



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month:	Focusing on the Marks of a Believer
Text for the Week:	Acts 9:19b –43
Message for the Week:	Peter, Paul, and Who?
Theme for the Week:	Believers are marked by an eagerness to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God

## Week 21

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Tell about a time when you were responsible for something and it did not go as planned. What did you learn? How did this make you feel?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read [Acts 9:19-43](#) out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

What is humility? How would you define it? How do you practice or show humility in your life?

When have you had to depend upon another person? Share an example or two. What happened? When has someone needed to depend upon you?

How has God transformed your stubborn will and conformed it to His will?

Share about a time when you were rejected or shunned on account of something you did in your past.

When you hear the phrases “offering encouragement,” “providing assistance,” “going the extra mile,” does anyone come to mind? Who is it? Why?

## “Try It!”

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be a grace-filled community – a community that is embracing grace and extending grace.

This week, intentionally look for opportunities at home, work, school, in your neighborhood, while doing errands, in the drive through line, etc., to be exorbitantly gracious - where you need to “keep little issues small; look past “my way” to His way; be eager to forgive; willing to walk an extra mile together.”

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer regarding the things God revealed and that you discerned in your time with God today.

Also, spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you...pray this prayer.

*‘As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring your peace...”’ (Luke 19:41-42). ‘O Jerusalem, ... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing’ (Matt. 23:37).*

Heavenly Father, how very patient you are with us and with our prayers that are more often letting off steam and demanding things we want. Please align our hearts to yours so that even as Jesus prayed with tears, we too might have His compassion, not hardness of heart toward those in need of the Savior. For His name’s sake. Amen.

## Missional Practice for the Month:

During the month of February, we invite and encourage you to create some home-made encouragement/ “thinking of you” bags/boxes that you can give to your neighbor(s), co-worker(s), classmate(s), public servants in our community, etc. Pray about who you could give a bag. Include a personal note of encouragement from you for the recipient. Have fun and be creative with what you might include in your bags. Keep it simple. Need some creative help? Click on the links below for some gift bag/box idea possibilities:

- <https://todaysfabulousfinds.blogspot.com/2010/12/neighbor-gift-idea-game-night-in-bag.html?m=1>
- <https://orisonorchards.com/dirt-cheap-neighbor-gifts/>
- <https://dreamingindiy.com/do-it-yourself-gift-basket-ideas-for-any-and-all-occasions/>