

DAILY DEVOS

We know that it is important for us to spend time drawing nearer to God. A great way to do that is through reading His Word. These daily devotions are a simple way to start reading the Bible.

When we desire to build a good habit it is sometimes helpful to know that someone is on the same journey with us. Our whole class is doing this with you! But, we invite you to include your mom, dad, grandma, whoever! Reading this with your family is a fun way to hold each other accountable for the time we are spending with God and get to know each other better too.

“Always evil, all the time.”
Not how I would want my thoughts to be viewed. The point of Noah’s story isn’t all olive branches and rainbows because GOD’s wrath isn’t an easy subject. This week lets take a deeper look at our GOD who is perfectly just, because He is perfectly loving.

DAY 1

Read: Genesis 6:5-8

Use the above link, your Bible app or Biblegateway.com to read this passage in both the Nlrv and NASB translations.

GOD was sad. Every time I read these verses, I feel sad for GOD. I feel sad for my sin, because He has to see me hurt myself and others. The Hebrew word translated “grieved” (NIV) or “filled with pain” (Nlrv) is a part of a family of words that describe emotional and physical pain. Wow... think about that! GOD told Moses to use a word that lets us know that He experiences sadness that is painful for Him. My mind is blown by that and I am so deeply thankful that He cares so much about us, that watching us hurt each other by choosing to do what is right in our own eyes (aka sin) is painful for Him. These verses also teach us that when our perfect GOD saw humanity breaking the world in ways that He couldn’t let continue, He acted though He knew the flood wasn’t a permanent solution.

Read: John 3:16-17

What was GOD’s permanent solution for breaking the power of sin?

Read: Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus, GOD in human form, felt and experienced a full range emotions. How does it feel to know that you can come to Him with any thing at any time knowing He understands and has felt your pain?



DAY 2

Last week we did a lot of talking about sin; what it is, what it does, who it affects. We learned that Sin is failing in our goal to love GOD and others, it breaks relationships, and it makes life crooked and bends us so that life doesn’t look like it was created to be. On Sunday, and during yesterday’s devo, we talked about the sadness that sin brings to GOD. We know He was so sad about the effects of sin, that He had to act.

Read: Romans 3:9-18

Sometimes I think it is easy for us to remove ourselves from the story of Noah and its description of people whose thoughts were evil all the time. But, reading this passage we have no choice but to realize that we are a part of the problem, no one is right with GOD. The interesting part of Romans 3: 9-18 is that the writer, Paul, is using a Jewish teaching method called charaz, which literally means stringing pearls. He is stringing together a collection of Old Testament verses on the same topic to show beyond doubt the state of humanity without GOD. The state of US before Jesus rescued us from sin.

Learn More:

Use the above link for Romans 3:9-18, your Bible app or Biblegateway.com to look at this passage in the Nlrv translation. Notice it has links next to the passage in parenthesis. These are the original scriptures that Paul strung together to make this set of verses. Take some time to click on those passages so you can read them for yourself.

Which of those verses impacted you most?

Why did you choose that verse?

DAY 3

HOPE

Today we need some hope because our sin is overwhelming to think about. The thing is though, we need to talk about sin so that we realize the depth of its destructive power in our life. We need to talk about sin so that we can see Jesus for the GOOD NEWS He is! In fact, the whole Old Testament is GOD building toward the day that GOD said He would send a Savior. GOD wanted His people to have HOPE.

Watch: Advent Series - Hope

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/yakhal-hope/>

Read: John 3:16-17

GOD has given us a way out of the punishment for sin. Because of GOD's love for us, we have HOPE for the future, but not one based on a government or our circumstances; HOPE based on Jesus, and His promise of a perfect forever HOME with Him.

Take a minute to think about what you place your hope for the future on. Is your HOPE for the future based on JESUS, or on a career or family? Good circumstances or stuff?

Pray:

Ask GOD to show you a person who needs HOPE so that you can share who your HOPE is.

DAY 4

Read: Genesis 8:20-9:17

Unscramble the words to complete the main points we learn from this passage:

God now established a _____ with Noah.
envtnaco

God placed a _____ in the sky as a sign of the covenant.
nawribo

God said never again would a _____ destroy all life.
dofol

God said he would _____ the covenant he made.
bemrerem

This is also a covenant for all _____ to come.
sng eeraiton

Watch: Covenants

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/covenants/>

I love how this first Covenant of scripture is totally based on GOD's faithfulness, with no exceptions. As we learned yesterday, our HOPE can't be on anything this world has to offer, it will just let us down. Instead this covenant shows us a GOD who hung up His war bow in the sky to show the world that He won't start over again until He makes everything new. I am so thankful that GOD keeps His promises. Especially the promise to rescue us.

Create:

Today, grab some craft supplies and draw or create a rainbow out of any material you can find, and spend a minute just looking at it and remembering what it means to the world.



DAY 5

Yesterday's video on the covenants GOD has made with His people ended with this:

"Through Jesus, GOD has opened up a way for anyone to be in a renewed partnership with Him. So Jesus calls people to follow Him and become part of this new covenant family and despite their failures, Jesus is committed to making them into partners who are becoming more and more faithful. The story of the Bible ends with a vision of a fully renewed world, full of goodness and peace. And there is this renewed humanity there partnering together with GOD to expand the goodness of his creation. So that the end of the Bible's story is a new beginning." - bibleproject.com

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

If you know that Jesus is your Savior who He died to free you from the punishment you deserve because of your sin, then YOU, my friend, are a NEW CREATION. GOD has given you a new life to lead. That doesn't mean you are perfect, it means that as a part of GOD's gift of forgiveness, You are being made more and more faithful, more and more like Jesus as you let His Holy Spirit in you change the way you think and act. Verse 18 says that all of this is GOD's doing, because He wants us to be His messengers to people who don't know Him yet. Don't feel like a new creation? No worries, it doesn't make it less true. Just for today, will you trust that what He says about you is true? One day at a time, GOD can change your mind!

Take It With You:

Grab a notecard, sticky note or you can cut some paper to the size of a business card. Write: "I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE GOD" really big on your notecard. Optional: Decorate your card however you like. Now, tape your finished notecard to or above the light switch you use most to remind yourself to say those words and believe that you have been made a new creation... then start living like it!

