

FALL 2026



LAKE GLENBURN BY GERARD

JUST FOR STUDENTS

Please do not send this newsletter back to Crossroads.

*"Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near."*

– Isaiah 55:6 (NIV)

[FEATURED INSIDE]

**A FALL MESSAGE FROM CROSSROADS' PRESIDENT
STUDENT ART & POETRY
SCRIPTURES FOR THE SEASONS OF CHANGE**

LET THE LEAVES FALL

Did you ever wonder why we call this season “fall”?

The word comes from the old English phrase “fall of the leaf,” describing the time when trees shed their leaves. But each year during this season, I notice something else too.

As the leaves fall, I begin seeing things that were hidden before.

I can suddenly see houses behind mine that had been covered by summer foliage. I notice children playing outside and realize how much they have grown during the seasons I could not see them.

Fall changes what we notice.

Even if you are not surrounded by trees during this season of your life, I encourage you to look around with renewed focus and intentionality.

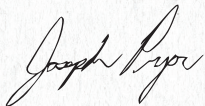
Perhaps someone near you is lonely and needs encouragement. Maybe another person wants someone to celebrate good news with.

My father often said the greatest ministry does not happen from a pulpit, but through everyday encounters with people.

As students of Crossroads, you are not only learners—you are also ministry partners. One of the most meaningful ways new students join Crossroads is through invitations from friends like you.

So this fall, let the leaves fall figuratively. Notice people. Encourage someone. Invite someone to join you on your Crossroads journey.

You may be surprised at what God places in your path.



Joe Pryor,
Crossroads President & CEO

SPANISH CURRICULUM LAUNCH

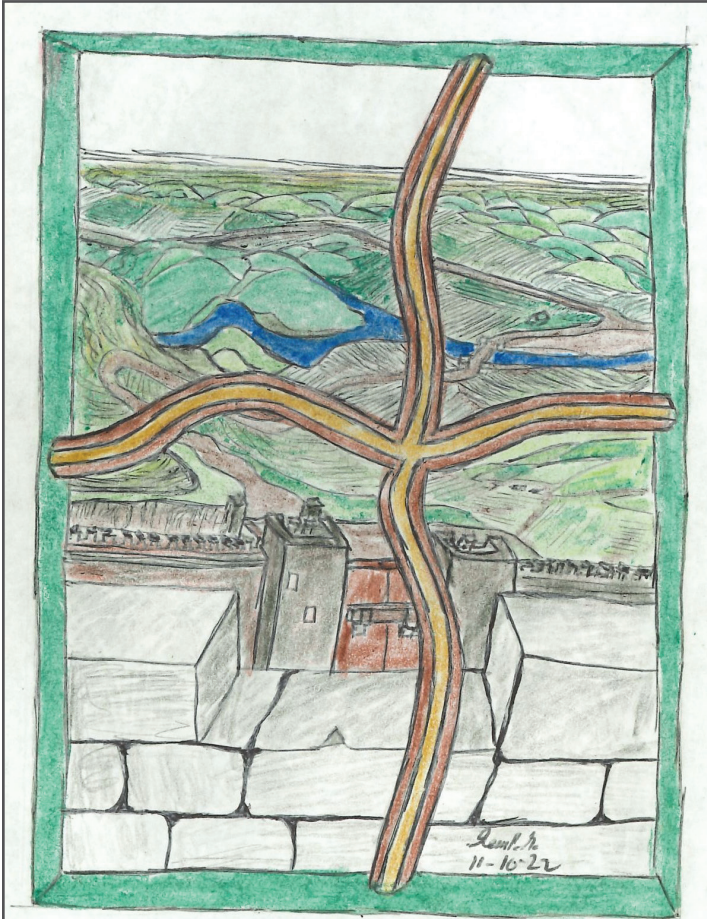
Crossroads is excited to be releasing an updated curriculum for our Spanish-speaking students! These new courses include *Who Is Jesus?*, *What Is the Bible?*, *Truths of the Faith*, *What Is a Mentor?*, *Returning Home*, *A Renewed Mind*, *Sermon on the Mount*, *God’s Great Story*, and *The Church Inside the Fence*. This release will result in having Spanish curriculum identical to what is offered in the English Tier 1 Core and Tier 2 Growth Programs.

While some of the current courses are being discontinued, this new curriculum addresses important topics like reentry, biblical thinking and wisdom, and serving God while incarcerated. The transition for students will begin this fall. Students will complete the course they are currently in before moving into a course from the new curriculum.

At this time, students already in Tier 2 will not be able to take *Who Is Jesus?*, *What Is the Bible?*, *Truths of the Faith*, *What Is a Mentor?*, or *Returning Home*.

THE CREATIVE CORNER

ARTWORK AND POETRY SHARED BY CROSSROADS STUDENTS,
USING THEIR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS TO GLORIFY HIM.



ART BY SEAN S.

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED
THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.
NOW THE EARTH WAS FORMLESS
AND EMPTY, DARKNESS WAS
OVER THE SURFACE OF THE DEEP,
AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS
HOVERING OVER THE WATERS"
(GENESIS 1:1-2).



GOD'S SEASONS VARY BY JASON S.



GENESIS 1:1-2 BY DAMIAN C.

CHOOSING EARTHLY BY NICK D.

All that I have
All that I've saved,
Means nothing at all,
When I'm laid in the grave.

So much value I have
So much I am worth,
But what good will it be,
When I'm put in the earth?

Collections of coins,
Rare though they be,
Made of silver and gold
I can't take them with me.

The day will come when I'm raised from the grave,
In heaven I will find no treasures I've saved

POEM BY DWAYNE W.

Love does not find joy in the misery of others
Love does not hate its own
Love is friends at first and friends at last
Love eases the burdens and hardships of others
Love turns enemies into friends
Love seeks the good in others
Love is genuine and compels others to change
Love heals broken hearts
Love is forgetting, not remembering
Love brings pieces together to make a whole
Love does not leave a wanting, but fills to overflowing
Love gathers light and dispels darkness.



OUT OF AFRICA BY JUAN H.

SHARE YOUR ARTWORK

Crossroads students are invited to submit artwork and poetry to Crossroads for display and publication. You can submit artwork or poetry by mailing it to the Crossroads office at the address below. Include your name, ID number, address, the title of your work, and an artist's statement (optional). Entries must be original, and no copyrighted images or works will be published.

CROSSROADS | PO BOX 900 | GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49509-0900

KING DAVID HITS FOR THE CYCLE

In Major League Baseball, when one batter hits a single, a double, a triple, and a home run in the same game, it's called hitting for the cycle. Hardly anyone does it.

King David did. Here's how he did it. (Read the whole story in 2 Samuel 11 and 12.)

FIRST BASE — CHOICE: "DAVID REMAINED IN JERUSALEM." (2 SAMUEL 11:1)

When David's army went to fight, David stayed home. Because of that one choice, he met a woman. Because of that, he slept with her. Because of that, she got pregnant. We often wish we could go back and change that first choice. One decision opened the door.

SECOND BASE — COVER-UP: "DAVID SENT FOR HER HUSBAND." (2 SAMUEL 11:6)

When you're in a hole, stop digging. David called her husband back from the battle—where David should have been. He tried to convince him to go home and sleep with his wife. But the soldier showed more honor than his king and refused to do it. Then David kept digging. He acted like a friend to the husband and got him drunk. Still, the man would not enjoy his comforts while his fellow soldiers were in the field. In the end, David arranged for the poor man to be killed. David tried everything. Sin rarely stays alone.

THIRD BASE — CONFRONTATION: "YOU ARE THE MAN!" (2 SAMUEL 12:7)

Long before the internet and cameras on every corner, Moses said, "You may be sure that your sin will find you out." (Numbers 32:23) David covered his sin, but God uncovered it. God sent His prophet to rescue David. David realized it was time to stop hiding. He could have made a long speech. Instead, he honestly and simply said, "I have sinned against the Lord." Immediately the prophet said, "The Lord forgives you." God's forgiveness is not complicated. In the end, every person will answer not only to the law, but also to God. And He is the God who forgives.

HOME PLATE — CONQUEST: "DAVID WENT AND ATTACKED IT AND CAPTURED IT." (2 SAMUEL 12:29)

Sin has consequences. David experienced painful results from his actions. But the Bible was written to correct us and train us to live the right way (2 Timothy 3:16). David didn't die on third base. That's where he came alive. True forgiveness always leads to action. David obeyed God's voice and returned to battle. He won the victory, and he won big. He didn't just slide into home plate. He came charging home like a major leaguer celebrating a game-winning hit. Once in a while, he may have thought about those other three bases, but they no longer defined him. Complete forgiveness in Christ means the old is gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17)! The goal is not only getting out of prison. The goal is getting home to God. Forgiveness begins when people begin doing what God has prepared for them to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

My sisters and brothers, here's all I want to say: You can strike out in life, but because God loves you, you can still make it home. Jesus is willing to run the bases with you.

Brother Ren

WORDS OF WISDOM:

"Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God in the middle of circumstances you don't understand."

Carol Kent (author/speaker) with a son with a life sentence in Florida.

GOD GIVES STRENGTH IN EVERY SEASON

READ AND REFLECT

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." — Isaiah 43:19

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." — Proverbs 3:5–6

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." — Hebrews 13:8

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." — Joshua 1:9

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." — 2 Corinthians 4:16

JOURNAL PROMPT

What is one area of your life where you need God's guidance right now?

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Try memorizing Philippians 3:13 this month:

"But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."

FROM THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Here are a few reminders about your lessons and mail:

- **Send back all pages of your lesson.** This helps us process it faster and send your next lesson sooner.
- **Moving or going home?** If you're transferring to a new facility or getting released and want to keep doing lessons, let us know. If you're going home, wait until you get there to send us your new address.
- **Some lessons are sent to a mail service.** For students at certain facilities, we must send lessons to a mail service instead of directly to the facility. In some cases, new lessons will go to your facility while reviewed lessons will go to the mail service. Please know that we understand the value of receiving a physical copy of the lesson in a timely manner. However, at times this process is the only way for you to receive the mentor's letter along with the lesson.

Thank you for your dedication to growing in God's Word. If you enjoy doing Crossroads lessons, please tell a friend in your facility about us.



CROSSROADS

PO Box 900 | Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900

0926