

5-Day Devotional: The Power of Your Story

Day 1: The Miracle of Salvation

Reading: Acts 3:1-10

Devotional: The lame beggar at the Beautiful Gate had been carried to the same spot for over 40 years. His condition defined him until Peter declared, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk." Instantly, his legs became strong, and he began leaping and praising God.

Your salvation is equally miraculous. You were spiritually dead, unable to walk in righteousness on your own. But Jesus spoke life over you. Don't minimize what God has done by acting like you were "already close" to salvation. You went from death to life. That transformation deserves celebration, not concealment.

Reflection: When did you last celebrate the miracle of your salvation? How can you walk today like someone who has truly been saved?

Application: Share with someone this week about the change Christ has made in your life, not hiding the "before" but celebrating the "after."

Day 2: Look at Me

Reading: Luke 15:11-24

Devotional: Peter's first words to the beggar were simple: "Look at us." The man had his head down, expecting rejection or empty platitudes. Instead, Peter demanded eye contact before offering transformation.

How often do we avoid looking at Jesus? We keep our heads down in shame, embarrassment, or self-sufficiency. We expect disappointment rather than deliverance. But Jesus calls us to lift our eyes and truly see Him—not as a distant deity or harsh judge, but as the compassionate Savior who reaches down to lift us up.

The father in the prodigal son story didn't wait for his son to grovel; he ran to embrace him. God doesn't want your shame-filled glances. He wants your full attention.

Reflection: What keeps your head down spiritually? What shame or embarrassment prevents you from fully looking at Jesus?

Application: Spend time in prayer today with your eyes open, practicing the presence of God and "looking" at Him through worship.

Day 3: We Are All Sinners

Reading: Romans 3:21-26

Devotional: Peter's second sermon wasn't seeker-sensitive. He told the crowd, "You denied and killed Jesus." These weren't necessarily the same people who shouted "Crucify Him!" Yet Peter connected them—and us—to Jesus' death through our sin.

This is uncomfortable truth. We want to believe we're basically good people who occasionally mess up. But the gospel only becomes beautiful when we first recognize we're desperately lost. You and I are sinners whose rebellion nailed Jesus to the cross. Not Rome. Not the Pharisees. Us.

Only when we see ourselves rightly—as dead in sin—can we appreciate the magnitude of grace that raised us to life.

Reflection: Do you truly see yourself as a sinner saved by grace, or as a good person who occasionally needs forgiveness?

Application: Confess to God today not just specific sins, but your sinful nature. Thank Him that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Day 4: Seasons of Refreshing

Reading: Psalm 51:1-17

Devotional: Peter promised that repentance leads to "seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." Many view repentance as spiritual punishment—a shameful confession that distances us from God. But it's actually the pathway to intimacy.

When we confess our sins, we don't inform God of something He doesn't know. We align ourselves with truth and position ourselves to receive His cleansing. Repentance isn't about earning forgiveness through self-flagellation; it's about removing barriers to experiencing God's love.

David understood this. After his sin with Bathsheba, he didn't just ask for forgiveness—he asked for restored joy, a clean heart, and renewed relationship. Repentance brings refreshing because it brings us closer to Jesus.

Reflection: Do you view repentance as punishment or as the pathway to deeper intimacy with God?

Application: Practice daily repentance this week, not out of fear but out of desire for closeness with God. Notice how confession brings refreshing.

Day 5: Your Story Has Impact

Reading: John 9:1-25

Devotional: The crowd ran to see the formerly lame man because they knew his story. His 40-year inability to walk made his healing undeniable. If they hadn't known his past, they wouldn't have recognized the miracle.

Your story—including the ugly parts—has power to point others to Jesus. The man

born blind in John 9 had a simple testimony: "I was blind but now I see." He didn't have theological training, but his transformed life was irrefutable evidence.

What miracle has God performed in your life? What has He rescued you from, healed you of, or delivered you through? That story, honestly told, will draw people to investigate the One who changed you.

Stop hiding your past. It's the canvas on which God paints His grace.

Reflection: What parts of your story do you hide out of shame? How might those very parts demonstrate God's power most clearly?

Application: This week, share your full story—the brokenness and the healing—with someone who needs to see that God is good.