Bible Study Lesson: “Grace That Wakes and Sends”

For Individual Study

Leader’s note: Set aside 45–60 minutes. Have a Bible, journal, and pen. Read each passage slowly and pray before and after. This study is designed for personal reflection, but it should not become private Christianity—let it move you toward faithful love of God and neighbor.

Theme

The Reformation gospel is grace that delivers, humbles, awakens, and sends. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone, for God’s glory alone. That grace does not make us passive; it makes us watchful, dependent, and faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

Scripture Focus

- Judges 4:1–7, - Psalm 123, - 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11, - Matthew 25:14–30

Summary

The Reformation recalled the church to the gospel: God takes the initiative to save and deliver His people, and His people respond in humble faith and faithful obedience. In Judges, Israel is in a cycle of sin and distress, but God raises a deliverer and gives a promise before the battle. Psalm 123 teaches the posture of grace—lifting our eyes to the Lord, waiting for mercy, depending on His hand. In 1 Thessalonians, believers are children of light who live awake in hope because Christ has died for them. In Matthew 25, the parable of the talents shows that grace produces faithful stewardship: we do not hide in fear; we risk for the Master’s glory. Together these texts guard us from both self-righteous pride and fearful despair. Grace is not a license for laziness; it is the power for faithful, hopeful obedience.

Key Points

1. God takes the initiative in deliverance — Judges 4:1–7 Israel again does evil, cries out, and is oppressed. God speaks through Deborah, summons Barak, and gives a clear promise: “I will draw out Sisera… into your hand.” The battle belongs to the Lord.

Reformation echo: Salvation begins with God’s gracious initiative, not our strategy or strength. We obey because God has already promised to act.

2. Grace teaches us to look to the Lord — Psalm 123

The psalmist lifts his eyes to the One enthroned in heaven, like a servant looking to the master’s hand. He asks for mercy and waits amid contempt. This is the posture of faith: humble, persistent, dependent.

Reformation echo: We are not saved by our own resources but by God’s mercy. Faith looks away from self to the Lord.

3. Grace makes us awake and hopeful — 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

The day of the Lord comes unexpectedly, but believers are not in darkness. We are children of light. So we stay sober, put on faith, love, and hope, and encourage one another. Our assurance rests in this: God has not destined us for wrath but for salvation through Jesus Christ, who died for us so that we might live with Him.

Reformation echo: The gospel gives both watchfulness and assurance. We are awake because Christ has secured our hope.

4. Grace produces faithful stewardship, not fearful hiding — Matthew 25:14–30

The master entrusts his property to servants "each according to his ability." The faithful servants trade and bear fruit. The fearful servant hides his talent and reveals a distorted view of the master. The point is not salvation by success, but the warning that unbelief and fear produce barrenness. Grace frees us to risk for the Master.

Reformation echo: Good works are the fruit of grace, not the root of salvation. We serve not to earn God's favor, but because we have received it.

Questions for Reflection

1. In Judges 4, where do you see a cycle of sin, distress, and deliverance in your own life? What "enemy" or pressure feels strong right now?

2. God gave Barak a promise before the battle. Where are you tempted to trust your own plan more than God's Word? What promise from Scripture do you need to cling to?

3. Psalm 123 speaks of lifting your eyes and waiting for mercy. What "hands" or voices do you look to for approval, security, or identity instead of the Lord?

4. What would it look like this week to pray, "Lord, have mercy," rather than rushing to self-reliance?

5. In 1 Thessalonians 5, what does it mean for you to be "awake" spiritually? Where have you drifted into spiritual sleep?

6. How do faith, love, and hope show up in your daily life? Which one needs strengthening now?

7. How does the truth that Christ died for you and destined you for salvation give you assurance and courage?

8. In Matthew 25, what has God entrusted to you—time, money, abilities, influence, relationships, gospel opportunities? What fear keeps you from using it?

9. Do you ever view God as harsh or hard to please? How does the gospel correct that image and free you to serve boldly?

10. Which Reformation truth—grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, Scripture alone, glory to God alone—are you most prone to forget? How does this study guard you against both pride and despair?

Application

- Read and pray daily. Use one passage per day: Judges 4:1–7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30. Journal one sentence of thanksgiving, one confession, and one request.

- Practice grace-first obedience. Begin each day with the gospel: “I am accepted by grace through Christ, not by my performance.” Then ask, “What faithful step does grace make possible today?”

- Name one entrusted gift. Identify one ability, resource, relationship, or opportunity God has given you. Take one concrete action this week to use it for His glory—not to earn favor, but to express gratitude.

- Stay awake. At the end of each day, review where you lived as a child of light and where you drifted. Ask God to clothe you again with faith, love, and hope.

- Look to the Lord in waiting. When frustrated or overlooked, pray Psalm 123 slowly. Let it train your heart to wait for mercy rather than demand control.

- Encourage one person. Because we are children of light, “encourage one another and build one another up” (1 Thess. 5:11). Send a note, make a call, or pray with someone this week.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for the Reformation recovery of the gospel. We are not saved by our works but by Your grace through faith in Christ. Teach us to lift our eyes to You, to live awake in hope, and to steward Your gifts with faithful courage. Guard us from pride and from fear. Make our lives fruitful for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, amen.