

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## Day 1: Putting God First

*Reading: Exodus 20:1-3, Matthew 6:33*

The first commandment sets the foundation for our entire relationship with God: "You shall have no other gods before me." This isn't just about avoiding idol worship; it's about prioritizing God in every aspect of our lives. Jesus echoed this sentiment when He taught us to "seek first the kingdom of God." Reflect on areas of your life where God may have taken a back seat. Is it in your finances, your relationships, or perhaps your daily schedule? Remember, anything that consistently takes precedence over God in your life can become an idol.

## Day 2: The Value of God's Word

*Reading: Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Psalm 119:105-112*

God's commands are not burdensome rules, but loving guidance for our benefit. The Israelites were instructed to commit wholeheartedly to God's commands and to teach them diligently to their children. This shows the timeless value and relevance of God's Word. In our modern world, filled with countless voices and influences, God's Word remains a steadfast lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It provides wisdom, comfort, and direction in every situation we face. Consider how you engage with Scripture. Is it a daily habit, an occasional reference, or something you've neglected? Challenge yourself to deepen your relationship with God's Word.

## Day 3: Stewardship of God's Blessings

*Reading: Proverbs 3:9-10, 1 Corinthians 10:31*

God calls us to honor Him with our wealth and the firstfruits of all we produce. This principle extends beyond just money – it encompasses our time, talents, and all the resources God has entrusted to us. When we prioritize giving back to God, we acknowledge His sovereignty and express our trust in His provision. Moreover, we're encouraged to do everything for the glory of God – whether eating, drinking, or any other activity. This reminds us that every aspect of our lives can be an act of worship when done with the right heart and motivation. Reflect on how you're using the blessings God has given you. Are you using your talents to serve others? Are you managing your finances in a way that honors God? Consider one specific way you can better steward God's blessings this week.

## Day 4: Cultivating Godly Relationships

*Reading: Proverbs 27:19, 1 Corinthians 15:33*

The company we keep has a profound impact on our spiritual life. Our friendships and close relationships often reflect our values and shape our character. As believers, we're called to be in the world but not of it – maintaining a distinct identity while still engaging with those around us. This doesn't mean isolating ourselves from non-believers. Rather, it's about being intentional about our closest relationships and ensuring they encourage our faith rather than compromise it. It's also about being a positive influence on others, reflecting Christ's love and truth to those we interact with. Consider your closest relationships. Are there any relationships you need to reevaluate or boundaries you need to set? Conversely, are there godly friendships you need to cultivate or strengthen?

## Day 5: Trusting God in Troubles

*Reading: Psalm 46:1-3, Romans 8:28*

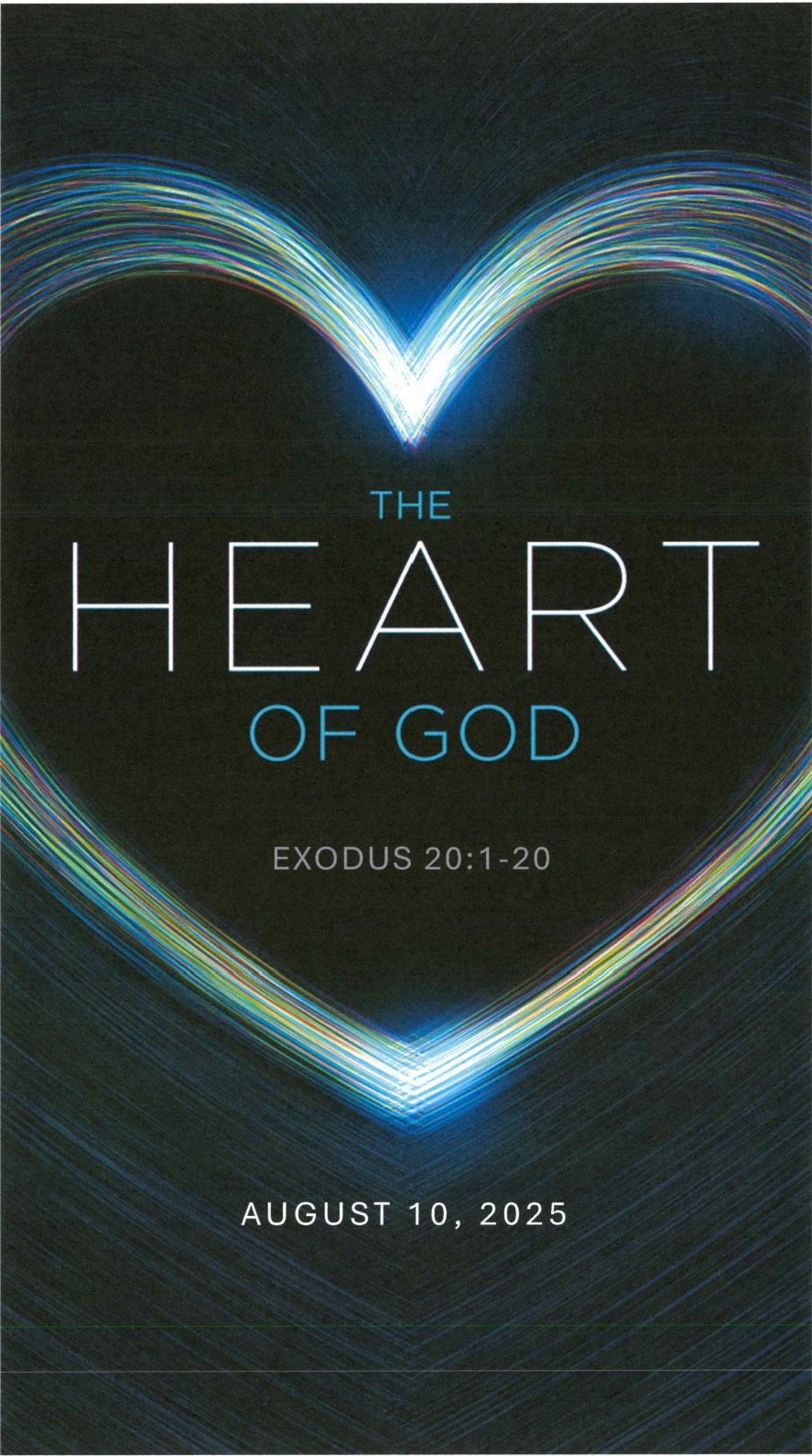
Life inevitably brings challenges and hardships. In these moments, our natural instinct might be to rely on our own strength or seek help from various sources. However, God invites us to turn to Him first in our times of trouble. He promises to be our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Trusting God doesn't mean we don't take action or seek help from others when appropriate. It means we approach our problems with the confidence that God is in control, that He cares for us, and that He can work all things for good for those who love Him. Reflect on a current challenge you're facing. Have you brought it to God in prayer? Are you trusting in His goodness and sovereignty, even if you can't see the resolution yet? Take time to cast your cares upon Him, knowing that He cares for you.

# DEACONS ON CALL

Josh Bell and David Downs

# WEEKLY EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE ADULT STUDY:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Kicks off August 20
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Kicks off August 20





# Who’s Number One?

Exodus 20:1-3

In our fast-paced, ever-changing world, it's easy to lose sight of what truly matters. We're bombarded with messages about what should be important - success, wealth, popularity, comfort. But amidst all the noise, there's a timeless truth that deserves our attention: the importance of putting God first in our lives.

## Introduction

These are NOT the ten suggestions!

These commands are the foundation for a strong life, family, church and culture.

Exodus 20:3 (NLT)

“You must not have any other god but me.”

Or in other words ...

God must be number one in my ...

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

\* is the warning light indicating that I have other things or people before God.

**Scripture References (In order of use):** Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 3:9-10; Deuteronomy 14:22; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Proverbs 27:19; Ephesians 5:16-17; Mark 1:35; Psalm 50:15; Matthew 6:33  
**Referenced Works:** The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott); Be Delivered (Warren Wiersbe); Ten Values that Build Strong Families (Rick Warren); Exodus (John Mackay); The Message of Exodus (Alec J. Motyer); Exodus (Peter Enns); Exodus & Leviticus (B. H. Carroll)

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Without looking it up, how many of the Ten Commandments can you name? What do you think is the significance of the first commandment??
- Read **Exodus 20:1-3**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
- What are some common "gods" in our society today that people often put before the true God?
- Patrick mentioned five areas where we should put God first. Which of these areas do you find most challenging, and why? In which of this areas has God help you the most? Explain.
- How does tithing teach us to put God first in our lives? What has been your experience with tithing?
- Discuss the statement: "You become like the people you spend the most time with." How have you seen this play out in your own life?
- Why do you think we often turn to prayer as a last resort instead of a first option when facing troubles?
- How can worry serve as a "warning light" in our spiritual lives? Share an example of when worry has pointed you back to God.

# PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Financial Priority: Review your spending for the past month. Identify one area where you could adjust to better reflect God's priority in your finances.
- Daily Appointment: Commit to a daily time with God this week. Share with the group how you plan to implement this and keep each other accountable.
- Relationship Audit: Evaluate your closest relationships. Are they drawing you closer to God or pulling you away? Consider how you might influence these relationships positively.
- Schedule Check: Before making plans this week, pause to pray and ask God for guidance on how to use your time wisely.
- Worry to Prayer: When you catch yourself worrying this week, use it as a prompt to immediately turn that concern over to God in prayer.