

# GOD-COLORED GLASSES

## JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

June 14–20, 2026

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

### This Week's Big Idea

We did not climb up to God; God came down to us. He forgave our sins, saved us by grace we did not earn, and birthed us anew from above. We are new creations with a new life, a new Father, and a new family.

### Scripture & Study:

**KEY TEXT:** 1 John 1:9; Ephesians 2:8–9; John 3:3–7 [Click here to access this week's scripture](#)

We see ourselves, and others, through so many lenses: failures, fears, what others have said or done. And every lens distorts the image we see. But Scripture reveals that God sees us in a completely different way. As His children, we must learn to see ourselves, others, and the world the way that God does: with His eyes. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night – a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews, a man at the very top of the religious ladder. He was a good man, faithful teacher, and his religious résumé was spotless. If anyone could have earned the kingdom, it was Nicodemus. But Jesus looks at him and says, “no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” Not improved. Not polished. Born all over again.

Now notice who does the work in every one of this week’s “identities”. We are forgiven – God forgives. The word literally means our sins are sent away, released, no longer held against us (1 John 1:9). We are saved – “by grace you are saved through faith... it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9). We are born again – and no one births themselves. A baby contributes exactly nothing to its own birth. From beginning to end, the verbs land on God.

This matters. The human heart is a merit-factory. Many of us would say we are saved by grace – and then live as though God’s acceptance rises and falls with our behavior this week. Saved by grace, kept by effort. It is exhausting, and it is not how God sees us. God has already done it! The record is wiped. The ransom is paid. His life is in us. We were made new.

So if you are forgiven, the accusing voice dragging up your past has been overruled. If you are saved by grace, you can finally retire from the project of “making yourself acceptable” to God. If you are born again, you are not who you used to be: a new life is in you, with a new Father, a new family, a new way of living. We receive; He gives. We are born; we do not birth ourselves.

### Discussion Questions:

- Forgiven, saved by grace, born again. How do each of these identity pieces complement each other?
- Where do we, without noticing sometimes, quietly slide back into attempting to “earn grace?”
- Be honest: where does the accusing voice still drag up your past? What would change this week if you truly believed those sins have been sent away?

### Apply It:

- Ask Jesus to show you one area where you have been living as though grace must be earned. Write it down, and next to it write: “Saved by grace. Not from works.”
- Spend time in prayer with 1 John 1:9 this week. Confess honestly, then say out loud: “Sent away.” Then share with a trusted friend one thing God has released you from.
- In your time of quiet prayer, thank the Father that you did not birth yourself – your new life is His gift. Then reach out to one person this week and tell them what He has done for you.