

# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 1 - DAY 1

**Newbreak Mission Statement:** Connecting people with God through authentic relationships to serve communities.

**S.O.A.P. DEVOTIONAL METHOD: SCRIPTURE - OBSERVATION - APPLICATION - PRAYER**

#### **SCRIPTURE:** EPHESIANS 4:3-6

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

#### **OBSERVATION:**

Notice how many times the word “one” is used in this passage. When Paul wrote this, he was a prisoner in chains living in a dark and dirty dungeon. Undoubtedly, he felt incredibly helpless as he could only watch from afar as the church he had dedicated his life to was learning to walk. From this dismal environment, Paul makes his plea and lays out the recipe for success: unity. Make every effort to find the common ground between each other. Division will spring up like a weed everywhere we look, yet Paul is challenging us to fight for unity.

#### **APPLICATION:**

In our lives, we have a choice every day and every moment: will we fight for unity or dig up division? We all know that expert critic in our lives who always finds the negative and never has anything good or positive to say. There will always be something big or small that can drive a wedge in relationships at church. As Christ-followers, we are commanded to pursue love for one another, no matter the circumstance. What places in life do you find it hardest to fight for unity instead of allowing division to set in? What relationships in your life can you start to repair today by striving for unity?

#### **PRAYER:**

Father, I pray today that you will strengthen me to make every effort to pursue unity. Help me to set aside differences I have with other Christ-followers so that we may be fully united in loving and serving you. Create in us a bond of peace, so that by and through your power, we may be like a cord of three strands, that is not easily broken. Amen.



# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 1 - DAY 2

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**S.O.A.P. DEVOTIONAL METHOD: SCRIPTURE - OBSERVATION - APPLICATION - PRAYER**

#### **SCRIPTURE:** LUKE 5:31-32

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

#### **OBSERVATION:**

The religious elite provoked this question after Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector for Israel's sworn enemy, Rome, to be one of His followers. The gospels are filled with stories of Jesus hanging out with and helping people society had rejected. The Pharisees had this idea that God only hung out with people who had their lives together both externally and internally. Jesus broke all the rules of engagement and showed us a new way to love others.

#### **APPLICATION:**

Connecting people with God is the fundamental task of every Christ-follower. The negative stigma of sign-wielding "turn or burn" evangelism is not the way Newbreak seeks to accomplish this. People connect best with God through authentic relationships. This means wherever we go, we should be looking for opportunities to share our God story so as to connect others with God. Are there people in your life who you think are beyond the reach of God? How can you find ways to begin sharing your God story with them?

#### **PRAYER:**

God I ask that you would rebuild the broken paths to my family, friends, and neighbors. I pray that you would make straight our paths so I can share my God story. Father I ask you would bless me with authentic relationships so I can see those who are far from God brought near to you. I ask this in the name of Jesus, who died to pave the way for all of us to find our way back to you. Amen.

# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 1 - DAY 3

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**S.O.A.P. DEVOTIONAL METHOD: SCRIPTURE - OBSERVATION - APPLICATION - PRAYER**

#### **SCRIPTURE:** LUKE 10:33-36

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have. "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

#### **OBSERVATION:**

The controversy of this story cannot be understated. This could be akin to a terrorist stopping to help the bomb victims that had just been left for dead. The two groups in this story hated each other deeply. Yet this is the perfect example of God's love for us, and this is how we are expected to love our neighbor. Our call to love our neighbor is not driven by proximity or convenience; it is driven by God's relentless and completely undeserved love for us.

#### **APPLICATION:**

Who are the hardest people for you to love? What fuels your lack of love? Un-forgiveness? Self-righteousness? Fear of being hurt again? Whatever the reason, be challenged to choose love and freedom and let God sort out the fallout.

#### **PRAYER:**

Jesus, I ask that the very things that break your heart would also break mine. God, I pray that you would take my heart of stone and give me one that is filled with compassion. Jesus, I boldly ask that I would learn to love like You in order to see people become connected to God. Amen.

# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 1 - DAY 4

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**S.O.A.P. DEVOTIONAL METHOD: SCRIPTURE - OBSERVATION - APPLICATION - PRAYER**

#### **SCRIPTURE:** LUKE 15:4-7

Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

#### **OBSERVATION:**

A sheep is of significant value to a shepherd, but it may not seem worth risking 99 other sheep to save just one. Yet, Jesus died for each and every one of us to secure our salvation. If parties in Heaven happen when people come to faith in Jesus Christ, we should rejoice as well. Sheep can sometimes be stubborn and cowardly — and so can we. Yet, God considers us valuable and celebrates when our relationship with Him is restored. Here at Newbreak, we want to connect people with God, whether it is the first time, or the hundredth.

#### **APPLICATION:**

What people in your world do you consider "too far gone" for God to save them? No one is beyond the reach of God's love. The people who are the most obstinate usually have the biggest hurt. They may be hard to love, but if God chases us down, we should definitely do the same for other lost sheep. Who in my world needs me to show them God's love today?

#### **PRAYER:**

Father, I ask that I may know the deep joy that comes from seeing others receive your gift of salvation. Your word says there is a party in Heaven when one sinner comes to repentance and so I ask that you use me at Newbreak and in my community, to help others to come to faith. Help me to be an instrument of reconciliation and peace for all those who are seeking You for salvation. Amen.

# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 1 - DAY 5

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**S.O.A.P. DEVOTIONAL METHOD: SCRIPTURE - OBSERVATION - APPLICATION - PRAYER**

#### **SCRIPTURE:** LUKE 15:31-32

‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

#### **OBSERVATION:**

The beauty of this parable is found in the parallel, but seemingly-contradictory approaches each character takes. The Father sprints in joy toward his son while the son attempts to calculate his plan for debt consolidation. The father puts his best robe and ring on his son who smells and probably looks like a filthy pig. God does the same for us. We may feel we are unworthy of His love, but He went to the cross and died for us. While we were still unrepentant sinners, He clothed us in His righteousness. The beauty of the Gospel is that it is scandalous. Grace overwhelmed our debt and all we can do is accept it as a gift we don't deserve.

#### **APPLICATION:**

Where in my life do I allow shame or self-condemnation to cloud the way that God really sees me? Do I celebrate each time God shows me grace and mercy, or do I hide in embarrassment? As I look around into the lives of those around me, do I show them grace like God shows me, or do I condemn them for being lost?

#### **PRAYER:**

Jesus help me be overwhelmed by your grace. God you made the way for me to have relationship with You, as Your child. Teach me to never try and measure how much grace You have given me. Help me to understand your grace is a gift that I don't deserve but you give freely. Amen.