

GRACE TRANSFORMS

WEEK 2

BELIEVE

*“For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have eternal life.”*

John 3:16 (ESV)

SERMON NOTES – BELIEVE :: 2

TOPIC _____

SPEAKER _____ DATE _____

TESTAMENT OLD NEW SONGS/HYMNS _____

MOOD 😄 😊 😐 😞 😓 😴 _____

TODAY I AM GRATEFUL FOR _____

KEY POINTS _____ SCRIPTURES _____

NOTES _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What stuck out to you as you read this weekend's Scripture passages?

Did these verses raise any questions as you read?

Where do we see Jesus Christ in these verses?

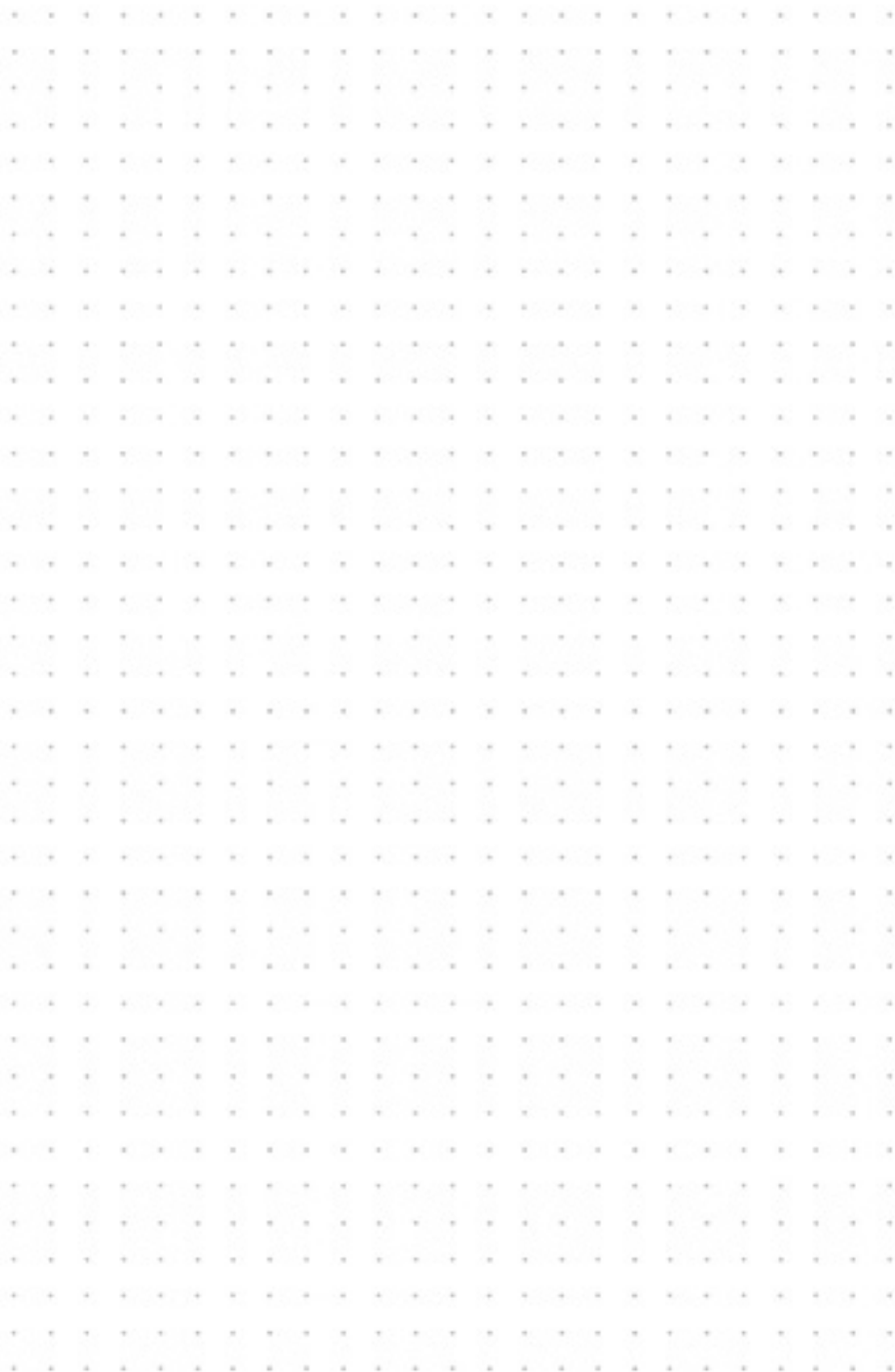
As you read this weekend's Scripture, ask yourself, "Are these verses...

1. teaching me something?"
2. telling me to stop doing something I am doing?"
3. correcting some wrong thinking or behavior?"
4. preparing me to live more effectively for him?"

Write down the name of someone who might benefit from hearing what you've seen in the Bible.

Why is this passage in this particular book of the Bible? What might the Bible lose if this passage was left out? What's the author's main point? *(Try to sum up your answer in one sentence.)*

JOURNAL



DAY 6 — BELIEVE

Sharing Christ Without Hesitation

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

As believers we are ambassadors for Jesus Christ, sharing the good news of the gospel with those that we meet. Yet, one of the most delightful parts is that we are workers not just for Him, but with Him! The Holy Spirit does not send us out on an assignment, wishing us “best of luck” as we leave. No, moment by moment He is with us as we talk to, share with, and love people. This should give us great confidence in ministry.

There are several things we could offer to people but with a certain amount of doubt and hesitancy. But when we share the Gospel of Christ, all the hesitancy should evaporate, for the Lord is guaranteed when you trust in Him!

When we pray with people, we can do it right then and there, because He is there! There is no waiting period or background checks!

The Lord has given us a wonderful promise in James 4:8. When we draw near to the Lord, He will draw near to us; not that He might draw near, but that He will!

Paul says in this passage that now is the accepted time! In Genesis 6:3, God says, “My Spirit will not always strive with man.” He will not keep whispering into your heart indefinitely. If anyone continually says “no” to Him, there will come a time that He will let your decision stand—a decision that Jesus would call blasphemy.

Because of the urgency of the times, we are living in...let us share the good news without hesitation! For today is the day of salvation!

NEXT STEP :: *Father in heaven, You could come any day! Lord, may I be fruitful for You (John 15:5). Prune me as You see fit! Open my eyes so that I might see the opportunities You have placed around me and help me to boldly declare Your grace to someone today!*

Contributed by Gordon Rumble, Pastor of Senior Adults

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 7 — BELIEVE

Sharing Our Treasures

Romans 10:8-15

We all have many things we treasure in our lives. I had a rich great uncle who put great value in the land, cattle, and companies he owned. However, I could see he was not a happy or contented man. Some treasure other things, such as their memories, and the things they like to do with their free time, but we need to make sure our priorities are on the eternal things from God. Jesus is our greatest treasure, and He will never pass away. Remember, all things of this earth will pass away, but Jesus is our friend and Savior forever.

God wants us to be His feet (Isaiah 52:7) that help pass on God's treasure to others. We do this by sharing about the Gospel and His kingdom, just as others used their feet to pass these things on to us. We received God's treasures because someone else came to us in love and shared His Gospel with us and God changed our heart. We then confessed with our mouth our belief and trust in Him and made Jesus, the Lord of our lives. This belief is not just knowing who God is, but it is also about total surrender to Him and letting Jesus truly be our Lord. We must worship Him alone.

NEXT STEP :: *With Jesus as our Lord, our lives are transformed, and we want to share this with everyone we know. We must let the Spirit of God work in us, through us, and to learn not to be ashamed of the Gospel, as it is the power of salvation to those who are lost. If you cannot go, then help us to send and support others who can go, by giving to God's Church and being a part of God's kingdom work here and abroad.*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 8 — BELIEVE

New Birth Into A Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-5

Born into extreme poverty, Bindu had no self-esteem or hope. It didn't help that her family was living on land they didn't own, in a tin house with no electricity or running water. But life took a turn the day a knock came at the door, and she was invited to join a Children's Bible Club.

At the Bible club, the leader, Rachi, helped Bindu with her studies. And to her own surprise, she excelled! With her new confidence, Bindu felt comfortable enough to begin sharing her troubles with Rachi. She encouraged Bindu to pray to Jesus and to wait patiently for His answer.

And He responded in a big way! After 28 years, the government legally transferred the land to her father— and now they would even have power and running water! When Bindu heard the news, she wept tears of joy in front of the family and said, “My Jesus is good.”

With Bindu's faith greatly increased, Rachi shared the gospel with her entire family. In time, each one received Christ as their Savior! Today, the family memorizes one verse of Scripture each day and gathers for a prayer before dinner. They feel safe and secure in the hands of the Lord.

NEXT STEP :: *Like Bindu, what burden or need do you need to bring to our God who is more than able? Come to Jesus and ask Him and wait patiently for His answer.*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 9 — BELIEVE

Salvation Is A Gift

Romans 4:4-5

I was talking to another mom a few weeks back. She made an interesting comment about how not doing good works could get in the way—or delay—getting to heaven. My mind immediately went to Ephesians 2:8-9, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Then I happened upon Psalm 103 last week where it says that as far as the east is from the west is how far God removes our sins from us. Once we have confessed, He doesn’t remember them anymore. And now, here we are, on this passage from Romans.

This leads me to several questions: If I have confessed my sin/sins to God and He doesn’t remember those sins anymore, am I still hanging onto them myself? If so, why? And a follow-up to that, how is hanging on to past sin helping me to live in the freedom in Christ? Am I relying on my own “goodness” or good deeds to try to earn my way to heaven, or even to just have more favor with God?

Friends, our salvation is gained by faith in Christ alone—not because of our own works. Our works are a response to the immense love of our Savior and gratitude for the gift we have received from the eternal lover of our soul, our very creator, God Almighty. They have no bearing on whether or not we go to heaven.

Believe and receive salvation. Then go forth and do good works because of it.

NEXT STEP :: *Heavenly Father, I confess my sin. Please help me to lay it at the foot of the cross and leave it there. Your Word says You remember it no more. Help me to live today in Your freedom. Accept my work as an offering to You, in gratefulness for all that You have done for me.*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 10 — BELIEVE

An Ordinary Life

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Have you ever thought, "God can't use me; I'm just a simple [fill in the blank]."

Most people have never heard of Edward Kimball, but the results of his faithfulness to God are known across the globe. How? Read on and see what God did after this Sunday school teacher dared to share his faith with others.

A Sunday school teacher named Edward Kimball won a shoe store clerk to Jesus—his name was D.L. Moody. D.L. Moody traveled to England and awakened the heart of a young pastor—F.B. Meyer.

F.B. Meyer became one of the great Bible expositors, came to the U.S.A. and preached on college campuses, and was used to convert a student to Christ—Wilbur Chapman.

Wilbur Chapman attended one of Moody's meetings in Chicago and became D. L. Moody's coworker. Wilbur Chapman employed an ex-baseball player as his assistant—Billy Sunday.

Billy Sunday became a great evangelist and preached in Charlotte, North Carolina, at a meeting organized by the Billy Sunday Layman's Evangelistic Club (renamed Christian Business Men's Committee or CBMC).

CBMC invited an evangelist to Charlotte; his name was Mordecai Ham.

Mordecai Ham preached in the tent meeting where Billy Graham was saved.

Billy Graham proclaimed the Gospel to millions across the globe, and many lives have been changed forever. Perhaps you are one of them.

NEXT STEP :: *What will God do through you if you faithfully share your faith in Jesus Christ?*

*Contributed by Lonnie Skiles, Pastor of Next Steps
[reprint from: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association]*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____
