

# Day 1

## Carly Brauer - Hope City

### Read

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 NIV

### Think

Have you ever been lost in the dark without a flashlight or a map? It sounds dark, unknown, and lonely. Oftentimes I go through life feeling this way. Allowing fear, stress, worry, anger, defeat, drive me. I can feel alone, overwhelmed and misunderstood. This state defines the human condition.

As we walk through life we start realizing that Jesus meets us RIGHT where we are. That there is an alternative to feeling alone in our thoughts. He sits with us in our worry, in our stress and commands us to not be afraid. He assures us that He is very present in our pain and with us wherever we go. This means the darkest places in your life can be lit up by Jesus. He can be invited into the very crevices that you hide from everyone else and He can bring life to you there. This is EPIC news!! This means that we have a God who WANTS to be a part of our every thought. He wants to comfort you and protect you. He loves you so deeply. Just invite Him in.

Let's face the truth here together, the world is scary. Otherwise why would God remind us several times to not be afraid? In fact, life can be painfully ugly at times. God's promise is not to deliver and protect us from experiencing hurt, pain, sin, the human condition---His promise is to be WITH us as we walk through it. He promises to be our guide, to be the dude we need with the map and the flashlight when we are lost in the dark.

As we walk through this week, let's allow this scripture to soak in and impact our lives. God wants you to be strong and courageous in your own unique way. Please remember fear does not get to win.

### Reflect

What areas of your life could you invite Jesus into?

What stressors, fears, worries could you ask Jesus to walk you thru?

Who could you pray for today that could use help out of a dark season?

### Pray

Jesus, thank you for being with me and meeting me right where I'm at. Thank you Lord for filling me with encouragement, with bravery, and with strength in the moments that I need it the most. God, I ask that you please be present in my thoughts, that you cast out my doubts and guide me in a direction favorable to you. Please Lord use me to serve those around me. Please use my strength to

encourage others in your name. I invite you into my life Jesus and trust that you know the way. In your name I pray, Amen.

## Day 2

**Dayne Scanlon**

### **Read**

#### **Matthew 3:11-12**

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

### **Think**

Think about the role of John the Baptized for a minute. His entire purpose in scripture is to prepare the way for Jesus. His role is 100% a support role, and it is his absolute pleasure to prepare the way for Jesus, and let him take center stage. In our culture, we are so preoccupied with fame, and popularity which can have a devastating impact on our spiritual lives. Jesus calls us to a life of humility, and of service; principles that don't necessarily line up with becoming Tik Tok famous. Having fame certainly isn't a bad thing, but using that fame for your own glory is.

### **Reflect**

Think today about how you can give God glory, and divert attention towards you to attention towards him. What if today, your entire focus was to bring every conversation, every interaction, every moment back to the glory of our Heavenly Father? Like John the Baptist, our role is to point people to Jesus, and it should be our joy to do so.

### **Pray**

Lord, thank you for trusting me with your name. Thank you that when I wear the title of "Christian" my role becomes to point people to you. I pray today that you would give me the courage, and the strength to point my siblings, my parents, and everyone I come into contact with back to you.

I submit my life to you, and pray that you would use me in might ways!

AMEN

# Day 3

Dan Self

## Read

Jude 1:20-23

“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear- hating the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.”

## Think

The role of every Jesus-follower is two-fold: live by the Spirit as we constantly receive the goodness of God’s grace, and give this grace to others. Notice the author calls on the believer to be mindful of *how* they extend the grace of God to others- some require simple patience and mercy, some need to be plucked out of destructive living, and others need a combination of the two. Living according to the Spirit allows us to slow down and consider what each person needs.

## Reflect

What do those in your life who are far from God need? Patience? Mercy? Rescue? God’s desire is that *everyone* comes to know him, and our purpose as believers is to create an environment where they can. We *must*, however, be mindful of what kind of ministry those people in our lives require. God’s grace given to us enables us to see the bigger picture of God’s grace, and the closer we grow to him, the more tools we gain to reach those who are lost.

## Pray

God, thank you for the mercy you have shown me. You did not force me against my will to follow you, but you patiently endured my doubt and waywardness and welcomed me with open arms. I simply ask that you equip me to do the same with those in my life who are far from you. Give me opportunities to bravely reach out, and give me the patience to lovingly give mercy.

# Day 4

Hannah Jensen - WCC

## Read

### Jeremiah 31:11-14

For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the Lord.

## Think

It is through scripture like this that we are reminded of God’s hope and restoration he gives us. He gives us hope in hopeless situations, even in quarantine. It reminds me of the good things God is doing right now through this period. Sometimes all we need is to be reminded of the good he is capable of to become motivated.

## Reflect

Who do you think you’re influencing? Who/what is influencing you? How can you begin to reflect the rejoicing Jeremiah is talking about in your daily life? No matter the activity (praying, worshiping, listening ect..) make time for God to fill your cup starting today.

## Pray

Lord as I go throughout my day please remind me of your presence in my life. Please fill me with your overflowing joy and hope. I pray for you to light a fire in me, and use me as your hands and feet. Thank you for making me on purpose for a purpose. Amen

# Day 5

Josie Self - WCC

## Read

### Psalm 27:4-5

The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord’s perfections and meditating in his Temple. For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.

## Think

I love David’s heart that chases after the presence of God. He is secure in his salvation, the ultimate gift, yet he desires nothing more than to dwell in the house of the Lord. I think of times in my life where my desire for the Lord has been more for the gifts and blessings that He offers rather than to simply delight in His perfect presence. Sometimes I desire to receive His peace, strength, and power to overcome difficult situations more than I desire to sit offering my praise and sacrifice. I’ve had those moments of life filled full of pain, grief, sorrow, and fear, the only place where I find refuge is in God’s presence. My safety and comfort doesn’t come from receiving the tools I need from God to battle these situations in my own strength, but instead from abiding in His presence. David understood suffering the way many of us do and he models a soul that continually yearns for more and more of God’s presence. Yes, His presence offers shelter from harm and protection from the storm, but our souls are most truly at rest as we delight in His temple.

It is this idea that the Westminster Shorter Catechism picks up on when it says, *“What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever.”*

## Reflect

What is the deepest desire of your soul? To receive the blessings of God or to bless Him with your praise and adoration? Does your soul long for more and more exposure to God’s presence? What is one way that you can abide in His temple today? Bring your whole self before Him and delight in His perfection.

## Pray

God I thank you that I have unlimited access to your presence. My heart longs for more and more of you. I pray that you would give me opportunities this week to chase after your presence and delight in you alone. Amen.