



# HOIST THE SAIL

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



# HOIST THE SAIL

Our team created this devotional for your personal adventure of discipleship in this season at The Bridge. Through the Scripture passages found in this book and the reflection questions that follow, we hope you are challenged to grow in aspects of your influence, lifestyle, generosity, and legacy as a disciple of Jesus. As we travel this journey together as a church, we pray that you experience God's presence and grace along the way as He moves in you in powerful ways. Please write your reflections to these questions in this booklet so you can refer back to them throughout the coming months.

As you work through this devotional, spend some time thinking about the questions and reflecting on what God's Word says and who we should seek to be in response to these truths. Our hope is that this simple set of questions and Scripture, along with your prayer time, will become a catalyst to help you deepen your relationship with God during this new season at The Bridge.

Regardless of where you are in your relationship with Jesus, we know He has more for you; and it is possible that the most life-changing, influential, and personally engaging days of your life could still be ahead. It is our privilege to walk beside you as we all continue to connect more people to God and to each other.

- PASTOR SCOTT

**The Bridge exists to connect people  
with God, people, and service.**

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.  
To Him be glory forever. Amen.  
Romans 11:36

# LAUNCHING

Looking for our next adventure with God.

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.*

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. In light of the truth that Christ's love compels us not to live for ourselves but for Him, in what ways have I experienced Christ's love in my past? In what ways am I experiencing it right now?

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2. What new journey do I sense God beginning in my life?

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3. God gave us the ministry of reconciling the world back to God through the gospel of Jesus. In what ways have I made this mission central to my life? How might God be challenging me to grow in this?

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4. Despite everything God has done in my life, in what ways do I feel I still may be living for myself with my...

Relationships: \_\_\_\_\_

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Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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Resources: \_\_\_\_\_

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Abilities: \_\_\_\_\_

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# HOISTING THE SAIL

Our lifestyle in light of who Jesus is.

## READ **COLOSSIANS 1:15-23**

*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So He is first in everything. For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*

*This includes you who were once far away from God. You were His enemies, separated from Him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body. As a result, He has brought you into His own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.*

## QUESTIONS **FOR REFLECTION**

1. If Christ is first over all things in my life, how does my life reflect that? In which areas would it be hard for someone to tell that I put Christ first?

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2. Would others look at my life and see that *God is the page* on which all of my priorities are written? Or is God merely a number on my list of priorities, even if a high one, on *my own page*? Whose page is it, honestly? (Be as honest as you can).

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3. What things currently fight for the top spot in my life (kids, spouse, career, finances, house, etc.)? How can I better make Christ my priority and let Him drive those things, rather than the other way around?

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4. If Christ is first in every area of my life, He should be first in my giving. Currently, does my giving affect my saving and spending decisions, or do my saving and spending decisions affect my giving?

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# NAVIGATING

Where our generosity impacts others and impacts us.

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:10-15

*For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.*

*As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!*

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. This passage was written within the context of an offering that was being received for some of the poorer churches in Jerusalem. However, Paul is emphasizing that this giving is not just meeting those needs, but that it is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Do I see my giving in that way? How might God be calling me to refocus the impact of my giving as I think about why and how I give?

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2. In light of the gospel's transformative power in my life and who Christ is, am I giving in a way that changes me, or has it become comfortable and routine?

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3. Paul shares that we will be enriched in every way so that we can always be generous. So this begs the question: If you were God, would you give you more money?

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4. What giving experience(s) has caused me to become closer to God?

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# LEGACY

Influencing others.

## READ **1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8; 12-19**

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*

*Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in His own time – God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.*

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

## QUESTIONS **FOR REFLECTION**

1. When I think of someone who has left a legacy of generosity, who is that person?

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2. Paul tells us not to trust in our money but to trust in God. Why is this difficult to do? What in my own life is challenging me from putting more of my trust in God over my own security in finances?

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3. What am I intentionally doing right now to ensure that my children or others whom I influence around me are learning values of generosity?

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4. Thus far in my life, on what have I spent the most financial resources?

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5. Do I make larger financial decisions such as a home purchase or a car purchase based on my desire to have a legacy of generosity and to utilize that asset for Kingdom purposes? Or do I make that purchase for earthly reasons rather than eternal ones? (Be as honest as you can).

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