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CEDARCREEKCHURCH

Looking Ahead - Chosen

April 12, 2026

You are chosen by God - not for your worthiness, but because of his love.

How does that statement resonate with your heart?

2 Thessalonians 2:13

As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation - a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth.

This verse shows God chose us because of his Spirit in us and our belief, not our deeds.

This is grace - intentional and personal.

We often measure value by performance or failures. But God doesn't choose like that. He chose you out of love; he's not waiting for perfection.

As we continue into this week, we'll explore what it means to live from that truth. To move from questioning, "*Do I matter?*" to confidently knowing, "*I am chosen.*"

You weren't just chosen to belong - you were chosen for a purpose.

Step into this week with an open heart. The answer you've been searching for may not be something you find; it may be something you finally believe.

Discussion Questions:

Ice Breaker: Have you ever been chosen for something, like a team, a role, an opportunity? How did it feel to be picked?

How does our culture tend to define worth or value?

Read Ephesians 1:1-8. Do you naturally see yourself as chosen by God, or do you feel like you have to earn your place?

Why do you think people wrestle so much with questions like “*Do I matter?*” and “*Am I enough?*”

Reflect and Respond: What would it look like to live this week confident that you are fully chosen and loved? How might understanding that you are chosen shape the way you treat others?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for choosing me. Thank you for loving me. Help me to fully embrace that love and to not let go of this truth as I step out into a week filled with tasks and voices telling me I need to work to earn this or that and I’m not enough to deserve it. I love you, I trust you, and I worship you. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Ephesians 1:5

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content at CedarCreek.

Chosen and Loved by God - Chosen

April 13, 2026

Bible in a Year: Job 1-2 | Matthew 3

We’ve all experienced the dread of waiting to be chosen by team captains: Standing on the sideline, praying that we are not the last one picked. Surely we aren’t the worst option.

I watched this go down with an ironic twist while my kids played capture the flag with their friends. The two captains were five-year-old twins, so their priority was picking their friends over more skillful players. I laughed when my seven year old daughter was picked first over my thirteen-year-old son.

However, as I considered the situation it made me think of our relationship with God. God didn’t choose us because of our abilities. He chose us because

he loved us. In the same way my daughter was picked because she was loved by the twins, we are chosen because we are loved by the Father.

In his opening to the church in Ephesus, the apostle Paul reinforced the chosenness of the people of God. He reminds us that through Christ, we are adopted into his family. Paul was imprisoned in Rome when he wrote this letter, but he wasn't dwelling on his own trials. He seems to be empowered to proclaim the love of God through the trials.

Ephesians 1:4-5

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

We were chosen by God before we could do anything to earn his love. His love for his children has been present since before he created the world. We did nothing to earn his love, and can do nothing to keep it.

Our only job is to accept it.

His love is unconditional. It's not grudgingly given - it is his "great pleasure." So what should our response to his love be? If we cannot earn his love does that mean we can live however we want?

Far from it. The depth of God's love encourages us to trust him and his commands for our lives. We obey his word *because* we are loved, not so we can be loved. We read the Bible, pray, serve others, and are transformed because we are chosen by God.

Questions:

Do you feel loved by God? Do you feel like you need to earn that love? How are you reflecting the knowledge that you are loved and chosen by God?

Next Steps:

Spend five minutes meditating on the Love of God while listening to this beautiful old hymn, ["The Love of God."](#) by Bethany Baynard and Dinah Wright.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I don't deserve your love. I can't comprehend a love I don't earn, but I am grateful for it. I am grateful that I have been chosen and loved by you. Thank you for never forsaking me, even though I often forsake you.

Help me to live into the reality of your love. Help me love you more with every breath I take. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Ephesians 1:5

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This post was written by Julie Mabus, a Whitehouse attendee and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Chosen, Not Perfect - Chosen

April 14, 2026

Bible in a Year: Job 3-4 | Matthew 4

Beloved, your eyes being fixed on this devotional today is not an accident, but evidence that God loves you and wants to speak to you.

Years ago, as I laid on what felt like the rocky bottom of one of the many low days in my life, I braced myself, waiting for the condemnation of all I had done to come crashing down on me. Waves of shame and guilt threatened to swallow me whole.

Instead, something else happened, or perhaps, someone else happened.

I felt this peaceful surrounding presence come over me that cut right through my feelings. I knew right away it was God. I had a strong desire to open my Bible, which I had brought with me because I was desperate and pleading for his help. I can't remember exactly where I opened it up to, and it doesn't matter, but the words lifted off the page and straight into my heart. Finally, I understood, and physically felt, God's unconditional love.

As we sat there, just me and him, the world melted away. He chose me - just as the Bible said - and unlike the world, he doesn't break his promises.

Do you feel chosen and unconditionally loved? Do you want to?

There are no other people, occupations, or things that can deliver on this promise, only Jesus. Whether you feel it or not, when you say yes to Jesus, you are chosen, loved, and forgiven unconditionally. Even that awful thing you can't tell anyone about, he knows and is still saying, "You are mine!"

He finds us in our mess, but by his power and mercy, he does not leave us there. When you say yes to Jesus, the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, enters you and helps you until you are finally complete with God in eternity. We can rest in this love and trust in Jesus to provide exactly what we need as we move through this life.

Let's train our lips to speak and hearts to believe **Psalm 139:17-18**

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.

They cannot be numbered!

I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!

And when I wake up, you are still with me!

Questions:

Do you know you are chosen and loved by God?

Are you ready to say, "Yes I believe that Jesus died for me and my sins"?

Next Steps:

If you are not sure you believe what we talked about today, reach out to a CedarCreek campus pastor, someone at guest services following a weekend service, or fill out a "contact us" form so we can support you in getting your questions answered.

If you said yes to Jesus and want to know what is next, consider attending GrowthTrack as a way to learn and grow on this journey.

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for the mercy you pour out on your children every second of the day. I pray I can offer this same love to my neighbors, coworkers, and community. Help me accept the truth - I am chosen - and live my life from a place of security, not fear. May my words be life-giving as I go through my day today. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Ephesians 1:5

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This post was written by April Willer, a Perrysburg attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Compliments - Chosen

April 15, 2026

Bible in a Year: Job 5-6 | Matthew 5

Compliments feel really good. It's so rewarding for me to get positive feedback on something I've worked hard for, or to hear that someone likes my ideas. Every word of encouragement makes me glow inside. My brain fires off a surge of dopamine, telling me, "I did something right!"

"I am making people proud!"

"God must love me so much for my hard work!"

But that couldn't be farther from the truth. God isn't impressed by anything we do. On the flip side, he is never disappointed either. After all, we can't disappoint someone who already knows everything about us.

Ephesians 2:8-9

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

This verse in Ephesians tells us that even our faith, our belief in Jesus, is a gift from God. He softens our hearts to receive the Good News about his Son, and he helps us continue to seek him when doubts and anxiety creep in.

God doesn't choose us based on something we've accomplished. Our looks, achievements, career, or relationship status can't earn us a place in God's family. He doesn't even pick us because of who we are - our personalities and preferences don't change his opinion of us.

God is omnipotent and omniscient - all powerful and all knowing - so he doesn't need us ... but he does *want* us. God chooses us because of who he is. He is a Father who loves his children, an Artist who adores his creation, a King who leaves the throne to rescue his rebellious people.

Don't get me wrong, good deeds are important. They can be a physical sign of our trust and love for God. But they will *never* be enough to earn God's favor. He is already delighted by us.

Zephaniah 3:17

For the Lord your God is living among you.

He is a mighty savior.

He will take delight in you with gladness.

With his love, he will calm all your fears.

He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

Rather than constantly trying to prove our worth, we can take our identity from God. We are his beloved children, and that is the greatest title we will ever receive.

Questions:

Where do you tend to find your worth and value?

Next Steps:

When you are tempted to either feel proud of an accomplishment, or sink into shame over a failure, remind yourself of God's identity and how he sees you. If possible, consider putting a pause on anything you use to find worth. That could mean taking one day a week, or even a few minutes each day, to take a break from that thing and instead refocus on your relationship with God.

Prayer:

Father, there is nothing I can do to earn your favor or love. That is deeply humbling. But I am awed that you still choose me, not because of anything I've done, but because of every part of who you are. Please keep drawing me closer and closer to you, that I might rest in your love. I love you. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

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This post was written by Lydia Snyder, a South attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

You Can't Lose a Love Like This - Chosen

April 16, 2026

Bible in a Year: Job 7-8 | Matthew 6

There's a quiet fear that many of us carry, even if we don't say it out loud:

What if I mess this up?

What if I go too far this time?

What if God finally lets go of me?

We don't always think of it consciously, but we live like it's true.

We pull back when we've made mistakes. We grow distant when we feel ashamed. We hesitate to come close when we've been in a hard or messy season.

Sometimes it's not a dramatic separation from God, but a small, quiet drift. The missed prayers. The days we don't open our Bible. The moments we choose distraction over connection. Slowly, without realizing it, we begin to believe we've created distance that we now have to fix before coming back.

Scripture interrupts that fear with something firm, unshakable, and final:

Romans 8:38

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow - not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

Nothing can separate you from God.

Not your worst decision. Not your doubt. Not the season where you felt numb, distant, or unsure. Not the version of you that you're still trying to grow out of.

Not the prayers you didn't pray. Not the habits you're still trying to break. Not even the moments where you questioned if God was really there.

God's love was never fragile. It doesn't tighten when you fail, it doesn't loosen when you wonder, and it definitely doesn't disappear when your faith feels small. It holds.

Even now. Even here. Even in the places you think disqualify you.

Our tendency is to measure love by human standards where it can be withdrawn, earned back, or lost altogether. However, God's love doesn't function like that. It isn't a reward for getting things right. It's constant, anchored in who he is, not in how well we perform.

So when you feel distant from God, it's not because he moved. When shame tells you to hide, it's not his voice. His love is not something you can outrun or undo. It is something you can only accept or resist.

Maybe the invitation today isn't to try harder or be better. Maybe it's simply to come back and let yourself be loved again.

Questions:

Where in your life are you acting as if God's love can be lost because of your mistakes, your current season, or your doubts?

Next Steps:

When you notice yourself pulling away from God this week, whether from shame, fear, or feeling "not good enough", pause and intentionally turn toward him instead, reminding yourself that his love has not moved.

Prayer:

God, thank you for loving me with a love that doesn't shift, weaken, or disappear. I confess that I often live as if your love depends on me and my choices, consistency, or my strength. However, your words remind me that nothing can separate me from you. Help me to believe that, especially in the moments I feel far away. Teach me to come to you instead of hiding from you. Let your love feel real and steady in my life this week. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Ephesians 1:5

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This post was written by Heaven Nash, a Findlay attendee and a new contributor to the Daily LivingItOut devotional.

Love Is - Chosen

April 17, 2026

Bible in a Year: Job 9-10 | Matthew 7

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Growing up, I saw these verses primarily as “wedding verses,” believing they were for marriage. I hardly gave them a second thought, assuming God included them in the Bible just for married couples. Since they didn’t apply to me, I quickly brushed them aside.

As I've grown and learned more about God's love for us, my perspective has changed. The words in these verses aren't just for wedding days; they're for each of us, every day, in every relationship.

It's easy to dismiss certain scripture when we feel like it doesn't apply to us - but I was mistaken. Knowing now what I didn't know then ... I realize that if I had kept these verses close to my heart in my relationships, I could have avoided unnecessary arguments and some poor choices.

Friends, knowing this truth is only the beginning. The real journey starts when it shapes how we love the people around us.

Thankfully, we don't have to figure out how to love like this alone! God loves us deeply and we have the perfect example of how to love through Jesus. He

embodied patience, kindness, and forgiveness - never giving up on us or keeping records of our wrongs.

When we show this kind of unwavering love to those around us, we can impact hearts in ways we may never fully realize. And the bonus in showing this love is that we point them toward the life-changing adventure of following the One whose perfect love never stops reaching for them.

Imagine the impact it could make if we were all just a little more like Jesus toward others. We might see a new light in our communities, workplaces, friendships, and yes, in our marriages!

Show love to someone today. Keep enduring through every circumstance, keep loving, and let your actions reveal who Jesus is.

Don't worry, we aren't expected to do this perfectly. But we can prayerfully keep trying, using what we know to be true about Jesus' love for us as our reminder.

Questions:

How will you model this kind of love in your relationships this week? Or even to complete strangers?

Next Steps:

Review your score for the relational domain of the *Your Journey* assessment. Look at the strengths and opportunities that are specifically listed there for you. Spend time journaling and being prayerful, using Scripture to move your relationships forward and loving others in a 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 kind of way.

****If you haven't taken the Your Journey assessment, I encourage you to try it out now! You can find it on the "More" tab on the CedarCreek app.*

Prayer:

God, thank you for the way you love us. Teach us to receive that love deeply, not just as something we know, but something that transforms us. Shape our hearts to reflect your love to others. Help us to love in a way that mirrors 1 Corinthians 13, choosing compassion again and again. I pray today that your love flows through us in every word, every action, every moment. In Jesus' name, amen.

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This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content at CedarCreek.

Reflections - Chosen

April 18, 2026

As we pause to reflect, take a moment to look back on what we've been reminded of:

You are chosen.

You are known.

You are wanted.

You are secure in God's love.

Not because of what you've done, but because of who he is.

It's easy to hear truths like these and still feel like there must be something more required. Like we need to prove it, earn it, or somehow become more deserving.

But the beauty of the gospel is this: All we have "to do" to receive the full benefits of this love is accept Jesus as our Savior, trust him, and allow him to transform our hearts.

John 3:16

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

When John says "everyone," that includes you!

No matter your past or current situation, you are deeply loved by God and matter to him.

As you go on with your day, hold onto this truth and let it settle in your heart.

Take a specific step today: talk to God, trust him with your concerns, and open yourself to receiving his love.

Begin to live like you are truly chosen - because you are!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for your incredible love and the gift of salvation. I accept you as my Savior and trust you with my life. Transform my heart and help me remember that I am truly loved and chosen by you. Guide me to live in this truth today. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

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