



DAILY DEVOTION

week 2

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. You'll notice we've broken up the thought-starters into Heart, Hard to Reach, Home, and Hurting. These are the 4 H's of our FOR Asheboro movement. Our hope is that you will process each of these demos according to how you can respond and love on these areas of our city: your personal heart, everyday strangers and friends who don't know the Lord, your family's home, and those around you who are struggling.

DAY 1

Paul sounds tone-deaf and insensitive. We have had a lot of suffering. Add to it the struggles we already face: relationships, job, finances, raising kids; and then on top of that COVID 19. But let's put all of that on a scale. Compared to the glory that God has for us, it's not even worth comparing. It's easy to feel confused when we are suffering, but Paul helps us find clarity.

READ ROMANS 8:18

HEART: Seek to put your suffering in perspective of God's glory. Meditate on Psalm 19 and how David gives clarity to God's glory.

HARD TO REACH: Many see the church as tone-deaf to the difficulties in their life and insensitive in its rhetoric. Therefore, they may not listen to scripture, but they will listen to your story. Share your story of how God's glory has been revealed in your life with someone you meet today.

HOME: God's glory can be seen in the middle of our busy day-in a child's laugh, the power of a thunderstorm, and the sun appearing from behind a cloud. Share a "God's glory" moment with your family today.

HURTING: Most don't want to hear about God's glory when they're hurting, or do they? They often feel isolated and unloved. Spend time in person or on the phone with someone who is hurting. Maybe they'll have the opportunity to see God's glory through you!



DAY 2

Paul knows suffering. He gives us an account of what he has been through so far and his trials are far from over. Knowing this, listen again to what he says in Romans 8:18, "Consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Paul is reminding us that the trials and suffering we experience for Christ's sake build character, demonstrate faith, prepare us to serve, and ultimately reveal God's glory through us.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28

HEART: Spend time meditating on 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Dwell on the reason God allows suffering for Christ's sake and what purpose God is using suffering in your life.

HARD TO REACH: You might cross paths with someone who is suffering or going through a trial today. Take time to listen to their story. Listening is the first step to building friendship with someone.

HOME: We tend to shelter our children from suffering, but in order to raise compassionate, resilient adults, we need to share age-appropriate truths about suffering. Identify people in their lives who are hurting as examples and pray for them.

HURTING: Why God allows suffering is one of the toughest questions that people have for us as Christians. Spend time listening to the story of someone who is suffering. It may be your hard-to-reach person or your children. Just listening to them can be therapy in and of itself!

DAY 3

Paul makes it clear, there is coming a day when all the stuff we are suffering through gets wiped away at the end. He is reminding us that even as big as something like the COVID-19 pandemic is, we have a much bigger God—a sovereign God. A God that is powerful and authoritative. Nothing can stop anything that God decides to do. This is the God that we hold on to and who holds on to us. That is why the remedy to suffering is sovereignty!

READ ROMANS 8:19-25

HEART: Read and meditate on the following scriptures: Ephesians 1:11, Psalm 115:3, and Job 42:2. Spend time getting to know your sovereign God.

HARD TO REACH: For someone who is far from Christ, the verses we read today from Romans 8 seem like nonsense, but your attitude, speech, and behavior can model what it means to be held by a sovereign God, to be like Christ.

HOME: During the pandemic your family or a family close to you will experience frustration, division, disappointment, or loss. Spend time as a family discussing what the word sovereign means and how it applies to our God and our situation.

HURTING: Send a note of encouragement from your family to someone who has or is suffering or experiencing frustration, division, disappointment, or loss. Have your children add a picture or note of their own.

DAY 4

The Holy Spirit prays for you when you can't! Yes, you heard right. If you don't know where to turn, you've lost your job or suffered some other loss, anxiety and fear are overcoming you, you don't know what the next right step is, or you're paralyzed with fear, Paul doesn't say 'just read your Bible.' No, he says, 'God has you. The Holy Spirit is praying for you. God is praying for you. From the Spirit to the Father.' Only a sovereign God can do that!

READ ROMANS 8:26-27

HEART: Read and meditate on Romans 8:31-39 and the extent God has gone to make you His own.

HARD TO REACH: God the Spirit and the Son pray and intercede for us, but we also have a role to pray and intercede for those we know and meet that are far from God. Spend time praying and interceding for these individuals, that they will come to know Jesus.

HOME: Use your role as parent and spiritual leader to help your children learn to pray and intercede for those in need or who do not know Christ. Kids learn best by the example that is set for them, so include them in your prayer time.

HURTING: Spend time in prayer, interceding for those who are hurting. Ask family or friends to join you in praying for specific individuals and their needs.

DAY 5

Notice how much God is at work in your life if you are His. He calls us according to His purpose, He foreknows us, He predestines us. He justifies us, He glorifies us. God has a plan for everyone who belongs to His Son and that plan is to make us look more and more like His Son. God's plan for you is that you would love Him and love others; that you would glorify Him by looking more like His Son. God will grow us by using our suffering and our chaos for His ultimate good. Let this truth fuel the hope in you!

READ ROMANS 8:28-30

HEART: Read and meditate on Philippians 3:12-14 and what it means to glorify God by looking more like His Son.

HARD TO REACH: Not only do we glorify God by looking more like Jesus, but also attracting others to God with our words and actions. Find a way to show love to someone who doesn't know Jesus so that they might see Jesus through you.

HOME: Love your neighbors. This is such a simple concept, but here are some practical ways to act: As a family, bake some treats, pick some flowers, or put together a goodie bag and take it to your neighbors.

HURTING: Jesus spent His time with the hurting. To look like Jesus, we must too. Get involved with one of our ministries to the hurting: Project 82, Food Boxes, Your Choices, Our Daily Bread. Let us help you use your time and talents FOR the hurting.