renewal? As we end this time together, ask yourself:

1. Where am I on my spiritual journey?
2. What is my next step?

*Colossians 1:9-13 I am asking you, Lord, that I may be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that I may walk worthy of You, Lord, fully pleasing to You: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, being*

*strengthened with all power, according to Your glorious might, so that I may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to You, my Father, who has enabled me to share in the saints of inheritance in the light. You have rescued me from the domain of darkness and transferred me into the Kingdom of Your Son, whom You love.*

For further study, you may want to check out the Jacob's Well Resource Center and RightNow Media online at [www.jacobswellchurch.church/rightnow-media](http://www.jacobswellchurch.church/rightnow-media)



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