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GRACE  
CHANGES EVERYTHING



WEEK 5 | Grace Changes Everything

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you that I have been called according to your plan and purpose, for it is not your will that any should perish, but that all should come to faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thank you that in him there is no condemnation and no separation from you, for we are one with Christ, by grace through faith in his finished work at Calvary. Thank you, Lord, that you are causing all things to work together to finally achieve your great redemptive plan and purpose for mankind - and thank you, Lord, that so often I see your gracious hand working in my life and in the lives of all your children, as you gently transform us into the lovely image of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

From [Prayer Knowing Jesus](#)

## WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

What is one Christ-centred faith goal that God has given you for the remainder of the year?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified, he also glorified.

### ROMANS 8:18-30

In verse 29, Paul brings up the “p” word: “For those he foreknew he also *predestined* to be conformed to the image of his Son.” Paul’s not trying to start a theological argument here about Calvinism; he’s trying to give us assurance: “And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified” (Romans 8:30).

Paul knows that for those who are suffering, it often feels like you are barely holding on. But in the midst of your suffering, you have this assurance: what God started in you, he’s going to finish. When you feel like you are barely holding on to God, be assured that he’s still holding on to you.

When my daughters were younger, we had a standard bedtime ritual. I would say, “I love you. Now, does daddy love you because you are pretty?”  
“No, daddy! ... But we are pretty, right?”

I would say, “That’s right, you are pretty. But that’s not why I love you. Now, does daddy love you because you are smart?” “No, daddy! ... But we are smart, aren’t we?”

“That’s right, you are smart. But that’s not why I love you.” I would go through a few more—strong, brave, kind, etc. And eventually, I would ask, “So, why does daddy love you?”

At this point, they would all call out, “Because we’re your daughters!”

I’ve set my love on my daughters, and I’m never taking it from them. That’s what God has done with you.

You’ve been adopted into his family. You are a beloved child, and your Father sees you in your suffering. Whatever else is happening in your pain, you can be sure that your Father hasn’t left you alone in it. You are his child, and his heart is bound up with yours. What you feel, he feels. When you weep, he weeps.

JD Grear, [Three Pillars of Hope in the Midst of Suffering](#)

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = never; 10 = always), how would you rate your frequency or ability to plan ahead? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Verse 26 talks about the Holy Spirit helping us in our weakness. How might he help us? Have you ever sensed him helping you in your weakness? If so, please share about such a time. If not, would you like him to?
3. Verse 28 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible, which promises, “for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Why might it be important for everyone to know that God is not trying to minimize our suffering, as much as he is trying to give us hope for a day when that suffering will be swallowed up for something much greater?
4. How might we know the difference between trials that are unexplainable circumstances God has allowed us to walk through by his grace, and the result or consequences of our own bad decisions and choices? Is there a difference?
5. Would you like to trust God in that he has adopted you as his child through faith in him, and that all things work together for your good as you love him? Would you like to receive the gift of life forever in God, as you enter into a saving relationship with him through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.*