

THE FOLLOW UP

Be sure to get these **FOUR** devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done



And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ~ Romans 12:1

DEVO #1—What God Wants for Christmas

READ: Psalm 44:1-8; Romans 11:33-12:5

Christmas is right around the corner. I am sure you are making your gift list and checking twice (or three times, or four...) Maybe you've been thinking about your gift list for quite awhile and have a bunch stuff on it—stuff like: powdered water, shower caps, DVD rewinders, toilet bowl scrubbers, bedpans, and more.

Yet, how much time have you put into thinking about what God wants for Christmas? I mean, after all, it is HIS birthday. He is the one who wrapped Himself in flesh and came that first Christmas, so what are you planning on giving to Him this year?

1. How did the author of Psalm 44 know about the great things that God has done?
2. Because people made God great in the psalmist's eyes, he was able to know God and grow close to Him. Who has told you about the greatness of God?
3. Romans 11:36 says we exist for God's glory. Who are you telling, and showing, the glory of God to?
4. What could you do to make God and His name great this Christmas season?

PRAYER

~Thank God for those who have shown His glory to you
~Confess to God, if necessary, not bringing glory to Him
~Ask God to use you to bring Him glory every day

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Think about what you can be doing to give God glory this week
- ◆ Follow through on what you wrote down on the Closing Activity worksheet
- ◆ If you have been guilty of using the Lord's name in vain, commit to stopping. Find someone to hold you accountable to this commitment
- ◆ Follow through on the commitment to speak about the greatness of God to a few people this week
- ◆ Seek to fulfill the Lord's will for your life

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: Exodus 20:7

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

Have you been guilty of using the Lord's name in vain and/or treating His will for your life as no big deal? If so, what must you do about this?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to make Himself substantial, weighty, and brilliant in and through your life. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Showing God's Glory

READ: Romans 6:12-13; 12:6-21

Have you ever been walking somewhere and seen someone "putting on a show" which then caused people to stop and watch? A common place for this sort of thing is the boardwalk down on the Jersey shore. You can find clowns on the boardwalk trying to draw a crowd by being funny. You can find people on stilts, mimes, even guys in "Free Hugs" hoodies offering to give out free hugs to any young lady that wants one!

When these people "put on their show," people naturally stop and look. Similarly, as a Christian, you should be living your life in such a way that God's glory's is showing (and shining) through you. When you do this, you'll be amazed at those who stop and notice!

1. What should we be using to give God glory according to Romans 6:12-13?
2. In Romans 12:6-21, what are some of the many ways you can SHOW your devotion to God and His will?
3. How are you doing at giving God glory through how you live?
4. Where might you need to improve?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for how much He loves you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not doing a good job of showing His glory through your life
- ~Ask God to use you to SHOW the world His glory

DEVO #3 — Tell of God's Glory

READ: Psalm 9:1,2; Psalm 66

"You have to read this book. It-is-soooo-awesome!" "Oh man. You've got to see this movie. It was the most incredible thing I have ever seen!" "This is the best TV show. You have to watch it! Don't miss it." "He is the funniest person I have ever met. You just have to meet him!"

We say stuff like this all the time. We gladly tell people all about movies, TV shows, books, bands, etc. that we think are great and awesome. Yet, how often do we tell people about how great and awesome God is?

1. What did David say he was going to do in verse 9:1?
2. What does Psalm 66:1-4 say we should all do?
3. How often do you talk about great movies, TV shows, books, games, bands, etc.?
4. How often do you talk to people about how great God is?
5. If you do question 3 more than question 4, how will you go about fixing this?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for all the great things He has done
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, being more willing to talk about great shows, books, etc. than to talk about God's greatness
- ~Make a commitment to talk about the greatness of God with a few people this week

DEVO #4 — I Got Big Buts and I Cannot Lie

READ: John 6:1-15

In his book, *Christmas is Not Your Birthday*, Mike Slaughter writes, "The resources of heaven do not fall from the sky; they are released through God's people! God creates miracles through what you and I hold in our hands. Moses' staff, David's five smooth stones, the widows oil...and a boy's lunch comprising of five pieces of bread and two small fish—these are the resources that miracles are made of!"¹

In our Bible story for today, with a crowd of 5000 men—plus woman and children—there would have been over 10,000 people. Yet, only one small boy stepped forward to offer anything to Jesus. Everyone else had big buts! "But, it's all I have." "But, what can my little meal do for so many?" "But, why should I have to give up my meal?"

1. Are you guilty of having "big buts" when God calls you to something?
2. How can you commit to losing your big buts this year?
3. What would have happened had no one stepped forward to offer something for Jesus to use?
4. What will happen in your family, in your church, and in your community if your excuses give Jesus nothing to use?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for what He has blessed you with
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not using what He has blessed you with to bless others
- ~Ask God to remove all the buts and excuses you have
- ~Ask God to lead you deeper into a relationship with Him and also out into a world that desperately needs Him