

# BEYOND THE WEEKEND

For the sermon on February 16-17, 2013  
"Suffering Graciously"



**Welcome to *Beyond the Weekend!*** The experiences below are designed to connect with the weekend message and fit a variety of learning styles. They provide additional readings from other sections of Scripture such as the Old Testament, Psalms, Gospels, and Epistles (letters). Take 20-30 minutes each day and enjoy your pursuit of God!



Prefer e-mail? ***Beyond the Weekend*** is also available via daily e-mails, which include links to the Scripture (both written and audio), the sermon video, and a weekly blog post. To sign up for the daily e-mails, go to [adabible.org/btw](http://adabible.org/btw).

## Day 1 Psalm 145.8-21 | Grace and Truth

From start to finish, God's story is one of grace and truth. John writes, "We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son [Jesus], who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1.14). And just two verses earlier, he declares "...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (v.12).

Jesus came to earth to establish the truth that there is no greater life than one built upon God. He lived, died, and rose again so we could live a life with God, forever enjoying his goodness and grace. Do you know his grace?

**Today, read Psalm 145.8-21.** Notice the gracious heart of God. Then, listen to the song "What a Friend I've Found" by Delirious? (search youtube.com: "Delirious? 'What A Friend I've Found' Concert Performance"). If you have not accepted Christ as your Savior, you can do so right now. Simply pray, "Lord, I turn from my sin and receive your grace, recognizing that you died on the cross to cover my sin. I accept your grace freely. Make me a child of God. I want to enjoy you forever." If you prayed this prayer, we would love to follow up with you. E-mail Tim Nelson at [tnelson@adabible.org](mailto:tnelson@adabible.org) or Darrell Yoder at [dyoder@adabible.org](mailto:dyoder@adabible.org).

## Day 2 Genesis 45.1-8 | Generosity Amid Trial

*In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity (2 Corinthians 8.2).*

The life of Joseph is another story of redemption and extraordinary generosity—even amid incredible trial. He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, propositioned by Potiphar's (his boss's) wife, and sent to prison. Then, after ascending to second in power to Pharaoh, his brothers traveled to Egypt to find food and instead found their brother (they didn't recognize him). When Joseph revealed who he was, he spoke words of grace:

*Come close to me... I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you (Genesis 45.4-5).*

Today's reading shows how Joseph lived his life for the joy of others, not his own. From Potiphar, to Pharaoh, to his family, to his God, he consistently lived a life of generosity amid trial. For more background on Joseph's story, read Genesis chapters 44 and 45. Joseph understood the big picture. He sought to redeem the negative things in his life for good. Today, identify one situation in your life—something that may appear to be evil or bad—and seek to bring a measure of redemption to it, whether small or big.

## Day 3 Romans 12.9-21 | Living the "Others-Focused Life"

"Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people" (2 Corinthians 8.3b-4). Paul didn't need to command the Philippians to act generously toward those in need. They desired to be on the healing side of the problems in their world.

**How about you? Scripture time and again asks us: Will you choose this path?** "I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others" (2 Corinthians 8.8). In other words, Paul is saying, "You say you love others, but are you going to show it?"

**Today, read Romans 12.9-21** and then identify a time when you were "me-focused" rather than "others-focused." Listen to the song "Blessed Are the Ones" by Audrey Assad (search youtube.com). She sings, "Let's build a house with turned out doors, so we can share what love affords. . ." Take time in prayer to confess any selfish desire you acted upon and surrender that to the Lord.

## Day 4 Philippians 2.1-11 | The Self-Emptying of Christ

We hold tightly to our identity, our prestige, our pride, and our stuff. But God doesn't. **Today, read Philippians 2.1-11**, which is known as the *Kenosis* passage (the "emptying" of God). Jesus opens his hands wide and gives himself freely, first to the Father, and then to us.

Notice what Paul says: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (vs. 5-7, NIV1984). Today, go to your time of prayer and open your hands wide to the sky in a symbolic act asking God to make you more like him. Choose to give up your agenda, and instead choose God's.

## Day 5 2 Peter 1.5-11 | Play From Your Weakness

In his book, *Now Discover Your Strengths*, Marcus Buckingham popularized the notion that we should play from our strengths. We live in a world where the best and brightest get promoted. No employer hires a sales person who is bad at sales. Whatever occupation, we hire for strengths, not weaknesses. However, in the kingdom, God hires for our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12.10).

The people of Corinth were told they excelled in many areas but were clearly deficient in another area. In order to give greater glory to the Lord, they were to add the "grace of giving" to their character (2 Corinthians 8.7). **Today, read 2 Peter 1.5-11** and consider an area of weakness in your life where you need extra grace. Then, listen to the song "Walk with Me" by Jesus Culture (search youtube.com: "Jesus Culture with Martin Smith: Live From New York - Walk With Me"). It's a humble prayer of dependence.

## MORE

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**Small Group Discussion** | For a discussion guide related to the sermon, e-mail [rcorlett@adabile.org](mailto:rcorlett@adabile.org).

**Questions or Comments** | Contact Tim Nelson, pastor of spiritual formation at [tnelson@adabile.org](mailto:tnelson@adabile.org).

### BTW Blog

Ada Bible Church staff and leaders share how God is meeting them through the sermons. BTW blog posts are hosted on Sabea, our blog for spiritual formation, and go live on Wednesdays.

This week we hear from Kelly James Bonewell, Director of Congregational Care.

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