



THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM



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THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM

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Note: It is recommended that the Amplified Version of the Bible is used with this devotional.

SESSION 1: THE FATHER HEART OF GOD

1. Quotes

This is the greatest need each of us has – to know our true Father. Knowing Him brings definition, fulfilment, and completion to our lives. It truly answers the questions of our existence, yesterday, today and tomorrow. God is our Father.

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

When we are adopted into God's family through faith, we know that we will never be alone, that we have a Father in heaven who loves us, and that eternity is only the beginning of our lives.

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

Why did He (Jesus) use the word *orphan*? Because that's exactly how they felt – and that was exactly what they were until Jesus came on the scene and revealed God's love. Through Jesus' love for them, the disciples had begun to understand and know their true Father. He showed them what life was about and how to live it. They were no longer orphans. They were the children of God!

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Ephesians 1:5-6
- b) Ephesians 3:14-15
- c) Psalm 103:13-17
- d) 1 John 3:1-3
- e) Romans 8:13-17
- f) John 14:18

3. Let's reflect

- a) Who is the founder of true fatherhood (Eph. 3:14-15)?

- b) How does God respond to those who fear Him (Ps. 103:13-17)?

- c) What is the incredible quality of love the Father has given (Eph. 1:5-6; 1 John 3:1)?

- d) What is the promise that we have as children of God (1 John 3:2; Rom. 8:15-17)?

- e) What must our response be when we have this hope of being children of God (1 John 3:3; Rom. 8:13-14)?

- f) What was Jesus' promise to His disciples (John 14:18)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How are you responding to the fatherhood of God?

- b) How much do you value being a child of God?

- c) As a child of God, what effort do you make to cleanse yourself as He is pure?

- d) In which ways are you demonstrating God's father's heart in your response to children?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will value it to be named a child of God
- b) That I will make the effort to cleanse myself to resemble God and to be led by the Holy Spirit
- c) That I will demonstrate God's father's heart in my response to children

SESSION 2: GOD'S HEART FOR CHILDREN

1. Quotes

God showed me two life-changing truths during this time. It is these truths that began to answer my question, "What am I missing?" The first truth was how deeply in love God is with the poor and the outcast. I didn't just learn this truth intellectually, I *felt* it. Throughout my stay, I sensed God loving these kids *directly through me*. The second truth was how much God blessed me – how much joy He desired to give me – when I participated with Him in doing something that mattered so much!

Tom Davis (In Fields of the Fatherless during his visit to an orphanage in Russia)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Matthew 18:1-5
- b) Mark 10: 13-16

3. Let's reflect

- a) Where did Jesus place the little child when He wanted to demonstrate to His disciples who the greatest in the kingdom of heaven was (Matt. 18:2)?

- b) How did Jesus respond when His disciples were reproofing the people for bringing their children to Him (Mark 10:13-14)?

- c) Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven according to Jesus (Matt. 18:3-4)? What is necessary to enter into the kingdom of heaven (Mark 10:15)?

- d) How did Jesus treat the children who were brought to Him (Mark 10:16)?

- e) Which is one of the ways we demonstrate our acceptance of Christ (Matt. 18:5)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

a) How central do you place care for children in your life?

b) In which ways are you demonstrating the characteristics of that little child in Matthew 18 that Christ values?

c) In which ways are you demonstrating your acceptance of Christ through your response to children?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will place the care of children central in my life
- b) That I will demonstrate the characteristics of humility, trust in Christ, love and forgiveness
- c) That I will show my acceptance of Christ through the care I give to children

SESSION 3: THE FATHER'S WILL FOR CHILDREN

1. Quotes

Many well-intentioned believers have lost sight of what God cares about most. The fact is, we put most of our energy into improving what is inside the four walls of our churches rather than bringing in the harvest that is outside. A good friend once asked me, "If the fields are white for harvest, why do we spend all of our money on painting the barn?"

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Matthew 18:12-14
- b) John 21:14-17

3. Let's reflect

- a) How did the shepherd respond when one of his sheep got lost (Matt. 18:12-13)?

- b) How does that story relate to God's will for little ones (Matt. 18:14)?

- c) When Christ revealed Himself to His disciples after His resurrection, how did He ask Simon Peter to demonstrate His love for Him (John 21:15-17)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How important is it to you that little ones get saved?

- b) What effort are you making to feed God's lambs and to tend to His sheep?

- c) How are you personally contributing to getting the gospel to children and to live out the gospel to children?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will value the salvation of children
- b) That I will make all effort to feed God's lambs and tend to His sheep, especially if I have children in my care
- c) That I will personally contribute to getting the gospel to children and to live out the gospel to children

SESSION 4: TRUE WORSHIP

1. Quotes

Allow me to introduce you to those people God wants us to put at the top of our priority list: the orphans, widows, and strangers. These are the weak, the underprivileged, and the needy among us, and they all have a desperate need of provision and protection. Scripture mentions the importance of caring for these individuals more than sixty times! Clearly, the protection and well-being of these people is one of God's great and constant concerns. He actually defines who He is by His promises to them.

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

2. Key Scripture

- a) James 1:27
- b) Psalm 68:4-6
- c) Ezekiel 16:49
- d) Daniel 4:27

3. Let's reflect

- a) What is the essence of religious worship that is pure and unblemished in the sight of God the Father (James 1:27)?

- b) How does this type of worship relate to God's heart for the fatherless and widows (Ps. 68:5)?

- c) How does God respond to the solitary (Psalm 68:6)?

- d) What were the primary sins of Sodom listed by God (Ez. 16:49)?

- e) How did Daniel encourage Nebuchadnezzar to repent and to live out righteousness to avert God's judgement (Dan. 4:27)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How do the fatherless and widows look in your society? Can you give examples of children who may be considered fatherless or women who may be considered widows?

- b) How are you making a difference in the lives of the fatherless and widows?

- c) What efforts are you making to reach out to the solitary?

- d) How can you make sure that your response to children and widows is free from contamination of the world?

- e) What are practical ways to live out the reality of your righteousness in Christ?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will make God's priorities my priorities
- b) That I will make a difference in the lives of orphans, the poor and widows to show the reality of my righteousness in Christ
- c) That I will reach out to the solitary
- d) That my response to orphans and widows will be free from the contamination of the world

SESSION 5: JUSTICE FOR ORPHANS, WIDOWS AND STRANGERS

1. Quotes

One of the best definitions of *justice* I've heard is implied by the definition of its opposite: *evil*. Edmund Burke, an eighteenth-century British philosopher, said this: "The definition of evil in the world is when good men and women see injustice and do nothing." Here's another way to look at it: When it comes to caring for the people on God's heart, indifference is a sin.

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

Jesus' message was compelling to ordinary people because He demonstrated His love for them by opposing injustice and wickedness in society. Somebody once said, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." As a result, sharing our knowledge of the Bible with people who are suffering because of social dysfunction may appear callous and insensitive. Christians must share the values and the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Errol Naidoo (No Compromise)

Yes, we will always have the poor with us, so then what? Are we supposed to ignore them, hope for the best, walk on the other side of the road? No. We're supposed to open our hands to them. God puts the poor in our lives so we will reveal compassion. It's a test for us and a promise to them. Are we passing or failing?

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Leviticus 19:9-10
- b) Deuteronomy 10:18
- c) Deuteronomy 14:28-29
- d) Deuteronomy 24:17-22
- e) 1 John 3:16-17
- f) Matthew 25:31-46

3. Let's reflect

- a) What is God's promise to the fatherless, widows and strangers (Deut. 10:18)?

- b) What were the responsibilities of the Israelites towards orphans, widows, the poor and strangers (Lev. 19:9-10; Deut. 11:19; Deut. 24:17-22)?

- c) What is the promise to those who care for the fatherless, widows and strangers (Deut. 14:29)?

- d) How did the apostles ensure that the care of the poor was not neglected due to their own duties of preaching the Word and prayer (Acts 6:1-3)?

- e) How is sharing our resources with our brothers and sisters evidence of our love for Christ (1 John 3:16-17; Matt. 25:31-46)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How is your life/organisation/ministry reflecting God's justice for orphans, widows and strangers?

- b) While ensuring you remain within God's calling upon your life, how can you contribute more effectively to ensuring justice for the fatherless, widows and strangers?

- c) What are examples of how people's response to the fatherless, widows and strangers may cause more harm than good, because the initiatives are not led by God?

- d) How can you ensure that you respond to God's call for justice with integrity?

- e) In which ways are you sharing your resources with your brothers and sisters?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will prayerfully consider how God wants me to contribute to the fatherless, orphans and strangers
- b) That I will make sure to respond to the call for justice with integrity
- c) That I will be willing to share my resources with my brothers and sisters

SESSION 6: RIGHTEOUS CIVIL LEADERSHIP

1. Quotes

Well, what did the Lord want from Israel, from His chosen people? What could they have done that would have pleased Him? "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream," God says through Amos. "Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of My sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right. Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow," God says through Isaiah. There's our answer. *Justice. Righteousness. Cleansing. Right Living. Defending the fatherless and widow.* These are what our Lord is looking for in His people.

John O. Anderson (A Compassionate Roar)

One great urgency for this hour is for those whose lives are wholly focused on loving God and knowing Him deeply to lead us. They are the godly men and women with the bearing of humility, the beauty of holiness, and the becoming love for our Lord who are needed to call us back to God.

John O. Anderson (A Compassionate Roar)

Christians who refuse to compromise the values and principles of their faith are the greatest asset to the nation. History records that Christian citizens with a singular and unbending vision contributed significantly to that nation's social success and prosperity.

Errol Naidoo (No Compromise)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Isaiah 1:16-17
- b) Jeremiah 22:1-4
- c) Jeremiah 23:1-4
- d) Proverbs 31:8-9
- e) Psalm 78:70-72
- f) Psalm 82:2-4
- g) Psalm 106:3
- h) Job 29:1-16
- i) Job 31:16-23
- j) 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- k) Proverbs 23:10-11

3. Let's reflect

- a) What was God's specific commandment to the king of Judah (Je. 22:3)?
What is the advice of the king's mother to her son in Proverbs 31:8-9?

- b) What is God's specific commandment to judges and magistrates (Ps. 82:2-4)

- c) How important is it to God that civil leaders clean themselves and care for the people (Isaiah 1:16-17; Je. 23:1-4)?

- d) How was David an example of a shepherd to the people (Ps. 78:70-72)?

- e) How did Job live out his righteousness by ensuring justice for the poor and oppressed (Job 29:11-16; Job 31:16-23)? Why (Job 29:4; Job 31:23)?

- f) How did Paul urge the believers to pray (1 Tim. 2:1-2)? Why?

- g) What is the promise for those who observe justice and do right (Ps. 106:3)?

- h) What is the warning for those who oppress the poor, the fatherless and the widows (Pro. 23:10-11)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How can you ensure that you respond to God's call for caring civil leadership?

- b) How much is your own role as civil leader in line with God's Word?

- c) How often do you pray that God will raise up righteous leadership?

- d) How diligent are you in praying for those in leadership positions?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will continuously pray that God will set up leaders who will care for the sheep
- b) That I will continually pray for all people that are in leadership positions, especially those that are in positions of high responsibility and authority
- c) That I will prayerfully consider how God wants to use my role as civil leader in line with His Word

SESSION 7: SIN AGAINST CHILDREN

1. Quotes

Much of the moral anarchy we experience in society today is a result of fatherless homes and men abdicating their roles in their families and society.

Errol Naidoo (No Compromise)

In South Africa research indicates that most of the social ills like crime, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, prostitution, teen pregnancy, school drop outs and anti-social behaviour can all be traced back to the breakdown of the family – and in particular the absence of fathers in society. Consequently, the lack of strong, godly father figures in the lives of millions of children has produced a generation without identity, vision and purpose in life.

Errol Naidoo (No Compromise)

Do we cry for the child in Honduras whose only source of sustenance is the trash heap he lives on? Does our soul ache for the infant who is abandoned on the side of a dirt trail in India, screaming for a meal from her mother, until she screams her last scream? Why doesn't our heart hurt more for those who are starving to death by the thousands, for children living in the slums because they have no parents, for young girls in Thailand sold into prostitution by their fathers for only a month's wage?

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Matthew 5:13-20
- b) Matthew 6:33
- c) Matthew 18:6-11

3. Let's reflect

- a) How must we live out our calling to be salt and light in the world (Matt. 5:13-16)?

- b) How seriously does God regard sin against children? What was the specific warning of Jesus for those who caused children to sin (Matt. 18:6-7)?

- c) How seriously should people regard temptations to sin against children (Matt. 18:8-9)?

- d) What is a more subtle form of sin against children that we should be mindful of (Matt. 18:10)? Why?

- e) What must our focus be in serving our Father (Matt. 6:33)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) Is there any temptation in your life that entices you to sin against children?

- b) How are you ensuring that you maintain the right attitude towards children in line with God's Word?

- c) How seriously do you view sin against children?

- d) In which ways are you encouraging others to have the right attitude towards children?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will view sin against children in a very serious light
- b) That I will make sure to have the right attitude towards children
- c) That I will make sure to encourage others to have the right attitude towards children

SESSION 8: RESPONDING TO SEXUAL SIN AND VIOLENCE

1. Quotes

Sexual sin destroys individual lives, marriages and families, and undermines society. Secular humanism has attempted in vain to present sexually immoral behaviour as an individual human right. However, the immoral sexual behaviour of individuals has a way of impacting the lives of the rest of society.

Errol Naidoo (No Compromise)

In 2003 employees at the UK Dept of Work and Pensions downloaded some two million pages of pornographic content. Of these two million some 1800 contained child pornography.

Michael Leahy (Porn at Work)

"Most of my patients are CEOs or doctors or attorneys or priests,' says Patrick J. Carnes. (Author's note: Dr. Carnes is the nation's leading expert on sexual addiction and director of the Gentle Path program for sexual recovery). 'They are people with a great deal of power. We have corporate America's leadership marching through here, and they're paying cash because they don't want anybody to know.'"

Betsy Morris, "Addicted to Sex," Fortune, May 10, 1999

Compassion is about involvement. To be compassionate means to get out of the boat of our current circumstances and get into the boats of those who are suffering. We are called to bear the burdens of those who are in need of companionship – to "weep with those who weep" (Rom. 12:15).

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

For (you can look back now and) observe what this same godly sorrow has done for you and has produced in you; what eagerness and earnest care to explain and clear yourselves (of all complicity in the condoning of incest), what indignation (at the sin), what alarm, what yearning, what zeal (to do justice to all concerned), what readiness to mete out punishment (to the offender)! At every point you have proved yourselves cleared and guiltless in the matter. (1 Cor. 5).

2 Corinthians 7:11 (Amplified Version)

2. Key Scripture

- a) 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
- b) 1 Corinthians 5:1
- c) 1 Corinthians 6:9, 13-20
- d) Hebrews 13:4
- e) John 8:1-11

3. Let's reflect

- a) What was the specific sin Paul was referring to that the church of Corinth had to respond to (2 Cor. 7:11; 1 Cor. 5:1)?

- b) What is the effect of godly grief and the pain God permits (2 Cor. 7:10)?

- c) What is Jesus' standard for sexual purity (Matt. 5:27)?

- d) How seriously does God view sexual sin (1 Cor. 6:9,13-20; Heb. 13:4; Matt. 5:28-30)

- e) How did the church of Corinth respond to this sin after Paul's letter to them (2 Cor. 7:11)?

- f) How did Jesus respond with compassion to the woman caught in adultery while still upholding His standards for purity (John 8:1-11)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) In which ways can sexual sin contribute to violence against children and women?

- b) How are you ensuring that you are fleeing from all sexual temptation?

- c) How are you responding to sexual violence and sin, especially against children?

- d) What steps are you willing to take to ensure that justice is done for victims of sexual sin and violence?

- e) What actions can be taken to reach out to those who are struggling with sexual sin, balancing God's compassion with God's standards of purity?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will flee from all sexual temptation
- b) That I will respond appropriately to sexual sin and violence
- c) That I will be willing to take all necessary steps to ensure that justice is done for victims of sexual sin and violence
- d) That I will pray about how God wants me to make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling with sexual sin, making sure I demonstrate both God's compassion and His standards for purity

SESSION 9: A HEART FOR ADOPTION

1. Quotes

If a man loses reverence for any part of life, he will lose his reverence for all of life.

Albert Schweitzer

In the office of fatherhood God has united the greatest privileges of leadership with the greatest responsibilities of leadership. This theme runs through Scripture from beginning to end.

Derek Prince (A Father's Leadership)

I love what John Piper says about adoption. He believes adoption is the "visible gospel." In other words, the adoption of an orphan into a family perfectly illustrates what God did for us in sending His Son, Jesus.

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

Churches are to be the backbone of God's work for the needy. If your church is isn't doing enough for the unborn and their mothers, then perhaps God is calling you to step forward and help your church and its leaders take on this vital ministry.

Randy Alcorn (Why Pro-Life?)

The family unit is and always will form part of God's great plan to introduce future generations into the world in a safe, loving and carefully balanced environment. It is in this nurturing environment that children learn the time honoured values of love, honesty, courage, integrity, forgiveness, and respect for individual property.

Errol Naidoo (No Compromise)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Psalm 102:17-20
- b) Psalm 139:13-17
- c) Esther 2: 11,15, 19-23
- d) Ester 3:2-4
- e) Esther 4
- f) Esther 9:22-32

3. Let's reflect

- a) How is God's heart expressed in His plans for the unborn (Ps. 102:17-20; Ps. 139:13-17)?

- b) How did Mordechai who adopted Esther (Esther 2:7) play a role throughout her life to help her succeed and to fulfil her calling of saving her people (Esther 2:11, 19-23; Esther 4; Esther 9:22-32)?

- c) What type of person was Mordechai (Esther 3:2-4) and how did his example impact Esther?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How important is the unborn to you?

- b) In which ways can you contribute to caring for the unborn and their mothers?

- c) How can you develop a heart of adoption to make a difference in the lives of the fatherless?

- d) In which ways can you support the fatherless to help them to fulfil God's calling for them?

- e) How can you demonstrate God's character to the fatherless?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will have a heart for all children, including the unborn
b) That I will aim to develop a heart of adoption, contributing wherever I am able to so that children may be placed in loving families and caring surroundings

- c) That I will contribute to the care of the unborn and their mothers in which ever capacity God calls me to
- d) That I will continually pray for the next generation, including for those children who are not born yet
- e) That I will demonstrate the character of God to the fatherless through being a role-model

SESSION 10: THE RESTORATION OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

1. Quotes

Decades ago, marriage was revered and held in high esteem. The vast majority of people clearly understood the value of marriage as a cornerstone institution of society. Marriage has lost its sanctity in society because the world has radically redefined this God-given institution. Only when the Church wakes from its slumber and begins to uphold the biblical principles of marriage as it once did, will marriage be restored to its former glory in the Church and in society.

Errol Naidoo (No Compromise)

However, God promises to send a ministry that will *"turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers."* Thank God, the situation is not hopeless! Reconciliation and restoration in our homes are yet possible. This is the message of God's Spirit to us today.

Derek Prince (A Father's Leadership)

When families are functional, healthy and stable, the entire nation benefits. Strong, healthy and stable families produce good, responsible citizens that are assets to society. Men and women who commit to their marriage vows and raise their children in a loving, disciplined and stable environment contribute more to the nation's prosperity and stability than any government program.

Errol Naidoo (No Compromise)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Malachi 2:12-17
- b) Malachi 4:5-6
- c) Psalm 128:1-5
- d) Nehemiah 4:6-20

3. Let's reflect

- a) How is God involved when a marriage covenant is made through marriage vows (Mal. 2:14-15)?

- b) How seriously does God view the breakdown of marriage and family (Mal. 2:12-17)?

- c) What is God's commandments to keep marriage and families in tact (Mal. 2:16)?

- d) What is an indication of true repentance in a society (Mal. 4:5-6)?

- e) What is the promise for those who revere and worship the Lord and who walk in His ways (Ps. 128:1-5)?

- f) What was Nehemiah's strategy for the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem in the midst of attacks of the enemy (Neh. 4:6-20)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) Which factors may lead to the breakdown of marriage and families?

- b) How important is the institution of marriage to you?

- c) In which ways are you upholding God's standards for marriage and family life?

- d) Is there any part of your life or belief system which is contradicting God's standards for marriage and family?

- e) How can you defend the walls of your family and community through prayer and through fulfilling your responsibilities?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will take the institution of marriage seriously
- b) That I will make sure my life and belief system align with the Biblical standards of marriage and family
- c) That I will pray for my own family and community
- d) That I will take my own responsibility towards my family and community seriously
- e) That I will ask God how I may contribute to the restoration of families and communities

SESSION 11: A SERVANT HEART

1. Quotes

Christianity is not just sitting in the church seat; it is not just singing a few nice hymns, it is caring for the uncared for, looking for the lost, preaching to the unpreached... Do something, somebody.

Derek Prince (Sermon on Care for Widows and Orphans)

How do we overcome fear? We start by making others' pain a priority in our lives. People are eternal; fear is not. We change our lifestyles and start to give sacrificially of our time, energy, and resources to the fatherless. And then we do something daring to experience the joy and blessing of loving the poor.

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

As you walk through the fields of the fatherless, your light will break forth like the morning, and the life you live will no longer seem mundane and meaningless. Instead, every minute will be filled with joy, purpose, and significance. When this life is over and you stand face-to-face with the Father, what a reward will be in store for you! Because you saw the face of Jesus in the face of the lost and lonely, God will see His Son in your eyes.

Tom Davis (Fields of the Fatherless)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Mark 10:42-45
- b) Isaiah 58:6-14
- c) Matthew 25:13-29
- d) Luke 14:7-14
- e) Proverbs 19:17

3. Let's reflect

- a) According to Jesus, what must we aim for to be great among our brethren (Mark 10:43-44)? Why (Mark 10:45)?

- b) What is the true fast that God requires (Is. 58:6-7, 9, 13)?

- c) What are the promises associated with such a fast (Is. 58:8-14)?

- d) What type of servants should we be in preparation of Christ's return (Matt. 25:13-23; Luke 14:7-14)?

- e) What is the promise of God for those who care for the poor (Pro. 19:17)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How strongly do you identify with the poor, the fatherless, the oppressed, the widows and the disabled?

- b) In which way is God calling you to serve others?

- c) In which ways are you keeping the fast God requires?

- d) How are the promises of such a fast evident in your life?

- e) In which ways are you multiplying the talents God gave you?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will value the significance of servanthood
- b) That I will continually aim to develop a servant heart in line with God's calling upon my life
- c) That I will make sure to keep the fast God requires of me
- d) That I will multiply the talents God gave me for His kingdom

SESSION 12: LIVING OUT MY CALLING

1. Quotes

We don't have a ministry because we decide to have one; we have a ministry because God gives us one. Our calling, our work, and the fruit that comes from it is God's doing, not ours. Our privilege is to obey what God tells us to do; our responsibility is to serve Him faithfully in the place of obedience, whether it is a hidden place or a public place. His blessing and His anointing come to us when we are living in agreement with His will.

Roy Lessin (Meet Me in the Meadow)

2. Key Scripture

- a) 2 Timothy 1:7-9
- b) 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8
- c) Acts 13:1-4, 22
- d) 2 Corinthians 10:13-18
- e) 2 Timothy 4:6-8

3. Let's reflect

- a) What is the calling that all believers receive from God (2 Tim. 1:9; 1 The. 4:7-8)?

- b) How did the Lord show the church of Antioch to send out Saul and Barnabas for a specific work (Acts 13:1-4)?

- c) How did Paul ensure that his work remained within God's specific commission for him (2 Cor. 10:13-18)?

- d) How did David fulfill his calling (Acts 13:22)?

- e) What was Paul's testimony about fulfilling his calling (2 Tim. 4:6-8)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How much is your lifestyle in thought, word and deed a reflection of God's calling to holiness?

- b) Do you know what God's specific commission is for you?

- c) In which ways are you fulfilling God's commission for your life?

- d) How are you ensuring that you remain within the boundaries of God's specific calling for your life and finishing your race well?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will live a life in line with God's calling to holiness
- b) That I will strive to know God's will for my life in every season
- c) That I will follow God in obedience to fulfil His calling
- d) That I will remain within the boundaries God has set for me
- e) That I will finish well, completing God's commission for my life

RESOURCE LIST:

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5. Lessin, R. (2012). *Meet Me in the Meadow. Devotional Journal.* RSA: Christian Art Gifts.
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