### Hello everyone,

Reflecting on National Convention 2023, the theme of "Beholding" continues to carry immense meaning in my life. Studying this message has helped me understand God's glory more deeply, reminding me that my faith in Christ needs to shape every aspect of my life—not just through simply believing in God, but by actively obeying and living for Him.

Beholding God daily through His Word has strengthened my faith and deepened my knowledge of Christ. As you read and pray through this devotional, I encourage you to consider how beholding God aids us in knowing and trusting Him, and transforms us daily into His image.

-Caleb Kamuiru

## BONJOUR

French for "hello and good morning," Bonjour is a guided time with the Lord. We encourage you to prioritize this devotional each morning for this personal refreshment. Each section begins with a message for your reflection, followed by several readings from Scripture that help you study who God is and what He has done for you. Get comfortable with your own Bible as you consider the context of each passage, and leave plenty of time to think through the questions at the bottom and write down your responses. Conclude Bonjour by praying for God's guidance and gracious help.

May the Word of God continue to shape your heart and mind as you further understand, respond to, and delight in beholding the glory of the Lord.



MAY 23 | GLORIOUS & GOOD

#### **RECOGNIZE**

We rightly view God by going straight to His Word. He has revealed Himself to be glorious and good in all of His character and actions, most clearly seen in the saving work of Christ. We need scripture to show us who God is, to show us what it means to behold the one true God.

#### **READ**

- Psalm 113
- Romans 11:33-36
- Exodus 34:1-8
- Ezekiel 36:22-27

#### **RESPOND**

Do you see God as glorious? Do you see Him as good? In Christ, our conscience is purified from dead works to serve the living God. That is truly glorious and good! Ask the Lord to give you the desire to turn from lesser things to behold Him above all else.

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, ask for the help of others to pray for you and share their favorite verses about who God is and His character.

# WEDNESDAY BONJOUR

MAY 24 | KNOW & BE KNOWN

#### **RECOGNIZE**

Beholding God will always change us. In God's Word, we learn how to think rightly about God and rightly about ourselves. We learn of God's perfect righteousness and our sin but also of the saving work of Christ that invites us into a personal relationship with God. We come to know God, even as we are fully known by Him.

#### **READ**

- Psalm 17:15
- Psalm 19:7-9
- John 1:1-18
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Hebrews 4:12
- Isaiah 30:19-21

#### **RESPOND**

What do these verses tell us about who God is and who we are? How does what you've read in God's Word today change how you view yourself and your true identity? What do you need to know and believe?

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, discuss how the Word shapes who we are.



MAY 25 | TRUST & OBEY

#### **RECOGNIZE**

Beholding God isn't just a Sunday morning activity - it should change every part of our lives. Beholding God shouldn't just lead us to trust and belief, but to obedience and action. Faith without works is dead.

#### **READ**

- Psalm 143:7-8
- Jeremiah 17:5-10
- John 14:15-17
- Deuteronomy 6:1-15
- Ephesians 4:22-24
- Romans 6:12-14

#### **RESPOND**

Elisabeth Elliot says that "struggling with sin" is often delayed obedience. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Are there areas of sin in your life that continue because of disobedience? Is there a lack of knowledge of your sin, or a lack of desire to help fight it? How does beholding God daily equip you to fight your sin differently?

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, pray together that the Lord would give you courage and diligence to fight your sin specifically, and in community.



MAY 26 | TRANSFORMED, NOT CONFORMED

#### **RECOGNIZE**

We will spend eternity beholding God; what we see now is just a shadow of what will be. We see in a mirror dimly now, but soon we will see Him face to face. We live in the in-between right now - we behold God through Jesus and tell the world about Him, so that His Kingdom may be established among us.

#### **READ**

- Psalm 145:10-13
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- John 1:29

- Matthew 6:9-13
- 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
- Revelation 21:1-6

#### **RESPOND**

Are you set apart for God? Are you growing in godliness, seeking to be holy? Every time you resist sin and pursue God, that is holiness! Take a few moments to celebrate where you have seen holiness in your life, and pray and ask the Spirit to help you grow in persistence and diligence in obedient faith.

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, ask each other: "How can you participate in building God's Kingdom?"



MAY 27 | NOW, NOT YET

#### RECOGNIZE

Beholding God will always change us. When we behold Him rightly, His Word will tell us about ourselves. We must do this in order! We can't look within ourselves to be known or define our identity - we must ask God to help us know how to live and how to think of ourselves rightly.

#### **READ**

- Psalm 17:15
- Psalm 19:7-9
- John 1:1-18
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Hebrews 4:12

#### **RESPOND**

How do these verses change how we view ourselves and define our identity? How does knowing God's Word change how we fit within God's world?

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, discuss together how the Word shapes who we are.
