

THE FOLLOW UP

LIES — PART 1

***You have 6 days to get
these 4 devos and the Quiet
Time Challenge done***



For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ~ 1 Peter 1:18,19

DEVO #1—Plenty to live with. Nothing to live for.

READ: Ephesians 3:14-21; 1 Peter 1:13-25

Perhaps you have heard of Heath Ledger—the Hollywood actor who is most famous for his roles in *The Patriot*, *A Knight's Tale*, and *The Dark Knight*. He was attractive, actively dating pretty women, living in a nice place, driving an expensive sports' car, had plenty of cash to spend on whatever he wanted, and was the winner of 49 awards for his acting over a nine year period.

Yet, in spite of the awards, the fame, the money, the possessions, his life was empty. He soon started taking prescription drugs to battle insomnia, anxiety, and depression. Then, on January 22, 2008, he died of a drug overdose—having taken a combination of at least six prescription drugs.

Yes, Ledger had plenty to live with, but none of that filled the God-sized hole in his heart.

1. What have you been guilty of trying to fill the God-sized hole in your heart with?
2. What does Ephesians 3:19 tell you?
3. How does 1 Peter compare the life we can have with Jesus versus the life we have without Him?
4. How is your relationship with Jesus?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for dying on the cross to give you a full life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, working to fill your God-sized hole with the stuff of this world instead of with Jesus
- ~Ask God to fill your heart with Himself

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Have a heart to heart with the Lord. Let Him begin to work on every inch of your life
- ◆ Ask yourself: "What am I looking to for fullness?" Is it the Lord or something else?
- ◆ Keep praying at least ten minutes each day
- ◆ If you need to make a first time commitment to the Lord, or rededicate your life to Christ, set up a time to talk to one of the youth leaders

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: John 10:10

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

Are you experiencing the full life Christ has for you? If not, why not?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Let Him show you areas not yet surrendered. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 —Before and After

READ: Haggai 1:1-11; Psalm 23

For twelve years, Brian Welch was a guitarist with the hard-rock band known as Korn. During his time in Korn, Brian played on eight award winning albums which sold more than fifty million copies! Suddenly, Brian was a rich and famous musician who travelled the world. However, a feeling of emptiness seemed to travel with him wherever he went. By 2003, Welch was addicted to drugs and alcohol—along with his band mates. For a time, Brian states, he may only have been sober a couple days a year!

But then in 2005, Welch encountered Jesus Christ. He writes, "I was walking one day, just doing my Rock & Roll thing making millions of bucks, you know success and everything, addicted to drugs and then the next day I had revelation of Christ and I was like, everything changes right now!"

Since then, Brian has been clean and sober, enjoying life, and making albums that sing HARD praise to God.

1. In Haggai, God was showing people what life was like when they neglected Him and His Temple. What was life like?
2. Have you had feelings of emptiness and "it never being enough" as the Israelites did when they were neglecting God?
3. King David, who wrote Psalm 23, centered his life on God. How does he describe life centered on God in that Psalm?
4. Are you more like David or more like the people in Haggai?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His ability to fill your life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not living close to Him
- ~Ask God to help you center your life on Him

DEVO #3 —The Choice is Yours

READ: Matthew 11:28-30; John 10:6-18

During our lesson, we looked at a lot of people: Heath Ledger, Lindsey Lohan, Charlie Sheen, Whitney Houston, Miley Cyrus, Paris Hilton, Amy Winehouse, Tony Scott, Owen Wilson, Mikey Welsh, Robin Williams, and more. All of them had everything most people think they need to be happy and fulfilled. They had money, fame, plenty of possessions, nice houses and cars, good looking boy or girlfriends, and more.

For some of those listed, their empty lives, pursuing things that could never truly fill, ended in suicide or overdose. For others listed, their lives are still in chaos. Yet, they need only reach out to Christ.

But what about you? How is your life? Where is it headed? And with what are you trying to fill it?

1. In Matthew 11, what does Jesus tell people He will do for them if they just come to Him?
2. What kind of life does Jesus have for us according to John 10:10?
3. John 10:11 and 17 tell us what Jesus has done for us to provide a chance at real fulfillment. What is it?
4. How can you work to fill your life with Christ?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for being the Good Shepherd
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not coming to Jesus to find the abundant life He has for you
- ~Ask God to show you how you can be filled with Christ

DEVO #4 — New Life and a Second Chance

READ: John 1:1-14

Bill and Sarah got the call. A small stray dog was seen behind some old buildings. Immediately, the couple headed out. It did not take them long to find "Fiona," a tiny toy poodle. Fiona's fur was dirty and matted, her skin infested with fleas, and her eyes blind. She was laying in small pile of trash under an eave trying to find a bit of shelter in a rainstorm. Bill and Sarah rescued Fiona, clipped her fur, bathed her, and got her medical help. Within weeks, she was clean, healthy, and could see in one eye.

2000 years ago Jesus got a call that humanity was seen hiding in guilt and shame, stained and dirtied by sin, and blinded by Satan. He immediately stepped into action. By coming to earth to die for our sins, He made it possible for us to be adopted into God's family, cleansed from sin, and given new sight and new life.

1. Why did Jesus enter into His creation? What was His purpose?
2. What has Jesus done in your life?
3. Many around you are much like Fiona—lost, blinded by Satan, dirtied by sin, and unable to do anything about it. What can you do to help rescue them?
4. List some people you could be praying for:

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for coming to save His lost creation
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not doing all you can to make Hell less full and Heaven more full
- ~Ask God to work in the lives of those listed under #4