

FIRST things FIRST

Daily Devotionals

October 6-12, 2025

Devotions are prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

Monday, Oct. 6 **Trusting God's Bigger Story**

Scripture: Proverbs 16:9

The exiles may have felt abandoned, but God reminded them that He Himself had carried them to Babylon. Their situation was not random or outside His control. Even when life feels like it's been turned upside down, God is still writing a bigger story than we can see. His purposes often unfold in unexpected places—sometimes through hardship, waiting, or detours that make no sense in the moment. Instead of asking only, “How do I get out of this?” God invites us to ask, “Lord, what are You doing in this?” Our plans may change, but His sovereignty never wavers. Trusting His bigger story gives us courage to live faithfully in the middle of uncertainty, knowing that His hand is guiding every step.

Prayer: Sovereign Lord, when life takes unexpected turns, help me remember that nothing is beyond Your plan.

Tuesday, Oct. 7 **Bloom Where You are Planted**

Scripture: Psalm 37:3

The exiles longed to go back to Jerusalem. Their hearts ached for home, but God's word to them was surprising: stay, build, plant, and grow. Instead of merely enduring Babylon, they were to embrace it as the place where God's purposes would unfold. We often think life will begin after we graduate, get a new job, move to a different city, or find the right relationship. Yet God calls us to live fully and faithfully today. Even in seasons of disappointment, delay, or detour, His presence is not limited by geography or circumstance. Wherever you are—whether it feels like a temporary stop or a permanent assignment—God's invitation is to invest in the present, trusting that He is shaping you for His glory and your good.

Prayer: Lord, help me to embrace the place where You have planted me.

Wednesday, Oct. 8 **Seek the Welfare of the City**

Scripture: Matthew 5:9

God did not tell His people to isolate themselves in Babylon or fight against their captors. Instead, He commanded them to work for the city's flourishing and pray for its good. This is a radical call to love those who may not share our faith or values. As followers of Jesus, we are still called to be peacemakers—people who bring the love of Christ into workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities, even those far from God. To “seek the peace” of our city means more than offering quick fixes; it means

advocating for justice, caring for the vulnerable, and building relationships across differences. When our neighbors flourish, we also experience God's blessing, because the welfare of the community and the well-being of God's people are intertwined.

Prayer: God of peace, open my eyes to the needs of my community.

Thursday Oct. 9

Praying for Our World

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways to love the place where we live. The exiles were told to pray for the very nation that had conquered them. Likewise, we are called to intercede for leaders and communities, even when we disagree with their policies or actions. Prayer is not passive resignation—it is active partnership with God's kingdom work. As we pray for justice, peace, and wisdom, we invite God's Spirit to move in ways we cannot orchestrate ourselves. And as we pray, God also changes us—softening hard hearts, opening our eyes to the needs around us, and shaping us to become answers to our own prayers.

Prayer: Lord, I lift up my community, my leaders, and this world to You.

Friday, Oct. 10

Faithful in the Ordinary

Scripture: Colossians 3:23

God's instructions to build houses and plant gardens may seem simple, but they are deeply spiritual. The people were to honor God by engaging fully in the everyday tasks of life. We often look for big, dramatic moments to prove our faith, but God delights in daily obedience. Serving our families, working diligently, caring for our homes, and loving our neighbors are all ways we worship. When we offer ordinary routines to God, He transforms them into opportunities for eternal impact. Faithfulness in small things prepares us for greater things and brings glory to the One who sees every hidden act of love.

Prayer: Lord, help me to see my everyday tasks as sacred.

Saturday, Oct. 11

Carriers of Hope

Scripture: Philippians 2:15-16

Even in exile, God's people were called to shine as a light to the nations. As followers of Christ, we are called to carry hope into dark places—workplaces filled with conflict, families marked by pain, or neighborhoods weighed down by fear. Our presence, prayers, and faith can bring encouragement to those who feel forgotten. We don't bring light because we are strong; we shine because Christ's Spirit lives within us. Every conversation, every act of kindness, and every prayer is an opportunity to reflect the hope of the gospel to a world in need.

Prayer: Jesus, make me a bearer of Your hope. Help me to shine with Your love in every place You send me.

Sunday, Oct. 12

Making the Best of It

Worship at 10:00am

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

by Pastor Clint Phillips