



WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

## **Grow Pray Study for the Week of January 11, 2026**

### **Prayer for the Week**

Gracious God, we gather in your presence with open hearts. Give us the courage to be gracious, to receive your love and share it freely. Shape us by your love and send us out in your peace. Amen.

### **Monday, January 12**

#### **Scripture: Ephesians 4:32**

Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

#### **Observation**

God calls us to be a people of love, grace, and forgiveness. But this doesn't mean it will be easy! Paul links kindness and forgiveness not to ease, but to intention. Grace is not passive; it is chosen. A moment-by-moment choice to act as God calls, choosing love.

#### **Application**

This verse is set as a wallpaper on my phone, offering me several reminders a day to be kind and compassionate. And some days? I need many reminders! Other days, I need the courage to act. This is part of what it means to be human. Where am I tempted to withdraw kindness because it feels undeserved or risky? Today, courage might look like choosing compassion even when I feel justified in withholding it.

#### **Prayer**

God of mercy, give me the courage to practice grace when it costs me something. Soften my heart where it has grown guarded. Amen.

## **Tuesday, January 13**

### **Scripture: Luke 19:1-10**

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but being a short man, he couldn't because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today." So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much."

Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. The Human One came to seek and save the lost."

### **Observation**

Jesus offers several examples of what it looks like to live with courage and grace. In this story, Jesus acts with courageous grace as he reaches out to Zacchaeus. Jesus lets go of public opinion and extends an invitation for relationship. Zacchaeus, too, responds with courage and grace. He chooses to trust Jesus, taking a step out in faith. Grace leads: transformation follows.

### **Application**

Read this passage again, placing yourself in the role of various people. How does it feel to read this story as Jesus? Zacchaeus? An onlooker? Who do I hesitate to welcome because of how others might judge me? Courageous grace may mean opening space for relationship before agreement or change.

### **Prayer**

Jesus, teach me your brave hospitality. Help me welcome others as you welcome me—freely and fully. Amen.

## **Wednesday, January 14**

### **Scripture: Colossians 4:2-6**

Keep on praying and guard your prayers with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray for us also. Pray that God would open a door for the word so we can preach the secret plan of Christ—which is why I'm in chains. Pray that I might be able to make it as clear as I ought to when I preach. Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Your speech should always be gracious and sprinkled with insight so that you may know how to respond to every person.

### **Observation**

Over and over again, Paul opens his letters with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. No

matter the circumstance – if he is in jail, if the recipient is troubled, if there is pain and worry – he always begins with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Our prayer and praise make a difference – to help shape the lens in which we view our lives. Beginning with prayer, Paul calls us to speak graciously, “sprinkled with insight.”

### **Application**

How might we apply this today? If we begin our day with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving – how does it impact our attitude? Are we able to be more gracious, even in disagreement? Are we able to be more calm, even amid worry?

### **Prayer**

Holy Spirit, guide my words today. Give me courage to speak truth wrapped in love. Amen.

## **Thursday, January 15**

### **Scripture: Luke 23:32-34**

They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

### **Observation**

From the cross, Jesus chooses grace in the face of cruelty. This is not denial of harm, but a refusal to let violence have the final word. Instead, Jesus reminds us that love will always have the final word. Trusting this requires incredible courage, surrender, and grace.

### **Application**

When I feel wronged, my instinct is self-protection. Courageous grace does not excuse harm, but it resists becoming hardened by it. How might these words from Christ on the cross inspire us to be a people who are more loving, even to those who have wronged us?

### **Prayer**

God, when I am hurt or angry, hold me steady. Help me choose grace without losing myself. Amen.

## **Friday, January 16**

### **Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9**

He said to me, “My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness.” So I’ll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ’s power can rest on me.

**Observation**

Have you ever struggled to accept help offered? Many of us do, even in times when we *know* help is needed. Doing so requires trust and vulnerability, a recognition that we cannot do it all alone. Paul learns that accepting grace requires vulnerability, too. It means admitting limits and letting go of self-reliance, while trusting God to see us through.

**Application**

Where am I resisting grace because I want to appear strong or in control? Today I will practice receiving grace—from God or from another person.

**Prayer**

Gracious God, help me accept your love without condition. Give me courage to be honest about my need. Amen.

**Saturday, January 17****Scripture: Galatians 6:9**

Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up.

**Observation**

Grace is not a one-time act but a way of life. Sustained grace—especially in a harsh world—requires endurance and hope.

**Application**

How can I practice courageous grace as a daily posture? I will choose one concrete act of grace today that reflects God's justice and love.

**Prayer**

God of steadfast love, strengthen me for the long work of grace. May my life reflect your courage and compassion. Amen.