

May 17th Grad Sunday Resources

5-Day Devotional Guide: Standing Firm in Faith

Day 1: The Gospel of Grace

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Devotional: "I couldn't do it, so Jesus did it for me." This simple truth captures the essence of the gospel. We stand before God not because of our achievements, diplomas, or accomplishments, but solely because of Christ's finished work on the cross. As we celebrate milestones and transitions, we must remember that our greatest achievement is one we could never earn—salvation through Jesus Christ. Today, reflect on the areas where you're still trying to "do it yourself" instead of resting in what Jesus has already done. His grace is sufficient. His blood covers your debt completely. There is no greater love than this sacrificial gift that transforms sinners into saints.

Day 2: Mission-Minded Living

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Devotional: The Great Commission isn't reserved for those crossing oceans—it's for every believer, wherever they are. Whether you're in Southeast Asia, at Snowbird, in your workplace, or in your own church, you are called to be mission-minded. God doesn't waste anything, including your current season of life. The mission field is wherever your feet touch ground. As you face new beginnings—graduation, career changes, or daily routines—ask yourself: How can I advance the gospel right where I am? You don't need special training to share the hope you've found in Christ. Your everyday conversations, your character in trials, and your willingness to serve are powerful testimonies. Be bold. Let the Holy Spirit work through your ordinary moments to reach those living in darkness.

Day 3: Rest and Surrender at the Altar

Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Devotional: In our busy, achievement-driven culture, the call to rest seems countercultural. Yet Jesus invites us to lay our burdens, fears, and control at His altar. Worship isn't just singing melodies—it's the active choice to surrender our plans and trust God completely. As life accelerates with graduations, new careers, and shifting seasons, slow down. Be still. God trades our sorrows for joy, our ashes for beauty, and our burdens for His light yoke. The altar represents a sacred place where broken dreams and victories alike find their home in God's presence. What are you holding onto that needs to be surrendered today? Release it. God's arms are open, and He wastes nothing you bring to Him.

Day 4: Standing Strong in a Complex World

Reading: Daniel 3:13-18

Devotional: Life today is vastly different and more complex than previous generations. Students face pressures and challenges that require extraordinary courage. Like Daniel's friends before the furnace, you may be called to stand for truth when it's unpopular, to speak with kindness but conviction, and to honor God even when it costs you. Be strong and courageous—not in your own strength, but because the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. He lives in you and cannot be separated from you. When you stand for biblical truth in your school, workplace, or community, you're not standing alone. God is for you. Take His Word with you. Know what you believe. Stand fast. And remember: the world may not like you for it, but that's their problem, not yours. Honor God with unwavering faithfulness.

Day 5: God's Hope, Guidance, and Courage
Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13; Proverbs 3:5-6; Joshua 1:9

Devotional: As you step into new seasons, take three essential gifts with you: God's hope, His guidance, and His courage. God's thoughts toward you are good—He wants you to succeed and has an expected end for your life. Don't lean on your own understanding; your emotions will deceive you. Instead, trust God's guidance in all your ways. Submit to Him, and He will direct your paths. Life will challenge you. It's not fair, and not everyone will like you. You'll face failure, hard work, and days when happiness seems distant. But through it all, you can have joy—the kind that comes only from Christ. God has all the answers you're seeking. Come to Him. Ask for His counsel. Walk closely with Him. And remember: you are responsible for your choices, but you're never alone in making them. He is with you always.