

1. Harris, Alex & Brett, *Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations*, Multnomah; 2008
2. IBID

## THE FOLLOW UP

***Be sure to get these **FOUR** devos and the **Quiet Time Challenge** done as well as finish reading **Do Hard Things*****



Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.  
~ 1 Timothy 4:12

## DEVO #1—Noah's Decision

### READ: 2 Timothy 2:1-22

Be inspired by the true story of Noah—a high school junior from Georgia. Addicted to video games, he spent more time with his Xbox than with anything or anyone else. But when his pastor spoke on the need to do hard things, Noah knew it was time.

He sold his Xbox on Ebay and dumped all his games, then He took down the video game posters and put up Christian ones. After that, he went to his youth pastor and asked for a list of good books to read, and followed that up by committing to spending daily time with God through prayer and devos.

He says it isn't always easy to stay focused on Christ, but it has been the best decision he has ever made.<sup>1</sup>

1. What does Paul tell his young apprentice Timothy in v. 15?

2. What do you think it looks like to "work hard"?

3. What are you doing to ensure that verse 21 is true for you?

4. What are you doing that takes up a lot of time and is keeping you from fully focusing on all that God has for you?

### PRAYER

~Thank God for the plan He has for your life

~Confess to God, if necessary, holding onto things that are keeping you from all that He has for you

~Ask God to show you what you may have, or may be doing, that is taking away from His plan for your life

## ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

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## POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Finish reading *Do Hard Things*
- ◆ Finish your action steps and find an accountability partner to help you fulfill them
- ◆ Be praying and asking the Lord where He wants you to stand for Him in your home, your neighborhood, your school, among your friends, etc.
- ◆ Keep praying about doing "God-sized" things

## QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

### NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

### HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend five to ten minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

### PART 1 — READ: Luke 6:46

### PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

Have you been guilty of calling Jesus your Lord but not following His plan for your life?

### PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you what areas of your life need to be surrendered to His control. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

## DEVO #2 — Brandon's Decision

### READ: Proverbs 13:10-20; 1 Corinthians 15:33,34

Fourteen year-old Brandon was troubled after reading Proverbs 13:20. He knew that he had been a "companion of fools." He quickly realized that if he wanted to truly follow Christ and rise above low expectations, then he would need to surround himself with people who wanted that as much as him, and he should stop hanging with people who encouraged him to sin and make poor choices. Brandon asked himself, "Do I want to please Jesus or my friends?" He decided his answer was Jesus. And to keep it that way, he needed to do some things.

First, he committed to talk to his parents about everything, and then talk to his current friends about his new decision. After that, he planned to contact two fellow teens who he knew were standing for Christ and see if they could hang out. Finally, he decided to spend less time on the internet and at least thirty minutes more time a day with his Bible.<sup>2</sup>

1. What are Proverbs 13:20 and 1 Corinthians 15:33 saying?
2. Do you have friends that are hurting your relationship with Jesus?
3. Bad or foolish company is NOT just people. It includes whatever you spend time with—video games, movies, TV, etc. Do you have any foolish company in this area? If so, what must you do about this?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for the wise people He has put in your life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, being a companion of fools
- ~Ask God to strengthen you to follow Him
- ~Ask God to guide you to wise friends and companions

## DEVO #3 — Your Plan

**READ: 2 Chronicles 33:8-17; Matthew 7:21-27**

During the lesson this week, you heard about Noah, Brandon, and Serena. And over the past few days, you have looked again at Noah and Brandon's stories. For each of them, they heard a lesson. And for each of them, they followed that up by seeking to apply that lesson to their lives.

You must do the same. Hearing a lesson, without applying it to your life, is of no help to you or anyone else. Don't let our *DO HARD THINGS* series slip away without working to apply what you have learned. A needy and hurting world awaits your response!

1. According to 2 Chronicles 33:9-10; what was Manasseh like, and how did he respond to God's words?
2. After consequences, how did Manasseh apply God's words?
3. Who does Jesus say will enter heaven according to Matthew 7:21?
4. Are you applying what you are learning—and building on the solid rock? What do you need to start doing differently?

### PRAYER

~Thank God for all the great things He wants to do through you  
~Confess to God, if necessary, not applying to your life what you have been learning  
~Ask God to give you wisdom to do things differently, to get accountability, and to live out His plan for your life

## DEVO #4 — Start Here, Start Now

**READ: 2 Corinthians 6:1—7:1**

You want to do hard things, but you don't know where to start. You feel called to do the extraordinary for God, but you feel stuck in the ordinary. *DO HARD THINGS* has inspired thousands of young people around the world to make a difference in the world *now*, not later. But you might be asking, "How do I get started on this adventure?"

To that, I simply say, "Start here. Start now." Don't waste another minute. Begin praying and asking God to show you what He wants you to do. Begin seeking to finish and fulfill the action plan you began during small group time.

Satan wants you to wait. God wants you to start. Which one will you choose?

1. Are you ready to take the next step and blast past mediocrity for the glory of God? What is that next step for you?
2. When does 2 Corinthians 6:2 say you should begin?
3. What do you think it means to live as God's temple?
4. If you haven't finished your actions steps, finish them up, find an accountability partner, and start doing!

### PRAYER

~ Thank God for all that He has done for you  
~ Confess to God, if necessary, waiting instead of starting  
~Ask God to show you His plan for your life  
~Ask God to give you an accountability partner