



"Loveably Unlovable!"

August 24, 2025

DEVOTIONS AND NOTES FOR AUGUST 25-30

Monday, August 25 Read Psalm 16

Faith, indeed most of life, is about choices. What boundary lines do you choose and in whom do you entrust the directions and decisions of your life? We like to think we are independent but the truth is we are only independent insofar as what and who we choose to align ourselves with. What reasons do you have for trusting yourself to God's care?

Tuesday, August 26 Read Isaiah 12:2-6

For the ancient Israelites, triumph was defined by political and military success but those things, by nature, are always temporary. Reflect on this prophecy from both the perspective of the ancients and from our, post-Easter perspective. Why and how do we sing God's praises today?

Wednesday, August 27 Read Acts 4:23-31

Here the first Christians have been told to stop their preaching and go along with the surrounding world. Note in their prayer the recognition that God's People are always challenged and opposed by the forces of the fallen world. What do they desire boldness for (v.29)? What do we need boldness for in our time and place? Where do you personally need boldness?

Thursday, August 28 Read John 20:19-31

Why does Thomas doubt his friends' story? Note that God graciously offers what Thomas needs to strengthen his faith. What sorts of encouragements does God offer to strengthen you in your discipleship? Where do you find encouragement and where do you share encouragement with others? Discuss this with God in prayer today.

Friday, August 29 Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

What tests your faith? What holds you back from being the sort of disciple you feel God is calling you to be? How does Peter encourage faltering disciples here and to what do we cling when we face trials? How often do we give up at merely the *idea* of facing opposition? Why?

Saturday, August 31 Read Psalm 46

Read this psalm through a few times and listen carefully for its message to *you* personally. What is God trying to say to you and how are you called to respond? Discuss this with God in prayer today.

Sermon Notes

"Lovably Unlovable"

1. **Boldness grows out of a confidence in God's love and presence...not the world's!**

"You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day. Then he will save you, just as he has always planned to do. "-1 Peter 1:5

2. **Boldness is strengthened through an adherence to our purpose.**

"Lord, listen to their threats! We are your servants. So make us brave enough to speak your message. "-Acts 4:29

3. **Boldness is not defined by combative-ness but rather a fierce love for the lost.**

"Show your mighty power, as we heal people and work miracles and wonders in the name of your holy Servant Jesus." -Acts 4:30



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PART ONE: FREEDOM IS JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE

1. Read Psalm 16 aloud and discuss the following:

- Faith, indeed most of life, is about choices. What boundary lines do you choose and in whom do you entrust the directions and decisions of your life?
- We like to think we are independent but the truth is we are only independent insofar as what and who we choose to align ourselves with. What reasons do you have for trusting yourself to God's care?
- Look at Sermon note #1. How do we remain aware of God's presence so that we may draw confidence from it?

PART TWO: THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

1. Read Acts 4:23-31 aloud in the group. Share: In this passage the first Christians have been told by the authorities to stop their preaching and go along with the surrounding world. Note in their prayer the recognition that God's People are always challenged and opposed by the forces of the fallen world." As a group, reflect on the following:

- What do they desire boldness for (v.29)? What do we need boldness for in our time and place (be as specific as possible)? Where do you personally need boldness?
- Look at Sermon Note #2 and re-read v.29. How do distractions from our purpose sow seeds of doubt and worry? What is our purpose as the church here in Cordele? What concerns distract us from that purpose? Why? Where and how are we required to be "brave enough to speak {God's} message (Acts 4:29)?"

2. Look at Sermon Note #3 and re-read Acts 4:30. Then discuss the following:

- What is the motivational difference, in terms of how we live our faith and share our witness, between combativeness and passionate love? Where and how do we cross that line and what might be the consequences?

3. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and discuss the following:

- What tests your faith? What holds you back from being the sort of disciple you feel God is calling you to be
- How does Peter encourage faltering disciples here and to what do we cling when we face trials? How often do we give up at merely the idea of facing opposition? Why?