

FAITH NOTES

[Jesus said,] “Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

(Matthew 7:24)

A CHRIST-CENTERED SURVIVAL KIT FOR YOUNG MEN

Michael W. Newman

DEDICATION

To Layne and Wyatt.
*“These are written so that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that by believing you may
have life in His name”
(John 20:31).*



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MY NAME IS:

.....
PRINT YOUR NAME HERE

**I AM THANKFUL TO WALK IN FAITH
WITH JESUS, MY SAVIOR!**

.....
SIGN YOUR NAME HERE

QUICK-START GUIDE

These short and quick-to-read devotions may be exactly what you need most right now. **You are living in one of the most challenging seasons of life.** How do you get through it? Not by letting the world's agenda and attitude fill your notebook of life, but by taking note of the good, wise, and exciting life Jesus has given you. Along the way, your Savior will bless you with the survival tools you need most.

How can you use this devotional? Here are some tips:

- ❑ Read one sentence. That's right. Each devotion opens with a one-sentence, bite-sized, faith-growing nugget to chew on. Even if you don't like to read, you can look at one sentence every day.
- ❑ If you take another day to read the "God's Word Speaks" and "Need a Little More?" sections included with each devotion, you'll have two or three days worth of daily devotional material for each topic.
- ❑ Use the "Faith Notes" section of each devotion to journal, think, pray, doodle, and apply what you've read.
- ❑ Find subjects that match your needs in the "Contents" pages or the "Index of Subjects" (p. 217) and let God's Word provide help and guidance when and where you need it most.

- ❑ Finally, don't worry about reading the book from front to back. Choose the topic that fits your situations and interests in the moment.

Jesus is the true friend you need. He is stronger than your struggles. He teaches you and leads you faithfully. He carries you through every joy and sorrow, every challenge and blessing. Jesus loves you and cares about you. His death and resurrection for you prove it. He will never abandon you.

Trust Him on your faith journey.

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BIG WORRY: YOUR IDENTITY

ONE-SENTENCE DEVOTION

Listen carefully, young man of God: your identity—the core and foundation of who you really are—is this: you are a loved and treasured child of God, who gives everything for you on your challenging journey of life; believe it and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

GOD'S WORD SPEAKS

And [Jesus] opened His mouth and taught
[His disciples]. (MATTHEW 5:2)

NEED A LITTLE MORE?

Jesus cares so much about you that He takes time to talk to you. He teaches you through His Word. He shares His wisdom. And He gives you His strength and peace. He calls you His friend and brother through Baptism. Don't ever let anyone convince you that you are anything else but God's beloved child. Jesus proved His love for you when He gave His life for you on the cross. Be careful, because other people, the world, the

1

BIG MISTAKE: PERFECTIONISM

ONE-SENTENCE DEVOTION:

Admit it: you know that you're imperfect and flawed, which is why you need what God gives freely every day: His gifts of forgiveness, grace, and strength.

GOD'S WORD SPEAKS

And great crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. (MATTHEW 4:25)

NEED A LITTLE MORE?

Babies can't do much at all. If they're not cared for, fed, nurtured, and loved, they won't survive. Guess what? You were a baby once, and you're still weak and helpless in so many ways. That's why you shouldn't get so frustrated or depressed when you struggle to learn something—like math, reading, making your bed, driving, or shooting free throws. You don't know everything, and you can't do everything automatically. You make mistakes. Some things will always be hard.

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PURITY PATHWAY: YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE

ONE-SENTENCE DEVOTION

Life with God means you never have to hide, because even when you fail and even when you sin, God loves you, welcomes you, and calls you His own, allowing you to be free from secrets and shame.

GOD'S WORD SPEAKS

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (JOHN 8:12)

NEED A LITTLE MORE?

After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God in the Garden of Eden. They were ashamed of their disobedience and found themselves walking in darkness. Walking in darkness, concealing what you're doing, is a clear indicator of impurity in your life. What are you hiding? Are you lying to your parents about where you go, what you're doing, and who you're with? Do you immediately turn off your phone or close a browser when someone

enters your room? Is your behavior with your girlfriend inappropriate for others to see? Walking in darkness means that you're not walking in Jesus' direction. But instead of a life in hiding, Jesus gives you a life in the light. If you practice appropriate public affection with your girlfriend, you don't have to hide. If your online activity can be viewed by all, you do not need to keep it secret. If you can speak the truth to your parents, you are on the path of purity. Even if you're hiding in darkness right now, Jesus loves you so much that He calls you out of secrecy, blesses you with His forgiveness, and leads you to a new start in His light today.

FAITH NOTES

What in your life needs to come out of darkness so that you can have forgiveness and renewal?

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WWW.REALITY

ONE-SENTENCE DEVOTION

Before you get lost in the virtual world, you need to know that God loves you in the real world, draws close to you with His real Word and presence, and gives you the great purpose of showing His love and sharing His Good News with real people.

GOD'S WORD SPEAKS

[Zechariah said,] “Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (LUKE 1:78-79)

NEED A LITTLE MORE?

Beware of getting lost in the gaming universe or the fake world of social media. It's very easy to get stuck doomscrolling, to forget to eat or sleep, or to put off going to the bathroom as you conquer the next video game obstacle with your friends online. Remember that there is a real world out there. There are real people. God sent His “sunrise” from on high, Jesus, the Savior,

to shine His light to everyone sitting in the darkness and shadows. Knowing this real light and truth is really important before you enter the virtual world. When you understand God's love for you and are tuned in to His purpose for you, you can build virtual gaming and viewing habits that give priority to real people and the real purpose of shining Jesus' light.

FAITH NOTES

When do you disconnect so you can experience the real world?

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FRIENDS: THE FRIEND

ONE-SENTENCE DEVOTION

Jesus calls you His friend, and He proved His friendship by laying down His life to save you, which is your foundation for forging true friendships with others by loving the people in your life as your Savior has loved you.

GOD'S WORD SPEAKS

[Jesus said,] “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.” (JOHN 15:12–15)

NEED A LITTLE MORE?

In order to have friends, you need to know what a true friend is. Jesus set the standard when He befriended you—a fallen sinner with many shortcomings—by giving His life for you. Because you have already received His

love and grace, you now follow Him on the path of true friendship. You show your friendship with Jesus by doing what He commands. You listen, learn, serve, and praise Him. You spend time with Him in worship, prayer, and the reading of His Word. You also follow in His steps by befriending others with caring, patient, forgiving, unconditional love. You become a friend like Jesus. And when you feel grouchy, lose your temper, show some unkindness, and fall short, your friend, Jesus, restores you and renews you so you can reflect Him to others again. If you ever feel alone, know that you have the greatest friend with you: Jesus, who is always by your side and who teaches you how to be a friend to others.

FAITH NOTES

What friend qualities do you see in Jesus? Who in your life needs to receive those blessings from you?

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FIFTY-TWO BIBLE VERSES FOR YOUR LIFE

When you need peace:

[Jesus said,] “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (JOHN 14:27)

When your heart is broken:

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (PSALM 34:18)

When you feel alone:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (JOSHUA 1:9)

When you feel angry:

Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. (PSALM 4:4–5)

When talking is getting you in trouble:

Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent. (PROVERBS 17:28)