

# JUST FOR STUDENTS

SPRING 2025

*Please do not send this newsletter back to Crossroads.*

"That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

**– Ephesians 4:20-24 (NIV)**

## Spring and New Life

Spring is a time when new life surrounds us. The dead grass in the prison yard begins to turn green, and the smell of fresh grass brings back pleasant childhood memories. It reminds us that God is the giver of life and can inspire us to adopt a new attitude. As the apostle Paul urged, we can "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

We don't make ourselves righteous or holy—that's God's job. But through new life in Jesus, we are made righteous, regardless of our past. As spring moves toward summer, take time to reflect deeply on this great truth:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. (1 Peter 1:3-4a)*

## From Crossroads President, Joe Pryor

In Genesis 15, God establishes His covenant with Abram. You can read the full chapter for details, but in the first verse, God tells Abram:

*"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."*

So often, we look for rewards. We want appreciation for acts of kindness. When we achieve goals, we expect rewards that will bring satisfaction. If we're loyal at work, we expect recognition. When this doesn't happen, we can feel discouraged or even angry.

But look at what God tells Abram: "I am your shield and your very great reward." God is reminding Abram that worldly rewards are not the ultimate goal. Even though Abram will be blessed with descendants as numerous as the stars, that is not the true reward—God Himself is the reward.

My encouragement to you is to embrace the truth found in Deuteronomy 31:6:

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."*

## News From Crossroads

Mail restrictions in several states are changing the way Crossroads serves our students. While we're not yet able to deliver digital coursework on tablets, we are using new technologies to reach a wider audience.

The *Just for Students* newsletter has been added to our Pando App channel, making it available to facilities with Pando on tablets. Additionally, a second season of our *Doing Time* podcast is now available on the Pando App. This season focuses on reentry.

Crossroads is excited to announce the rollout of new courses in our Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs, covering topics our students have been requesting. These courses will soon be available to many of our students. Depending on where you are in the program, you may see some of the following courses:

- *What is a Mentor?* – Prepares continuing students for one-on-one mentoring.
- *Returning Home* – Helps students prepare for a successful reentry into society.
- *A Renewed Mind* – Challenges students to abandon destructive thinking and adopt the “same mindset of Christ” (Philippians 2:5).
- *The Church Inside the Fence* – Paul’s blueprint for building the Church.

## Scripture Reading and Prayer Guide: Pauline Epistles

Date	Passage	Reading Topic	Prayer Focus
Mar. 1	Ephesians 1:1–2	Paul’s Greeting	Pray for God’s peace to guide our relationships
Mar. 2	Ephesians 1:3–8	Spiritual Blessings in Christ	Pray to embrace the riches of your inheritance in Christ
Mar. 3	Ephesians 1:9–14	Sealed with the Spirit	Pray for a deeper joy in your salvation
Mar. 4	Ephesians 1:15–23	Thanksgiving and Prayer	Pray for God to strengthen our hope in Jesus
Mar. 5	Ephesians 2:1–4	Made Alive in Christ	Pray for the strength to let go of old sin patterns
Mar. 6	Ephesians 2:5–10	We Are God’s Handiwork	Pray for perseverance to continue doing good works
Mar. 7	Ephesians 2:11–17	Jesus Unites All People	Pray that God will break down walls of hostility
Mar. 8	Ephesians 2:18–22	We Are God’s Temple	Pray for a chance to share Jesus today
Mar. 9	Ephesians 3:1–8	God’s Plan for the Gentiles	Pray for those who are lost or feel far from God
Mar. 10	Ephesians 3:9–13	God’s Wisdom Revealed in Christ	Pray for a greater measure of wisdom
Mar. 11	Ephesians 3:14–21	Paul’s Prayer	Pray for a deeper understanding of God’s love for you
Mar. 12	Ephesians 4:1–5	Unity in the Church	Pray for unity among God’s people
Mar. 13	Ephesians 4:6–10	Gifts in the Church	Pray for wisdom to use your gifts to serve others today
Mar. 14	Ephesians 4:11–16	Called to Be Like Jesus	Pray for God’s leaders to guide His people faithfully
Mar. 15	Ephesians 4:17–21	God Enlightens Our Hearts	Pray for the Gospel to reach those who haven’t heard it
Mar. 16	Ephesians 4:22–26	Put Off the Old Self	Pray for grace to overcome familiar sin patterns
Mar. 17	Ephesians 4:27–32	Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit	Pray for kindness and compassion toward others
Mar. 18	Ephesians 5:1–6	You Are a Child of the Light	Pray for someone who needs encouragement today
Mar. 19	Ephesians 5:25–29	Instructions for Husbands	Pray for the husbands you know to reflect God’s love
Mar. 20	Ephesians 5:30–33	We Are the Body of Christ	Pray for revival and renewal within the church
Mar. 21	Ephesians 6:1–9	Instructions for Households	Pray for strength and wisdom for the mothers you know
Mar. 22	Ephesians 6:10–17	The Armor of God	Pray for spiritual readiness to face life’s battles
Mar. 23	Ephesians 6:18–20	Pray at All Times	Pray for a deeper and more fulfilling prayer life
Mar. 24	Ephesians 6:21–24	Paul’s Final Greetings	Pray for healing for someone you know
Mar. 25	Philippians 1:1–7	Paul’s Greeting	Pray for God to continue transforming your life
Mar. 26	Philippians 1:8–11	Paul’s Prayer	Pray for growth in your knowledge and love of Jesus
Mar. 27	Philippians 1:12–19	The Advance of the Gospel	Pray for an unbeliever you know to come to faith
Mar. 28	Philippians 1:20–26	Paul’s Desire to Be with Jesus	Pray for a longing to be with Jesus and hope in eternity
Mar. 29	Philippians 1:27–30	A Life Worthy of the Gospel	Pray to be a consistent and positive witness to others
Mar. 30	Philippians 2:1–6	Imitating Christ’s Humility	Pray for a humble heart that reflects Jesus’ example
Mar. 31	Philippians 2:7–11	Christ Is Exalted Above All	Pray that Christ would be glorified in all areas of your life
Apr. 1	Philippians 2:12–18	Fulfilling God’s Purpose	Pray to work diligently, trusting in God’s power
Apr. 2	Philippians 2:19–24	Paul Sends Timothy	Pray for the courage to follow wherever God leads
Apr. 3	Philippians 2:25–30	Paul Sends Epaphroditus	Pray for healing and strength for those who are sick
Apr. 4	Philippians 3:1–6	Rejoice in the Lord	Pray for those persecuted for their faith in Christ
Apr. 5	Philippians 3:7–10	The Power of Christ	Pray for Christ to be evident in your actions and words
Apr. 6	Philippians 3:11–14	Pressing Toward the Goal	Pray for perseverance in following God’s call
Apr. 7	Philippians 3:15–21	Following Paul’s Example	Pray for a heavenly perspective in all things
Apr. 8	Philippians 4:1–3	Stand Firm in the Lord	Pray for reconciliation and peace in conflicts
Apr. 9	Philippians 4:4–9	Final Instructions	Pray for an increase in joy and contentment in your life
Apr. 10	Philippians 4:10–16	Paul Thanks Them for Their Gifts	Pray for opportunities to practice generosity
Apr. 11	Philippians 4:17–23	Final Greetings	Pray for God to supply all your needs
Apr. 12	Colossians 1:1–7	Paul’s Greeting	Pray for the Gospel to bear fruit in your daily life
Apr. 13	Colossians 1:8–14	Thanksgiving and Prayer	Pray to be filled with the knowledge of God’s will
Apr. 14	Colossians 1:15–18	Jesus Is the Image of God	Pray to reflect Jesus in your actions and relationships
Apr. 15	Colossians 1:19–23	Jesus Reconciled Us to God	Pray for the grace to forgive others as God has forgiven you

Apr. 16	Colossians 1:24–29	Paul’s Labor for the Church	Pray for unity and collaboration among God’s people
Apr. 17	Colossians 2:1–5	The Goal of Paul’s Labor	Pray for someone who needs encouragement
Apr. 18	Colossians 2:6–10	Spiritual Fullness in Christ	Pray to be strengthened in faith and grounded in God’s truth
Apr. 19	Colossians 2:11–15	Christ Paid the Debt for Our Sins	Pray for the courage to leave past sins and walk in freedom
Apr. 20	Colossians 2:16–23	Spiritual Freedom in Christ	Pray for those yet to experience the freedom in Christ
Apr. 21	Colossians 3:1–4	Set Your Minds on Things Above	Pray for strength to resist temptation and focus on eternity
Apr. 22	Colossians 3:5–10	Take Off the Old Self	Pray for a clean heart and a renewed spirit
Apr. 23	Colossians 3:11–17	Put On the New Self	Pray for your kindness, compassion, and humility to grow
Apr. 24	Colossians 3:18–25	Instructions for Households	Pray for fathers to lead with love and integrity
Apr. 25	Colossians 4:1–6	Paul’s Call to Pray	Pray for more time and focus to deepen your prayer life
Apr. 26	Colossians 4:7–18	Paul’s Final Greetings	Pray for the lonely and forgotten, that they may find comfort
Apr. 27	Philemon 1–25	Paul Appeals for a Friend	Pray for the ability to show love and mercy, as God has

## Learning the Word

As you examine Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, complete the following verses and questions:

1. God chose us to be holy and \_\_\_\_\_ in His sight. (Eph. 1:4)
2. The seal believers are marked with. (Eph. 1:13)
3. Before coming to Christ, we were dead in our transgressions and \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 2:1)
4. We are saved by this... (Eph. 2:8)
5. We are no longer foreigners or strangers with God’s people. We are fellow \_\_\_\_ (Eph. 2:19)
6. We are urged to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Eph. 4:3)
7. God’s intent is to make His wisdom known through the \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 3:10)
8. Gentiles (non-believers) live in the futility of their \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:17)
9. God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 3:20)
10. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 2:10)

**Word Bank:** blameless, citizens, church, grace, Holy Spirit, imagine, sins, thinking, unity, works

## From the Operations Department

- If you move to a new facility or go home and want to continue your lessons, please let us know. To continue studying from home, wait until you are living there to send us a note with your address.
- The next *Just for Students* will be available in digital and print formats in June.

