

Discerning God in Difficult Times

*A 15-Day Devotional focused on
the new complexities of work*



— G L O B A L
F A I T H & W O R K
I N I T I A T I V E
A MINISTRY OF REDEEMER CITY TO CITY

Copyright (c) 2020 by Redeemer City to City. All rights reserved
All rights reserved. Except as permitted under U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, scanned, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the Author. Requests for permission may be addressed to faithandwork@redeemercitytocity.com.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Discerning God in Difficult Times

*A 15-Day Devotional focused on
the new complexities of work*



— G L O B A L
F A I T H & W O R K
I N I T I A T I V E
A MINISTRY OF REDEEMER CITY TO CITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Day 1: Genesis 12:1-9	6
Day 2: Exodus 4:10-17	10
Day 3: Judges 4:4-10	14
Day 4: 1 Samuel 16:1-13	18
Day 5: Job 38	22
Day 6: Jeremiah 1:4-10, 20:7-9	27
Day 7: Esther 4:6-17	32
Day 8: Hosea 1	36
Day 9: Jonah 1	40
Day 10: Luke 1:26-56	44
Day 11: Matthew 4:18-22	48
Day 12: Matthew 26:36-55	52
Day 13: Acts 9:1-19	56
Day 14: Philippians 1:12-30	60
Day 15: James 5:7-19	64

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought fast and sweeping changes to work around the world. Many have lost their jobs, while others suddenly have more work than they can handle. Some jobs have become much more dangerous with virus exposure, while social distancing steps have led many to navigate remote work or school. Financial and provisional needs are now paramount to survival for an increasing number. And some are experiencing the ultimate loss of a colleague or loved one. The one common denominator is the upheaval of the social order we had taken for granted in our work.

In the midst of an uncertain future, driving ourselves into a deeper relationship with our Savior is the way to process our hurts, our anxieties, our losses and our confusion. The Lord is our Shepherd who leads us through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23).

We have crafted this devotional for this unique time in the hope that it will encourage you to allow God to speak into every aspect of your life today. We serve a God who came to earth to suffer. He offers a model of calling out to God in our troubles through Job, through the Psalms, through the Apostle Paul. Even Jesus cried out to God — “If it is possible, let this cup pass from me” (Matthew 26:39).

This 15-day devotional will help you consider how God is using his word to call you to daily faithfulness. How can you faithfully serve God in the things he is asking you to do today? How can his Word guide your motivations, your actions and your relationships today? If each day belongs to him, what is he asking you to do with him and for him today? Scripture passages highlight people who were called by the Lord to do difficult and sometimes seemingly impossible things. The goal of this devotional is to develop a discipline of seeking his will and guidance through meditation of God’s word and reflection of your days.

We hope that in this difficult time you will experience new and unexpected mercies — evidence of God’s faithfulness and love for you, that his dominion over all things will shine through your circumstances, and that the grace of our loving Savior will become even more real to you. We hope cultivating a habit of seeking his guidance in your daily life will increase your experience of his presence, sovereignty and love.

—*The Global Faith & Work Initiative Staff*

DAY 1

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Genesis 12:1–9

The Call of Abram

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great,

so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country

on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 2

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Exodus 4:10–17

¹⁰ But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue."

¹¹ Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." ¹³ But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." ¹⁴ Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do.

¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. ¹⁷ And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 3

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Judges 4:4–10

⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. ⁶ She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, "Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you, 'Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun.

⁷ And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand?" ⁸ Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." ⁹ And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰ And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 4

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

1 Samuel 16:1–13

David Anointed King

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears

it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'"³ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and

I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom

I declare to you."⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him."⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these."

¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." ¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 5

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Job 38

The Lord Speaks

¹ Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

² "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷ when the morning stars sang together

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸ "Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb,

⁹ when I made clouds its garment

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed limits for it

- and set bars and doors,
11 and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed"?
- 12 "Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,
13 that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?
14 It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.
15 From the wicked their light is withheld,
and their uplifted arm is broken.
- 16 "Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
18 Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.
- 19 "Where is the way to the dwelling of light,
and where is the place of darkness,
20 that you may take it to its territory
and that you may discern the paths to its home?
21 You know, for you were born then,
and the number of your days is great!
- 22 "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,
23 which I have reserved for the time of trouble,
for the day of battle and war?
24 What is the way to the place where the light is distributed,
or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?
- 25 "Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain
and a way for the thunderbolt,
26 to bring rain on a land where no man is,
on the desert in which there is no man,
27 to satisfy the waste and desolate land,
and to make the ground sprout with grass?
- 28 "Has the rain a father,
or who has begotten the drops of dew?
29 From whose womb did the ice come forth,
and who has given birth to the frost of heaven?

- ³⁰ The waters become hard like stone,
and the face of the deep is frozen.
- ³¹ "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades
or loose the cords of Orion?"
- ³² Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season,
or can you guide the Bear with its children?"
- ³³ Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?
Can you establish their rule on the earth?"
- ³⁴ "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
that a flood of waters may cover you?"
- ³⁵ Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go
and say to you, 'Here we are'?"
- ³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the inward parts
or given understanding to the mind?"
- ³⁷ Who can number the clouds by wisdom?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,
³⁸ when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods stick fast together?"
- ³⁹ "Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,
⁴⁰ when they crouch in their dens
or lie in wait in their thicket?"
- ⁴¹ Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God for help,
and wander about for lack of food?"

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 6

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Jeremiah 1:4–10, 20:7-9

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." ⁷ But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a youth';
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
declares the Lord."

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me,
"Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to break down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

^{20:7-9} O Lord, you have deceived me,
and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all the day;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I cry out,
I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 7

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Esther 4:6-17

⁶ Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, ⁷ and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. ⁹ And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, ¹¹ "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

¹² And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. ¹³ Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" ¹⁵ Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶ "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." ¹⁷ Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 8

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Hosea 1

¹ The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beerai, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

Hosea's Wife and Children

² When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord."³ So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ And the Lord said to him, "Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel."⁵ And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

⁶ She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all."⁷ But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

⁸ When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son.⁹ And the Lord said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

¹⁰ Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which

cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God." ¹¹ And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 9

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Jonah 1

Jonah Flees the Presence of the Lord

¹ Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." ³ But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

⁴ But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶ So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

Jonah Is Thrown into the Sea

⁷ And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" ⁹ And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men

knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹² He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." ¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. ¹⁴ Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

A Great Fish Swallows Jonah

¹⁷ And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 10

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Luke 1:26-56

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 11

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Matthew 4:18–22

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 12

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Matthew 26:36-55

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man;

seize him.”⁴⁹ And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him.⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.⁵¹ And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.”⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?⁵⁴ But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY’S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 13

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Acts 9:1-19

The Conversion of Saul

⁹ But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for

he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 14

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

Philippians 1:12-30

The Advance of the Gospel

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

To Live Is Christ

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in

me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.

DAY 15

1.) BEGIN WITH OF AN OPENING PRAYER OF INVITATION (2 MINS)

- » Sit comfortably in stillness for two minutes and be reminded of God's presence.
- » Remember that our God brings structure out of the chaos of our days and leads us with his gracious hand.
- » Invite the Holy Spirit, who searches our hearts, to guide you through this time of reflection.

2.) AS YOU READ THE PASSAGE, CONSIDER AND ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS (8 MINS)

- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about God?
- » Identify one thing this passage reveals about you/people?

James 5:7-19

Patience in Suffering

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

¹² But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he

prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

3.) REVIEW THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS (5 MINS)

- » Remembering that each day is a gift from the Lord, review your day and write down a basic chronology of what happened.
- » Does any particular task, event, or interaction stand out to you?

4.) CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS (3 MINS)

Our emotions are an important expression of the desires in our hearts; however, we can become unaware of our emotions given the frantic nature of our circumstances. When we are not aware of our emotions and the desires that underlie them, the things that tear us away from God can gain strength and power in our lives.

- » Reflect on the day's events and list the feelings that you experienced throughout the day—fear, anxiety, boredom, happiness, resentment, elation, hope, anger, compassion, etc...

5.) HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GREATER FAITHFULNESS? (4 MINS)

We are faithful (or unfaithful) toward God in the details of our lives as much as in the big decisions we make. He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.

- » As you consider the past day, invite God's voice into that task, event or interaction you noted. What might he be saying to you about it?
- » How is Christ calling you to change your motivations, your actions and your speech? Or what might he say about a decision or an outcome?
- » Where is God asking you to faithfully serve him today with the tasks, relationships and circumstances he has given you?

6.) PRAY ABOUT THE CHANGE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED (5 MINS)

- » Take time to pray for insight in this one particular area of growth. Pray that God would guide you in this change. Pray for the other people who will be directly affected by your growth in this area.
- » Praise God for his character and his promises and how he is at work in you.
- » Consider the gospel and God's immense love toward you to motivate your change toward greater faithfulness.
- » Remember that God patiently leads us each day. Our mistakes are redeemable and today's victories do not guarantee success tomorrow.
- » Ask that you would be more aware of God's guiding presence in the day to come and the places he is asking you to serve for his glory with the circumstances he has put in front of you.