

THE
ADVENTURE
OF A **LIFETIME**



RIVER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“Every day, God invites us on an adventure. It’s not a trip where He sends us a rigid itinerary. He simply invites us.” -Bob Goff

Living life with and for Jesus Christ is indeed a wild and worth it adventure that contains a variety of peaks, valleys, and everything in between. We at RCC want to provide you with everything we possibly can to encourage, inspire, and motivate you on the adventure that God has for you. What follows is a daily devotional/Bible study that will hopefully position you to better hear God’s voice and encounter His love, truth, grace, and mercy. We want to encourage you not to hold to this devotional/Bible study in some type of rigid or legalistic way. Rather, take your time going through it. Invest deeply in your quiet times with the Lord, reflecting on the passages, finding yourself in the Biblical stories, and asking God what He desires that you see, hear, and learn.

There are topic or category headings that will point to a general or overall theme of the groupings of texts but rest assured that God and His Holy Spirit are not confined to topics or categories. They will show you things that you did not expect through your engagement with the Lord and His word. We pray immense blessings on your journey with God and with the community of faith. We are confident that God will continue the work that He has begun in you! (Philippians 1:3-6)

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IDENTITY

- Read Genesis 1:26-27 and consider that your being created in God's image means that you have the greatest amount of hope, significance, and purpose not because of your performance (good or bad) or anything that you bring to the table but because of God's great love and mercy.
 - Consider what it means to simply be loved as a soul in the presence of God rather than being loved for any title that you have, role that you fill, or hat that you wear.
 - Pray about how God desires you to more fully embrace the love that He has for you as His son or daughter.

- Read Romans 5:6-11 and take special note of the word "while." God did not seek to love us when we had our lives together in a nice and neat little package. Rather, He loved us when we were in absolute and utter chaos and rebellion and had nothing together except living in brokenness and sin.
 - Consider the fact that if God sent Jesus to us when we were living in chaos, brokenness, and sin what He does for us now as His sons and daughters.
 - Spend 2-3 minutes in silence not doing any speaking but just reflecting on how God chose to love you while you were at your worst.

- Read Deuteronomy 7:7-9 and consider what the Lord tells the nation of Israel about why He chose to love them. What implications/applications does this have for you today?
 - How do you need to simply but profoundly receive and embrace God's love for you rather than attempting to get Him to love you more through good performances or work that you do and/or things that you accomplish?

- Read Ephesians 2:10.
 - Consider the beauty and magnitude of you being God's masterpiece and Him having so much love for you that He has purposed things for you to do before time began so that you can partner with Him for His glory and honor.
 - What do you need to surrender to God today to more fully accept His invitation to partner with Him in living life to the full? Pray about this today.

SOLITUDE

- Read Mark 1:35-39 and consider that Jesus made time with His Father a priority not just to do more spiritual and religious things and activities but simply to cultivate intimacy and closeness with His Father.
 - Consider your current and daily rhythms of life. How can you more intentionally practice solitude with the Lord simply to cultivate intimacy and closeness with Him, not asking for a single thing but just listening for whatever He has for you?

- Read Luke 5:15-16 and consider the immense pressure and tremendous expectations from all angles that Jesus daily had to manage and deal with. What pressures and expectations are you currently dealing with and managing? How can you simply take some time to rest with the Lord and allow Him to pour into you?

- Read 1 Kings 19:1-8.
 - Consider that this great man of God, Elijah was absolutely exhausted and extremely discouraged. Consider also that God didn't hammer him and tell him how bad of a person he was. He gave him two things. Rest and food to nourish him and remind Elijah of who he was and who God was.
 - What simple things is God giving you to remind you of who you are in Him and who He is?

- Read Luke 6:12-19 and consider that in this text, we find an interesting progression and/or sequencing of events. Jesus prays (solitude), and then He seeks to live with the men He has selected to be His disciples (community), and then, they seek to pour out what has been poured into them (ministry).
 - Many times, as Jesus followers, we are focused first on doing for the Lord rather than being.
 - Today, reflect on how the "doing" for the Lord should be a byproduct of solitude with Him and living in community with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

COMMUNITY

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 and consider the fact that when someone becomes a Christian, they are not just committing themselves to the Lord, they also become a member of one big family! They are also committing themselves to brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - Consider some of the positives of getting to be a part of a family. Consider some of the problems or issues in being a part of a family.
 - Is there anything that makes you nervous or scared about being a part of the family of God? Anything that excites you about being a part of the family of God?

- Read Acts 2:42-47.
 - What sticks out to you about how these early Jesus followers shared and lived life together?
 - How is God calling you to more fully engage and share and live life with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

- Read Hebrews 3:12-13 and consider that your brothers and sisters in Christ desperately need you and you desperately need them. How can you show up and be present in simple but deeply meaningful ways for your brothers and sisters today? This week?

- Read Matthew 18:1-5 and 18:15-20.
 - Consider that no earthly family is perfect, and no spiritual family is perfect. Life with brothers and sisters in Christ is messy. How are you living in the messiness of sharing and doing life with your brothers and sisters in Christ?
 - What hurts or disappointments from brothers and sisters in Christ do you need to give to the Lord?

MINISTRY

- Read Luke 10:17-20 and notice that while the disciples that Jesus sent out come back to Him because they are super pumped and excited about what they can “do,” Jesus points them to something more important, who they are in Him, their standing and position in Jesus Christ.
 - Consider today that “doing” ministry as a Jesus follower isn’t about you becoming more visible but about making much of Jesus. What areas of pride and ego do you need to release in your own life when it comes to serving God and serving others?

- Read Matthew 28:18-20.
 - This passage is oftentimes referred to as “The Great Commission.” In other words, our marching orders as Jesus followers but reflect on a couple of things about this passage.
 - The implications behind Jesus having all the authority. You will never have all the answers or knowledge for yourself or anyone else and truly, this is not the point in reaching out to others. It’s about pointing people to Jesus and away from you.
 - Reflect on the word “go.” To whom is God calling you to “go” today to simply be present with them and share His love, grace, mercy, and truth? This week? Pray about these individuals by name and how you are going to take action on who and what God has is showing you.

- Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 and consider what God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit have poured into you and what they continue to pour into you.
 - Consider how you are stewarding and sharing all of the resources that God has given you? Time, money, energy, love, truth, grace, mercy, your home, and forgiveness.
 - What would it look like for you to freely pour out to others what God has richly given to you?
 - What would it look like for you to use your power and influence for the sake of God’s kingdom and for the sake of others?
 - Take a few minutes to pray about these things today.

“Our spiritual journey is not our setting out to find God. It is a journey of learning to yield ourselves to God and discovering where God will take us.” -M. Robert Mullholland, Jr.

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