



Grow Pray Study Guide

Sept. 25 - Sept. 29

Monday - [Luke 10:25-28](#)

Tuesday - [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

Wednesday - [Psalm 139:13-14](#)

Thursday - [Matthew 6:33](#)

Friday - [Galatians 3:1-5](#)

Monday, September 25 - Love Yourself

[Luke 10:25-28](#)

We gardeners, whether we are guests or long-time members, value caring for others. We pride ourselves on showing God's love to each person who walks through the door, no matter who they are or how they identify. However, we don't often talk about how much God loves us. How rare is it to look in the mirror and remember that God loves you? You were made in the image of God, and - Jesus' invitation today is one to love your neighbor as yourself. How can you love yourself more today?

Prayer: Jesus, I follow your command every day to love my neighbor. But today, open my eyes to see a person you love when I look in the mirror. Amen.

Tuesday, September 26 - Something New

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

You are in Christ. Christ is in you. You are beloved. This passage from Second Corinthians is an invitation to see within ourselves a person who is made new through the love of Christ. Our relationship with Jesus and our relationship with our church community, the body of Christ, has formed us into a new creation. The person we were before, the guilt we hold onto, the list of things we don't like about our body, or our personality... in Christ we are loved. We are wholly loved. What is something you love about yourself? How do you recognize the work of Christ within you?

Prayer: Christ, you promise that a life with you means I am a new creation. Help me to see myself as a new creation each day. Amen.

Wednesday, September 27 - Made with Intention

[Psalm 139:13-14](#)

Our to-do list is always growing longer, the hours at work feel demanding, the needs of our families continue to add up, and the pile of bills continues to grow higher... we all have days when we wonder when we'll get a break. Today's Psalm is a reminder that God made us beautifully. God made us to love and be loved. One version of the Scripture even says that we are "marvelously set apart." You are marvelously set apart to love others and be loved by others. You are made to receive God's love and grace. When do you find yourself needing a reminder of God's love and grace in your life today?

Prayer: Loving Creator, you made me in love and extend your love to me each moment. Help me to recognize your love in each moment. Amen.

Thursday, September 28 - Seek Ye First

[Matthew 6:33](#)

If you have time today, read all of Chapter 6, or even Chapters 5-7 in Matthew. The passages are part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. These words of Jesus teach us about God's nature, about who and what God values, and about how God loves us. What we learn in these passages over and over again is that God loves us without condition, and that God's love is reckless and relentless. The invitation in our Scripture is to seek out God with our whole selves. When we love God fully, we begin to recognize how much God loves us and how we are called to love others. How might God be calling you to love others today?

Prayer: God of Love, you invite me to seek you first in my life. Focus my thoughts on you today to love you and others more. Amen.

Friday, September 29 - Look for Love

[Galatians 3:1-5](#)

Paul, the apostle, in his letter to the churches in Galatia, is calling them out! He tells them they are "irrational," for focusing on all the things they can do themselves to receive God's love and grace. Our human efforts are nothing compared to what God has done through Christ to save us. Instead of focusing on the measures we need to meet to earn God's love Paul very sternly teaches us to remember all that God has done and is doing to show us love right now. As you go throughout your day pause and look at the faces you meet, feel the cool breeze, listen to the birds or sounds of kids playing at the park. Where did you encounter God's love?

Prayer: Thanks for loving me God. Somedays I forget that your love is available and offered in each moment. Help me embrace your love today. Amen.