

Life Small Groups – Big Impact Connections

THE LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER

*STOP LIVING FOR JESUS
SO JESUS CAN
LIVE THROUGH YOU*

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: WEEK 6

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WEEK 6
SHARE:
I HAVE A
MISSION

DAY 1

A FOLLOWER OF JESUS *KNOWS THE GOD OF THE WORLD*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

Psalm 46:10

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

This verse seems to be two separate thoughts in one verse:

“Be still, and know that I am God” and

“I will be exalted among the nations...”

Many people quote the first half of the verse without the second half, but they’re related.

What does “being still” have to do with “knowing God”?

How does the first thought in the verse relate to the second?

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

One of the joys of being a Christian is spending time in silence and stillness with the Most High God. What God encourages in the Scriptures we often neglect—daily, deep devotion to Him. It’s no accident that this psalm attributes quiet contemplation about who God is—“know that I am God”—with the remarkable realization of what He is doing —“being exalted among the nations.”

As we grow closer to Him in communion and devotion each day, we look outward with Him to the harvest in the world. As we gain a heart for Him, He gives us His heart for the world. As we fall in love with the King, we’ll want others to know and love as well. We’ll begin to develop a love for the things He loves.

It’s God’s ultimate goal to be glorified among all the nations of the earth. In your time alone with God, do you ponder these things? Why or why not?

Does the fact the He wants us to “be still” mean we shouldn’t be active in His work? Explain.

DAY 2

A JESUS FOLLOWER *HAS A MISSION TO THE WORLD*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

Acts 1:8

John 20:21

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

What is a witness?"

What does it mean to be reconciled to someone? What does it mean for God to give us a ministry of reconciliation?

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

God has brought us into a relationship with Himself because He loves us, but the reality is that He has also brought us into relationship with Himself because He loves the people around us. The way He makes Himself known to those around us is through our witness, which means sharing our personal stories of knowing Jesus with those around us. Many people refer to Acts 1:8 by saying something like this: “We have got to reach our own ‘Jerusalem,’ then our ‘Judea and Samaria,’ and then the ‘uttermost parts,’” as if we could not be a witness to the nations until we reach our hometowns. However, the verse actually says that we should do “both/and.” Our mission is both local and global. Every believer is called to simultaneously have a mission both locally and globally. While the particular role each of us fills may be different, the responsibility to be a witness through sharing our story both locally and globally remains.

In 2 Corinthians 5, Peter refers to us as “ambassadors”. What does an ambassador do? Reflect on the ways God has made you an ambassador where you live, where you work, and where you play. What do you do?

DAY 3

A JESUS FOLLOWER *HAS A HEART FOR THE WORLD*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

Romans 10:12-15

Matthew 28:18-20

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

Is having a heart for the world optional for Jesus followers? Why or why not?

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

Billions of people around the world have little to no access to the gospel. The Bible makes it clear that someone must go and tell them. That's why God left us here as opposed to drawing us up to heaven at the moment of our salvation.

There are roughly 12,000 people groups in the world today. A people group is a distinctive group of people with their own culture, language, and identity. The biblical word for these groups is "nation." It's not necessarily defined by a country's boundary or nationality. Political borders are man-made, but people groups are made by God. Of these 12,000 people groups, more than 3,000 of them haven't yet been reached with the gospel. These unreached people groups have very little, if any, Christian witness among them.

We often divide people in the world into two groups—the saved and the lost. But that simply measures the response to the gospel. Let's think of the world a different way—those who have heard the gospel and those who haven't. This measures the accessibility of the gospel. When we think of the people of the world this way, we have to face the fact that nearly one-third of the world still has no access to the gospel!

Matthew 28:18-20 is a command and not a suggestion. Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations (people groups). God desires to use our jobs, skills, and passions to engage in His mission of taking the gospel to every people group on planet earth. [

How can you use your job, skill, or passion to accomplish the mission?

It's clear that the nations who have yet to hear the gospel are on God's heart? What are you doing to take the gospel to the nations?

DAY 4

A JESUS FOLLOWER *JOINS GOD'S ACTIVITY*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

John 3:16
John 4:35; 5:17
Matthew 9:37-38

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

God's work is happening all around us whether we know it or not. Our work as followers of Jesus is to join in God's work when we recognize it around us. Jesus saw the Father working, and He only did what the Father told Him to do. How often do we jump ahead of God and do things we think are "good works" only to find out later that God never really intended for us to do those things? God is definitely working in the world. There is great evidence of His activity throughout history and all around us today. The question is, are we watching for His activity around us?

But how do we discover and enter into this work? We pray, asking God by His Spirit, to give us eyes to see His work around us. Then we look for His activity in the lives of people in our families, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods. God wants us to share in His mission where you live, work, and play. Using our jobs, skills, or passions, God invites us to join in His activity around us in our neighborhoods and among the nations.

Who is your circle of influence can you sense God working among? How might God use you to join in His activity in this person's life?

Where do you see God at work in your city? How might God use your job, skill, or passion to engage in His activity in your city?

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

Take a moment and pray that God will reveal His work around you, to you.

DAY 5

A JESUS FOLLOWER *PRAYS FOR THE WORLD*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

James 5:16
Ephesians 2:18
Ephesians 3:11-12

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What does the passage teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

One of the ways we join in God's activity in the world is through prayer. When James says the prayers of the righteous are effective, it doesn't mean that God is more inclined to answer their prayers but that their prayers are already more in line with God's will because the righteous have a desire to be close to the heart of God.

Additionally, God in His sovereignty has chosen to limit His activity to the prayers of His people. There's a lot about that reality that we simply don't understand, but it doesn't change the fact that it's true, according to God's Word. In His wisdom, God uses the prayers of weak and finite people to play a part in the unfolding of His sovereign will.

While it's true that God doesn't need us (or anything) to accomplish His will, God has chosen to work through us as we pray. What might God do through us if we chose to seek Him desperately in prayer?

Think about the kinds of prayers that, when answered, would change entire people groups forever. Think about a prayer that, when answered, would change you forever. Often we see God working in limited ways because we offer limited prayers. The throne of grace is open to us. Let us be bold in our prayers.

Who can you pray for who doesn't know Jesus?

If God answered your prayers, what difference would it make in your life?

What difference would it make in the world?

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

How might your prayers need to change as a result of what you've learned this week?

How might your prayers compel you to be on mission?