



75th Anniversary Weekly Devotionals

Week 3 (Oct 2 – Oct 8)

Each week, we will provide 5 days of Bible reading to guide you as you pray and meditate on the Bible passages and topics we're studying together as a church family. You can use the S.O.A.P. method (S.O.A.P. journals available at the Info Center) or any method you choose.

Service With a Smile

By humbly serving, Jesus gives us an example we all should follow. (John 13:15). This week, take time to pray about how you are serving in Christ's body and in his world. Is God calling you to serve for the first time, or in a new way?

DAY ONE: John 13 begins a new section in John's Gospel known as the Farewell Discourse. As Jesus enters the last week of his ministry, just days away from the Cross, he focuses on the 12 Apostles. Read John 13:1-17, keeping Jesus' death in mind.

- Ask as many WHY questions as possible (Why feet? Why Peter? Why water? Why this date on the calendar? Etc.) What does this teach you about serving?

DAY TWO: Read Mark 10:35-45. Imagine the scene as if you were watching a movie. Write down your initial observations about the characters involved.

- Read 10:38. Think about the cup. What is Jesus saying to the brothers (and us)? When you first believed the gospel, did you see this as part of following Jesus? What do you think today?

- Read 10:43-45. Are there areas in your life where you desire to be "great" or "first"? Do your desires ever keep you from serving? What in Jesus' example speaks to your heart?

DAY THREE: Read Ephesians 4:11-16. "Work" is used twice in this passage. Reflect on the nature of work. What does this tell you about serving in general. How does it impact your thinking about "work" in the body of Christ?

- Read the passage again looking for terms of conclusion (so that, instead, then). What is to be the harvest of our work? Have you witnessed growth in others at Southwinds because of your serving, your work?

DAY FOUR: Read Philippians 2:3-11. C.S. Lewis wrote, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." Reread the passage, meditating on the word humility.

- Reread 2:8, substituting the word sacrifice for humility. Christ sacrificed all. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you take an inventory. Is your service sacrificial or self-fulfilling?

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Timothy 5:3-8. What does this passage teach us about our first responsibility in the faith? Read Matthew 5:13-16. Does your family see your good deeds and glorify God?

- Consider your service at home. Where do you need more humility? Are you the same person before your family that you are among your church family? How can you begin serving your family this week?

- Think again about Jesus washing feet, a towel wrapped around his waist. Where is God calling you to wash feet?