
DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The Storyteller / Week 1

WEEK 1

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FIXED TO BE FOUND.

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and **go after the lost sheep until he finds it?**”

LUKE 15:4 NIV

DAY 1

Have you ever lost your phone and couldn't find it? You probably retraced your steps and tore apart your room looking for it! But when you finally found it, all was right with the world.

Believe it or not, that's exactly the same feeling God has when He brings us back to Himself. Maybe we've felt far from God because of choices we've made or circumstances in our lives. We wonder if He even notices or cares that we feel so lost.

This passage in Luke assures us that not only does God care, but He will do whatever it takes to bring us back to Him. That's how much He loves us. Is there something in your life that's left you feeling far from God? **Ask God to show you that He is with you and will always come to find you this week.**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; **knock and the door will be opened to you.**”

MATTHEW 7:7 NIV

DAY 2

“What do you want?” This may seem like a simple question, but how you answer it has a way of revealing what's important to you. This verse from Matthew reminds us of this truth: What we search for, we'll find in one way or another. That makes what we want and look for in life feel a lot more important!

God has the best plan for our lives, and He will open the right doors for us to accomplish the things He has for us. When we look for the things of God—when we want what He wants for us—we can believe that we will find it. **So this week, let's do what this passage reminds us to do. Let's look for, ask, and seek out the things God has for us.**

The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying, **“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”**

JEREMIAH 31:3 NIV

DAY 3

When we are in the middle of something difficult, it's easy to forget that anything good has ever happened to us. We tend to focus so much on the negative things happening currently that we forget the good things that have happened before. Maybe we even wonder if good things will happen again.

Jeremiah reminds us in this verse of the best thing—the one good thing we can hang on to no matter what—and that is God's love for us. His love, kindness, and presence in our lives can be the thing that carries us through hard times. It can be the thing that helps us remember that good things have come and will come again. **This week, write this verse where you can see it or maybe even try to memorize it.** Let it be the thing you focus on when you find yourself facing hard or difficult things.

The Lord is **compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

PSALM 103:8 NIV

DAY 4

When was the last time you got in trouble? Got in a fight with a friend? Made your sibling mad? Argued with a teammate? We've all been there, right?

When things like that happen, people don't usually respond the way David writes about in this Psalm. Compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, loving—wouldn't it be nice to give or receive that kind of response from someone, even when we've hurt or wronged them? While we may not always get that from the people in our lives, we can be assured that we will always find this response from God. When we mess up, He still loves us. When we get angry, He is patient. When we make a mistake, He is compassionate. No matter what, God will always respond to us out of His love. **The next time you find yourself ready to react in anger or frustration, ask God to help you instead respond as He would—with love first.**

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

JAMES 4:8 NIV

DAY 5

Imagine you had two magnets and you placed one on a table and slowly pushed the other closer to it, then suddenly they flew together!

This verse is similar to the magnets: when one magnet moves closer to the other, the other comes to meet it. When you move closer to God, He comes rushing back to meet you. Maybe something has stopped you from coming closer to God. No matter what's held you back in the past, listen to what James is saying now. You can come close to God and, you can know that He will come close to you. He will be there waiting. The moment you move toward God, you will see that He has been there all along moving toward you. **This week, ask a trusted friend or Small Group Leader what it looks like for them to come close or draw near to God.** Ask them to help you do the same, remembering that He is there ready and waiting for you.