

FIRST things FIRST...

Daily Devotions April 20th - 26th, 2026

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

Monday, April 20th

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1 & John 10:1-10

One of the most comforting pieces in Scripture is that God does not deal with us as a crowd. He deals with us as individuals. Isaiah reminds us that God calls us by name. By name. Really? Do we realize how powerful God is and He still calls us individually? How awesome is that idea? In John 10, the sheep respond because they recognize the shepherd's voice. That only happens when there is a personal relationship. When God calls to us, it is a personal invitation. He knows your story, your fears, your gifts, and your potential. He knows the things you hide from others and the things you hide from yourself. When God calls you, it is purposeful and always in love.

Prayer: Lord, help me hear Your voice above all others.

Tuesday: April 21st

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:8 & John 10:1-10

Shepherds lead from the front. They don't drive the sheep from behind; they walk ahead, clearing the path, watching for danger, and choosing the safest route. That's the heart of God's leadership. Deuteronomy reminds us that God goes before us into every place. Before you step into a difficult moment, God is already there. Before you even realize that your life is in transition, God is already there. We often fear the future because we imagine walking into it alone. But the Shepherd is never behind us shouting directions. He is ahead of us, paving the way with love.

Prayer: God, lead me with wisdom and help me trust Your path.

Wednesday: April 22nd

Scripture: Psalm 118:19 & John 10:1-10

The psalmist longed for a way to connect to God's presence. Jesus tells us that He is that way to God by calling Himself the gate. He is the way through the barriers of life so we can live with God. While we often see a gate as both protection and invitation, this is not the way with Christ. Jesus is not a barrier. Through Him, we find forgiveness, purpose, and joy that the world cannot provide. Abundant life is not about having more.

It's about placing our lives in the presence of the One who is more than enough.

Prayer: Jesus, lead me into the life You desire for me.

Thursday: April 23rd

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:12 & John 10:1-10

Elijah expected God to speak through wind, earthquake, and fire, but God came in a whisper. Jesus says His sheep know His voice but learning that voice takes time. It requires silencing the noise that is around us. The world is noisy. It yells all kinds of things at us to cause fear, doubt, and worry. But Jesus is quiet. He just speaks through the noise and invites us to Him. If we want to follow Jesus, we need to be able to understand what is noise, and what is love. How do you need to separate from the noise?

Prayer: Lord, quiet the noise around me. Help me recognize You.

Friday: April 24th

Scripture: Ephesians 3:20 & John 10:1-10

Jesus promises abundant life. Paul solidifies this truth by reminding us that God's power exceeds our imagination. Abundance is not about how much we have. It is about the quality of life that we can see from God's grace. Abundant life means having a steady kind of peace, a joy that keeps you going, a sense of purpose that gives you energy, and a hope that holds you firm. It's not about getting everything you want. It's about realizing that God is enough for you. When we follow the Shepherd, we find that He leads us not into emptiness but into a place that gives us wholeness.

Prayer: God, bring Your "immeasurably more" into my life.

Saturday: April 25th

Scripture: Ephesians 2:14 & John 10:1-10

Jesus speaks of one flock under one shepherd. A flock that comes together because we belong to Him. We don't come together in our own desires, but in a connection with the One that created us. Ephesians tell us once more that we are to be one if God and Jesus breaks down walls that divide us to create that unified place. In a world full of walls the Shepherd brings together the people who may not ever gather on their own. Belonging to the Shepherd means belonging to His people. It means we are not alone. It means we walk together, learn together, and grow together. The Shepherd leads us into the largest community ever formed. The one that is blanketed by the love of God.

Prayer: Jesus, break down the walls that divide us.

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Worship at 10:00am

Title: Knowing that Voice

Pastor Clint Phillips

Scripture: John 10:1-10