

5-Day Devotional: The God Who Hunts Us Down

Day 1: No One Is Too Far

Reading: Acts 9:1-6; Romans 5:6-8

Devotional: Saul was breathing threats and murder against believers, yet God pursued him. He was from the perfect religious pedigree, trained by the best teachers, and zealously opposed to Jesus. If anyone seemed beyond reach, it was Saul. Yet God knocked him off his horse with blinding light and transforming grace. Who in your life seems too far from God? Perhaps you've even felt that way about yourself. Today's reading reminds us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God doesn't wait for us to clean up before He pursues us. He hunts down the hunters, saves the persecutors, and transforms terrorists into apostles. No one is beyond the reach of His grace. Let this truth fuel your prayers for those who seem far from God today.

Day 2: Grace Instead of Death

Reading: Acts 9:3-9; Ephesians 2:1-10

Devotional: "Get up," Jesus told Saul. Not "You're finished," but "Get up." Saul deserved death for his persecution of believers, yet God extended grace and a calling. This is the pattern of salvation: we deserve judgment, but God gives mercy.

When you encountered Christ, you stood guilty before a holy God. Your sins, whether seemingly small or devastatingly large, earned death. But God, rich in mercy, said "Get up" to you too. He didn't just forgive you and leave you unchanged. He gave you purpose, calling you to be His instrument. Spend time today reflecting on your own "get up" moment. When did God's grace interrupt your path toward destruction? Let gratitude for undeserved mercy overflow into worship and renewed commitment to the calling He's placed on your life.

Day 3: Chosen as His Instrument

Reading: Acts 9:10-16; Acts 1:8

Devotional: God told Ananias that Saul was "my chosen instrument to take my name to the Gentiles, kings, and Israelites." Salvation isn't just about being rescued from something; it's about being chosen for something. You are not saved simply to be comfortable or to attend church regularly. You are a chosen instrument.

Acts 17:26 tells us God has pre-appointed our times and places of dwelling. Your neighborhood, workplace, family, and friendships are not accidents. God has strategically positioned you to carry His name exactly where you are.

Who has God placed in your sphere of influence? Your coworker who doesn't know

Jesus? Your neighbor who's going through hardship? Your family member who's walked away from faith? You are God's chosen instrument for them. Don't settle for less than this calling. Ask God today to open your eyes to the mission field where you already live.

Day 4: Suffering for His Name

Reading: Acts 9:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Philippians 3:7-11

Devotional: God's promise to Saul included suffering: "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." This isn't the comfortable Christianity we often expect. Being chosen as God's instrument doesn't lead to Disneyland; it leads to sacrifice, persecution, and pain.

Yet Paul later wrote that he counted everything as loss compared to knowing Christ. He found joy in sharing Christ's sufferings. Why? Because suffering for Jesus connects us intimately with Him and accomplishes His eternal purposes through us.

You may face ridicule for your faith, rejection from family, or hardship because of your obedience to Christ. This isn't a sign you're doing something wrong; it's often evidence you're doing exactly what you were created for. We are closest to God when we suffer for His name. Don't be surprised by trials. Instead, ask God for grace to remain faithful and to see your suffering as participation in Christ's mission.

Day 5: Brother, Sister

Reading: Acts 9:17-19; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Devotional: Ananias's first words to Saul were "Brother Saul." Not "You monster," or "Prove yourself first," but "Brother." After three days of blindness, fasting, and wrestling with his sin, Saul heard the most comforting word possible: he belonged. How do you respond when someone you dislike or distrust claims salvation? When someone who has hurt you or others professes faith in Christ? Our natural response is skepticism, even hostility. But God calls us to see people not as they were, but as who they are in Christ.

The ministry of reconciliation means we no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view. Every salvation deserves celebration, no matter the person's past. Every dead person who crosses into life should stir rejoicing in our hearts.

Is there someone whose salvation you've doubted or resented? Ask God to give you Ananias's heart—one that welcomes transformed sinners as brothers and sisters, extending the same grace you've received.