



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Bring People To Jesus

SERIES: DIVINE PURPOSE | SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 2/15/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: Seeing Beyond the Surface

Devotional: Every day we encounter people who seem fine on the outside but are struggling internally. Some are paralyzed by depression, trapped in addiction, or convinced they're beyond hope. Unlike those who can simply walk to Jesus when invited, these individuals need to be carried by caring friends who see their true condition. Just as the paralyzed man couldn't make it to Jesus alone, there are people in your life right now who cannot respond to a simple invitation. They need someone to see past their exterior and recognize their desperate need for healing. This requires spiritual eyes that look beyond what's obvious. When we truly see people as God sees them, our hearts are moved with compassion. We begin to understand that the coworker who seems angry might be battling depression. The neighbor who appears successful could be struggling with addiction. The family member who pushes everyone away might feel unworthy of love. God is calling you to be someone who sees beyond the surface. He wants to use your eyes, your heart, and your hands to reach those who cannot reach Him on their own. Today, ask God to help you see the people around you with His eyes of compassion.

Bible Verse: 'And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.' - Mark 2:4

Reflection Question: Who in your life might appear fine on the surface but could be spiritually paralyzed and in need of someone to carry them to Jesus?

Quote: There are people that you may be in contact with now, or there may be people that you will come in contact with. They are in such a condition, they are not going to respond to an invitation. They need to be brought in a different way.

Prayer: Lord, give me eyes to see beyond the surface and recognize those who are spiritually paralyzed around me. Help me to be moved with compassion rather than indifference toward their true condition.

#GRACEVERNON

#LOVINGVERNON



850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



info@gracevernon.org



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Bring People To Jesus

SERIES: DIVINE PURPOSE | SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 2/15/2026 | PAGE 2 OF 5

Day 2: The Power of Community Faith

Devotional: The paralyzed man had something invaluable - four friends who refused to give up on him. When one person's faith wavers, others can carry the load. When obstacles seem insurmountable, multiple perspectives find creative solutions. This is the beautiful power of community faith in action. Too often we try to carry spiritual burdens alone, but God designed us for community. Some battles cannot be won in isolation. Some people cannot be reached by individual effort. When we combine our gifts, prayers, and faith, we create an atmosphere where miracles happen. Think about the friends in this story - each one brought something different to the mission. One might have been the encourager, another the problem-solver, one the strong back, and another the gentle heart. Together, they accomplished what none could do alone. Your church family, small group, or circle of believing friends can be this kind of community. When someone is struggling, you don't have to carry them alone. When you're facing an impossible situation, others can lend their faith when yours feels weak. God works powerfully through united hearts and combined efforts. Who in your community can you partner with to reach someone who needs Jesus?

Bible Verse: 'Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.'
- Ecclesiastes 4:9

Reflection Question: What gifts do you bring to your faith community that could help carry someone to Jesus, and whose gifts complement yours?

Quote: There are some things that just an individual cannot accomplish on their own. That's why we need that community.

Prayer: Father, thank You for the gift of community. Help me to both offer my gifts to help others and humbly receive help when I need it.

#GRACEVERNON

#LOVINGVERNON



850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



info@gracevernon.org



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Bring People To Jesus

SERIES: DIVINE PURPOSE | SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 2/15/2026 | PAGE 3 OF 5

Day 3: Love Finds a Way

Devotional: When the four friends arrived at the house where Jesus was teaching, they faced a major obstacle - the place was packed. The crowd blocked every entrance. Many would have given up, thinking they'd tried their best. But love doesn't give up that easily. Love finds a way. These friends could have made excuses: "We tried, but it's too crowded." "Maybe we'll come back another day." "This is impossible." Instead, they got creative. They climbed onto the roof, removed the tiles, and lowered their friend directly to Jesus. Their love motivated them to find an unconventional solution. In your efforts to bring people to Jesus, you'll face obstacles too. People will be too busy, too hurt, too skeptical, or too set in their ways. The enemy will whisper that it's hopeless, that you should give up. But remember - love finds a way. Maybe the traditional approach isn't working. Perhaps you need to get creative like these friends did. Instead of another church invitation, maybe it's serving together at a food bank. Instead of a theological debate, maybe it's simply being present during their crisis. Love looks for new paths when the old ones are blocked. What obstacles are you facing in reaching someone for Christ? How might love find a new way?

Bible Verse: 'And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.' - Luke 5:19

Reflection Question: What creative approach might God be calling you to try when traditional methods of reaching someone haven't worked?

Quote: Love will find a way, doesn't it? Love will find a way.

Prayer: Lord, when I face obstacles in reaching others for You, give me the creativity and persistence that love inspires. Help me never to give up on those You've placed on my heart.

#GRACEVERNON

#LOVINGVERNON



850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



info@gracevernon.org



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Bring People To Jesus

SERIES: DIVINE PURPOSE | SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 2/15/2026 | PAGE 4 OF 5

Day 4: The Cost of Carrying Others

Devotional: Carrying someone to Jesus isn't free. It costs time, energy, resources, and sometimes reputation. The four friends had to leave their own responsibilities, coordinate their schedules, and risk damaging someone's roof. They invested significantly in their friend's healing, with no guarantee of success. Bringing people to Jesus today requires similar sacrifice. It might mean spending your Saturday helping someone move instead of relaxing. It could involve financial cost - paying for coffee dates, covering someone's meal, or supporting them through a crisis. Sometimes it costs emotionally as you walk through their pain with them. The cost also includes patience. People don't always respond immediately to God's love. You might invest months or years in someone before seeing breakthrough. You might face rejection, misunderstanding, or even hostility. But every person is worth the investment because every soul matters to God. Remember, Jesus paid the ultimate cost to reach you. He left heaven's glory, endured rejection, and died on a cross. If He was willing to pay such a price for your salvation, surely we can make smaller sacrifices to help others find Him. The question isn't whether it will cost something - it will. The question is whether you believe the person is worth the cost. God says they are.

Bible Verse: 'The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.' - 2 Peter 3:9

Reflection Question: What sacrifice is God asking you to make to help carry someone to Jesus, and what's holding you back from making it?

Quote: It costs something to bring people to Jesus. It costs effort. Sometimes it costs funds, but it takes effort.

Prayer: God, help me count the cost and be willing to pay it. Give me Your heart for the lost and the strength to sacrifice for their sake.

#GRACEVERNON

#LOVINGVERNON



850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



info@gracevernon.org



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Bring People To Jesus

SERIES: DIVINE PURPOSE | SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 2/15/2026 | PAGE 5 OF 5

Day 5: Faith That Moves Jesus

Devotional: When Jesus saw the faith of the four friends, He was moved to act. Their collective faith created an atmosphere where the impossible became possible. The paralyzed man received not only physical healing but also forgiveness of sins - addressing his greatest need. Your faith matters more than you realize. When you believe God can reach the unreachable person in your life, when you persist in prayer despite no visible change, when you continue showing love when it seems futile - God sees that faith. And faith moves the heart of God. The beautiful truth is that the man who was carried by four friends walked home carrying his own bed. This is the goal of all our efforts - not to create dependence, but to bring people to the place where they can walk with Jesus themselves. We carry them to Christ so He can empower them to carry their own load. Someone once carried you to Jesus too. Maybe it was a parent who prayed, a friend who invited you to church, or a stranger who showed you kindness. Now it's your turn to be the carrier. God has strategically placed people in your path who need what you have to offer. Without faith, it's impossible to please God. But with faith, even the most hopeless situation can become a testimony of His power and grace.

Bible Verse: 'But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.' - Hebrews 11:6

Reflection Question: How can you demonstrate the kind of faith that moves Jesus to act on behalf of someone you're trying to reach?

Quote: When Jesus saw their faith, he responded. And the man received a healing forgiveness as great as that.

Prayer: Lord, increase my faith to believe You can reach anyone, no matter how impossible their situation seems. Use my faith to create an atmosphere where miracles happen.

#GRACEVERNON

#LOVINGVERNON



850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



info@gracevernon.org