

1. Blackaby and King, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* B&H Books; Revised, Expanded edition, 2008

THE FOLLOW UP

Be sure to get these **FOUR** devos and the **Quiet Time Challenge** done as well as read pages 107-130 in **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—Doing Only What God Can Do

READ: Judges 6:1-16

Veronica Pomeroy had cystic fibrosis. It is a fatal disease that causes an excessive build-up of a thick liquid on the lungs, liver, and pancreas. This disease makes it difficult for the body to fight infection and makes it even more difficult to breathe. Many people with cystic fibrosis die before they reach the age of twenty-five. (Veronica lived to be twenty-two.)

In spite of her condition, Veronica knew that God could use her, and, in His strength, she could do great things for Him. Beginning at age twelve, Veronica worked to collect shoe-boxes for Operation Christmas Child. In 1998 alone, she collected over 1400 herself and would end up collecting thousands more before her death.

1. How does Gideon describe himself in verse 15?
2. How does God respond to Gideon in verse 16?
3. You might think that, as a teen with few resources, you cannot do much for the Lord, but how do God's words to Gideon make that NOT true?
4. What big thing can you start praying about now?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for having all the strength you need
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, working in your own strength
- ~Ask God to work His strength through you to do big things

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Read pages 107 to 130 in DO HARD THINGS
- ◆ Spend time praying this week. Ask God, "Where do you want me to join You in Your work?"
- ◆ Get involved in a church ministry and begin to experience how great it is to serve the Lord
- ◆ Keep praying about doing "God-sized" things
- ◆ Pray for five people who need to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share Him with them

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 14:12

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

Does it seem hard to believe that you can do greater things than Jesus? If you answered "yes," why did you answer that way?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to use you to make a difference in this world and to stand for Him. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — God-Sized Tasks

READ: Exodus 3

Definition: *God-Sized Task*—An invitation for God to work through you in order to accomplish His work. This task cannot, in any way, be accomplished by you without His intervention.¹

God-sized stories are all through the Bible. You read about Gideon yesterday and Moses today, but there is also Noah who was tasked to build a HUGE boat and collect two of every animal. Abraham was called to journey to an unknown land and start a new people group. Joshua was commanded to take down the impenetrable city of Jericho. Peter, James, and John were charged with leading the brand-new Christian church.

All of these things were possible for those people because of God's power, wisdom, and Spirit. And guess what? God will give His power, wisdom, and Spirit to you too!

1. What did Moses say to God in verse 11?

2. How does God respond in verses 12, 14, and 15?

3. Moses felt unqualified for the task God had for him. But we are ALL unqualified for God-sized tasks. God does NOT need your ability, just your availability. Are you making yourself available to God? If so, how? If not, why not?

PRAYER

~Thank God for His Spirit, power, and wisdom

~Confess to God, if necessary, not relying on Him

~Tell God you are available to be used by Him however He wants

DEVO #3 — Starting Small

READ: Acts 16:1-15

The first missionary to India, William Carey was fond of saying, "Expect great things *from* God. Attempt great things *for* God." But when Carey first arrived in India in 1793, there were years of discouragement. Not a single Indian came to Christ for SEVEN long years. He and his family faced debt, disease, and death (his wife and one of his four sons died). But Carey did not give up. He continued to persevere and soon many Indians were coming to Christ and having their lives changed.

When we talk about doing God-sized things, we often forget that everything usually starts out small. If you expect everything to be great and easy, you will quickly give up because it will NOT be. Know that things will start small, and that Satan will try to discourage you. Also know that if you stay the course, God WILL do great things!

1. In verses 6-8, Paul was basically blocked from going anywhere he wanted to go. Do you think that could have discouraged him?
2. When Paul first went to Philippi, how many accepted Jesus?
3. Why is it important not to give up when things start slowly or are difficult?
4. How do you react when things start small or get difficult?

PRAYER

~Thank God for being there with you no matter what
~Confess to God, if necessary, giving up when things get tough
~Ask God to strengthen you to never, ever give up

DEVO #4 — Making Satan Angry

READ: Acts 16:16-40

When fifteen year-old Majib accepted the Lord and left the Islamic faith, his parents were horrified. They chained him in his room and told him he would not be released until he came to his senses. Often, his older brothers would beat him, but Majib refused to give up his faith in Christ.

Convinced he had been brainwashed, Majib's family recited the Koran to him again and again, withheld food, and more, thinking it would cause him to deny Christ and embrace Islam again. Yet, Majib stood firm. He would not deny Christ. Finally, after several months, Majib was able to escape and is now living safely away from all his former friends and family.

1. When people accept Christ and seek to live for Him, Satan is NOT pleased! What did Paul and Silas endure because they were winning people to Jesus?
2. How was God with them through it all?
3. Some people think that persecution for their faith is a sign that God has left them, but it is really sign that they are doing great things and Satan feels threatened! Have you made Satan feel threatened, or is he not too worried about you because you haven't been doing much for Jesus?

PRAYER

~Thank God because He is with you through every storm
~Confess to God, if necessary, not being much of a threat to Satan because you haven't been doing much for Christ
~Ask God to use you to make a big difference in this world