



## **Daily Grace Study Guide**

10 Weeks

Andy Shurson



## **Introduction**

This study is about Daily Grace: What it is and means and most of all, how we live it out in our lives. This isn't intended to be the final word on Daily Grace. Rather, it's an introduction to the topic.

We invite you to join in this exploration of Daily Grace and to begin to see that God is not only relevant, but deeply cares about every aspect of your life: your family, work, friends, church, leisure activities and the community in which you live. Every single day is an opportunity to abide with Jesus and to experience his grace – his very life – in and through you.

This study starts with an overview of what we mean by daily grace and then is roughly organized into the three areas in which we live out daily grace: abiding, responding and helping others do the same. This is a simple study yet a very powerful one. Come with open hearts and minds and experience for yourself what Daily Grace means for you.



Session 1  
Daily  
Philippians 1:18-26; Matthew 6:9-10

Main Point:

Each of our days should be seen as from and for God.

Introduction:

- What do you do everyday?
- Would you say that you like or dislike having a daily routine? Why?
- What does your daily routine say about what you value most?

Every person has a daily routine and things we do every day. Our daily life reveals what is most important to us or at least what we feel we have to do each day. Scripture points us to see that daily life should be viewed as provision from God and an offering to God.

Bible Study:

> Read Philippians 1:18-26

- How did Paul understand life?

Paul saw life as about Christ alone. He was willing to die for his faith, even preferred it. But if he lived, Paul committed his daily life to God's will in his life. For Paul, to live is Christ.

The phrase living *for* Christ may sound more familiar. But living *is* Christ? What does that mean to you?

- What does living look like if to live is Christ?
- What does that mean for living each and every day?

*If* living is Christ, then we would see each day as an opportunity to join God in his mission. Each day would be oriented and prioritized around our faith. Every thing in our daily lives, our family, work, leisure, would flow from our relationship with Him.

- If someone saw your daily routine what would they say is most important to you? Why would they say that?
- What would daily life contain if living was Christ?

If someone saw my daily routine, they might think hygiene, my phone, and my email are the most important things in my life. I do them everyday. My daily life and routine should be

shaped by God in such a way that if someone shadowed me they would see that living was Christ.

> Read Matthew 6:9-10.

- Why do you think this is the first request Jesus makes “for us” in the Lord’s Prayer?
- Why daily bread and nothing more?
- What does that say about how we should view each day?

Jesus’ first request in the Lord’s Prayer is for God to give us His daily bread. Bread is the most basic need for nourishment. Jesus wants us to view each day as from God, that we would trust God for everything, even our basic needs.

- What do you have to believe about God to look to him for daily provision?

To live like daily bread comes only from God, means that someone has to believe that God is the source of everything that we need.

Session 2  
What is Grace?  
Ephesians 2:1-10

Main Point:

Grace is unmerited favor given to us from God for our good and His glory.

Introduction:

- What is the best gift you have ever received? Who gave it to you?
- What makes a gift good?
- What types of gifts do you like to give?

We give each other gifts for birthdays, Christmases, and other occasions. The best gifts are ones that show how well someone knows us, and hit a need or a want that is surprising. The greatest gift ever given was the grace given to us by God in the form of the saving death of Jesus Christ.

Bible Study:

> Read Ephesians 2:1-3

- What stands out regarding our natural state?
- What phrases does Paul use? How would you explain each of these to someone who is not yet following Jesus?
  - “Dead”
  - “Following Prince of Power of the Air”
  - “Sons of Disobedience”
  - “Children of Wrath”
- How do these phrases make you feel?
- Does it seem like there is much hope for humanity? Why or why not?

Paul’s description of human nature is not all that inspiring. It is downright sad, but it is true. Because of sin we are all of the things that Paul describes. It means we must look elsewhere for hope

> Read Ephesians 2:4-7

- Have you ever heard a more joyful “but”?
- Who is the one acting in verse 4? Why God and not us?
- What does this mean about us? What does it say about God?
- What does God deserve from us for the way that he shows us grace and mercy?

Paul transitions by saying “but God.” What wonderful words, God stepped in and acted when there was nothing we could do. God acted because we were unable in our sin to save ourselves. God deserves all the praise and glory for what he has done in His grace and mercy.

> Read Ephesians 2:8-10

- Why are we saved by grace and nothing else? Why must it be God who saves by grace?
- How should we respond to grace?
- What does it mean that we are His “workmanship”? Why do we do good works?

We talk about God’s love, but you never fully grasp it until you think about why he would extend grace to us.” We are saved by grace because God stepped in and saved us through Christ’s death on the cross. We respond to this act of grace by God by believing in Him and boasting in Him and not ourselves. Because of what God did by grace, we can now live and work daily for Him. “Workmanship” literally means masterpiece, our work is a masterpiece created by God to honor Him and point others to Him.



Session 3  
Abide  
John 15:1-11

Main Point:

A disciple walks with Christ and experiences daily grace by abiding in Him.

Introduction:

- When did your walk with Christ begin?
- How would you define the word “abide”? What comes to mind when you think about abiding?

Abiding means to remain stable or fixed in a state. When we abide in Christ it means that we remain in a state of constant relationship and obedience to Him.

Bible Study:

> Read John 15:1-4.

- Why do you think Jesus chose a vine and gardening metaphor?
- What role does pruning have in gardening? How does God prune us to produce great fruit?

Jesus chose a gardening metaphor because His disciples understood vines and gardening. Pruning is cutting and trimming branches to encourage positive growth. God prunes the parts of our lives that do not lead to good growth so that we can abide and grow in such a way that bears fruit.

- Why must we abide and remain connected to Christ to bear fruit?
- What is this fruit we are to bear?
- What does it look like for us to daily abide in Christ?

If we aren't abiding and connected to Jesus the vine, we will never bear fruit. A branch separated from the vine will produce nothing. We must daily abide and connect to God so that we can glorify Him by bearing fruit.

> Read John 15:5-8.

- Why does Jesus say that apart from Him we can do nothing? Why can we only produce fruit when we abide?
- Did you notice who is abiding? How does it feel to know that Jesus abides in us as we abide in Him?

- Jesus says that when we abide in Him, His words abide in us. How can we abide through Jesus' words?

Jesus knows that on our own strength we can do nothing. We only produce fruit when we are connected to Jesus the vine. Jesus says that as we abide in Him, He abides in us. This mutual abiding is the heart of our spiritual walk. We abide through Jesus' words when we spend time in the Bible reading His revelation to us and spending time with Him in prayer.

- Why is God glorified when we bear fruit?
- Jesus says bearing fruit proves we are His disciples, what must we do daily to produce fruit?

God is glorified when we find our joy and fulfillment in Him. Abiding and producing fruit glorifies God because it is an act of devotion to Him where we desire His fruit in our life more than anything else.

> Read John 15:9-11.

- Why do you think Jesus started talking about love?
- What does keeping commandments have to do with abiding? With love?
- Why do you think Jesus ends this passage by talking about joy? Why must joy be our motivation for abiding?

Jesus ends talking about love and its importance. When we love one another we show that we are abiding in Him. The same is true for commandments when we follow commandments out of joy and love that we get from abiding.

Session 4  
Abiding in Practice  
John 17

Main Point:

We glorify God by abiding in prayer to Him and community with others.

Introduction:

- Last week we introduced the idea of abiding. How have you tried to abide this past week? What have you noticed or experienced?
- What question would you ask Jesus about abiding if you could talk to him face to face?

Abiding is the basic act of remaining connected to God. For some this is a new experience. This session we are going to take a deeper look at the basics of abiding and how to practice it in your life.

Bible Study:

> Read John 17:1-5.

- What was Jesus physical stance during this prayer? What does that tell you about the way He approached God?
- How did Jesus address God? What does He ask the Father to do?
- Does it surprise you to think of eternal life as a relationship more than a place (like heaven)? What verses come to mind when you think about “eternal life”?

Jesus looked up to heaven and offered this prayer to God the Father for His followers. Jesus was abiding with God the Father and prayed reverently to Him for His glory to be shown and for eternal life to come to His followers. We often think about John 3:16 when it comes to eternal life.

- Can anyone quote John 3:16 for us? What does Jesus’ work bringing eternal life have to do with glorifying God?
- What were Jesus’ requests in the first five verses of the prayer?
- Why is glory so important for Jesus? Do you find it strange that Jesus being God was requesting glory? Why or why not?

Jesus’ saving work giving us eternal life glorifies God because it demonstrates the greatness of His love and grace. Jesus’ prayer for God’s glory shows what is most important for followers because that is what God has created us for. The Westminster Catechism says that the chief end of man is to “glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

> Read John 17:6-19

- Does anything surprise you in the way Jesus prays for us?
- What does Jesus pray for us?
- What does Jesus' prayer tell you about the basics of abiding with God?
- How are we sanctified (made holy)?

Jesus prays for His followers who are still in the world without Him, that we would be united and protected from the enemy. Some of the basics of abiding that Jesus demonstrates are prayer, trusting God, fellowship with believers, and many others. This abiding leads to sanctifying through the truth of what God has done.

> Read John 17:20-26

- What stands about to you about Jesus' prayer? How does it feel to know Jesus prayed for you right here?
- What does this prayer tell you about abiding?
- How are we supposed to abide according to these verses?

Jesus prayed for the followers who would come through the disciples. That is us! It is crazy to think that Jesus prayed specifically for believers today. Jesus' prayer shows us that abiding is something that we have to do together. It also shows us that abiding is based on trusting and knowing God above all else.

Session 5  
Abide: Beyond the Obvious  
Matthew 6:19-24

Main Point:

We must abide daily in ways that are beyond the obvious.

Introduction:

- If you had to choose three passions or deep interests to describe who you are, what would they be?
- Why do they describe you best?
- How would they not describe you well?

Our passions often times can be the way we describe ourselves. However, we are more than our passions. We are more than what is obvious and our abiding should go beyond the obvious too.

Bible Study:

> Read Matthew 6:19-21.

- What two places does Jesus contrast? What is the contrast about?
- How does storing up treasures on earth end up?

Jesus compared earth and heaven as it comes to storing up treasure. Jesus wanted it to be clear that the best place for us to place our treasure is the opposite of obvious. Storing treasures on earth will eventually rust and decay.

- Have you ever inherited something? What was it?
- What does an inheritance show about what a person cares most about?
- What does treasure and inheritance have to do with abiding?

When we inherit something, it is something of value. An inheritance shows what the person cares about. When we place first in our life treasures and inheritance in heaven instead of earth we abide in little ways and set aside the things of the world.

> Read Matthew 6:22-24.

- Why do you think Jesus switched from talking about money to talking about the eye? What does the eye represent?
- How does your perception of the world affect your actions?

Jesus naturally transitioned from money to the way we see the world. The eye is how we view the world. The way we view the world is the first part of abiding beyond the obvious, because when we see the world in light of the gospel. We abide in small, uncommon ways that leads to growth and abiding in our relationship with Christ.

- Why can't someone serve two masters?
- Is money bad? How can money become bad?
- How does our perception and our money show the way we abide?
- How can we abide using the way we see the world?

Jesus made it clear that we cannot serve two masters. We are either defined by our slavery to the world or slavery to Christ. Slavery to Christ means abiding in small things, abiding in less obvious ways like the way we perceive the world. And abiding in such a way that we are doing little things for God that grows into big things in our walk.

Session 6  
Abide: Trusting in Everything  
Psalm 46

Main Point:

Abiding in God means trusting in Him when troubles surround you.

Introduction:

- What would you say you are most scared of? Spiders? Public Speaking? Death? Something else?
- How often would you say you face fear?
- Where do you look or go when you feel scared?

Public speaking is known to be the greatest fear in most surveys. It is clear that we have many fears, both rational and irrational. When we face fear or troubles abiding in God means that we trust Him and look to him as our strength.

Bible Study:

> Read Psalm 46:1-3.

- How does the passage describe God?
- What was the psalmist able to do because of God?
- How can we, like the psalmist, say “we will not fear?”

The psalmist describes God as a refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The psalmist was able to rise above fear and trust God. He says that he will not fear because he can trust God in troubles.

> Read Psalm 46:4-7.

- What comes to your mind when you read “fortress”? How is God a fortress?
- In tumultuous times do you typically rely on your strength or on God’s strength? Share a time you responded on God’s strength.
- How does the psalmist show that God is worthy of trust in tough times?

Fortress reminds us of war, strength, and safety. God is a fortress because we can come to Him when trouble comes. The psalmist reminds us that God is worthy of trust because He is with us. He looks to God and abides in Him when trouble comes.

> Read Psalm 46:8-11.

- What invitation does the psalmist give?
- Why is it important to “Behold”? What does it look like to daily “behold the works of the Lord”?
- What is the source of encouragement for the psalmist amidst battles and disasters?

The psalmist invites us to behold the works of the Lord. To look and see the works of God today is based on a daily walk where we look beyond the obvious to see what God is doing. The psalmist reminds us when wars and troubles come to “be still, and know that I am God.”

- Why does the psalmist say “be still and know that I am God”?
- How is this principle important today?
- What is keeping you from abiding and trusting in everything like the psalmist is here?

The Psalmist's words “be still” are not easy in times of trouble. Often times, when we encounter trials we immediately go into problem solving mode. It is important, especially in today's world to know that we must stop and be still from everything that constantly swirls around us and know that He is God and that He is in control. That is what it means to trust God. It's hard to abide with God if you don't trust Him, but both his Word and his faithfulness in past times of trouble give us confidence that we can trust him. And interestingly, the more we abide with him, the more our trust in him grows.



Session 7  
Responding: Work  
Genesis 2 and 3

Main Point:

Work preceded the fall meaning God created us to work. Thus, work should be an area of response to God.

Introduction:

- Describe a typical day of work.
- How would you explain what you do to a child?

It can be easy to complicate our work lives into something far greater than they are meant to be. Work is given to us – given, as in a gift – by God and because of that we need to see work as a natural extension of our daily walk with God and also part of his grace.

Bible Study:

> Read Genesis 2:4-7, 15.

- What stands out to you about God's creation of Adam?
- What work did God have in mind when he created humans?
- Why is it important that God had work in mind before He created humans? What does that tell you about work and its purpose?

God created Adam and Eve with a specific job in mind. God planned for man to work the ground. The need for work was in God's mind when He created humanity. God created humanity to work and to worship. In Eden, the two went hand in hand. This means that work is not evil, instead it is ordained by God and should be done for Him not begrudgingly, but with joy.

> Read Genesis 3:17-19.

After Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God punished the serpent, Eve, and Adam. His punishment for Adam changed the nature of work. But it did not change the purpose of work.

- How did work change because of the fall?
- Why do you think God created work? Why is it important that work preceded the fall?
- What does this mean for how you should bring your faith into your daily work life?

After the fall, work was harder. Work no longer would be easy. Stress doesn't come from hard work. Stress comes from working and seeing limited results. Thus, it is doubtful there was stress with work before the fall. The punishment means we toil and have pain in work, but work is still from God. The toil and labor we give in our work is a calling from God, and we should work daily to His glory.

Session 8  
Responding: Family and Leisure  
Ephesians 5:15—6:9

Main Point:

Every part of our daily lives should be informed by the grace of God, not only the difficult areas, but the fun ones as well.

Introduction:

- What rules do you have at your house or had at your house growing up?
- Do you have any rules that you think are unique to your house?
- Why do we have house rules?

Every family likes to have rules to help care for the house and the relationships inside. Some may be simple like take off your shoes, dirty dishes in the sink, or where the remote control lives. Household codes are not new, they have been around since the New Testament, and they show what is most valuable in a home and a family.

Bible Study:

The New Testament Household Codes consist of instructions in the New Testament writings of the apostles Paul and Peter to pairs of Christian people in different domestic and civil structures. The main focus of the Household Codes are given to husband/wife, parent/child, and master/slave relationships. We will look specifically at what Paul said the Ephesian church.

> Read Ephesians 5:15-21.

- What stands out to you about the way Paul views daily life?
- What practical things do you see Paul encouraging us to do in our daily lives?
- What would it look like to follow Paul's directions in our family and leisure time?

Paul considered the days to be evil if they are not devoted to God. In light of this view of each day, Paul called believers to a high standard of daily living. Especially seeing the good things in our lives as from God, making Him worthy of thanks.

> Read Ephesians 5:22-33.

- Compare and contrast what Paul says to husbands and wives.
- Does anything surprise you?
- What does it mean to submit? Is Paul's call to submit just for wives?

Paul calls wives to submit to their husbands. He called all believers to submit to one another in verse 21, now he speaks specifically to the marriage relationship. Husbands are to sacrifice themselves as Christ did for the church. Both husbands and wives are called to a high standard of living that daily puts the other first.

> Read Ephesians 6:1-9.

- What command is given to children?
- What command is given to a parent?
- How would you say Paul views relationships between children and parents? What would Paul say is the main job of a parent? A child?

Children are called to obey their parents, honoring mother and father. Fathers and parents are called to not provoke children to anger but to give good discipline. Paul saw the relationship of parent and child as a place to honor God. The daily life of parenting is raising them in discipline and truth, the daily life of a child is honoring mother and father who are given to them from God.

- Why did Paul include slaves and masters?
- What does Paul's instruction to slaves and masters have to do with us?
- How would you apply Paul's instructions here to your daily lives? What does it tell us about the way we use our free time and leisure time?

Paul wanted to include every aspect of the house, which in this time period meant slaves and masters too. Paul applied the gospel to this relationship too, calling both masters and slaves to live out their faith daily as Christ did. He calls for authentic service and kindness, because Christ as slave modeled perfect service, and Christ as Lord models amazing kindness. Although we are not slaves or masters in the same sense, we do allow ourselves to become enslaved to our work or to our passions, leisure pursuits or even to mere distractions like social media. In addition, we do have relationships and time outside of work and family where we are called to live out our faith daily. Living out daily grace means giving even our family and leisure time, our relationships and our interests, to God and abiding and responding to Him in every area of our lives.

Session 9  
Respond: Community  
1 Corinthians 13

Main Point:

In light of God's love and grace, the church community should be defined by love.

Introduction:

- What are some different definitions of love?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word "love"? Why is love important for followers of Christ?

Love is a loaded word. It is all around us. Whether it be romantic love, brotherly love, or anything else that we say we love (Cheetos, morning espresso or golfing anyone?). However, love is one of the most important things for those who walk daily with Christ to show to the people around them. Especially the church.

Bible Study:

> Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul told the 1 Corinthians church about the different spiritual gifts given to the body of Christ. He also warned them from divisions that can come, and had come for them, when a person or a church ranks which spiritual gifts are more important.

- What metaphors does Paul give for using spiritual gifts without love?
- How is love necessary for these gifts to be useful for the church?

Paul says that using spiritual gifts without love is like a gong or cymbal. You can make a lot of noise, but they do not contribute to the whole of the band unless it is in time and in the right place. Love is necessary for the church to function because it is how we look out for the best of others and not ourselves. Despite the frequency that we hear this passage at weddings, it would have been concerning for the Corinthians because they knew they were guilty of not showing love to one another.

- Why do all the things Paul listed gain nothing?
- What does that tell you about the role of love in our community of faith?

Paul then listed all the gifts and powers that the Corinthians revered and revealed that without love they are not great, instead they are harmful. Love must define a community of faith and drive the way we respond to one another.

> Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

- What are the different attributes of love? Which one stands out to you? Explain.
- Why does Paul describe love in both positive “love is kind” and negative “love does not envy”?
- Is love just an emotion? How do you think Paul would define love here?
- If love is more than an emotion, how do you love when you don’t feel loving?
- What role does love have in a church community?

Paul listed many attributes of love both in the positive and the negative to give a full picture of how we love one another. Paul saw love as more than an emotion. It is an action towards one another that puts the other first and honors God as we abide in Him.

> Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13.

- How is love different than spiritual gifts? How does that difference support Paul’s point here?
- How is love related to service to others? How are they different?
- In what ways does you see the difference between eternal and temporary in your life?
- Do you invest more in the eternal or temporary?

Paul shows that love is different from any spiritual gift because it has no end. The eternality of makes it the key action that followers of Christ should have as we respond to others. Love is an investment in eternity.

- How do your relationships show how you love? How do they show the way you respond to God?
- Why will faith and hope end but not love? How should the eternality of love affect the way we love each other?

Our relationships and our actions in them, show the way we respond to the love God has shown us. They are an overflow of a daily abiding with God. Love will not end, faith and hope will. One day, faith will be sight, and hope will be realized. But love, will not end and responding to God and others today in love will make our communities and witness greater.

Session 10  
Help Others Do the Same  
Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

Main Point:

Experiencing God's grace in our daily lives naturally spurs to help others experience it too and want to share it even further.

Introduction:

- Charles Spurgeon said "Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." Do you agree or disagree?
- Do you think of yourself as a missionary?

Spurgeon said this to spur followers of Christ to see their daily lives, whether on the "mission field" or not as opportunity to live out and share their faith. It is easy to think of missionaries as people who go off to a foreign and dangerous place to share the gospel, but no matter the vocation followers of Christ should see the people around them as a mission field.

Bible Study:

> Read Matthew 28:18-20.

- What command did Jesus leave His disciples with?
- Why do you think He wanted them to "go"?
- What is the reason that we go according to Jesus? Why do we go because of His authority?
- Who is someone in our life that you can help experience God's grace in their daily life?

Jesus commanded His disciples to go and make more disciples. He called them to do this because of the authority that has been given to Him. The same authority and command are given to us. We must go to the people that God has put around us and make disciples.

> Read Acts 1:8.

Here are Jesus' final words before He ascended to heaven. His call to His disciples and to us should push us to help other experience Him.

- Why does he save these words until the end?
- What stands out to you in this verse?
- Why do you think Jesus chose the areas that He did? What does the order of locations tell you?
- How would you put this in terms of you?

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would come on His disciples and lead them to be witnesses. He started with Jerusalem where He and the disciples were, then region Judea, then the neighboring region Samaria, and finally the end of the earth. If He was speaking directly to us He would say “you will be my witnesses in Seattle, in Washington, in the United States of America, and to the end of the earth.”

Many of us become fearful when being witnesses to others.

- What are you most afraid of when sharing your faith with others?
- What’s the worst thing that could happen to you?

But think back to what you’ve studied so far here. We’ve seen that Jesus invites us to abide. When we abide with Jesus, we become more aware of his great love, not just for us but for others.

Read 1 John 4:18.

- What can you do to be more aware of God’s love – and thus to be less fearful – each day?
- How might sharing your faith with others actually help you abide with God even more?

We tend to think that witnessing is all on us. But it isn’t. We just start the conversation. We’re not responsible for converting anyone. Even the phrase “leading someone to Christ” is a misnomer. The Holy Spirit leads and guides and works in people’s hearts. All we need do is abide with Jesus, show up, speak truth in love and let God do the rest. We make sharing the most important thing in our lives harder than it is to share advice about a new movie or restaurant. Abide with Jesus and let him do the hard work.