

WAYS

DEVOTIONAL

What are the Ways?

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

How do I Devote?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.




REJOICE ALWAYS

Sunday

The Kingdom of God is a party! Let healthy laughter fill our meetings, our meals, and even our worship. Allow the joy of our faith be clearly evident in our speech and on our faces.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Rejoice Always* this week.



THE LORD GOD PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN,
IN THE EAST, AND THERE HE PLACED
THE MAN HE HAD FORMED.
GENESIS 2:8

Monday

READ: Genesis 2:4-9.

THINK: In the second account of creation, we see God planting a garden just for humans. There is something so intimate and sweet about God gardening to create a special place for us. When God made humans, he also made a place for us to eat, play, dance, run, climb, create, and enjoy. He made a literal paradise so that people could enjoy it and *Rejoice Always*.

PRAY: and thank God for the joyful gifts He has given you.

Rejoice Always today.



THE SAME DESTINY

Ultimately

AWAITS EVERYONE, WHETHER RIGHTEOUS

OR WICKED, GOOD OR BAD,

ECCLESIASTES 9:2

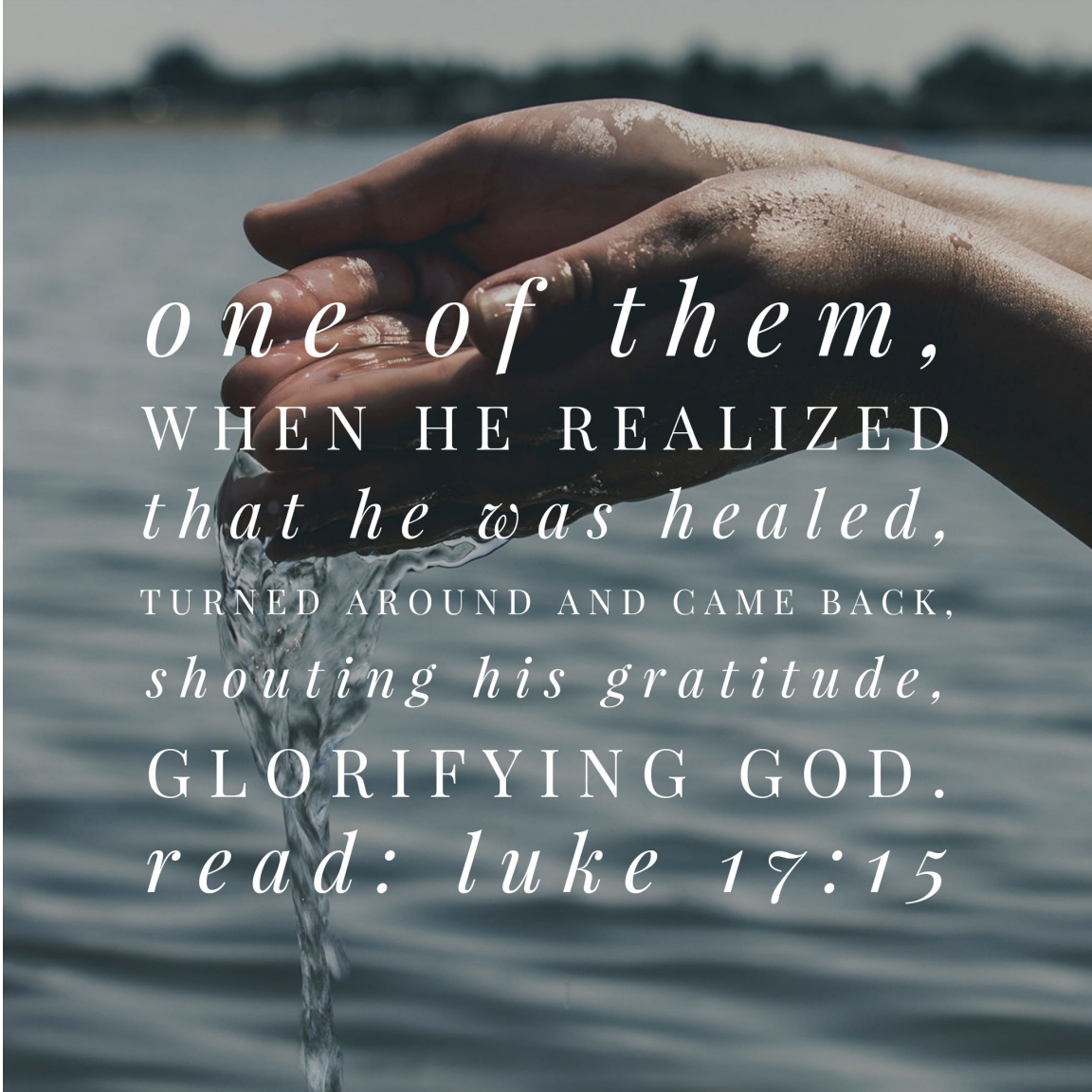
Tuesday

READ: Ecclesiastes 9:1-12.

THINK: We don't read this passage often, because the essential idea is "Everyone dies, so you might as well enjoy your life." Pleasant right? But unpleasantness doesn't make it untrue. Tomorrow has worries of its own, don't look for fame or wealth. They have only empty promises. Eat your food, drink your wine, enjoy your life with God, and *Rejoice* Always for the life he has given you.

PRAY: with God about what you don't currently enjoy enough.

Rejoice Always today.



one of them,
WHEN HE REALIZED
that he was healed,
TURNED AROUND AND CAME BACK,
shouting his gratitude,
GLORIFYING GOD.
read: luke 17:15

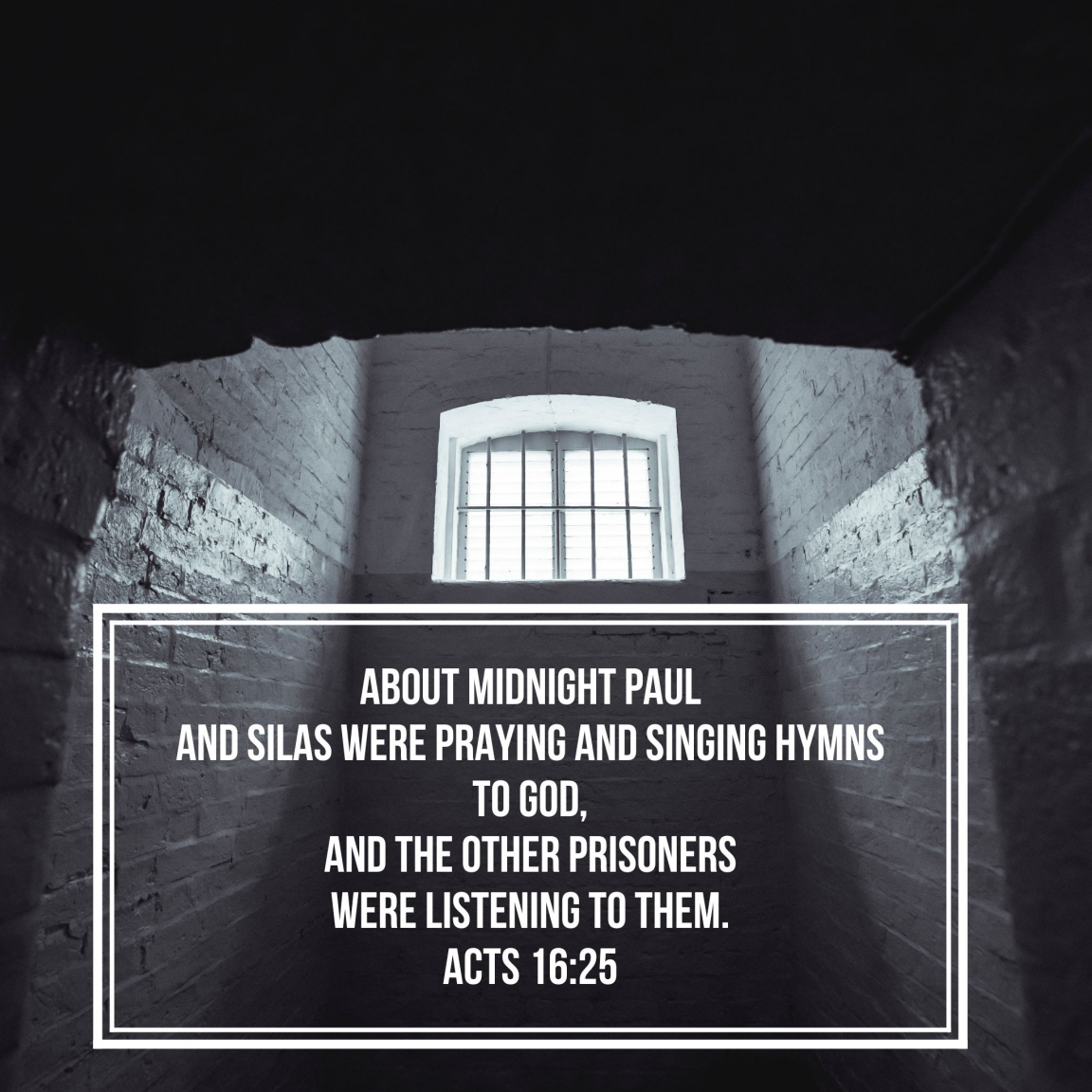
Wednesday

READ: Luke 17:11-19

THINK: Of the ten, only one returned to thank Jesus. To be fair, the others just had their lives changed and may have been distracted by all the new possibilities in front of them. They may have been so filled with rejoicing, that they forgot to be thankful. Those two though, rightly belong together. Any moment of revelry, excitement, or joy is a moment to be thankful. *Rejoice Always*, but remember to return to Jesus in thanks.

PRAY: in the middle of a good moment later today with a simple and silent “Thank you.”

Rejoice Always today.



**ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL
AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS
TO GOD,
AND THE OTHER PRISONERS
WERE LISTENING TO THEM.
ACTS 16:25**

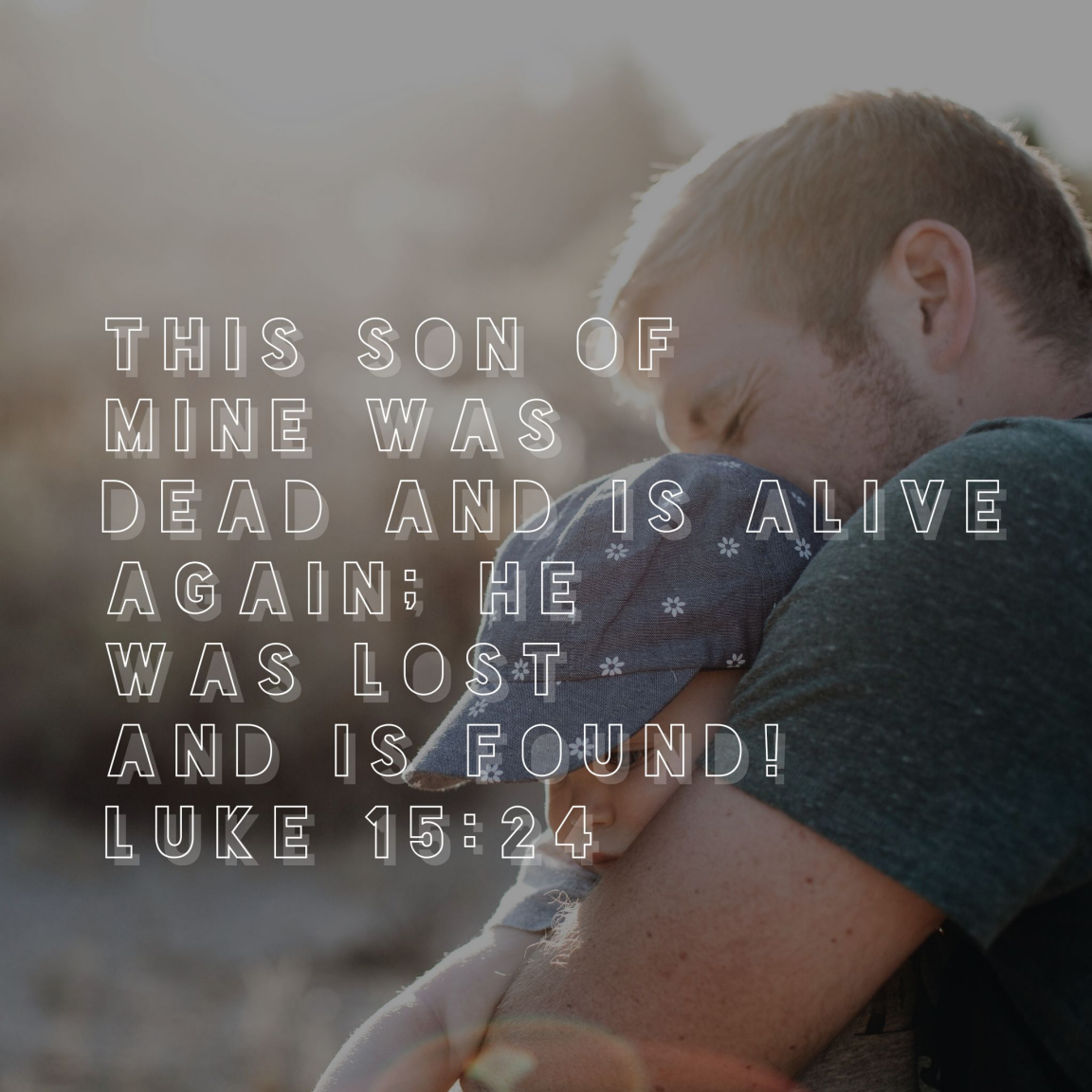
Thursday

READ: Acts 16:16-34

THINK: Often we rejoice at good things and bemoan bad things, but it is a choice to rejoice. We cannot *Rejoice Always* by hoping everything will go our way. We *Rejoice Always* because we choose to. Even when in prison, Paul could count himself blessed. His secret? Circumstances can't take God's presence and salvation from you. Follow Paul. Fix your eyes on what is permanent and begin to learn how to *Rejoice Always*.

PRAY: through what God's presence and salvation mean to you.

Rejoice Always today.

A man with a beard and short brown hair is seen from the side, hugging a child. The child is wearing a blue baseball cap with white floral patterns. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor scene with warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image in a white, outlined, sans-serif font.

THIS SON OF
MINE WAS
DEAD AND IS ALIVE
AGAIN; HE
WAS LOST
AND IS FOUND!
LUKE 15:24

Friday

READ: Luke 15:11-32.

THINK: After insulting his father, running away from home, and spending his entire inheritance; the son is greeted with a hug and a party. At times our faith can emphasize so strongly how we have fallen short that we forget that God celebrates us anyway. God wants you to be joyful. Don't lose sight of the truth that our God loves you and wants nothing but the best for you. He seeks to give you every opportunity to *Rejoice Always*.

PRAY: that you could see yourself as God sees you.

Rejoice Always today.



A CHEERFUL HEART IS GOOD MEDICINE,

BUT A BROKEN SPIRIT SAPS A PERSON'S STRENGTH.

PROVERBS 17:22

Saturday

READ: Proverbs 17:22.

THINK: You cannot control what people do to you. You can only control how you respond. People's words and actions can cut deeper than anyone could imagine and sometimes we carry a weight that no one knows about. When it feels like your strength is sapped and rejoicing is a pipe dream, don't let sin have the last word. *Rejoice Always* because people's wickedness doesn't get to take away the fact that you are a well-made and loved child of God.

PRAY: for the Spirit's strength when brokenness overwhelms us.

Rejoice Always today.