

# Graves into Gardens

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION



Bible study for the week starting February 22, 2026

## SHARE

When you hear “God is light,” what images come to mind? What does it look like to walk in the light of God, versus simply believing the right things about God?

## READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read [1 John 1:5-2:6](#). Why is it so tempting to minimize sin? What does honest confession reveal about the condition of our hearts?
2. “Advocate” is not usually the way we describe Jesus, but how does knowing Him as Advocate change the way we approach God, even after we sin? What depth do you attach to the word “propitiation” beyond the general concept of forgiveness?
3. Read [Exodus 34:5-9](#). This is one of the most important self-revelations of God in the Old Testament. What is the link between God’s holiness, justice and mercy? Why is it important that we understand all three?
4. Read [Matthew 6:9-15](#). Why do you think Jesus singled out and elaborated upon the concept of forgiveness more than the other petitions? What does withholding forgiveness teach us about our understanding of the Gospel?
5. Application:

Practice Honest Confession	Where do you need to step into the light rather than excusing or minimizing sin?
Receive Christ’s Mercy	Are you still trying to pay for something for which Jesus has already paid?
Extend Forgiveness	Who do you need to forgive? How can you release this to God?

## PRAY

Pray for the Holy Spirit’s strength to be able to forgive as you have been forgiven: much!

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## A HEART CHANGED BY MERCY

1 John 1:5-2:6 (Exodus 34:5-9; Matthew 6:9-15)

February 22, 2026 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

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“God is **LIGHT**, and in Him there is no **DARKNESS** at all.”

- 1 John 1:5

Before we talk about **FORGIVENESS**, we need to learn about God’s **HOLINESS**.

Three major self-**DECEPTIONS**:

1. The lie of **FALSE FELLOWSHIP** (1 John 1:6)
2. The lie of **SINLESSNESS** (1 John 1:8)
3. The lie of **EMPTY CONFESSION** (1 John 2:4)

Three glorious **PROMISES**:

1. We have an **ADVOCATE** (1 John 2:1).
2. We have **PROPITIATION** (1 John 2:2).
3. We have **ASSOCIATION** (1 John 2:6).

Jesus presses us to action:

- To practice honest **CONFESSION**;
- To receive Christ’s **MERCY**; and
- To extend **FORGIVENESS**.

*For this Wednesday, read Genesis 32:9-12, 24-31.*