

COME ALIVE IN 40

A JOURNEY OF FAITH, LIFE, & PURPOSE

BY SAM PETTERSEN

A graphic featuring a white hexagon with a black border. Inside the hexagon, the word "DAY" is written in yellow capital letters at the top, and "01" is written in large black capital letters below it. To the right of the hexagon, the word "Intro" is written in white capital letters on a yellow background.

DAY 01

Intro

Imagine your typical day. Think about every responsibility you have, every person that is counting on you, every role you need to fulfill, and every chore you wish you had time for. Now be honest; after thinking about all these things that demand our attention, how alive do you feel at the end of each day? Think about that question and pray about it for a second.

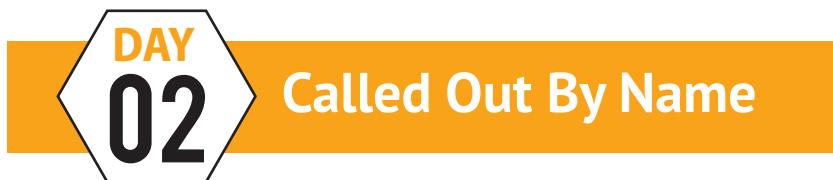
You didn't think about the question, did you? You saw another paragraph so you kept reading. What we may not realize is that our days are so jam-packed with responsibilities that we don't even have time to stop and ask ourselves, "Am I really alive?" If you're reading this, you are breathing and have a mostly consistent pulse, and although these are qualifications for existing, mere existence doesn't even compare to the type of living that we're talking about here.

We're talking about a life that, by the end of every day, when your head hits the pillow, you can't even fall asleep because you're so excited about repeating the day you just experienced. It's a life that fills you with joy beyond belief. So much so that when you walk into a room, you change the very atmosphere. We're talking about real life, and living it abundantly.

Whether you're the person craving to "come alive," or you feel spiritually content with where you are, #ComeAlivein40 is a forty day study that will reinforce the power of the cross. It will empower you to truly LIVE until you take that last breath not allowing your heart, soul, and passion to be stolen by empty, mundane existence. This is your license to live, will you come alive?

Spend some time in prayer. Pray for boldness to let go of whatever it is that you need to give up, but also pray that you can gain what is needed. Pray for honesty and truth from the Holy Spirit, to reveal what areas of your life are dead.

COME OUT OF YOUR GRAVE



Whether you've just started your spiritual journey or you've been on this adventure for a while, there are moments where you will feel spiritually dead on the inside. You've become a living body disguised as a dead one. Sometimes the chaos of life causes us to lose sight of the power of the cross, and the power that woke us up from the dead. The beautiful thing about our God is that He doesn't forget about us, in fact He feels compassion for us, and calls us by name to arise from the grave. As you dive into this passage, revisit the refreshing experience of when God first called you to life.

Read John 11:1-44

Everyone has a story, a testimony of the love and mercy that gave us purpose and breathes life into our souls. When you read about Lazarus in the grave, imagine the scene and what that must've been like to witness. Contrast that with the experience of watching him come back to life. Take a few moments to either write down your testimony in a personal journal, or share it with others on this 40 day journey.

Note _____

**DAY
03**

Unbind Him!

Yesterday you read about how Lazarus was called out by name, and made alive. There is so much power in that scene, but as Lazarus stumbled out of the tomb, Jesus cried out, “Unbind him!” When we lose sight of the power of God, we allow the struggles and burdens of this world to bind us and constrict our movements toward God. We may be called to life, but we still need to let go of the things that bind us to death and destruction.

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

What has been binding you? What has been distracting you from God the most? It could be something that leads you from God or even something you seek comfort in before you go to God. Take a few moments and be truly honest with yourself. For the next 40 days, commit yourself to surrendering those areas as you increase in life. Ask God to remove your desire for whatever you seek comfort in outside of him. Don’t stop there! Go the extra mile by asking a friend to keep you accountable, or tell us what things you’re actively surrendering.

Note

**DAY
04**

Learning How to Die

There's no greater contrast than between the words 'life' and 'death'. It is a comparison that has reverberated throughout all eternity and in every part of the world. Yet Paul tells us that in order for us to be made alive, we must first learn how to die to ourselves. He's not telling us to physically die, but to die to the things that burden us and keep us bound in sin. It's like when a farmer sets his field on fire after a harvest so that the old field that isn't giving life can be cleared away to make room for new life. This is what Christ is doing in us as we pursue him. He is essentially setting your old life on fire, in order to make room for the new life He has for you.

Read Romans 6:1-11

What are some areas that you haven't been receiving life in? What areas do you know need to be put to death? Ask God to examine and reveal in your heart the areas that could use some fire and new life. Find time today to write down these areas.

Note

**DAY
05**

Subtract and Add

If you haven't caught on yet, this adventure to come alive is one giant fast. When you think of fasting, your first thought may be, "Oh great, I have to give something up..." Although giving something up is a big part of fasting, it only covers half of the equation. When we give something up in a fast, we are called to add something in its place. We tend to think of fasting as losing something, when it's really about gaining a higher quality of life. We give up something that has been consuming our time or something that we've been turning to for comfort, and then we replace it with a deeper relationship with God. Before you read today's passage, I want you grab a highlighter, and as you read, highlight areas that stick out to you.

Read Isaiah 58

How did Israel "fast" wrong? What were some qualities that helped them fast righteously? What did they gain? What is it that you need to give up? It may be social media, caffeine, watching television, or it could be a sin that has separated you from the life God designed for you. Remember, it isn't about what you are losing, but about what you are gaining instead.

Note

**DAY
06**

Trinities at War

Read Exodus 20:3 and James 1:14-16

Right now you are at war with an unholy trinity that will do whatever it can to disarm you and keep you from the life that God has for you.

- 01 You are fighting a world that will tell you that you don't have to give up your comfort for God
- 02 You are fighting an enemy of God who will try to make you question if this journey is actually helping you, and his name is Satan
- 03 You are fighting biggest traitor of all; yourself. No one can lead you astray like you can.

You must be on guard, because as you give something up, this trinity will wage war on your soul. It will dangle sin disguised as comfort, and like a fish to a worm, we gobble it up before realizing there was a hook there all along.

Read Hebrews 12:1

But you are not alone. You have a much stronger trinity fighting for you. The Father in all his mercy is waging war on hell, the Spirit will pray words of power and guide you through the chaos, and the warrior king Jesus has gone ahead to clear the way for you to succeed. Even more so, the church will surround you as you journey forward. Take time today and pray for the protection of the trinity, as you set out on this journey, because the more you battle onward, the more the enemy will attack.

INVITATION TO COME ALIVE

DAY
07

A Miracle in Motion

Right now, even as you read this, a miracle is happening. The life-changing power of Christ is slowly transforming you into something the world has never seen before. Every day God renews you and continues where He left off, changing you piece by piece and it all started the day you told Him, “My heart is yours.” Think about that. Our past, our future, our entire life, was exchanged for Christ’s. The conversion we experienced turned every curse into life; the exchange we made with Christ was unfair and unequal, but His generosity on the cross allowed us to gain all the more. We’ve gained more than we deserved and received more than we could ever imagine.

Read Romans 5:1-11

There is no greater love than our God’s love. You can see that through the sacrifice He made on the cross. It’s in this sacrifice that God transforms us, destroying the old, and creating a new person. Take a couple of minutes to write down what your life was like before you allowed God in your life. Now compare that moment with your walk now that God has entered into your life. How has God transformed your purpose? Feel free to share with others on our Facebook page.

**DAY
08**

Obscurity Meets Purpose

It is easy to read about the journey that Jesus and his disciples went on and assume that Jesus must have collected that best and brightest minds of Israel to follow him, but in reality the “Big 12” was made up of fishermen, a tax collector, a political extremist, and men from your typical 9-5 jobs. Just to make things even more obscure, Peter was the only disciple older than 20. Jesus took a group of people that would probably be dismissed as spiritual leaders, and gave them a life full of purpose. He invited them to take part in a miracle that had never been seen before! That miracle was the church. If he could lead these men into something that amazing, just imagine where he could lead you. It’s a hard question to ask yourself, but it has to be asked, “Does God have a purpose for you?”

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13, 2 Cor 5:16-21

We serve a God who offers a life of the highest quality. What would your life look like in five years if you allowed God to fully lead it? What would it look like in one year? Maybe God is already using you to impact the world around you. If you don’t think he is, it’s a good time to ask for guidance and ways that you can be used. Write down and share some ways that God is using you. If you’re drawing a blank on how God is using you, check out your local church’s mission projects and take the first step in being used by God for the purpose of His Kingdom.

Note

**DAY
09**

Resuscitate

In the beginning of the third chapter of Revelation we see that the church of Sardis has been reprimanded for having the appearance of life, even though they were dead on the inside. The Church had barely been founded and Christ has already caught people trying to hide the fact that they were spiritually dead! In fact, He urges them, “strengthen what is dead before you actually perish!” In order to bring a dead heart back to life we have to perform spiritual CPR. If you know anything about CPR, you know there’s going to be some pressure put on our hearts and it’s going to be uncomfortable. Despite our comfort level, Christ is adamant that we need to run to him, and allow him to be the source of our life. He is more concerned about our character, than our comfort.

Read John 15:1-16

There are days where it is much easier to pretend we’re doing great instead of allowing Christ be our source of life. Instead of showing the world a life filled with vibrant passion, we’re displaying a counterfeit life that we think everyone should see. In what ways do we pretend we’re alive? What are some ways you can make Jesus the source of your life?

Note

**DAY
10**

Abundance?

Read John 10:10

When you read that Christ has come to give us an abundant life, and you look at Christians today, do the two correlate? Reading about this abundant life may bring imagery up of community groups going skydiving together, an entire church going to a foreign country on a mission trip, or people living to the age of 150. Sadly, our global community of faith doesn't quite compare to this grandiose idea. We have a "one-and-done" mentality when it comes to an abundant life, but to follow Christ we must put certain things to death daily. This word abundance isn't even referring to a quantity, but rather a quality of life. Think of this life as a crescendo. A crescendo is when music gradually begins to build up in volume and intensity to a peak that creates an atmosphere of awe. Now, imagine if we were listening to a song and randomly the song hit its highest peak in volume; the song would sound more like a voice crack than beautiful. To live a life of abundance we have to daily pursue Christ and watch as he gradually increases the volume and intensity of the life around us. We have to get off the throne of control in our life in order for Him to increase in our life.

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

The most challenging part of God's abundant life is trying to imagine what an abundant life looks like. Remember, abundance doesn't describe the quantity but the quality. What would a better quality of life look like to you? Would you have more money? Or maybe our relationships would be stronger? Find time today to really ask God how He can give you a life of the highest quality.

**DAY
11**

Heart Surgery

Vibrant life is never more noticeable than in springtime! It seems as though the earth is literally coming alive with new creation all around us. Yet sometimes seeds don't take root. The majority of the time it's because of the soil that it has been planted in. Sometimes the soil we expect life to grow out of is just too hard, or too stony, and that could be the case in your life. The heart is synonymous with being a symbol of life and where our life flows from, yet sometimes the difficulties of life slowly harden our heart. This organ that was supposed to provide life is now calloused and clogged. Due to our past and the effects of our sin nature, our hearts can't sustain life. If we're really going to live a life of abundance, that old, stony heart must be replaced with a live, beating heart. We need a Savior to perform heart surgery, and disrupt this rocky soil so new life can spring forth.

Read Psalm 51:10, Proverbs 4:23, Ezekiel 36:26

What are some areas in your life you need to guard your heart against? What are some areas you've become hardened towards God about? Spend time with God today asking for a new heart, and allow Him to reveal areas that need to be guarded the most.

Note

**DAY
12**

Surrender

Sometimes we have an extremely skewed perspective when we hear the words “life” and “freedom” in the same sentence. In our western mindset we tend to think that freedom is the license to do whatever we want. To truly be alive in freedom we feel that we have to have that allowance, but God has a different take. Freedom is merely a license to receive consequences for our actions and the way we live today can affect our freedom. Jason Ingram captured the beauty of this freedom in his music when he wrote, “Tomorrow’s freedom is today’s surrender.” Really let that sink in for a moment. Consider that what we surrender to God today could set in motion a future of freedom and a life worth living tomorrow!

Read 1 John 5:3-5

Through Jesus’ sacrifice, our freedom was paid for, but he went beyond freedom. Christ has enabled us to live in a way that has never been seen or experienced before; a life of uncompromised fellowship with the creator himself. What are some areas of “freedom” you’ve never experienced? It could be how we interact with the people around us, the media we pay attention to, or even reluctance to draw closer to God.

Note

**DAY
13**

Dead Winds

We hear many stories about the Bermuda Triangle and the countless boats and aircrafts lost at sea, but long before North America was discovered there was something even more terrifying: doldrums. You're most likely not quaking with fear as you read that word, so here's an explanation. The word "Doldrums" literally means dead wind. Sailors relied on wind power to propel the ships across the seas, but out of nowhere doldrums would replace their wind-filled sails with nothing and leave them stranded, floating for what could be weeks until a new wind or a storm would appear. Doldrums seem innocent, but in reality they can be just as dangerous as a hurricane. There is danger in doldrums; it causes seasoned sailors to desperately look in every direction for a way to save their lives.

Read Joshua 1:6-9, Rev 2:2-7, Hebrews 10:19-24

Christ is calling us to an abundant life that increases every day, so when that life starts to become stale and stagnant, we need to draw from our real source of life to propel us forward. When your life seems to be caught in a season of doldrums, what is your typical reaction? Write down your thoughts and answers about how we can stir one another up, and motivate each other to move forward in Christ Jesus. After all, Jesus is our life saving, free-flowing wind that moves us to the abundance His Father has created for us.

**DAY
14**

Faith to Face

“I want a new marriage, I want a new job, and I want a new life! I don’t want what’s going on now!” This is the heart cry of the majority of believers. They are discontent with their circumstances, and so their conclusion is this: what I have isn’t working, therefore I need something different. The truth is they’re right. They do need something different. The problem is the difference isn’t needed externally, but internally. They need faith that can pump new life into their circumstances. Have you ever been stuck in a situation that seemed like it was from God, but quickly turned lifeless? Have you ever wondered, “God, why would you put me in this position, only to have this area die on the inside?” Elisha felt the same way when he returned to a family that God had blessed.

Read 2 Kings 4:8-37

The tension was in the air. This woman had been blessed with a son and then he was taken away by death. This woman had been given a blessing only to have it turned into a curse. Maybe you’ve felt something similar to what this woman felt in some degree in your life. This woman didn’t ask for a new son or a new life, she asked that she have her son back. We need to ask the same question in our own life. Sometimes the biggest faith filled prayer we can offer is, “God, breathe new life into my situation. I don’t want a new job/marriage/family. I need new faith to see that my life can come alive again.” Elisha went face to face with death itself and because of his faith in God, the boy came alive. Whose life can you breathe faith into? Is there somebody in your life that you can pray faith into?

DAY
15

Breathless

Picture this: You're floating in a dark void, where nothing exists, but then a voice speaks, "Let there be light." Light erupts into the universe, and you see an avalanche of color flood across the galaxies. Light bends and bounces around the chasm of space as they come into existence and bodies of stars come alive at the call of their Creator. But this Creator doesn't stop there; slowly, the entire universe begins to take shape and is filled with purpose. And then the finale'. He breathes His image and lifeblood into this final creation, His masterpiece...you.

Read Genesis 1

When it comes to you, words are not enough, so this infinitely great God dips His hands into the earth and slowly begins to craft every bone, tendon, and feature of you. Every detail is a reflection of His very identity. Then He breathed life into you. Even as you breathe now, the same breath crafted the universe is dwelling in your lungs. Give thanks to God today. Let every breath you take be a reminder that there is a creator that molded you for a purpose, and He has given YOU life. Write down ways you can celebrate the life God gave you in your notes.

Note

**DAY
16**

Celebrate Life

Did you know, the moment you accepted Christ or rededicated your life to Him, the entire kingdom of Heaven erupted in praise and celebration? Imagine this: Armies of angels, strangers who once walked this earth, the father, and Son reacting as if you had won the greatest prize worthy of praise. Why? To them, adding you to their family is THE greatest moment of your life. Now let's broaden the scope: How do you think heaven is reacting to the people around you coming to life?

Read Luke 15

Life deserves to be celebrated, whether it's you being made alive, or the people around you. Celebrate someone today, call them up and let them know how excited you are to see the transformation in their life and how much joy it brings in your life, and in the life of the kingdom.

Note

DAY
17

The Valley of Bones

As you come alive in God, think of the lives existing around you. God has called you out of the grave, out of the boredom and colorlessness, and as you live, think of how the purpose and life you now have contrasts with those around you. Are they alive? Do their lives even compare with the joy that God gives you? It could be a co-worker, a family member, or even familiar faces we pass by every day, but as you read this next passage, keep those people in mind and the life God has waiting for them.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-11

Sometimes we may feel like we are the only ones alive, and it's in those moments that we need to celebrate this very life. God has placed you to be the light and life in this valley where life seems nonexistent, where hope is scarce, and where joy is unheard of. God has made you alive to point others to the source of life. Share with someone today the life that God has given you. Invite them to experience the joy and vibrancy of God at your local church.

Note

DAY
18

First Love

Read Revelation 2:1-5 and Psalm 96:1

Have you ever done all the right things, but still felt like a failure? Have you ever been in a relationship, but you felt like you and your partner were just drifting apart? The church at Ephesus can relate. They were doing everything right, but what started out as a loving relationship with Jesus, turned into a religion. It went from doing things out of faith and love, to just doing things out of routine. But Jesus loves his Church, so He tells them why they've had this feeling of lifelessness. You've forgotten your first love.

When we forget why we love Jesus in the first place, we lose our passion for the life He has given us. That's why the Psalmist writes, "Sing a new song." The Psalmist isn't saying that every worshipper should take up song writing. What he's communicating is that we need to sing as if it's the first time we were singing these songs. Sing with the passion you brought into this relationship. If a married couple forgot why they loved each other, the marriage wouldn't last very long. It's the same concept with your walk with Jesus. We need to continually meditate on why we are so in love with our Savior. Spend some time doing just that, and write down in your notes the different times that Jesus has shown up in your life and made you fall in love with Him.

Note

LIFE OF PRAYER

DAY
19

Finding Peace in Chaos

It's no secret that our lives are hectic, and as we become bogged down with life's chaos we slowly become drained and burnt out. Ask yourself this: Do you tend to pray at the start of the day, in the middle, or just whenever time permits? What if the result of a stressful day was because we didn't allow God to work through us from start to finish? Allowing God into your life only at the end of the day is a lot like playing a concert and then considering whether your instruments were tuned.

Read Luke 11:1-4, Luke 5:16 Psalm 46:10

How long are your everyday conversations with people? Are they less than a minute, a few minutes, 10-15 minutes or more? Wouldn't it be fitting then, that we could have short conversations with God all throughout our day as well? For you it may be that you set your alarm 15 minutes earlier than normal and find that place to converse with God by yourself. You might steal 5 minutes here or 2 minutes there while waiting on a co-worker to meet with you. Make this time with God a personal exchange (talking AND listening) and allow God to "tune" your day for greatness as you live it. Allow His life to flow through your day rather than only looking for Him to wrap it with a bow at the end of it.

Note

DAY
20

Continual Thanks

When was the last time you thanked God for something He was doing in your life? Was it yesterday? Maybe it was Thanksgiving? We live in a very selfish culture and as easy as it is to point that out, it's even harder to look at our prayer life under this microscope and recognize our own selfishness. What if instead of asking God to wrap Himself around our schedule, we asked God how we could be used by Him. What if we gave thanks to Him for every small thing He was doing? By thanking God, you may start to notice Him more, His Grace, His presence, His life surrounding you as you enter into your daily routines. Prayer and thanksgiving are not there because God needs it; rather, it's there because we need it.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice, pray, give thanks! In your prayer time today, simply thank God for who He is, and everything He's done. Make a list, whether it's the breath in your lungs, the family you have, your church community, or the food on your table...Give Him the glory.

Note

**DAY
21**

Praying For Leadership

Think about a president or leader that you thought shouldn't have been in office (ok be careful, that's far enough). Strong emotions are probably stirring right now. You're probably going over every bad decision they made, every bad policy they allowed, and every way they wronged you. What if by spending more time condemning our leaders than praying for them, you were actually harming our leader's effectiveness? That's a hard truth to swallow, but an even harder truth to swallow is that our God put those leaders in our lives, so by criticizing these leaders, we are talking about the God that put them there.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Hebrew 13:17, Romans 13:1

Pray for the leaders of our nation, our community, and our church. Let these leaders know that you're praying for them as well.

Note _____

**DAY
22**

Undignified

What does a typical worship service look like to you? Is it a four song set that goes from happy to sad? Is it bursting with excitement or do you keep yourself restrained out of a burdened sense of ‘duty’? Is it a celebration, or is it a funeral? In the Old Testament worship was more than an hourly devotion or song. It was an honor and necessity to everyone who chose to take part in it. Now ask yourself this: Am I approaching Jesus, my Savior with gratitude in worship with a heart full of life? Or is this just another routine that takes part in my life?

Read John 4:21-24

We have two choices when we come into worship: We can either come dressed as our old selves or we can strip away who we were and celebrate who we are now, recognizing the power of both the Spirit and Truth. What are some ways you can come ready to worship God in a worship service? What are some ways you can celebrate and worship God in your daily life? Write down how God prepares your heart to worship Him with the community of faith in your notes.

Note

**DAY
23**

Selah

Read Psalm 46:10

Have you ever brought your chaos to church with you? We all do it. Bills need to be paid, homework needs to be done, friendships are dying, and you're wondering if this is really what living is. Then the music plays and you sing along as if nothing is wrong, even though you know that's not true. But then you start reading the words you sing, and something starts to click.

Read Psalm 3

Have you ever been lost in a moment of worship? I don't mean that you were confused, I mean lost in an overwhelming sense that God loves you; He truly loves you. It's a flood of emotions and all you can do is rest in that moment of worship with God. Have you ever had a moment like that? It could have been when you were out in nature, encouraged by someone, or even just God speaking into your soul. The bible describes this moment as "Selah." It's a moment of peace, where God gives you rest, and all you can do is accept it. When was the last time you experienced a Selah moment? Be still, and spend time today praying to God for a restful Selah moment. Seek Him out and He will find you.

Note

KINGDOM LIVING

DAY
24

Overflow

Our God is a show off, not in a prideful sense but in a way that lets you see how amazing He is. He is a God who doesn't just provide for our needs, but He goes above and beyond the parameters of our desires. With that said, it's no surprise that he doesn't just offer life, but a life that overflows. Imagine this for a second: you have a bucket and you walk up to God and ask Him for life. God gladly complies by filling up your bucket and as life hits the top it overflows down the sides and keeps flowing. So what do you do? Some of us would probably grab another bucket, and if you're a clean freak you'd probably grab paper towels to contain the overflow. This overflow of life that God has given isn't meant to be contained, but rather allowed to flow into the lives around us.

Read Isaiah 6:1-10, Acts 1:8, John 10:10

The mark of a true disciple is the making of more disciples. God gives us life and life abundantly and it was bought with the greatest possible sacrifice. When we pick up our cross each day, we are committing ourselves to no longer live for ourselves, but for others. Who are the people in your life that you want to see changed by the life that God has given you?

Note

**DAY
25**

Atmosphere Changers

Read Matthew 5:13-16

It is likely you've read this passage several times, and it's easy to see that Christ wants us to be different from the world, but he's asking us for more than just contrast; he's asking us to change it. Salt adds flavor to things. Salt was used to preserve dead bodies and to destroy plants that people didn't want to grow. As salt, we are being called to stop death from advancing in the world around us, and to fight against what is destroying life. As a light to the world we are a beacon to the lost, providing a way for God to be seen, and there is so much power in the identity of light because darkness cannot overcome it. We are literally atmosphere changers.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17

When you walk into a room, does the very atmosphere change? Are you a beacon of Christ's love? Are you light to the darkness around you? Do you set people free? Who in your life needs to be rescued? As you spend time with God this morning, pray for this person, and find time today to reach out to them, and let them know you care for them. Invest in their life!

Note

**DAY
26**

Law vs. Grace

What do you think of when you hear the words “law” and “grace”? You may approach your faith from a more “works-based” theology and you place high value in Old Testament laws. Or perhaps you feel like your freedom is being taken away by the law, so you resonate more with statements such as “I’m saved by grace, and I’m free from the law.” When we actually dig into these two words, we find that a misuse and misunderstanding of them desecrates the value of both of them. The law was meant to be a guardian to protect us and to reveal our need for God. Unfortunately, the Pharisees and teachers of the law added to God’s law to leverage power over others and to have a sense of control in how people approached God. Grace is the embodiment of Christ’s love and mercy. It was meant to be an awe-inspiring movement that our “logical” brains often can’t fully understand. Too often, we use grace as a “get out of jail free” card, instead of allowing it to demonstrate God’s consuming love.

Read Romans 3:19-31

The Law of Moses required the bare minimum from us, whereas grace requires the entirety of our lives. The cost of our sin required the highest price, the highest of debts; yet it’s not an overbearing debt because of the cross. In the act of Christ’s sacrifice, the law and grace collided and both were made complete. We are loved by the God who completed the law and gives unfathomable grace. We are called as sons and daughters to love with that same unfathomable grace, but still in view of the law. He has done this for you, go and do likewise.

**DAY
27**

Foot Scrub

Have you ever brought a friend to church? Did you ever have that looming fear that today your church body may do something weird and out of character? Something totally uncomfortable like when the pastor decides, “Today I’m going to wash all of your feet.” It’s easy to relate with the disciples when we read about Christ getting down on his hands and knees, and washing their feet. It’s a tense moment. Finally, Peter breaks the tension by saying, “Jesus, what are you doing? This is not your place; you can’t do a servant’s job.” Peter is freaking out because, in his culture, every great teacher would have a specific type of cloth they would tie around their waist. This cloth would symbolize their societal place, prestige, and worth. So instead of using a cloth of the highest prize, Jesus wraps the cloth of a servant around his waist, and not just any servant, but the servant of all servants, the foot washer.

Read John 13:1-17, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Before Jesus attempts to teach his disciples about the salvation that is coming, he humbles himself in front of them. Jesus approached humanity with a sense of ‘downward mobility’, meaning that he understood that the greatest privilege was to serve rather than be served. People around you can see that God is giving you true life. Therefore, when you live with the ‘downward mobility’ demonstrated by Jesus, you have entered into a life that is so radically different from the world. We choose to be less in order to make the people around us more and sometimes it stands out. When was the last time you humbled yourself in service to the people around you? What titles, positions or power should you lay down to serve others?

**DAY
28**

Love Your Neighbors

In the 1950s it was common to know all of your neighbors so intimately that it was no big deal to come over just for a chat, and then a peculiar invention changed all of that: the garage door. As dramatic as it sounds, the advertisement that sold this contraption read, “You’ll never have to see your neighbor again.” People never knew this was an issue, but the appeal of being able to seclude yourself in the privacy of your home became too juicy to pass up. It’s no secret that connecting with people takes time and is a vulnerable process. We’ve become uncomfortable and often unwilling to be in relationship with others because it gives them too much power over us. Pop Quiz, hotshot: Do you know the names of five of your neighbors? Do you know how you can pray for them?

Read Galatians 5:13, Romans 15:2, Luke 10:25-37

God wants us to be great neighbors. Whether it’s someone who lives on your block, or a person you encounter daily at work, go out and find your neighbor and introduce yourself if you haven’t done so yet. Get to know them, care for them, pray for them, find ways to bless them, invest in their lives. And allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you engage in discussions around faith. Consider inviting them to come with you to church.

Note

**DAY
29**

The Least of These

As we cling to Jesus as the source of life, our desire for personal interactions with our Savior increases. We thirst for face to face meetings with the Warrior King that gave us our purpose, yet sometimes we seem to struggle with finding these opportunities. Face it: we all crave a hand-in-hand walk with God. What if Jesus isn't waiting for you in the comfort and confined space of a church building, but rather in the broken world he paid for?

Read Matthew 25:34-40

We have so many opportunities to reach the world around us and Christ is waiting for each of us in these moments. What a powerful thought that is! Christ has been smiling at you as you bring joy to those who need Him. What are some ways in which you can be the hands and feet of Christ? If you haven't done so yet, check with your local church to find more ways you can impact your community and encounter Christ.

Note

**DAY
30**

Let's Feast with These

God has called you to do great and wonderful things. He has entrusted you to be a part of the church and more importantly to play an active role in His kingdom. In the beginning of our walk with Him, He took you by the hand and led you to His table where an incredible feast laid before you. Then our King gave you a purpose, “You’ve tasted and seen my kingdom and the life that it brings. I want you to go out and find those who are starving for life and not here with us.”

Read Romans 10:15, Luke 14:15-23, Matthew 28:18-20

How can we be content with the life we have, knowing others are suffering without it? Our calling is to go and find those who are starving and invite them to the feast. Who is missing out? Find them and invite them to church. Let them know that you love them and care for them, and you want them to encounter God!

Note

**DAY
31**

Reverse Economy

Read Matthew 20:16

You don't have to meditate on the verse above to realize that Jesus has reversed the entire philosophy of His kingdom. If you want to be first, you have to be last. If you want to lead, you have to follow.

Read Romans 12:10 and Philippians 2:4

If you want to find life in the Kingdom of God, you have to be willing to give life to others. Without community, the church would just be a good idea. Who can you start pouring life into today? What areas do you need to surrender to God in order to see it grow? Spend some time in prayer and ask God, "How can I be a part of this reverse philosophy?"

Note

**DAY
32**

The Mark of Prosperity

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13

It's easy to read this passage and want the prosperity that God is giving to his people. We stamp this scripture on numerous things such as graduation cards, t-shirts, and bumper stickers. It's usually our "go-to" verse when someone is having a rough time. We all want that life, but how do we get it? Is it just being in the right place and the right time? What if prosperity had nothing to do with what you own, but had everything to do with what you could give?

Read Jeremiah 29:7 and Acts 1:8

That same chapter where God promises prosperity, He first lays out what prosperity is. Prosperity is when you have the ability to take care of others. A prosperous city is marked by the people that sacrifice for it. That's why the great commission starts its movement before it overflows to the world around it. If you want to be "prosperous" in this reverse philosophical idea, you must rewire your brain to think of prosperity as your ability to give, instead of your ability to receive. How can you care for your city? What resources can you give up? Spend time today praying to God, to show you how to care for your city.

Note

**DAY
33**

Lost Cause

Have you ever looked at someone you were praying for and thought, “What a lost cause, they’ll never hear from god.” Maybe you didn’t think it that harshly, but you felt hopeless to a degree. There will be times where someone will be so stuck in their ways that we’ll wonder if they’ll ever come alive.

Read James 1:23-25

If you went up to a mirror right now, I bet you wouldn’t be able to walk away without finding one flaw on your face. That’s exactly what God’s word does, it shows us our flaws, and even when we think we look “good enough,” this mirror shows us the opposite. We were a lost cause, but thanks to the Father we’ve been redeemed.

Read Luke 15:1-24

Spend some time today in prayer about the people you’ve been praying about. Give thanks to God that He chased after you, and even right now He’s chasing after those people. Celebrate that God doesn’t believe in a lost cause; He redeems them.

Note

**DAY
34**

The Hourglass of Life

Read Hebrews 12:2

Think about 5 people who don't know Jesus that you've prayed for. Think about people you've cared for and longed for them to experience the abundant life of Christ. Really think about them.

Imagine that in one week, you were going to die. How would you live each day this week? Would you reach out to those 5 people? Would you try to mend bridges that had been burnt? Would you extend forgiveness and even reach out to those you never had the courage to speak to about the Gospel?

Read John 17:15-21

With only one week left to live, Christ was thinking of you. Even though the world was against Him, He couldn't stop thinking of how much He cared for you. He couldn't get you out of His head and He definitely couldn't stop talking about you to the Father. Asking this can be daunting, but what can you accomplish in a week? As we near the end of this journey to the cross, finish strong with joy, pointing the lost to Christ. Spend time in God's presence today and really embrace His peace.

Note

**DAY
35**

They Don't Know What They Do

Imagine if you had a front row seat to watch every person that had ever wronged you as they do it. Would you want to sit there? In His final hours, Jesus witnessed Judas betray Him, Peter deny Him three times, His “followers” cry out for His blood, soldiers fight for His clothes, and the leaders His Father’s temple smile as He was tortured and crucified. Jesus had a front row seat to humanity at its most evil moments.

Read Luke 23:13-34

Christ displayed so much love and power when He cried out for humanity’s forgiveness. As we explore the final hours of Jesus’s life, think about the wrongs that have been committed against you. In those instances, which is more powerful: the sin committed against you or the forgiveness given by Christ? Spend time in prayer thanking God for the love and forgiveness He has shown you, and extend that same blessing to people in your life.

Note

**DAY
36**

Forsaken

Read Genesis 2:17 and Genesis 3:7-8

Have you ever strayed away from God's presence? What did you feel? Did you feel lifeless as you walked away from the source of your strength? How about a sense of shame as you attempted to live without Him? Adam felt all of this when he chose himself over a relationship with his creator, a feeling we are all familiar with.

Now imagine you were born perfect. Every waking moment of your life was spent in perfect harmony with the Father. Every step was guided by the Holy Spirit, and while everyone else lived lives of chaos, yours was filled with peace. Then one day, all of it was stripped from you. You went from having a beautiful relationship with God but within in an instant you could no longer sense His presence. Instead you are slapped with the crushing curse of this earth. Instead of life giving breath, your lungs choke on poisonous sin. It is shallow to assume that Jesus was crying out in anger at God, when in reality He was crying out in pain. The man who was the embodiment of innocence tasted your death and experienced the chasm of your separation from God.

Read Matt 27:46 and Romans 5:12-20

As Christ experienced the separation that we felt, he could have called an army of angels to take him off the cross. He could have decided that even a moment without God was too agonizing, yet he didn't. Christ laid down everything he was entitled to, in order for the separation between you and God to be eradicated. Can you think of people in your life that have separated themselves from God? Reach out to them today and let them know that there is a God fighting to have them back.

**DAY
37**

I Thirst

Read Matthew 26:39

This passage can be pretty confusing. It's easy to assume Jesus is displaying a sense of fear or dread, yet still remaining faithful to God's schedule. What we often miss is that Jesus knows this is the only person who could drink from this cup. This isn't a prayer of a fearful spirit, rather it's a prayer that is trying to reiterate his objective; "I am going to drink this cup!" So what is this cup? The cup was all of our sin, all of our wickedness, every ounce of wrath we deserved. This cup was the torture and persecution that Christ had to go through. This is no prayer of intimidation; rather, this is a prayer acknowledging the stakes. This is a prayer that shows the believer that no one else could drink from the cup. "Father, if anyone else could endure all of this pain and misery, let it be known, but if I am the only hope, I want to finish this. Your Kingdom matters more than my comfort. "

Read Isaiah 53 and John 19:28

"I Thirst, I want it all. I want all of their ugliness; I want all of their brokenness. I want every debt they owe to you, God. Pour it out on me. It is my desire to stand in their place. I thirst". There is so much power packed into this two word statement. The amazing life that you live today is the result of the savior who desired to see you free from sin. Is it your desire to bring others to Christ? Do you thirst?

Note _____

**DAY
38**

It Is Finished

There He was, the noblest man who had ever walked the earth; nailed to a cross. His mother wept in front of Him, watching her son struggle for His breath. Only one of His disciples actually showed up to witness His death, because every other follower was hiding in fear of suffering the same fate. Religious leaders mocked Him, even to His last breath with every last ounce of hope draining from Him. There He was, the Warrior King who was promised to free the world; the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, nailed to a cross. Little did they know that in order for them to gain life, He had to lose His. In order for you to be made alive, He had to take your place in the grave.

Read John 19:16-42

That was the day the world changed. It was the day that our hope was crucified, and God's anger toward us was satisfied. When you enter into God's presence today, remember that you are in His presence because a debt you owed was paid. Through Christ's death you have been invited into life. There are many people in your community who are still living in bitter death and are absent from God's presence. What if we allowed those people to endure death while we remain alive? Ask God to use you this weekend, and invite some people to your local church.

Note

**DAY
39**

The Empty Cross

There He was on the cross for all to see, but now the cross stands naked. No one stands filling the rough timber; no body occupies its punishment. The crucified Savior is gone. Rumors circulate around the city that an anonymous man allowed the dead heretic to borrow his grave for the time being, yet when you finally find the grave of Jesus a guard stands in its place, and you're too afraid to approach it. You and the rest of the disciples hide in your homes knowing at any second the Pharisees will come looking for you. No one knows when you'll finally be persecuted; the only thing you're sure of is that the Messiah is dead. Where is our hope? Why did it end this way? How could God turn His back on His own son? The man who knew no sin, the healer of the broken, the embodiment of innocence, and the breaker of chains is dead.

Read Matthew 5:4 and John 16:33

Today, let's mourn the loss of a friend. Allow God to speak to you as you remember the sacrifice that Jesus made. Christ paid the highest price, and His sacrifice can never be repaid. There will never be a greater gift than the gift of life that He has bought for us. Spend some time with God today and thank Him for His son.

Note

**DAY
40**

The Empty Grave

Read John 20

It is finished. What felt like a sigh of defeat, was actually a victory cry. When the bitterness of death seemed heavier than before, there stood the savior, the conqueror of the grave. Looking back to this moment, it's easy to allow the cross to lose its power, but Christ has set many things in motion. We are living in the power and grace of a Warrior King who gave everything in order for us to gain everything. There has never been a more powerful act of love, and there will never be a more powerful movement than this one.

Read Colossians 1:15-23

You have been welcomed into the victory that has paid for your life and not just your life, but anyone who will accept it as well. Spread the news, let the world know that you were once a cold, lifeless body, yet the Savior's voice called you to life! Your life meant nothing on its own, but now you have been commissioned to the greatest miracle on earth! Share with the world around you the joy that is your life!

Note
