

The Sin Snowball Daily Devotions

Day 1:

The Sin Snowball

Devotional: Have you ever watched a small snowball roll down a hill, gathering more snow until it becomes massive? Sin works the same way in our lives. What begins as a small jealousy or resentment can quickly grow into something destructive and uncontrollable. In Genesis 37, we see this pattern with Joseph's brothers. Their jealousy over their father's favoritism toward Joseph grew into hatred, then into a plot to murder him, and finally resulted in selling their own brother into slavery. What began as an emotion ended as a horrific act that devastated their family. This pattern repeats itself in our lives too. A small compromise here, a little bitterness there, and suddenly we find ourselves capable of actions we never thought possible. The small snowball of sin has become an avalanche. The good news is that we don't have to be trapped in this cycle. Recognizing the pattern is the first step toward breaking it. When we feel those initial stirrings of jealousy, resentment, or anger, we can bring them to God before they grow. We can ask for His help to uproot these feelings before they take hold and begin to snowball.

Bible Verse: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death." - Romans 8:1-2

Reflection Question: What small "snowballs" of sin might be forming in your life right now that could grow into something more destructive if left unchecked?

Quote: "Sin always leads to hurt. Sin doesn't just stay as a one time mistake. Instead, Sin snowballs so that we sin once and we sin again."

Prayer: Father, help me to recognize the small beginnings of sin in my life. Give me the courage to bring these to You before they grow and cause harm to myself and others. Thank You for Your grace that breaks the cycle of sin. Amen.

Day 2:

Desensitized Hearts

Devotional: One of the most chilling moments in Joseph's story comes when his brothers, after throwing him into a pit, sit down to eat a meal while ignoring his cries for help. How could they be so callous toward their own brother? The answer lies in what happens when sin takes root in our hearts - we become desensitized. Their hatred had grown so intense that they no longer saw

Joseph as their brother but as an object of their anger. Their hearts had hardened to the point where they could enjoy a meal while he suffered nearby. This desensitization happens gradually. We ignore the gentle nudges of the Holy Spirit. We justify small acts of disobedience. We silence our conscience. Eventually, we find ourselves capable of actions that would have horrified us before. God designed our hearts to be tender and responsive to Him and to the needs of others. When we consistently ignore His voice, we develop what Paul calls a "seared conscience" - unable to feel the weight of our sin or the pain we cause others. Today, ask God to soften any hardened areas of your heart. Invite Him to restore your sensitivity to His Spirit and to renew your compassion for others.

Bible Verse: "When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped off Joseph's robe, the long-sleeved robe that he had on. Then they took him and threw him into the pit. The pit was empty, without water.

They sat down to eat a meal, and when they looked up, there was a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were carrying aromatic gum, balsam, and resin, going down to Egypt." - Genesis 37:23-25

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life might you have become desensitized to sin or to the suffering of others around you?

Quote: "Friends, not only does sin snowball; sin also desensitizes us. We stop listening to how the Holy Spirit telling us to live differently and to obey God."

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for the times I've hardened my heart against Your voice or the needs of others. Restore my sensitivity to Your Spirit and give me a heart of compassion. Help me to respond quickly when You speak. Amen.

Day 3:

When Others' Sin Hurts Us

Devotional: Joseph did nothing to deserve what happened to him. In fact, he was simply being obedient to his father when he went to check on his brothers. Yet in an instant, his life was shattered. He went from being the favored son with a bright future to being a slave in a foreign land. Many of us can relate to Joseph's experience. We've been hurt not because of our own choices, but because of someone else's sin. A betrayal by someone we trusted. A lie that damaged our reputation. A relationship broken by another's actions. Joseph's story reminds us of an important truth: while we can't control others' choices, we can control our response. Though we don't see Joseph's immediate reaction in Genesis 37, his later life reveals a man who refused to be defined by what was done to him. When others' sin hurts us, we have options. We can become bitter and resentful, allowing their sin to shape our character. Or we can, like

Joseph, entrust ourselves to God, believing that He can work even through painful circumstances to accomplish His purposes. God doesn't waste our pain. What others intend for harm, He can use for good - not just for us, but for many others as well.

Bible Verse: "They saw him in the distance, and before he had reached them, they plotted to kill him. They said to one another, "Oh, look, here comes that dream expert! So now, come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of the pits. We can say that a vicious animal ate him. Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!" - Genesis 37:18-20

Reflection Question: How have you responded to situations where you were hurt by someone else's sin? What might it look like to entrust that pain to God?

Quote: "Our sin has consequences, and so does the sin of other people. As we live, we sin, but we are also hurt by other people's sin."

Prayer: God, I bring before You the hurts caused by others' actions. Help me not to be defined by these experiences but to trust You to work through them. Give me the strength to forgive and the faith to believe that You can bring good even from these painful situations. Amen.

Day 4:

The Savior Who Stops the Snowball

Devotional: The story of Joseph's betrayal points forward to a greater story - one where another beloved son would be betrayed, sold, and seemingly defeated, only to become the savior of many. Unlike Joseph, Jesus came from glory to humility by choice, taking on human form and the limitations of our existence. While sin creates a snowball effect of destruction in our lives, Jesus came to stop that snowball. Where sin brings death, Jesus brings life. Where sin creates division, Jesus restores relationship. Where sin leads to slavery, Jesus offers freedom. The good news of the gospel is that we don't have to remain trapped in cycles of sin and brokenness. Through faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness for our sins and freedom from sin's power over us. The snowball stops at the cross. But this isn't just about personal salvation. Once we've experienced this freedom, we're called to live differently - to do the good works God has prepared for us. We become part of God's plan to stop the snowballs of sin in our families, communities, and world. Today, remember that no matter how big your sin snowball has grown, Jesus is powerful enough to stop it. And He invites you to join Him in His redemptive work.

Bible Verse: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you." - 1 Peter 1:3-4

Reflection Question: In what specific area of your life do you need Jesus to stop the sin snowball? How might God be calling you to help stop the snowball effect of sin in someone else's life?

Quote: "The sin snowball stops with the Savior. When God created the world, he created everything. In it perfectly, with no sin, with no brokenness."

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for stopping the snowball of sin through Your sacrifice. I surrender my struggles with sin to You today. Use me to bring Your healing and redemption to others who are caught in cycles of brokenness. Amen.

Day 5:

Glorifying God in Our Trials

Devotional: When Joseph was thrown into the pit, he couldn't see how God would use this terrible situation. From his perspective, everything had fallen apart. Yet what looked like the end of his story was actually just the beginning of God's greater purpose. Like Joseph, we often can't see the bigger picture when we're in the middle of our trials. The pit moments of our lives - those times when everything seems to be falling apart - can feel like God has abandoned us. But these moments are often the very places where God is working most powerfully. Rather than running from trials, Scripture encourages us to see them as opportunities for growth. They test our faith, revealing where we truly stand with God and where we need to grow. They develop perseverance and character. And they prepare us for the work God has for us. Glorifying God in our trials doesn't require grand gestures. It can be as simple as approaching our work differently, showing kindness to difficult people, or maintaining our faith during uncertain medical diagnoses. These small acts of faithfulness in difficult circumstances speak volumes about the God we serve. Today, whatever pit you find yourself in, remember that God is with you there. And what feels like an ending may actually be the beginning of something beautiful.

Bible Verse: "You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." - 1 Peter 1:6-7

Reflection Question: What current trial in your life might God be using to develop your character and prepare you for His purposes? How can you glorify Him in the midst of this situation?

Quote: "Trials and tests are actually a great chance for us to grow closer to God and to learn where we are with God and where we need to grow. So don't run away from them and instead rejoice in them."

Prayer: Father, help me to see my current trials through Your eyes. Use these difficult circumstances to shape me and prepare me for the work You have for me. Give me the strength to glorify You even in my pit moments, trusting that You are working all things for good. Amen.