# **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 His steadfast love.

# Hello there!

Heading into my first NatCon, I knew it would be a hectic week, but one thing I didn't foresee was this Bonjour being one of the highlights of it. Through all of the happy chaos, it was amazing to be able to wake up and spend time in God's word, digging deeper into the topic of steadfastness.

Steadfastness had already been a recurring theme in my life, but being able to read a devotional focused on it really helped me to understand how God is steadfast, and how we can always hold fast to Him in our times of need. This Bonjour, paired with the sessions and small groups, allowed me to take away so much more from the week than just friendships and a t-shirt. Whether you're a youngling in middle school, heading into college, or struggling through high-school like I was, God will always be steadfast, and being reminded of this truth is invaluable. I hope and pray that in reading this Bonjour, God reveals Himself and His steadfastness to you as He did to me!

Your Friend and Brother in Christ, Zeke Harper

# TUESDAY BONJOUR

## **KNOW THE TRUTH**

#### RECOGNIZE

Jesus says "If you abide in my word, you are my disciples, and the truth will set you free." Rightly defining truth is foundational to remaining steadfast. If our footing is stable and sure, we will not be moved when the winds and the waves come.

Furthermore, truth requires action. Knowing truth is not just an activity of the mind. It is something you believe to your core, it's what you put your hope in. When you put your hope in Jesus, you lean the weight of your life on Him. There is nothing held back.

#### READ

- Isaiah 40:3-8
- Proverbs 3:5-8
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Colossians 1:21-23
- Psalm 19:7-14

## RESPOND

Do you believe the truth that Jesus Christ lived, died, rose to new life, and reigns for your salvation and joy? Do you know He is your only hope to know the truth and be set free? Have you leaned the weight of your life on Him as your only Lord and Savior? Are you willing to build your life on the gracious authority of His Word? Where have you sought to do it your own way? Where do you look for your strength and source of steadfastness?

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, consider how the character and promises of God are fully revealed through the steadfast hope we have in Christ. Encourage one another with Scripture and with your own testimonies of God's steadfastness in your life.

# WEDNESDAY BONJOUR

## **HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD**

### **RECOGNIZE**

God is infinitely good—the definition of good personified. To hold fast to what is good, we must ultimately hold fast to Him. We must discipline ourselves to align all things with the Word of God, our inherent source of what is good. By His Spirit, we learn day-by-day to embrace what is good and reject what is evil.

#### READ

- Exodus 33:18-19
- 1 John 2:15-17
- 1 Peter 3:9-12

- 1 Thessalonians 5:15-24
- Psalm 16
- Deuteronomy 13:4

#### **RESPOND**

Do you know God is good? How does the gospel of Jesus Christ prove He will always be good to you? Do you find yourself attracted to things that are not good? What does it look like to abide in the One who is good? To abide means to rest in, to be satisfied, to be hidden in. When we abide in God and His Word, everything about us is defined by Him. We respond to His goodness by living a life that reflects His character. This is so much more meaningful than just following rules! We can rejoice and rest in God's goodness.

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, discuss where you struggle to see or believe God's goodness. What do you run to instead of God and His goodness? Do you see the "boundary lines" as truly pleasant from God, or something that He is restricting you from? In order to hold fast to what is good, we must reject false hopes that do not lead to life.

# THURSDAY BONJOUR

## LIVE IN PEACE

#### **RECOGNIZE**

Our relationships with others often reveal something about our relationship with God. Do we fear what man thinks or what God thinks? Are we willing to follow Jesus whatever the cost, or are we easily embarrassed about our faith? We need humble courage to pursue the peace of God, even if it causes unrest in our relationships.

#### READ

- Isaiah 26:3-4
- John 15:18-21
- Galatians 1:10
- 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
- Proverbs 16:1-7
- Romans 12:9-21
- Ephesians 4:1-3

# RESPOND

Do you live to please the Lord? Where do you fear the opinion of others? How might we represent Christ as a fragrant offering? Why is this aroma sweet to those who are following Christ? Why is it a stench to those who are rejecting Christ? Where is God calling you to pursue peace with God and man?

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, share about a relationship or space where you find it difficult to represent the truth and love of Christ (siblings, social media, unbelieving friends, etc.). Pray for each other to grow in gospel humility to see your own sin before you call out the sin of others. Pray for each other to grow in gospel boldness as you represent Christ wherever you go.

# FRIDAY BONJOUR

# **REJOICE IN SUFFERINGS**

## **RECOGNIZE**

Rejoicing in sufferings is a uniquely gospel perspective. In any other context, suffering is to be hated and avoided at all costs. For Christians, although we don't intentionally pursue suffering, we know it is a vital part of the Christian life. Not only does God use suffering to purify our faith and refine our character, but He Himself suffered, too. We can grieve hard things and have great hope that God will use suffering to conform us into the image of His Son. We rejoice in the One who makes us steadfast under trial. When I am weak, He is strong.

### READ

- Isaiah 43:1-2
- Romans 5:1-5
- 1 Peter 5:6-11
- Hebrews 12:5-11

- Psalm 37:23-28
- James 1:12
- Romans 8:18-25

#### **RESPOND**

As we follow a suffering Savior, why does God call us to rejoice in sufferings? Where are you experiencing suffering in your life? What might God be accomplishing in your life because of those things? Ask God to help you grow in hope—even joy—amid these hard things, as you trust in the promises of His Word.

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, find appropriate ways to share about your sufferings. Consider your relationship to suffering. Do you avoid it or do you seek the Lord through it? Are you patient? Are you grateful? Pray for the courage to identify suffering for what it is and to rejoice in God's continuing work in each others' lives.

# SATURDAY BONJOUR

## LET STEADFASTNESS HAVE ITS EFFECT

### **RECOGNIZE**

If you are in Christ, the Lord is producing steadfastness in you. When your faith wavers, remember that Christ Himself holds you fast. By His Word, His Spirit, and His Body, He holds you fast unto the end. When you waver, don't miss what God is doing; remember that testing is the way, and let steadfastness have its full effect.

#### **READ**

- Galatians 2:20
- James 1:2-4
- John 14:15-21:
- Ephesians 4:11-15
- 2 Peter 1:5-8
- Isaiah 25:6-9
- 2 Thessalonians 3:5

## RESPOND

Why do we need reminders of Christ holding us fast? What internal or external struggles do we experience that threaten to make shipwreck of our faith? How has the Lord equipped you to remain steadfast? Be specific.

In your Small Group or Rendezvous, discuss the ways Scripture talks about steadfastness. Where have you seen the Lord revealed to be steadfast? What are the means of grace that equip you to be steadfast? Why are we exhorted to let steadfastness have its full effect? Pray that the Lord would help you to courageously devote yourself to the disciplines of Word & prayer in community so that we might abide in Christ who ever stands for us.