

# 4-Week Devotional Challenge

(Week 1: January 8-14, 2012)

Name

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Time each day I plan on  
spending time with God

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## The Word

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*Go away Satan! The Scriptures say: "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him."*

Matthew 4:10 (CEV)

## Unpacking The Word

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This was something else Jesus said when he was out in the desert being tempted by Satan. He'd already told the devil that it took more than food to live. And when Satan tried to get Jesus to do the cheap trick to prove he was God's Son, Jesus told that lowlife that it was wrong to use God's power just to show off. And in this verse Jesus must've been totally fed up with the devil because he simply told the loser to get lost.

Jesus pointed out that we are to serve and worship *only God*—no one and nothing else. Seems simple, and yet how often we forget. Consider what you spend your time thinking about. Maybe it's a special someone, like your most recent crush. Or maybe it's an activity you enjoy, like a sport or shopping. The thing is, if you spend a LOT of time thinking and obsessing over this particular person or thing, it becomes a lot like worship. And you have to ask yourself, 'Who am I serving?'

God wants us to put him in that first-place position. He wants to be the top priority in our lives. It's okay to have other loved ones beneath him, but God wants to own that number one spot. And when he does, everything else will begin to fall into place. Take some time to think about what the most important things are in your life. Think about how you spend your free-time. Think about how much time you invest in your relationship with God. Does how you spend your free-time reflect your love for God? What changes or commitments are you willing to make to be sure that God is #1 in your life?

## My Prayer

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Dear God,

Thank you for showing me how important it is to keep you first and foremost in my life. Help me to remember this when other people and things try to crowd into that place. Show me how I can serve and worship you above all else! Amen.

## Worship

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Find a worship song to listen to or listen to "I Lift My Hands" by Chris Tomlin. If you don't have the song but want to listen to it, search "I Lift My Hands" on YouTube (on your computer or iPod). ***Listen to the song with headphones if possible, and close your eyes to soak in God.***

## A Five Finger Model of Prayer

Here is a way of praying for others by using your fingers to trigger you into thinking about different groups of people.

**Thumb:** Those furthest away – missionaries, persecuted Christians, friends and families overseas.

**1<sup>st</sup> finger:** Those people who lead and guide us, pointing the way (ministers, teachers etc.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> finger:** The strongest finger – those people with power and responsibility (governments etc.)

**Ring finger:** Those people we love – family, friends.

**Little finger:** Those who are ill, weak, infirm, old, poor, helpless...

**Whole hand:** Pray for yourself finally, offering your hands to God to serve Him as *praying* and *servicing* hands for all the people you meet.



# Worship

Listen to “Forever Reign” by Hillsong Live (Album: A Beautiful Exchange) or another worship song (Listen in your headphones if possible)

Look up the lyrics online, listen to the song again, or use your memory. What do the lyrics tell you about who God is? List everything you can think of from the song.

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Which lyrics speak to you the most? What words really touch your heart?

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What can you give God praise for?

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Listen to the song one more time, letting your heart and soul sing it to God

# Bible Study

## Pray

Almighty God, speak to me through your Holy Word. Make it come alive in my life.

## Read and study a Bible passage

### James 1

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds,<sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup> Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

## Study Tips

- Highlight or underline key words
- Highlight or underline a key verse or a key phrase
- Are there any words/terms you don't understand? Look up definitions in dictionaries or online. Ask a parent.
- What is God saying to you through this passage?
- Does it have any relevance for your life right now? How can you apply this to your life?
- What is this passage gives you reason to praise God?
- Confess any sin to God that you feel convicted of after reading and reflecting
- Write down a key verse or phrase on a small piece of paper or index card and carry it with you for the day. Pull the verse out throughout the day as a reminder of what God said to you.

## Pray

Loving God, thank you for your Word. Thank you for speaking to me. I love you soooo much. May my life reflect that love.

## Thank God!

### Hebrews 12:28-29 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, **let us be thankful**, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our “God is a consuming fire.”<sup>[a]</sup>

Come up with a list of 30 things you are thankful to God for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.

**Read: Luke 17:11-19**

(If you can't find a Bible, look up the passage on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))

The main thing I remember or learned from this Scripture is...

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Here is what God is trying to teach me through this Scripture...

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As a result of this, today (or tomorrow) I will....

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Right now I need to pray about....

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# Confession and Cleansing

## 1 John 1:8-10 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**Write down some sins that you have committed in the box below.**

**Confess** these sins to God, asking for His forgiveness.

## Psalm 103:12 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Your sins are removed from you. Praise be to Christ!

**Tear off the box of sins and stick the sheet in a paper shredder, or tear it into tiny pieces and throw it away, symbolizing your sins being removed from you.**

**Then go to the sink and wash your hands** to help you remember Jesus' cleansing power.

Go to YouTube and watch the music video for "Ocean Floor" by Audio Adrenaline