

GROWING IN GOD
DEVOTIONAL



Growing In God Devotional

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REHEARSE THE GOSPEL

DAY 1

Accepting the work of Christ as your only hope for salvation and peace with God sets you on a wonderful journey to know and love God. You are now part of God's family! The story of your life is no longer dominated by sin and death but by grace and life. Greater still, God provides so much more than a path to avoid hell once this earthly life ends. Instead, the gospel represents a fundamental shift in your approach to every aspect of your life. The gospel offers a path to connecting your whole existence with the perfect life, atoning death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. If the gospel changes everything, what does that mean for you?

Quite simply, Jesus meets you where you are every single day. His redeeming grace empowers you to overcome sin and live for His glory. Jesus offers every resource we could ever need for living life well. Look no further than the gospel to sustain you on your way through this life.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2 Peter 1:3–4

We all feel the constant struggle to know what is best and how to fight the sin in our hearts. We long to do what is right, but find our hearts constantly drawn back to our rebellious ways. Consider some practical ways to rehearse the gospel in your daily walk.

Don't be discouraged.

So often we feel like we are the only person fighting sin and temptation. Nothing could be further from the truth! First Corinthians 10 tells us every person struggles with sin, God is faithful to walk beside us through every trial, showing the way to resist temptation and live a holy life.

Don't look inward for an answer.

There are no answers hidden deep within you, no secret knowledge waiting to be unlocked so that you can finally live up to your potential. Instead of brilliant insights, our heart often leads us away from God and back to a life of sinful independence. As Jeremiah 17 reveals, your heart is deceptive and desperately wicked. Your final hope rests in the story God declares true for your life, not the story you declare true for yourself.

Don't look to the world for lasting peace.

When trouble or confusion sets in, where do you run? Do you seek peace in your achievements or the pleasures of this life? Seek out the eternal joys found in abiding in Christ. King David understood

this when he wrote Psalm 16, saying, *“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Learn to live life like Christ.

Look to Jesus’ life of love and mercy as the example you must follow. He lived a life of service, seeking out the needy and oppressed to offer them freedom. Jesus came to serve, not to be served (Matthew 20:28). When we live in union with Him, our lives take the same tone. God’s children live to know Him and make Him known.

Look to the cross for forgiveness.

The blood-stained cross shows you the path of true discipleship and offers you the path to forgiveness when you fall short of God’s holy calling. We all struggle with sin and must return to the gospel for restoration. Jesus has fully paid the penalty for your sin, so do not hesitate to make confession and repentance a daily habit for holy living. Furthermore, Jesus shows you that every Christian must live in self-denial, dying to self and living for Christ. God’s people have been redeemed to take up the cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24–26).

Live each day with resurrection power.

The empty grave shows just how much greater God’s power stands above Satan’s false authority over this world. In the gospel, you are reminded that Satan’s strongest attacks are overcome by Jesus’s mighty resurrection. The grave reminds us of how Jesus bore God’s wrath, endured death’s sting, and rose again. His resurrection life offers the foretaste of salvation’s victory in this life and the next!

When we look to Jesus, we find a friend who has lived a life we can never live, died the death we all deserve, and rose by the power we all receive to live life victoriously. Don't rush past or get over the deep realities of the gospel. Instead, spend each day moving deeper and deeper into the riches of who Jesus is and what He has done for you.

Alongside a faithful retelling of the gospel in every circumstance of life, new life in Christ brings the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Long before Jesus came to live on earth, God promised His Spirit would someday pour out on His people and guide them in following all of God's commands (Ezekiel 36:27). We who receive grace and forgiveness in the person and work of Jesus Christ walk out the joys of this fulfilled promise. When the Holy Spirit dwells in us, we are changed. Hearts that were once cold and closed off to the warmth of God's love are stirred to seek God's glory. Minds that were once filled with rebellion now become renewed to dwell on God's grace. Bodies that were once consumed with sinful passions and lusts experience true freedom and joy through living in trusting submission to God's revealed will.

The gospel changes everything. As you walk in the Spirit, you will long for a life displaying the fruits of fellowship with God (Galatians 5:22–23). You will receive insight and guidance as you study Scripture in patient expectation of the day when your faith becomes sight as Jesus returns for His people. Retell your story in light of the story of the gospel. Walk each day in the freedom of new life in union with Christ and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the daily struggles you need to lay at Jesus' feet, understanding your whole existence through the lens of the gospel rather than your sin?
2. Why do you struggle to rehearse the gospel when you face discouragement or temptation?
3. How are you trusting the Holy Spirit to guide your relationships, career, and personal life?

READ YOUR BIBLE

DAY 2

According to *Scientific American*, the average person can only last approximately ten to fourteen days without food or water. Without the necessary nutrition and hydration, the mind and body quickly begin to break down. It seems there aren't too many days between life and death! In the same way, when you receive the new birth granted through Christ, you cannot wander far from the source of life found in God. You must continually return and feed your soul on the life-bringing, life-sustaining words of God, the Bible. As we study and meditate on God's Word, our souls receive nourishment, giving us strength to follow Jesus.

Strive to make daily Bible reading and meditation part of your life. Spending time in God's Word does more than allow you to check a box off your Christian "to-do" list.

Through time in His Word, God shapes your thoughts.

There is a direct connection between the things we think about, read, watch, and consider, and the deepest longings of our life. We think about what matters to us, and what matters to us is shaped by what we think about. Because of this intimate connection, you must strive to read, memorize, and dwell on God's message to you. In Joshua 1:8, God commanded Joshua to dwell on the Law of God, God's very words, each day and each night. In doing this, God promised Joshua a life of blessing and peace. Seeking God's way in all of life, listening and obeying God's Law, sustains a life lived in true fellowship with God.

David echoes this call to constantly read and reflect on God's Word. In Psalm 119:97-104, he considers the powerful realities of a life lived in daily contact with God's Word. Because of this daily approach to God and His revelation, David is able to express a deep love that changes his whole approach to life.

Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

*Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.*

*I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.*

*I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.*

*I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.*

*I do not turn aside from your rules,
for you have taught me.*

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

*Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.*

Psalm 119:97-104

David fills his day with reflections on God's Word, and there are real effects on the way he thinks about life in this world. God grants wisdom to walk in His way (*Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies...*). God grants true understanding, that is, the strength to live out the wise life (*I have more understanding than all my teachers...*). God protects from sin and reshapes our desires to seek purity and holiness (*I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.*). God brings joy and refreshment as He nourishes us through His Word (*How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*). All this and so much more, flows into a life lived in constant fellowship with God through His Word.

Through time in His Word, God guides your path.

Hearing and responding to the Holy Spirit's call to repent and look to Christ moves us from the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of God. As you walk this path, though, you need ongoing guidance on the way. Heeding God's voice does not stop once you accept Christ as your Savior. You must continue to abide in God and listen to His voice, given to us through the Scriptures.

David describes God's Word as lamp that guides his feet and a light that makes his path clear so he can walk through life (Psalm 119:105). Without God's revelation, you will stumble through life, not understanding the valleys and mountaintops we all experience. In fact, Paul describes God's Word as the fundamental tool for becoming a well-equipped, mature disciple of Jesus. Second Timothy 3:16–17 says, *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."* When you cut yourself off from God's Word, you cut yourself off from God Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit teaches you God's will, revealing and confirming the gospel to you. Through the Word, God convicts you of sin, setting your feet on the path of righteousness. Through the Word, your heart is disciplined to long for true holiness, lifting your spirit to worship

God alone. Through the Word, God faithfully brings you to maturity in Christ, keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus alone.

Through time in His Word, God encourages your heart.

All too often, your life seems to spiral into confusion and sadness. It is difficult to see what God is doing. Accepting Christ as your Redeemer does not mean your life will be without strife or hardship. In fact, those who claim the name of Christ are supposed to anticipate a life of suffering (2 Timothy 3:12). However, God's Word is a source of eternal promises which can revive your heart even in the most difficult times. Spending time meditating on God's Word opens your life to the stories, prayers, praises, and promises recorded there.

Reading the stories of the patriarchs and the Israelite's exodus reminds us of God's enduring faithfulness even when we wander far from Him. He chooses to use imperfect people to fulfill His perfect plan. Take heart! Reading the prayers of Hannah, David, and Nehemiah, remind us of the patterns we should take when we approach the Father, Son, and Spirit. Praise God for all He has done and cry out to Him for the fulfillment of all He has promised. Take heart! Reading the praise of Miriam, Deborah, and the countless people healed in the Gospels, reminds us that we serve a living God, enthroned in heaven, who is worthy of all our adoration. Take heart! Reading the promises of God recorded through generations of old, draws us back to the gospel. Look to Jesus and live. Listen to Jesus and keep on living life in the power of His life, death, and resurrection. Take heart!

Don't go through life ignoring the spiritual food you receive from time spent reading, praying, and meditating upon God's Word. Don't starve your soul, but walk the path of the abundant life.

*Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.*

*Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.*

Psalm 1

QUESTIONS

1. What is your source of guidance when you feel confused or discouraged? Where do you run for security?

2. Where do you struggle most in your attempts to consistently hear and heed God's Word?

3. How do you plan on following the biblical call to spend time reading and meditating on Scripture?

RELY ON PRAYER

DAY 3

Prayer is communion with God and shapes your life to walk in dependence and fellowship with Him. As you pray, you open your life to sense His loving presence and surrender to His will. No matter the time or place, you can go to Him. You don't have to wait for some special place or time to talk to God. He is everywhere and hears your deepest cries. Consider the simple grid of P-R-A-Y as you discipline yourself in the practice of prayer.

P – Praise God!

Prayer is chance to thank God for who He is and what He has done in and through Jesus and in and through your life. Remember the gospel. Remember what God has done for you in Christ. The gospel confirms your deep and desperate need for redemption. The gospel confirms the gift of grace granted to you through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. You are freed from sin and restored to peace with God. There is no greater reason to cry out to God with worship and adoration! He has indeed done great and mighty things. Follow the models of praise revealed in the Psalms, a book of intimate prayers and songs of praise.

*I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.*

Psalm 145:1–3

*I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!*

Psalm 34:1–3

Prayer puts your heart back in a place where God receives the adoration for all He is and all He does. He is worthy of any and all praise you could ever offer. God has saved you, He sustains you, and prayer forces you to speak about each moment of your life in light of the gospel. The story of the gospel changes your life, and prayer draws you into deeper fellowship with the One who gives you life.

R – Repent of continual sin struggles.

Look to Jesus and call out to Him when you struggle with temptation. Ask him to forgive you and to strengthen you in your fight against sin. He will answer! God is near and ready to forgive.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14–16

These verses hold such precious comforts. Jesus walked through life on earth and understands all of your struggles. Who better to run to in times of temptation and weakness? Jesus understands your weakness and looks on you with everlasting love. As His child, redeemed by grace, you no longer live under God's wrath, but walk in hope. Do not hesitate! Do not delay! Rest in grace and pray in faith. Confidently call upon Jesus, praying in the Spirit for mercy, and you will receive it. Repent and be forgiven.

Yet, repentance is much more than simply speaking the right words or saying some magic formula. True repentance affirms what God says about your sin (it's terrible), what God says about your need (it's great), and seeks God's path to forgiveness (it's wonderful). The prayer of repentance renews your dependence on Christ and his work. The prayer of repentance restores your relationship with God.

A – Ask Jesus to help you follow Him and never hold back expressing to Him all that's on your heart.

Prayer forces our true convictions out into the open and opens our convictions to align with God's character. Prayer isn't a one-sided conversation where you talk to God, never quite knowing if He hears you or never quite sensing His guidance. Rather, prayer opens your heart to listen to God and surrender yourself to Him each moment.

Spend time talking to God about what you think and feel, and He will guide your thoughts and feelings. After you have moved into a relationship with God in Christ Jesus, prayer sustains you as you walk down a path of purposeful dependence. You cannot follow God's will in your own strength, but need to constantly surrender your heart's deepest desires to be shaped by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer pushes us to use words, and our words reveal what's really in our hearts. Jesus tells us that the mouth speaks out of what's in the heart, whether that's good or evil (Luke 6:45). As well, Matthew 6:21

confirms that our hearts reveal what we truly treasure. And Proverbs 4:23 cautions us to guard our hearts as the wellspring for every action. Where we focus our time, invest our money, build our relationships, and spend our lives reveals what is really in our hearts. Yet, opening your heart to God does not reveal new information to Him. He already knows what is there!

Instead, it reveals to you just how deeply you need Jesus to guide you, sustain you, and direct you. Prayer offers a chance to talk to God about the details of your life and allows His peace to flood into your life.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6–7

Y – Yield your life to God’s mission to make Jesus known to all people including the neighborhood you live in and the nations who have little to no access to the gospel.

As Eugene Peterson puts it, “Prayer gets us in on what God’s doing.” What a simple yet powerful truth! Prayer works to change our disposition and open our lives to completely surrender to God’s plans. God is on mission in the world, redeeming and restoring this world for His glory.

God did not redeem you to sit and bask in the eternal promise of paradise after you die. He redeemed you to boldly proclaim His fame to every tongue, tribe, and nation. Prayer begins the process of speaking to God about His plans and allowing this speaking to change how you look at the world. We often read the promises of Ephesians 2:8–9 without reading verse 10. Listen to God’s words to you:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8–10

You were not saved by grace through faith to sit and bask in His forgiveness. You were saved to walk a path of service in the kingdom of God. God saved you to serve! The gospel changes everything and prayer opens our lives to see how God is moving.

When you make yourself available to God, He moves you to reach out in word and deed to those in need. He fills your heart with love and reshapes the goals of your life. He moves you to display the gospel to your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Greater still, you begin to see the world as He sees the world. You see His desire to redeem a people out of the nations. You see His desire for love and justice among all people. Prayer moves you beyond any regional or national boundaries. It connects with God's glorious gift of grace offered to all the world.

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you struggle to pray?

2. What does that struggle reveal about your heart?

3. What steps could you take to make yourself more willing to go to God in prayer?

RUN IN COMMUNITY

DAY 4

The Christian life isn't meant to be rushed, but to be shared in deep fellowship with God and His people. To fulfill this need, you should join a Bible-teaching, Jesus-loving, Spirit-filled local church. You cannot walk through life alone, without the support of the community of faith. As an old African proverb says, "If you want to run fast, run alone; if you want to run far, run together." We have a long way to go in this life, and we cannot do it alone. You will experience challenges, heartaches, doubt, and countless other trials. Don't chart your course without the gifts of Christian fellowship.

God never intended for you to follow Jesus alone.

From the very beginning, God created people to live together. When sin entered the world, division and strife slipped into human connections. We push away from each other out of our self-reliance and sinful rebellion. We were originally created for fellowship in Eden, and we are wonderfully recreated for fellowship through new life in Christ.

As Paul writes in Ephesians 4, God's children live together in love, growing up into our head, Christ, and building up one another in love. As we dwell in peace and true fellowship, God is glorified. We are connected by the Holy Spirit regardless of how we feel inside. Trust God has your best interests at heart, trust that your church family needs your presence, and trust that you need the partnership of your brothers and sisters in the gospel.

God desires that we follow Jesus in community with others who help us run.

Surround yourself with others in a local church who love Jesus and learn from them. Be encouraged by your church family, and be an encourager too.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24–25

Living well and loving Christ require living in community and loving God's people. Yet, this kind of community doesn't happen without concentrated efforts. You must meaningfully think about ways to serve your church family. You must reflect on ways you need to open yourself to living in Christian community. Do you have a specific skill or passion that would help your church engage your community with the gospel? Run in community! Are you struggling to know how to connect with your spouse, parent your children, or are you facing financial hardships? Run in community! Don't rush through life all alone. Look to walk with God's people in eager anticipation for Christ's return.

God did not create us or redeem us to live all alone. Don't reject the wonderful comforts of living life in true fellowship with God's people. If you are unsure what steps you need to take to get

connected in community, here are some practical ways to get you started.

Make a public commitment to God and His people by being baptized.

Once you have found a local church, join it, get baptized, and let the church know you are a follower of Jesus. When you receive grace in salvation through Jesus Christ, you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, bringing new life. When you practice baptism in the community of believers, you are identifying publicly with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. You are practicing the gospel and connecting to gospel-shaped community. As Romans 6:3–4 states:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Connecting your spiritual rebirth to the physical and relational dynamics of your life brings all you are, body and soul, into submission to God's redemption. Baptism marks your place in Christian community and publicly proclaims the reality of your faith. Your new life doesn't belong to you to be used for personal benefit. You are redeemed to live out loud, embracing how the gospel reshapes all of your existence. Baptism moves you down the path of bringing all you are under submission to Christ.

Receive communion to remember the gospel lived out in genuine community.

Begin taking communion, and let that serve you in remembering all Jesus has done to make you right with God. Let it give you hope that Jesus is coming again soon. Jesus initiated this practice right before He went to the cross to die for our sins.

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:17–19

As humans, we are so forgetful. If we forget names, grocery lists, phone numbers, or anniversaries, we are certainly going to overlook the majestic beauty and deep sacrifice revealed in the gospel. Receiving communion with the church draws every believer into a shared act of participatory remembrance. When you receive the bread and cup, you look back to what the gospel means in your life. Remember the body and blood of Christ and repent of your sin. When you receive the bread and cup, you look to your future home with Christ. Remember the body and blood of Christ and receive hope from God.

Join a small group where you can join with others living out new life in Christ.

It is essential for you to get into a small group soon so others can walk with you on this journey. When we are reborn to new life in Christ, we are much like a child learning to walk. Along the way, we experience stumbles, get some bruises, and fall down. To come through the challenges of life with grace and faith, God planned to connect you with a church family. You need the accountability of close companions. You need the encouragement of deep friendships. You need the responsibility of serving others. When you connect with other believers walking out faith in Christ, you receive Spirit-guided companionship and a new vision of your existence. You watch life being renewed by the gospel each day through your own experiences and the experiences of others close to you.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to live in Christian community? How does our walk with Christ change when we live life closely connected to other believers?
2. Why do you struggle to connect with a local church?
3. What place does baptism and communion have in your life? Do you need to reevaluate your priorities to make room for God's design for you to live in community?

RECITE YOUR STORY

DAY 5

Tell everyone all that Jesus has done for you. It's your story of God's grace in your life and the world needs to hear stories of His goodness. Don't hide what He has done for you. Don't waste the power of the gospel on yourself, but take the gospel to the world. The world needs to hear the freeing story of the gospel. Jesus is the bread of life who brings new birth to all His children.

Tell it concisely.

God's grace is extravagant but stories of grace don't need to be. Don't hide from the pure, simple truth of being drawn out of the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light in Jesus Christ. Your story can be as simply expressed as the man born blind in John 9. When facing the Pharisees, he answers their challenges with a plain accounting for what Jesus has done for him.

He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

John 9:25

Even as the religious leaders continued to doubt his story of healing, this man's saving faith found full expression in a simple response, "I was blind, now I see." As you tell your story, remind yourself of grace not your goodness. If grace saves you, grace still enables you to speak in the power of the Spirit, declaring the goodness of Jesus overcoming the depth of your sin. Trusting in God for salvation means trusting God in the retelling of your salvation. You were blind but now you see!

Tell it joyfully.

Carrying the burden of death and sin is crushing. When you came to Christ, He lifted this burden. He broke the power of sin and shame. He brought life where there was only death. He secured eternal peace with God where there was absolute rejection by God. Rejoice, brothers and sisters! Echo the cry of David from Psalm 95.

*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
Psalm 95:1-7*

If you don't sense the deep joys offered in the gospel, listen to David's reminders. Being joyful begins with a growing, vibrant

relationship with Jesus, our great God and great King above all others. Marvel at your salvation, pause to consider His mighty acts in creation. He sustains all things yet he has drawn you up in grace to salvation in Jesus.

Being joyful grows as we remember God's goodness. David seems to mix metaphors when he declares us to be people of God's pasture and sheep of God's hands. Yet, interweaving these images connects the splendor of creation with the beauty of salvation. Our joy ought to match the joyous praise of all created order. With abundant joy, declare God's goodness in creation. With abundant joy, retell God's goodness in salvation.

Tell it passionately.

From sports to literature, from fashion to technology, we are all passionate about something. Typically, our passions connect to our hearts at the deepest level and grow out into habits, hobbies, and conversations. If you have tasted the goodness of Christ in salvation, your heart has been changed. As Paul describes in Ephesians 2, you have been brought from death to life. You were once dead in sins but now you are alive in Christ. God saved us to live for him and opens our hearts to passionately proclaim His name.

While the gospel may not change all of your hobbies, the gospel will revolutionize the way you pursue your passions. Seeing God ought to change the way you see everything else. When you see God's rule over all your life, you begin to see your life's pursuits as platforms for the gospel. When you experience the life-changing relationship of union with Christ, you see life's goals as opportunities for eternal significance. Work to re-caste the passions of your life around the truths of the gospel. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in all things as you walk in fellowship with Him (Galatians 5:16). You have a message that reveals God's grace to all mankind. Tell it!

Our city and this world need to hear the good news of Jesus. Go and make disciples. Do it concisely, allowing the simple truths of Jesus to reach the hearts and minds of those who need to hear of God's grace. Do it joyfully, looking to God and His glory will drive you to proclaim his goodness. Do it passionately, watching the matchless beauty of Christ fill up your heart and view every aspect of your life as a platform for the gospel.

QUESTIONS

1. Take time to reflect on your story of saving grace and write a simple account of that story below.

2. Why do you struggle to speak your testimony with joy? What burdens are you carrying that dampen your love for Jesus?

3. What are you passionate about in life? Are these passions distracting you from the gospel or offering a platform for declaring the gospel in your daily life?



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