



Our faith is not just something we check in with on Sundays, our faith is how we live lives of meaning and purpose everyday, if we will learn to notice and respond to how God is moving. But this awareness, like anything worthwhile, takes practice. Which is why a weekly discipleship practice of Reading, Reflecting, and Responding to scripture in the context of community is so important. The following devotions have been written with this practice in mind. Use them with friends or family to help you deepen your experience of faith.

Week: Ordinary Time, Proper 12

Adult to Littles

Read: Philippians 4:10-20

Reflect: Paul says he has learned the secret of being content in every situation. By God's strength, he knows how to find joy with a little or a lot. Practicing gratitude helps us to be content. When we pay attention in the small things, we see the glorious riches God gives to us.

Respond: Make a gratitude list this week. Each night before bed, help your child write or draw 3-5 things that they are grateful for from that day. Take a moment to thank God for those things. Consider posting the list somewhere you will see it often—write it on the bathroom mirror with a dry erase marker, or put it on your refrigerator
--Kristen Kludt

Adult to Middles (Elementary)

Read: Psalm 145:10-18 (ESV)

Reflect: Psalm is full of beautiful poems and songs to God. In this passage, David is singing a song of praise to God. This chapter is poetic and displays David's heart for worshipping the Lord. Verses 14-18, highlight the character of God. Verse 14 reveals, God is our helper; Verses 15-16 reveal, God is our provider; Verse 17 reveals, God is kind; Verse 18 reveals, God listens to us. May we remember the character of God and his great love for us!

Respond: Write down or draw 5 things you are thankful for and share it with each other. Post these words or images somewhere you will see them often, or take them to church and place them in the offering plate.

-Faith Brooks

Adult to Bigs (Youth)

Read: Philippians 4:10-20

Reflect: Our culture is always whispering to us, “Do more. Have more. Be more.” But what would it look like to live securely, knowing God would provide all you need? How would your life change if you lived out of a content heart opposed to a striving one? Paul knew struggle, and his words reveal that knowing Christ brings assurance—all that *must* be done *will* be done. Contentment may seem elusive but we see in this passage it is possible. It can be had in any and all situations. It meets us when all our hustle finds its rest in the hands of Christ.

Respond: This week—figure out how to give in a meaningful, tangible way to another person. This may mean going through your closet and donating your clothing to the local homeless shelter. Maybe this means giving of your time to a person you would normally brush off. For some, it might mean donating money or volunteering to do work others aren’t willing to do, but whatever you choose - let it be an offering of sacrificial love. Give out of a place of contentment and trust knowing that as you walk into the works God has prepared for you, you will be taken care of by the One who created you.

- Chara Donahue

Adult to Adult

Read: 2 Samuel 11:22-27

Reflect: In this passage we see God’s response to David’s sinful and damaging choices. David’s un-repentant lust and greed for Bathsheba caused him to hurt Uriah, Bathsheba and even himself. David also hurt and sinned against Joab, dragging him into his selfish plans. We don’t like to talk about lust these days, but lust is real, and all too often lust for things and people will cause us to compromise our obedience to God. Lust can also cause us to draw others in our hurtful and damaging choices.

Respond: After reading David’s and Bathsheba’s story in its entirety, list five things that David could have done differently. Where were the moments when he could have stopped, repented, and began again? Now, think about your own life. In what ways can you turn from harmful behaviors – towards yourself and others? What – or who - could help you begin again?

- Aretha Grant

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