

# May 2024

DEVOTIONAL PACKET



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# COMMITMENT

MAKING A PLAN AND PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

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WHAT'S INSIDE:  
WEEKLY DEVOS  
MEMORY VERSE  
EXTRA CHALLENGE



# Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

## DAY 1

### Read Joshua 1:8

What if your best friend had to move away and you could only communicate by email? Would you read those emails your best friend sent you? Of course. You couldn't stay best friends if you never read them!

God wants to have a relationship with us. We can read the Bible so we can get to know who God is. But you have to make a commitment to read it. It takes a plan of action. If you want to know how to stay connected to God, and how God wants you to live, make a commitment to read the Bible.

#### Reading Plan

Since this month is all about commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice—let's start with these devos! With an adult, come up with a new plan for completing these cards. Select a time of day, a place in your home as your "devo" spot and gather all the things you need (like your Bible, a pen, and paper, etc.) so that you're ready to go.

## DAY 2

### Read Psalm 119:105

Has the power ever gone out in your house? When it happened, what was the first thing you looked for? A flashlight! Without some sort of light, you'd just be stumbling around in the darkness!

God's Word is just like a light. God's Word gives us the clearest picture of how we should live. When we read God's Word, it's like a light that guides us, showing us where to go and what to do. Without reading it, we are lost.

Grab a flashlight, head to your room, turn off all the lights, and jump in bed. Pull the covers over your head and read this verse again. Now, think about some situations this week where you weren't sure what to do. How would reading God's Word have helped light your path to know where to go or what to do in that situation? Ask God to help you make a commitment to read the Bible and listen to what God has to say.

### Read Hebrews 4:12

Do you know what a double-edged sword is? It's a sword that cuts both ways. Romans used these weapons in battle.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that God's Word is alive—that means it's constantly moving and active. We can learn from it even today! When we read God's Word, it has the power to show us what's really inside of us. It helps to point out any wrong thoughts or attitudes. When you spend time reading God's Word, it can help you see the things you need to change.

#### Sword Makers

Grab a piece of cardboard, foil, and a permanent marker. Ask an adult to cut the cardboard into the shape of a sword. Cover your sword in foil. Write out HEBREWS 4:12 on the side of your sword with the marker. Then, use the tip of a pair of scissors to make indentions in the foil to create shapes or impressions. To make these grooves stand out, go back over them with the permanent marker.

### Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Timothy was written by the missionary Paul to his student, Timothy. Timothy was leading a group of Jesus followers, and Paul wrote to encourage him and make sure he was prepared to teach them to follow God. Timothy's mother and grandmother had taught Timothy the scriptures as a child, and Paul wrote to remind him to stay true to what he had learned.

Paul wrote to Timothy about the Bible being inspired by God.

He also mentioned that it is useful for teaching

us what's .....  
E U T R

It is useful for correcting our .....  
I A S M K T E

It is useful for training us to do what is

.....  
G H T I R

Each time you read God's Word, you can look to answer these three questions.

- What is true?
- What does God say I should do?
- What does God say I shouldn't do?

Thank God for giving you the Bible to show you truth about God, what you should do, and what you shouldn't do.

Answers: True, Mistakes, Right

Practice hearing from God.

# Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 6:9

Jesus' disciples asked Him, "How do you pray?" Jesus responded with what we call "The Lord's Prayer." We can memorize these words and repeat them, and we can also use them as an example to follow as we pray in our own words.

Jesus reminds us to honor our great God when we pray. God is the Creator of the universe. God knows how many stars are in the sky and exactly how many hairs are on your head. God controls the wind and waves, and still Jesus invites us into relationship with God.

### Names of God

Find the names of God below. Use one of these names for God as you pray today.

**Creator Father Almighty Maker  
Friend Healer Helper Lord King**

S H E L P E R Y  
L E A R G D O T  
E A T L N R T H  
H L O E I O A G  
T E I H K L E I  
A R E K A M R M  
F A T H E R C L  
Y T H G I M L A

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 6:10

Jesus asks for God to make things right in our world, just as they are fully right in heaven. These words remind us that . . .

1. Things on earth aren't "right." We can see that's true simply by looking around and listening. We disagree and fight and say hurtful things. We lie and cheat to get what we want. This world is NOT perfect.
2. BUT, God has a plan to make things right. God sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with God. And one day, Jesus will return to bring heaven to earth.

We can ask God to help us be part of making things right. We can join in on God's mission to bring heaven to earth every time we choose to help and encourage and love the people around us. Think of ONE person in your world that needs some encouragement. Pray and ask God to help you make their world a little brighter this week.

DAY 3

## Read Matthew 6:11

God is BIG enough to be in charge of all creation AND personal enough to know you inside and out. God even knows how many hairs are on your head! And God wants to hear from you. You can ask God to take care of you each day.

Whether you pray about the things you want (like a hoverboard) or what you need (like food or shelter), God hears it all!

### God Is

Play some quiet music and grab a piece of paper and some colored pencils or markers. Write "God Is" in the center of the page and complete that statement any way you choose. Next, as the music plays, write or draw pictures of things you need (both things you can hold in your hand, like food and things you can't, like help with a bad attitude). Then connect each request to the "God Is" statement in the center with different colors and types of lines to create a prayer web.

DAY 4

## Read Matthew 6:12-13

We all mess up. We all need grace and forgiveness. We're all in the same boat. Nobody is perfect, including you. That's why we need to seek forgiveness and ask for help to do what is right.

But why? Doesn't God promise to always love us? If so, why do we need to ask for forgiveness?

God DOES love you no matter what. But you still need to be honest with God when you mess up. Why does your mom or dad ask you to say you're sorry when you hurt your brother or sister? Because you've hurt that relationship. Sure, you'll still be siblings, but you won't be as close if you don't attempt to make things right. Admitting when we're wrong and asking God to forgive us brings us closer to God.

### Saying I'm Sorry

Is there someone you need to say, "I'm sorry" to? If so, stop everything you're doing and go make it right. Then tell God you're sorry too.



Practice praying  
to God.

# Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 16:16

Peter recognized who Jesus REALLY was. Not just a wise teacher. Not just a miracle worker who could heal the sick. Not just a prophet who spoke for God. Jesus is Christ, the Son of God, sent to save the world from sin.

If Jesus was standing right in front of you and asked the same question, how would you respond? Who do YOU say Jesus is? Do the people around you know what you believe about Jesus by the words you say and the way you live?

Sharing what you believe is one big way to practice your faith. And who knows, you might be the first person to tell someone about Jesus! You might be the first person to help someone understand just how much God loves them.

#### Open Invitation

Who can you tell? Talk to your parents about inviting that friend to church and lunch afterward so you can talk about what you learned.

## DAY 2

### Read Philemon 1:6

When you were little, did your mom or dad make a big deal about sharing your toys with siblings or friends? Was it hard to let them have a turn with something you really wanted to play with? Sharing doesn't always come naturally.

When you think about it, sharing really does make sense. No one wants to play with someone who keeps all the toys to themselves. But there's something we need to share that's even MORE important than our stuff. We need to make a commitment to share what we believe. We need to practice telling others about God.

#### Sharing Is Caring

Practice sharing this week. For one whole week, every time someone asks you to share, say 'yes.' Make a commitment to be generous and kind this week. And look for opportunities to tell someone else about God and how much God loves them when you have a chance.

DAY 3

## Read 1 Timothy 4:13

All month long, we've been talking about commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice. This week is all about words. We can grow in our faith when we TALK about God with our friends. One big way this happens is at church with your small group!

When you play fun games, when you repeat the bottom line, when you work with a friend to put the memory verse words in order, your faith is growing. You're becoming stronger as you learn to follow Jesus. Your weekly small group is a great place to practice talking about God week after week!

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### Small Group Assignment

Do you know the names of the kids in your small group at church? What about your leader's name? Try to learn one new thing about someone in your group and about your group leader this week. Pray and thank God for your church and the friends and leaders you see each week!

DAY 4

## Read Luke 8:39

Shooting a free throw. Playing an instrument. Riding your bike without training wheels. Getting to the next level of your favorite video game.

All these things require practice. If you want to be good at them, you have to practice. It takes commitment. The same is true when it comes to telling others about God. It's not always an easy thing to do. It takes some practice.

There are people all around you who have no clue how much God loves them. That might seem strange to you but it's true. God wants us to share with others so that they can know about God's love for them, too.

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### Practice Makes Progress

Ask an adult to time you for one minute as you make a list of things you have to practice. Then challenge the adult to make a list too and compare your lists. Count how many unique answers you each came up with. Then talk about some ways you can practice telling others about God.



Practice talking  
about God.



# Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

## DAY 1

### Read 1 Kings 8:61

Commitment isn't easy. But working hard at something can have BIG rewards. Practicing piano can lead to an awesome performance at your next recital. Studying hard can lead to learning something new. Running drills over and over at practice might lead to a touchdown in your next game.

The same is true when it comes to following God. It's not easy to let others go first, walk away when someone hurts you, or tell the truth when you might get into trouble. But if we want to show others who God is and how much God loves us, then we have to make a commitment to practice living for God.

### Hoop It Up

Can you make a hula-hoop spin without falling? Set a timer for ten minutes and spend the entire time practicing your hula-hoop skills. When the timer goes off, if you don't see any improvement, set the timer and practice for ten more minutes. If you don't have one, grab a ball and practice dribbling or kicking instead.

## DAY 2

### Read Ephesians 5:1-2

Is there anyone in your family you hear you look the most like? Members of the same family often look like one another. In the same way, as followers of God, we should look and act like God.

So, how can you follow God's example? How did you show love to others today? Ask God to help you love others like God loves you as you practice living for God.

### Dearly Beloved

Fill in the blanks with your name below. Then read it aloud along with the blanks.

"....., you are a child that God dearly loves.

So follow God's example.

Lead a life of love, just as Christ did.

God loves you, .....

God sent Jesus for you.

Jesus was a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God." (See Ephesians 5:1)

(That last sentence is a reminder that Jesus took the punishment for the wrong things we do when He died on the cross. And He rose again so that we could have a relationship with God forever when we put our trust in Him.)

DAY 3

## Read 1 Timothy 4:8

Set a timer for one minute. Complete the following tasks, resetting the timer for one minute for each one:

Sit ups  
Squats  
Star jumps  
Push ups  
Jogging in place

Are you tired? What might happen if you kept doing that routine, day after day, week after week, increasing the time by one minute each week? Would you get stronger? Absolutely!

Today's verse reminds us that training the body has value but being godly is even better! We've been learning all month long that we can grow in our faith (and become Godlier, more like Jesus) when we practice hearing from God, praying to God, talking about God, and living for God. When we live for God, it will make a difference right now and forever.

You can ask God for help as you practice living for God every day. Remember, you won't always do it perfectly, but you will grow stronger and stronger as you practice following God each day.

DAY 4

## Read Mark 12:43-44

When is a little actually a LOT?

Wealthy men were throwing large sums of money into the offering box. Then a poor widow walked up and placed two small coins in the box. Jesus noticed.

Who gave more?  
The widow.

Which amount COST more?

The rich men gave out of their extra. They still had plenty left over, so it wasn't a sacrifice for them. This widow, by giving ALL she had, showed that she trusted God to take care of her.

Every time you are generous, every time you share, every time you listen or go out of your way to help, you are LIVING for God. You point others to God and show them how much God loves them too.

As you practice living for God this week, ask yourself: Is this honoring God? Remember, every little choice you make to live for God, helps others to know God too!

Practice living  
for God.



**"TRAINING THE BODY HAS SOME  
VALUE. BUT BEING GODLY HAS VALUE  
IN EVERY WAY. IT PROMISES HELP  
FOR THE LIFE YOU ARE NOW LIVING  
AND THE LIFE TO COME."**



**1  
TIMOTHY  
4:8  
NIRU**

# GOLDEN TICKET CHECKLIST

WHEN YOU COMPLETE A CHALLENGE, TELL AN UPSTREET LEADER, AND WE WILL PUNCH YOUR TICKET!

- MEMORIZE THE MONTHLY VERSE (1 TIMOTHY 4:8)
- COMPLETE 12 WEEKLY DEVOS FOR THE MONTH. (THERE ARE 4 PER WEEK) OR FINISH YOUR BIBLE BUDDY PACKET!
- INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN YOU FOR VBS! TELL YOUR SMALL GROUP LEADER WHO YOU ARE BRINGING WITH YOU!

