

# Our First Response - Devotional

## **Day 1: God's Boundless Love**

Reading: John 3:16-21

Devotional: God's love for the world is immeasurable and all-encompassing. Just as the pastor emphasized "For God So Loved," we are reminded that this love extends to every corner of the earth, including our own communities. Reflect on how God's love has touched your life. How can you extend that same love to others, especially those who may seem unlovable? Consider ways you can be a vessel of God's love in your daily interactions, showing kindness and compassion to all, regardless of their background or beliefs.

## **Day 2: The Power of Prayer in God's Mission**

Reading: Ephesians 6:18-20

Devotional: Prayer is not just a last resort, but our first and most powerful response. The Apostle Paul, despite his spiritual stature, consistently asked for prayer support. This reminds us of our interdependence in the body of Christ. How often do you pray for others, especially those in ministry or facing persecution? Take time to pray boldly for the spread of the Gospel, for protection of believers in hostile environments, and for courage to share your faith. Remember, through prayer, we participate in God's global mission.

## **Day 3: Transformation Through Repentance**

Reading: Acts 3:19-20

Devotional: The message of repentance is central to the Gospel. It's not about condemnation, but about transformation and new life in Christ. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be resisting God's call to change. Are there habits, attitudes, or beliefs that need to be surrendered to God? Repentance is not just feeling sorry, but actively turning away from sin and towards God. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal areas needing change and for the strength to follow through in obedience.

## **Day 4: Boldness in Faith**

Reading: Acts 4:29-31

Devotional: The early church prayed for boldness in the face of opposition, and God answered powerfully. In our increasingly secular world, we too need this kind of courage. Think about situations where you've been hesitant to share your faith or stand for truth. Ask God to fill you with His Spirit and grant you boldness. Remember the example of Paul at the Areopagus, confidently proclaiming Christ amidst a culture of many gods. How can you step out in faith today, trusting God to use you?

## **Day 5: Hope in Suffering**

Reading: Romans 8:18-25

Devotional: The reality of suffering in the Christian life is undeniable, as we've seen in recent attacks on believers. Yet, our hope is not in this world, but in the promise of eternal life with Christ. How does this eternal perspective change the way you view current trials or persecutions? Reflect on how you can be a source of hope to others who are suffering. Pray for

persecuted Christians around the world, that they would experience God's presence and comfort in their trials, and that their faith would be a powerful witness to the hope we have in Christ.