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## WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT COMMITMENT?

Christ's Commitment to Us

The  
**POINT** ➤

Even at our worst, Christ was fully committed to love and bring us to God.

### ➤ ROMANS 5:6-12,18-21

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>How much more then, since we have now been declared righteous by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath. <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.

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<sup>18</sup>So then, as through one trespass there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is justification leading to life for everyone. <sup>19</sup>For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

<sup>20</sup>The law came along to multiply the trespass. But where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more <sup>21</sup>so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness, resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

The average cell phone has 20 to 30 times more bacteria than a toilet bowl.<sup>1</sup> Maybe a lack of commitment to your phone is a good thing.



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins, and it was necessary that He would be crucified and raised.

Many in our culture simply don't like commitment. We like options, and we prefer to have the right to change our minds. So when it comes to the phones we use, the guys or girls we date, or the ways we spend our time and money, we often cringe at the idea of long-term commitment.

On a more serious note, traditional marriage has been on a steady downward track for decades, and more and more young adults today will never marry. It seems people would rather avoid making a commitment than make one they won't fulfill. But commitment seems easier when we know the other person is absolutely committed to us and has our best in mind.

This is what makes our relationship with God so special—He was committed to us even before we were committed to Him! On top of this, when our commitment to Him wavers, He never stops being committed to us. The clearest picture of this reality is in our salvation.

## ROMANS 5:6-8

**1** What do we learn about humanity from these verses?

**2** How did you come to recognize your need for Christ?

## ROMANS 5:9-11

- 3** When have you seen a difficult relationship reconciled?
- 4** How should we understand the term “reconciled” in these verses?
- 5** How would you explain reconciliation to God to an unbeliever?

## ROMANS 5:12,18-21

- 6** What can we learn about the impact of sin from these verses?
- 7** How are we made righteous?
- 8** How do these verses describe Christ's commitment to us?



*The only steps we must take in order to receive God's gift of grace is to believe Him and turn from our sins.  
#allinBSFL*





# LIVE IT OUT



GOD

**JESUS**

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

*From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins, and it was necessary that He would be crucified and raised.*

Though many people today shy away from commitment, Christians are called to devote ourselves wholeheartedly and eternally to God. Thankfully, He wouldn't ask us to do anything He isn't willing to do Himself. In Christ, we see the ultimate expression of commitment. He obeyed the Father perfectly. Further, even when we lived as His enemies, Jesus laid down His life that we could be made right with God.

## >CHRIST

Even though we've rebelled against God and refused to live in ways that honor Him, Jesus loved us enough to die. Jesus' nature was demonstrated most clearly through His death on the cross.

**Memorize Romans 5:8 this week.**

**9** Make a sacrificial choice for someone in your life this week. Consider doing this specifically for someone you think doesn't deserve it. What will you do?



## > COMMUNITY

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If we all come together to get, but no one is looking to give, we'll all end up empty. However, when people come together to give to others, there's plenty to go around.

**10** How will you demonstrate an all-in commitment to serving those in your church family this week, knowing that this reflects Jesus' love for the church?

## > CULTURE

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Though all people have the capacity to reflect God and there are certainly worldly people who do good things, the natural inclination of worldly people is toward selfishness and not sacrifice.

**11** How are you tempted to live selfishly like the world?

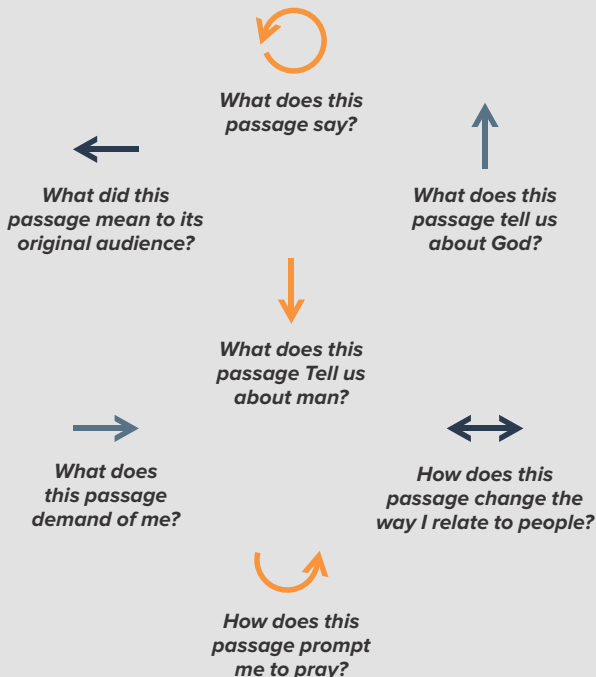
**12** How specifically will you live sacrificially for the purpose of reflecting Jesus to a lost friend?



# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One ROMANS 5:6a

Throughout the world, many people believe we receive God's favor (or the favor of the gods they believe in) based on our own behaviors. They think if they say the right prayers or perform enough good works—essentially, if they're a "good person"—then God will be pleased with them. However, this is simply not the case. The truth is that, because of sin, we are spiritually dead, and dead people can't do anything to make themselves alive. Sinners are totally helpless to do anything about their condition. Thankfully, all along God had a plan to deal with the brokenness caused by our rebellion. But before we can receive God's provision for us, we must acknowledge the truth about our condition—that we are totally helpless to save ourselves.

- **What can sinful people do to make themselves right with God? Why?**
- **In your own words, how would you describe our helplessness apart from Jesus?**

## Day Two

# ROMANS 5:6b

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From the time Adam and Eve sinned against God, bringing the curse of sin upon creation, God had said there would be a time when a Deliverer would defeat sin and death (Gen. 3:15). From that point forward, God's people looked forward to the moment when they would be delivered from slavery to sin. Generation after generation came and went, and still, they suffered beneath the weight of sin. I'm sure that, to many, it seemed like the Savior would never come. However, at just the right time, Jesus came to earth, lived a righteous life, and died on the cross for the sins of the world. This, just like everything else, happened according to God's timing and purposes.

- **When have you felt like God may never come through?**
- **Why is it so important that we are patient, trusting in God's timing?**

## Day Three

# ROMANS 5:7

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Because people tend to think of themselves first, it has always been very rare that someone would lay down their life for someone else. We're far too often concerned primarily, and sometimes even exclusively, about our own welfare, desires, and comforts. Think about it—how many people, given free time and extra money, choose to spend it on their own entertainment and enjoyment, and how many choose to spend it serving others? People generally think of themselves in the small things from day to day, and it's rare that people think of others in ways that would lead to making the ultimate sacrifice. However, maybe...just maybe...from time to time, someone might lay down his life for a really "good" person. However, there's a problem. None of us is truly good. We've all sinned against God and fall desperately short of His right standard. Thankfully, God knew this and had a plan to deal with our brokenness.

- **Why is it so rare that people live sacrificially for others, in both small and big ways?**
- **What is God's standard of "good"?**

## Day Four

# ROMANS 5:8a

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A lot of people talk a big game, but fail to back it up in the ways that they live. We often want others to think good things about us, so we might exaggerate our best qualities or make bold claims that we will struggle to back up. For instance, a young runner might say, “A 5-minute mile is easy!” To which we’d reply, “Oh yeah? Prove it.” Throughout the history of His people, God has made big promises and made bold claims about His love, and—here’s the thing—He’s proven it over and over. He delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt. He fed them in the wilderness. He established the kings’ rule, instructed them about building the temple, and dwelled among His people. And as if these weren’t enough, even while we were lost in our sins, He sent Jesus to die for us. God backed up His promises and proved unquestionably His love for us.

➤ **When have you struggled to prove the things you’ve said?**

➤ **How has God proven His love in your life?**

## Day Five

# ROMANS 5:8b

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Earlier, Paul mentioned that it was rare that someone would die even for a good man. This implies that no one would give his life for a wretched person. Because of our rebellious hearts, we’re not good people. Because of our sins, we’re not clean, but wretched and rotten. In our sins, we certainly weren’t friends of God, but His enemies. Still, He loved us and sent Christ to die on the cross. We were totally undeserving of this great gift, and that God chose to give it anyway should make us grateful beyond expression. This reveals the heart of God—even though we were utterly undeserving, He gave us the greatest gift imaginable, and all because of His great love.

➤ **Why do you think Jesus died for us, even while we were His enemies and in sin?**

➤ **How can you express gratitude for what Jesus has done for you?**