

ONE

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

WEEK 5 - DAY 1

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103:7-14

He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

OBSERVATION:

God is always making Himself known to His people. Throughout Israel's history, He has displayed His character for Israel and the watching world. Specifically, He revealed Himself in powerful ways to Moses in the burning bush, the parting of the Red Sea, and the provision of daily manna. God doesn't hide from Moses but goes out of the way to reveal Himself to Moses. The theme of the Old Testament is transgression, forgiveness, and redemption. Israel sins, God forgives, and in the midst of the consequences God positions Israel to know how powerful and loving He is. God's great love for us doesn't mean that He won't discipline us when we sin, but God does not linger in His anger. Like a loving parent, God's attitude and actions toward us are always redemptive and meant to make us more like Him.

APPLICATION:

God does not hide from us. He is not only available to those intentionally seeking Him. God is revealing Himself to us in every moment of our lives. God wants us to know Him, not in a general sense but as a loving Father who wants to be intimately involved in our lives. The fact that God wants us to know Him is an enormous indicator of how gracious He is. The God of the universe who speaks all things into motion wants us to know Him so that we can let others know Him. All the attributes of God-- His power, love, grace, and compassion-- should so greatly stir our hearts that we can't help but speak of His great love everywhere we find ourselves. Looking at your relationship with God right now, in what area of your life are you overwhelmed by God's great love for you? What can you do in your life to more greatly appreciate God's character and love for you?

PRAYER:

God, help me to understand who You are in a more personal way. Father, help me to remember the times You have been gracious and long suffering with me. God, in light of Your great love, help me to share with others how close You are and that You desire a relationship with everyone.



ONE

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

WEEK 5 - DAY 2

SCRIPTURE: Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

OBSERVATION:

Paul opens the book of Romans by presenting a staggering problem, God and mankind are utterly separated by the sin of man. However, through His love, God has spanned the chasm. Though God is vastly different than us in so many ways, He not only makes Himself knowable, He makes Himself plain or obvious to us. God, who is spirit, makes Himself known in the physical world both through creation and through the person of Jesus Christ. The markers God uses to point to His existence are not vague but are in fact crystal clear.

APPLICATION:

Because God has made Himself accessible for all who seek Him, will you live your life so that others will know how accessible God is? God isn't hiding. His fingerprints are everywhere. As believers we should not hide that we live our lives for God. How can you make your life a clear testimony to others of God's love and accessibility? Are you willing to make God's existence plain to others? What are practical steps you can take to work toward this?

PRAYER:

Father, thank You that despite my constant rebellion You pursue me. Thank you Lord that you are not far, far away, but in fact very, very close. Jesus, help me to walk knowing that You are near. Help me to share with others in word and deed that You are close and that You desire a personal relationship with them.

ONE

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

WEEK 5 - DAY 3

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:5-10

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

OBSERVATION:

The ultimate truth for Christ-followers is that through Jesus Christ we have peace with God in this life and the life to come. Paul opens the chapter by stating very simply that he wants men to come to salvation. In the previous chapter, he laid out that He would give up his salvation if it meant his brethren would believe that Jesus is the Christ. A defining characteristic of Christianity is that we cannot perform enough good deeds to earn our salvation. Salvation is a gift that we are called to accept. The passages about going up or going down highlight that it is not our activity that moves God to act. Scripture states that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Salvation is solely available because of the grace of God. We are, therefore, called to believe and profess this truth to all.

APPLICATION:

Our profession of faith is both a moment in time when we first proclaim salvation, and an ongoing profession where we grow and daily become more like Jesus. How can you conduct your life so that every day you are professing Jesus is Lord-- even if you don't necessarily use those words? There is a saying that “found people find people”, which means for Christ-followers that once we come to salvation we should be seeking to help others find Him. Knowing that God makes salvation very accessible, how can you more consistently share your faith to help others find Him?

PRAYER:

God, thank You that my efforts and labor do not determine how much You love me. Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice which was done when I was still running from You. Help me to tell others that You are in reach, and that those who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.



ONE

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

WEEK 5 - DAY 4

SCRIPTURE: John 14:15-18

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

OBSERVATION:

One of the biggest sources of help that we have as Christ-followers is the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. In this passage, Jesus knew that very soon He would be heading to the cross and is giving the disciples final encouragement before He goes. There are several different words used to describe the roles of the Holy Spirit including: counselor, comforter, and advocate. Each of these titles can be traced back to the way Jesus interacted with people, including His disciples. The use of the word “another” indicates that just as Jesus walked right alongside His disciples, the Holy Spirit will walk right alongside of us. Though Jesus was leaving in bodily form, He did not fear the message of the Gospel would cease because the Holy Spirit would be their ever-present companion.

APPLICATION:

Jesus doesn’t abandon us as orphans. He is our Father from our first breath of faith to our very last, Jesus will ask the Father and the Father will give us the Spirit of truth. Like the disciples, we have several reasons to despair. It is tempting to look at the mess of our world and simply want to give up. However, we, like the disciples, can move forward with boldness knowing that very Spirit of God dwells in us leading, guiding, and directing our every move. How can you grow more confident in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life? What are some practical ways you can learn and live more in the Spirit?

PRAYER:

Thank You Father that You don’t leave us as orphans. Thank You that we have access to the same power that led the disciples to change the world through the power of the Gospel. Lord, help me to rely more on the Holy Spirit and allow Him to speak into every moment of my day so that I can walk in power and confidence.



ONE

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

WEEK 5 - DAY 5

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:38-39

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

OBSERVATION:

Paul starts chapter 8 with the phrase, “there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus” and he ends with “nothing can separate us from God’s love”. There is no limit to God’s love and grace. There is no obstacle that is insurmountable. There are no mountains that can’t be scaled, no valleys that can’t be trekked, and no oceans that can’t be crossed. We can’t say enough about God’s love. With everything stacked against us, God sent His Son to die for us, taking away the power of death and hell. Imagine Paul saying this, “think of the biggest, scariest, and gnarliest thing you know. Get a good picture in your head and now understand without a shadow of a doubt that God’s love absolutely conquered it.”

APPLICATION:

Knowing that God has moved Heaven and Earth to secure our salvation, what is keeping you from sharing that with others? How can you move beyond whatever fear is holding you back and into the freedom Jesus bought for you on the cross? God’s love is both profound and simple. The Old Testament is filled with hundreds and hundreds of laws, but Jesus came and made it simple. God doesn’t want us to be confused and wrought with worry that we are not performing up to par. Instead, He wants us to live in freedom that our debt has been paid. Does the Gospel overwhelm you enough that you can’t help but share with those around you? Are you ready to pray that the love of God would overwhelm you enough that you wouldn’t be able to help but share it everywhere you go?

PRAYER:

God, the list of things against me grows longer every day, but I know that nothing can get in the way of Your love for me. Father, help me to be overwhelmed by Your love, for that is the only appropriate response. Jesus, thank You that You didn't give me another set of rules to follow but instead made having a relationship with you so very accessible. Help me to encourage those around me to walk toward you in faith as well.