

Day 1: The Greatness of Jesus

Reading: Luke 9:37-43

Devotional: As we read about Jesus healing the demon-possessed boy, we're reminded of His unparalleled power and authority. The disciples' failure to cast out the demon highlights our own inadequacies and the importance of relying on Christ's strength rather than our own. Today, reflect on areas in your life where you may be struggling to see results. Are you trying to overcome challenges in your own power, or are you truly relying on Jesus? Remember, faith and obedience connect us to Christ's power. Pray for a deeper faith and the humility to depend fully on God's strength in all situations.

Day 2: Embracing the Cross

Reading: Luke 9:44-45, Romans 5:6-11

Devotional: Jesus' words about His coming betrayal and death were difficult for the disciples to understand. Similarly, we often struggle to grasp the full meaning of the cross in our lives. The cross represents sacrifice, suffering, and ultimate love. How are you embracing the cross in your daily life? Are there areas where you're resisting sacrifice? Remember, as Paul writes, Christ died for us while we were still sinners - the ultimate act of sacrificial love. Today, consider one way you can demonstrate sacrificial love to someone else, even if it's uncomfortable or costly to you.

Day 3: True Greatness in God's Kingdom

Reading: Luke 9:46-48, Philippians 2:3-11

Devotional: The disciples' argument about greatness reveals a very human tendency to seek status and recognition. Yet Jesus turns this notion upside down by presenting a child as the model of kingdom greatness. In God's economy, true greatness is found in humility and service to others. Reflect on your motivations in serving God and others. Are you seeking recognition, or are you content to serve quietly and humbly? Ask God to cultivate a servant's heart within you, following the example of Christ who "made himself nothing" for our sake.

Day 4: Unity in the Body of Christ

Reading: Luke 9:49-50, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Devotional: John's concern about someone outside their group using Jesus' name reveals a tendency to create exclusive circles within the faith. However, Jesus emphasizes unity and inclusivity in His kingdom. Paul later elaborates on this, describing the church as one body with many parts. How might you be inadvertently creating divisions or exclusive groups within the body of Christ? Pray for a spirit of unity and the ability to celebrate how God is working through others, even if their methods or traditions differ from yours. Consider reaching out to a believer from a different background or denomination to learn from their perspective.

Day 5: Perseverance in Faith

Reading: Luke 9:37-50, Hebrews 12:1-3

Devotional: Throughout this passage, we see the disciples struggling with faith, understanding, and right attitudes. Yet Jesus continues to teach and guide them patiently. This reminds us that growth in faith is a journey, often marked by failures and misunderstandings. The author of Hebrews encourages us to "run with perseverance" and fix our eyes on Jesus. Reflect on your own faith journey. Where have you seen growth? Where do you still struggle? Take heart in knowing that Jesus is patient with us, just as He was with the disciples. Commit to persevering in faith, learning from both successes and failures, always keeping your focus on Christ.