

CRUCIFIXED

Living Life Fixed on the Cross

***A 7-WEEK DEVOTIONAL GUIDE TO THE LAST
WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS.***

the

FORGIVING

life

*“Father, forgive
them...”*

*“We must develop and maintain the capacity to
forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is
devoid of the power to love.”*

Martin Luther King Jr.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 1: THE FORGIVING LIFE



Read Psalm 32.

What blessings come from being forgiven?

Why should we acknowledge our sin before God?

"When we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin..."

The Apostle John

PRAY: Take some time today to confess your sins to God, knowing that he has promised to forgive you.



Read Luke 6:37-38

How do you feel when you think someone is judging you?

How can judging others keep us from forgiving them?

"For once someone has judged in accordance with justice, he should forgive in accordance with grace..."

Ephrem the Syrian

PRAY: Take some time to ask God for a heart that is more forgiving and less judgmental.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 1: THE FORGIVING LIFE



Read Matthew 6:14-15

Why would God refuse to forgive us if we refuse to forgive others?

Why is it so difficult to forgive people when they wrong us?

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

C.S. Lewis

PRAY: Take some time to think of the people in your life that you need to forgive and ask God for help in forgiving them.



Read Matthew 18:21-35

What is the point of this parable?

Why is it important to remember the debt God cancelled for us?

“He did not recognize the harbor by which he had escaped shipwreck. Even the gesture of supplication did not remind him of his master’s kindness.”

John Chrysostom

PRAY: Take some time to ask God to help you put the wrongs others have committed against you in proper perspective.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 1: THE FORGIVING LIFE



Read Luke 23:32-34

Why would Jesus forgive those who were killing him? What did they not know what they were doing?

What example does Jesus set for us and how we live our lives?

"Forgiveness unleashes joy. It brings peace. It washes the slate clean. It sets all the highest values of love in motion."

George MacDonald

PRAY: Take some time to reflect on the cross and the lengths to which Jesus went to forgive you.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

the

MERCIFUL *life*

*“...you will be with
me in paradise...”*

**“Our sins are nothing but a grain of sand along the
great mountain of the mercy of God. “**

St. John Vianney

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 2: THE MERCIFUL LIFE

1 DAY

The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed: It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.

William Shakespeare

Read Psalm 146.

Who are the people that God cares for according to this Psalm?

What does this Psalm have to teach us about God's mercy?

PRAY: Take some time to think of all the times God has cared for you in difficult circumstances and thank him for his mercy.

2 DAY

"Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand; it is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy."

Wendell Berry

Read Micah 6:8

Why do you suppose God's people are called to love mercy?

What does "love mercy" look like in real life?

PRAY: Ask God for opportunities to show that you love mercy.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 2: THE MERCIFUL LIFE

3 DAY

Read Luke 6:27-36

Why would Jesus command his followers to love their enemies?

What “enemies” are in your life that you need God’s help to love?

“You cannot conceive, nor can I, of the appalling strangeness of the mercy of God.”

Graham Greene

PRAY: Think of somebody who has wronged you and ask God to help you be merciful toward them.

4 DAY

Read Luke 10:25-37

How did the Samaritan show mercy?

What is the point of this parable?

“The Lord's mercy often rides to the door of our heart upon the black horse of affliction.”

Charles Spurgeon

PRAY: Pray that God would help you be prepared to be a Good Samaritan in someone’s life.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 2: THE MERCIFUL LIFE



Read Luke 23:39-43

In what ways did the criminal need mercy?

How does Jesus show mercy to this man?

*“Mercy is most empowering,
liberating, and transformative
when it is directed at the unde-
serving.”*

Bryan Stevenson

PRAY: Thank Jesus for his wonderful mercy that has saved you and given you the promise of heaven.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

the
GENTLE
life

*“Woman, here is
your son...”*

“Looking inside ourselves, we can anticipate only harshness from heaven. Looking out to Christ, we can anticipate only gentleness.”

Dane Ortlund

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 3: THE GENTLE LIFE



Read 1 Kings 19:11-13

What would you have expected to have heard God's voice in?

Why did God's voice come in the whisper?

"I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself."

Max Lucado

PRAY: Take some time to ponder God's gentleness, and thank him for handling you with care.



Read Isaiah 40:9-11

Are strength and gentleness opposed? Why or why not?

What does it mean to you that God leads his flock gently?

"Oh! that gentleness! how far more potent is it than force!"

Charlotte Bronte

PRAY: Ask God that you would emulate him and use your strength gently.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 3: THE GENTLE LIFE



Read Galatians 5:23

What are the Fruit of the Spirit?

Why is gentleness a Fruit of the Spirit?

"Our identity rests in God's relentless tenderness for us revealed in Jesus Christ."

Brennan Manning

PRAY: Ask God to help you exhibit more gentleness in your life.



Read Philippians 4:5

What does Paul urge the Philippian believers to display?

What difference can gentleness make in this world?

*"What would you have? Your gentleness shall force
More than your force move us to gentleness."*

William Shakespeare

PRAY: Pray that God would help you change someone's world through acts of gentleness.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 3: THE GENTLE LIFE



Read John 19:26-27

How does Jesus display gentleness in his care for his mother?

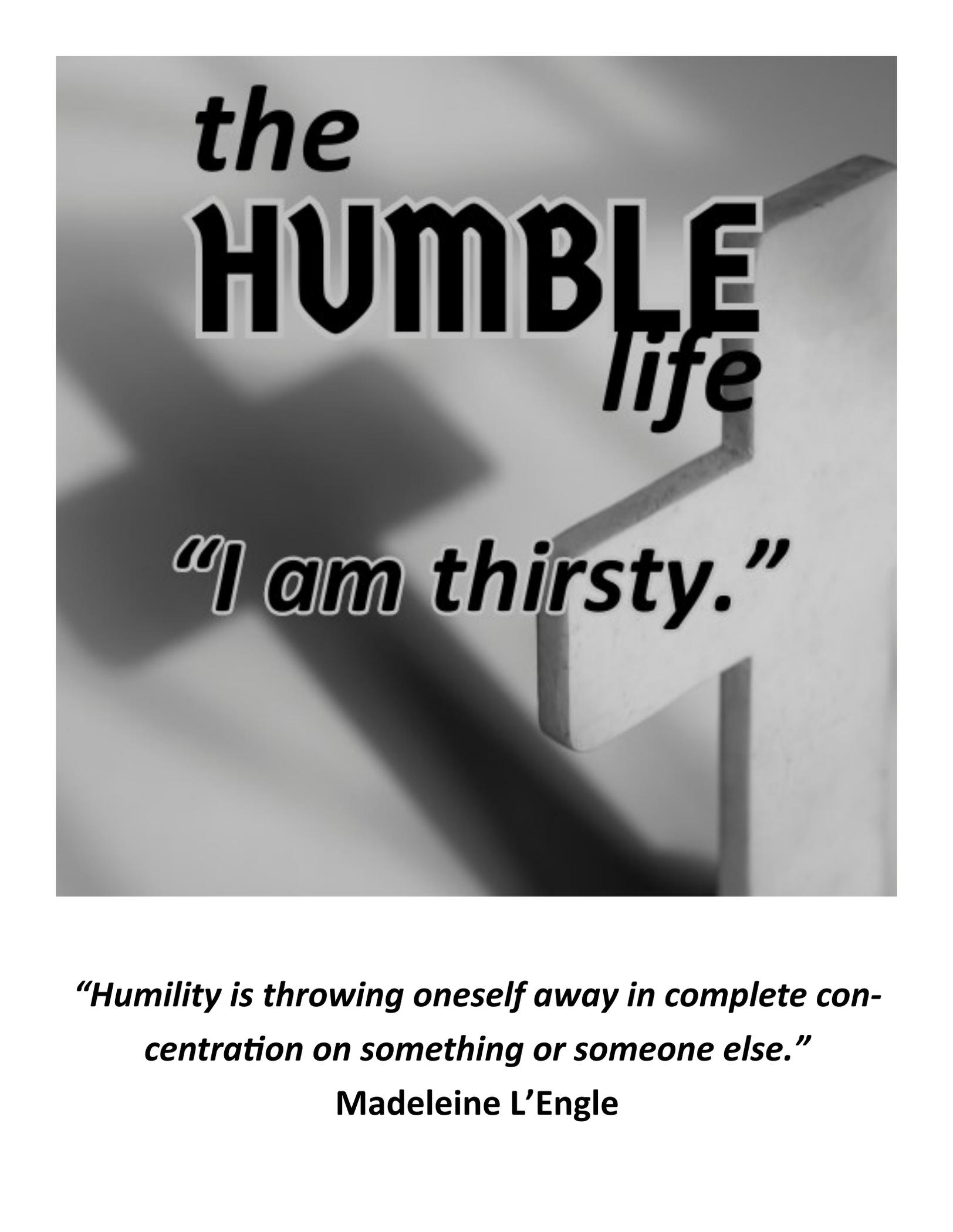
How do you think Jesus was able to maintain a gentle spirit even in the midst of all he was suffering?

“Gentleness is strength under control. It is the ability to stay calm, no matter what happens.”

Elizabeth George

PRAY: Ask God to use the circumstances of your life—even the difficult ones—to cultivate gentleness in your spirit.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES



the
HUMBLE
life

“I am thirsty.”

“Humility is throwing oneself away in complete concentration on something or someone else.”

Madeleine L'Engle

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 4: THE HUMBLE LIFE



Read Proverbs 3:34

Who does God mock? Why?

To whom does God give grace? Why?

*“Humility is nothing but truth,
and pride is nothing but lying.”*

St. Vincent de Paul

PRAY: Take some time to confess your pride to the Lord and ask for his forgiveness and grace.



Read Luke 14:7-11

Where does Jesus say one should sit at a banquet? Why?

What does our desire to seek the best seat say about us?

*“True humility does not know that
it is humble. If it did, it would be
proud from the contemplation of
so fine a virtue.”*

Martin Luther

PRAY: Ask God to help you trust him more so that you can think of yourself less.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 4: THE HUMBLE LIFE



Read James 4:10

What does it mean to humble yourself?

In what ways do you need to humble yourself?

“Man approaches God most nearly when he is in one sense least like God. For what can be more unlike than fullness and need, sovereignty and humility, righteousness and penitence, limitless power and a cry for help?”

C.S. Lewis

PRAY: Ask God to help you humble yourself and let go of your pride.



Read Philippians 2:1-11

How did Jesus humble himself?

How can you emulate Jesus by the way that you live?

Jesus emptied Himself, He humbled Himself and He so yielded Himself to His Father's love that He had no ambition of His own. He was not looking to build an empire...”

Heidi Baker

PRAY: Pray that God would grant you opportunities to show Jesus-like humility toward others.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 4: THE HUMBLE LIFE



Read John 19:28-29

What significance is there in Jesus saying that he is thirsty?

What did humility cost Jesus? What could humility cost you?

*"I think that humility is not
thinking less of yourself, but
thinking of yourself less."*

Maya Angelou

PRAY: Thank God for his humility and willingness to suffer on our behalf and pray for a willingness to do likewise.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

the
ENDURING
life

*“My God, my God,
why have you
forsaken me?”*

“God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and perseverance of our will to overcome them.”

C.S. Lewis

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 5: THE ENDURING LIFE



Read Psalm 22

Have you ever felt like the psalmist in verses 1-2? When?

How does this Psalm express endurance in faith?

“At the timberline where the storms strike with the most fury, the sturdiest trees are found.”

Hudson Taylor

PRAY: Lament your troubles and ask God for help in enduring them.



Read Isaiah 53:3

What did Jesus have to endure?

In what ways have you contributed to Jesus' sufferings?

“Remember that failure is an event, not a person”

Zig Ziglar

PRAY: Repent of your sins and thank God for the great mercy he has shown you.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 5: THE ENDURING LIFE



Read Hebrews 12:1-2

To what is our faith compared? What does this analogy tell us about the nature of faith?

Who helps us to run the race with endurance? How?

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

Charles Wesley

PRAY: Ask God for help in enduring the long race of faith.



Read Revelation 2:9-10

What was Jesus' message to the church in Smyrna?

Is it fair for Jesus to expect us to be faithful to him, even when suffering? Why or why not?

“We are always in the forge, or on the anvil; by trials God is shaping us for higher things.”

Henry Ward Beecher

PRAY: Pray for those in this world suffering for their faith, that God would help them to endure.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 5: THE ENDURING LIFE



Read Mark 15:33

What do you think Jesus was experiencing in this moment?

How does Jesus demonstrate his enduring faith on the cross?

*"Becoming like Christ is a long,
slow process of growth."*

Rick Warren

PRAY: Praise Jesus for enduring the cross and rescuing you from sin and shame.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

the

VICTORIOUS *life*

“It is finished.”

***“O death, where is your victory? O death, where
is your sting?”***

1 Corinthians 15:55

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 6: THE VICTORIOUS LIFE

1 DAY

“When we pray for the Spirit's help ... we will simply fall down at the Lord's feet in our weakness. There we will find the victory and power that comes from His love.”

Andrew Murray

Read Isaiah 25:8-9

What does it mean that God “swallowed up death forever (NLT)?”

What does God promise he will do for his people?

PRAY: Praise God for overcoming and defeating death and the hope he has given you.

2 DAY

“An ongoing relationship with God through His Word is essential to the Christian's consistent victory!”

Beth Moore

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

What was Paul's motivation for running the race of faith?

What sort of discipline is necessary for living a victorious life?

PRAY: That God will help you to devote your life to living with purpose.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 6: THE VICTORIOUS LIFE



Read 1 John 5:4-5

Who defeats this evil world?

How does someone defeat this evil world?

“Man's very human habit of trusting in himself is generally the last great obstacle blocking his pathway to victory in Christian experience.”

A.W. Tozer

PRAY: Ask God for help in maintaining your belief and trust in him and to give you the confidence to live as though you have defeated evil.



Read Revelation 21:3-7

What is one phrase that stood out to you in this passage?

How can you live today in light of this promised future?

“Take your stand on the Rock of Ages. Let death, let the judgment come: the victory is Christ's and yours through Him.”

D.L. Moody

PRAY: Ask God to help you live life as though his promised future is certain.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 6: THE VICTORIOUS LIFE



Read John 19:30

What do you think Jesus meant when he said “it is finished?”

How is this a shout of victory?

*“The horse is made ready for
the day of battle, but the victo-
ry belongs to the LORD.”*

Proverbs 21:31

PRAY: Praise Jesus for winning our salvation and defeating death on the cross.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

the

FAITHFUL *life*

***“Father, into your
hands I commit my
spirit.”***

“Let us then be imitators of his endurance; and if we should suffer for his name’s sake, let us glorify him. For he has set us this example in himself, and we have believed that such is the case”

Clement of Rome

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 7: THE FAITHFUL LIFE



Read Deuteronomy 7:9

What is the result of God's faithfulness?

To what is God faithful?

"Let us think often that our only business in this life is to please God. Perhaps all besides is but folly and vanity."

Brother Lawrence

PRAY: Praise God for his great faithfulness and ask for daily reminders of it.



Read Psalms 36:5

What does the poetic imagery convey about God's faithfulness?

What comfort does this passage give you?

"God is faithful even when his children are not."

Max Lucado

PRAY: Ask God to help you rest in his great faithfulness.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 7: THE FAITHFUL LIFE



Read Hebrews 10:23

What does this verse exhort us to do?

Why should we hold on to the confession of our faith?

“Wait for the Lord. Behave yourself manfully, and be of good courage. Do not be faithless, but stay in your place and do not turn back.”

Thomas a Kempis

PRAY: Ask God to help you hold on to your faith, trusting in his faithfulness to you.



Read 1 John 1:9

What is God faithful to do for us?

What keeps you from confessing your sin?

“We are made for larger ends than Earth can encompass. Oh, let us be true to our exalted destiny.”

Catherine Booth

PRAY: Confess your sin to God and receive his forgiveness.

CRUCIFIXED WEEK 7: THE FAITHFUL LIFE



Read Luke 23:46

How did Jesus demonstrate trust in God's faithfulness in this moment?

How did Jesus demonstrate faithfulness on the cross?

"God is not looking for men of great faith, He is looking for common men to trust His great faithfulness."

Hudson Taylor

PRAY: Thank Jesus for enduring the cross faithfully so that you might be saved.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES