

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 read pages 3-60 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—Contributor or Consumer

READ: Luke 16:19-31; Philippians 3:17-21

The International Federation of Competitive Eating is quite the organization. Every year, they host events where dozens of contestants gather to see how much food they can stuff into their mouths in just a few minutes—hot dogs, spam, jalapenos, cow-brains, squid, ice-cream, and more.

Yet, consider this: During every minute these people are stuffing themselves, TWO children are sold into slavery, FIFTEEN children starve to death, and EIGHTEEN die of preventable disease. This should cause us to ask—do I spend my time consuming while all this happens, or am I spending my time contributing so that these statistics go down? Am I constantly looking to see what I can fill my life with, or am I constantly looking to see what I can give away?

1. In Luke 16, what was the rich man focused on?
2. How did the rich man's lack of care for Lazarus effect the beggar's earthly life?
3. Philippians 3 says that we are either following Christ as our God or following our own appetites (desires). Which one are you following?
4. Looking at your last two weeks, do your choices show you to be a consumer or a contributor? Explain:

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for all the many blessings you have
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, being too much of a consumer
- ~Ask God to focus you on being a contributor

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ♦ Read Part 1—pages 3 to 60—in *Do Hard Things* (Or make sure to read at least pages 26 to 60)
- ♦ Spend time praying this week. Ask God, "What do you want me to do, and who do you want me to reach?"
- ♦ Be praying about, and looking to see, what God wants you to be doing for Him in your home, at your school, in your neighborhood, at the church, in the community, etc.
- ♦ Check out ministry websites, local ministries, prisons, etc. and see what the needs are. Then pray about how God may want you, and others, to meet them.
- ♦ Ask your pastor or a youth leader where you could be serving in the church

QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately 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: Jeremiah 32:26-27

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain these verses in your own words:

How you answer God's question in verse 27 will make all the difference in how you live your life. So how do you answer it?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you where He wants to work in you and who He wants to reach through you. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Nothing is Too Big For God

READ: 1 Samuel 17:32-51; Luke 1:37

At age twelve, 7th-grader Zach Hunter learned that nearly thirty million people were still in slavery around the world and each day the number grows. Though Zach was incredibly shy, and even had panic attacks around a lot of people, he knew God was telling him to do something about it. He started an organization called "Loose Change to Loosen Chains" and asked people to give loose change to organizations that work to end the slave trade. He raised thousands.

At age fifteen, he wrote a book called, *Be the Change*, where he encouraged other teens to get involved in making a difference. Since then, Zach has written two more books and spoken in front of millions of people.¹

1. David was probably around fourteen years-old when he faced Goliath. How did he do facing that giant in God's strength?
2. What does Luke 1:37 say? Do you believe that?
3. Do you think, at your age, you can do *big* things for God?
4. What big thing can you start praying about making a difference in through God's strength?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for taking little offerings and making them big
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not believing you can make a difference
- ~Start praying for God to do big things through you!

DEVO #3 — Difference Maker

READ: 2 Chronicles 24:1-16; Philippians 4:13

Conner Cress was just a regular fifteen year old when a *World Vision* magazine came in the mail. Not able to put it down, he could not believe an article stated that 1.1 *billion* people do not have access to clean water, and many children die every minute because of it. Suddenly, Conner's "normal life" was turned upside down. He knew God was calling him to make a difference, and Conner was ready.

For months he prayed about it, then God spoke to him about raising money to build wells in Africa by making bracelets to sell. He, along with four friends, ended up making and selling over 3500 bracelets, bringing in over \$20,000. 90% of that money came from fellow teens! Their efforts built four wells serving thousands of people, saving many, many lives.²

1. Joash became king at age seven. What difference did he make in his country?
2. You may be thinking, "Well, I'm no king (or queen)!" But what does Philippians 4:13 say?
3. Does Conner's story inspire you? If so, how?
4. What problem in the world will you start praying about?

PRAYER

~Thank God for being a God who answers prayer
~Confess to God, if necessary, not spending enough time praying and thinking about making a difference in the world
~Ask God to mold you into a difference maker

DEVO #4 — Insert Your Story Here

READ: Matthew 9:1-13 Luke 9:57-62

When it is all said and done, our lives are shaped by the choices we make every day. When we get to the end of our lives, we will either look back and see that what we did had no lasting value, or see that what we did is still echoing and will continue to echo for years to come. Really, it is only the choices we make for God and His Kingdom that will last.

In our Scriptures for today, you met four people. One, Matthew, decided that his choices would be ones for God's Kingdom. Also today, a couple thousand years later, you read from the book of the Bible he wrote. The other three men (in Luke) choose to focus on things that did not last past their own lives. Today, we know nothing about them and the effects of their choices are long gone.

1. What are your choices focused on? Temporary things or God's things?
2. What things/activities distract you from God's purpose for you and your life?
3. What you practice doing now as a pre-teen/teen will affect the way you make choices as an adult. So what must you start doing now to ensure your *whole life* is lived for God?

PRAYER

~ Thank God for the great plan He has for your life
~ Confess to God, if necessary, not pursuing the right things
~ Ask God to remove distractions and to strengthen you to start making His choices now