

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 22 • Print Passage: Jeremiah 22:1-10

KEY VERSE: “Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.” (Jeremiah 22:3b)



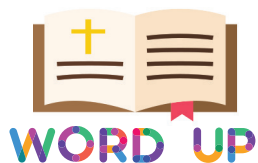
Faith hated being compared to her twin sister, Faedra. Faith loves her sister, but even though they are twins, they have very different personalities. Faith is friendly and outgoing. She loves taking risks, and almost daily, her mother comments, “Faith, why can’t you be more like your sister?” Faedra does not like conflict, so she follows the rules and does what is expected of her most of the time. Faedra loves her sister, but she cannot understand why Faith is so rebellious. At school, Faith is disrespectful to her teachers and she only does class assignments “when she feels like it.” The girls’ parents have been called to the school for numerous teacher and principal conferences for Faith. At church, Faith mocks the Sunday school teacher and asks questions that have nothing to do with the lesson, just to frustrate the teacher.



At home, she must be forced to do her chores, and most times she has to redo them, because she does not care about doing a good job the first time.

Faith’s parents pray for her continually. During a Wednesday night Bible study, the church had an unexpected guest. The guest was a young woman who gave a testimony of how she was living on the street until God saved her and turned her life around. Faith listened and realized that the young woman’s life was very

similar to hers. The young woman shared how one bad decision led to another bad decision—and before she knew it, she was addicted to drugs and was living on the streets. The young woman pleaded with the youth to be obedient to their parents and appreciate the love and support that is provided to them. When the pastor extended the invitation for prayer, Faith walked down to the front of the church with several other people. Faith realized it was time to make some serious changes.



Jeremiah 22:1-10

1 This is what the LORD says: “Go down to the palace of the king of Judah and proclaim this message there: **2** ‘Hear the word of the LORD to you, king of Judah, you who sit on David’s throne—you, your officials and your people who come through these gates. **3** This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. **4** For if you are careful to carry out these commands, then kings who sit on David’s throne will come through the gates of this palace, riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by their officials and their people. **5** But if you do not obey these commands, declares the LORD, I swear by myself that this palace will become a ruin.’” **6** For this is what the LORD says about the palace of the king of Judah: “Though you are like Gilead to me, like the summit of Lebanon, I will surely make you like a wasteland, like towns not inhabited. **7** I will send destroyers against you, each man with his weapons, and they will cut up your fine cedar beams and throw them into the fire. **8** People from many nations will pass by this city and will ask one another, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this great city?’ **9** And the answer will be: ‘Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and have worshiped and served other gods.’” **10** Do not weep for the dead king or mourn his loss; rather, weep bitterly for him who is exiled, because he will never return nor see his native land again.



In last week's lesson, we discovered that God used Jeremiah to tell Judah's leaders that without repentance, there would be no deliverance from the Babylonian attack. Today, we read that God used Jeremiah to speak directly to the kings of Judah and tell them that it was not too late to repent. Jeremiah's message gave the kings specific instructions on how to turn the nation around. Jeremiah advised the kings to turn from evil and do right. He warned them that they would be punished, unless they helped those whom they had robbed and mistreated; rescued people who were oppressed; quit their evil deeds; stopped mistreating foreigners, orphans, or widows; and stopped murdering the innocent. Judah was guilty of a lot of sin and wrongdoing. Before

God would consider sparing their nation, they had to do right.

Jeremiah's message to Judah expressed God's continuous love for His people, along with God's promise of destruction if the people continued to disobey. God called Judah to be a great nation, but Judah was not acting like a great nation at all. Jeremiah did not hold back from describing how the nation would be destroyed and mocked by other nations because of their refusal to repent and live according to God's standards.

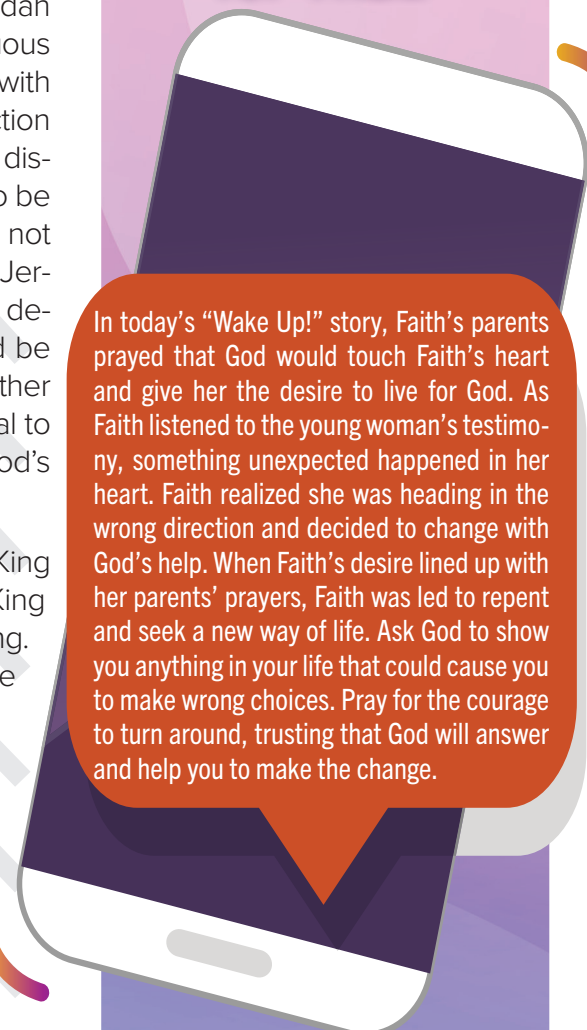
Verse 10 discusses how King Josiah died in battle. King Josiah was a righteous king. Jeremiah advised the people to stop lamenting over King Josiah and to cry for the king (Jehoahaz) who had been taken into exile and would never return. This is another important lesson that reminds us how unconfessed sin can result in God's full punishment.

INSIDE OUT

God gave Jeremiah a list of things that Judah needed to correct before God would consider sparing the nation. Many people believe they can live any way they choose and still expect God's help in times of trouble, but this kind of thinking is wrong. God holds people accountable for their actions. It is pointless to blame others when you endure consequences for your own sin and disobedience. Do you accept responsibility for your actions when you sin or make wrong decisions? Are you willing to adjust your Christian character so that obeying God is your main focus?



There's an App for That!



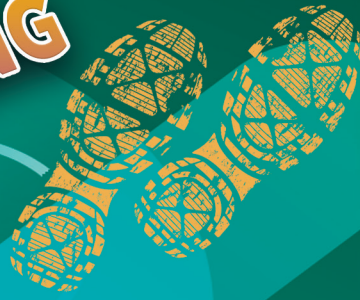
In today's "Wake Up!" story, Faith's parents prayed that God would touch Faith's heart and give her the desire to live for God. As Faith listened to the young woman's testimony, something unexpected happened in her heart. Faith realized she was heading in the wrong direction and decided to change with God's help. When Faith's desire lined up with her parents' prayers, Faith was led to repent and seek a new way of life. Ask God to show you anything in your life that could cause you to make wrong choices. Pray for the courage to turn around, trusting that God will answer and help you to make the change.



Walk Out

Many young people get caught up with imitating the bad behavior of friends, celebrities, and others. Be wise—choose friends who help you grow in your faith and avoid troublemakers. Always make choices that keep you moving forward toward God.

STEPPING OUT!



Consider this: God may want to use you to deliver a message of hope to someone regarding his or her disobedience or ungodly behavior. In those times, it will take courage and the right method and opportunity to successfully carry out your mission. Think of some ways that you could talk to a friend or acquaintance about his or her negative behavior in a way that would not offend the person. Invite your friends to accept this challenge with you.

It's Game Time!

Refer to today's Scripture passage to choose the best answer for each question or statement.

1. Where did Jeremiah proclaim God's message?
a. Jerusalem **b. palace** **c. court**
2. God encouraged Judah's leaders to be
a. good and kind. **b. honest and healthy.** **c. just and right.**
3. Whom did God want the people to rescue?
a. the oppressed **b. the fatherless and widows** **c. a and b**
4. God's message of destruction was due to Judah's
a. disobedience. **b. repentance.** **c. violence.**

Media Mission

Preacher and civil-rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made significant contributions to society in the area of social justice. As a Baptist minister, many of Dr. King's teachings were based on the Word of God. Visit https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/23924.Martin_Luther_King_Jr_ to read some of Dr. King's famous quotes on the topics of justice, courage, and righteous living.

