

Focused Living 50[©]

Spring 2026 Reading Plan

One-on-Ones with Jesus

God has called us to be salt and light to the people He sovereignly brings into our lives (Matt 5:13-16). Some of these are folks have not yet crossed over to eternal life in Christ (John 5:24). We will be encouraging you throughout the next 100 days to make room for these ‘not yet in Christ’ friends, family members, colleagues, neighbors, and acquaintances. Remember, there was a time when we, too, were strangers to Christ and spiritually dead (Eph 2: 1-13).

One way of raising the temperature for our outreach mindset is to watch Jesus relate with people. Each day as you read these stories, try to put yourself in the sandals of the person talking to Jesus. **What is going on in that person’s heart? How is Jesus addressing the heart? How did He address my heart during the process of my coming to Christ?**

- **Colossians 3:12-17; 4:2-6** *What insights into my identity does this passage reveal (3:12)? Paul paints a picture of the qualities that characterize a man in Christ (3:13-17). Being around that kind of person would be absolutely refreshing! How have those closest to me experienced these qualities in me recently? Colossians 4:2-6 is one of the clearest teachings on “reaching outsiders” in the whole Bible. Let me not forget that each brother in my GRIP Team, including me, started our lives as outsiders! What does Paul emphasize (4:2-6)? What impact could God make through me if I made myself available to His Spirit to intentionally and practically love one person to Christ this year?*
- **Mark 10:17-27** *What’s the difference between a moral man and a Master’s man? Which one am I? What did this man think he was “bringing to the table” in this exchange with Jesus? What do I think I bring to the table in my relationship with Jesus? What, or Who, is gripping my heart other than God? When Jesus looks me in the eye what is my typical heart posture? What lesson(s) did Jesus’ disciples learn?*
- **Luke 10:25-37** *The lawyer asks the exact same question as the rich young ruler from Mark 10, yet Jesus answers differently? Why? Jesus asks, “How does it read to you” (:26)? He’s asking me the same question every day and my answer is fleshed out in my journaling! What kind of gap exists in my life between knowing God’s Word and living it out? How have I been a neighbor this week? (i.e. Did I take notice of people? Did I feel compassion? Did I act graciously toward someone?)*
- **John 3:1-21** *Notice that Jesus doesn’t wait for a question – He just dives in with some deep truth. According to this passage, what does God do (:3-8) before I can respond to Him (:15-18) in saving faith? What point is Jesus making by comparing spiritual birth to the wind? What encourages me from this conversation between Nic and Jesus? Are there areas of darkness in my life that I love more than the Light (:19)? What area of darkness do I need to confess to my GRIP partner?*
- **Mark 5:1-20** *What’s my response to the outcast/difficult people in society? Am I willing to let Jesus minister to them through me? Though we each manifest it uniquely, what is the natural state of every person prior to trusting in Christ (Rom 6:20-23; Tim 2:26)? Why did Jesus deny the restored man’s request to come with Him (:18-20)? Who have I recently told about God’s work in my life and His mercy on me? In what sense am I ‘clothed and in my right mind’ having been touched by Jesus?*
- **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)?*

- **Mark 10:42-52** *What was the disciples' attitude toward this blind beggar? What is my attitude toward people who, in my opinion, "bring nothing to the table for me"? What encourages me about Jesus and the blind beggar (:48-52)? He stopped (vs 49). Why are these two of the most strategic words in scripture? What could 'stopping' for a person in my life look like? What shift would need to take place in order for me to live a "stopping" lifestyle?*
- **Luke 15:1-32** *Why did the tax collectors and sinners come near to Jesus? Would it accurately be said of me, "He is a friend of sinners?" What do I learn here about God's heart for spiritually lost individuals? According to the "lost sheep" and "lost coin" parables, what is the necessary response of a sinner to enter into joy? What do sinning "bad" people (younger son) and sinning "good" people (older son) desperately need? With whom do I most identify in this last parable?*

Key Relationships (spend one day on each key element)

- **Psalms 73 (God)** *What can I learn about relating to God from Asaph's experience? Is God's presence and nearness a treasure to me?*
- **Colossians 3:12-14,19 (Family Like)** *Are the people closest to me experiencing the "fresh air" of Christ-like character?*
- **Joshua 4:1-8;20-24 (children)** *When Israel is headed into battle, yet what is God concerned with? How important is "passing on" the truths of God's works and character to the next generation?*
- **Philippians 2:1-4 (Believing friend)** *Self-focused discipleship is nonsense. What will fuel me to continually look out for a believing friend?*
- **Romans 9:1-5; 10:1-3 (w/unbeliever)** *How invested am I in the salvation of my unsaved friends? What do I learn from Paul's example?*



Key Resources

- **Psalms 101:1-4 (My Heart)** *God sees me completely—not just my actions, but my heart. He knows my motives, my struggles, and my sincerity at every moment. As I live before Him, is my heart genuine and whole? Am I living in authenticity and integrity before the One who knows me best?*
- **Psalms 39:4-5; Ephesians 5:15-17 (My Time)** *Am I being intentional with how I'm living today? How do my actions reflect that I'm living with eternity in mind?*
- **1Corinthians 6:12-20 (My Health)** *Am I allowing my current financial circumstances to push me toward God or have I allowed finances to get in the way of my relationship with God?*
- **Proverbs 11:28; 1Timothy 6:17-19 (My Wealth)** *Have I allowed material things to hold a higher place in my life than Christ? Jesus warns that worldly riches are a spiritual liability (19:23ff). What evidence is there that this is the case in my life?*
- **Matthew 5:13-16 (My Vocation)** *In my current workplace or place of service, how do my words, attitudes, and actions reflect Christ to those around me (i.e. clients, colleagues, vendors, boss, teammates)? In what specific ways am I being "salt and light"?*



- **John 15:1-5** *What would it look like for me to “make my home” in Christ’s love this week? What practices help me remain aware of Jesus’ presence and acceptance throughout the day? Where might God be inviting me to stop striving and start resting?*

Acts For more detailed background info, scan the QR code for a bible project video introducing Acts.



- **Acts 1** *Jesus called the Apostles to be patient in the time leading up to them receiving power from the Holy Spirit. (:4-5). Where is God telling me to be patient? When faced with challenging questions, am I trusting that God has the answers and will reveal them in His perfect timing (Is 60:22b)? We are called to be witnesses for Jesus Christ (:8). Am I obedient to this command? If not, what is preventing me from doing so?*
- **Acts 2** *What role does the Holy Spirit play in the life of a believer? Peter is the man who denied Jesus three times, however, now he preaches boldly about Christ (:14). What caused the change in Peter? Am I actively seeking and embracing the spiritual authority of my leaders? (:42) Do I belong to a Christian community where I actively share both spiritual and material things (:42-47)? When have I experienced the enabling power of the Spirit?*
- **Acts 3** *Who has God placed in my life that needs to hear about the amazing grace that I’ve received in Christ and how can I intentionally share this with them? What does Peter say is the result of repentance (:19-20, 26)? Am I experiencing times of refreshing in the presence of the Lord? If not, where in my life do I need to repent and turn back to God so I may experience His refreshing? Do I constantly give Christ the credit He deserves for the blessings and accomplishments in my life?*
- **Acts 4:1-31** *Where is the power and boldness that the Apostles exhibit coming from (:8, 10, 13, 19-20, 29-31)? Notice how the Apostles faced trying circumstances (:13), but instead of praying for deliverance from the situation they prayed for boldness in the midst of it (:29-31). How do I handle trying circumstances in my life? Am I praying for deliverance or boldness?*
- **Acts 4:32-5:11** *What qualities characterized the community of early believers (:32-34)? What was the core of Ananias and Sapphires sin (:3-4, 9)? What does this incident teach me about God? Is there any dishonesty or lies in my heart? Am I holding back anything from God? Where does the fear of the Lord fit into my Christian walk?*
- **Acts 5:12 – 42** *What continues to motivate the apostles on their mission (:29)? In what ways am I actively serving Jesus in my daily life that would inspire others to bring their struggles to me for help (:14-15)? Notice the response of the apostles to the opposition they faced (:41). What would I change about how I tend to respond to difficult times in my Christian life?*
- **Acts 6** *What do the apostles prioritize (:4,7)? What priority does God’s word, prayer, and making disciples have in my life? What evidence do I see of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Stephen? (:8, 10, 15) Notice that this “movement” continues to grow (:1, 7) by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. How does that encourage me to follow Jesus’s mission?*
- **Acts 7** *Since the Sanhedrin knew their history every bit as much as Stephen, how do I account for their radically different response to Jesus? What is needed in a person’s life besides knowledge to really understand Jesus? Stephen’s heart was genuinely concerned for the people’s salvation (:60). Do I have a heart like the Father’s for those who are lost? Note that our English word ‘Martyr’ comes from the Greek word for ‘witness’ (martus).*
- **Acts 8** *How was God using the persecution of the believers to further the growth of the gospel (:1, 4)? How can I see challenges in my life as opportunities for growth? Simon the Magician wanted the power of God in his life to further advance his personal agenda but was denied by the Apostles (:18-22). Why do I want the power of God in my life? Who is directing Philip as he works to spread the gospel (:26, 29, 39)? To where, or to whom, may the Holy Spirit be directing me during this season of my life?*

- **Acts 9:1-31** Consider the dramatic change in Saul's life after Jesus got his attention and called his name (:20-22). How has Jesus gotten my attention, or how is he trying to get my attention? Have I embraced change or resisted it? From the moment Saul begins to follow Jesus, he encounters suffering. How has following Jesus cost me? What evidence is there that I have prioritized my faith over comfort? Who has Jesus put in my path in order for them to hear the good news from me?
- **Acts 9:32-10:23** Who heals the paralyzed man (:34)? What is the result of his healing (:35)? What does Peter do to raise the widow from the dead (:40)? How is Peter modeling the pattern of: "Be with Jesus, Become like Him, Do as Jesus did" (Acts 4:13; Mark 5:36-41)? How reliant on prayer am I when I am faced with what seems like impossible tasks? How is it clear that the Acts of the Apostles are really God led (:10:3-7; 10:20)?
- **Acts 10:24-48** Cornelius gathered his family and friends to hear about God before he was even fully converted. (:24-27) Who am I inviting to join me in my own seeking of God? What truth about God's character compels Peter to share the gospel with the Gentiles (:34-35)? How should this affect my witnessing? Was it Peter's great message or something else that caused the Gentiles to believe in Jesus (:44)? "Then they asked him to remain for some days" (:48). Am I allowing unbelievers access to my life in order to share Jesus with them?
- **Acts 11** How does Peter handle the opposition he faced? What does he do (:2-4)? How do I respond when others judge me or oppose me? How does the circumcision party respond to Peter's patient explanation of what has happened (:18)? Who is identified, yet again, as the one who leads men to repentance (:15-18)? How does this reality motivate my prayers? Am I praying with confidence knowing that God is fully capable of transforming my unbelieving friend?
- **James 2:14-26** What is the essence of James' argument in today's passage? What kind of faith does James condemn in the early church (:14, 17, 20, 26)? What is the difference between "faith" as James uses it here and the way "faith" is normally defined in the New Testament? How does James see the relationship between faith and works (:18, 21)? What outward evidence is there to others of my claim to inner faith?
- **Acts 12** How does the church respond to the unjust killings and persecution faced by the Apostles (:5)? In what ways can I effectively pray for Christ's persecuted church today? Imagine how Peter's experience with the angel emboldened him and the others as they continued to on mission for Christ. How might divine interventions inspire modern believers to persevere in their faith and mission despite challenges? Why did God strike down Herod? (:23) How can I use my position of authority and leadership to give glory to God?
- **Acts 13** Who is directing the apostles on their mission (:2-4)? How are the apostles positioning themselves to be led by the Spirit (:2)? Am I daily putting myself in a position to hear from God? The apostles wasted no time obeying God after they heard from Him (:4). How quickly do I respond to God's leading in my life? What is the core message of Paul's sermon in verses 16-41? What role does scripture play in Paul's message? How can I emulate Paul in sharing the joy of Christ with my unbelieving friend?
- **Acts 14** Am I communicating my faith in a way that genuinely resonates with others (:1)? How do the apostles respond to the continued opposition and persecution on their missionary journey (:6-7, 21, 24-26)? How do I view the "roadblocks" I face in life? Do I view them as obstacles or opportunities for growth? How does Paul encourage and care for the new believers (:21-23)?

- **Galatians 2:11- 3:5** Put yourself in Peter's sandals. When I am rebuked by a brother who loves me, is my response self-protective or one of humbly seeking to understand and repent as appropriate. For me, is "saved by grace through faith" (Eph 2:8-9) simply a propositional truth I assent to but go on living in the flesh? In my life, does my perception of my standing with God tend to 'start by faith, but finish by works'? According to Paul, what role do my works and actions play in my salvation and justification (:16)? On whose action does justification depend? Have I experienced the sensation of Christ living His life in me (2:20)?
- **Acts 15:1-35** What is causing disunity among the believers (:1,9)? Why is this issue so significant and controversial (:10-11)? What can I learn from this passage about resolving disputes among believers? Where do I tend to drift into legalism by demanding practices (of myself and others) not required by God
- **Acts 15:36-16:40** Notice the very specific directing of the Holy Spirit in verses 6-10 and the confirmation among the brothers. Am I continually aligning myself to God's direction and checking in with my brothers as I am on mission for Him? What evidence do I see that God is opening my unbelieving friend's heart toward Him (:16)? How did Paul's and Silas' behavior influence the jailor's conversion (:27-32)? Am I living in a way that reflects the calling I've received? (Ephesians 4:1)
- **Acts 17:1-15** How do the responses of the Thessalonian Jews (:5) differ from those of the Berean Jews (:11-12)? What lessons can I learn from these differences? How can I apply these lessons when sharing Jesus with others?
- **Acts 17:16-34** Notice how Paul "observes" the spiritual state of Athens (:16,22). What am I observing in my unbelieving friend's life right now? Considering the final judgment day, what does Paul plead with the people of Athens to do (:30-31)? What 3 responses does Paul receive from his audience (:32-34)? How is American culture similar to this Athenian culture? (:16)
- **Acts 18:1-22** What different responses to the Gospel do I see in this passage (:6, 8, 12,13)? Although God knows when and how people will respond, to us Gospel responsiveness remains a mystery (Mark 4:26-29). How does Jesus encourage and strengthen Paul to remain steadfast on this gospel mission (:9-10)? How does this motivate me to stay faithful to the prayer, care, share mindset?
- **1Thessalonians 2** Paul references his suffering and mistreatment (2:2), which I read about in Acts 16:22-17:10. What characteristics do Paul and his team show as they evangelized and disciplined these folks (2:5-11)? How do these qualities apply to my commitment to the spiritual success of a believing friend? What is the goal of Paul's discipleship (2:12; see also Eph 4:1; Phil 1:27; Col 1:10)? Is this my discipleship goal? What further insight do I gain about the Thessalonians response to the Gospel call (2:13-14)? What is my next prayer, care, share step with my unbelieving friend?
- **Acts 18:23 – 19:41** What seems to be Paul's main purpose on this missionary journey (18:23)? Specifically, how can I strengthen my grip partner today? Apollos was mighty in the scriptures and eloquent, but was also teachable (18:24-28). What about me? Good old-fashioned book burning (:18-20)? What things have I been led to forsake because of my growing devotion to Christ and His truth? Are there any culturally acceptable sins that still remain in my life?
- **Acts 20** Notice the fellowship of men Paul had with him on this mission (:4-5). Are the men that I fellowship with helping me stay on mission for Christ? How can I balance my personal needs with calls to serve my community (:19)? What practical things can I do to show care and support for those in my community (:35)? What continues to motivate Paul (:24)? What things are on Paul's heart as he speaks with these disciples for the last time (:18-35)?

- **2Corinthians 5** *What fact about death encourages me here (:8)? In what ways am I walking by faith and not by sight (:7)? What motivations for evangelism do I see in this passage (:9; 10-11; 14-15; 18-19)? What old things have passed away from me (:17)? Be specific. How does my life reflect God's radical new perspective? How well am I fulfilling God's role for me as Christ's ambassador (:20)? What is my next prayer, care, share step with my lost friend?*
- **Acts 21:1-26** *What action does Paul take when he arrives at Tyre (:4)? Do I make it a point to seek out other believers in my neighborhood, workplace, or during my personal travel? Do I try to avoid suffering for Jesus, or embrace it (:12-14)? Paul is willing to make compromises for the sake of the unity of the believers (:23-24). Am I?*
- **Acts 21:27 – 22:29** *Notice Paul's progression in telling his testimony. He, once again, shows unhindered boldness to speak about the good news of Jesus (:37-40). Am I willing to be bold and speak about Jesus even when I know I'm in the minority? The crowd's reaction in verse 22 reflects their deep-seated views about Gentiles and their belief in Jewish superiority. Do I hold on to feelings of superiority towards others?*
- **Acts 22:30 – 23:35** *How does God encourage Paul during this stressful and probably frightening season of his life (:11)? Reflect on moments when God has encouraged me in times of need. How have these moments shaped and strengthened my faith? God rescued Paul from the attempted murder plot on his life (:22-23, 31). How does this incident in Paul's life provide me courage and confidence during turmoil and unrest in my own life?*
- **Acts 24** *How does Paul respond to the false accusations that he incited riots and profaned the temple (:13-16)? Even amid being falsely accused Paul still finds ways to speak about the hope he has in God (:14-15). And while imprisoned Paul remains mindful of opportunities to share the gospel (:24-25). What priority do I put on sharing the gospel in my day-to-day life? Am I mindful of opportunities throughout my day to share the hope I have in Christ? Or do I allow my circumstances to dictate my priorities?*
- **Acts 25** *Imagine how Paul is feeling after sitting in prison for over 2 years (Acts 24:27). Unable to go on missionary journeys, unable to visit the churches he helped establish. And yet, when given the opportunity, he was quick to share the glorious gospel! How can I explain Paul's readiness? How is God's will in Paul's life being worked out during this time (:12)? How can I apply Paul's example of hope and perseverance in my life when faced with bleak circumstances?*
- **Acts 26** *What new information do I learn about Paul's conversion in this passage (:16-20)? How do Festus and Agrippa respond to Paul's message? How have others responded to my story of life changing hope in Christ? How responsive have I been to God's call on my life to make disciples (:16-18)?*
- **Acts 27** *Notice the difference in the reactions of Paul compared to the others on the ship. What do their reactions say about them? How would I characterize my reactions and choices in the midst of extremely trying circumstance? Are they based in fear or faith? How do verses 22-25 encourage me, especially whenever I find myself in the midst of a difficult circumstance (Job 42:2)?*
- **Acts 28** *Notice how Paul is continually looking for ways to serve others and share the love of God, even as a prisoner on the island of Malta (:3, 8-9). Do I look for different service opportunities throughout my day? Do I view these seemingly insignificant opportunities as a way to share the love of God? How does Paul's arrival in Rome demonstrate God's faithfulness (Acts 23:11; 28:14-16)? How have I seen God's faithfulness in my own life over this past season of GRIP? What difficult circumstances, if any, has God walked me through this season? (just as He has promised)*