



**SPIRITUAL  
JOURNEY  
DEVOTIONAL**

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RENEW STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

This devotional guide is meant to be used by everyone at Village Church as part of our Spiritual Journey for the RENEW campaign. It is only as we seek God and his renewal, we believe, that we ourselves will experience spiritual renewal. This devotional is meant to be a help in facilitating that process.

Each day contains a brief Scripture reading, followed by a devotional thought, prompt for reflection, and space to respond or write out a prayer. The devotionals cover Monday through Saturday of each week, and coincided with a Sunday sermon series delivered in the fall of 2023 that you are welcome to view online.

These devotionals have been written by a cross-section of our congregation, ranging from new members to those who have been at Village since its first Sunday service more than 40 years ago.

The devotionals also focus on a key emphasis each week for which we are seeking renewal. These include:

**MISSION** // Week 1

**PRAYER** // Week 2

**SACRIFICE** // Week 3

**INVESTMENT** // Week 4

**PARTNERSHIP** // Week 5

**FAITH** // Week 6

Our prayer is that, as you commit to using this devotional, God would do a renewing work in our church. We want to be renewed by God to further his mission. We want to see Lake County renewed by God through people transformed by the gospel. Thank you for going on this journey with us.









**THURSDAY, WEEK 1**

*Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”*  
// John 20:21

As the disciples grieved for Jesus and struggled to understand what happened after his death, they were also afraid for their own lives – the authorities might come after them next for following Jesus. He appeared to the disciples, and here in John 20:21 he reassured them of his resurrection, reminded them of his presence and peace, and revealed their purpose for the future. They were to be sent, even as Jesus himself was sent. Only in the Lord can we find peace in chaos and purpose that guides our day-to-day lives, and this is just as true today as it was then.

What would change about your daily life if you kept the mission and purpose given by Jesus at the forefront of your mind?

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

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## MONDAY, WEEK 2

*And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*

// Luke 18:1

Prayer – what is it? It's spiritually breathing, it's a discipline, a privilege, a loving conversation with our Savior, a petition, or a time of praise. Jesus told his disciples to pray and not be discouraged. Why? Because sometimes the answer desired isn't always granted immediately. Sometimes it feels like no one is listening or cares. Sometimes we lose hope or feel defeated and sometimes it feels like our prayers are not reaching God. But none of that is true, ever. We may receive a 'no' or 'not now' answer, but Jesus asked his disciples and us to pray because prayer develops spiritual character, strength, fortitude, and closer communion with our Lord. Just like a person can't cease breathing in order to maintain life, the Christian needs prayer to breathe, to grow, and to thrive. Prayer is essential to the life of a Christian and it is also a discipline that requires cultivation and continuous use.

How is the Lord calling you to draw closer to him through prayer in this season?

## REFLECT & RESPOND

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# INVESTMENT

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## TUESDAY, WEEK 4

*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,  
The world, and all who live in it.*  
// Psalm 24:1

Psalm 24:1 reveals that all of creation, the whole world, and all that reside in it belong to God. He “takes claim,” some versions read. God is the creator, owner, and sustainer of all living and nonliving things. So what does Psalm 24:1 reveal about creation? Creation does not belong to itself. In fact, God has charged humanity with stewarding his creation. The earth and everything in it, the world and all who live in it, are on loan to humanity, that we might enjoy it and use it to glorify God. The mission of us and the rest of creation is to bring fame to the Creator while trusting him as the Sustainer.

How does knowing everything in all of creation belongs to God encourage or challenge you? Name something specific that God has called you to steward for him. Is God calling you to action or a heart change? Write out a prayer to God with your thoughts.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

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## PARTNERSHIP

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### MONDAY, WEEK 5

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."  
// Isaiah 6:8*

Earlier in this chapter Isaiah sees God in all his glory. This immediately compels him to acknowledge his own sins. His genuine repentance and restoration are evident as he immediately enlists to serve. "Send me!" Isaiah did not look to others to act. He responded to God's call and he went! We too are called to serve.

How is your view of God and your relationship with him impacting your response to him? Do you have any hesitations that need to be overcome today? You've been 'sent.' Will you 'go'?

### REFLECT & RESPOND

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RENEWED  
TO FURTHER  
GOD'S  
MISSION

