

Devotions For Students

Lesson 1: The Gift Giver

DAY 1

Read this quote:

“You must be the change want to see in the world.”

- Gandhi

Answer this question either here, or in a journal or a note taking app:

“What changes need to be made in the world around me? Now, which ones are ones that God can work through me to make?”

If you're having trouble answering it, think of the people in your life who are hurting. Or think of a problem that needs solving that no one is doing anything about. Or think about a particular cause you're passionate about. These are all ways God might be trying to show you places where change needs to be made. The goal is to take a couple of days and think about how you can answer this next question:

“How can God use me to be a part of making a change?”

DAY 2

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” – Ephesians 4:11-12

Have you ever been on a team when there was that one person who didn't do their part? Didn't that person make you mad? In order for a team to accomplish its goals, all team members need to be involved and do their part.

Read Ephesians 4:11-12.

These verses speak of the team that God has recruited us for. He's not only put us on the team, He's given us skills to help make it awesome. The work of ministry – advancing God's Kingdom in the world – is something that all Christ-followers are supposed to be involved in. In Ephesians, Paul explains that there are some people who are called to coach the team. But the team does not only include these people. It includes every one of us. Including you!

You don't want to be that person that lets the team down.

God has gifted you and empowered you to be a valuable player on His team, involved in serving His Church and growing His kingdom.

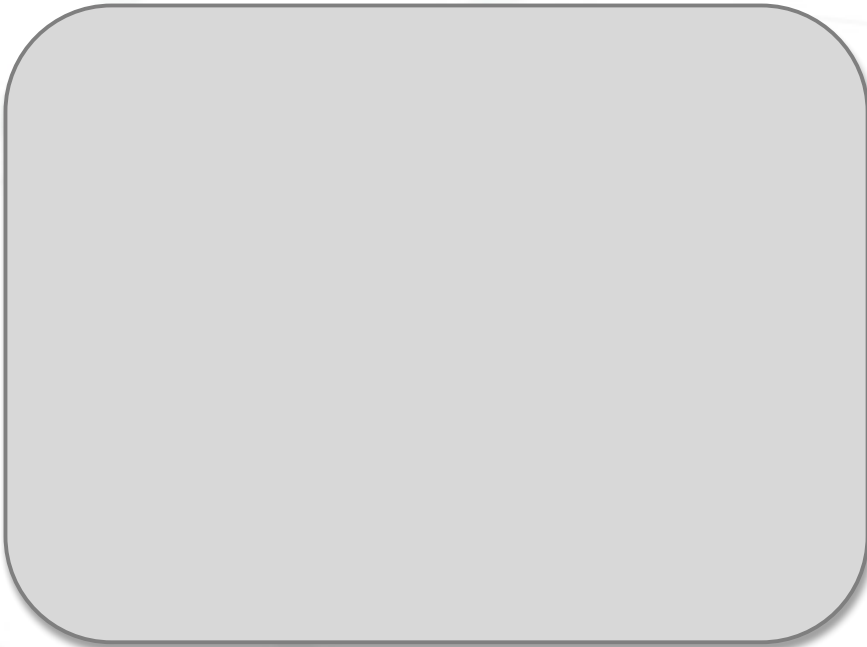
Some things to think about:

- How would you describe the role you're playing on the team right now?
- What changes in your heart and attitude need to be made in order to contribute more to the team?

DAY 3

Use the space below, or your journal or journaling app, to write a prayer to God.

Thank Him for giving you spiritual gifts and calling you to be a part of His team doing His work in the world. Today, pray that God would begin to show you your spiritual gifts and where you can use them to serve Him. Then, trust Him to reveal these to you. Look for them! He's faithful and will show you where He wants to use you.



DAY 4

In Jesus' last words to His disciples, He called them to "Go" (Matthew 28:18) and be about His work in the world. Jesus knew that His followers would have busy lives and schedules, yet He did not command them to back down on their activities. He wanted them to use their "going" as a time to look for ways to be about His Kingdom work.

Spend a few moments thinking about several people that you know you'll run into today that God may be calling you to encourage.

Who is a friend who doesn't have a relationship with God who needs to see the love of God working in and through you?

Who is one adult you can encourage through kindness and respect today?

Is there an acquaintance (not necessarily a "friend, but just someone you kind of know) that God has put on your heart?

DAY 5

"A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in the ministry of the church."

– Wayne Grudem

What are some gifts that you have (these don't necessarily have to be "churchy" gifts like evangelism or teaching) that could be used for ministry? How could these gifts be used? (Be creative. You may want to brainstorm with your youth pastor or some other students from church.)

You may be surprised . . . the things you're passionate about? Those aspects of your life and of your faith that excite you and give you energy? This often means your spiritual gifts are in line with these areas.

Begin this week to think about these things that excite you or stir a passion in you.

Then, begin to think of how you can join in alongside the work that's already being done to grow and serve God's Kingdom and the Church.