

Grace in a Permissive Culture

Jude 5-11

April 26th, 2026



DAY 1: REMEMBERING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

READING: NUMBERS 14:1-24

The Israelites witnessed God's miraculous deliverance from Egypt—the plagues, the Red Sea crossing, daily provision of manna, and the pillar of fire. Yet they still struggled to trust God's authority over their lives. Like them, we often trust Jesus for salvation but hesitate to surrender control of our daily decisions. We love the idea of God's grace but resist His boundaries. Today, reflect on areas where you've witnessed God's faithfulness. Are you trusting Him only for deliverance, or are you also trusting His wisdom for how you should live? Faith isn't just believing God can save us; it's believing He knows what's best for us. Let remembrance of His past faithfulness fuel present obedience.

Reflection: Where am I trusting God's rescue but resisting His authority?

DAY 2: THE CENTER OF WORSHIP

READING: GENESIS 4:1-16

Cain's story reveals a sobering truth: we can approach God on our own terms and miss Him entirely. Cain brought an offering, performed a religious act, but his heart was centered on himself rather than on God's design. His anger at God's rejection led to the murder of his brother—a tragic picture of self-centered worship. Jude uses Cain as a warning because self-worship always leads to destruction. Today, examine your spiritual life honestly. Are you following Jesus because it serves your desires, or because you genuinely want to honour Him? Do you worship what makes you happy, or do you live as an act of worship before God? The question isn't whether we worship—everyone does—but who sits on the throne of our hearts.

Reflection: Is Jesus at the center of my life, or am I?

DAY 3: GRACE IS NOT A LICENSE

READING: ROMANS 6:1-14

"Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!" Paul's words echo Jude's concern. Some in the early church perverted grace, treating it as permission to live however they pleased. But grace isn't God lowering His standards; it's God empowering us to meet them. Grace doesn't say, "Sin doesn't matter." Grace says, "Because you're forgiven and loved, you're now free to live differently." When we truly grasp the cost of our salvation—Jesus' sacrifice on the cross—our response isn't to abuse that gift but to treasure it through obedience. Grace transforms us from the inside out, giving us both the desire and power to honour God with our lives. Don't cheapen what cost Jesus everything.

Reflection: Am I using grace as freedom to sin or as power to obey?

Grace in a Permissive Culture

Jude 5-11

April 26th, 2026



DAY 4: LIVING WITHIN GOD'S DESIGN

READING: MATTHEW 19:1-12

Jesus points back to creation when discussing God's design for sexuality and relationships. "From the beginning it was not so," He says, reminding us that God's original design reflects His best for humanity. Sin has broken and distorted every area of life, including sexuality. We all experience brokenness in this area. The cultural message says, "Follow your desires wherever they lead." But God's boundaries aren't restrictive—they're protective. They guard the beauty and wonder of what He created. Living within God's design isn't about legalism; it's about trusting that the Creator knows how His creation flourishes best. In a world that celebrates unchecked desire, faithfulness means believing God's way leads to true freedom, even when it requires sacrifice.

Reflection: Do I trust that God's boundaries are for my good?

DAY 5: OBEDIENCE AS LOVE

READING: JOHN 14:15-24

"If you love me, keep my commands." Jesus makes the connection clear: obedience is the language of love. We don't obey to earn God's favor—we already have it through Christ. We obey because we've been transformed by His love and want to honour Him. This is the heart of Jude's message to a confused church in a confused world. Faithfulness isn't about perfect performance; it's about a heart surrendered to Jesus as Master and Lord. When we live seeking first His Kingdom, our obedience becomes an expression of worship. Today, consider your motivation for following God. Is it duty or devotion? Fear or love? Let your obedience flow from gratitude for what Christ has already accomplished, and watch how it transforms from burden to joy.

Reflection: Does my obedience express love for Jesus or obligation?

Closing Prayer: Father, help us live faithfully in a world that celebrates self above surrender. Give us courage to trust Your authority, wisdom to recognize Your design, and hearts that worship You alone. May our obedience be an overflow of love for all You've done. In Jesus' name, Amen.