

# **Focused Living 50<sup>©</sup>**

**Fall 2026 Reading Plan**

## One-on-Ones with Jesus

Galatians declares that we are made right with God by faith in Christ—not by religious performance—and are set free to live by the Spirit. Therefore, stand firm in your freedom and let your freedom express itself through the fruit of love.

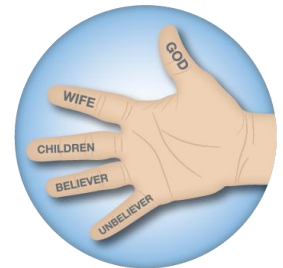
Galatians invites us to examine what we are trusting in to make us right with God. Are we resting in Christ, or are we still trying to prove ourselves? Are we using freedom to serve ourselves, or allowing the Spirit to produce the character of Jesus in us?

- **Galatians 1:1-10** What word is repeated in these verses (:1–10)? Is the Gospel I believe truly the right one (Galatians (:6–7)? How would I personally summarize the Gospel (:3–5)? What are the consequences if I believe a “contrary,” “different,” or “false” gospel (:8–9)? How would my daily life change if God were truly my Audience of One (:10)? Paul made it clear that he wanted only to glorify and please God. Who am I trying to please and how has it impacted my relationship with God (:10)?
- **Galatians 1:11-2:10** What parts of my life reveal that I still look for human approval instead of trusting the revelation God has given (1:11–12)? What “Arabia seasons” (quiet, hidden, or waiting periods) has God used to shape me (1:17–18)? What would people say about the changes they see in me; do they glorify God because of my transformation (1:23–24)? How well do I partner with believers who have different callings, backgrounds, or strengths (2:9–10)?
- **Galatians 2:11-21** Do I treasure the Gospel and understand it so clearly that I could call out a brother when he is not living in line with it (2:11–14)? How do I respond when a brother confronts me— with humility or defensiveness (:11–14)? Accord- ing to Paul, what role do my works and actions play in my salvation and justification (:16)? Even so, in what ways do I still live in the flesh- and nullify the grace of God - as though my salvation depends on me? What would be noticeably different in my daily life if I truly lived as someone in whom Christ dwells (2:20)?
- **Galatians 3:1-29** Am I trying to deepen my life in Christ by works done in my own strength? How is this effort foolish (:2-3)? How does remembering that Christ became a curse for me reshape the way I view my sin and shame (:13)? What function does God’s law have in my life (19-22)? How does the truth that we are “one in Christ” challenge my attitudes toward race, class, or politics (:28)?
- **Galatians 4:1-31** Am I living as a confident son or as an insecure orphan/slave (3:26; 4:1–7)? What does my prayer life reveal about how I view God (4:6)? What old ways of thinking, old habits or addictions am I tempted to return to (:9)? Am I drawn to teachers who flatter or those that speak the truth even when it’s unpopular (:17-18) Where am I guilty of “Gospel plus” thinking/living? What is Paul’s point in speaking about Abraham’s son through Hagar and his son through Sarah (:21-31)?
- **Galatians 5:1-15** Paul trips over himself in repeating this theme of ‘free in Christ’ (2:4; 5:1,13). Am I currently walking in and experiencing this freedom? Where am I still tempted to trust in external things and, without realizing, fallen away from grace (:2-4)? What habits or sins are still holding me captive even though Christ has set me free? Do I measure my spirituality by outward performance instead of inward transformation (:2–6)? What influences or voices hinder me from obeying the truth (:7)? How am I using my freedom— to serve others or to serve myself (:13-14)? What can I do to show others the love of God this week?
- **John 4:1-42** Is there a readiness in my heart to engage people as I go through my day? Do I hesitate to express a need I have, especially with those who are far from Christ? Who in my relational circle is weighed down by life and needs to experience Jesus’ promise of hope? Where do I see the “fields white for harvest” (:35)? Note the progression of this woman’s relating with Jesus “Jew” (:9), “sir” (:11), “prophet” (:19), “Messiah” (:29) “Savior” (:42). do “good works” look like in my current season of life—in my family, church, community, workplace (:8, 14)?

- **Galatians 5:16-26** In what specific areas of my life am I keenly aware of the desires of my flesh? What does it look like for me to practically walk by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, live by the Spirit, and keep in step with the Spirit? What “small” or “socially acceptable” sins do I tolerate even though Scripture calls them works of the flesh (:19–21)? Which fruit of the Spirit is most lacking in my life right now (:22–23)? What would change if I had a “crucify approach” to my flesh rather than a “manage approach” to my flesh (:24)? Where do I provoke, envy, or compete with other men instead of encouraging them (:26)?
- **Galatians 6:1-18** How do I respond when I see a brother caught in sin: with a heart bent towards restoration or with judgment (:1)? Whose burdens am I helping carry, and whose burdens have I been ignoring (:2)? What can I do today to help my GRIP partner carry his burden (6:1-2)? Do I give up doing good in situations where I do not see immediate results (:9)? Who is God calling me to do good to today, especially within the household of faith (:10)? Where is sacrifice, obedience, suffering showing up in my life (:17)?

### **Key Relationships** (spend one day on each key element)

- **Psalms 16 (esp: 2, 8-11) (God)** What do I learn about relating to God from this Psalm?
- **Ephesians 5:15-33 (esp: 25-33) (Family Like)** What is overflowing from my life to the people closest to me? What are some marks of loving my wife well (:25-33)? How am I measuring up to the covenant I made with her in God’s presence? (Can I even remember the vows I actually spoke?) Which of the “Life Assignments” in the appendix (p. 165) may enable me to express love to my wife?
- **Psalms 78:1-8 (Children)** What is my life message that I would pass on to my kids and grandkids? When the next generation asks, “Why should we put our confidence in God?” what will I say?
- **1 Thessalonians 2:5-12 (Believing Friend)** What actions and attitudes characterized Paul’s investment in the Thessalonians? Four months from now, my GRIP partner may describe my investment in his life. What do I hope he says?
- **Colossians 4:2-6 (W/ Unbeliever)** Where do I see the pattern of prayer, care, share in this passage? Describe Paul’s tone as he writes to the Colossians. Who opens the doors for outreach opportunities?



### **Key Resources**

- **Psalms 15 (My Heart)** “A man is this way before he does these things.” How do my words, actions, and attitudes reflect the real state of my heart?
- **(My Time)** Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Have I ever considered that God has given me my time to manage well for His glory? As His manager, what update report would I give Him?
- **(My Health)** Mark 6:30-32; Exodus 31:12-18 Do I value the things that God values when it comes to my health?
- **(My Wealth)** Luke 12:13-21; Hebrews 13:5-6 Does my attitude towards money and wealth reflect or negate my profession of Jesus’ Lordship of my life?
- **(My Vocation)** Exodus 31:1-6; Coloss. 3:22-25; 1Peter 4:7-11 Am I prepared this week to give an accounting for the quality and effectiveness of my work? What’s the biggest headache related to my work? What’s the biggest blessing?



WANT TO GO DEEPER? Consult a study Bible for additional background or scan the QR code to watch the Bible Project's overview of Galatians.



- **Genesis 28:10-22** What does God promise Jacob in verses 13-15? What part of God's message to Jacob most grabs my attention? Jacob says, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." When have I become more aware of God's presence during a difficult season? How might God be inviting me to trust Him more fully with my future?
- **Genesis 29:1-30** Why might God have allowed Jacob to experience this painful disappointment? How do I typically respond when life doesn't unfold according to my expectations? Is there a difficult person or frustrating situation that God may be using to shape my character? How can I respond in a way that trusts God's purposes rather than becoming resentful?
- **Genesis 32:1-21** What evidence do I see that Jacob is deeply afraid in this passage? As I read Jacob's prayer in verses 9-12, what stands out to me about the way he approaches God? How is Jacob's response different from the way he handled problems earlier in his life? What fears or worries are currently occupying my mind and heart? How does Jacob's prayer encourage me to bring my concerns honestly before God? What would trusting God look like in the situation that concerns me most right now?
- **Genesis 32:22-32** What details in this encounter seem most unusual or significant to me? Why do I think God changes Jacob's name from Jacob to Israel? What might God be teaching Jacob through this struggle? How has God used weakness, hardship, or failure to draw me closer to Him? Where do I see myself striving to control outcomes rather than depending on God? If God wanted to reshape part of my identity, what might He be inviting me to leave behind?
- **Genesis 35:1-15** What stands out to me about Jacob's response to God's command? What specific actions does Jacob require of his household before returning to Bethel? How am I setting the spiritual temperature in my household? Why do I think God calls Jacob back to the place where they first met? What evidence do I see that Jacob has changed since Genesis 28? Are there any competing loyalties, distractions, or "idols" that are pulling my heart away from God? Is there something God has already made clear that I have been slow to act upon? What step of obedience might God be calling me to take as I respond to Him today?
- **Genesis 37** Why do I think God gave Joseph these dreams before any of the events that followed? Have there been times when I sensed God leading me in a particular direction but could not see how it would happen? Have there been times when my circumstances seemed to contradict what I believed God was doing in my life? How do I typically respond when God's timing is much slower than I would prefer? In verses 31-35, Jacob is overwhelmed by grief because he cannot see what God is doing behind the scenes. Where am I tempted to judge God's work based only on what I can currently see? What does this passage teach me about trusting God with the future?
- **Genesis 39** What truth is repeated 4 times in this chapter (vv. 2, 3, 21, 23)? In verses 7-12, what stands out to me about Joseph's response to temptation? Do I tend to judge God's faithfulness by what He is doing around me or by what He has promised to me? Where do I need to trust that God is with me even when life is difficult or disappointing?
- **Genesis 40:1-23** What does Joseph's interaction with the cupbearer and baker reveal about his character (vv. 6-8)? In verse 8, what does Joseph's statement about God reveal about where his confidence rests? How do I think Joseph felt when the cupbearer forgot him (v. 23)? Have I ever experienced a season when I felt forgotten, overlooked, or stuck? What might God have been teaching Joseph during this period of waiting? How might God be using a current waiting season to shape my faith, character, or dependence on Him?
- **Genesis 41:1-45** In verse 16, how does Joseph respond when Pharaoh asks for an interpretation? What does Joseph's response reveal about his view of God and himself? How has Joseph changed since the young man who shared his dreams in Genesis 37? Why do I think God waited so long before placing Joseph in this position?

When I experience success, recognition, or influence, where am I tempted to take credit for what God has done? How can I use whatever influence God has given me to point others toward Him?

- **Genesis 50:15-26** In verses 19-20, how does Joseph interpret the events that shaped his life? What stands out to me about Joseph's response to his brothers' fear? Why do I think Joseph was able to forgive instead of seeking revenge? Is there a painful situation from my past that I still struggle to view through the lens of God's sovereignty? How does trusting God's purposes help me extend grace to others? Is there someone I need to forgive, encourage, or bless as a response to God's grace toward me? Is there a family member who needs my grace instead of my judgment or nagging?
- **1 Samuel 16** In verses 6-7, what correction does God give Samuel about the way he evaluates potential leaders? What does verse 7 teach me about what God values most in a man? ? As a dad, what insights do I have into my kid's hearts? Why do I think God chose David, the youngest son, instead of one of his older brothers? In verse 13, what significance do I see in the Spirit of the LORD coming powerfully on David? How much attention do I pay to my character? What area of my heart would I most want God to continue shaping and transforming?
- **1 Samuel 17:1-52** In verses 34-37, what past experiences does David point to as evidence of God's faithfulness? In verse 37, where does David place his confidence as he prepares to face Goliath? How does David describe Goliath in verses 45-47, and what does this reveal about David's view of God? What is the biggest difference I see between David's perspective and the perspective of Saul and the Israelite army? What "giant" or challenge am I currently facing that seems bigger than my resources or abilities? How might remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen my trust in Him today?
- **1 Samuel 24** In verses 4-7, why do David's men believe this is the perfect opportunity to kill Saul? What reasons does David give for refusing to harm Saul (vv. 6, 10)? What does this passage reveal about David's trust in God's authority and timing? Why do I think David felt troubled even after merely cutting off a corner of Saul's robe (v. 5)? Where am I tempted to force an outcome instead of waiting on God to act? What would trusting God's timing look like in a situation I am currently trying to control?
- **Psalms 51** Psalm 51 pictures David's confession of his sin with Bathsheba (2Sam 11-12). In verses 1-2, what aspects of God's character does David appeal to as he begins his prayer? In verses 3-4, what do I notice about David's attitude toward his sin? What requests does David repeatedly make of God throughout this psalm? In verses 16-17, what kind of response does God desire more than religious activity? When I fail, am I more likely to hide, justify, or run to Him to confess my sin? Is there an area of my life where God may be inviting me to practice deeper repentance and renewed dependence on Him? Has my family ever witnessed me repenting and asking for forgiveness?
- **1 Chronicles 29:10-22** In verses 11-12, what attributes of God does David celebrate in his prayer? According to verse 14, how does David view the wealth, resources, and accomplishments of Israel? What do verses 17-19 reveal about what David desires most for himself and for God's people? How has David's perspective changed from the young shepherd of 1 Samuel 16 to the king we see in this passage? What gifts, opportunities, relationships, or resources has God entrusted to me? If I truly believed that everything I have comes from God and belongs to Him, what might change about the way I live?
- **Nehemiah 1:1-2:10** Describe Nehemiah's prayer life. How does it compare with my prayer life? An unwallled city was a disgrace to God's people and God's reputation. Where do I currently see God's reputation under assault? Is my heart stirrable (1:4)? What has God put in my heart to do in my sphere of influence? Am I deliberately pursuing this? Is it my habit to pray "on the spot" prayers when a decision is required now?
- **Nehemiah 2:11-3:32** How often do I credit the hand of God in my life circumstances (2:18,20)? What pattern do I observe in verses 10, 21, 23, 28, 29, 30? Where do I currently have skin in the game in the Lord's work? How does this affect my attitude? Is there a pattern of "a time to pray" and "a time to work" in my life? What repairs or rebuilding must I work on in my family?

- **Nehemiah 4:1-23; 6:1-7:3** Rebuilding a whole city wall is hard enough. But, having enemies ridicule and threaten makes it exponentially harder. In what ways did Nehemiah respond to the opposition and keep his people on task? How does he tap into the people's internal motivation (4:14 i.e. think first 3 fingers of the HAND)? What adjustments do I need to make in light of Satan's opposition toward me in fulfilling my HAND action steps received from God? Who in my life is blowing a trumpet that I need to rally around (4:20)? How does Nehemiah's view of the project empower him to say "no" to lesser things (6:3)? What's my "great work" given to me by God in this season of life? What finish line am I nearing? How will I celebrate?
- **Nehemiah 9:1-38; 10:28-39** What was the agenda of this gathering (9:1-2)? What aspect of God's character do I see emphasized in this long prayer? Notice the repeated word "But" or "Yet" (9:16, 26-30). List 3 ways God has treated me better than I deserve. Why doesn't God bail on me when I sin? After recounting God's dealings with the Jews, note the conclusion (9:33). What's the difference between confession and repentance? The community makes a formal recommitment to God with some litmus tests of repentance (10:30, 31, 32). What are three explicit practices I do because I am an ALL IN follower of Jesus Christ? What do I need to confess and repent of TODAY?
- **Nehemiah 13:1-31** Can I recall a time when the Word of God corrected my wrong thinking on an issue and I immediately brought my life into alignment with God's way? No matter how zealously we commit ourselves to God (10:29), our tendency is to drift away. Where do I see drift in this passage? Any warning signs that I am drifting away from God's standard in some area of my life? Why not discuss this with my GRIP partner? Based on the issues in chapter 13, how are the people living up to their commitment made in Nehemiah 10:30-32?
- **John 1:40-42; Mark 1:16-18; Luke 5:1-11** These three passages represent the progression of Peter's early response to Jesus. Simon Peter was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew (Jn 1:41). Who introduced me to Jesus? Who have I introduced to Jesus? What characterized Simon Peter's response to Jesus (Mark 1:18; Luke 5:4-11)? Where do you see evidence of Simon Peter repenting, believing, and following? Have I transferred my trust to Jesus? If so, do I cherish the fact that I am "chosen of God, holy, and beloved" (Col 3:12)?
- **Matt 14:22-36; Mark 8:27-33; Matt 16:13-20** Much of Peter's faith journey is recorded for us in the New Testament. Going deeper in knowing, trusting, obeying, serving, loving Jesus. Why did Peter get out of the boat? Why did the other disciples stay in the boat? When he laid his head on his pillow that night, how would Peter describe the highs and lows of his day? What challenge in my life right now is so large that I have no hope of doing it apart from God's help? Peter, speaking for the Twelve, publicly declared Jesus to be the Christ (Messiah). What evidence in the passage shows the significance of this profession. In what ways do I publicly align myself with Jesus? Does my family see me expressing my faith in words and actions?
- **John 18:15-16; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:61; John 21:15-19** The night before His crucifixion, when Jesus prophesied: "You will all fall away...", Peter protested, "Even though all I may fall away, yet I will not... Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You" (Mark 14:27-31)! What moment in my life was I most disappointed in myself? Did I feel that Christ could never use me again? How do I handle my current unfaithfulness to God? What stands out to me in how Jesus publicly restored Peter as the leader among the apostles? Notice: Jesus' first words to Simon were "Follow me" (Mark 1:17) and, after all that had transpired, Jesus' last words to Peter were "Follow Me" (John 21:19).
- **Acts 2:14-47** Is THIS the same Peter? I just did a double take. How do I account for the confidence? The knowledge? The heart responses to the sermon? What difference does the risen, ascended, active Christ make in my daily living? When have I unmistakably experienced the enablement of the Holy Spirit as I have joined God on His mission? Have I claimed the promises of God for the other members of my family (2:39)? What in particular stands out to me from this sermon?
- **2 Peter 1:1-15; 3:8-18** Peter is aware that his days are numbered (1:14,15). A final love letter is worthy of careful inspection and review. What encouragement is here for me? What actions am I being called up to (i.e., 1:5-10; 3:11,14,17, 18)? What aspects of God does Peter emphasize? Read 1:9 again, recalling Peter's abysmal denial of Christ. Have I forgotten the purification of my former sins? What kind of letter would I write to my loved ones

if I knew my days on this earth were numbered? Have I written “legacy Letters” to my family members? (see appendix pg. 177)?

- **Acts 7:58; 8:1; 9:1-2; Acts 22:4-5; 26:9-11; Galatians 1:13-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17** Why does Paul so freely speak of his past life of sin? From my own experience, what could I say to a seeking friend about God’s patience and mercy (1Tim 1:16)? If God can transform Paul, why do I doubt that He can transform me! What words in 1Tim 1:12-17 stand out to my heart? When Paul looks in the mirror what does he see? What do I see when I look in the mirror?
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-11; 2 Corinthians 11:23-12:10** According to 2Cor 1:3-4, Explain the ricochet effect of suffering/comfort. When life’s pressures increased for Paul, how did this impact his dependence on God? What about me? Paul personally knew the extreme consequences of living a life for God. He had experienced low lows and high highs (2Cor 11:23-28). Why can Paul be content with personal weaknesses, insults, hardships, etc. (2Cor 12:10)? It has been said that there is no spiritual growth without tension. Have I learned to embrace the tension like Paul? When life gets hard, do I just go through it or grow through it?
- **Romans 9:1-5; 1Thessalonians 1:1-10; 2:7-20** The Great Commandment summarized is love God and love people. This is what Paul was all about. His love for Christ compelled him towards people, whether Jew or Gentile. Based on Romans 9:3, how might we measure Paul’s commitment to his fellow Jews? What am I willing to sacrifice to see my pinky friend come to Christ? For what qualities does Paul commend the Thessalonian believers (1Thes 1: 1-10; 2: 13-14)? What would Paul commend me for? What do we learn about Paul’s heart toward these people (1Thes 2:5-12). Does my GRIP partner know and feel that I am for his spiritual success? Am I?
- **2Timothy 3:1–4:8** Should I be surprised by difficult times (3:1, 12)? What access did Timothy have to Paul (3:10-11, 14)? How might Paul’s personal example fortify Timothy in the face of the stress of the last days? Can others look at my life and conclude that God is faithful? To what things do I need to give myself in order to finish strong in this season of my life? Author and speaker, Steve Farrar, looks at empirical evidence and concludes that only one out of ten men finish strong in life! He writes: “Finishing strong seems to be rare and exceptional.” What exceptional measures am I taking to ensure that I will be among the 10% of Christian men who finish strong?