

4 WEEKS

Take me back





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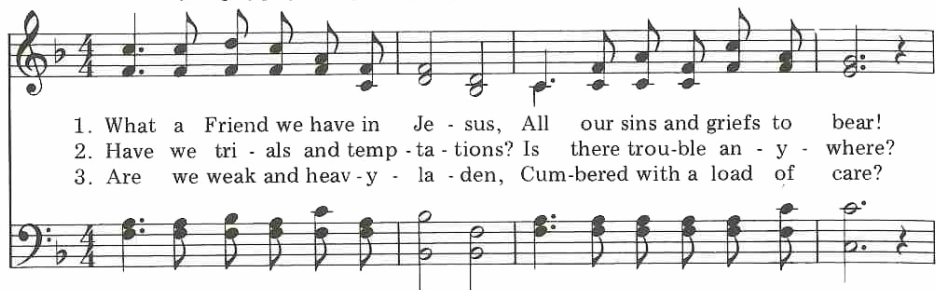
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435 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

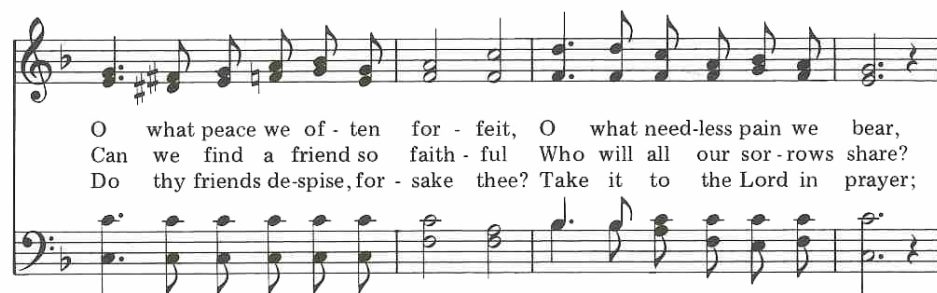
In everything, by prayer and petition, . . . present your requests to God. Phil. 4:6



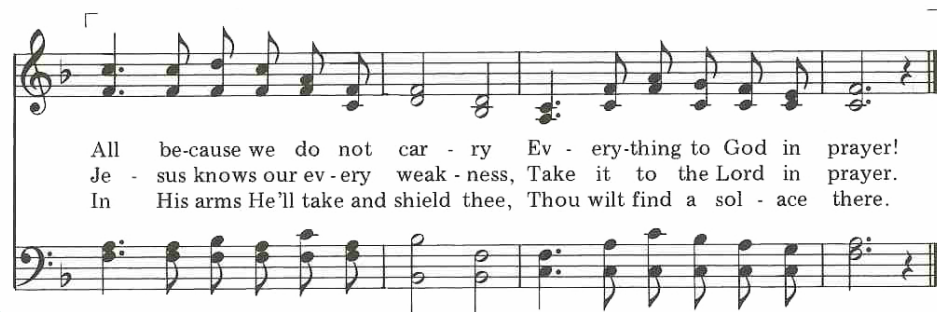
1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y - la - den, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our Ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



SMALL GROUP STUDY WEEK 1

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
And what a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer . . .

Kicking it off:

What qualities do you most look for in a friend?

Big Idea:

As a friend of Jesus, we are invited to carry everything to Him in prayer.

Key Scriptures

John 15:15

"I have never called you 'servants,' because a master doesn't confide in his servants ... But I call you my most intimate friends."

James 5:16

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for

each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

1 Peter 5:7

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Philippians 4:5-6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Discussion:

1. What is one word that best describes your current relationship with Jesus? Explain.
2. Have you ever held any of the misconceptions that prayer is complicated, boring, or doesn't work? How could these misconceptions affect your relationship with God?

3. Read John 15:15. What are your first thoughts after reading this? What does it mean to be Jesus' friend?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:7 and Philippians 4:6-7. Do you easily pray about every care and anxiety, or do you struggle taking everything to God in prayer? Why or why not?
5. Read James 5:16. How often do you hear the confessions of others and pray for others for their healing? How often do you confess to others and pray to be healed? What is holding you back on either of these?
6. What are some ways prayer has brought life to your relationship with God? Describe how you pray in a typical day.
7. Which of these do you want to do more of with God: talking, venting, listening, or thanking?

Wrapping It Up:

Commit to bringing every concern, no matter how small or big, to God in prayer this week. And discuss with your group next week how God answers.

Prayer Focus:

This week, pray for all the families who come to Sunnybrook seeking help through our Mercy Ministry. We see so many walking through our doors that find themselves in dire circumstances. Pray that they can feel the love and provision of God through the help we are able to offer. Pray also for those who lead this ministry to have discernment how to best help those who request help.

Memory Verse:

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7

I'll Fly Away 554

We . . . would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:8



1. Some glad morn-ing when this life is o'er, I'll fly a -
 2. When the shad-ows of this life have gone, fly a-way,
 3. Just a few more wea-ry days and then,



way; To a home on God's ce - les - tial shore, I'll
 fly a-way; Like a bird from pris - on bars has flown, fly a-way,
 To a land where joys shall nev - er end,



Refrain



fly a - way. I'll fly a - way, O glo-ry, I'll
 fly a-way. fly a-way, fly a-way, fly a-way,



fly a - way; When I die, hal - le - lu - jah, by and by,
 in the morn-ing;



I'll fly a - way. I'll fly a - way.
 fly a-way, fly a-way. *ff* fly a - way.





SMALL GROUP STUDY WEEK 2

Some glad morning when
this life is over
I'll fly away
To that home on God's
celestial shore
I'll fly away . . .

Kicking it off:

What's your favorite end-of-the-world movie? Why?

Big Idea:

The eternal hope that we have as Christians is that Christ is coming again!

Key Scriptures

John 14:1-3

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I

go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words."

Matthew 24:39-41, 44

"That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ...So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 58

"But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. ...So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."

Discussion:

Read the above Scriptures and answer the following:

1. Is the hymn I'll Fly Away meaningful to you? How?
2. Describe your view of Heaven and Jesus' return to Earth.
3. What formed your perspective?
4. Do you think you live more like Heaven is a far-off idea, or a soon-coming promise? Why?
5. Reread Matthew 24:39-41, 44. In light of Jesus' words, what do you think it means to be ready?
6. In which area do you have the most room for growth: hope for eternity or urgency

for today? What would help you grow?

Wrapping It Up:

Take specific action this week to not leave words unsaid, deeds undone, or hope unshared.

Prayer Focus:

Pray that 1,000 people here at Sunnybrook will fill a box for a child in these next few weeks through Operation Christmas Child. And pray that each box, no matter where it goes around the world, will bring the love and care of Jesus to the child and family that receives it.

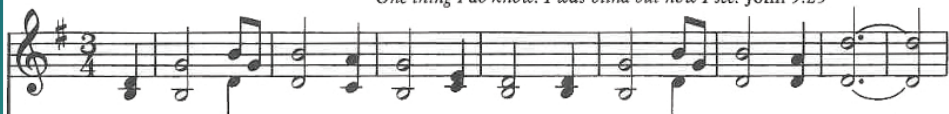
Memory Verse:

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Amazing Grace 202

One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see! John 9:25



- 1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
- 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;
- 4. Thru man - y dan - gers, toils and snares, I have al - read - y come;
- 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,



I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved.
He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.



Amazing Grace How sweet
the sound That saved a
wretch like me I once
was lost but now am found



Amazing Grace

SMALL GROUP STUDY WEEK 3

Amazing Grace,
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost,
but now am found, T'was
blind but now I see . . .

Kicking it off:

Do you have a favorite hymn or worship song? What is meaningful to you about it?

Big Idea:

We are saved by the amazing grace of God through faith in His Son Jesus Christ.

Key Scriptures

Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT

“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the

spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved! For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”

Discussion:

Read the above verses and answer the following:

1. What percentage of the song Amazing Grace do you think you could sing from memory?
2. Read the lyrics to the song Amazing Grace. Which parts of the song do you especially identify with? Why?
3. Take a silent moment to think about all the ways grace has saved you. As you think of something, feel free to share it out loud in a couple of words.
4. Describe a “but God” moment(verse 4) in your life. How have you seen God’s amazing grace at work in you?
5. Who can you actively be praying for and showing the Gospel of grace to? How will you do this?
6. Which part of your life do you need to allow God’s grace to come in and transform?
7. Name a few people whom you will go out of your way to show grace to, and add them to your prayer time.

Wrapping It Up:

Extend God’s grace to your family, friends, and coworkers

this week. Ask God to give you specific opportunities.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for all of our new members who walked through the 4 Bases this past month and committed themselves to membership this week. Pray that they will engage in God’s mission here and be extensions of His love and grace in their sphere of influence. And pray that they will be able to grow spiritually and bear much fruit as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8 NIV

It Is Well with My Soul 493

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Ps. 103:2

1. When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
 3. My sin - O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, My sin - not in
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled

sea - bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
 sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
 part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
 back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,

Refrain

"It is well, it is well with my soul."
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul. It is well with my
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
 "E - ven so" - it is well with my soul.

soul, with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

my garment. But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. ... I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. ... For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. ... All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations. ... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!"

Discussion:

Read the verses above and answer the following:

1. Put the hymn title, It Is Well With My Soul, into your own words.
2. Which hymn from this series has the most meaning for you: Amazing Grace, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, I'll Fly Away, or It Is Well With My Soul? Why?
3. How often do you feel like you can honestly say, "It is well with my soul"
4. Reread Psalm 34:18. Share

about a time when you felt brokenhearted or crushed in spirit.

5. When is the last time you experienced the undeniable closeness of God? What happened?
6. What, if anything, do you feel like you need, to be able to say, "It is well with my soul"?

Wrapping It Up:

God can heal your past and present pain. Share an area of pain and then pray for one another in your group.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the many in our congregation and in our community who are walking through the greatest pain in their life right now. And pray for our support ministries: Griefshare, DivorceCare, and Celebrate Recovery, along with our Care Ministry, as we seek to comfort and encourage them in their journey.

Memory Verse:

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Psalm 34:18

NOTES:

Oh what peace

Oh what needless

All because we

Everything to

NOTES:

we often forfeit

pain we bear

do not carry

God in prayer

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
 - Childcare _____
 - When we will meet (day of week) _____
 - Where we will meet (place) _____
 - We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
 - We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
 - Our primary worship service time will be _____
 - Date of this agreement _____
 - Date we will review this agreement again _____
 - Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____
-



SUNNYBROOK
community church

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