



DAY 1 — THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2026
SESSION 2 : THE SOIL OF THE HEART
TIME: 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM



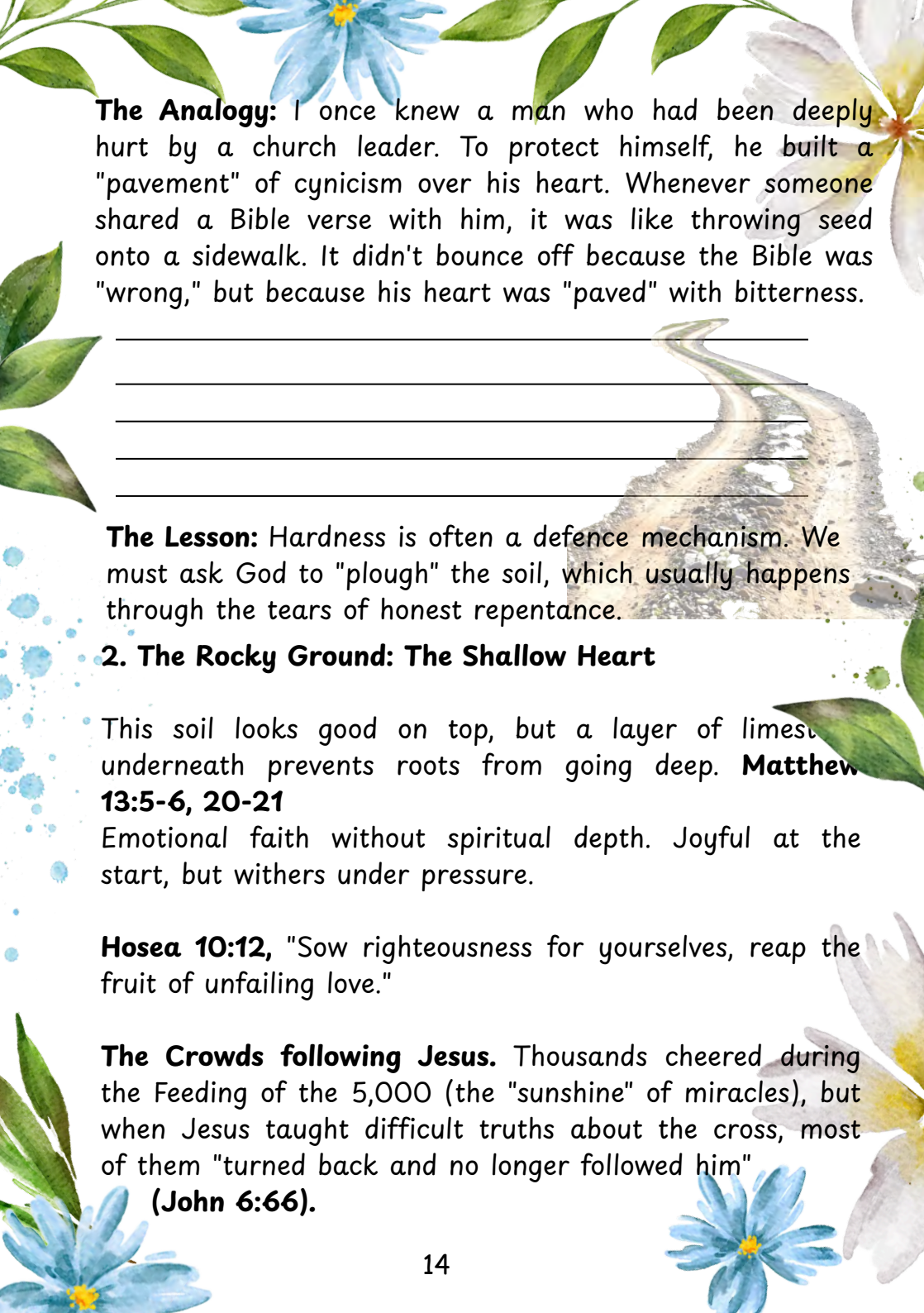
THE CROSS AS THE ROOT SYSTEM OF GOD'S LOVE

Every tree stands because of its roots.
Every believer stands because of the Cross.
The Cross is not just an event in history—it is the root system of God's love, stretching deeper than sin, deeper than suffering, deeper than death.

Good Friday is not a funeral.
It is a revelation.
A revelation of how deep, **how wide, how long, and how high the love of Christ truly is.**

We stand at the foot of the Cross and discover:

The deepest root of love is sacrifice.



The Analogy: I once knew a man who had been deeply hurt by a church leader. To protect himself, he built a "pavement" of cynicism over his heart. Whenever someone shared a Bible verse with him, it was like throwing seed onto a sidewalk. It didn't bounce off because the Bible was "wrong," but because his heart was "paved" with bitterness.

The Lesson: Hardness is often a defence mechanism. We must ask God to "plough" the soil, which usually happens through the tears of honest repentance.

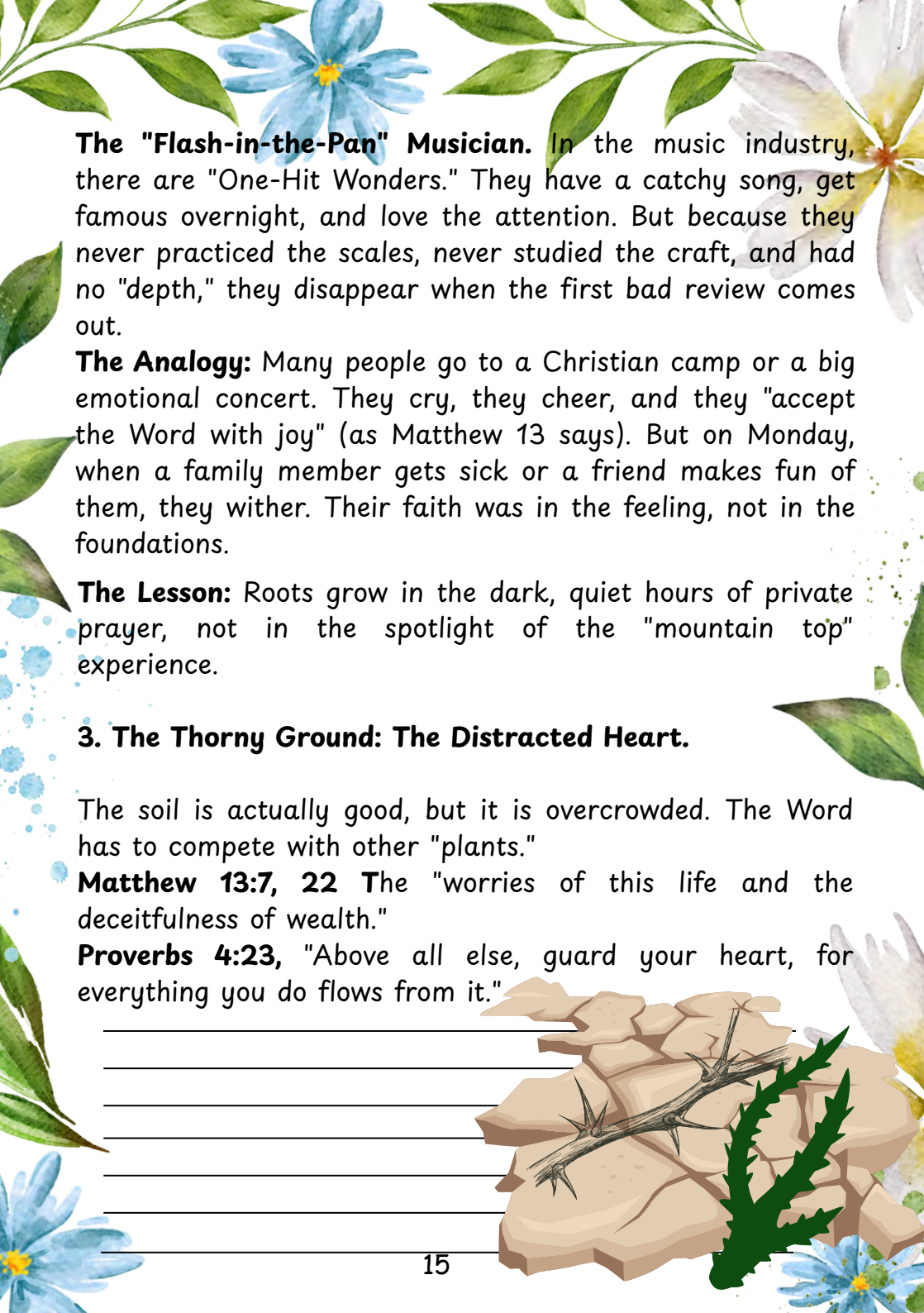
2. The Rocky Ground: The Shallow Heart

This soil looks good on top, but a layer of limestone underneath prevents roots from going deep. **Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21**

Emotional faith without spiritual depth. Joyful at the start, but withers under pressure.

Hosea 10:12, "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love."

The Crowds following Jesus. Thousands cheered during the Feeding of the 5,000 (the "sunshine" of miracles), but when Jesus taught difficult truths about the cross, most of them "turned back and no longer followed him" (**John 6:66**).



The "Flash-in-the-Pan" Musician. In the music industry, there are "One-Hit Wonders." They have a catchy song, get famous overnight, and love the attention. But because they never practiced the scales, never studied the craft, and had no "depth," they disappear when the first bad review comes out.

The Analogy: Many people go to a Christian camp or a big emotional concert. They cry, they cheer, and they "accept the Word with joy" (as Matthew 13 says). But on Monday, when a family member gets sick or a friend makes fun of them, they wither. Their faith was in the feeling, not in the foundations.

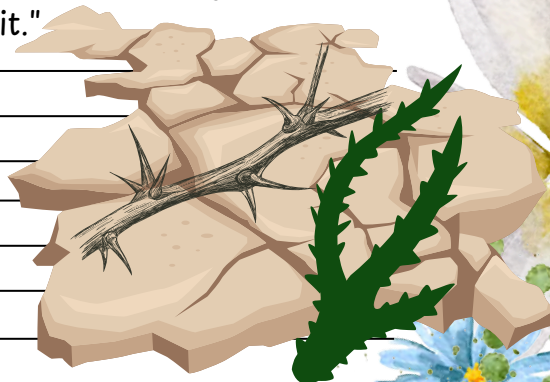
The Lesson: Roots grow in the dark, quiet hours of private prayer, not in the spotlight of the "mountain top" experience.

3. The Thorny Ground: The Distracted Heart.

The soil is actually good, but it is overcrowded. The Word has to compete with other "plants."

Matthew 13:7, 22 The "worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth."

Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."



The Rich Young Ruler. He truly wanted to follow Jesus (the seed was growing), but his "thorns" (his love for his possessions) were so thick that they choked out his ability to actually commit. He left sorrowful.

The Kudzu Vine. In the Southern United States, there is a plant called Kudzu. It grows incredibly fast. It doesn't kill other trees by "attacking" them; it simply grows over them, blocking the sunlight and taking all the nutrients from the soil until the original tree suffocates.

The Analogy: A woman once told her pastor, "I love God, but I just don't have time to pray." She was working 60 hours a week to pay for a house she was never in, scrolling 3 hours a night to "decompress," and worrying about her kids' sports schedules. Her heart wasn't "evil" it was just crowded. The "Kudzu" of modern busyness was suffocating her spiritual life.

The Lesson: Thorns are "legitimate" things (money, career, chores) that become "ultimate" things. You have to weed the garden if you want the fruit to grow.



4. The Transformation: Receiving a New Heart

We cannot always fix our own soil; sometimes we need a "soil transplant."

Ezekiel 36:26-27 God removing the "heart of stone" and giving a "heart of flesh."

Psalms 51:10-12, "Create in me a pure heart, O God."

Saul of Tarsus (Paul). He was a "hard path" (persecuting the church). God didn't just plough him, but He gave him a completely new heart on the road to Damascus.

The "Lion" of the Prisons. Take the story of Nicky Cruz, a notorious gang leader in New York. His heart was so "stony" that he once told a preacher, "I don't believe in God, and if you come near me, I'll kill you." He was a man of pure violence. But when he finally encountered the love of Christ, it wasn't a "repair job"—it was "replacement." He became a world-renowned evangelist known for his gentleness.

The Lesson: You cannot "soften" your own heart of stone. You have to go to the Great Surgeon and say, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

FROM CHAOS TO CHRIST
WITH NICKY CRUZ



5. The Good Soil: The Fruitful Heart.

The heart that hears, understands, and acts.

Matthew 13:8, 23 A harvest of 30, 60, or 100 times what was sown.

Galatians 5:22-23, The fruit of the Spirit (the evidence of good soil).

Mary of Bethany. Unlike others who were "busy" (thorns), she sat at Jesus' feet, absorbing the Word. Her "soil" was so prepared that she was the only one who understood Jesus was about to die and anointed Him for burial in advance.

The Fruit of the Spirit

LOVE

Seeks the highest good of others.

JOY

Gladness that is not based on circumstances.

PEACE

Contentment, unity between people.

PATIENCE

Slow to speak and slow to anger.

KINDNESS

Merciful, sweet, and tender.

GOODNESS

Generous and open hearted.

FAITHFULNESS

Dependable, loyal, and full of trust.

GENTLENESS

Humble, calm, non-threatening.

SELF-CONTROL

Behaving well.

