



ontrack devotions

NOVEMBER

2023

JOHN

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

“...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

Answered

How it was answered...

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend Youth/Growth Group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday AM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday PM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

Scripture Memory:

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? _____

I will share Christ with _____ person/people this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

Other Activities:

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. _____

What characteristics do you observe in John the Baptist in this chapter? What characteristics does he specifically demonstrate in verses 15 and 26-27? It becomes clear as you read this section of Scripture that John was not the kind of person who tried to make himself look better than he really was. He was not jealous of anyone who received more attention than he did. He seemed to have no trouble allowing Jesus and His ministry to exceed his own. He even encouraged people to follow Jesus instead of him. When asked about himself, he told people the truth. He would not allow people to think something about him that was not true. Do you try to draw attention to yourself or to others? When people ask questions, do you make what you have done seem better than it really is? Would you allow someone to get more attention than you get for similar accomplishments? Do you direct the attention and glory to God or to yourself? In what areas of your life do you need to be more like John? Use the opportunities God brings to you to point others to Jesus.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 1

JOHN 1:43-51

PREJUDICE

SAY WHAT?

What kinds of prejudice do see you in your church, school, or workplace?

SO WHAT?

In what way do you see prejudice demonstrated?

NOW WHAT?

What kinds of prejudices has God spoken to you about?

As you read through the Gospels, you find that the disciples were ordinary people with the same strengths and weaknesses we have. In this passage, we see Nathanael demonstrate a glaring and obvious sin. Did you notice it? It is prejudice. He didn't want to come with Philip to meet Jesus because He was from Nazareth (vs46). Even during the time of Jesus, people judged others based on origin, color of skin, manner of dress, or political orientation. Prejudice destroys what Jesus came to do. In what ways do you or your church demonstrate prejudice? Ask God to enable you and help your church to view people as God does. Thank God for teaching us, through the example of Nathanael, that He does break down the walls of prejudice and uses us to have an impact on others. How do you need to change in this area?

THEN WHAT?

What should you do about what you have written on this page?

EXTRA READING

JOHN 1

How many days have now passed since these disciples have been following Jesus? What has happened in these few, short days? What an incredible beginning to the journey it must have been for these disciples. They saw other disciples called. They saw Jesus give specific details about someone He had never seen before. They saw Him turn water into wine. They ended their first week with Jesus clearing out the temple. They must have been filled with anticipation and excitement about following Jesus. But could it be as exciting for us today? The answer is yes! What a thrill to watch God do great things every day. If your relationship with Jesus is not exciting, it indicates something about you, not Him. He wants to fill each day of our lives with excitement. Make a list of what He has done in your life this past week. If that list is small, talk to someone about how you can become a person who follows Jesus with excitement. You will not regret it!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 2

JOHN 3:1-21

IGNORANCE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Who was Nicodemus? Why do you think he came to Jesus by night? Though he was not brave enough to seek Jesus publicly, he was determined to know the truth. It is amazing to think that even though he was a member of the Jewish ruling council, he did not know how to get to heaven. Jesus knew that Nicodemus should have known. Just because people go to church, even your church, does not mean that they know all about salvation and how to get to heaven. People who appear to be very religious on the outside may have no clue as to who Jesus is and what the Bible really says. All around us are people, both religious and nonreligious, who do not know how to have a relationship with God. Many think they do because they are deceived by their religious activities. Do you know how to have eternal life? Do you know what the Bible says and how to follow it? If not, who can you talk to today about it? If you do follow Jesus, are you faithfully obeying what the Bible says? Who are you sharing Jesus with?

EXTRA READING

JOHN 3

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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JOHN 4:1-26

HAD TO

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Why do you think the disciples had to go through Samaria? Could it be that Jesus knew the woman in today's reading would be at the well just when He would arrive, and He wanted to share the Gospel with her? What makes this account even more amazing was that she was a Samaritan and He was a Jew. Jews hated Samaritans and would not even talk to them. Jews would walk miles out of their way to avoid Samaria. But Jesus traveled through Samaria in order to share the Gospel with this woman. As a result of His love and compassion, this woman believed Jesus and ran to tell the whole town. Many more came to salvation because Jesus was willing to love a person whom others refused to reach out to in love. What kinds of people in your world do you feel uncomfortable around or avoid altogether? How can you love them like Jesus loved this woman?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 4

How is the story this woman gave when she went back into town different from the one Jesus gave in this chapter and in chapter 3? One of the great lessons we can learn from what she said is how to communicate our story to those around us. She simply ran home and told people what Jesus had done in her life. She told them about how she had met a man who told her everything she had ever done. This man changed her life, and she wanted them to know about it. We often make sharing our story complicated when all it needs to be is sharing what Jesus has done in your life. Take some time today to write out the difference that Jesus Christ has made in your life. Then pray and ask God to give you an opportunity to share your story with someone. People need to hear what God has done and is doing in our lives. This is the hope the world needs to know about.

SAY WHAT?

How did you hear about Jesus?

SO WHAT?

How is your life different because of Him?

NOW WHAT?

Who do you need to share your story with?

THEN WHAT?

Make a plan to share your story with them this week.

EXTRA READING
JOHN 4

JOHN 5:30-47

PRAISE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Since there were many powerful testimonies about who Jesus was in this section, why didn't the people believe? The answer is found in verses 41-44. In these few verses, Jesus told them their problem was that they were more interested in what people thought about them than what God thought. In fact, Jesus said that He knew that they didn't believe because they made no effort to obtain praise from God, only the praise that comes from men. This incident may tell you something about your personal relationship with Jesus. Often, we have the ability to see the reality of who God is, but miss it because we care more about what people think than we do about what God thinks. Do you consider other's opinion more important than God's? Can you think of a time when you did something only to please God? What does your answer to those two questions tell you about your relationship with Jesus?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 5

Which specific disciples are mentioned by name in this passage? It is fascinating to look closely at how Jesus talks to the different disciples in this chapter and what His responses tell us about their personalities. Andrew was the disciple who brought people to Jesus. In today's reading, we see him bring the little boy with the five loaves and two fish to Jesus. Although it was not a lot of food, he must have thought Jesus could do something with it. He was not one of the obvious leaders in the group. He did not write a book of the Bible. He did not deliver any powerful messages in Scripture. He just quietly brought people to Jesus—from his brother Peter, to a little boy with a small lunch. What an example to us! How are you using how God has built you to impact the people around you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 6

JOHN 6:25-71

COMMITMENT

SAY WHAT?

If you had been one of the disciples, what would your reaction have been to what Jesus said?

SO WHAT?

Why do you think it is so hard for people to be 100% sold out for Jesus?

NOW WHAT?

What part of your life is the most difficult for you to give to Jesus? Why?

THEN WHAT?

What would you need to change to be totally dependent on Jesus?

What was the response to Jesus' statements in verses 53-59? Why? At first glance, it almost seems as if Jesus were asking them to be involved in cannibalism. But a closer examination reveals exactly what He was saying and why the disciples had such a hard time accepting it. Jesus was clearly stating that in order to follow Him, we need to be totally committed. Jesus was not looking for half-hearted commitment or people who just wanted a part of Him. He wanted only those who would take all of Him. We should be so committed that just as food nourishes, sustains, and energizes our physical bodies, so must Jesus nourish, sustain, and energize our spiritual lives. As dependent as we are on food, we are to be that dependent on Jesus Christ. In other words, we must realize that Jesus Christ demands control of every area in our lives. When some of the disciples understood the level of commitment He was asking for, they checked out. Jesus does not want a part of our lives, or even most of it. He demands all of it. Does He have all of you? What needs to change in order for you to be 100% committed?

EXTRA READING

JOHN 6

When was the last time someone said something to you in a mocking tone? What was your response? In today's reading, we see Jesus face this very situation, and from it we can learn how we ought to respond to mockery. This particular circumstance was even more painful because it was His family that was mocking Him. Their comments about showing Himself to the world at the feast must have been humiliating. It must have caused Him pain to hear and feel their sarcasm and unbelief. Notice His response. He did not become angry or defensive. He did not give a sarcastic comment in return, but patiently and lovingly responded to their attack. He simply told them that He was not going and why. What an example! Is this how you have recently responded to your family? We are prone to defend ourselves and our actions. We need to follow this example of Jesus and always respond with love and patience.

SAY WHAT?

In what situations have you found yourself being mocked recently?

SO WHAT?

Why is it so difficult to respond in a positive way when people mock you?

NOW WHAT?

How can you use today's reading to help you respond correctly in the future?

THEN WHAT?

Make a personal commitment of how you will respond in the future.

EXTRA READING
JOHN 7

PROVERBS 21

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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How many times did Jesus refer to Himself using the phrase, "I am?" Sometimes people have the mistaken belief that Jesus never claimed to be God. We find that He said it over and over in this section of Scripture. Every time He used the phrase, "I am," He was calling Himself by a name that the Jews knew was reserved only for God. He was not trying to trick or confuse them. He came right out and let people know exactly who He was and why He had come to the earth. What He said in verses 27-28 must have haunted them after His death. Jesus claimed to be God, sent to pay the penalty for their sins. He said that He would die, and then He would rise from the dead which would prove His claims. How could those people miss a message so clearly given and proven? How have you responded to His message? Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior or have you rejected Him? Today, you can be like those mentioned in verse 30 and put your faith in Him. If you have already trusted Jesus, how can you share Him with a world that needs to know?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 8

JOHN 8:31-47

CHILD

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Have you ever wondered if someone can know if they are really saved? Have you ever wondered if someone could do something to lose their salvation? If you answered yes to either of those two questions, you will find a small, but powerful phrase that should answer those questions. Did you see it when you read verse 35? The Bible teaches that someone's relationship to God is one of a father and his child. Therefore, if you have been saved, you are a child of God. According to verse 35, a slave has no permanent place in a family. A child, however, belongs to the family forever! Nothing can ever change the fact that they are a member of the family. When you became a child of God, you became a member of God's family forever. So if you have been saved, nothing can cause you to lose your salvation. If you have not been saved, what are you waiting for? Who can you talk to today about this?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 8

Have you ever wondered why difficult things happen? Why do some people have illness and disease? While there can be a variety of specific reasons, all have one basic purpose—to provide an opportunity to have the works of God demonstrated. In today's reading, Jesus illustrated this concept. The disciples, like many people today, thought that when tragedy occurred, it was because someone had done something wrong. They believed difficult things were God's way of punishing people for having committed a sin. When the disciples saw the blind man, they wanted to know whose sin was responsible. In their minds, surely his blindness was a result of some sin. Jesus told them that sin had nothing to do with this man's blindness. He was blind so that God could demonstrate the difference Jesus Christ makes. Problems provide opportunities to demonstrate God's power. Often, difficult circumstances are allowed for positive reasons. What does God want to show the people in your world through your present difficult circumstances? Are you allowing Him to?

SAY WHAT?

What difficult circumstances are part of your life?

SO WHAT?

What positive reasons could God have for allowing them?

NOW WHAT?

How should you respond to what He is doing in your life?

THEN WHAT?

What specific commitment will you make to follow through?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 9

JOHN 9:13-41

FAITH

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What words would you use to describe the three main characters in today's reading—the Pharisees, the blind man, and his parents? It is great to read how excited the blind man was about what Jesus Christ had done for him. He wanted everyone to know that Jesus Christ was responsible. He did not back down at all when the Pharisees doubted and criticized him or when his parents did not support him. He knew, like his parents, that to acknowledge that Jesus was the Christ would mean he would be put out of the synagogue. He would not deny the fact that Jesus Christ had done a work in his life, and he wanted to share it, even if that meant he would face consequences. No matter what the question or the response was, he basically said the same thing—that he was blind, but now he could see. What has Jesus done in your life? Are you willing to share it? If not, what are you afraid of?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 9

In today's reading, Jesus used a metaphor of a shepherd and his sheep to demonstrate how much He loved them. How many different illustrations does He use? Of all the different examples in this chapter, what one means the most to you. Maybe it is knowing that, just like a shepherd calls his own sheep by name, Jesus Christ knows your name. He even knows how many hairs you have on your head. It may be that He always walks ahead of you. He knows the path you travel. Your favorite example may be that Jesus offers life—life to the fullest rather than the death and destruction offered by the thief. Maybe it is knowing that, unlike some in your life, Jesus is not a hired hand and will never leave you, regardless of the cost to Him. It has already cost Him His life, and our shepherd is ready and willing to give us anything we need. Regardless of the example you've chosen, clearly you are deeply loved by God. How should that change the way you live?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 10

JOHN 11:1-44

DEITY

SAY WHAT?

Write out who you believe Jesus Christ is.

SO WHAT?

Why do you believe that what you wrote above is true?

NOW WHAT?

How should someone respond to who Jesus Christ is?

THEN WHAT?

What do you need to do in light of what you have written above?

Imagine you are having a conversation with some friends, and it suddenly turns to religion. During the discussion, one of your friends asks you who you believe Jesus Christ is. How would you answer him? That is the most important question that could be asked—one all of us must be able to answer. Who you believe Jesus Christ to be and how you respond to Him determines where you will spend eternity. This chapter contains verses that clearly state that Jesus Christ declares Himself to be God. In fact, Jesus Himself said, in verse 4, that the death of Lazarus was permitted by God to reveal this very fact. In order to receive eternal life, we must come to realize that Jesus Christ is God, and His death made eternal life possible for those who believe. Who do you think Jesus is? In the next few weeks, you will continue to discover more about who Jesus is and what He has done for you. May it change you!

EXTRA READING
JOHN 11

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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JOHN 12:1-19

HYPOCRISY

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What words would you use to describe Judas Iscariot? One of the great advantages of having the Scriptures is that we have the inside scoop that was not available to those who were there at the time. This passage is even more incredible when you realize that no one in the story knew the events taking place, except Jesus Christ. Judas chose his words very carefully when he objected to Mary's actions in order to prevent anyone from knowing the true motivation of his heart. He was so successful that no one ever suspected he was not what he claimed to be. The disciples trusted him explicitly. He even controlled their money. When Jesus said that one of them would betray Him, they suspected themselves, not Judas. He is one of the greatest examples of a hypocrite. He led people to believe something about him that was not true. Are you in any way like Judas? Are there areas of your life in which you carefully choose words so as not to reveal the true condition of your heart? How can you make it right? Who can help you rid your life of this kind of sin? Take the first step today to end hypocrisy in your life. Ignore it and there will be serious consequences some day.

EXTRA READING
JOHN 12

What request did the Greeks make of Philip in verse 21 of today's reading? Why didn't he grant their request? Instead of taking them to Jesus, he took them to Andrew. We find a lesson in this short account. Although Philip did not take the Greeks to Jesus himself, he did take them to see someone who could. For whatever reason, Philip did not feel like he could correctly answer their questions about Jesus. In light of that, he took them to someone who could. Sometimes, people do not talk about how Jesus has changed their lives for fear they will be unable to completely communicate and know all the answers. What they fail to see is that while they may not be able to, they can always take them to someone who can. Just simply say, "I can't explain everything myself but, if you want, I can call someone at my church or one of my friends who can explain it clearly." If you find yourself in this position, don't hesitate to take a friend to someone who can share Jesus with them. In the meantime, work on developing the ability share what Jesus is doing in your life.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 12

JOHN 13:1-17

A BATH

SAY WHAT?

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior? If not, why?

SO WHAT?

What sin do you continue to struggle with?

NOW WHAT?

How can you work to clean that area of your life?

THEN WHAT?

What should your next step be in light of what you wrote?

What lessons can we take from the account of Jesus washing the disciples feet? An important lesson, but one often overlooked, is taken from Jesus' conversation with Peter in verses 6-11. Jesus went to Peter and began to wash his feet. Peter objected. In the conversation, Jesus told Peter that a person who has taken a bath need have only his feet washed when they become dirty, not his whole body. Jesus illustrated an important spiritual principle that we all must understand. At the moment of salvation, we are cleansed—like a bath for our whole body. When we sin, we do not need a bath (salvation) again. We simply need to clean the part that has become dirty by seeking forgiveness and restoration. We may feel like we need a bath and may even feel that we have lost or deserve to lose our salvation. But all we need is to confess our sin and allow God to clean the part that has gotten dirty. Have you confessed your sin and asked Jesus to be your Savior? If not, what is stopping you? If you have, is there some part of your life that needs to be cleaned? Who can help you take care of it?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 13

In today's reading, how many different examples does Jesus give of how people act who love Him? Our behavior is a clear indication of who or what we truly love. Look at the example He gave and then examine your life to see how it compares. How well do you obey Jesus' commands? Obedience requires knowledge. To know His commands, you must make the time to read His Word. How well do you obey Jesus' teachings? His teachings go another step and are not all direct commands, but also principles. They are things like to love your neighbor, to give to the Lord's work, to forgive those who have sinned against you, to serve others, to be a light to the world, etc. Does your life reflect the time you spend or don't spend with Him? Does it demonstrate that you love Jesus? Are you being obedient? In what areas do you need to improve?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 14

JOHN 15:1-17

REMAIN

SAY WHAT?

Identify one area in which you are having a difficult time remaining?

SO WHAT?

Why do you struggle in this area?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to help yourself remain in this area?

THEN WHAT?

How will you be able to tell if you are remaining?

How many times does Jesus use the word remain in today's reading? What does it mean to remain? If you were to look up the definition, you would find that it means to stay in place, to continue to exist, or to hold fast. In other words, it means that we continue to grow with God. To remain with God is to have a consistent relationship with Him. It is not walking close for a month and then going a month without reading your Bible or pursuing your relationship with God. To remain means having steady, constant growth. As a branch stays on the vine and gains all its sustenance from the vine, so are we to remain with Jesus, gaining daily sustenance from Him. Would God define your relationship as a remaining one? How can you become more consistent in remaining in your relationship? How can those around you help?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 15

How would you feel if every time you had to take a test, the instructor or teacher sat down with you and gave you all the answers for the test? Sounds pretty crazy doesn't it? But amazingly, that is very similar to what this passage tells us the Holy Spirit does for us. The disciples were promised that, when the Holy Spirit came, He would guide them into ALL truth. That is, He would be there to teach them and guide them to understand what the Bible says. Since the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, and since He was the author of the Bible, He guides us into understanding to know what it means and how it applies to our lives. We must begin by praying for help and guidance every time we read the Bible. We also need to be very careful to keep our lives pure so we do not miss this by stifling His ministry in our lives. We must remember that every time we read the Bible, the Author is with us, wanting to help us understand what the passage says. He desires to have an intimate relationship with you. Ask Him to help you today.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 16

JOHN 17:1-19

ETERNAL LIFE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

If someone came up to you today and asked you what eternal life was, how would you answer him? Suppose he asked you if you had eternal life and how you knew you did? What would you say? Being able to answer these two questions is very important for the believer. Being able to answer them properly might determine his destiny as well as yours. In today's reading, Christ gives us a very simple and important definition for what eternal life is. It is found in verse 3. According to this verse, eternal life is knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He sent. In other words, it is having a personal relationship with God. The question you need to ask yourself is "Do you know God?" not, "Have I prayed a prayer at some point in my life?" Is God real to you? Many people may think they are on their way to heaven when, in fact, all they really have is a type of religion. If I have eternal life, God is real to me and, instead of a religion, I have a personal relationship. He will not just be a God I know a lot about. He will be a God who is real to me personally. Is that true of your relationship with God? If not, ask God to make Himself real to you in a way He never has before.

EXTRA READING

JOHN 17

In today's passage, we find a small piece of information that is easy to miss. John gave it to us in verse 26. This incredible night began in the upper room where Peter told Jesus he would die for Him. It continued with the events in the garden when Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest. Then, we find in verse 26, that the girl who came to him and accused him of being a follower of Jesus was a relative of the man who had his ear cut off. Why would John give us this interesting fact? I am sure Peter had no idea how his behavior in the garden would affect so many people. Or, that he would have another opportunity to impact this man and his family. What a small world it is! What have you done without stopping to consider the impact it might have on those who may be watching you? Or what opportunities have you had to influence someone's life? Your single act might be used of God to change a life forever.

SAY WHAT?

When have your actions had a greater effect on someone than you thought they might?

SO WHAT?

What effect did they have?

NOW WHAT?

How can you become more aware of the potential impact your actions can have?

THEN WHAT?

Write out a prayer asking God to help you in this area.

EXTRA READING
JOHN 18



Today you have read the account of what Jesus went through for you. What amazing love Jesus Christ demonstrated! Today, instead of taking time to read a devotional thought, or answer questions on the page, go back through the passage and at the end of each verse say, "for me." Example: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged "for me". As you do, ask yourself how you should respond to such love. In what way can you show Him how thankful you are? Does your life demonstrate you are thankful for His sacrifice?

EXTRA READING

JOHN 19

What specifically do you observe the disciples doing in this chapter that demonstrate they had small faith? One example is found in verse 26. Keep in mind as you read this verse that the disciples had already seen Jesus Christ alive by the time they were gathered again. He had talked to them and had shown them the scars on His body. They gathered again, and verse 26 tells us that the doors were locked just as they had been in verse 19. Why? Could it be that they were still afraid of the Jews? Wouldn't you assume, after experiencing all they had up to that point, that they would have had no fear and would have left the doors wide open? How similar we are today. We have God do the miraculous in our lives, and yet we later find ourselves overcome with fear wondering what will happen next. In what area of your life do you have the doors locked in fear, even though God has already revealed to you that there is no reason to be afraid? How can you begin to open the doors in your life? Who can help you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOHN 20

JOHN 21:15-25

DO OVER

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

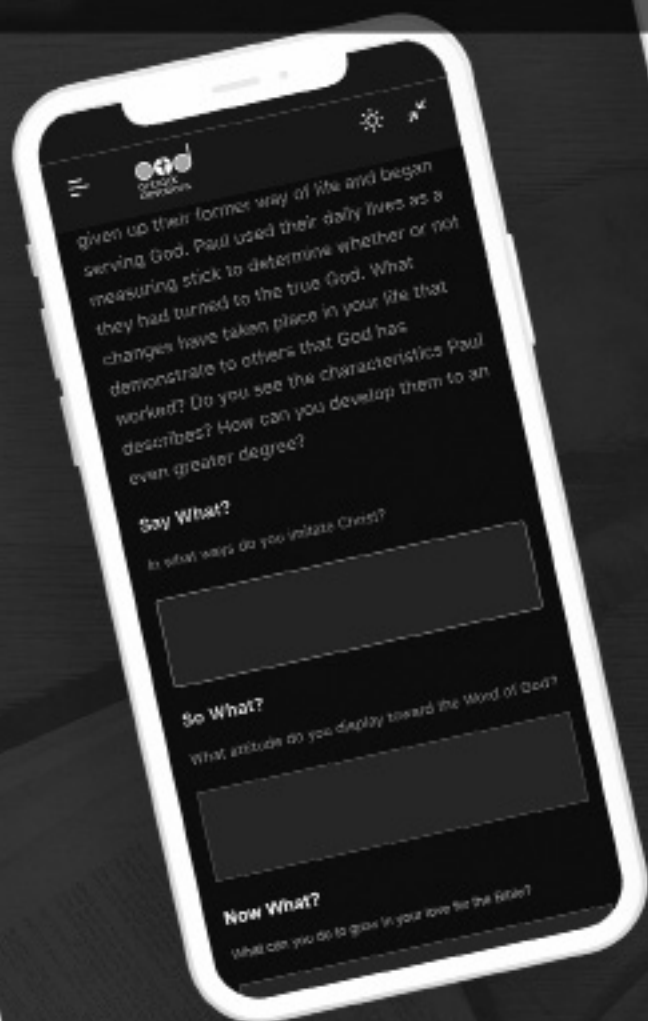
Describe the different emotions Peter must have experienced in this chapter. This may be the most encouraging chapter on forgiveness in the Bible. Peter denied Jesus in public, in a dreadful way. He had denied Jesus by telling people he did not even know Him. He had given up and gone back to fishing, even taking some of the disciples with him. He had been given a position of leadership. He had every opportunity to become someone who accomplished great things for God. But, he blew it. Life was over, right? Wrong!! Jesus took Peter aside and let him know that he still needed to be about the business that God had called him to. How excited Peter must have been to be given another chance. He got a do over. Jesus told him He still expected him to take care of His sheep. In fact, everyone of us can have the same opportunity. God's forgiveness provides for all of us a do over—an opportunity to confess our sin and have God put our lives back together. As you look forward to next month, spend time today reviewing this past month. Confess your sin and begin tomorrow with a clean slate.

EXTRA READING
JOHN 21



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THIS HOPE WE HAVE AS
AN ANCHOR OF THE
SOUL, A HOPE BOTH
SURE AND STEADFAST
AND ONE WHICH
ENTERS WITHIN THE
VEIL, WHERE JESUS HAS
ENTERED AS A FORERUN-
NER FOR US...

HEBREWS 6:19-20

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THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO
STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY;
I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY
HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO
THE FULL.

JOHN 10:10 (NIV)

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