



WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

Grow, Pray, Study for the Week of May 3, 2026

Prayer for the Week

Gracious God, open my heart and mind to hear your Word today. By your grace, transform me in faith, in living, and in giving. Where I am fearful, give me courage; where I am uncertain, give me wisdom. Help me listen for your voice and respond with trust. Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. Amen.

Monday, May 4

Scripture: Matthew 25:14–30

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

“After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

“Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you

haven't spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.'

"His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.'

People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth."

Observation

Jesus tells this parable in the midst of teaching about readiness for God's kingdom. In the ancient world, a "talent" was not an ability but a vast sum of money representing something of tremendous value entrusted to servants by a master. The first two servants risk what they have been given and help it grow; the third, motivated by fear, buries the gift. This story is not simply about money, but about trust. God entrusts each of us with gifts, opportunities, relationships, and resources, not to hide away, but to use in the service of God's reign.

Application

Fear often disguises itself as caution, but this parable reminds us that grace invites courageous faithfulness. Stewardship is not about preserving what we have but participating in what God can do through what we offer. Consider where you may be "burying" a gift, holding back generosity, delaying a calling, or underestimating what God can do through you. God is less concerned with the size of what we offer than with our willingness to trust.

Take time today to prayerfully list three gifts God has entrusted to you: maybe it's your time, compassion, leadership, finances, skills, or relationships. Reflect on where one of those gifts could be more fully invested. Choose one concrete act today: make a generosity commitment, volunteer your time, encourage someone with your gifts, or begin a conversation about how you can serve more intentionally.

Prayer

Gracious God, free me from fear and help me faithfully use what you have entrusted to me. Show me today what is mine to do. Amen.

Tuesday, May 5

Scripture: Genesis 39:1–6

When Joseph had been taken down to Egypt, Potiphar, Pharaoh's chief officer, the commander of the royal guard and an Egyptian, purchased him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man and served in his Egyptian master's household. His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made everything he did successful. Potiphar thought highly of Joseph, and Joseph became his assistant; he appointed Joseph head of his household and put everything he had under Joseph's supervision. From the time he appointed Joseph head of his household and of everything he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's household because of Joseph. The Lord blessed everything he had, both in the household and in the field. So he handed over everything he had to Joseph and didn't pay attention to anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome.

Observation

Joseph has been sold into slavery in Egypt, yet even in unjust circumstances, God is with him. Repeatedly, the text says, "The Lord was with Joseph." His gifts of administration and integrity bless not only himself but also Potiphar's whole household. In the ancient Near East, households were economic centers, and a trusted steward managed significant resources. Joseph shows that faithful stewardship is possible even in difficult seasons.

Application

We often imagine transformation begins when circumstances improve, but Joseph teaches that grace works in the midst of hardship. Faithfulness in ordinary places matters. Your workplace, family, neighborhood, and church are all places where God can work through your integrity, service, and generosity.

Look at one place in your daily life where you may have stopped expecting God to work. Ask how you might bring greater faithfulness or blessing there. Practice one intentional act today: do your work with extra care, offer support to a colleague, reach out to a neighbor, or bring encouragement to someone who needs it. Let your daily life become an offering.

Prayer

Emmanuel, God who is with me, help me flourish where I am planted and use my daily faithfulness for your purposes. What is mine to do, O God? Amen.

Wednesday, May 6

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4–10

The Lord's word came to me:

“Before I created you in the womb I knew you;
before you were born I set you apart;
I made you a prophet to the nations.”

“Ah, Lord God,” I said, “I don't know how to speak
because I'm only a child.”

The Lord responded,

“Don't say, 'I'm only a child.'
Where I send you, you must go;
what I tell you, you must say.

Don't be afraid of them,
because I'm with you to rescue you,”
declares the Lord.

Then the Lord stretched out his hand,
touched my mouth, and said to me,
“I'm putting my words in your mouth.

This very day I appoint you over nations and empires,
to dig up and pull down,
to destroy and demolish,
to build and plant.”

Observation

Jeremiah protests his calling because he feels too young and inadequate. But in the biblical world, prophetic authority did not come from status but from God's calling. God does not ask Jeremiah to rely on his own strength; God promises presence and equips him for the work. Grace often begins where our excuses end.

Application

How often do we respond to God's invitation with “I'm not ready,” “I'm not enough,” or “Someone else can do that”? Jeremiah reminds us that calling is rooted not in our qualifications but in God's grace. God does not call the equipped; God equips the called.

Name one place where you have been resisting a nudge from God: serving, giving, speaking up, mentoring, or stepping into leadership. Instead of asking whether you are ready, ask how God may already be equipping you. Take one practical step today: make the call, volunteer, begin the conversation, or offer your yes.

Prayer

Calling God, when I doubt myself, remind me that your grace equips whom you call. Show me what is mine to do, O God. Amen.

Thursday, May 7

Scripture: John 6:1–14

After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit."

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?"

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world."

Observation

A boy offers five barley loaves and two fish, the simple food of the poor. In first-century Galilee, barley was common among peasant families. Yet Jesus takes what seems insufficient and makes abundance. The miracle begins not with plenty, but with someone offering what little they have.

Application

We often focus on what we lack rather than what we can offer. This story invites us to trust that scarcity is not the final word. Grace transforms small offerings into abundant blessings. What seems inadequate in your hands may become more than enough in Christ's hands.

Consider one “small” gift you may be undervaluing. Perhaps it’s your presence, your prayer, your resources, or your time. Offer it intentionally today. Share a meal, make a contribution, help someone in need, or give your attention to someone who feels unseen. Notice how even simple offerings can become holy abundance.

Prayer

God of abundance, take what I have and use it for your purposes. Teach me to trust that in your hands, there is enough. What is mine to do, O God? Amen.

Friday, May 8

Scripture: Romans 12:6–8

We have different gifts that are consistent with God’s grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

Observation

Paul writes to a diverse church in Rome and reminds believers that grace is expressed in varied gifts. Prophecy, service, teaching, generosity, leadership, compassion all matter. The word “gifts” comes from *charismata*, rooted in *charis*, rooted in grace. Our gifts are expressions of grace meant for the common good.

Application

Too often we compare gifts or underestimate our own contribution. But stewardship begins in recognizing that what God has placed within you is needed. Your gifts are not possessions to protect but grace to share.

Reflect on one spiritual gift or strength others often recognize in you. How are you using it right now? Where might it be offered more fully? Take a step today to use that gift intentionally to encourage someone, lead where needed, serve quietly, give generously, or show compassion where it is needed most.

Prayer

Generous God, thank you for the gifts you have placed within me. Help me use them faithfully. What is mine to do, O God? Amen.

Saturday, May 9

Scripture: Acts 16:13–15

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the riverbank, where we thought there might be a place for prayer. We sat down and began to talk with the women who had gathered. One of those women was Lydia, a Gentile God-worshipper from the city of Thyatira, a dealer in purple cloth. As she listened, the Lord enabled her to embrace Paul's message. Once she and her household were baptized, she urged, "Now that you have decided that I am a believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house." And she persuaded us.

Observation

Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth (a luxury good associated with wealth and status), responds to Paul's message with faith and hospitality. Her home becomes one of the earliest centers for the church in Philippi. In the early church, homes were often the first sanctuaries. Lydia uses her resources to support God's mission.

Application

Hospitality is more than entertaining. It is making room for others in ways that reflect God's welcome. Stewardship includes using what we have, our homes, resources, time, and attention to create spaces of belonging and grace.

Practice intentional hospitality today. Invite someone for coffee or a meal, call someone who may be lonely, welcome a newcomer, or share your resources with someone in need. Ask how your life can become a place where others experience God's abundance and care.

Prayer

Welcoming God, make my life a place where others encounter your grace. Open my heart and hands in hospitality. What is mine to do, O God? Amen.