

ABUNDANTLIFE.CHURCH

C O M E



A W A Y

A DEVOTIONAL JOURNEY

A DEVOTIONAL TO HELP YOU  
CREATE



A SPACE TO CONNECT WITH  
GOD

## WELCOME

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In the Book of Matthew, you will notice that each time Jesus faced the temptations of the enemy, He drew on the power of the word of God. He drew in closely to His Father for the strength He needed for the moment. His time away had prepared Him for the moment He would face down His enemy. What Jesus said in Matthew 4:10 reminds us where our strength comes from: "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only Him.'"

We must worship the Lord our God. We must serve only Him. More than anything else, we must come away to the place where our strength comes from – time spent alone with our Father, worshipping and serving Him.

That is why over the course of six weeks, we encourage you to COME AWAY, to eliminate unfruitful distractions and spend time with the Lord. We've created this devotional so that together as a church family, we can prepare our hearts in the secret place for the season that is ahead.

God has asked us to "return to Him" (Jeremiah 15:19). He desires to spend time with us, to talk with us and to show us things we don't yet know. He wants to take us deeper.

So, here is our challenge to you: find a spot that will be your place to meet with God every day over the next six weeks. Each day, read the devotion for the week, study the scriptures for the week and expect God to speak to you. Together we will learn how to come away, how to create the secret place, how to deal with distractions, how to invite His presence, how to be still and know, and how to live from the overflow.

Are you ready? Let's COME AWAY with God together.

# COME AWAY

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## **FOCUS:**

Life can get pretty hectic, can't it? So many things demand our time and attention. It's not that all those things are bad, but there are only so many balls you can juggle before you end up dropping one. And unfortunately, the one that usually gets dropped is the one that is the most important, the one that actually gives us strength to manage all the rest – time with the Lord. Without real time spent with God, we begin to feel burnt out, easily frustrated, overworked, exhausted and empty. That was never how God intended us to navigate life.

As children of God, we are called to live our life from the place of the Spirit. That means we have to regularly... COME AWAY. Pulling away from the demands of the world we live in and intentionally choosing to give God first place in our time and our attention is the key to living an abundant life – full of joy, full of peace, full of strength, full of power and full of purpose. And it starts with a decision to return to God and to put things back in the right order of priority.

For a moment, stop and listen to God speaking to your heart: "Return to Me. Come away with Me. You were never designed to do life apart from Me. Our relationship together was always intended to be the center of your life. It's okay to admit you can't do it all on your own. You're not supposed to. We are in this together. If you will return to Me, I will meet with you and show you wonderful things you do not yet know."

Even if you have to schedule time every day, set time aside to be with God. Time with Him will impact the rest of your schedule for the day. Make a commitment to come away to be with the One who deserves first place in your life.

## **PRAY:**

Lord, I have decided to come away with You. I want to know You more. I want to experience more of what You have promised me in Your word. Help me to pull away from the busyness of my life and return to You, my first love. I hear you saying, "Come and talk with Me." Lord, I am coming. I trust that when I draw close to You, You will faithfully come close to me. Show me how to always keep you at the center of my life. Meet me here, Lord, in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!

# COME AWAY

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## **MEDITATE:**

The Bible is God speaking to us. When we need wisdom and direction, we need only open its pages to see what God has to say. This week, spend time studying the scriptures below and hear God's heart to you about coming away with Him:

*[Jeremiah 15:19 NLT] This is how the LORD responds: "If you return to Me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve Me. If you speak good words rather than worthless ones, you will be My spokesman. You must influence them; do not let them influence you."*

*[Psalm 27:8 NLT] My heart has heard You say, "Come and talk with Me." And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming."*

*[Isaiah 44:22 NLT] I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist. Oh, return to Me, for I have paid the price to set you free."*

*[Jeremiah 24:7 NLT] I will give them hearts that recognize Me as the LORD. They will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me wholeheartedly.*

*[Hosea 12:6 NLT] So now, come back to your God. Act with love and justice, and always depend on Him.*

*[James 4:8 NLT] Come close to God, and God will come close to you...*

*[1 John 4:17 NLT] And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.*

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# THE SECRET PLACE

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## **FOCUS:**

When we choose to come away, we are choosing to draw away into a very specific place. The Bible often refers to it as the secret place. It is described in just that way because it is intended to be a place that is just for you and God, a dedicated place you can retreat into and where your relationship with Him can grow. This space is where you fellowship and spend quality time with the One who loves you most. In this place God will speak to you. It is the place where you share with God and God can share with you.

If you will create a place for God and invite Him in, He promised He would meet with you there. It is the inner sanctuary of your relationship with Him. And the more you visit that place, the more expectant you are for Him to meet with you there, the more real and intimate your relationship with Him will become.

God desires a relationship with you. It's as if he is saying: "I long to spend time with you. I want you to get to know Me better. But for that to happen, you must make a space where you and I can meet together regularly – a place that is only our own. In this secret place, I will share Myself with you. In that place, I will reward you with My presence. I promise you that if you seek Me with your whole heart, you will find Me."

So what do you need to create a secret place? Select a room or area in your home where you would be comfortable and choose a time when you won't be interrupted. Make sure you have everything you need around you to stay put – your Bible, a journal, pens, music, whatever you want in your secret place. And when its ready, spend time there every day. Live from the secret place and watch God move in your life.

## **PRAY:**

Lord, I choose to create a place in my life that is just for You and me – our secret place. Lord, I commit to meet with You here regularly. I know that as I come away to spend time with You here, You will make a home with me. Lord, use this space to speak to me, to help me to grow, to become the person You have called me to be. Lord, I long to spend time with You. Meet me here, in this place I dedicate to You, and use our time together for Your glory, in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!

# THE SECRET PLACE

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## **MEDITATE:**

The Bible is God speaking to us. When we need clarity or answers, we need only open its pages to see what God has to say. This week, spend time studying the scriptures below and I hear God's heart to you about creating a secret place with Him:

*[Psalm 27:4-5 NLT] The one thing I ask of the LORD--the thing I seek most--is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in His Temple. For He will conceal me there when troubles come; He will hide me in His sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.*

*[Psalm 91:2 NLT] This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him.*

*[Isaiah 45:3 NLT] And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness--secret riches. I will do this so you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, the One who calls you by name.*

*[Jeremiah 33:3 NLT] Ask Me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.*

*[Matthew 6:6 NLT] But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

*[John 4:23-24 NLT] But the time is coming--indeed it's here now--when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."*

*[Ephesians 3:17 NLT] Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.*

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# DEALING WITH DISTRACTIONS

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## **FOCUS:**

When you decide to come away with God, one of the first thing you will begin to notice is how loud the distractions of your life will become. Making room in your life for the Lord to speak with you means you have to deal with these distractions head on and put them back into balance. Remember, not all of those things that were demanding your attention were bad. The problem was that they got too noisy and too needy. They were out of balance, pulling your time and attention away from your most important relationship – your relationship with God.

If you are really honest with yourself, you can probably immediately name a few distractions that were eating up all of your free time. Whatever it is, you have to remember that you only have so much time in your day, so you have to use it wisely. If you want to spend more time with God, you have to pull that time away from other places where it is less needed. Pulling time away from your distractions will help you bring your life back into balance, and help you set aside the time you need to build a quality relationship with God.

God's voice is speaking over the noise and the distractions. Turn your ear to listen: "This world will make you many attractive promises. But none of them can compare to what I can offer you. Choose to set the distractions aside. Only in Me will you find rest. Only in Me will you discover your purpose. Only in Me will you feel the unending love you long for. Come to Me. Let My voice ring loudest in your life. My voice first and last."

To deal with your distractions you have to chose to purposefully set aside or create strong boundaries around those things that eat up all your free time. Turn off apps, limit time for entertainment, pick a set time to clock out every day. Whatever you have to do. Even if it's for a season, take the time you would normally give to them, and give that time to God instead.

## **PRAY:**

Lord, I release the distractions of my life. I know what they are. I know those things that try to pull my attention away from You. And in the name of Jesus, I choose to correct them. I do not want any voice to be louder than Your voice, my first love. Speak to me, Lord, I am listening. I choose You above all else. Guide my life, Lord. Help me to keep my eyes focused on You. Thank you that You are faithful to help me to confront the distractions in my life, in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!

# DEALING WITH DISTRACTIONS

**MEDITATE:**

The Bible is God speaking to us. When we need clarity or answers, we need only open its pages to see what God has to say. This week, spend time studying the scriptures below and I hear God's heart to you about creating a secret place with Him:

*[Job 34:16 NLT] "Now listen to Me if you are wise. Pay attention to what I say."*

*[Psalm 55:22 NLT] Give your burdens to the LORD, and He will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.*

*[John 14:27 NLT] "I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."*

*[Romans 12:2 NLT] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

*[1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT] The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

*[Galatians 5:16 NLT] So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.*

*[1 Peter 5:7 NLT] Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you.*

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# INVITING HIS PRESENCE

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## FOCUS:

When you enter your secret place, ask God to fill it! Spending time with Him is about getting to know Him better. Asking Him to fill your time together with His presence is really asking Him to show you more of Himself so you can get to know Him more. You can invite Him in by opening in worship, by reading the word of God, by talking with Him, even by sitting quietly so He knows you're listening. However you choose to invite His presence to move, it lets God know that you've come expecting, ready to experience more of Him.

Experiencing His presence is not only limited to your time in the secret place. God's presence is yours to carry with you always, because you have the Spirit of God living inside of you. Brother Lawrence, a French monk who lived in the 17th century, wrote in his book *Practicing the Presence of God*: "Think often on God, by day, by night, in your business and even in your diversions. He is always near you and with you; leave Him not alone." You can talk with Him, worship Him and be with Him all day long, everywhere you are. It's a choice to stay focused on His presence.

God has so much to share with you. Invite His presence in. Think of him saying this to you today: "My child, I am a gentleman. I am waiting for your invitation to go to deeper places together. I am always with you, in every moment, but there are deeper places in the Spirit we can visit together. Come away with Me, and experience the power of My presence. You will find nothing more fulfilling than spending time with Me. Come to Me, because I have so much to share with you."

If you want to invite God's presence, focus your mind and your thoughts on Him throughout your day. When you're driving in the car, taking a shower, going for a walk, or traveling between classes – use that time to talk with God and invite His presence to be with you in the moment. God is ready to meet with you, no matter where you are.

## PRAY:

Lord, I invite Your presence. I know that You are always with me, but I invite You to take me into the deeper places of Your Spirit. I ask You to show me things I do not yet know. Fill our time together with the power and the joy of Your presence. I choose to come boldly before You! I long to know You more. So, I ask you to show me more. I want to sense Your presence with me all day long, everywhere I go. I want to walk closely together with You, in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!

# INVITING HIS PRESENCE

## MEDITATE:

The Bible is God speaking to us. When we need clarity or answers, we need only open its pages to see what God has to say. This week, spend time studying the scriptures below and I hear God's heart to you about creating a secret place with Him:

*[Deuteronomy 31:8 NLT] "Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you."*

*[1 Chronicles 16:29 NLT] Give to the LORD the glory He deserves! Bring your offering and come into His presence. Worship the LORD in all His holy splendor.*

*[Psalm 16:11 NLT] You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever.*

*[Romans 13:14 NLT] Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.*

*[Ephesians 3:12 NLT] Because of Christ and our faith in Him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.*

*[Hebrews 4:16 NLT] So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*

*[Jude 1:24 NLT] Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into His glorious presence without a single fault.*

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# BE STILL AND KNOW

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## **FOCUS:**

When we don't know how to unplug from our fast-paced life or shut off the constant noise of distractions, we start to feel exhausted. The truth is that we were not created to maintain that kind of pace. After a while, it starts to wear us down. We need to rest regularly in God. The wonderful thing is that God offers us both rest and refreshing in the secret place with Him. It may be hard at first to sit still and stay engaged in the moment with God. But after a time, as our body learns to make way for our spirit, we begin to lean into those quiet, peaceful times with Lord.

In the secret place, cut off from the rush of the world around us, we come to recognize that it is in the peace and quiet where we learn how to hear God's voice more clearly. And it is where we learn to trust Him. When we stop trying to do everything for ourselves, and instead "be still and know" that He is more trustworthy and far more capable than we are, that is when we truly begin to experience rest. That is when we can exhale and release the stress of worry. In the quiet, we remember His promises and we learn to rest and rely on His faithfulness.

God is offering you rest, a quiet place to hear His voice speaking: "It's time to slow down and rest. You cannot live a healthy life without quiet moments of refreshing. You need quiet places in your life to be still and know My goodness, My faithfulness, My loving kindness, My joy and My peace. Turn off the noise of this busy world. Come join Me in the quiet places and I will give you rest. And My rest will give you the strength you need to be who I have called you to be."

If you want to learn how to rest in God, you have to learn how to be still – in mind, in body and in Spirit. It's okay to be quiet. It's okay to just sit with no agenda and ask God to speak to you because you're listening. And it's okay to wait. Trust God to be faithful to His word. He will meet with you as you lean into Him.

## **PRAY:**

Lord, in this moment, I choose to be still and lean into You. Give me rest and refresh me. I will remain here and wait patiently on You. You promised to speak with me, so I will sit quietly listening for Your voice. Meet me here, Lord. I turn off the distractions of the world. I slow my racing thoughts. I quiet my mind. And I invite Your peace to invade my life. I invite you into this place with me. I will not allow busyness or an agenda to rush this time with You. Lord, this time is Yours to use. I am here for You. I choose to rest and remain in You, in Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!

# BE STILL AND KNOW

## MEDITATE:

The Bible is God speaking to us. When we need clarity or answers, we need only open its pages to see what God has to say. This week, spend time studying the scriptures below and I hear God's heart to you about creating a secret place with Him:

*[Psalm 27:13-14 NLT] Yet I am confident I will see the LORD's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.*

*[Psalm 46:10 NLT] "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."*

*[Psalm 91:1 NLT] Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*[Matthew 11:28 NLT] Then Jesus said, "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

*[1Thessalonians 4:11 NLT] Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before.*

*[1 Peter 3:4 NLT] You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.*

*[Hebrews 10:23 NLT] Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise.*

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# LIVING FROM THE OVERFLOW

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## **FOCUS:**

The greatest benefit of coming away with God, of experiencing His presence and resting in Him is learning how to live from the overflow of our relationship with Him. For a moment, imagine your life as an empty cup.

Everything in life is about figuring out how to fill up that cup. Some part of you knows that the goal is to get the cup filled to the top so it begins to overflow. There is just one problem. Most of us have convinced ourselves that we are responsible for filling up that cup. So, we work, we grind, we struggle, we strive to fill up the cup with good things. But we never quite get past half full and we end up tired for our efforts.

The reason why we can never quite fill the cup is because it was never our job to fill it in the first place. The cup of your life was always designed to be filled by the only One who is capable of achieving overflow in your life – God.

Your cup fills up in the intimate environment of your secret place where you experience His presence. Nothing you can do on your own will ever reach the lip of that cup. Only in quality time getting to know Him better, will your cup flow over the top and pour out onto every area of your life. No area of your life is left untouched. Every area is saturated by the overflow of time well-spent with God. And here's the beauty of it all! That is the testimony of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

God's best life for you flows from intimate time spent with Him. Hear him say to you today: "You cannot live with a cup half empty. Come away with Me, and I will fill your life to overflowing. I desire for you to live from the overflow, from the abundance of my Spirit. The overflowing, abundant life can only be found in spending quality time with Me.

I am the only one who can supply the overflow. It is your life overflowing with the joy of time spent with Me that will witness to others. Your blessed life is the greatest testimony of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Good News of a new life found in Me."

An overflowing life starts with allowing God to fill your cup. Stop trying to do everything for yourself. Only coming away and spending time with Him will fill you to overflowing. Take your moment to just breathe and remind yourself God is in control. And then just relax and enjoy the time with Him that fills you up.

# LIVING FROM THE OVERFLOW

## PRAY:

Lord, fill me up! You are my source of hope. You are my greatest blessing. You cause my life to overflow with abundance. I want to be so full of You, so saturated with Your goodness, that my life overflows onto others! I want those who do not know You to look at my life and desire the same overflow You are pouring out of me. I want my life to shout the Good News of my Savior! Lord, let the overflow of my time spent with You show the world just how much You love Your children. Let my life point the way to Jesus, in His name, I pray. Amen!

## MEDITATE:

The Bible is God speaking to us. When we need clarity or answers, we need only open its pages to see what God has to say. This week, spend time studying the scriptures below and I hear God's heart to you about creating a secret place with Him:

*[Deuteronomy 30:9 NLT] "The LORD your God will then make you successful in everything you do. He will give you many children and numerous livestock, and He will cause your fields to produce abundant harvests, for the LORD will again delight in being good to you as He was to your ancestors."*

*[Psalm 65:11 NLT] You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.*

*[John 16:24 NLT] You haven't done this before. Ask, using My name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.*

*[Romans 15:13 NLT] I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*[Philippians 1:9 NLT] I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.*

*[Colossians 2:7 NLT] Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

*[1 Thessalonians 3:12 NLT] And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.*



## THE OVERFLOW

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You were always designed to live from the overflow of the secret place, the place where you spend time with the One who loves you most. If you ever find yourself feeling dry, feeling lost, feeling disconnected or confused – run back to Him.

Every. Single. Day. That is how often you need to fill up in His presence, how often you need to spend time with Him. God designed you for relationship with Him. The best version of yourself is only found in time spent with the One who made you.

Time spent with Him is important to your overall quality of life. Never neglect to come away with Him. He deserves first place in your life, and His voice is the one you need to hear every day. This creates the overflowing life. The abundant life.

A life overflowing with the presence of God is hard to miss. It attracts attention. It turns heads. Because an overflowing, abundant life is the greatest evidence of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A life demonstrating that kind of love, joy, peace, wholeness, and purpose shines for all to see. That kind of life says, "My Jesus did this for me, and He can do it for you, too." Your life becomes a walking testimony.

If the practice of coming away is the fuel, an overflowing life is the fire.

In this season where we celebrate all Jesus has done for us, let your life be a fire that shines the Good News for all to see.

