



5 Day Devotional

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. It will explore the theme of finding hope and transformation in the messiness of life, grounded in scripture and personal reflection.

Day 1

Acts 9:1-19

The journey of faith often encounters the unexpected. In Acts 9, we see Saul's dramatic encounter with Jesus, illustrating how God's pursuit of us can transform our lives even amid chaos. We might feel lost or discouraged, but it is essential to remember that our relationship with Jesus does not eliminate life's challenges; instead, it empowers us to navigate them. The transformation that Saul experienced is a testament to the hope available to anyone who turns towards Christ. As we reflect on our own lives, we must ask ourselves how we are responding to the unexpected messes that come our way. Are we searching for God in our struggles? Or do we retreat into ourselves, hoping things will improve without action? God's call often requires us to step out in faith, trusting that He is at work in our circumstances. - What unexpected situations have you faced recently, and how did you respond? - In what ways do you struggle to believe that God is with you in your mess? - How can reflecting on Saul's story encourage you in your own life journey? - Pray for clarity and courage to see God's hand at work in your difficulties. - Ask God to help you embrace the messiness of life as part of your journey with Him.

(Additional verses for reflection - Deuteronomy 31:8; James 1:2-8)

Day 2

Luke 15:4-6

Jesus' parable about the lost sheep highlights His relentless pursuit of us, reminding us that we are valued and loved individually. Just like the shepherd who searches for his one lost sheep, Jesus actively seeks us out, even amid our failings and messes. This powerful imagery speaks volumes about God's nature, underscoring that our relationship with Him is not based on our perfection but on His unwavering love. When we acknowledge our mess and turn to Jesus, we can experience His transformative power. The challenge lies in recognizing that while Jesus loves us deeply, the relationship doesn't simply erase life's challenges. Instead, it invites us to walk through them with grace, humility, and the assurance of His presence. - How does knowing you are pursued by Jesus change your perspective on your struggles? - What areas of your life do you need to invite Jesus into for healing and transformation? - Can you identify a time when you felt lost and how God helped you find your way back? - Consider praying for those who feel lost or distant from God. - Reflect on the comfort of knowing that Jesus wants to carry you through your struggles.

(Additional verses for reflection - Luke 15:11-32)

Day 3

Acts 9:15-16

Following Jesus' lead in the midst of difficulty requires obedience and trust. Ananias' story exemplifies this perfectly. Despite his fears, he obeyed the call to meet Saul, knowing that God had a plan for him. This act of faith not only transformed Saul but also deepened Ananias' understanding of God's grace and purpose. As believers, we are often called to step out in faith, even when it feels uncomfortable. It's essential to remember that our journey of faith is not a solitary one. Engaging deeply with others, especially those in difficult situations, provides opportunities for God to work through us. We may not always see the immediate impact, but trusting that God is using our presence to spread hope is crucial for our growth and others'. - In what areas of your life is God asking you to step out in faith? - How do you view the process of obedience when it feels challenging? - Have you ever hesitated to engage with someone in need out of fear? What happened? - Pray for the courage to respond to God's call, even when it requires vulnerability. - Seek God's guidance on whom to engage with and how to show up in their lives.

(Additional verses for reflection - Joshua 1:7-9; 2 Timothy 1:7)

Day 4

Acts 9:17

The ministry of presence is about showing up in people's lives, providing support, and sharing God's love directly. Ananias' act of placing his hands on Saul represents the God-given authority to bring healing and transformation. It reminds us that physical presence—a simple touch, a kind word—can make a significant difference in another person's life, especially those who feel isolated or broken. Engaging intimately in others' lives requires us to overcome any preconceived notions about their past. Just as Jesus welcomed Saul into the family of believers, we must learn to let go of judgments to truly reflect Christ's love. Our willingness to embrace others can facilitate powerful transformations—not just in their lives but in our own as we learn to see through God's eyes. - Who in your life needs your presence and support right now? - Are there biases or judgments you're holding onto that prevent you from being present? - How can you demonstrate the love of Christ to those who are not expected within your comfort zone? - Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal the people He wants you to engage with. - Reflect on the ways Jesus engaged with others, and ask for the same heart towards those around you.

(Additional verses for reflection - Matthew 25:33-40; James 2:14-17)

Day 5

Ephesians 2:4-10

As we conclude our devotional journey, it's vital to remember that life can be messy, but God uses that mess to create masterpieces of hope and purpose. Each of us is designed for good works, and through our struggles, Jesus can bring forth something beautiful. Ananias' story may be less known, but it exemplifies that even small acts of obedience can have world-altering effects. Embracing our mess and allowing God to transform it into something meaningful requires surrender. Hope begins with Jesus, and as we actively engage in our faith, we not only allow Him to heal our brokenness but also become vessels of that hope for others. Let us move forward, trusting in His plan and being willing to step into the mess together. - How do you see God using your personal mess for His glory? - What steps can you take to remain open to God's transformative work in your life? - Can you identify someone whose story inspires you? How can you learn from their journey? - Pray for the insight to recognize the good works God has prepared for you to do. - Ask God to help you embrace the mess and find hope within it.

(Additional verses for reflection - Hebrews 11:1-12)