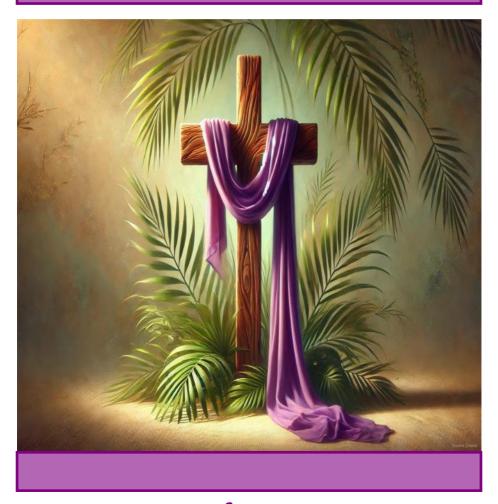
A step closer to the cross.



Week Four



Monday 24th March Guidance

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;

I am week, but thou art mighty; Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of Heaven, feed me now and ever more.

Welcome to this week's study and apologies for the earworm—if it's now stuck in your head for the rest of the day! However, I wonder how many

times we have sung these words in our lives without stopping to consider what they actually mean.

The song itself is a prayer for divine guidance and provision, drawing inspiration from the Israelites' journey through the wilderness in *Exodus*. The lyrics depict the believer as a pilgrim, relying on God's strength and protection while facing life's struggles.

The biblical basis of guidance refers to the principles and teachings in Scripture that help believers make decisions and seek direction from God. Biblical guidance is rooted in a deep relationship with the Lord through prayer, His Word, and the Holy Spirit. By trusting in the Lord's sovereignty, seeking godly counsel, and listening to the peace He provides, believers can confidently follow His direction, allowing His purposes to be fulfilled in their lives.

In *Proverbs 3:5-6*, we read:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

As we considered submission, we reflected on what it meant to let go of our personal wants and needs—handing over the wheel, or the reins, to God and allowing Him to lead the way. The discipline of guidance helps us further to fully trust in His sovereignty, reminding us that as we relinquish control of our lives, He will set us on the right path and continue to lead us each step of the way.

As we enter this week's study, I invite you to think these things: What are the barren lands we are facing? Do we recognize the weaknesses that still have a stronghold in our lives—those struggles we continue to surrender to the Lord? Or do we trust that, wherever we are and whatever situation we face, His mighty and powerful hand will guide us in the right direction? Do we believe that He is leading us toward His goodness and grace?

Prayer:

Lord, as we come before You this week, seeking Your wisdom and direction, show us once again Your perfect plan for our lives. Help us, Lord, to follow You along the path of righteousness and let Your light guide our every step. When we are uncertain, grant us clarity; when we are weary, renew our strength.

And when we feel at our end, remind us

that with You in control, there is so much more we can do for Your glory.

Amen.

Tuesday 25th March Who said that?

Genesis 3:8 Then they heard the Lod God walking in the garden during the cool part of the day, and the man and his wife hid from the Lord God among the trees in the garden.

Since their invention, radio, television, and the internet have profoundly influenced society, shaping culture, communication, and global events.

Radio, emerging in the early 20th century, revolutionized information broadcasting, providing news, entertainment, and music to millions. It played a crucial role during wartime, offering updates and morale-boosting broadcasts. Television, introduced later, expanded this impact by combining audio with visual storytelling, transforming how people consume information. It became a powerful tool for education, politics, and social change, bringing historical moments—such as the moon landing and civil rights movements—into homes worldwide.

The internet, a late 20th-century invention, further transformed communication by enabling instant global connectivity. It revolutionized journalism, entertainment, and education, allowing real-time information sharing, streaming services, and social media interactions. Unlike traditional media, the internet empowers users to create and distribute content, reshaping public discourse and democracy.

Together, radio, television, and the internet have shaped modern society, influencing how people engage with the world and each other.



Throughout history, the world has been surrounded by many different voices, all seeking to grab our attention. Today, through social media, we refer to these voices as influencers or bloggers. However, as history shows—whether through word of mouth, the printed word, or the evolution of art and technology—we are always subjected to the opinions and perspectives of others.

Sadly, the power of influence is truly a tale as old as time. In our reading today, the serpent in the Garden of Eden was able to introduce distraction and deception into the path of the first humans, setting humanity on a course that we still strive to correct.

Here, in the beginning, we find a powerful reminder of the consequences of living outside of the Lord's guidance. The question we must consider is this: Are we, by listening to wrong voices in the world around us, willing to sacrifice our chance at eternal paradise, just as Adam and Eve did with theirs on Earth?

Pray: Lord, as I have submitted my old ways to you Help me to know your plan for my life, hearing only your voice and following where you lead.

Amen



Wednesday 26th March The greatest adventure of all.



Psalm 32:8 (NLT) The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

As a former member of SABAC (Salvation Army Boys' Adventure Club), we used to say this prayer each week...

Lord Jesus, help me to discover You as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and to find for myself that following You is the greatest adventure of all.

As I get older, I find myself more inclined to think of my life as a set itinerary rather than an adventure. Given the choice, I would take a pair of slippers and a cup of tea over hiking boots and a flask any day of the week. However, while this attitude may be fine from a physical standpoint (or not, if you ask a doctor), it is **not** one we should adopt in our spiritual lives.

As Christians, we are called to follow God no matter where He may lead us. At times, this can be a daunting task—especially when He asks us to step outside our comfort zones. However, as a general rule, we tend to find that whenever we take a leap of faith for the Lord, following His will and stepping into the next adventure, "He will reward each of us according to what we have done." (Romans 2:6)

When we submit ourselves to the Lord and commit to following His guidance, our adventure with Him has no end date. Accepting Him as "the way, the truth, and the life" means choosing to detach ourselves from the way we once lived, following the example of Christ, who, according to Adelle Calhoun, "did his life the same way we do ours. He risked everything by trusting in an invisible God and His goodness."

Romans 8:14-17, in The Message translation, reminds us: "God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike 'What's next, Papa?'"

As we consider the path we are on with the Lord right now, let me ask you: Does it feel like a thrilling, never-ending adventure—one that excites you as you follow Him wherever He leads? Or have you shut down communication with Him out of fear of what He might ask you to do next?

Pray: Lord Jesus, help me to discover You as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and to find for myself that following You is the greatest adventure of all.





Thursday 27th March My thoughts or Gods?

Proverbs 4:23 Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

Guidance, while being a physical act of following God, is also deeply rooted in our spiritual and prayer lives with Him. Our first point of call when seeking guidance from the Lord should be through prayer, seeking His wisdom and direction for our lives. It is through prayer that we draw close to God, asking Him to reveal His will so that we may gain clarity in our decision-making.

Please don't get me wrong—I am not saying there is no value in the wisdom of others around us. Seeking counsel from wise, godly people is an important part of guidance, and God often speaks through others who can provide sound advice rooted in Scripture and experience. However, to be completely sure that what we are doing is truly of and for Him, the perfect place to seek clarity is from the source Himself.

In today's world, we are blessed with an abundance of material to help us in our faith journeys. However, to fully understand what God is pointing us toward, we must weigh what we hear and read with discernment, holding firm to God's Word and the Holy Spirit.



In a world filled with conflicting voices, temptations, and distractions, we must rely on divine wisdom to navigate our choices. God's Word serves as our foundation for this. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that Scripture is "alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword," capable of revealing truth and exposing falsehood. By studying the Bible, we align our minds with God's will, equipping ourselves to recognize what is righteous and pleasing to Him.

The Holy Spirit further guides us by convicting, teaching, and leading us into truth (John 16:13). As we seek God in prayer, the Spirit provides wisdom and clarity, helping us make decisions that honour Him. Without discernment, we risk being swayed by worldly influences or misguided teachings.

Ultimately, discernment is essential for spiritual growth, ensuring that we follow God's path rather than our own desires. By remaining rooted in Scripture and sensitive to the Spirit's leading, we can confidently walk in God's will, making choices that reflect His wisdom and truth.

Pray Father, grant me wisdom and clarity to discern Your voice. Speak through Your Word and Spirit, guiding my steps. Help me to trust You fully, removing fear and doubt. Strengthen my heart to follow Your call with faith and obedience and Let Your will be my path. Amen.





Friday 21st March A day of prayer

What has God been saying to you this week?



Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Father God, I don't want this Lent to pass by as just another season. I want to be changed. Strip away anything in me that keeps me from fully surrendering to You. Fill me with Your Spirit and renew my mind so that I may grow in faith, love, and obedience. Make me more like Jesus, day by day. Amen.