



Sermon Series Devotional

January 7 - January 27

Hinckley First United Methodist Church

Introduction

The Bible contains a lot of small stories. Books that take up just pages of a thousand page book. Stories of individuals whose lives may have been insignificant in every way, except for one. They allowed God to do incredible things and write amazing stories with their lives. Join us as we study these Small But Mighty books that teach us lessons for life with God, and offer an outline for how God can transform our lives in powerful ways.

Why a Devotional?

A vibrant and authentic faith is not grown merely in one hour on Sunday morning. This devotional will give you the opportunity to engage with God's word on a regular basis as you seek to become more like Christ each day. There is a daily Bible reading plan, as well as reflection questions that are linked with each week of the sermon series. You can use this devotional individually or in a formal or informal small group.

Daily Bible Reading Plan

January 7- Worship
January 8- Philemon
January 9- 1 John 1
January 10- 1 John 2-3
January 11- 1 John 4-5
January 12- 2 John
January 13- 3 John
January 14- Worship
January 15- Titus
January 16- 1 Timothy 1-2
January 17- 1 Timothy 3-4

January 18- 1 Timothy 5-6
January 19- 2 Timothy 1-2
January 20- 2 Timothy 3-4
January 21- Worship
January 22- Jude
January 23- James 1
January 24- James 2
January 25- James 3
January 26- James 4
January 27- James 5

- Begin your time with prayer. Ask God to speak to you, for Jesus to be revealed to you, and for the Holy Spirit to fill you as you read these words of Scripture.

- Slowly, thoughtfully, read God's Word. Pay particular attention to words or phrases that stand out to you. Write them down or take time to memorize them.

- Consider how this Scripture connects with your life today. What may God be inviting you to do, challenging you to learn, or calling you to change?

Week 1

Philemon

"I appeal to you on the basis of love... for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains... I am sending him - who is my very heart - back to you... So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me."

- Philemon 9, 10, 12, 17

- Put the book of Philemon into your own words. What is Paul asking Philemon to do?

- Imagine what was going through Onesimus' head and heart during all of this. What do you think he was thinking and feeling?

- Have you ever played the role of Paul, the role of a reconciler, where you approached someone on behalf of another person? What were your hopes? What were your fears? How did it go?

- Have you ever been in the shoes of Philemon, when someone approached you on behalf of another person? What did you think at first? How did you respond?

- What is Christlike about what Paul offers to do in verses 17-20?

- Who is the Onesimus in your life? The person who Jesus is urging, inviting, challenging you to see differently?

Week 2

Titus

"Salvation is available for everyone! We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. This new life is starting right now, and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness."

- Titus 2:11-14 (*The Message*)

- Titus is a pastoral letter aimed at encouraging Titus in his work of being a leader in the church and a role model of a Godly life. Titus is invited to teach and live in a way to inspire others with the attractiveness of our God and savior.

- Who has taught you in practical ways what it means to be a Christian? Who has made God and the Gospel attractive to you?

- How do you model your faith to others? What is one thing you could do this week to make the teaching about God our savior more attractive to someone else?

- In what situations do you least exhibit your faith? How can you "turn your back" on these situations, and instead take on a God-honoring posture?

Week 3

Jude

"Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people."

- Jude 3

- Read through the book of Jude. What is Jude's chief concern in writing this letter? What does he want to get across to the people reading it?

- Jude is combatting heresies in the life of the early church. Heresies are basically lies about who God is and how God acts. What are some lies that you or others have been tempted to believe about who God is and how God acts?

- Have there been times when you have doubted your faith about who God is and how God acts? Who or what helped you to regain your faith?

- In light of the rest of this small letter from Jude, what hope do you find in verses 24-25? What encouragement do these verses offer you for today?

