

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Do Something / Week 1

He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump.

He sets them among princes, placing them in seats of honor. For all the earth is the Lord's and **He has set the world in order.**

1 SAMUEL 2:8 NLT

DAY 1

Have you ever had the feeling that you were invisible? Like no one could see you or hear you? Like no one was paying any attention to you? When you have a bad day, it's easy to feel this way. But when your life, or someone else's life is full of difficulty it can be easy to begin to feel like you are living your life invisible to others, and maybe even to God.

These verses from the first book of Samuel tell us what is true, even if it doesn't always feel true: that God see us and pays attention. In a culture where it can feel like everyone only pays attention to the popular, the important, the rich, the famous, this verse reminds us that God has His eye on all of us. He sees us. He sees everybody, no matter what our circumstances. He is paying attention. **Today, think of someone who may feel overlooked. Do something to reach out to them and let them know they are seen.**

So the Lord must wait for you to come to Him so he can show you His love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. **Blessed are those who wait for His help.**

ISAIAH 30:18 NLT

DAY 2

Sometimes it can feel like no one gets you or no one understands. But the great thing about reading Scripture is knowing that so much of what we feel and experience has been felt and experienced before. The people of Israel, the group most of the Bible tracks the history of, had plenty of experiences feeling forgotten, betrayed and lost. They were conquered by foreign enemies. They were taken into foreign lands to live never knowing if they would come home again. They wondered if God still cared for them or if he had abandoned them. This is what makes this passage from Isaiah so powerful.

In those moments, we can believe God has left us, or we can wait for his help. We can choose to believe God is faithful, and that He is a God of compassion and love. **Today, when you are tempted to believe otherwise, decide to wait for God's help and believe He hasn't given up on you today and won't ever.**

There is joy for those **who deal justly with others** and always **do what is right.**

PSALM 106:3 NLT

DAY 3

Do you remember as a kid when adults would reward you with candy or a present for good behavior? It was a simple strategy. If you do the right thing, you get a prize. This psalm is expressing a similar idea. If we do justly—meaning, if we pursue justice, do the right thing, and look out for people others may have overlooked—we get rewarded. But it isn't in candy.

The writer of this psalm says we have joy. That joy exists because we see

	<p>a greater possibility for the world and what it could be. We see potential where we used to see brokenness. We see hope where we used to see hopelessness. Joy may not sound like much, but in a world full of hurt, pain and injustice, to feel joy when we work to make the world a better place is a BIG deal. Today if you feel overwhelmed by the injustice in the world, try to take one step to work towards justice. You may be surprised by the joy that brings.</p>
<p>Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.</p> <p>PHILIPPIANS 2:4 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Most of us don't have to be told to look after ourselves. We're the first to point it out if we feel like our older sister got a bigger slice of cake than we did, or our younger brother got away with way more stuff growing up than we did. Looking out for our own interest is easy. What's not easy is moving the attention off of ourselves and on to others. This is why the apostle Paul wrote what he did.</p> <p>We need the reminder that the interests of others matter as much as our own. And when we take the attention off of ourselves we are more likely to be able to look for what others need and then act on it. Today, instead of focusing on what you can do to look out for yourself, pay attention to the people around you. What might their interests be? And, what can you do to help meet them?</p>
<p>So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap of harvest of blessing if we don't give up.</p> <p>GALATIANS 6:9 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>The best part about living in modern times is how IMMEDIATE things are. Craving for donuts at 3am? Have them delivered. Want to watch that 1980's cult classic SCI-FI movie? Netflix has it. Wondering what the third song on Beyonce's first solo album was? Google's got you covered. It's easy to get used to having what you want when you want it—which is great...until you actually have to wait for something. Then you realize how weak your patience muscle can get without any practice. When it comes to pursuing justice in the world around us, it can be tempting to want immediate results and to get frustrated and want to give up when we don't see the progress we want. But in this letter to a church in Galatia, the apostle Paul encourages us to not get tired doing the right thing. Because chances are it will take time to make things right. Injustices aren't corrected overnight. But don't give up.</p> <p>There is a harvest of blessing, Paul writes. Meaning the work we do, as tiring as it may feel, is not done in vain. Today, if you feel tired and want to quit doing good, choose to wait to see what God will do and don't give up. You may be surprised by what can happen because of your persistence to do good.</p>
<p>Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.</p> <p>PSALM 89:14 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>People have always wondered what God is like, and most of the ways we try to figure that out involve looking at the world around us. What we see can tell us a lot about the Creator behind it all, BUT when we see a lot of things around us that don't seem right in the world it can make us wonder: Is God okay with the hurt and the pain in the world? Does he care? What will he do about it?</p>

When Jesus came to Earth, He proved once and for all what God is really like, but even thousands of years before Jesus, humanity was beginning to discover God's personality and what matters to Him. This psalm is a great example of that. It tells us that God cares about justice and is faithful to us, even when it feels like the injustice is winning. That love is who God is, and we can count on it. **Today, if you see an injustice, remember who God is and how much He cares about wrong things being made right. Be a voice for love and faithfulness and justice in your world today.**

I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8 NLT

DAY 7

Memorizing Scripture keeps us focused on what God says is best for our lives. Try committing this verse to memory by writing it on a sticky note and posting it on your mirror.