

CHURCH AT THE CROSS

SERMON BOOKLET



Hey church family!

We are excited to share this devotional booklet designed to align with our next two weeks of sermons. We will be focusing on empowering the Next Generation to reach their Generation for Christ.

This booklet includes five daily devotionals each week, guiding us through key passages and highlighting the need to equip and support younger followers of the faith to teach the gospel and carry Christ's hope into our world.

Each devotional includes a scripture reading and a memory verse to encourage daily time in God's Word. To guide your study, we will use the H.E.A.R. method—Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond. This approach, explained on the next page, is designed to help you reflect on and internalize Scripture.

As you move through each week, take your time. The New Testament Church is the model we, as believers, are called to emulate. This is a great time to reflect on the mission each believer has accepted through their relationship with Christ.

Our hope is that this devotional deepens your faith and unites us as a church family. As we focus on the same mission, may we grow together in our love for Jesus.

The H.E.A.R. Method is a great tool to study and explore God's Word. Explained below, you can use this method as a guide to your daily Bible reading each day.

H E A R

Highlight – As you read through each daily passage, several verses and words will stand out to you. Highlight them and consider writing them out. You can even give them a title that holds meaning for you.

Explain – Explain what the text means. Why was it written? To whom was it originally written? How does it fit with the verses before and after it? What does the Holy Spirit intend to communicate in this text?

Apply – Write 2 to 5 sentences about how the text applies to your life. This bridges the gap between the ancient text and your modern life. Ask questions such as: How can this help me? What do these verses mean to us today? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?

Respond – Respond to the passage you have read. Your response may take different forms and change from day to day, based on your reading. It may be a prayer, either for your life or on behalf of someone else. You may write down a specific action step you need to take. You might describe how the passage convicts you to change. Keep in mind that your response to scripture is about you and you alone, not other people or society at large.

Highlight ► Explain ► Apply ► Respond

NO ONE IS TOO YOUNG

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim 4:12; Jer 1:4–10; Ps 71:5–6; Ecc 12:1; Joel 2:28

Scripture Memory: 1 Timothy 4:12

God has never waited for someone to become older before inviting them into His work. Throughout Scripture, He repeatedly called young people to accomplish extraordinary things. Jeremiah doubted his age, but God reminded him that His calling—not human experience—was what mattered most.

The church should never underestimate young believers. They are not merely the future of God's kingdom; they are part of His work today. Likewise, every generation has the privilege of encouraging, equipping, and trusting younger Christians to faithfully serve Christ wherever He leads.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How can you encourage a young believer to serve Christ more boldly?
- Have you ever allowed age or inexperience to become an excuse for not obeying God?

A HEART THAT SAYS YES

Scripture Reading: Isa 6:1-8; Luke 1:26-38;
Ps 119:9-16; Rom12:1-2; Col 3:23-24

Scripture Memory: 1 Timothy 4:12

God delights in willing hearts. Isaiah answered, "Here am I! Send me," while Mary humbly accepted God's unexpected plan for her life. Neither knew exactly what lay ahead, but both trusted the One who was calling them.

Young believers often wonder whether they are ready to serve. God is less concerned with having all the answers than with possessing a heart that is surrendered. A life offered completely to Christ becomes a powerful instrument in His hands.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Is there an area where God may be calling you to simply say "yes"?
- How can your willingness encourage younger Christians around you?

FAITHFULNESS IN THE SMALL THINGS

**Scripture Reading: Luke 16:10; 1 Samuel 16:11-13;
Zechariah 4:10; Matthew 25:21; Proverbs 3:5-6**

Scripture Memory: 1 Timothy 4:12

Before David wore a crown, he faithfully watched sheep. God often prepares His servants through ordinary responsibilities before entrusting them with greater influence. Small acts of obedience shape hearts that can handle greater opportunities.

Young Christians should never believe their present responsibilities are insignificant. Every unseen act of faithfulness matters to God. Whether serving at church, honoring parents, working diligently, or loving others well, God uses everyday obedience to prepare His people for future ministry.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What "small" responsibility has God entrusted to you today?
- How does faithfulness in ordinary life prepare us for greater service?

COURAGE TO STAND ALONE

Scripture Reading: Daniel 1:8-20; Daniel 3:16-18; Joshua 1:9; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 6:10-18

Scripture Memory: 1 Timothy 4:12

Daniel and his friends stood for God when nearly everyone around them chose compromise. Their courage came from confidence in God's character, not confidence in themselves. They feared God more than they feared people.

Young believers today face similar pressures to blend into culture. Yet God still honors those who remain faithful. A life marked by conviction, humility, and courage becomes a testimony that points others to Christ, even when standing alone is difficult.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where do you face pressure to compromise your faith?
- How can you help younger believers develop biblical courage?

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

**Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-2; Psalm 78:4-7;
Titus 2:1-8; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 12:1-2**

Scripture Memory: 1 Timothy 4:12

God's plan has always involved one generation passing faith to the next. Paul invested deeply in Timothy, equipping him to lead the church and disciple others. Healthy ministry always looks beyond the present toward those who will carry the gospel forward.

Whether you are young or old, your life influences someone. Encourage younger believers, invest in them, pray for them, and model faithful obedience. As each generation serves Christ wholeheartedly, the gospel continues to spread and God's name is glorified.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Who has invested spiritually in your life, and how can you thank God for them?
- Who is one younger believer you could intentionally encourage or disciple this week?

SUNDAY NOTES

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A NEW SEASON, A FRESH OPPORTUNITY

Scripture Reading: Deut 6:4-9; Ps 145:4-7; Lam 3:22-23; Phil 1:6; James 1:5

Scripture Memory: Psalm 145:4

The beginning of a school year is more than new teachers, classrooms, and schedules. It represents another opportunity for God to shape hearts and minds. Every child, teenager, college student, educator, and parent enters this season carrying hopes, fears, and countless opportunities to grow in Christ.

As adults, we should see this season as a reminder of our responsibility to intentionally invest in the next generation. Whether through prayer, encouragement, mentoring, or simply living a faithful example, we help point young people toward the God who remains faithful from one generation to the next.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How can you intentionally pray for students and educators this school year?
- Who in the next generation has God placed within your influence?

TEACHING WHAT MATTERS MOST

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 11:18-21; Psalm 127:3-5; 3 John 4; Ephesians 4:11-16

Scripture Memory: Psalm 145:4

Every lesson taught at school has value, but nothing compares to teaching the truth of God's Word. Children and students are constantly learning from someone. The question is whether believers are faithfully helping shape their understanding of God, truth, and eternity.

Parents, grandparents, church members, and spiritual mentors all share the privilege of passing on biblical wisdom. When we consistently speak about God's faithfulness and model lives of obedience, we help prepare the next generation to remain steadfast long after they leave the classroom.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What spiritual truths are you intentionally passing to those younger than you?
- Does your daily example reinforce the lessons you hope others will learn?

GROWING IN WISDOM

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 2:1-11; Matthew 7:24-27

Scripture Memory: Psalm 145:4

Education is a wonderful gift, but wisdom is found in fearing the Lord. Students will spend countless hours gaining knowledge this year, yet lasting success comes from building life upon God's truth rather than human achievement alone.

Adults should encourage young people to pursue excellence in their studies while remembering that character matters more than grades. Wisdom shapes decisions, relationships, priorities, and purpose. When God's Word becomes the foundation of life, every lesson learned can become an opportunity to glorify Him.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How can you encourage someone to pursue both knowledge and biblical wisdom?
- What practices help keep your own heart grounded in God's truth?

SHINING IN EVERY HALLWAY

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13–16; Philippians 2:14–16; 1 Peter 2:9–12; Galatians 5:22–23; John 13:34–35

Scripture Memory: Psalm 145:4

Schools are mission fields filled with students, teachers, administrators, and families who need the hope of Christ. Young believers have countless opportunities to demonstrate kindness, integrity, humility, and love in ways that make the gospel visible every day.

Adults play an important role by encouraging students to see their campuses as places where God has intentionally sent them. Rather than simply surviving the school year, they can faithfully represent Christ through both their words and their actions.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How can you encourage students to view school as a mission field?
- Does your own life consistently point others toward Christ?

BUILDING A LEGACY THAT LASTS

**Scripture Reading: Judges 2:7-10; Psalm 102:18;
Isaiah 54:13; Revelation 7:9-10**

Scripture Memory: Psalm 145:4

One of the saddest moments in Scripture came when a generation arose that did not know the Lord. That reality reminds us that faith is never passed along accidentally. Every generation must intentionally tell the next about God's goodness, His salvation, and His unchanging truth.

As another school year begins, let us commit ourselves to praying faithfully, serving consistently, and investing intentionally. We may never fully see the fruit of those efforts on this side of eternity, but God delights in using faithful people to build a legacy that points future generations to Christ.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What legacy of faith are you leaving for those who come behind you?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to invest in the next generation?

SUNDAY NOTES

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JOIN US ON SUNDAY

8:30AM | 11AM

