

# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 2 - DAY 1

#### Newbreak's Strategy:

Begin the week in worship, Belong together in life groups, Be the church by serving.

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

#### SCRIPTURE: LUKE 4:14-16

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read.

#### OBSERVATION:

This was the beginning of Jesus's public ministry. At the start of the chapter Jesus endured forty days of temptation by the devil. Going to the synagogue and participating in the service was something Jesus had been doing since he was a small child. The synagogue was the center piece of the local Jewish community. Building upon the habit of weekly church attendance Jesus launched his public ministry of preaching the good news.

#### APPLICATION:

Jesus made it a priority to start his week in worship. If He kept a calendar he would have a recurring event of synagogue attendance and participation. We know in our own lives if we want to establish a habit or practice it has to become a nonnegotiable part of your schedule. If you want to hear from God you need to be where His Word is taught. Following the example of Christ Himself, will you make weekly church a habit

#### PRAYER:

Father we ask that you help us prioritize our life so that we can live in a rhythm of hearing from you. God help us to value being a part of a spiritual community. Jesus instead of squeezing church into our schedule when its convenient, help us orient our lives around starting our week in worship.



# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 2 - DAY 2

#### Newbreak's Strategy:

Begin the week in worship, Belong together in life groups, Be the church by serving.

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

#### SCRIPTURE: JAMES 4:8

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

#### OBSERVATION:

The recipients of this letter were scattered for several reasons one being religious persecution. The persecution was so severe that being identified as a Christian could mean imprisonment or even death. With this imminent threat many of them stopped attending the church. Chapter four is titled "Submit yourself to God" and it is in the hard times that we must strive to worship God when we don't feel like it. James knew the church was discouraged and he knew that being in church was a habit that wasn't worth compromising. He challenged them to draw near to God even when they didn't feel like it.

#### APPLICATION:

If anyone had an excuse to miss a few church services, it was the audience James wrote to. Yet He still challenged them to not break the habit of starting their week in worship. We all have excuses and obstacles that can get in the way of starting your week in worship, but church attendance should be a nonnegotiable event every week in your life. Will you make starting your week in worship a nonnegotiable or will you let your excuses get in the way of establishing healthy a spiritual rhythm?

#### PRAYER:

God help us fight the temptation to always have an excuse. We pray you would give us the strength to push through obstacles not let them hold us down. God your word says that if we draw near to you you will draw near to us, so we pray God than even now as we move toward you that you would move closer to us. Amen

# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 2 - DAY 3

#### Newbreak's Strategy:

Begin the week in worship, Belong together in life groups, Be the church by serving.

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

#### SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 18:20

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

#### OBSERVATION:

The immediate context of this verse is conflict resolution within the church. This is comforting because when more than two people gather together, conflict is bound to occur. Throughout the New Testament you see believers worshipping, traveling, and connecting people to God, this is how the Gospel was spread and will continue to be spread. Knowing that God gave us practical steps for reconciliation and the promise that He will dwell with us should encourage us to pursue spiritual and relational development. We avoid fellowship in hopes of protecting ourselves from being hurt by people who claim to follow Christ. While this is very real and unfortunate you shouldn't let the words and actions of a few keep you from belonging to a Life Group. The fellowship that accompanies Christ followers is stronger and sweeter than any relationship on the planet.

#### APPLICATION:

The plight of our society is that we are more "connected" than ever (through social media) but we are also more lonely than ever before. This is because we have dozens if not hundreds of extremely shallow and fake relationships. As Christians this simply shouldn't be, we must pursue authentic relationships. What is your biggest obstacle to being in true biblical fellowship? And what steps will you take today to get into fellowship?

#### PRAYER:

Father you came to this Earth to establish a relationship with us so we pray that we as Christ followers would do the same. Give us a burden for fellowship. Jesus help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger so that we can experience the blessings of fellowship.



# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 2 - DAY 4

#### Newbreak's Strategy:

Begin the week in worship, Belong together in life groups, Be the church by serving.

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

#### SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

Because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

#### OBSERVATION:

In the previous chapter Paul asks that all Christ followers live out a life "worthy of the Gospel", he then in chapter 2 tells us that to do this we must follow the example of Jesus who came as a servant. This passage is a glimpse into the "mind of Christ" and what was he thinking as He lived His life and died upon the cross. The humility in which Jesus lived His life is staggering from the world's perspective. Yet we learn that Jesus was the "very form of God", physically and mentally. So the attitudes and thoughts of Jesus are exactly how God thinks. If Jesus came as a servant, there is no room to debate that we should take the same form.

#### APPLICATION:

C.S. Lewis said "humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less". Our attitude toward serving and servants is a powerful reflection of the condition of our heart. Our unredeemed flesh will always fight service. It will tell us we are better than this, that someone should be serving us. Once we are in Christ we learn we are the hands and feet of God and we should seek out opportunities to serve. Jesus dedicated the totality of His life to serving the Church, even to the point of death on a cross. If Jesus modeled his entire life as a servant, shouldn't we as Christ followers must do the same?

#### PRAYER:

Father thank you for the example of Jesus. We pray that you would give us a servant's heart. Lord teach us what it looks like to serve by serving the Church as Jesus did. In all things Father may we trust your recognition as a servant is far greater than the recognition this world brings.



# ONE

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### WEEK 2 - DAY 5

#### Newbreak's Strategy:

Begin the week in worship, Belong together in life groups, Be the church by serving.

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

#### SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 14:31

Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

#### OBSERVATION:

Throughout the entire Bible we see a God not who is interested in the rich and powerful, but instead in the oppressed and marginalized. From the book of Exodus where God presents Himself as a God of slaves to Jesus ministry to the "least of these", we see a theme of God reaching down in muck of human civilization and dwelling with them. The very name of God is Emmanuel which means God with us. If God who is infinitely holy wants to be with who are infinitely sinful we should never regard ourselves better than anyone else. We live in the most prosperous nation that ever existed on this planet and yet we have significant problems that plague our world and community. God did not come to our planet so that we can live a more comfortable life. We are expected to conduct our lives as Jesus did, reaching out to those who feel rejected and outcast. Our lives should be marked with a distinct sense of urgency and energy as we mobilize our resources locally and globally to rid the world of suffering and injustice.

#### APPLICATION:

What are needs that exist within your own community? Newbreak has partnered with several organizations that even if you aren't sure where to start we can get you pointed in the right direction. What can you start to do today that will build your awareness of needs in your local community and around the world?

#### PRAYER:

Father give us a holy dissatisfaction for suffering and injustice and the resolve to make it right. God make us aware of the problems that plague this world and that you have more than enough to fix them. Father help us be aware of the world around us and that existing in our comfortable little bubble is not the abundant life you have called us to live.