



## Week 4 - A Time to Receive

You can \_\_\_\_\_.

Nearby, in the fields outside of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds were guarding their flocks from predators in the darkness of night. Suddenly a messenger of the Lord stood in front of them, and the darkness was replaced by a glorious light—the shining light of God’s glory. They were terrified!

Luke 2:8-9 (VOICE)

**Messenger:** Don’t be afraid! Listen! I bring good news, news of great joy, news that will affect all people everywhere. Today, in the city of David, a Liberator has been born for you! He is the promised Anointed One, the Supreme Authority! You will know you have found Him when you see a baby, wrapped in a blanket, lying in a feeding trough.

Luke 2:10-12 (VOICE)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17 (NIV)

For it’s by God’s grace that you have been saved. You receive it through faith. It was not our plan or our effort. It is God’s gift, pure and simple. You didn’t earn it, not one of us did, so don’t go around bragging that you must have done something amazing.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (VOICE)

You can \_\_\_\_\_.

...let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the long race set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 (VOICE)

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Mark 5:25-34 (NIV)

You can \_\_\_\_\_.

A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it sometimes difficult to receive? What is at risk if we don’t learn to receive God’s grace in our lives?
2. What is something you’ve been carrying in your life that you need to release?
3. What is one practical way you can repeat God’s love, show grace, or invite someone to a Christmas experience this week?

## Recommended Resources

- *When Strivings Cease: Replacing the Gospel of Self-Improvement with the Gospel of Life-Transforming Grace*, by Ruth Chou Simons
- *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World*, by John Mark Comer
- *enoughness: The Journey to Discovering Who You Are*, by Dr. Tara Jenkins

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