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# Welcomed

THE CALL **in** FOR THE LEAST  
OF CHRIST EXPECTED



FALL CONFERENCE 2023

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## Friday Night

6:00–7:30 p.m. Registration

7:30–9:00 p.m. **Main session**  
*Jesus Welcomes the Uninterested (Mark Fodale)*

9:15–10:00 p.m. Campus groups

10:30 p.m. Quiet hours

## Saturday

8:00–9:20 a.m. Breakfast – PA Ballroom & Metropolitan  
Seating A: 8:00–8:40 a.m.  
Seating B: 8:40–9:20 a.m.  
**(The bookstore will be open outside the Main Ballroom from 9am–6pm)**

9:30–11:00 a.m. **Main session**  
*Jesus Welcomes the Unlovable (David Royes)*

11:00–11:15 a.m. Beverage break – Outside Main Ballroom

11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. **Morning Breakout sessions** (descriptions on pages 6–7)

- *From Isolation to Intimacy: How Jesus Combats our Loneliness (Brian & Liz Parker)* - Ballroom
- *Enduring Affection: Life & Love After 30 Years of Marriage (Mark & Shannon Fodale)* - Penn Harris
- *Science and Christianity: Allies or Enemies? (Mike Chartowich)* - Harrisburger
- *Why Your Friends are More Important Than You Think (Peter Krol)* - Leland
- *Pray Without Pretending: How Sufferers Can Speak to God (Clint Watkins)* - Governor
- *An Intro to the Bible That Will Make You Want to Read It (Andy Cimbala)* - William Penn

12:00–2:00 p.m. Lunch – Out on the town (See pages 10–11 for restaurant suggestions)

2:00–4:00 p.m. Missions Fair (Location: Outside Main Ballroom)

4:00–4:45 p.m. **Afternoon Breakout sessions**

- *Press On: How to Persevere when Faith Feels Exhausting (Mike Kreider)* - Ballroom
- *Lost in Translation: Sharing the Gospel without Confusing your Friends (Lincoln Fitch)* - Penn Harris
- *The Corruption and Restoration of the Bible (Nick Smartt)* - Harrisburger
- *Your First Step to Fighting Anxiety (Zack Gugenheim)* - Leland
- *Realistic Forgiveness (Tori Zbinden)* - Governor
- *Made to Work: Gospel Truth for Over-workers and Under-Workers (Heather Smartt)* - William Penn

5:00– 6:20 p.m. Dinner – PA Ballroom & Metropolitan  
Seating A: 5:00–5:40 p.m.  
Seating B: 5:40–6:20 p.m.

6:30–7:45 p.m. **Main session**  
*Jesus Welcomes the Unable (Clint Watkins)*

8:00–9:00 p.m. Worship night

9:00–11:00 p.m. Late Night at Fall Conference (Location: Whitaker Center)

10:30 p.m. Quiet hours (at the Hilton)



## Sunday

7:30–8:00 a.m.	Optional Internship Interest Meeting ( <i>Location: Penn Harris, 3rd Floor</i> ) Optional Missions Trip Interest Meeting ( <i>Location: Harrisburger, 3rd Floor</i> )
8:00–9:20 a.m.	Breakfast – PA Ballroom & Metropolitan Seating A: 8:00–8:40 a.m. Seating B: 8:40–9:20 a.m.
9:30–10:15 a.m.	<b>Foundations Breakout sessions</b> ( <i>descriptions on page 8</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The Healing of Shame: The Rescue of God in Ezekiel 16</i> (Mark Fodale) - Ballroom</li><li>• <i>Looking Good vs Living Forever: Preparing For Eternity</i> (David &amp; Megan Royes) - Penn Harris</li><li>• <i>Wisdom: A Journey in the Right Direction</i> (Peter Krol) - Leland</li><li>• <i>How Change Happens: A Practical Model for Overcoming Sin</i> (Tom Hallman) - Harrisburger</li></ul>
10:15–10:30 a.m.	Beverage break ( <i>Location: Outside Main Ballroom</i> )
10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	<b>Main session</b> <i>Jesus Welcomes the Unrighteous</i> (Tom Hallman)
12:15 p.m.	Depart

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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### CONFERENCE ADDRESS

**Harrisburg Hilton**  
1 North 2nd St  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 233-6000

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### NEAREST WALK-IN CLINIC

**Penn State Health Urgent Care**  
(*open 8am-8pm*)  
107 South Sporting Hill Rd  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
(717) 943-1781

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### NEAREST ER

**UPMC Harrisburg**  
(*formerly Harrisburg Hospital*)  
111 South Front St  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 782-5256

# SATURDAY MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:15am–12:00pm

## **From Isolation to Intimacy: How Jesus Combats Our Loneliness**

*Brian and Liz Parker*

Young or old, single or married, male or female - everyone walks through loneliness. We feel isolated. Hopeless. Invisible. Hollow. Depressed. Chronic loneliness can even lead to bitterness, poor physical health, and becoming a danger to ourselves. Its causes are many. But there is a solution! God himself declares that it is not good for people to be alone. Jesus' work of redemption and rescue offers the lonely great hope that enables us to experience belonging, comfort, and genuine friendship. Jesus combats our loneliness so that we will never be forgotten, but one day our loneliness will be.

## **Enduring Affection: Life & Love After 30 Years of Marriage**

*Mark & Shannon Fodale*

Join Mark & Shannon as they walk through some of the key principles they've learned for how to begin, sustain, and grow an enduringly affectionate marriage. Who says the honeymoon has to end!?

## **Science and Christianity: Allies or Enemies?**

*Mike Chartowich*

Are science and Christianity opposed to one another? Many would say yes. They believe science is the source of true knowledge whereas faith holds back progress with superstitious thinking. Some go further and argue that science gives us reasons NOT to believe in Christianity. In this workshop these claims will be challenged. We will see that science provides strong evidence that there is a creator and designer of the universe. Rather than fearing science, Christians can embrace science as we see God's magnificent handiwork in creation. There will be a presentation followed by Q&A.

## **Why Your Friends are More Important Than You Think**

*Peter Krol*

Often, we think of friendship as something almost random or spontaneous: either you "click" with someone or you don't. But the book of Proverbs pictures friendship as perhaps the clearest indicator of whether you will become wise or come to harm. So show me your friends, and I'll show your odds at ever finding wisdom.

## **Pray Without Pretending: How Sufferers Can Speak to God**

*Clint Watkins*

Prayer can be hard—especially when you're hurting. It's difficult to know what to say to God when we suffer. And how can we speak to him when it seems like he could easily ease our trouble, but chooses not to? Join us as we see God's invitation to be honest with him.

## **Boring, Confusing, and Too Long: An Intro to the Bible That Will Make You Want to Read It**

*Andy Cimbala*

Most people haven't read the whole Bible. Some haven't read more than a few pages. It's just too ancient, too complex, and too crazy long. If you're not a Christian, a new Christian, or you've grown up in church for years but haven't read much of the Bible... this breakout is for you! What is this book? What is it about? And how should you read it? Get ready for an exciting introduction to God's Word that'll make you want to read it!

# **SATURDAY AFTERNOON** BREAKOUT SESSIONS

4:00–4:45pm

## **Press On: How to Persevere when Faith Feels Exhausting**

*Mike Kreider*

The Christian life is full of encounters with spiritual apathy, sin struggles, weariness, rejection, and more. At times, it seems exhausting, overwhelming, and downright impossible to press forward in faith. This session will deal with God's provision for us to not merely endure or coast through our exhaustion, but to flourish and grow spiritually right in the midst of it, until He brings us home.

## **Lost in Translation: Sharing the Gospel without Confusing your Friends**

*Lincoln Fitch*

The gospel is the best news we have ever heard, but the news that is so wonderful to us can seem confusing and perhaps even hateful to our friends who do not believe. Come explore how to more effectively share the good news in a way that those outside our fellowships understand it and recognize it to be truly good.

## **The Corruption and Restoration of the Bible**

*Nick Smartt*

There are over 400,000 variant readings (i.e. corruptions) among different manuscripts of the New Testament, so how can you be sure that the Bible which you hold in your hands is the true word of God?

## **Your First Step to Fighting Anxiety**

*Zack Gugenheim*

Your heart begins to race, palms begin to sweat, and all the worst-case scenarios run through your mind. You cannot sleep, you act differently around others, and at times you feel paralyzed. Anxiety can feel debilitating. Join us as we together discover how Jesus helps us in our anxiety.

## **Realistic Forgiveness**

*Tori Zbinden*

Forgiveness is a core part of the Christian message. The Bible is clear, Christians are forgiven and are called to forgive others. However, that doesn't mean it is easy; real forgiveness is costly. Join me as we look together at the Bible's honest, hopeful, and practical message about forgiveness.

## **Made to Work: Gospel Truth for Over-workers and Under-Workers**

*Heather Smartt*

As college students, a lot of emphasis is put on your future work and future career – but what about your work right now? How do you do your school work without making it more or less than it is? Let's consider together how the gospel frees us to love the call and gift of work.

# FOUNDATIONS BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*Sunday, 9:30–10:15am*

## **The Healing of Shame: The Rescue of God in Ezekiel 16**

*Mark Fodale*

Can shame be healed? Can glory emerge from brokenness? The compelling story of an abandoned woman's journey, recorded in Ezekiel 16, provides the setting for one of the clearest & most compelling pictures of the gospel in the Bible!

## **Looking Good vs. Living Forever: Preparing Your Soul For Eternity**

*David & Megan Royes*

Anxiety, unsettledness and distress characterize our present age. What if part of the problem is that we care more about selfies than our souls? This workshop will examine the difference between superficial living and eternal hope.

## **Wisdom: a Journey in the Right Direction**

*Peter Krol*

We face challenging questions all the time, such as: Which elective should I take next semester? What is my best career option? When should I take the next step with that special someone? Should I obey my parents now that I'm an adult? What part can I play in addressing the world's injustice? In this workshop, we'll take a look at the book of Proverbs, which was handed to us by God for just such situations. By learning what God's wisdom is and how it works, you'll acquire a simple plan for living in a complex world.

## **How Change Happens: A Practical Model for Overcoming Sin**

*Tom Hallman*

The Bible is full of commands to change. But what if you've tried to change... and it just doesn't "stick"? In this session, you'll learn why that happens - and you'll be equipped with a simple model for experiencing true, lasting change.

# MISSIONS FAIR

## EXHIBITORS

Saturday 2-4pm, Outside Main Ballroom

### **African Inland Missions (AIM)**

Africa Inland Mission is seeking disciples of Jesus who desire to leverage their faith, skills, and passions for the building up of Christ's church among unreached African people groups. Take the next step with a summer of service – stop by our table on Saturday!

### **Crossworld**

All professions, one mission. We help you engage your profession and passions to make disciples among the least reached. Missionaries, social workers, teachers, engineers, marketing, pastoral and many God is using to make His name known, serve people, share the gospel and make disciples. Where do you fit?

### **Pioneers**

We are a sending organization empowering churches to send workers to reach *Unreached People Groups* (UPGs). We work in over 100 countries, with over 400 teams, reaching over 500 UPGs.

### **DiscipleMakers**

DiscipleMakers is a Christian campus ministry based here in Pennsylvania. Our goal is to raise up the next generation of leaders for the Church by training college students in Bible study, gospel-driven discipleship, and evangelism. Join us in this mission this summer during our annual internship program!

### **TEAM**

Our mission is to partner with the global church in sending disciples who make disciples and establish missional churches to the glory of God.

### **Christar**

Church planting among least-reached Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.

### **ELIC**

We train, support, and send educators to hard-to-access countries throughout North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, where they can share the Good News and build relationships with those who would otherwise never hear it.

### **Teach Beyond**

Teach Beyond is a global community of followers of Jesus, providing transformational education services as part of God's ongoing mission to transform individuals and communities into all He intends. Teach Beyond recruits and sends Christian educators, administrators, and workers to serve in many different schools and organizations across the globe.

### **Live Global**

Live Global is the link to using your passions, skills, and interest in global mission opportunities around the world. God is working, and you have a role! Find out more at [liveglobal.org](http://liveglobal.org).

### **Inspire Sports Camp**

Inspire Sports Camps is an unforgettable week of mission and connection. Impact the lives of under-served youth from the Northeast, share the Gospel, and discover how you can make a difference. Let's chat about how you can be on mission this summer without needing to raise support!

### **El Camino Academy – [eca.edu.co](http://eca.edu.co)**

Do you see education as a key way that you can make a difference? Do you feel called to work overseas? El Camino Academy could be for you! Come invest in our community dedicated to providing a quality education, challenging one and all to follow the Lord Jesus, and stepping into opportunities to serve.

### **Serge – [serge.org](http://serge.org)**

Serge is a mission sending agency serving Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. We believe the motive and power for mission is the gospel at work in the life of a believer. We need the gospel as much as others and apply that philosophy to cross-cultural, team-oriented ministry.





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Paxton Creek

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Transportation Center

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City Island



**Recommended Group Size Key:**

- L= 7+
- M= 5-6
- S= 2-4



★ **Hilton Harrisburg**

① **Strawberry Square Food Court**

- Chef Chen's Express  
*Asian Fusion • \$ • L • ⌚ 1 Min*
- Two Brothers Pizza  
*Pizza • \$ • L • ⌚ 1 Min*
- Tropical Smoothie Café  
*Salads, Wraps, Flatbreads • \$ • L • ⌚ 1 Min*
- Sakura Tokyo Express  
*Asian Fusion • \$ • L • ⌚ 1 Min*
- And More!

② **Ad Lib Craft Kitchen & Bar**

*American • \$\$ • M • ⌚ 1 Min*

③ **New 2nd Wok**

*Chinese • \$ • M • ⌚ 2 Min*

④ **The Original Hot Dog Factory**

*Hot dogs, probably • \$ • S • ⌚ 3 Min*

⑤ **Au Bon Lieu**

*Crepes & Coffee • \$ • S • ⌚ 3 Min*

⑥ **Arooga's**

*Traditional American • \$\$ • M • ⌚ 3 Min*

⑦ **McGrath's Pub**

*New American • \$\$ • M • ⌚ 3 Min*

⑧ **Miyako Sushi**

*Japanese • \$\$ • M • ⌚ 4 Min*

⑨ **Subway**

*Sandwiches • \$ • S • ⌚ 4 Min*

⑩ **Roxy's Cafe**

*American • \$ • M • ⌚ 5 Min*

⑪ **Burger Yum**

*Burgers • \$ • M • ⌚ 6 Min*

⑫ **MASA**

*Mexican • \$ • M • ⌚ 7 Min*

⑬ **Arepa House**

*Venezuelan • \$\$ • M • ⌚ 7 Min*

⑭ **The Vegetable Hunter**

*Vegetarian; Vegan • \$\$ • M • ⌚ 8 Min*

⑮ **Cork & Fork**

*Italian • \$\$ • L - If you call ahead • ⌚ 8 Min*

⑯ **Aleco's Cafe & Restaurant**

*Italian/American • \$ • L - If you call ahead • ⌚ 11 Min*

# Scripture Reference

*Jesus Welcomes the Uninterested*

## **Luke 5:1–11**

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup> and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." <sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

*“Time and again it is the morally offensive – the socially reviled, the inexcusable and undeserving and disinterested and preoccupied – who do not simply receive Christ’s mercy but to whom Christ most naturally gravitates.” – Dane Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly*

**I. One Unlikely Command (v. 1–4)**

*“... let down your nets for a catch.”*

**II. Two Shocking Responses (v. 5–10)**

*“Master ... at your word I will let down the nets.”*

*“Depart from me ...”*

**III. Three Compelling Truths**

A. Leave everything.

B. Cast your nets.

C. Trust the Master.

*“Lord, I give up all my own plans & purposes, all my own desires & hopes, and accept Your will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all, utterly to You, to be Yours forever. Use me as You will, send me where You will, and work out Your whole will in my life at any cost, now & forever.”*

*Betty Stam*

# Scripture References

*Jesus Welcomes the Unlovable*

## **Luke 5:12–16**

While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”<sup>13</sup> And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him.<sup>14</sup> And he charged him to tell no one, but “go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”<sup>15</sup> But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities.<sup>16</sup> But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

## **Luke 4:43**

I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to other towns for I was sent for this purpose.

## **Luke 5:32**

“I have not come to call the righteous but [I have come to call] sinners to repentance.”

## **Leviticus 13:45–46**

“The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’<sup>46</sup> He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

## **Psalms 36:5**

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

## **Psalms 103:11**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

## **Leviticus 14**

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying,<sup>2</sup> “This shall be the law of the leprous person for the day of his cleansing. He shall be brought to the priest,<sup>3</sup> and the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall look. Then, if the case of leprous disease is healed in the leprous person,<sup>4</sup> the priest shall command them to take for him who is to be cleansed two live clean birds and cedarwood and scarlet yarn and hyssop.<sup>5</sup> And the priest shall command them to kill one of the birds in an earthenware vessel over fresh water.<sup>6</sup> He shall take the live bird with the cedarwood and the scarlet yarn and the hyssop, and dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the fresh water.<sup>7</sup> And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed of the leprous disease. Then he shall pronounce him clean and shall let the living bird go into the open field.



*“Everyone else loves you because of something true about you.  
God loves you because of something true about Him. He loves you because of who He is,  
not who you are... there is more love in God than there is knowledge in you.” – Heath Lambert*

**I. Leprosy and (our) Lostness**

- A condition of physical affliction + emotional devastation + spiritual separation

**II. Christ and (our) Cherishing**

A. His power is real

B. His heart is willing

C. His aim is restoration

**IV. Substitution and (our) Salvation**

*“The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7b*

# Scripture Reference

*Jesus Welcomes the Unable*

## **Luke 5:17–26**

On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.<sup>18</sup> And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus,<sup>19</sup> but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.<sup>20</sup> And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”<sup>21</sup> And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”<sup>22</sup> When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts?<sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?”<sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”<sup>25</sup> And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.<sup>26</sup> And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”

**I. The Help You Need**

**II. Is Found in Jesus**

A. His compassion

B. His forgiveness

C. His authority

D. His sacrifice

# Scripture Reference

*Jesus Welcomes the Unrighteous*

## **Luke 5:27–32**

<sup>27</sup> After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>28</sup> And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. <sup>29</sup> And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.

<sup>30</sup> And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>31</sup> And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

*"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." – Jesus*

**I. The response of the sick (v. 27–29)**

**II. The response of the healthy (v. 30–32)**



# References & Quotes

*From Isolation to Intimacy*

## **Genesis 2:18**

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him."

## **1 Corinthians 2:11**

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him?

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*"What's ironic is that more often than not, the sin we are in, began as an attempt to escape the very loneliness it ends up creating. Idolatry is a breeding ground for loneliness." – Lydia Brownback*

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## **Psalms 139:1–4**

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit down and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

## **Matthew 27:46**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

## **Hebrews 13:5**

I will never leave you nor forsake you.

## **John 15:5**

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends....

## **Isaiah 53:3–5**

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

## **Philippians 3:10**

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

## **Romans 5:8**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## **1 John 1:7**

If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

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*"Without emotional security, each relationship seems like a rotten floorboard." – Susan Mettes*

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## **Psalms 68:5**

Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling...God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing.

## **Psalms 23:5**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

*“Loneliness is as deadly as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and more lethal than consuming 6 alcoholic drinks a day.” – Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General*

*“When people are lonely, what they usually need is intimacy, not company.” – Susan Mettes*

**Loneliness Defined:** Distress someone feels when their social connections don't meet their need for emotional intimacy.

### **I. Why Loneliness is So Lonely**

- A. FOMO becomes ROMO
- B. Suffering and grief
- C. Comparison to others
- D. Unconfessed sin
- E. Life transitions
- F. Personality

### **II. How Jesus Combats Our Loneliness**

Jesus transforms...

- A. Being misunderstood → Being known
- B. Being forgotten → Being God's friend
- C. Suffering → Solace
- D. Unconfessed sin → Unconditional love
- E. Being scared → Being safe
- F. Comparison → Confidence

### **III. A Testimony of Loneliness Redeemed**

# Scripture Reference

*Enduring Affection*

## **Ephesians 5:1–2, 20–33**

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God...

... <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

*If they are one in Christ they have not only union, but communion, and that is a priceless thing.*  
Elisabeth Elliot

## **I. A Passion for Transformation**

*... that he (Christ) might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy & without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes & cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.*  
Ephesians 5:26–30

“Washing” (v. 26)

“Nourishing” (v. 29)

“Cherishing” (v. 29)

## **II. A Commitment to Unity**

*“...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ... ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’” – Ephesians 5:21, 31*

## **III. A Vision for Preparation**

*“This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.” Ephesians 5:32*

# Additional Resources

*Science & Christianity: Allies or Enemies?*

## **Genesis 1:1**

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

## **Romans 1:19–20**

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

## **Genesis 1:26–27**

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

## **Genesis 1:25**

And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.



*“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”  
Psalm 19:1*

**I. Objection: Science doesn't need Christianity!**

**II. Objection: Science has disproved Christianity!**

**III. Science can confirm Christianity**

# Scripture References

*Why Your Friends Are More Important Than You Think*

## Proverbs

**13:20** – Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

**14:7** – Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge.

**1:10** – My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

**22:24–25** – Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

**29:5** – A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

**27:2** – Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

**17:9** – Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

**23:20–21** – Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.

**17:17** – A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

**27:6** – Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

**27:9** – Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

**18:24** – A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

## John 15:13–15

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,  
but the companion of fools will suffer harm. – Proverbs 13:20*

**I. The link between friends and wisdom (13:20, 14:7)**

**II. The folly of bad friends (1:10, 22:24–25, 29:5, 27:2, 17:9, 23:20–21)**

**III. The wisdom of good friends (17:17, 17:9, 27:6, 27:9)**

**IV. The best friend (Proverbs 18:24, John 15:13–15)**

# Scripture Reference

*Pray Without Pretending*

## Psalm 44

*To the choirmaster. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah.*

<sup>1</sup> O God, we have heard with our ears,  
our fathers have told us,  
what deeds you performed in their days,  
in the days of old:  
<sup>2</sup> you with your own hand drove out the nations,  
but them you planted;  
you afflicted the peoples,  
but them you set free;  
<sup>3</sup> for not by their own sword did they win the land,  
nor did their own arm save them,  
but your right hand and your arm,  
and the light of your face,  
for you delighted in them.  
<sup>4</sup> You are my King, O God;  
ordain salvation for Jacob!  
<sup>5</sup> Through you we push down our foes;  
through your name we tread down those who rise up  
against us.  
<sup>6</sup> For not in my bow do I trust,  
nor can my sword save me.  
<sup>7</sup> But you have saved us from our foes  
and have put to shame those who hate us.  
<sup>8</sup> In God we have boasted continually,  
and we will give thanks to your name forever.

*Selah*

<sup>9</sup> But you have rejected us and disgraced us  
and have not gone out with our armies.  
<sup>10</sup> You have made us turn back from the foe,  
and those who hate us have gotten spoil.  
<sup>11</sup> You have made us like sheep for slaughter

and have scattered us among the nations.  
<sup>12</sup> You have sold your people for a trifle,  
demanding no high price for them.  
<sup>13</sup> You have made us the taunt of our neighbors,  
the derision and scorn of those around us.  
<sup>14</sup> You have made us a byword among the nations,  
a laughingstock among the peoples.  
<sup>15</sup> All day long my disgrace is before me,  
and shame has covered my face  
<sup>16</sup> at the sound of the taunter and reviler,  
at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.  
<sup>17</sup> All this has come upon us,  
though we have not forgotten you,  
and we have not been false to your covenant.  
<sup>18</sup> Our heart has not turned back,  
nor have our steps departed from your way;  
<sup>19</sup> yet you have broken us in the place of jackals  
and covered us with the shadow of death.  
<sup>20</sup> If we had forgotten the name of our God  
or spread out our hands to a foreign god,  
<sup>21</sup> would not God discover this?  
For he knows the secrets of the heart.  
<sup>22</sup> Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.  
<sup>23</sup> Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord?  
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!  
<sup>24</sup> Why do you hide your face?  
Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?  
<sup>25</sup> For our soul is bowed down to the dust;  
our belly clings to the ground.  
<sup>26</sup> Rise up; come to our help!  
Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!

*“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.”*  
*Hebrews 5:7*

**I. Strong People of Faith (v. 1–8)**

**II. Struggle with God in Prayer (v. 9–26)**

A. Explained pain

B. Expressed protest

C. Earnest petition

D. Eventual praise

## Additional Resources

*An Intro to the Bible*

### Luke 24:25–27, 44–49

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

### 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

### 2 Timothy 3:14–17

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

### John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

### John 20:31

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.

### Psalms 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.

#### **Recommended Resources**

*Books, podcasts, infographic, articles, and videos to help you read the Bible!*

Scan the QR code →



**I. What is the Bible?**

Old Testament				New Testament			
<i>Law (5)</i>	<i>History (12)</i>	<i>Wisdom (5)</i>	<i>Prophets (17)</i>	<i>Gospel (4)</i>	<i>Acts</i>	<i>Letters (21)</i>	<i>Revelation</i>

**II. What is the Point?**

**III. Why Should I Care?**

**IV. How Can I Read?**

**V. Q&A**

# Reference and Quotes

Press On

## Hebrews 10:19–39

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God,<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,<sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.<sup>29</sup> How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?<sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”<sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

<sup>32</sup> But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,<sup>33</sup> sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated.<sup>34</sup> For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.<sup>35</sup> Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.<sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.<sup>37</sup> For,

“Yet a little while,  
and the coming one will come and will not delay;  
<sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall live by faith,  
and if he shrinks back,  
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

## Hebrews 2:17–18 (New Living Translation)

Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

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*“The warnings and admonitions in scripture call out to us, “Danger! Do not fall away from the living God. If you deny him, he will deny you.” It is precisely by taking the warnings seriously that we avoid eternal destruction. The label “Poison!” on a bottle seizes our attention and awakens us to the peril which awaits us if we swallow its contents... The warnings in the scriptures are also intended to arouse us from lethargy and propel us onward in the pathway of faith. They provoke a healthy fear, so that we are not casual and relaxed about entering the heavenly rest...It is the same kind of fear which causes us to put on our seat belts when we drive and which causes us to place railings where a fall would be deadly. Fear in these instances does not paralyze us but actually contributes to our confidence when driving or climbing. Similarly, hearing and obeying the warnings in scripture does not sap us of confidence and assurance. It is the pathway for full assurance in the faith.” – Thomas Schreiner*



*“...for we walk by faith, not by sight.” – 2 Corinthians 5:7*

**I. The Invitation (v. 19–25)**

A. Remember what you have

B. Persevere in what you do

**II. The Warning (v.26–31)**

**III. The Promises (v.32–39)**

A. A reward is awaiting us

B. Christ is coming for us

C. Others have gone before us

# Additional Resources

*Lost in Translation*

## Acts 17:16–34

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.<sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.<sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.<sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”<sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.”<sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.<sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,<sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.<sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted

periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,<sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,<sup>28</sup> for:

“In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,<sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

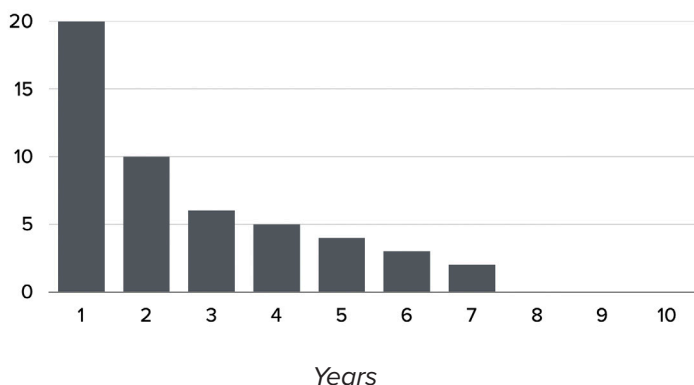
<sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.”<sup>33</sup> So Paul went out from their midst.<sup>34</sup> But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

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*“Inside out” begins by entering a person’s social imagination and engaging their ideas from within... we need to learn to step into their story before pointing them to the way out.” – Joshua Chatraw*

## The Life Cycle of Most Christians

interacting with people far from God



*“By the word culture we have to understand the sum total of ways of living developed by a group of human beings and handed on from generation to generation. Central to culture is language. The language of a people provides the means by which they express their way of perceiving things and of coping with them.” – Lesslie Newbigin*

### **I. The Need for Translation**

- The false worship of our communities ought to bother us.
- Everyone has a culture.
- Christianese is incomprehensible in a post-Christian world.
- Increasingly Christians are seen in a negative light

### **II. The Principles of Translation**

- Develop strong relationships.
- Celebrate the good.
- Appeal to their sources of authority.
- Take small steps in graciously asking questions.

### **III. The Practice of Translating Today**

- **Pessimistic story:** Life has no ultimate significance, no order, no ethics. Humanity will go extinct and we all be forgotten.
- **Optimistic secular story:** The world is a place of liberation from old restraints and dogmas. We can work to maximize human happiness and minimize suffering.
- **Pluralistic, moral, therapeutic spirituality story:** God gives life meaning which we find by looking inward at ourselves not outward to any religious text.
- **Story of consumerism:** The good life come through purchasing things.
- **Story of achievement:** Accomplish something amazing and then you will finding meaning and value.
- **Story of romance:** Our desire to be loved and to love will only be realized by our soul mate.

**Manuscript:** *the handwritten copy of a text which has been discovered and is still in our possession.*

**Corruption:** *variation between two manuscripts.*

**I. Corruption**

A. Overview

B. Causes

C. Magnitude

**II. Restoration**

A. Discoveries

B. Analyzing Discoveries

**III. Case Study**

**IV. Application**



# Additional Resources

*Your First Step to Fighting Anxiety*

## Matthew 6:25–34

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

<sup>34</sup> “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## 1 Peter 5:1–7

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

## 1 Kings 19:1–8

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” <sup>3</sup> Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” <sup>5</sup> And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.” <sup>6</sup> And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.” <sup>8</sup> And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

## Psalms 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

<sup>2</sup> How long must I take counsel in my soul  
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

<sup>3</sup> Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

<sup>4</sup> lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,”  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

<sup>5</sup> But I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

<sup>6</sup> I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

*“Faith in Jesus will not replace your fears. Instead your faith will coexist with your fears and begin to quiet them. You will learn, by faith, to see your life from Jesus’s perspective and to trust that he is our ever-present help in trouble.” – Ed Welch*

**I. God Provides in the Fear of Our Want (Matthew 6:25–34)**

**II. God Protects in the Face of Hardship (I Peter 5:1–7)**

**III. God Cares For Us in Times of Weakness (I Kings 19:1–8)**

**IV. A Lesson from the Psalmists (Psalm 13)**

# Additional Resources

## *Realistic Forgiveness*

### **Matthew 18:21–35**

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.<sup>24</sup> When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.<sup>25</sup> And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.<sup>26</sup> So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’<sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

<sup>28</sup> But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’<sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’<sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.<sup>31</sup> When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.<sup>32</sup> Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.<sup>33</sup> And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’<sup>34</sup> And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.<sup>35</sup> So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Debt	The Payment Plan	Prayer to God



*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? – Romans 8:32*

**I. Understanding the Story**

- A. A realistic question (v. 21–22, 35)
  
  
  
- B. Act I: A king and a 10,000 talent debt (v. 23–27)
  
  
  
- C. Act II: A Servant and a 100 denari debt (v. 28–34)

**II. Two Ways the Story Teaches Us About Forgiveness**

1. It reframes our perspective.	2. It renews our practice.
<i>We are all debtors to God.</i>	<i>We can keep an account.</i>
<i>Forgiveness is costly.</i>	<i>We have to choose .</i>
<i>God pays the cost.</i>	<i>We need to remember God’s grace to us and run to Him for help.</i>

# Additional Resources

*Made to Work*

## Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

## Genesis 2:1–3, 15, 18-20b

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ... <sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field.

## Genesis 3:17–19

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

## Exodus 20:8-11

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

## Romans 4:4–6

<sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

## Matthew 11:28–30

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*Work is as much a basic human need as food, beauty, rest, friendship, prayer, and sexuality;  
it is not simply medicine but food for our soul. – Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor*

**I. How Work is Meant to Be**

A. God Works

B. The Image of Work

C. The Point of Work

**II. How Work is Broken**

A. The Cause of Work's Brokenness

B. The Result of Work's Brokenness

**III. How Work is Redeemed**

# Additional Resources

## *The Healing of Shame*

### Act I

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. <sup>4</sup> And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. <sup>5</sup> No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.

<sup>6</sup> “And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ <sup>7</sup> I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

<sup>8</sup> “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine. <sup>9</sup> Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. <sup>10</sup> I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. <sup>11</sup> And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. <sup>12</sup> And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. <sup>13</sup> Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. <sup>14</sup> And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord God.

### Act II

<sup>15</sup> “But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his. <sup>16</sup> You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines, and on them played the whore. The like has never been, nor ever shall be. <sup>17</sup> You also took your beautiful jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself images of men, and with them played the whore.

<sup>18</sup> And you took your embroidered garments to cover them, and set my oil and my incense before them. <sup>19</sup> Also my bread that I gave you—I fed you with fine flour and oil and honey—you set before them for a pleasing aroma; and so it was, declares the Lord God. <sup>20</sup> And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were

your whorings so small a matter <sup>21</sup> that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them? <sup>22</sup> And in all your abominations and your whorings you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, wallowing in your blood.

<sup>23</sup> “And after all your wickedness (woe, woe to you! declares the Lord God), <sup>24</sup> you built yourself a vaulted chamber and made yourself a lofty place in every square. <sup>25</sup> At the head of every street you built your lofty place and made your beauty an abomination, offering yourself to any passerby and multiplying your whoring.

<sup>30</sup> “How sick is your heart, declares the Lord God, because you did all these things, the deeds of a brazen prostitute, <sup>31</sup> building your vaulted chamber at the head of every street, and making your lofty place in every square. Yet you were not like a prostitute, because you scorned payment.

<sup>32</sup> Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband! <sup>33</sup> Men give gifts to all prostitutes, but you gave your gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from every side with your whorings. <sup>34</sup> So you were different from other women in your whorings. No one solicited you to play the whore, and you gave payment, while no payment was given to you; therefore you were different.

<sup>35</sup> “Therefore, O prostitute, hear the word of the Lord: <sup>36</sup> Thus says the Lord God, Because your lust was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your whorings with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children that you gave to them, <sup>37</sup> therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness. <sup>38</sup> And I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring upon you the blood of wrath and jealousy. <sup>39</sup> And I will give you into their hands, and they shall throw down your vaulted chamber and break down your lofty places. They shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful jewels and leave you naked and bare. <sup>40</sup> They shall bring up a crowd against you, and they shall stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords. <sup>41</sup> And they shall burn your houses and execute judgments upon you in the sight of many women. I will make you stop playing the whore, and you shall also give payment no more. <sup>42</sup> So will I satisfy my wrath on you, and my jealousy shall depart from you. I will be calm and will no more be angry.

### Act III

<sup>59</sup> “For thus says the Lord God: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant, <sup>60</sup> yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant ... <sup>62</sup> I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord, <sup>63</sup> that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I atone for you for all that you have done, declares the Lord God.”

*As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.*  
*Isaiah 62:5*

**I. God, the Passionate Lover (v. 3–14)**

- A. God is calling us into an \_\_\_\_\_ relationship.
  
- B. God is calling us into a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship.
  
- C. God is calling us into a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship.

**II. God, the Wounded Lover (v. 15–42)**

- A. Sin is using God's gifts to attract other "\_\_\_\_\_".
  
- B. Sin is not only breaking God's rules, its breaking God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- C. God, the faithful lover (vv. 59–63)

*On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." – John 2:1–4*

## Additional Content

*Looking Good vs. Living Forever*

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I personally trust in Jesus for salvation, provision, and forgiveness of sin.					
I spend a lot of time thinking about what to wear each day.					
I regularly interact with others on social media.					
I feel stressed about people not liking or misjudging me.					
I have a strong sense of God's love, His Spirit, and affection for me in Christ.					
I prioritize reading the Bible, praying, and going to church.					
I perceive negative feedback from others as a personal attack.					
I change my behavior sometimes so that others will like me.					
I feel happy with how God has created me.					
I sometimes need to exit social settings due to anxiety.					
I compare myself to other people's personalities and achievements.					
I put serious effort into becoming more like Jesus.					
I sometimes feel too busy to spend time with God and other Christians.					
I feel excited about looking at Jesus face-to-face one day.					

*“God has set eternity in the hearts of men.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:11*

**I. Facing Death, if This Life is All There is**

**2 Kings 9:30** – When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it. And she painted her eyes and adorned her head and looked out of the window.<sup>31</sup> And as Jehu entered the gate, she said, “Is it peace, you Zimri, murderer of your master?”<sup>32</sup> And he lifted up his face to the window and said, “Who is on my side? Who?” Two or three eunuchs looked out at him.<sup>33</sup> He said, “Throw her down.” So they threw her down. And some of her blood splattered on the wall and on the horses, and they trampled on her.

A. Focused on outward adorning

B. Crafting a temporal identity

**II. Facing Life, as if Eternity is Real**

**Ephesians 5:25** – Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,<sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,<sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

A. Eternity past: Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

B. Historical anchor: Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ up.

C. Amazing present: Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ .

D. Eternity ahead: A \_\_\_\_\_ is yet to come.

# Scripture References

*Wisdom: A Journey in the Right Direction*

## Proverbs 1:1–7

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> To know wisdom and instruction,

to understand words of insight,

<sup>3</sup> to receive instruction in wise dealing,

in righteousness, justice, and equity;

<sup>4</sup> to give prudence to the simple,

knowledge and discretion to the youth—

<sup>5</sup> Let the wise hear and increase in learning,

and the one who understands obtain guidance,

<sup>6</sup> to understand a proverb and a saying,

the words of the wise and their riddles.

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;

fools despise wisdom and instruction.

## Proverbs 30:24–28

<sup>24</sup> Four things on earth are small,

but they are exceedingly wise:

<sup>25</sup> the ants are a people not strong,

yet they provide their food in the summer;

<sup>26</sup> the rock badgers are a people not mighty,

yet they make their homes in the cliffs;

<sup>27</sup> the locusts have no king,

yet all of them march in rank;

<sup>28</sup> the lizard you can take in your hands,

yet it is in kings' palaces.



*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*  
*Proverbs 1:7*

**I. What is wisdom? (Proverbs 1:1–7)**

A. A journey (v. 1–6)

B. In the right direction (v. 7)

**II. What does wisdom look like? (Proverbs 30:24–28)**

A. Ants (v. 25)

B. Rock Badgers (v. 26)

C. Locusts (v. 27)

D. Lizard (v. 28)

# Additional Content

*How Change Happens*

## Luke 6:43–45

“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, <sup>44</sup> for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup> The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil...

## Colossians 1:15–22

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him...



*For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit. – Luke 6:43*

**Our Deeper Problem Revealed (Luke 6:43–45)**

**How Lasting Change Happens (Colossians 1:15–22)**

Change takes place as \_\_\_\_\_

**The Failure of False Change**

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

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## NOTES

**HOW WILL YOU BE A  
MISSIONARY?**

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