

# Devotional Calendar

## MAY 2020

### Unit III. Called to God's Work of Justice

**3rd**

**Meditate:** Psalm 47

**Listen:** "Mighty God" by Deitrick Haddon

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OneDIq65eNg)

[watch?v=OneDIq65eNg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OneDIq65eNg)

**Pray:** Tell the Lord that He Is an Awesome King and that You Praise His Holy Name



**10th**

**Meditate:** Zephaniah 8:18-23

**Listen:** "Change Me" by Tamela Mann

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k)

[watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k)

**Pray:** Let the Lord Know that You Give Him Your Hands to Use to Do His Holy Will



## How to Do a Devotional

Daily devotionals are important to help you grow in your relationship with God. Pray, meditate, and read the Word of God, and you will grow spiritually. Devote ten minutes at the beginning of your day to clear your mind and heart and prepare to receive God. Daily devotions will prepare you for any obstacles that may come your way. Take time each morning to hear from God. Even Jesus used time in the morning to be with God. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35, NIV).

**17th**

**Meditate:** Psalm 86:1-13

**Listen:** "Forgive Me, Lord (It's Me Again)" by J. Moss

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk)

[watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk)

**Pray:** Ask the Father to Search You and to Forgive You



**24th**

**Meditate:** Psalm 72:1-17

**Listen:** "Take Away" by Yolanda Adams

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs)

[watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs)

**Pray:** Plead with the Lord to Give You a Heart of Compassion for Others



**31st**

**Meditate:** Deuteronomy 8:11-20

**Listen:** "We Offer Praise" by Rodnie Bryant and the Christian Community Mass Choir

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7inK80mS64)

[watch?v=j7inK80mS64](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7inK80mS64)

**Pray:** Tell the Lord that You Will Never Forget His Goodness and Mercy



Background Scripture: Jeremiah 21 • Print Passage: Jeremiah 21:8-14

**KEY VERSE:** "I will punish you as your deeds deserve, declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 21:14a)



Mr. and Mrs. Kennybrook are regular volunteers at Marla's school. To the students at school, the Kennybrooks are friendly, loving people.

No one would have suspected that they would steal money from the school—but that is exactly what happened.

Marla obtained a copy of the news report about the Kennybrooks from the Internet. According to the report, the Kennybrooks had been stealing money from the athletic accounts for months. One day after a baseball game, a parent saw Mr. Kennybrook take money from the concession stand cash register and put it into his pocket. The next day, the parent who saw Mr. Kennybrook stealing reported it to the principal. The principal did not want to believe what she was hearing. Several weeks went by, and each week, more concern grew about the Kennybrooks' honesty and how they handled the money.

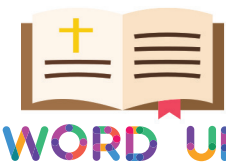


During the last baseball tournament of the season, the Kennybrooks were assigned to collect money from people coming through the gate. After a short while, the same parent who reported Mr. Kennybrook's stealing saw Mr. Kennybrook taking money from the cash box and putting it into Mrs. Kennybrook's purse. He recorded what he was seeing on his phone. When the principal saw the video, she quietly signaled for the police. Mr. and Mrs. Kennybrook were arrested and taken away to jail.

Although the Kennybrooks were wrong for what they did, Marla was

sad about the whole situation. She thought about her grandmother's favorite saying: "God does not settle His books every day, but He does settle them." In other words, Marla's grandmother believes that sooner or later, people receive God's punishment for their wrongdoing. The incident with the Kennybrooks reminded the students and parents at Marla's school that crime has serious consequences, no matter who you are.

Why do you think some people seem to have no fear of God's punishment when they do wrong?



### Jeremiah 21:8-14

**8** "Furthermore, tell the people, 'This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death. **9** Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague. But whoever goes out and surrenders to the Babylonians who are besieging you will live; they will escape with their lives. **10** I have determined to do this city harm and not good, declares the LORD. It will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will destroy it with fire.' **11** Moreover, say to the royal house of Judah, 'Hear the word of the LORD. **12** This is what the LORD says to you, house of David: Administer justice every morning; rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it. **13** I am against you, Jerusalem, you who live above this valley on the rocky plateau, declares the LORD—you who say, "Who can come against us? Who can enter our refuge?" **14** I will punish you as your deeds deserve, declares the LORD. I will kindle a fire in your forests that will consume everything around you.'"



The biblical character featured in today's lesson is Jeremiah. Many scholars refer to Jeremiah as the weeping prophet, because much of his ministry was spent pleading with the people to turn away from sin and serve God. When Jeremiah spoke, it was as if nobody heard him, because the people continued to disregard his warning and they continued to rebel against God. Now that Judah was being attacked by Nebuchadnezzar's armies, Judah's leaders cried out to Jeremiah, asking him to talk to God on their behalf. God used Jeremiah to deliver the strong message to Judah's leaders. Jeremiah informed King Zedekiah and the other leaders of Judah that God was not going to

deliver them. Even worse, God Himself was going to fight against them. In the past, Jeremiah had warned the people about Jerusalem's destruction. The leaders rejected Jeremiah's warnings and continued to violate God's commandments. King Ze-

dekiah was seeking God's help to deliver him from the hands of the enemy. He wanted relief from his situation, but he did not want to change to live in a way that was pleasing to God.

This lesson reminds us that people often want God's help in times of trouble, but when things are going well, they rarely consider how their disobedience or rejection of God's Word makes God feel. Judah's refusal to heed Jeremiah's warnings created an irreversible sentence of severe judgment that God would not cancel. Jerusalem would not escape God's wrath.

## INSIDE OUT

God is love, but He absolutely hates sin and disobedience. God sent Jeremiah to warn the people of their sinful ways, but the people refused to turn to God until they were attacked by their enemies. God is patient, but in His own time, He will settle the score and give people the justice they deserve. Set your heart and mind to live right and avoid God's wrath of justice that results from disobedience. Can God count on you to listen and follow His instructions?

## There's an App for That!

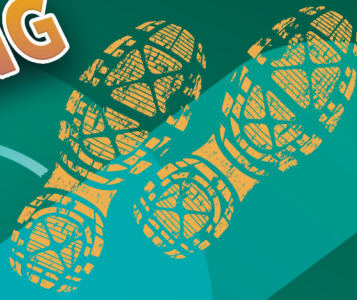
Today's "Wake Up!" story provides an example of how wrong decisions lead to severe consequences. When people willingly participate in evil and dishonest plots to mistreat and deceive others, it is just a matter of time before they will be brought to justice. Judah never thought that God would allow them to be destroyed by their enemies, but God needed the people to learn how disobedience causes extreme consequences that cannot be reversed. Open your heart to receive God's warning about disobedience. Commit to follow God all the way.



## Walk Out

Some view Jeremiah's ministry as a failure because he warned the people, but no one listened to him. In God's eyes, Jeremiah was a success because he obeyed and did whatever God assigned him to do. When God chooses you for a special assignment, reject negative opinions and know that God's opinion is the only opinion that matters.

# STEPPING OUT!



This week, look for seeds (flowers, vegetables, or fruit) that you can plant to observe the growth process. Research what the seeds will need to grow productively. Use this experience to remind you that in order to bring forth good fruit, special care and nurturing with water and sunlight are required. Just as with the seeds, living a Christ-centered life also requires water (the refreshing of the Holy Spirit) and sunlight or Son-light (Jesus Christ).

## It's Game Time!

Let's play "I Choose Good Fruit." On the lines below, jot down three decisions that might lead youth to a "bad fruit" decision; then, write down a "good fruit" decision that will lead to obedience to God. (The following is an example: *Bad Fruit Decision*—Stealing a piece of clothing; *Good Fruit Decision*—Find a job to earn money to buy the clothing.)

#1 *Bad Decision*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*A Better Choice*: \_\_\_\_\_

#2 *Bad Decision*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*A Better Choice*: \_\_\_\_\_

#3 *Bad Decision*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*A Better Choice*: \_\_\_\_\_

## Media Mission

Kevin Burgess, known as KB, is a gospel rapper with a powerful message in his song "No Chains." Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUsa00KIZjw> and listen to this upbeat hit that proclaims a life rooted in Jesus and gives believers the freedom and power to live right. Through Jesus, believers are empowered to resist sin and live lives of obedience to God.

