



HOME

MOVING IN FAITH

SURRENDER :: LISTEN :: OBEY
STUDENT MINISTRIES

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INTRODUCTION

Our lives are chaotic. In the rush to prepare for a test, get to practice, or make it to the next event, it is easy for us to forget who Jesus is calling us to be. Have you ever wondered if you may be settling in your faith? Jesus told His disciples they would leave security, money, convenience, and even family behind for Him. They would abandon everything for the sake of the Gospel.

In this devotional, you will be challenged to ask yourself how seriously you are taking Jesus' command to follow Him. You will ask yourself, "Where do I need to surrender, listen, and obey God in my life?" Granted, these are difficult questions. But they are important to ask in seeking to follow Christ.

This booklet is broken up into four weeks. **Every week has a devotional looking at a story from the Bible.** As you read the **Scripture**, be open to how God may be communicating with you. Ask Him to show you where you can grow. Our hope is that, by working through this booklet, God would make you aware of areas in your spiritual life where you can grow and, in doing so, be able to live a life that is devoted to following Christ.



LOST & FOUND

LUKE 15

READ LUKE 15:1-32.

What is the most valuable thing you have ever lost? What did you do to try and find it?

In the parable of the prodigal son, there are two sons that are lost. One leaves to party while the other one stays and becomes resentful. Which one do you relate to more? Why?

Think about a time you were lost. How did God find you?

How is God's love different from our love?

Consider the school you are in practically every single day of the week. Out of all the students there, how many would you say are lost? God is searching diligently for each and every single one of them, just like the shepherd with his sheep, the woman with her coin, and the father with his sons. He will use all sorts of means to find them, including you and me.

How is God's view of people at your school different than yours?

In the next few years, Willow Creek Huntley will be moving in faith and building a permanent home that we can inhabit. With this new building, Student Ministries will have even more capacity and resources to reach middle-school and high-school students. But on its own, a building cannot reach lost people for Christ—that will take each one of us being open to letting God use us for His purposes.

Think of a friend who is lost. Write out a prayer on their behalf.

"It is not that God is the spectator and sharer of our present life, howsoever important that is; but rather that we are the reverent listeners and participants in God's action in the sacred story, the history of the Christ on earth."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What holds you back from telling people about Christ?

FAITH STEPS

If you think about your past relationships, you can probably recall someone letting you know that you mattered through something they said or they did. More than likely, you can also recall someone making you feel like you didn't matter. Who in your life may need to hear they are loved and matter? **This week, go out of your way to let someone know that they matter to you and to God.**



SURRENDER MARK 10:17-31

READ MARK 10:17-22.

What are your thoughts about the rich young man? Why do you think Jesus asked him to give away everything he owned?

This rich man is morally good, but there are still things that are more important to him than following God. Christ doesn't want him to surrender part of his heart; He wants him to give it all. Why do you think Jesus asked him to give up everything but didn't ask others around to do the same?

What does it mean to "surrender" something, anyway?

What are the things you feel would be almost impossible to give up if God asked you? A relationship? A sport? Something you own?

Why is it difficult to completely surrender to God?

READ MARK 10:23-31.

Later in the passage (verse 23), Jesus says it is almost impossible for a wealthy person to enter Heaven. What do you think about that? Was Jesus being too harsh?

“Possessions are not God’s blessing and goodness, but the opportunities of service which He entrusts to us.”
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

After Jesus turned away the rich man, the disciples were worried. It seemed to them nobody would be good enough to enter Heaven. That was precisely Jesus' point! Salvation is impossible without God's help. We can only be saved through the power of Jesus.

Although God offers His grace to us freely, the cost of following Him is high. It requires us to trust only in Jesus and surrender everything else over to Him. Write out a prayer asking God to show you what holds you back from following Him.

What do you need to surrender in order for God to work more powerfully in your life? What will it take for you to give it up?

FAITH STEPS

Find a friend and discuss one thing you would like to surrender. Come up with a plan together to make this desire a reality, and use each other as accountability partners.



LISTEN 1 SAMUEL 3

READ 1 SAMUEL 3:1-21.

1 Samuel 3:1 says it was rare for God to speak to anyone. At a young age, though, Samuel heard God speak. Do you think God still speaks to people today? Why or why not?

The call Samuel received from God was unique (1 Samuel 3:20). Not everyone in his day (or in our day) could claim to have heard the audible voice of God like him. In what other ways might God speak to us?

How do you best connect with God? Worship? Prayer? Reading His Word?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt God was speaking to you? How did you know it was Him? How did you respond?

Can you think of a time when you may have missed out on or ignored what God was saying to you?

Three times, Samuel thought that Eli was calling him. Eli eventually helped Samuel figure out that it was God's voice he was hearing. Who in your life is helping you listen to God?

What did Samuel say in response to the first three calls?

Samuel's response—"Here I am"—was what a servant would say when he was ready and willing to obey. It was similar to the answer spiritual giants like Abraham, Moses, and Isaiah gave when they heard the voice of God (Genesis 22:1, Exodus 3:4, Isaiah 6:8).

"It is my own belief...that every good and beautiful thing which man has produced in the world has been the result of his faulty and sin-blocked response to the creative Voice sounding over the earth. ...Could it be that a genius is a man haunted by the speaking Voice, laboring and striving like one possessed to achieve ends which he only vaguely understands?"

—A. W. Tozer

If God spoke to you, would you be ready to respond like Samuel? How are you creating room for God to speak into your life?

God has so much to tell us. He promises that He will draw near to us if we draw near to Him (James 3:8). Write out a prayer asking God to give you a passion to hear His voice and to take away any distractions that may be keeping you from listening.

FAITH STEPS

This week, take a few minutes each day to connect with God. Whether you read the Bible, pray, or listen to worship music, give Him a chance to speak to you. Be still and listen. God shows up on ordinary days for ordinary people in extraordinary ways.



OBEY DANIEL 6

READ DANIEL 6:1-28.

What sticks out to you about Daniel? How did he stand up for his faith?

After Daniel heard about the new law, he continued living out his faith the same as always. Have you ever felt pressured to compromise your faith? When? How?

What does it look like to obey God in your school today?

Being a follower of Christ can be scary. Often times, God calls us to do something that involves a risk on our part. The sad thing is that many Christians will hear God's call and never obey. In the end, they miss out on all that God has in store for them.

"The call goes forth, and is at once followed by the response of obedience. The response of the disciples is an act of obedience, not a confession of faith in Jesus."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What stops you from obeying what you know God wants from you?

Do you trust God to provide you with a better outcome by obeying His wants? If not, why?

How often do you listen to what God is calling you to do? What happened the last time you did? Was the outcome good or bad?

Do you see obeying God as annoying and limiting? Or do you find enjoyment in following His call? Why?

What sort of faith do you want to have?

Ask God to give you strength to obey His call on your life.

FAITH STEPS

Think of one area in your life where you could more completely obey God. **Talk to your small group about how you struggle to live out that obedience, and commit to following through this week.**









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