

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: You Are Part of Something Bigger

Devotional

Have you ever felt like you're just one person in a sea of billions, wondering if your life really matters? The early church started with just 120 believers gathered in an upper room, yet within a short time, this small group had grown to potentially 20,000 people in Jerusalem alone. What's remarkable isn't just the numbers—it's that God chose ordinary people to be part of an extraordinary movement that would literally change the world.

Today, you might feel ordinary. You might think your job, your neighborhood, your daily interactions don't amount to much in the grand scheme of things. But here's the beautiful truth: every follower of Jesus is part of this same movement that began 2,000 years ago. You're not just living your individual life—you're part of God's ongoing work to bring hope, healing, and transformation to the world.

This movement isn't about having the perfect church building, the most polished programs, or the most eloquent speakers. It's about people like you and me who have encountered Jesus and are willing to let that encounter change how we live. When you show kindness to a difficult coworker, when you choose to forgive instead of holding a grudge, when you offer hope to someone who's struggling—you're participating in the movement.

The same Spirit that empowered those first 120 believers is available to you today. You don't need special credentials or extraordinary talents. You just need to be willing to let Jesus work through your ordinary life in extraordinary ways.

Bible Verse

'Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.' - Acts 4:13

Reflection Question

In what specific area of your life do you feel most 'ordinary,' and how might God want to use that very area to impact others for His kingdom?

Quote

We are the movement. Living Water is the movement. You're the movement. Every group of people who want to bring honor to Jesus and are following him are part of the movement.

Prayer

Lord, help me see that my ordinary life has extraordinary potential when surrendered to You. Open my eyes to the ways You want to use me as part of Your movement today. Amen.

Day 2: The Movement Has a Price

Devotional

Following Jesus sounds appealing until we realize it comes with a cost. Peter and John discovered this quickly when they were thrown in jail simply for healing a man and sharing about Jesus. Their crime? Participating in God's movement of love and restoration.

While most of us won't face physical imprisonment for our faith, the movement still requires sacrifice. The price might be stepping out of our comfort zones to build relationships with people who are different from us. It might mean choosing to engage in difficult conversations about faith when it would be easier to stay silent. Sometimes it's as simple as showing up to serve others when we'd rather stay home and relax.

The cost also includes battling our own internal struggles—worry about what others think, fear of rejection, or the temptation to choose apathy over action. It's easier to critique from the sidelines than to get involved. It's more comfortable to consume spiritual content than to actually live it out in messy, real-world situations.

But here's what Peter and John understood: the price of following Jesus is nothing compared to the joy of seeing lives transformed. When we're willing to pay the price—to step out in faith, to love sacrificially, to share our stories—we get to witness God do incredible things through ordinary people like us.

The movement isn't about perfection; it's about participation. God isn't asking you to have all the answers or to be spiritually mature before you engage. He's simply asking if you're willing to pay the price of stepping out in faith.

Bible Verse

'But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.'" - Acts 4:19-20

Reflection Question

What specific comfort or fear is God asking you to surrender in order to more fully participate in His movement?

Quote

We are the movement. Yes, but the movement has a price.

Prayer

Jesus, give me courage to count the cost and choose to follow You anyway. Help me see that what I gain in You is far greater than anything I might lose. Amen.

Day 3: Whose Power Are You Operating In?

Devotional

When the religious leaders demanded to know by what power Peter and John had healed the lame man, they were asking the most important question any of us can face: "By what power do you operate?" This wasn't just about a miraculous healing—it was about the source of strength, wisdom, and authority in their lives.

Every day, we face this same question. Are we operating in our own strength, relying on our education, experience, or natural abilities? Or are we drawing from the power of Jesus? The difference isn't always obvious from the outside, but it's profound in its impact.

When we operate in our own power, we quickly reach our limits. We get frustrated when people don't respond the way we want. We burn out from trying to control outcomes. We take credit when things go well and blame others when they don't. But when we operate in Jesus' power, something different happens. We find strength beyond our natural capacity. We experience peace in difficult situations. We see God work in ways that surprise us.

Peter boldly declared that salvation comes through Jesus alone—not through human effort, religious rituals, or good intentions. This same Jesus who saved us is the source of power for daily living. When we acknowledge Him daily, surrender our plans to His will, and step out in faith even when we don't have all the answers, we tap into a power source that never runs dry.

The question isn't whether you're capable enough to make a difference. The question is whether you're willing to let Jesus' power work through your availability.

Bible Verse

'And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.' - Acts 4:12

Reflection Question

Looking at your current challenges and responsibilities, how can you tell whether you're operating in your own strength or in Jesus' power?

Quote

By what power do I operate? Not how did they operate or what the answer is going to be there, but by what power do I operate?

Prayer

Lord, I acknowledge that apart from You, I can do nothing of eternal significance. Help me daily surrender my plans and rely on Your power working through me. Amen.

Day 4: Learning to Live Around Jesus

Devotional

What made Peter and John so remarkable wasn't their education or social status—they were ordinary fishermen. What astonished the religious leaders was recognizing that "these men had been with Jesus." There was something unmistakably different about them, a boldness and wisdom that could only be explained by their relationship with Christ.

This reveals a beautiful truth about how transformation happens. It's not about trying harder to be a better person or following more rules. It's about spending time with Jesus and allowing that relationship to reshape how we think, speak, and act. When we learn to live our lives in a way that revolves around Jesus, everything changes.

This doesn't mean we become perfect overnight. Peter still had moments of doubt and failure even after walking with Jesus for three years. But there's a difference between someone who occasionally thinks about God and someone whose life revolves around Him. It shows up in how we treat difficult people, how we respond to setbacks, and how we make decisions.

Sometimes living around Jesus means expressing kindness to people who are unkind to us. Sometimes it means acting on simple truths we've learned instead of studying more to avoid taking action. It might mean having difficult conversations, serving when it's inconvenient, or choosing forgiveness when we'd rather hold a grudge.

The goal isn't to impress others with our spirituality. The goal is to spend so much time with Jesus that His character naturally begins to show through our ordinary lives. When that happens, people take note—not of how amazing we are, but of how amazing Jesus is.

Bible Verse

'Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.' - Acts 4:13

Reflection Question

If someone observed your life for a week, what evidence would they find that you've been spending time with Jesus?

Quote

The bottom line is I'm learning to live my life in a way that revolves around Jesus. And that's where the power comes from.

Prayer

Jesus, I want people to see You in my life, not because I'm trying to impress them, but because spending time with You has genuinely changed me. Help me live in a way that revolves around You. Amen.

Day 5: You Have a Story to Tell

Devotional

Peter and John couldn't help but speak about what they had seen and heard. They had experienced something so transformative that keeping quiet was impossible. When the religious leaders commanded them to stop talking about Jesus, their response was essentially, "We can't stop talking about this—it's changed everything!"

You have a story too. Maybe you think it's not dramatic enough or impressive enough to share. Maybe you feel like your faith journey has been ordinary, without miraculous healings or dramatic conversions. But here's the truth: every story of God's faithfulness matters. Every testimony of His love, grace, and provision has the power to bring hope to someone who desperately needs it.

Your story might be about how God helped you through a difficult season, how He provided when you didn't know how you'd make it, or how He gave you peace in the middle of chaos. It might be about small, daily ways you've experienced His presence or how He's been changing your heart over time.

People who feel hopeless need to hear that there is hope. People who feel alone need to know that God sees them. People who feel worthless need to understand that they matter to God. Your story—however ordinary it might seem to you—could be exactly what someone needs to hear today.

If you feel like you don't have much to share, ask God to give you stories. Start paying attention to how He's working in your daily life. Notice His provision, His guidance, His comfort. And when you see it, share it. The world around us tries to silence these stories, but we can't help but speak about what we've seen and heard.

Bible Verse

'But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.'" - Acts 4:19-20

Reflection Question

What is one specific way God has shown up in your life recently that you could share with someone this week?

Quote

When we start to realize what's happening with us and we start to see the changes around us. But we have a story to tell, and we can't help but speak about it.

Prayer

God, open my eyes to see how You're working in my life, and give me courage to share those stories with others who need hope. Help me be bold in speaking about what I've seen and heard. Amen.