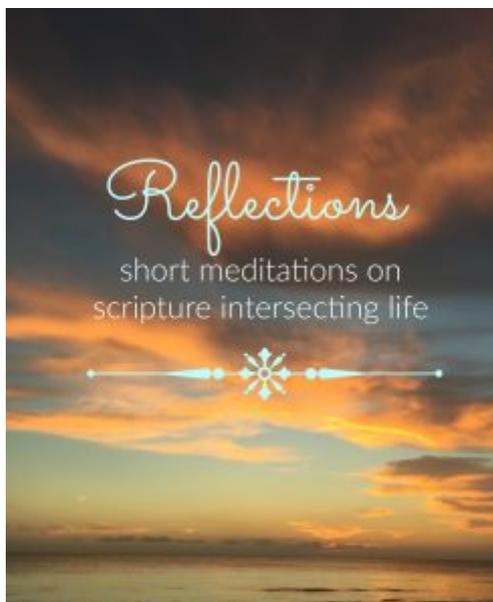


# Reflections #4: Shine Upon You



*Thank you for joining us for Reflections, short meditations on scripture intersecting life.*

## Show Notes

In today's Reflections we are thinking about Numbers 6:24-26.

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.*

It makes my heart full as I welcome, as I receive this blessing from the Lord. I must never forget that I am a child of His **Light**. In the *Message Bible* by Eugene Peterson called *Conversations*, he says "Since Christ has dawned in our lives, light not darkness, is the fundamental reality by which we live. And the radiance of His face bathes us with the blessings of new and emerging life."

As Christ-followers, we need to be all about pushing back the darkness that is encroaching on our world, our countries, our states, our cities, our neighborhoods—and our families. Many people live in a spiritual state of darkness.

Join Only By Prayer in this Reflection by clicking the arrow below to see how we can reflect His light. You can also [subscribe to this podcast](#) on iTunes. Please leave us a review on iTunes if you desire.

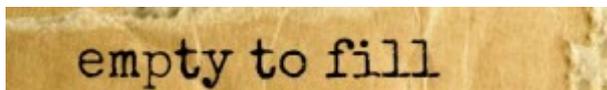
Pray on!

Jane

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## Simple Thanks: Week Six Empty to Fill

*" I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it." Psalm 81:10*



empty to fill

Jane and I welcome you to Week Six of Simple Thanks! Remember to count it all joy when you fall into various trials, blessings—it's the key to living fully in the moment with God! Life is a gift—rejoice and give

thanks.



## Introduction to Week 6 Studies

### Weekly Homework

Each week we will add your assignments to a password-protected post. Look for the password every Tuesday evening in your email. Below you will find homework for each level of study. Feel free to change from Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 as your schedule allows! **Remember, there is no pressure to complete every activity. These are just options for your growth. They can be accessed at any time, even after the study ends.**

### **Level 1, Study: Weekly Goals**

- For Week 6 please watch *SESSION 5: Empty to Fill*
- Complete the study guide and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Add to your 1000 Gifts List.
- Feel free to do any of the other activities from Levels 2 and 3 as your time allows.

### **Level 2, Community: Weekly Goals**

- For Week 6, please watch *SESSION 5: Empty to Fill*
- Complete the study guide and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Add your 1000 Gifts List.
- Answer the question on the *Speak Your Mind*

comment section at the bottom of this post.

- Join the *Community Call*, Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. EST on Talk Shoe (Information on *TalkShoe* is in your weekly email.)
- Listen to the *Podcast* above for information empty to fill.

### **Level 3, Opportunity: Weekly Goals**

- For Week 6, watch *SESSION 5: Empty to Fill*
- Complete the *study guide* and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Answer the question on the *Speak Your Mind* comment section at the bottom of this post, join the *Community Call* on Wednesday night on *TalkShoe*, and listen to the *Podcast* at the link provided above.
- Don't forget to check out our private [Facebook page](#). Leave your comments about this week's study, post your prayer requests, or share any insights/questions you may have. Only members of our Bible study group will see these posts.
- In the evening, do devotions 21-25 the *One Thousand Gifts Devotional* journal.
- Read chapters 10-11 in *One Thousand Gifts trade book* by *Ann Voskamp*.
- Take advantage of the Extra Simple resources by clicking on the links below:

## **Extra Simple Resources**

Joyce Meyer Complaints Part Two

For your listening pleasure, please enjoy Mannheim Steamroller's beautiful *Stille Nacht*

Questions of the Week (Please respond in the *Speak Your Mind* section at the very bottom of this page). What is something God has given you that you can regift and pass on to others?

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## Simple Thanks: Session 4, Trust the Bridge to Joy

*"He has put a new song in my mouth- praise to our God: Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord." Psalm 40:3*

trust: the bridge to joy

Jane and I welcome you to Week Five of Simple Thanks! Fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three ...

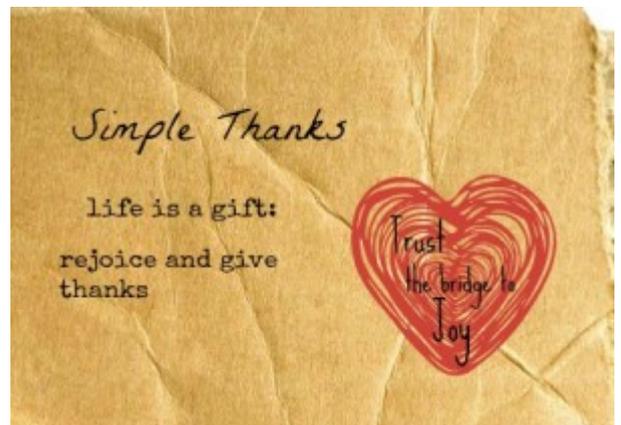
Hopefully you've been so busy counting God's blessings you've forgotten bitterness and unforgiveness. Continue to count your blessings-it's the key to living fully in the moment with God! Life is a gift-rejoice and give thanks.

# Introductory Video to Week 4

## Community Call

Here is our Community Call for Trust the Bridge to Joy to listen to **AFTER** you finish the weekly homework: Trust the Bridge to Joy

## Weekly Homework



Below you will find homework for each level of study. Feel free to change from Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 as your schedule allows! **Remember, there is no pressure to complete every activity. These are just options for your growth. They can be accessed at any time, even after the study ends.**

### ***Level 1, Study: Weekly Goals***

- For Week 5, watch *SESSION 4: Trust, the Bridge to Joy*.
- Complete the study guide and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Add to your one thousand gifts list.
- Feel free to do any of the other activities from Levels 2 and 3 as your time allows.

### **Level 2, Community: Weekly Goals**

- *For Week 5, watch SESSION 4: Trust the Bridge to Joy.*
- Complete the study guide and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Add your one thousand gifts list.
- Answer the question on the *Speak Your Mind* comment section at the bottom of this post.
- Join the *Community Call*, Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. EST on Talk Shoe (Information on *TalkShoe* is in your weekly email.)
- Listen to the *Podcast* for information on walking in trust with God:

### **Level 3, Opportunity: Weekly Goals**

- *For Week 5, watch SESSION 4: Trust, the Bridge to Joy.*
- Complete the *study guide* and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Add to your one thousand gifts list.
- Answer the question on the *Speak Your Mind* comment section at the bottom of this post, join the *Community Call* on Wednesday night on *TalkShoe*, and listen to the *Podcast* at the link provided up above.
- Don't forget to check out our private [Facebook page](#). Leave your comments about this week's study, post your prayer requests, or share any insights/questions you may have. Only members of our Bible study group will see these posts.
- Start your 1000 Gifts List in a separate journal.
- In the evening, do devotions 16-20 in the *One Thousand Gifts Devotional* journal.
- Read chapters 8-9 in *One Thousand Gifts trade book* by Ann Voskamp.
- Take advantage of the Extra Simple resources by clicking on the links below (I highly recommend the Joyce Meyer podcast):

[Joyce Meyer: Stop Complaining](#)



[I AM](#)



Hope and Trust

[Image: Nutdanai Apikhomboonwaroot / FreeDigitalPhotos.net](#)

Image(s): [FreeDigitalPhotos.net](#)

God is calling you to rest and trust in Him. Please use this beautiful music by Paul Cardall to receive the grace that God has for you this moment.

**Questions of the Week (Please respond in the *Speak Your Mind* section at the very bottom of this page).**

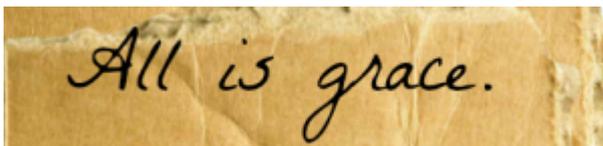
Name an area of life that God is calling you to entrust to Him. How can you begin to walk with Him in trust concerning this area? What progress have you recently made in trusting God?

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## **Simple Thanks: Session Three, All Is Grace**

*"To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*

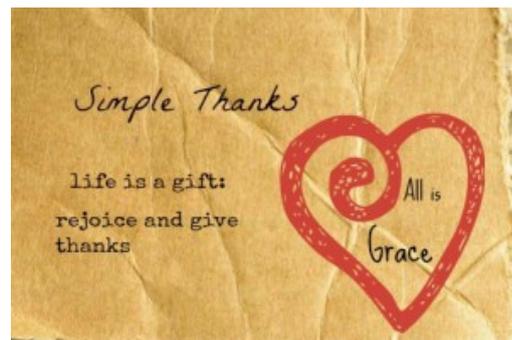
**Isaiah 61:3**



Jane and I welcome you back to Week Three of Simple Thanks! Thanksgiving breathes life into our dark, hard places.

Thanksgiving also dares us to live fully in the moment. Let the habit of thanksgiving permeate your heart and mind as God continues to shower His grace upon you. Give Him your ashes of bitterness and ingratitude and in return accept one thousand

gifts of beauty and grace. Life is a gift—rejoice and give thanks!



Here is our introduction video to Week 3:

## Community Call

Here is our Community Call for All Is Grace to listen to AFTER you finish the weekly homework: All Is Grace

## Weekly Homework

Below you will find homework for each level of study. Feel free to change between Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 as your schedule allows! **Remember, there is no pressure to complete every activity. These are just options for your growth. They can be accessed at any time, even after the study ends.**

### ***Level 1, Study: Weekly Goals***

- For Week 3, watch *SESSION 3: All is Grace*.
- Continue to add to your *One Thousand Gifts* journal.
- Complete the study guide and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Feel free to do any of the other activities from Levels 2 and 3 as your time allows.

## Level 2, Community: Weekly Goals

- For Week 3, watch *SESSION 3: All is Grace*.
- Continue to add to your *One Thousand Gifts* journal.
- Complete the study guide and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Answer the question on the *Speak Your Mind* comment section at the bottom of this post.
- Join the *Community Call*, Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. EST on Talk Shoe (Information on *TalkShoe* is in your weekly email.)
- Listen to the *Podcast* for information on walking in the grace of God:

## Level 3, Opportunity: Weekly Goals

- For Week 3, watch *SESSION 3: All is Grace*.
- Continue to add to your *One Thousand Gifts* journal.
- Complete the *study guide* and *between sessions* homework PDFs.
- Answer the question on the *Speak Your Mind* comment section at the bottom of this post, join the *Community Call* on Wednesday night on *TalkShoe*, and listen to the *Podcast* at the link provided up above.
- Don't forget to check out our private [Facebook page](#). Leave your comments about this week's study, post your prayer requests, or share any insights/questions you may have. Only members of our Bible study group will see these posts.
- In the evening, do devotions 11-15 in the *One Thousand Gifts Devotional* journal.
- Read chapters 6-7 in *One Thousand Gifts trade book* by Ann Voskamp.
- Take advantage of the Extra Simple resources by clicking on the links below:



[Give Thanks](#)



[Count Your Blessings](#)

“Image courtesy of Stuart Miles / FreeDigitalPhotos.net”.

As we count the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us, please enjoy this beautiful music by Paul Cardall:

**Questions of the Week (Please respond in the *Speak Your Mind* section at the very bottom of this page).**

**How has God turned the ugly to beautiful in your life?**

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# The Vessel

What have you been learning from God lately? **And more importantly, who are you sharing it with?**

Many of the **blessings** God gives us are meant to be shared. This isn't always an easy thing, is it? We often don't feel accomplished enough or smart enough. We think others are so much more worthy and could do a better job. That was my viewpoint – until one Sunday in church a few years ago.

A visiting pastor from our sister church in Africa addressed our congregation directly:

“Do you understand the value of the teaching that you receive every Sunday?” he asked us. “Those of you who hear these teachings every week have more training and learning than the average pastor does in my city. What are you doing with what you know?” he challenged us. “Who are you teaching?”

I no longer felt that I could use the “not knowledgeable enough” excuse I'd been hiding behind and decided to earnestly pray about where and how God wanted to use me. I found out that what God wants us to know is that we may not be perfectly ready for what He's calling us to, but *He is!* As the saying goes, we should show up “prepared and prayed up” and then let God work.

I know it's not easy to get past our insecurities. I wrote this poem to remind myself that God's not looking for perfection; He's looking for obedience and willingness.

## The Vessel



by Jane VanOsdol

I offer you my life, Lord.  
As flawed as it is.  
As cowardly as I am.  
You, who makes beauty out of ashes  
and joy out of mourning,  
Who breathes life into dead, dry bones,  
What will you do with me?

I am the clay in your hands,  
the hands of the Potter.  
Fashion me into a vessel  
that although imperfect on this earth,  
is more than adequate for daily use  
when you fill me to overflowing  
with your Spirit.

You entrust this cracked, chipped vessel  
with pouring forth Your Living Water to any parched soul who  
will drink of it: healing the hurting, planting a seed,  
setting a captive free.

Creating extraordinary out of ordinary.