

Hello!

Welcome to the CCF Youth Ministry weekly Devotional! We want to help you press into our Lord and Savior during this uncertain time. Our hope is that you are enriched by time spent studying God's word and the reflection readings that are provided. Follow each step and spend intentional time on each step. All you need is a Bible, this outline, journal/notebook and a writing utensil! Let's jump in together!

Theme: Letting Go

I. Opening Prayer

Take, Lord and receive all that I am and have. You've given it all to me; I give it all back to you. Do with me as you want. Just give me your love and your grace. That is enough for me.

II. Read Psalm 130 (Journal your thoughts and observations that you get from the passage)

III. Scripture Readings (Journal your thoughts and observations)

Colossians 3:1-17

Hebrews 12:1-3

Mark 8: 31- 38

IV. Readings for Reflection (Journal your thoughts and observations)

As long as I am plagued by doubts about my self worth, I keep looking for gratification from people around me and yield quickly to any type of pain, mental or physical. But when I can slowly detach myself from this need for human affirmation and discover that it is in relationship with the Lord and I find my true self, an unconditional surrender to him becomes not only possible but even the only desire, and pain inflicted by people will not touch me in the center. When "myself" is anchored not in people but in God, I will have a much greater resistance against pain. - **The Genessee Diary by Henri J. M. Nouwen.**

Only prayer allows us to hear another voice, to respond to the larger possibilities, to find a way out our need to order and control. Then the questions that seem to shape our identity will not matter so much: Who says good things about me? Who doesn't? Who is my friend? Who is my enemy? How many people like me? As we make God the center of our lives, our sense of who we are will depend less on what others think of or say about us. We will cease being prisoners of the inter personal. - **Turn My Mourning into Dancing by Henri J. M. Nouwen**

We have to keep letting go, and slowly and surely the great full life of God will invade us in every part, and men will take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. - **My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers**

In the end, there are only two ways to live. We can live with either clenched fists or with open hands. You can't have them both. Clenched fists symbolize refusal: A refusal to let go, a refusal to trust, a refusal to give up control. And unfortunately, in the spiritual life, clenched fists also keep you from being able to receive anything from God. Only empty hands can receive. Therefore, we must let go of whatever our hands are full of before we can ever expect to receive any of the fullness, or the life, that God wants to give us. - **Unknown**

V. Reflection and Silence (spend some time in quiet and prayer - ask God to reveal to you what you need to learn from your study)

VI. Song: Way Maker - Leeland (spend some time worshipping our God)

VII. Closing Prayer

Lord God, be the delight of our hearts, even as we are the delight of yours. And help us leave behind all thoughts, actions, and attitudes that do not reflect the beauty of that delight. May everything else pale in comparison with the passion we have to be truly yours. In the name of Jesus, Amen.