

Songs of Grace

Monday

Telling the Truth About Yesterday

But the Sons of Korah Did Not Die

Numbers 16:1–3, 31–35 and Romans 5:8.

Every family has a story, and some chapters are difficult to discuss. We remember things we wish someone hadn't done and choices we wish we hadn't made. Sunday's sermon invited us to begin by telling the truth about those chapters before God.

Think

Korah's rebellion had real consequences. Scripture records the sin and the judgment plainly. His family's history included something terrible that later generations couldn't undo. You and I also have a past we cannot rewrite. Yet acknowledging that past is where we begin. God already knows what happened. His love, demonstrated in Christ's death for sinners, gives us reason to come honestly before Him. We can confess our guilt and name our sorrow without pretending either is smaller than it is.

Reflect

What happens inside you when a difficult memory returns? Do you change the subject, offer an excuse, or wonder whether God wants to hear about it again? Sometimes we've spent so long avoiding a chapter that we hardly know how to describe it.

So, think about this: What would you say about your past if you trusted God enough to speak plainly about it? You don't need to explain everything at once. Begin with what you know is true.

Apply

Set aside a few quiet minutes. Write one honest sentence about something from your past that still troubles you. Bring that sentence to God, asking Him to help you face it truthfully. Keep the focus on honesty today rather than trying to solve everything.

And remember this: The God who knows your whole story has shown His unconditional love through Jesus.

Pray

Begin your conversation with the Father in simple, honest words. Father, You know the person, the thing I find difficult to face. Help me stop hiding behind silence. By Your Spirit, give me courage to speak it truthfully before You. Thank You for loving sinners and sending Jesus to bring me near to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

What you've done today is wonderful and enough for now. We'll talk more about this tomorrow.

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Tuesday

Knowing What Is Yours to Carry
But the Sons of Korah Did Not Die
Ezekiel 18:19-20

Someone else's choices may have shaped your childhood, damaged a relationship, or left you carrying shame. At the same time, you know there are decisions for which you're responsible. These burdens need different responses.

Think

Ezekiel distinguishes a person's guilt from a parent's guilt. A child can suffer the consequences of a parent's sin without bearing that parent's moral responsibility before God. Sunday's sermon made the same important distinction between sins we've committed and wounds we've received. We bring our own sin to God in confession. We bring the harm done to us in grief and dependence. When we confuse the two, we may blame ourselves for another person's wrongdoing or use that wrongdoing to excuse our own choices.

Reflect

Have you been carrying responsibility for something you couldn't control? Or has a painful experience become your excuse for conduct you need to acknowledge as your own? Both questions require patience and honesty.

So, think about this: In the situation troubling you, what belongs to someone else, and what belongs to you? The wrong you suffered matters. Your response matters too, and God can help you see each clearly.

Apply

Divide a page into two parts: "What happened to me" and "How I've responded." Name the facts without minimizing the harm or excusing your conduct. Confess any sin that is yours, and ask for help with the wounds that remain. If you find the distinction difficult, talk with a trusted pastor or counselor.

And remember this: Another person's sin doesn't make you guilty, and God's grace enables you to take responsibility for your own.

Pray

Ask our Father for clarity about the burdens you've been carrying. Father, help me distinguish the wrong I suffered from the choices I've made. Release me from blame that isn't mine, and give me humility to confess what is. Through Your Spirit, bring wisdom and healing where my understanding is confused. In Jesus' name, amen.

Songs of Grace

Wednesday

When a Wound Becomes an Identity

But the Sons of Korah Did Not Die

2 Corinthians 5:17

A wound deserves care. Over time, though, we can become attached to the place it gives us in our own story. Being the person who was wronged can begin to feel familiar, even valuable. We may resist anything that challenges that identity.

Think

Paul grounds a believer's identity in belonging to Christ. As we grow, His values shape our decisions, His character shapes our responses, and His promises shape our perspective. Pain may remain, but it no longer possesses ultimate authority over who we become. Sometimes we cherish a grievance because it brings sympathy, excuses our behavior, or gives us a sense of moral superiority. We can begin protecting that position instead of growing in Christ. Honest grief, seeking help, and reporting wrongdoing remain appropriate ways to address real harm.

Reflect

Who am I becoming as I live from my relationship with Christ? Consider whether His love, truth, and mercy are changing the way you see yourself. Do you welcome growth, or resist it because being the person who was wronged has become familiar and valuable?

So, think about this: What place have I given an old grievance in my understanding of who I am? You and I can acknowledge our wounds while receiving the identity Christ gives us.

Apply

Notice one moment today when you're tempted to rehearse an old grievance. Ask what you're seeking from retelling it. If you need help, seek it honestly. If you're feeding resentment, turn toward one responsibility you can fulfill faithfully today. Keep necessary boundaries in place. And remember this: You can acknowledge that you were wronged while learning to live from your identity in Christ.

Pray

Invite our Father to show you what you may have begun to cherish. Father, You know both my wounds and my motives. By Your Spirit, expose resentment I've begun to protect. Help me receive Your care and live as someone who belongs to Jesus. Give me willingness to grow beyond the identity I've built around an old wrong. In Jesus' name, amen.

Songs of Grace

Thursday

A Future Beyond the Family History

But the Sons of Korah Did Not Die

Numbers 26:9-11 & 2 Chronicles 20:19

Imagine reading the account of Korah's rebellion and assuming that you know how his family's story ends. Then you come to this sentence. His sons survived. There was more to come than the judgment that marked their father's name.

Think

Scripture doesn't tell us precisely how Korah's sons survived. It tells us that they did. Later generations of Korahites served among God's people, and 2 Chronicles describes them standing to praise the Lord. The family name remained, while its association grew to include worship. That history reminds us that the patterns we inherit needn't govern everything we pass along. God can work through ordinary faithfulness over many years. We may never see the full effect of one changed response or one faithful decision.

Reflect

What have you accepted as inevitable simply because it has been familiar? You may hear a parent's anger in your own voice or struggle to express affection because no one showed you how. Recognizing a pattern can become the beginning of changing it.

So, think about this: What would you like those who come after you to receive from your life? You don't need a flawless family history to begin leaving a better example.

Apply

Choose one response to practice differently today. Listen without interrupting, speak affection aloud, or answer irritation gently. Repeat that choice when another opportunity comes. Ask someone you trust to help you notice your progress.

And remember this: Faithfulness today will bless others and may bless people whose lives you'll never see.

Pray

Entrust the influence of your life to a Father who sees beyond your years. Father, thank You that my family's history doesn't exhaust what You can do through me. By Your Spirit, help me change a response that harms others. Use my ordinary obedience to bless those who come after me, and teach me patience with the work You're doing. In Jesus' name, amen.

Songs of Grace

Friday

Receiving the Grace Christ Secured

But the Sons of Korah Did Not Die

Romans 5:18-21

Some regrets trouble us because we know we bear the blame. We made the decision. We spoke the words. We caused the harm. What hope can we have when telling the truth means acknowledging our own guilt?

Think

Paul answers by setting Adam's disobedience alongside Christ's obedience. Sin brought condemnation and death into the human story. Jesus brings justification and life to those who receive Him by faith. Our hope rests on His saving work. Abounding grace means our sin cannot exceed Christ's sufficiency to save us. Yet, forgiveness may leave consequences to address and trust to rebuild. But your acceptance with God rests on Christ's righteousness, so you can repent with hope rather than despair.

Reflect

Do you believe God can forgive you while quietly assuming He can no longer do anything useful with you? That assumption can keep you withdrawn long after you've confessed your sin. Or you may be delaying repentance because facing the damage seems unbearable.

So, think about this: How would trusting Christ's sufficient grace change how you face something you regret? Receiving mercy gives us courage to accept responsibility and begin the work that follows.

Apply

Bring one specific sin before God without excuses. If you've already confessed it, thank Him for His forgiveness rather than treating continued regret as a payment He requires. Consider whether an apology or act of restitution remains appropriate and take the next honest step.

And remember this: Christ's obedience provides the foundation for your peace with God and the peace of God for your daily living.

Pray

Approach our Father trusting what Jesus has accomplished for sinners. Father, I acknowledge my guilt and thank You for the grace You give through Christ. By Your Spirit, help me receive forgiveness and take responsibility for the harm I've caused. Give me courage to make things right where I can and humility to trust Your mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.

Songs of Grace

Saturday

Rejoicing While the Story Is Unfinished

But the Sons of Korah Did Not Die

Romans 5:1-2 & 11

The week may end with questions still unanswered. A relationship remains difficult. A loss still hurts. You've taken a step of obedience, but you can't yet see what will follow. There is still a reason to rejoice.

Think

Paul says believers have peace with God through Jesus Christ and rejoice in hope of God's glory. Reconciliation is already ours, while the fullness of that glory lies ahead. Our joy grows from knowing the God who has welcomed us and secured our eternal future. Sunday's sermon ended here because grace leads us beyond examining our past to rejoicing in God Himself. We can worship while a painful part of our story remains unresolved. The Lord who brought us near will keep His promises.

Reflect

Have you made joy depend on a particular problem being solved? It's understandable to long for relief. Yet waiting for everything to improve may keep you from enjoying the relationship with God you already have.

So, think about this: What reason for thanksgiving remains true even if your circumstances stay the same tomorrow? Consider the goodness of being reconciled to God and the hope of seeing Him face to face.

Apply

Write down one blessing that belongs to you through Christ. Thank God for it slowly, giving it your attention. Then prepare for tomorrow's worship by choosing a song that expresses your gratitude and singing or reading it prayerfully. Bring your remaining burden with you as you worship.

And remember this: An unfinished earthly story can rest in the God who has secured your eternal future.

Pray

Finish the week by thanking our Father for who He is and what He has promised. Father, thank You for peace with You through Jesus and the hope of Your glory. By Your Spirit, help me rejoice in You while I wait for answers. Prepare my heart to worship with Your people tomorrow, grateful that my future rests in Your faithful hands. In Jesus' name, amen.