



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday

02/17-18/18 **“Relational Evangelism”**

Acts 18:24-28 (NIV)

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

Family Activity: Take a walk through your neighborhood this week. As you walk, pray specifically for the people you know in your neighborhood. Ask God who you are called to reach. **If you don't know your neighbors well, this would be a great opportunity to meet someone new!**

Monday

02/19/18 **“In the Image of God”**

Genesis 1:26a, 27 (NIV)

*Then God said, “**Let us** make humankind in our image, in our likeness ...” **So God** created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

- From the very beginning, scripture makes known that God is, within himself, relational. It is the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that is doing the creating. Scripture also makes known that we are all created in the image of God, therefore we are also inherently relational. What does it mean to be relational, as God is relational?
- How does understanding yourself in this way affect how you see and interact with others at home, work, the grocery store, the gym, etc.?

Prayer: Lord, I thank you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made in your image. I am thankful that I am made to be in relationship with others, but confess that I often focus too much on myself. Give me the eyes to see others around me as you see them, and the heart to reach out in relationship, reflecting your image in me. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Tuesday

02/20/18 “The Last Word”

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, **and to the ends of the earth.**”*

- After his Resurrection, and before his Ascension, these **were Jesus’ last words to his** disciples. Jesus is charging his followers to be his witnesses to all the world. What does it mean to be a witness of Jesus?
- The word “evangel” comes from the Greek word that means “good news,” or gospel. Think about your own faith journey. How have you experienced the Good News of Jesus? What would you tell another about how you have experienced the Good News of Jesus in your own life?

Prayer: Holy God, I thank you for the Good News of Jesus that guides and sustains me. Teach me how to live into such Good News, but also how to live it out. Holy Spirit, teach me how to share what you have done in my life, so that others may know and love you, too. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Wednesday

02/21/18 “Table Fellowship”

Matthew 9:10-11 (NIV)

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

- Matthew, a tax collector, invited many of his friends to come and meet Jesus. Many stories like this from the New Testament tell of how Jesus made himself known through personal relationships. Sharing a meal together was a way of showing respect to those invited and facilitated such personal interaction. Think about your relationships. Have you ever invited someone you have a relationship with to come and meet Jesus? Who is someone in your life that you could introduce to Jesus?
- Tax collectors and sinners were the undesirables in the first century, yet Jesus shared meals with them. Who are the undesirables in our culture, today? How might you create a relationship with them and share the love of Jesus?

Prayer: Holy God, sustain me along my faith journey by your grace and mercy. Help me to grow in the knowledge and love of you, and in relationship with others. Teach me to share your love with everyone I meet. In the name of Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thursday

02/22/18 “Living the Gospel”

Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

- In this passage, Jesus makes clear that we are living out and witnessing to his Good News best when we are caring for the “least of these.” Who are the ones in need that you encounter in your life? How might you witness to the Good News of Jesus in their lives?
- How might God be calling you out of your comfort zone to witness to the Good News of Jesus?

Prayer: Holy God, let me see you in the lives of those I encounter every day, and show me how I can live out the love you have for them. Give me eyes to see their immediate needs, and the courage and faithfulness to provide for them. Help me to love as you love. **In Jesus’ name.**
Amen.

Friday

02/23/18 “Clean Heart, Right Spirit”

Psalms 51 (NIV)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

- As we begin this Lenten season, a season of fasting, self-reflection and re-focusing, spend some time reading and reflecting on Psalm 51. What word or phrase sticks out to you in this psalm? Why?
- Let this psalm be a source of prayer for you today.

Prayer: Holy God, I confess that I have not always been faithful. I have not always loved as you love. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me that I may follow boldly in your footsteps. Open my lips that my mouth may declare your praise, and that others may know of your great love for them and all of your creation. In Jesus name, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the glory of God the Father. Amen.