

 **Rooted.**



Hi! Thank you for taking the time to open this devotional book and read it. Our prayer for this book is that it provides an easy outlet for you to experience the love of God through the Living Word. *Rooted* was created by the 2020 TeenPact Elected Officials with the intention to equip TeenPacters with the tools to go deeper into scripture readings and quiet times. The title, *Rooted*, stems from the idea that we are all called to be rooted in His word. It is our prayer that these devotionals encourage people to take the time to cultivate the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that allows us to grow deep roots in His truths. Our joy is to be the hands and the feet of Jesus, and we thank the Lord for allowing us the opportunity to create something that echoes the truths of His Kingdom. Thank you for being here!

For His glory,

**President Jake Myers and
Vice President Katie Patterson**

ONE

God teaches us in His Word to love our enemies. We need to love others because Christ loved us. We should show kindness and grace in the same way Christ did for us. If we serve those who are difficult to love, we exalt the Lord's name in our actions.

Luke 6:27-28

But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Matthew 5:44

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.[1]

- How has the pressure of society affected the way I love difficult people?
- Christ calls me to love even the unlovable, so how does this change the way I live today?
- Why does God call me to love those who treat me poorly?
- Who do I need to show Christ's kindness to today?

Lord, thank You for loving me, even though I have nothing of my own to give. Thank you for continuously extending grace to me, Father. God, help me to love those who are hard to love today.

TWO

The root of evangelism means to bring good news. If we trust and obey Jesus, we have been brought from death to life. That is good news, and sharing Jesus with others is a natural response one ought to have. While there are countless ways to proclaim Christ's grace, a few of these include intentionally witnessing to strangers, leading Bible studies with non-Christian friends, and meeting one-on-one with a peer. Thankfully, there are many resources online for gospel-sharing, and ultimately the Bible serves as the perfect guide. While bringing Jesus' name to lost people may look different for all kinds of people, all Christians are called to this mission. Christ doesn't call us to hide our lights. We have a commission to bring this light into darkness through evangelism.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

I Chronicles 16: 23-24

Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

- Do I consider it a great privilege or a burden to do the uncomfortable and speak boldly of Christ's love?
- When was the last time I shared the good news with a friend or complete stranger?
- If I do not feel like I am sharing Jesus enough in my life, what needs to change for this to become a priority?
- What is one way this week I can practically go about fulfilling the Great Commission?

Dear Father, I praise you and thank you for your extravagant love that has brought my freedom. You truly are a God of revival, and I ask that You give me the courage and boldness to witness to the world the grace You so freely gave. I pray that You prepare the hearts of those I encounter today.

THREE

The Holy Spirit impacts our daily lives by empowering us to produce rich fruit for the Kingdom. The Spirit of God is a Healer, Comforter, and Helper. He heals broken hearts, broken lives, and sometimes even broken bodies through miraculous healing. He comforts us through His presence and application of God's truth.

He helps by praying for us and giving us the grace we need for every moment of every day. The Spirit of God allows His children to be in constant communication with the Father!

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- Do I recognize the Holy Spirit moving in my everyday life?
- Is the fruit of the Spirit being produced in my life?
- In what ways can I be more sensitive and submissive to the will of the Holy Spirit?

Lord, thank You for sending your Spirit to help us and guide us. Thank You for dying on the cross so I might live in eternity with You. Allow me to recognize the Spirit's work in my daily life. Continue to guide my eyes to remain on you in order that I might produce fruit that is reflective of your Kingdom's values. Spirit, continue to move in me and around me.

FOUR

Jesus calls us to repent from our sin and turn to Him that we may be saved! This is why Jesus came—redeem people from death and to give us new life. We are called to continual repentance, confessing our sins that we may see the forgiveness of the cross provided by the grace of God.

Romans 2:2-5

Therefore you have no excuse. O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

FIVE

So often as humans, we get caught up in the process of finding our identity in things that come from the world. Instead of focusing on Christ and the perfect nature of who He is, we turn our attention to satisfying our sinful desires. Jesus not only calls us away from these things but gives us a clear picture of what our identity is in Him. Let us rejoice in our status as sons and daughters of a Worthy High Priest!

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- What do I think is the most important thing about myself?
- Where am I currently searching for identity in things that come from this world?
- Am I living in the fullness of my status as a child of God? What does that mean to me?

Father, thank You for sending your Son as an eternal payment for my sins that I could never repay. Help me now to fully reciprocate the love that You have shown me to those that I encounter. Give me confidence in You as I witness to a lost and dying world, desperately searching for its identity. Jesus, thank You for my identity in You.

SIX

On earth, Jesus spent time with and ministered to some of the worst types of people, including criminals, adulterers, and tax-collectors. Though they were sinners, He loved them because of His infinite goodness. As imitators of Christ, we are called to love as Christ loved. It's easy to love the people who are like us and make us feel good, but Christ-like love means sacrificing your comfort to reach out to the people that are hard to love.

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

I John 3:16

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

- How often do I step outside my comfort zone to love and minister to those who are hard to love?
- Am I showing sacrificial, Christlike love to others around me daily?
- Where do I need to recognize and thank Christ for His sacrificial love towards me?

Father God, thank You for loving me and sending your Son to die for me in the ultimate act of love. I pray that You would give me a heart full of Your sacrificial love and kindness towards those around me. I love You. Help me to love You more and more.

SEVEN

Anger ruins many things in this life, and truthfully, most anger stems directly from pride. When we lash out in anger against someone, it shows that we view them as less important than ourselves. This is not selfless love. It is self-seeking love. We must repent of indwelling pride and look to Christ to receive meekness.

Christ Himself did not speak a word when He was accused, beaten, spitefully used, and forsaken; instead, He entrusted His soul to God and poured out His love even to the ones who hammered the nails into His hands. May His love give us the strength to put anger away and be patient and forgiving with all, just as our Father is with us.

James 1:19-21

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger: for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Proverbs 19:11

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

Matthew 5:21-26 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Colossians 3:12-13

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- Where do I need to change how I treat those who easily irritate me?
- How does Christ's love to you enable me to view others as more important than myself?
- Who is the Holy Spirit helping me to show more patience towards?

Father, thank You for the patience You have shown me in the past, for the patience You are currently offering me, and for the patience You will show me in the future. Break my heart for what breaks Yours, so that I can selflessly love others around me with Your patient love.

EIGHT

Christ is with us. It is so easy to live out our everyday lives being completely unaware of the spiritual realm, but Christ has gifted his presence to us, God's children. While we may not yet be in heaven, God has given us His presence here on earth. Whether or not you can feel it, He is here. This unchangeable fact gives hope, assurance, and peace.

Acts 2:25

I saw the Lord always before me. for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken:

Hebrews 13:5b

For he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life: in your presence there is fullness of joy: at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

NINE

There is a deeply rooted lie embedded in our culture today. The idea is that every person has to be constantly busy, filling every second of our time with something. While this might seem like the productive way to live, the mindset only leads to mental burnout, and Christ calls us to something far greater – resting in Him. The

Word says that when we rest and trust in the Lord, He will restore and renew us. We must give up our earthly desires, sacrifice the mindset of “busyness,” and be content in who the Lord made us be. We are made to rest in Jesus.

Matthew 11:28-29

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 31:25

For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.

2 Corinthians 4:16

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

Psalm 91:1-2

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

- What does it mean to truly and fully rest in the Lord?
- What are some examples of when Jesus rested?
- Why does the Lord allow us to become weary and tired?
- What are some areas in my life I need to set aside to rest in the Lord?

Lord, thank You for setting an example of how to find peace in rest. Help me to walk with you as you reveal how I can seek Your ultimate rest.

Show me Your unwavering peace and help me to rely on You fully.

TEN

We don't attain righteousness by law-keeping, but through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law for us that every believer would be clothed with the righteousness of God. Moreover, God calls and equips us to grow in integrity and uprightness in our personal life. We are righteous and being made righteous day by day as we become more like Christ.

Romans 3:21-26

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 10: 3-5

For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

Ephesians 6:14

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...

- Have I given up trying to earn righteousness and accepted the righteousness that Christ earned for me?
- What does it look like to pursue righteousness in my growth as a Christian?
- Where do I need to fight sinful desires to become more righteous like Christ?

Lord Jesus, show me what growing in righteousness should look like in my life. Be with me and guide me. Thank You, Lord, for clothing me with Your perfect righteousness.

ELEVEN

Have you ever been in awe of the creation we live? Have you marveled at the beauty of sharp, tall mountains or been mind-blown about the vast expanse of the ocean? Have you ever been inspired by the intricate science of a leaf or been amazed by the beautiful maze of automatic responses it takes to see through the unique human eye? Each of these marvelous things come from one person. This person is so incredible, He can create big pieces of artwork but also create small, intricate masterpieces. God is the Brilliant Engineer behind everything good in our world. Let us praise the Lord for His wondrous creation.

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Psalm 139:14

**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.**

Genesis I

And God said, “Behold. I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life. I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

(Reference Genesis chapter I for further reading)

- What are some things in God’s creation that amaze me?
- Why do I think God went into so much detail in creating the world?
- What are some ways I can praise God for how He displays His glory?

God, Your creation is amazing. Thank You for making the world we live in so beautiful. May Your glory cause our hearts to overflow with joy.

TWELVE

In the book of Romans, Paul teaches us to rejoice in our sufferings because suffering builds character, hope, and a deeper relationship with Christ. We have joy in our suffering because joy is rooted in our unwavering Father and not in our circumstances.

We have hope in the knowledge that God is sovereign and in control. Nothing is beyond Him. Moreover, Christ understands our suffering; He is near us in our suffering; and nothing can separate us from His love.

Romans 5:2-5

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

THIRTEEN

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, sacrificed his life on the cross for one sole reason – that we might receive eternal grace and forgiveness. God’s forgiveness of our sin should not be overlooked. We must not take advantage of our sacred blessings as Christians. We will make mistakes, and God even uses these as ways of pointing us back to Christ, but we must not take forgiveness for granted. Christ died to earn it, so we would do well to understand and appreciate it.

Luke 17:3-4

Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.

Colossians 3:12-13

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

- What does it mean to appreciate the power of forgiveness?
- Why should we not take advantage of something that may seem so simple as forgiveness?
- Why is forgiveness essential in the Christian life?
- Are there areas of my life where I need to receive or give the forgiveness that is ours in Christ?

Father God, thank You for Jesus' sacrifice for us that we might receive and offer true forgiveness. Help me to remember that your grace is eternal and that it deserves my unending gratitude.

FOURTEEN

It is easy to get frustrated and angry at yourself for not being perfect, making mistakes and failing. It may be surprising, but our weakness can be a blessing. If we were perfect, how could Christ manifest Himself in our failures? We often focus on ourselves when we mess up, but we should see our weaknesses as reminders of our desperate need for Christ. They bring us to a place of reliance on Him.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

2 Corinthians 12:5-10

On behalf of [Christ] I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- In what areas do I feel weak and in need of Christ’s strength?
- Where do I need to stop focusing on my mistakes and failures and begin focusing on Christ’s perfect provision?
- How can I live today with thankfulness for Christ’s sufficiency and strength?

Lord, I pray that you will help me to focus less on myself and more on you. I pray that you will help me take my weaknesses and failures to You, trusting You to provide the mercy and grace I need. Please give me your strength and let our power be glorified in the surrender of my weakness. Help me to look more like you every day.

FIFTEEN

Saving grace is a gift from God that we simply do not deserve. Saving grace is the unearned love of God that reconciles sinners through Jesus Christ. There is nothing we can do to earn saving grace. But rather God gives grace because of his perfect love for us, and that grace and love is unconditional.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake, he made him to be sin who knew no sin so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Have I accepted God's saving grace?
- Am I trying to earn grace rather than live in it?
- How can I grow in daily expressing thanksgiving to God for His grace?

Father God, thank You for your unconditional, saving grace. Allow me to view grace correctly through the lens of the Bible. Through your Spirit, help me live in a manner that gives thanks for your grace.

SIXTEEN

It's easy to live a life reliant on earthly things. However, Scripture tells us that all things of the world will wither away. The things of the world will vanish, but God promises that He will be with us forever. If we truly know how good God is, we will see that He is everlasting and constant. He tells us He will always be there for us and that He is the only steady foundation.

Psalm 139:7-10

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

1 Samuel 2:2

There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you: there is no rock like our God.

SEVENTEEN

The Kingdom of God works in radical ways. Jesus' death on the cross gave God's children full, unmerited access to His Kingdom. The Kingdom of God offers the opposite of what this world offers.

Those who mourn are comforted. Those who are hungry and thirsty are filled. Those who are persecuted inherit the Kingdom. When our life operates out of the Kingdom of Opposites, we get to joyfully live in the fulfillment of the promises of His word.

Matthew 5:3-10

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 6:20-23

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven: for so their fathers did to the prophets."

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- What is something in my life that needs to be surrendered to God, trusting that He will provide something far better?
- How can we learn to reject the promises of the world and believe the promises of the Kingdom?
- What are the promised fruits of each *beatitude*, and why do we need these promises?

Father, thank you for giving Your children full access to your Kingdom. Help me recognize the beauty Your kingdom brings when I surrender the things of this world to you. Open my ears to hear and allow my heart to understand that your promises hold victorious over my problems. Let my life point people not to the kingdom that I attempt to build, but to the Kingdom you have already established.

EIGHTEEN

In this present day and age, people go out of their way to seek satisfaction. They strain and toil to make money and buy new things, yet the world never satisfies. Why? Christ is the only thing that can fill the deepest desire in man's heart. Without Christ, "happiness" is a continuous chase to the next best thing. Don't collect fool's gold; find the real treasure, which is Christ.

Psalm 27:4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Psalm 73:25-26

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

- Am I striving for things in this world that cannot satisfy me completely?
- How much do I value Christ compared to earthly things?
- Where do I need more of Christ in my life?

Lord, help me to desire You. So often I chase after the things of this world. Through your Spirit, help me to long for You more than anything else, Lord. Fill me with You more and more every day. Amen.

NINETEEN

We live in a world that places a high value on productivity. We can easily become slaves to toiling away at work without realizing who we work for. We are faced with the temptation of the “daily grind” without seeing how God has woven rest into the story of His people. The cross has made a place of rest for us. On the seventh day the Creator rested—may the creation rest as well!

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? Selah But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself: the Lord hears when I call to him. Be angry, and do not sin: ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Selah Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!” You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep: for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 127:2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil: for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

- Do I have a practice of rest in my week? What might that look like?
- Is there something that holds me back from resting? If so, what?
- What does real rest look like in light of the truth that God *tells* us to do so?

Oh Lord, thank You for providing rest for my soul. Help me to rest in You this week, make me dwell in safety. I love You.

TWENTY

Not only did God sacrifice His Son to save us, but He also gave us the gift of prayer. Our Heavenly Father longs for a relationship with us, His children. When we embrace His gift, we welcome this relationship with Him, and we can learn more about our Savior!

Our God has infinite power, and He says that we will receive what we ask for in faith-filled prayer. By God's power, we indeed cannot fail!

Matthew 21:22

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

TWENTY-ONE

Having a servant's heart means posturing your heart to serve others regardless of their status and without selfish motivation. Humankind naturally has a sinful, selfish nature. We do not want to serve others, and when we do, we do so for selfish reasons. The only way for us to rightly posture our hearts is by letting Christ work through us. We can look to Jesus's time on earth as a model for having a servant's heart. And we could also look for areas to practice humility in our day to day lives.

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

- Do I have a servant's heart?
- Do I have selfish motivations behind serving?
- Where can I practice humility in my life?

Lord Jesus, show me the posture of my heart. Lead me to practice humility. Allow your Spirit to work through me.

TWENTY-TWO

Why is it so hard to give up something that didn't belong to you in the first place? We don't want to surrender our worries, our wants, or our desire to be in control. We tend to hang onto the reins because we think we know what's best for us, but our lives are not even ours, to begin with. They are God's to do with as He pleases, and what He pleases will always be for His glorification and the good of our souls. The Maker of your heart will not lead you, where He will not be with you.

I Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Luke 22:41-42

And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

Psalm 121:5-8

The Lord is your keeper: the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil: he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

- What is holding me back from surrendering a specific desire, situation, or even my life to God?
- How do God's sovereignty and love for me encourage me to trust Him with my life?
- What will constant surrender to His will look like for me today?

Lord, I know when I see You face-to-face, all of the things that confuse and burden me will all make sense. Until then, help me let go of what I think I need and receive what You have provided. Help me to hold everything with open hands to You. Help me to remember that You are the Creator and Protector of my life and help me trust that You bring things into my life to make me more like Christ. Thank You for the freedom You allow me to find by knowing You and surrendering to You.

TWENTY-THREE

There is a problem with the world we live in today; it is very broken. Sometimes, the world can weigh down our minds and fog up our knowledge of God's hope for us. Worries start to crowd into our minds, and doubts begin to influence our actions. Lying to us, doubts try to convince us that everything is going badly. However, this fails to recognize the redeeming work of God in our broken world. We need to take our doubts and worries to God and focus our minds and hearts on the only thing that can heal our broken world: Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart: I have overcome the world.

- Why do we worry about things or doubt God's promises?
- What can we do to overcome our worries and doubts?
- Does God punish us for worrying about life or doubting Him?
- What worries or doubts do I need to take before the Lord today, seeking to trust Him more?

Dear Lord, Your comfort for our souls is immense; thank You for Your excellent care for our hearts. May Your glory silence our worries and doubts, and Your peace make us whole.

TWENTY-FOUR

What is humility? We might wrongly think humility is some sort of hatred towards oneself, but it's not. Humility is merely taking the glory, honor, and praise off of ourselves and putting it on Christ. It is living a life that gives Christ the glory, honor, and praise that is He is due. Humility comes from seeing ourselves for who we truly are in light of who Christ is. When we get to this place, it shows us our need for Jesus every day, and God is faithful to give us everything we need in Him.

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

TWENTY-FIVE

Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross extends the greatest grace ever known. This grace calls for a response. We must lay down our own lives as He did, pick up our cross, and follow Jesus. The decision to follow Christ is not only a decision you make once but also a conscious decision you have to make every single day. Jesus calls us to lay down our lives every day so that we may stand up and follow Him. This sacrifice has the radical change directly reflecting Christ and the sacrificial love He gave us.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Luke 9:23

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

- What does it mean to "die to yourself?"
- Why is it hard for us to deny ourselves each day?
- What areas of your life do you need to sacrifice to follow Jesus entirely?

Father God, thank you for your ultimate sacrifice on the Cross. Help me to lay down my life daily for You so that I may follow You completely. Allow my life to become radically different as I continue to die to self and live for You.

TWENTY-SIX

Do you ever feel misunderstood by parents, friends, or even God?

Sometimes we can think that we need to control our future because we cannot trust other people, God included. We end up surrendering, not to God, but sin. We ignore our Father who knows us for we truly are and will always love us. We need to stop trying to control our own lives and start trusting God.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Psalm 34:4-5

I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

Isaiah 26: 3-4

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Jeremiah 17: 7-8

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

- What does it mean to put faith or trust in God?
- How does surrendering to sin fundamentally differ from surrendering to God?
- Why do we know that we can always put our trust in God?
- Where do you need to stop surrendering to sin and start surrendering to God?

Father God, thank You for Your eternal love and faithfulness toward us. Help me to daily walk with your Son, Jesus, by learning to trust You more today, for you are worthy.

TWENTY-SEVEN

At one point or another, we all run headlong into this inescapable fact: this world is not fulfilling. It's often quite unfair and difficult to endure. We can never add enough people or things into our lives to achieve the contentment for which we long. When earthly things come up short, we are disappointed when we don't experience the positive feelings we sought. Instead, we are swamped with the very negative emotions we were attempting to avoid. Yet there is hope for us! In Christ, there is a pathway to freedom, away from these inadequate earthly supplements. Christ Himself fulfills our deepest desires because, unlike earthly sources, He possesses the fullness of wisdom, love, joy, and peace that we so deeply long for.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Psalm 62:5-6

For God alone. O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

- How has the world let me down?
- Have I given my whole heart and life to God?
- Where do I need to let go of earthly supplements and seek Godly fulfillment?

Lord, guide me in seeking Your love. Fill my heart with a desire for Your righteousness. Allow me to see the hollow areas of my life and fill them with You instead.

TWENTY-EIGHT

While God may not speak in the audible voice one would prefer, He does speak. He uses many things to reveal Himself to us. This often comes when we read Scripture or set aside time for prayer, journaling, and talking to our brothers and sisters in the faith. The Holy Spirit guides us to discern the voice and will of God and gives us the confidence that He is working in our lives as He applies His Word to our hearts and lives. Are we listening to His voice?

Hebrews 3:7-8

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...”

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

TWENTY-NINE

We are called to be salt and light. Salt seasons things, it prevents corruption, heals wounds, creates thirst, and brings out flavor.

This is how we are called to live our lives as dedicated Christ followers. When we accept Jesus into our hearts, He shines out into the darkness through His light in our lives. Being salt and light brings out our Christian character.

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

- Do I struggle to live as salt and light?
- What would it look like to act like salt today?
- What would it look like to allow God’s light to shine through my life today?

Jesus, my prayer today is that I can acknowledge how to be both salt and light for Your glory. Show me specific ways, Lord, and give me the strength and courage to carry those out. Give me a pure heart for You, God.

THIRTY

Regardless of what the world tries throwing at us, our hope as believers is only found in Jesus Christ. Putting our hope in earthly assets only distracts us from fixing our eyes on our Savior. A selfish accumulation of wealth and an obsession with material things leads us away from God. By placing our reliance fully on Him; however, our attention is drawn to the precious fact that Christ is our only hope. Nothing else can save, nothing else can restore, and nothing else can deliver us from our earthly bondages. — Hallelujah for the Son and for the price He paid to be our only hope.

Hebrews 10:23

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”

Romans 8:24-25

“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

Zephaniah 3:17

“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”

- In what/whom do I find myself placing my hope daily? Am I being fulfilled by this?
- How can I continue to recognize and understand that Jesus is my only hope?

Jesus, I confess my brokenness and my need for constant and true hope. In light of mercy, I surrender everything I am to cling to you fully. Thank you for your generous love that you extend toward me daily, giving me faith to put my hope solely in you. Thank you for being my living and only hope.



About the Authors

Ashton: Hi! My name is Ashton Hobbs. I am from Raleigh, North Carolina! I have been involved in TeenPact since 2016.

Brock: Hi! My name is Brock Freeland. I'm from right outside Knoxville, Tennessee! TeenPact, along with the community that it fosters, has been influencing and ministering to me for eight years. I'm thrilled to continue to see the Lord move in mighty ways across the nation this season.

Chloe: Hi, my name is Chloe Jo Woodell and I'm from Bentonville, Arkansas! I have been involved with TeenPact for five years now and have loved every moment of it!

Claire: My name is Claire Blassingame. I'm just another seeker striving to find more of the Lord everyday. I love people and talking about what matters to them and about God's faithfulness in their lives. Let's be friends!

David: What's up guys! My name is David Gosz and I'm a passionate story teller, I love music, and I adore good gummy bears. I have been involved with TeenPact for five years.

Elise: My name is Elise Hoff, and I am from Des Moines, Iowa. I have been involved in TeenPact for three years, and I love anything involving politics, basketball and competition.



 Rooted.