

A dark, moody photograph of a body of water, possibly a lake or sea, with distant hills or mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. In the lower center, a small, dark boat is visible on the water.

04 DAYS

Love Your Neighbor

RACE, RIOTS, AND GEORGE FLOYD

LEADING MY FAMILY IN DEVOTION

- THIS IS A FOUR DAY DEVOTIONAL MEANT TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES.
- THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WILL BE BASED ON THE LIVE STREAM SERVICE THIS PAST SUNDAY.
- PICK SOMEONE TO BE THE "FACILITATOR" OF THE DEVOTION THAT DAY. CHOOSE SOMEONE TO OPEN IN PRAYER AND ANOTHER PERSON TO READ SCRIPTURE AND THE QUESTIONS ALOUD.
- GO AROUND THE ROOM ANSWERING THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSING WHAT GOD LAYS ON YOUR HEART.

"Understand that Jesus is the only one who can change the human heart."

GARY GARRISON

It's been a tough few weeks (and months) for our country and that means it's been difficult on each of us in different ways. As the death of George Floyd and the subsequent riots have descended upon our nation I invite you to pray with me for peace, for understanding and for wisdom to respond in a Christ-like manner.

Jesus

As followers of Jesus, we understand there is no way out of this except Jesus and the change He brings to the hearts and minds of those who know Him.

Take a minute and read John 1:12. In what ways can accepting Christ into your life change your perspective, specifically when it comes to race relations? Why do you think Jesus dwelling in you through His Holy Spirit change how you view others?

What specifically does Galatians 5:22-26 say will be true of those who have the Spirit of God in them?

The Word

Psalms 119:105

How might God's word give us guidance in these days? How might the Scripture lead us differently than what is currently happening?

A renewed mind.

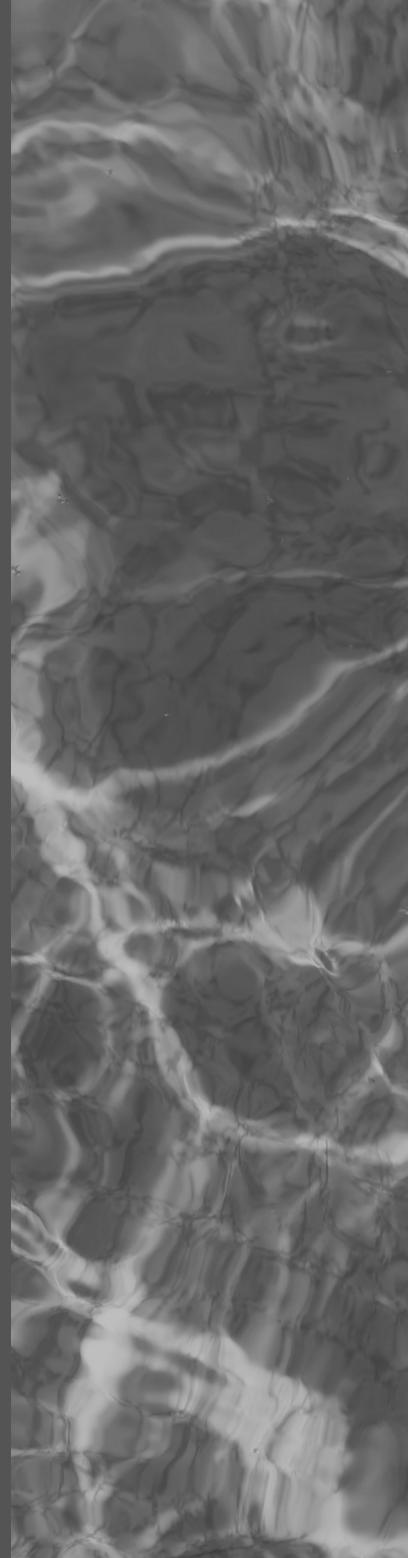
A relationship with Jesus, coupled with the Word of God will produce a renewed mind.

Romans 12:2

During our current events, how are people tempted to conform to this world?

How will conforming to the world make our problems worse?

How are we transformed by a renewed mind? What would that look like in your world? Read Colossians 3:5-14 for ideas.



DAILY CHALLENGE

Today challenge yourself to stay off of social media and ask God how he feels about our country. Seek His heart.

PRAYER

01 Dear Jesus, this is a hard time for our country right now. We ask for your continual guidance on how we conduct ourselves. We also ask for peace and understanding throughout our nation. In Jesus name, Amen!

02



Clothe yourselves with love.

That's how the Apostle Paul finished his thoughts in Colossians 3:5-14. Why do you think Paul would land there?

Another way to say it is this:

Romans 13:10

Why do people 'wrong' their neighbor? Is there ever a legitimate reason to do so?

How exactly can we live in a world rampant with sin and love others and never do them wrong? Is it even possible?

Love should live differently.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

How have leaders in our country missed the mark these last few weeks?

How have leaders in our country done a good job of loving others?

How about you? How well have you loved lately?

What is one practical way you can love well today?

DAILY CHALLENGE

Take sometime for self-reflection on how well you have loved lately. Write down ways that you can continue to love well or how you can love better.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you have called us to love our neighbors. Help us to love all the people you have created and love them well. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen!

**Remember, love does no wrong.**

Romans 12:19-21

Let's walk through this Scripture—
What are you never to do?
What are you, instead, to do?
What reasoning does Paul give for
leaving revenge up to God?

What alternative does Paul give for
retaliation?

How can evil be conquered? Do you
think that is true?

DAILY CHALLENGE

Spend time in prayer today asking God
what alternatives to retaliation we can
make.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, We know that revenge is
ultimately yours. You will bring justice to
all things. Help us to have confidence in
your judgement. In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen!



In the New Testament, love is more of a verb than a noun. It has more to do with acting than with feeling. The call to love is not so much a call to a certain state of feeling as it is to a quality of action.

- R. C. Sproul

Love grows cold.

Here's a warning for us all, straight from the Lord...Jesus is actually speaking to Christians about what the end of the world will be like for you...

Matthew 24:9-13

Jesus warns against our love growing cold—according to these verses what events and situations produce love growing cold?

How could a person resist their love growing cold?

1 John 4:19-21

What is John teaching here?

Who is the source of your love?

Can you love God and hate a brother?

Can you know God and hate your brother?

What is the commandment we have from God? And, most importantly, why do you think God gave us this command?

What to do?

Is there someone in your life you need to seek forgiveness from?

Is there someone in your life you need to reconcile with?

Is there something in your life you need to make right?

Be aware of what is in your heart and ask God to help you make it right.

DAILY CHALLENGE

There were three questions at the end of this devotion. Today's challenge is to answer them honestly and pray that God shows you how He wants you to move forward.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, give us the strength to forgive and to reconcile with those around us the same way that you have forgiven us of all of our past transgressions. You have called us to live in harmony with one another. Help us to follow that command. In Jesus' name, Amen!