

Devotions For Students

Lesson 1: Life-changing Service

DAY 1

“The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.” — Zephaniah 3:17

Love. We use that word a lot. We love our families. We love pizza. We love our favorite sports teams. We use the word love so much that it’s lost its power. So when we say, “God loves us” do we really understand what that means?

Read Zephaniah 3:17. What an amazing verse! This verse tells us a number of things:

1. *God is in our midst.* He’s at your side, and He’s not leaving you. In the middle of our good times and bad, He is here with us.
2. *He is the mighty one.* God’s got your back! You have the God of the universe on your side, and He will save you. We have nothing to fear.
3. *He rejoices over us with gladness.* God loves everything about you. You are His child and He genuinely gets excited about you.
4. *He will quiet you with His love.* Life can be rough. When times get tough, God is a comforting shoulder to lean on.
5. *He rejoices over us with singing.* Did you realize God loves you so much He breaks out into song “Glee Style” over you? His love is so deep that he just can’t help singing over us.

God loves us beyond anything we can imagine. He loves us so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross, for us! This three-week series is on service, but before we can comprehend service we need to understand God’s love. Service flows out of love. When we love others like God loves us, we can’t help but shower them with service.

Think About This . . .

- Did you realize God loves you so much? How does that make you feel?

DAY 2

Write down the names of three people you came into contact today in the three columns. Pick three different types of people: friend, acquaintance, and stranger. In the first part, write down one-word descriptions of them. How would you describe them to others? In the second part, write down how God would describe them. Really think about how God would view them.

	Friend	Acquaintance	Stranger
How you describe			
How God describes			

*How are the ways you viewed them similar?
How are they different?*

Before we can serve others, we need to love them like God loves them.

Tomorrow, try to see people the way God sees them, and see how your actions change towards them.

DAY 3

Think on this quote today:

“Here is a spiritual principle: We cannot exercise love unless we are experiencing grace. You cannot truly love others unless you are convinced that God’s love for you is unconditional, based solely on the merit of Christ, not on your performance. Our love, either to God or to others, can only be a response to His love for us.” — Jerry Bridges

Think About This . . .

- Are you convinced that God’s love for you is unconditional?

- How do you reflect this love to others?

DAY 4

“Is he not the One who says to kings, ‘You are worthless,’ and to nobles, ‘You are wicked,’ who shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands?” — Job 34:18-19

Rich. Poor. Beautiful. Ugly. Athletic. Clumsy. Musical. Tone Deaf. Tall. Short. Skinny. Fat. Powerful. Weak. Popular. Unpopular. Smart. Dumb. Fast. Slow. Energetic. Lethargic. These things all seem like big deals to us.

But to God?

THEY DO NOT MATTER!

You are a child of the King. He created you. He loves you. You are His special creation. Your neighbor? He is God’s special creation. The kid that everyone makes fun of? He is God’s special creation. The prom queen? She is God’s special creation. The guy without a date to prom? He is God’s special creation.

Our labels don’t define us. God’s love for us defines us.

Think About This . . .

- What labels have you been holding onto that interfere with your true label as a child of God?
- What labels have you been giving other people that interfere with you viewing them as children of God?
- How does changing how you view others change how you behave towards them?

DAY 5

When you take a shower today, let the bathroom fill with steam. Once the mirror is fogged up, wipe away enough so you can look at your face clearly. Look at yourself. Around the part you cleared away, write down those wrong labels you have for yourself that you thought of in yesterday’s devotion. Write all around your face, except for right below it. Look at those labels carefully for a minute. Then, take a towel and wipe away those words.

Underneath your face, write one word: Jesus.

As you go through the rest of the day, put that one label – Jesus – on everyone you see. Wipe away any false labels you’ve given them, and simply treat them as if they were Jesus.