

WAYS

DEVOTIONAL

What are the Ways?

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

How do I Devote?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.



ACCEPT AND DON'T CAST STONES

Sunday

God's love opens the doors of our church to all people. Just as Jesus did, welcome people as they are. It's not up to us to judge. Love unconditionally; and as Christ has received you, receive others.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Accept and Don't Cast Stones* this week.



DON'T PICK ON PEOPLE,

JUMP ON THEIR FAILURES,

CRITICIZE THEIR FAULTS-

UNLESS, OF COURSE,

YOU WANT THE

SAME TREATMENT.

JOHN 8:7

Monday

READ: John 8:1-11

THINK: Jesus, both literally and figuratively, has no desire to throw stones. He desires to free people from condemnation. Normally, we think that it is His sinlessness that gives Him the right to judge; but what if it is His sinlessness that lets Him judge well? From our sin we want company in our condemnation, but without sin, Christ desires company in His freedom. *Accept and Don't Cast Stones* because it extends to others the freedom we have in Jesus.

PRAY: against any desire to see others condemned.

Accept and Don't Cast Stones today.



- FOR YOU WILL BE JUDGED -
BY THE SAME STANDARD WITH
WHICH YOU JUDGE OTHERS,
AND YOU WILL
BE MEASURED BY THE
SAME MEASURE YOU USE.
MATTHEW 7:2

Tuesday

READ: Matthew 7:1-6

THINK: Does that passage scare you? How well will you measure up against the stick you use to measure others? Do you expect righteousness from and punishment for others but mercy for yourself? God doesn't do double standards. *Accept and Don't Cast Stones* because mercy is the measuring stick you will desire when you stand before our Lord. So, mercy is the only measuring stick you should use.

PRAY: for God to show you how you can spread mercy daily.

Accept and Don't Cast Stones today.



BROTHERS
AND
SISTERS,
DO NOT
SLANDER
ONE ANOTHER.
JAMES 4:11


Wednesday

READ: James 4:1-3

THINK: Are you the one who made and upholds the law? No? Then why are we so ready to use it to condemn others? It feels nice to sit in judgement, but it is not our place. We are a people of grace, and it is not a treasure to be guarded but a renewing resource to be shared. Don't be stingy with grace, but spread it around freely. *Accept and Don't Cast Stones.*

PRAY: that Jesus would show you how how deep the wells of grace go.

Accept and Don't Cast Stones today.



FOR IN PASSING
JUDGEMENT ON ANOTHER
YOU CONDEMN YOURSELF,
BECAUSE YOU, THE JUDGE,
ARE DOING THE
VERY SAME THINGS.

ROMANS 2:1

Thursday

READ: Romans 2:1-16

THINK: What if we took God's Word at its word.

When you judge others yet sin, you condemn yourself. That should strike fear into most of our hearts. Have you condemned yourself this month?

This week? Today? Because if you have sat in judgement over another, you have condemned yourself. *Accept and Don't Cast Stones* because it is the only way you will not be condemned.

PRAY: that you would fear God's judgement more.

Accept and Don't Cast Stones today.



HE SAID TO HIMSELF,
“THIS MAN,
IF HE WERE A PROPHET,

WOULD KNOW WHO AND
WHAT KIND OF WOMAN
THIS IS WHO IS
TOUCHING HIM
SHE’S A SINNER!”

LUKE 7:39


Friday

READ: Luke 7:36-50

THINK: People are so much more than their failures and wrongs. Jesus knew the depth of the woman’s depravity better than the Pharisees, yet He welcomed her anyway. For Christ, the greater the sinner, the greater the opportunity for forgiveness and love. We *Accept and Don’t Cast Stones*, because great forgiveness begets great love.

PRAY: for someone you normally judge, that God would extend His grace to them.

Accept and Don’t Cast Stones today.

A person wearing a dark hoodie and a black face mask is crouching on a sidewalk. They are holding a clear plastic cup in their hands. A white plastic bag is on the ground next to them. The background is a textured wall with some graffiti. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent reddish-brown filter.

BUT HE GIVES
US MORE GRACE.
THIS IS WHY
IT SAYS,
GOD STANDS AGAINST
THE PROUD,
BUT FAVORS
THE HUMBLE.
JAMES 4:6

Saturday

READ: James 4:4-12

THINK: At the end of the day, it is pride which desires judgement and condemnation. It is from pride that we judge others and lift ourselves up saying, “Thank God I am not like them.” What do you have to be proud of? What have you done but be embraced by God’s grace? *Accept and Don’t Cast Stones* because you *are* like them. All have sinned, yet God has poured out grace anyway.

PRAY: the Spirit would keep you from seeking to feel better about yourself by judging others.

Accept and Don’t Cast Stones today.