



40 Days of Engaging With Jesus

# WEEK 1 DAY 1

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# ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER MAP

## 1 STARTING POINT

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40 days of Lent, a time dedicated to prayer, fasting, reflection, and alms giving (usually in the form of a type of service). Ash Wednesday is the best way to begin a season which calls us into self-examination as well as self-denial, into deeper contemplation about the mystery and grace of God's mercy leading up to the celebration of His resurrection.

On Ash Wednesday the line from Genesis 3:19 is spoken over us:

*"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."*

This is to remind us of not only the shortness of our lives, but that we are made from dust that He breathed life into. We were lovingly molded, shaped, nurtured into being by the Creator of the universe.

The purpose of this first prayer station is to "shake off" the dust from your day, to let go of your cares and worries, and to engage with Jesus. We will do this by taking as much time as you'd like to do Centering Prayer.

### **CENTERING PRAYER**

*Take time to just sit and be still. To help try and quiet yourself, you might just listen to your breathing for a*

*couple minutes. Now think about the fact that you are precious dust. God breathed life into Adam, because He desired to know us and have relationship with us. The purpose of centering prayer is not to bring your concerns and petitions to God, but to rest in His Presence and let God be the focus of your love and attention. First, get a mental image of God in your thoughts, you could be sitting next to one another, or even sitting on God's lap. Next, pick a phrase that you will repeat silently and meditate on, ex: I am precious to you, or Let me receive your love. If thoughts or concerns arise simply return to the word or phrase that you picked, go back to your intention to let go of those concerns and rest in God's Presence. Rest in Him as He rests in you. End your time of prayer with a prayer of thanks or slowly reciting the Lord's Prayer.*

## **2 ENGAGING WITH JESUS THROUGH CONFESSION**

On Ash Wednesday we come to church to pray and ask God to search our hearts. The prophet Joel says,

*“Let your remorse tear at your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful.” Joel 2:13*

What things might be keeping you from loving God more fully? Perhaps there is a change that you're wanting to make. What do you want to be like by the time Easter arrives? We begin this process with confession. Be still, ask Him to show you what you need to confess. God is faithful to show us. There is no one else you can be so honest with and be totally accepted for who you are. We engage Jesus as we remove the sinful barriers that keep us from Him.

## **3 ENGAGING WITH JESUS THROUGH FASTING/FORGIVENESS**

During the season of Lent, we have the opportunity to mimic the 40 days of prayer and fasting that Jesus had in the wilderness. One way we can do this is by choosing to give up something we love and fast from it during the next 40 days. It gives us the opportunity to lay down our old self and open ourselves up to God changing us into a new creation. We engage Jesus as we identify with sacrifice and receive His gift of forgiveness.

## **4 ENGAGING WITH JESUS THROUGH WORSHIP**

As we move through the next 40 days we are reminded of the greatest gift of all, Jesus laying down His life for us. Even though we started out as dust, God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to be the sacrifice to renew our relationship with the Father. We engage with Jesus as we let His love wash over us through this song.

## **5 SETTING OUT**

As we set out on our Lenten Journey, let's not forget about giving alms. Giving alms, Jesus teaches, means making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world. Let the Father direct you into what you might do as an act of service(s) during the next 40 days. What act of service do you feel Jesus is wanting you to engage in during the next 40 days? Expect, as you do your act of service, to engage with Jesus as He comes alongside you to bless others.



Hope Vineyard Family,

There is an icebreaker question that is used by groups and interviewers all over. It is designed to get to know you better, to reveal a little about what makes you tick. That question is “If you could meet anyone in history, who would it be?” At the top of that list for Christians and non-Christians alike is Jesus. And for good reason. Jesus is a fascinating person!

You can learn a lot about a person from gathering biographical information, listening to other people’s accounts of their interactions and reading their resume. But there is nothing like engaging them in person. Just ask anyone who has used an online dating site.

But when that person is also the resurrected Son of God, lives are radically changed! Sins are forgiven. Bodies are healed. Identities restored. Bondages broken. Hungers satisfied.

For the next 40 days we are going on a journey of exploration discovering the multitude of ways people engage Jesus. My hope is that you might meet Jesus in a new way that will add to your story of transformation. I also anticipate you learning some new ways to introduce others to Jesus, so they might have their own encounter with him.

I’m excited to see what God is going to do these next 40 days. I expect to have a number of testimonies on Easter Sunday of Jesus’ encounters with us. Please pray that we would experience him in a powerful and passionate way during the next six weeks.

Exploring With You,  
Robert Stovall  
Pastor

## USER GUIDE

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Every day for 5 days each week you will have an assignment in your devotional. You will:

- **read** a corresponding Scripture, preferably in two different versions of the Bible.
- **reflect** on what you have read in the Bible using the questions provided to help dig deeper into the passage. Write down your thoughts in the space provided, or use a journal to process your thoughts more fully. Journaling is an excellent way to engage your mind and heart together with the Word.
- **respond** with thanksgiving, prayer and an “I will...” statement. Whenever we receive new insights about God, it is always good to thank him for what we have learned and to ask his help to implement our new understanding into our everyday life.

## DIRECTIONS

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Begin by thinking of 5 friends or family members that live in the area that you would like to have Jesus touch over these next 40 days. Then, select some way of fasting each week to help remind you to pray for your 5 people and to help you to focus on really applying the Word of grace you are reflecting on to your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding. In the Respond section of your devotional, make sure you jot down the actions you want to take or thoughts you may have in response to your prayers. Share these with an accountability partner, with your small group, or with a friend.



## **FRIENDS/FAMILY**

Write down the names of 5 friends in the area that you would like Jesus to touch over these next 40 days. Commit to pray for each of them every day. Share their names with your small group or another friend. Pray every day for 40 days and watch what happens!

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## **FASTING**

Choose to fast in some way each week for these 40 days. You can fast from meals, activities, specific foods, electronic media... whatever would be a sacrifice for you. Write down your weekly fasting plan in the space below.

- week one \_\_\_\_\_
- week two \_\_\_\_\_
- week three \_\_\_\_\_
- week four \_\_\_\_\_
- week five \_\_\_\_\_
- week six \_\_\_\_\_

## **FAITH**

Choose something BIG you would like for God to do and ask him for it. Stretch your faith! This would be something that when it happens you know clearly God has done it. This could be a healing or setting free of an addiction for you or a friend. It could be financial provision. Or a restored relationship or new relationship. It could be someone who is far away from God coming into relationship with Him.



## WEEK 1 DAY 1

# ENGAGING THROUGH A FRIEND

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**PASSAGE:** John 1:43-51

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 1 DAY 2

# ENGAGING THROUGH A FRIEND

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**PASSAGE:** Matthew 9:9-13

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 1 DAY 3

# ENGAGING THROUGH A FRIEND

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**PASSAGE:** Mark 2:1-12

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 1 DAY 4

# ENGAGING THROUGH A FRIEND

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**PASSAGE:** Luke 10:25-37

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 1 DAY 5

# ENGAGING THROUGH A FRIEND

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**PASSAGE:** Acts 16:25-34

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 2 DAY 1

# ENGAGING THROUGH A NEED

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**PASSAGE:** John 2:1-11

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 2 DAY 2

# ENGAGING THROUGH A NEED

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**PASSAGE:** Matthew 25:31-46

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 2 DAY 3

# ENGAGING THROUGH A NEED

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**PASSAGE:** Mark 7:24-30

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 2 DAY 4

# ENGAGING THROUGH A NEED

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**PASSAGE:** Luke 7:11-17

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 2 DAY 5

# ENGAGING THROUGH A NEED

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**PASSAGE:** Acts 4:32-37

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 3 Day 1

# ENGAGING THROUGH QUESTIONS

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**PASSAGE:** John 3:1-21

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 3 Day 2

# ENGAGING THROUGH QUESTIONS

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**PASSAGE:** Matthew 22:15-22

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 3 Day 3

# ENGAGING THROUGH QUESTIONS

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**PASSAGE:** Mark 12:28-34

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 3 Day 4

# ENGAGING THROUGH QUESTIONS

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**PASSAGE:** Luke 7:18-23

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 3 Day 5

# ENGAGING THROUGH QUESTIONS

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**PASSAGE:** Acts 8:26-39

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 4 DAY 1

# ENGAGING THROUGH A TESTIMONY

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**PASSAGE:** John 4:27-42

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 4 DAY 2

# ENGAGING THROUGH A TESTIMONY

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**PASSAGE:** Matthew 21:14-17

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 4 DAY 3

# ENGAGING THROUGH A TESTIMONY

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**PASSAGE:** Mark 5:1-20

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 4 DAY 4

# ENGAGING THROUGH A TESTIMONY

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**PASSAGE:** Luke 7:36-50

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 4 DAY 5

# ENGAGING THROUGH A TESTIMONY

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**PASSAGE:** Acts 10:23-48

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 5 DAY 1

# ENGAGING THROUGH A HEALING

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**PASSAGE:** John 5:1-9

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 5 DAY 2

# ENGAGING THROUGH A HEALING

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**PASSAGE:** Matthew 8:5-13

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 5 DAY 3

# ENGAGING THROUGH A HEALING

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**PASSAGE:** Mark 3:1-6

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 5 DAY 4

# ENGAGING THROUGH A HEALING

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**PASSAGE:** Luke 8:40-56

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 5 DAY 5

# ENGAGING THROUGH A HEALING

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**PASSAGE:** Acts 9:32-43

Read passage in two different Bible translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 6 DAY 1

# ENGAGING THROUGH HUNGER & THIRST

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**PASSAGE:** John 6:25-40

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 6 DAY 2

# ENGAGING THROUGH HUNGER & THIRST

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**PASSAGE:** Matthew 13:44-46

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 6 DAY 3

# ENGAGING THROUGH HUNGER & THIRST

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**PASSAGE:** Mark 4:1-20

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 6 DAY 4

# ENGAGING THROUGH HUNGER & THIRST

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**PASSAGE:** Luke 18:1-8

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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## WEEK 6 DAY 5

# ENGAGING THROUGH HUNGER & THIRST

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**PASSAGE:** Acts 19:1-20

Read passage in two different Bible Translations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What am I thankful for?

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What stands out to me in this passage?

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What does this passage say about God?

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What does this passage say about people?

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What will I do to obey this passage?

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