CROSSWAY CHURCH



How to Use This Devotional

Each day includes **scripture readings and discussion questions** tailored for different levels of engagement. Follow this simple guide:

- If you have young children (4-7 years old), read the first scripture and answer Question 1 together.
- If you have older children (8-12 years old), read the first two scriptures and answer Questions 1 & 2.
- If you want to go deeper, read all three scriptures and answer all three questions. You may also consider reading the surrounding chapters to gain a fuller understanding of the passage and how it fits within the broader biblical context.

Additionally, each day includes a **recommended sermon** from our pastor, Ron Jones, and his *Something Good* radio program. These sermons serve as supplemental material to deepen your understanding and further encourage spiritual renewal. Consider listening to them individually or discussing them as a family.

The goal is **not to be another task in your day** but a **catalyst for deeper conversations** that continue long after you close these pages. These short but meaningful devotionals are designed to **spark reflection and discussion**—whether in your home, at work, or with friends—so that spiritual renewal extends beyond this moment into your daily life.

Consider keeping a journal throughout the week to **record how God is speaking to you** and to document **prayers, insights, or challenges** that arise. Let this be more than just a study—**let it be the beginning of ongoing growth in your walk with Christ.**

Day 1: Peacemakers <u>Recommended Sermon</u> Scripture Reading:

- 1. <u>James 3:18</u>
- 2. Galatians 5:22-23
- 3. Matthew 5:9-12

Devotional Thought:

Conflict is inevitable, but how we respond to it shapes our character and testimony. Jesus calls us to be **peacemakers**—not merely peacekeepers. A peacemaker actively works to restore harmony and seeks reconciliation, even when it is difficult. This does not mean ignoring problems or avoiding confrontation but rather approaching conflicts with **love**, **wisdom**, **and a heart aligned with Christ**.

True peace is a result of the Spirit's work in us. **Galatians 5** describes peace as a **fruit of the Spirit**, growing in our lives as we remain rooted in Christ. Being a peacemaker is not about avoiding difficult conversations but about engaging with **humility**, **patience**, **and grace**. Even in disagreement, we can reflect Jesus by treating others with respect and kindness.

Jesus Himself exemplified peace. He did not retaliate when wronged but extended forgiveness, even in His final moments on the cross. As His followers, we are called to do the same. In our **homes, workplaces, and communities**, we have the opportunity to model Christ-like peace—not by avoiding difficult situations, but by approaching them with **grace, wisdom, and love**.

Peacemaking is **not passive—it requires courage**. Sometimes, it means **speaking up** when injustice is present. Other times, it means **choosing to let go** of personal offenses for the sake of unity. **It is a reflection of our trust in God's ability to work in every situation.** When we choose peace, we mirror God's heart and His call to live in **harmony with one another**.

Discussion & Reflection:

- 1. How can you show kindness to someone today, even if they have been unkind to you?
- 2. What are some practical ways to bring peace when there is conflict?
- 3. How does being a peacemaker reflect the character of Christ? How can you practice peacemaking in your daily life?

Challenge for Today: Choose peace today. If a conflict arises, respond with patience and kindness instead of anger. Pray for wisdom to handle difficult situations with grace. Ask God to help you be a peacemaker in your family, workplace, and community.

Day 2: God Sees Me <u>Recommended Sermon</u> Scripture Reading:

- 1. <u>Genesis 16:13</u>
- 2. Psalm 139:1-6
- 3. <u>Hebrews 4:12-13</u>

Devotional Thought:

We all have moments when we feel **unnoticed or forgotten**, but **God sees us**. Just as He saw Hagar in her distress, He sees **every detail** of our lives—our struggles, victories, and everything in between.

Knowing that **God sees us** is both **comforting and convicting**. He is intimately aware of our thoughts, desires, and challenges. No moment is too small for His attention. Even when the world overlooks us, we are **fully known and deeply loved** by Him. His awareness is not distant—it is **personal, filled with care and compassion**.

God does not merely watch from afar; He **walks with us** through every high and low. His love is not based on our **success, status, or appearance**—it is **constant and unchanging**. This truth should shape how we see **ourselves and others**. If God values each of us so fully, we should extend that same kindness, recognizing the **worth** of those around us.

God's awareness of us also reminds us that **our actions matter**. We are accountable to Him in how we **live**, **love**, **and lead**. Instead of seeking approval from others, we can **rest in the assurance** that we are **cherished by our Creator**. Let this truth lead you to live with **integrity and faithfulness**, knowing that God **sees you**, **knows you**, **and cares deeply for you**.

Discussion & Reflection:

- 1. How does it make you feel to know that God sees and cares for you at all times?
- 2. Why is it important to remember that God knows everything about us?
- 3. How does knowing that God sees you affect the way you live your life? How can this truth change your perspective on daily challenges?

Challenge for Today: Encourage someone today by reminding them that God sees and loves them. Speak words of truth and encouragement to those who may feel unseen. Take time to pray and ask God to reveal His presence to you in a personal way.

Day 3: Let Love Lead Recommended Sermon Scripture Reading:

- 1. <u>1 John 4:7</u>
- 2. John 13:34-35
- 3. <u>1 Corinthians 13:4-7</u>

Devotional Thought:

Love is at the core of our faith. Jesus commanded us to love one another—not as an option, but as a defining mark of His followers. Our love should mirror His—sacrificial, patient, and full of grace.

Love is not just a feeling; it is an action. It means choosing kindness when frustrated, offering forgiveness when wronged, and putting others before ourselves. The love described in 1 Corinthians 13 is not self-seeking but seeks the good of others, reflecting God's nature in us.

Jesus set the highest standard of love—**selfless and unconditional**. He loved the broken, the unworthy, and even those who rejected Him, ultimately **laying down His life for us**. His love calls us to look beyond our own desires and serve others, even when it is **difficult or inconvenient**.

Loving as Jesus did is **not always easy**. There will be times when we are hurt or tempted to withhold love, but **true love extends grace** even when it's costly. It **unites families, strengthens relationships, and reflects God's heart** to the world.

The world distorts love, making it **conditional or self-serving**. But **biblical love is countercultural**—it gives without expecting anything in return. It chooses **reconciliation over bitterness** and **humility over pride**. When we allow **God's love to lead us**, our faith is strengthened, and our relationships flourish.

Discussion & Reflection:

- 1. What is one way you can show love to someone today?
- 2. Why do you think Jesus tells us to love people even when it is hard?
- 3. How can choosing love in difficult situations reflect Christ to those around us?

Challenge for Today: Choose to act in love today. Whether through words, actions, or a small kindness, let love be what leads you in every interaction.

Day 4: Compassionate Care <u>Recommended Sermon</u> Scripture Reading:

- 1. Matthew 18:14
- 2. Luke 10:25-37
- 3. <u>1 Peter 3:8</u>

Devotional Thought:

Jesus consistently showed compassion to the lost, the hurting, and the overlooked. He demonstrated that true love is not just words but action. The parable of the Good Samaritan is a powerful example of what it means to love our neighbor—not just in thought, but in practical ways. Compassionate care means stepping in when there is a need, even when it's inconvenient or uncomfortable.

God calls us to have **His heart for others**, extending **grace and mercy** rather than judgment. This applies to our **families**, **friendships**, **and communities**. Whether it's **comforting a child**, **helping a neighbor**, **or showing kindness to a stranger**, our actions should reflect **Christ's love**. Compassion does not always require grand gestures; sometimes, the simplest acts of kindness—a **listening ear**, **a kind word**, **a gentle touch**—can have the most profound impact.

As followers of Christ, we are called to **love as He loved, to serve as He served**. The **Good Samaritan** didn't ask if the injured man deserved help—he simply provided what was needed. Our challenge is to do the same—to be **the hands and feet of Jesus** in a world that often overlooks the hurting and the helpless.

May we be known by our love and our willingness to show mercy.

Discussion & Reflection:

- 1. What does it mean to help someone who needs it?
- 2. How can we practice compassion even when it's not easy?
- 3. How does being compassionate reflect God's love to the world? How can you incorporate compassion into your daily routine?

Challenge for Today: Find one way to show compassion today—whether through an encouraging word, an act of service, or simply listening to someone who needs support. Ask God to open your eyes to those around you who need His love.

Day 5: Always and Forever <u>Recommended Sermon</u> Scripture Reading:

- 1. <u>Psalm 46:1</u>
- 2. Isaiah 40:28-31
- 3. <u>Hebrews 13:8</u>

Devotional Thought:

Life is full of changes—relationships shift, seasons come and go, and unexpected challenges arise. Yet, through it all, one thing remains the same: God. He is our constant source of strength and stability. When everything around us feels uncertain, we can take refuge in the truth that He never changes. His promises remain firm, His love endures, and His sovereignty is never shaken.

God's faithfulness is not tied to our circumstances. Whether we face hardship, uncertainty, or joy, He is steadfast. He is not swayed by time, culture, or human emotions. His promises endure, and His character remains unwavering. Isaiah 40 reminds us that even the strongest among us will grow weary, but those who place their trust in the Lord will be renewed. His strength is made perfect in our weakness, and His grace is always sufficient.

When we **anchor our hope in God**, we are no longer shaken by the temporary struggles of life. Instead of fearing the unknown, we can **rest in His faithfulness**. He is not just a distant figure watching from afar—**He is our refuge, our strength, and our ever-present help in times of need**. No matter what we face, we can move forward with **confidence**, knowing that **He holds our future in His hands**.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and His love for us will never fail.

Discussion & Reflection:

- 1. What helps you feel safe when you're scared?
- 2. How can we remember to trust God when life is difficult?
- 3. What does it mean to build your life on the foundation of Christ? How can trusting in God's unchanging nature bring peace to your life?

Challenge for Today: Spend time today reflecting on God's faithfulness. Thank Him for the ways He has remained constant in your life. Ask Him to help you trust Him more deeply in times of uncertainty.

Day 6: Unashamed <u>Recommended Sermon</u> Scripture Reading:

- 1. <u>Romans 1:16</u>
- 2. <u>Hebrews 4:12</u>
- 3. Matthew 10:32-33

Devotional Thought:

The gospel is not something to be hidden or kept to ourselves—it is the power of God for salvation. It is the greatest news we could ever share, yet so often, we hesitate. Fear can hold us back—fear of rejection, fear of offending, or fear of not having all the answers. But Jesus calls us to stand boldly for Him, trusting that the truth of His Word carries the power, not our eloquence or expertise.

Being unashamed of the gospel means more than just speaking about our faith—it means living in a way that testifies to Christ's work in us. Our words and actions should reflect the transformation He has brought into our lives. It means choosing integrity when dishonesty is easier, showing kindness when the world expects selfishness, and holding fast to truth when pressured to compromise.

Sharing the gospel doesn't always mean standing on a stage or debating theology—it often happens in simple, everyday moments. It could be a conversation with a coworker, a prayer for a friend, or the way we treat our family. The world needs to see believers who are not only willing to speak about Jesus but who also live in a way that draws others to Him.

When we stand firm in our faith, even in the face of discomfort, we reflect Christ's unwavering love and truth to those around us.

Discussion & Reflection:

- 1. What is something you love to talk about? How can we share that same excitement when we talk about Jesus?
- 2. Why do you think it can be hard to talk about Jesus?
- 3. How can we live in a way that boldly reflects our faith in Christ?

Challenge for Today: Look for an opportunity to share a truth from God's Word today—whether in a conversation, an encouragement, or a testimony.

Day 7: But First <u>Recommended Sermon</u> Scripture Reading:

- 1. Matthew 6:33
- 2. <u>Psalm 63:1</u>
- 3. Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional Thought:

What we prioritize shapes our lives. From the moment we wake up, our minds are filled with tasks, responsibilities, and distractions. The world constantly demands our attention, pulling us in many directions. Yet, in **Matthew 6:33**, Jesus gives us a clear directive:

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Before anything else—before the worries, to-do lists, and daily demands—we are called to **set our hearts on Him**.

Seeking God first isn't about squeezing Him into our schedule—it's about making Him the foundation of everything we do. It means praying before we pick up our phones, opening our Bibles before our inboxes, and aligning our hearts with His will before distractions take over. A relationship with God isn't just a habit—it's the core of who we are.

Putting God first requires **intentionality**. It may mean waking up earlier to spend time in His Word, praying while driving, or pausing throughout the day to realign our hearts with Him. It's not about adding another obligation—it's about **walking with Him in every moment**.

When we **seek Him first**, we'll find that He meets us there—**leading, sustaining, and shaping us** to reflect His kingdom.

Discussion & Reflection:

- 1. What is the first thing you like to do in the morning? How can we make spending time with God part of our morning?
- 2. Why is it important to spend time with God every day?
- 3. What does it look like to trust God with our plans and decisions?

Challenge for Today: Set aside time today to seek God first—whether through prayer, Scripture, or worship.

Thank You for Joining Us!

As this **Week of Spiritual Renewal** comes to a close, we want to thank you for your dedication in seeking the Lord, leading your family, and growing in faith. Whether you gathered with your loved ones, reflected personally, or shared in discussion with others, our prayer is that this time has drawn you closer to God.

Spiritual renewal doesn't end here. The habits of prayer, Scripture reading, and seeking the Lord daily are lifelong pursuits. Continue to walk in His truth, lead with wisdom, and trust in His faithfulness.

We encourage you to reflect on what God has spoken to you this week. How has He challenged you? Encouraged you? Strengthened your faith? Take time to pray and seek how you can continue growing in Him.

Thank you for being part of this journey. May God continue to renew, strengthen, and lead you in the days ahead!

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." — James 4:8

"The nearer a man lives to God,

the more intensely he has to mourn over his own evil heart."

— Charles Spurgeon

