

Sunday Snapshot · Go Deeper

Step Out of the Boat

Six Days of Noticing, Stepping Out, and Grace

6 DAYS · OCTOBER 26–31, 2026

OUR SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:29 (NIV)

The lie we’re confronting: “I have to wait until someone else is ready, or until it feels easier, before I can begin.”

The truth we’re learning: God made me on purpose, and He meets me in the water, even when I am still a little scared.

HOW TO USE THIS

Find a quiet spot with your Bible, a pen, and something warm to drink. Read the devotion, pause on the question, journal, pray, and take one small step. Plan on about 5 to 8 minutes a day. On Saturday, you will also want a piece of paper.

Motivational Monday

Step One: Notice the Boat

ISAIAH 43:18-19 (NIV) · SEEING WHAT HAS STARTED TO FEEL NORMAL

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

Hey you, it's me!

Before Peter ever stepped onto the water, he was sitting in a boat.

Nothing was wrong with that boat. It was familiar. It was dry. It had carried him through a long night on the water.

Most of us have a boat like that. A pattern that kept us safe during a hard season and then quietly stayed.

For me, it was waiting for someone else to be free before I let myself go do the thing I wanted to do. I did it so many times that I stopped noticing I was doing it.

That is the tricky thing about patterns. They do not announce themselves. They just start to feel like “the way I am.”

God asks, “Do you not perceive it?” So this week, we begin by perceiving. Not fixing. Not judging. Just noticing.

LET'S PAUSE

What is one thing you do so automatically that you have never asked whether it still serves you?

JOURNAL WITH ME

One pattern I have carried for a long time is...

I think it started when...

It has kept me safe by...

It may be costing me...

A LITTLE PRAYER

Lord, open my eyes to the boats I have built. Help me see them with honesty and without shame. Show me what is Yours to keep and what I am ready to set down. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ONE SMALL STEP

Write your pattern on a sticky note and put it somewhere you will see it every morning this week.

Tuesday Throwback

Step Two: Love Who You Used to Be

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (NIV) · COMPASSION FOR THE PAST

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Hey you, it's me!

There was a season when leaving my house felt like too much.

When I look back at that woman, I have a choice. I can be disappointed in her, or I can be proud of her for holding on.

I choose proud.

She was doing the best she could with what she understood at the time. And God was not finished with her. He is not finished with you, either.

Sometimes we look back and only count what we missed. The trips we skipped. The invitations we turned down. The years fear made the decisions.

But God counts differently. He sees the good work He started, and He promises to carry it on.

The person you used to be does not need your criticism. That younger you needs your compassion.

LET'S PAUSE

If your younger self were sitting across the kitchen table from you today, what would you say?

JOURNAL WITH ME

A season I am still hard on myself about is...

What I understand now that I did not understand then is...

Dear younger me, I want you to know...

A LITTLE PRAYER

Father, thank You for never giving up on me. Help me look at my past the way You do, with mercy instead of regret. Thank You that the good work You started in me is still going. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ONE SMALL STEP

Find a photo of yourself from a hard season and say one kind thing to that younger you out loud.

Wednesday Wine Down

Step Three: Waiting or Wondering?

PSALM 27:14 (NIV) · REST AND DISCERNMENT

“Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.”

Hey you, it's me!

Tonight is for slowing down.

I want to be careful here, because I do believe there are seasons when God asks us to wait. Waiting can be wise. Waiting can be holy.

But I have also learned that fear is very good at dressing up as patience.

“I will do it when things calm down.” “I will go when someone can come with me.” “I will start when I feel ready.”

Sometimes that is God's timing. And sometimes it is an old fear wearing a nicer outfit.

Notice that the psalm tells us to be strong and take heart while we wait. Godly waiting is not hiding. It is trusting.

So pour something warm, get still, and bring Him the question I have been carrying since my Camino: **God, am I waiting on You, or are You waiting on me?**

LET'S PAUSE

When you imagine moving forward, what do you feel first: peace or fear?

JOURNAL WITH ME

Something I have been “waiting” on is...

If I am honest, the reason I have not moved is...

If this waiting is from God, I can trust Him by...

If this waiting is from fear, one small step could be...

A LITTLE PRAYER

Lord, give me the wisdom to know the difference between Your timing and my fear. Quiet my heart enough to hear You. Whether You say wait or You say come, help me trust You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ONE SMALL STEP

Spend five quiet minutes without your phone and ask God the question. Write down whatever comes to mind, even if it is just one word.

Thursday Thought

Step Four: Hear the Word “Come”

MATTHEW 14:29 (NIV) · TAKING THE FIRST STEP

“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Hey you, it's me!

One word. That is all Jesus said.

Not a five-step plan. Not a promise that the wind would stop. Just, “Come.”

Peter asked for direction, and he got it. But he still had to swing his legs over the side of that boat.

In Austin, my “come” looked like walking down to the hotel lobby by myself, not knowing whether they would even take me out if I was the only one signed up.

I was the only one. They took me anyway. And nothing terrible happened.

Your “come” might be smaller than that. A phone call. A class. A conversation. A dinner by yourself.

The step does not have to be big. It just has to be yours.

LET'S PAUSE

What is one small yes you have been putting off because no one is going with you?

JOURNAL WITH ME

I sense God inviting me to...

What keeps me in the boat is...

If I knew He would catch me, I would...

A LITTLE PRAYER

Jesus, help me hear Your voice above the noise in my head. When You say come, give me the courage to take the first step, even if my knees are shaking. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ONE SMALL STEP

Choose one thing you would normally wait for someone else to do with you, and book it, pay for it, or put it on your calendar today. Box yourself in a little. It works!

The Follow-Up: When the Wind Picks Up

MATTHEW 14:31 (NIV) · A LOOK BACK AT THE WEEK

“Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.”

Hey you, it's me!

Let's check in, sweet friend. How did this week go?

Maybe you took the step. Maybe you got halfway out of the boat and climbed right back in. Maybe you have not moved at all yet.

Here is what I love about Peter. He stepped out, then he noticed the wind, and then he started to sink.

And Jesus reached out immediately. Not after a lecture. Not after Peter got it right. Immediately.

Struggling does not mean we have been abandoned. Feeling afraid does not mean we failed.

If the wind picked up for you this week, you are in good company. Reach for His hand. He is already reaching for yours.

LET'S PAUSE

Where did you feel the wind this week, and where did you feel God catch you?

JOURNAL WITH ME

This week, I noticed...

The moment I wanted to climb back into the boat was...

I felt God with me when...

Next week, I want to keep...

A LITTLE PRAYER

Lord, thank You for catching me when I sink. Thank You that my fear does not scare You away. Help me keep my eyes on You, even when the wind is loud. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ONE SMALL STEP

Text a friend one sentence about something brave you did or tried this week, no matter how small.

Saturday Sit Down

Step Five: Made on Purpose

EPHESIANS 2:10 (NIV) · SURRENDER AND THE NEXT STEP

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Hey you, it’s me!

Grab a piece of paper today. We are going to sit down together.

You were not an accident. You were not an afterthought. You are God’s handiwork, made on purpose and for a purpose.

Purpose is not something you have to earn. It begins with remembering whose image you were created in.

Today, we look honestly at the boat and at the water, and we hand both of them to God.

Draw a line down the middle of your page. On the left, write the patterns that have kept you comfortable. On the right, write one small step for each. Then pray over the whole page.

THE BOAT I HAVE BEEN SITTING IN	MY NEXT SMALL STEP
I wait for someone to come with me.	I book one thing just for me.
I tell myself I will start when I feel ready.	I start before I feel ready.

LET’S PAUSE

Which step on your page feels most like God’s invitation right now?

JOURNAL WITH ME

God made me on purpose, and that means...

The boat I am ready to step out of is...

My next small step is...

A LITTLE PRAYER

Father, here is my boat, and here is my fear. I give You both. Thank You that You made me on purpose and for a purpose. I do not have to have it all figured out to take the next step with You. Lead me, catch me, and keep growing me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ONE SMALL STEP

Keep your page where you will see it next week, and circle the one step you will take first. Then come back tomorrow for a new Sunday Snapshot.