

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.



Sunday

God has done and is doing something unique in your life. Has God answered a prayer, provided help, or blessed you? Share it. Ask God for opportunities to share your faith in Christ by words and deeds.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Tell Your Story* this week.



LET THE REDEEMED
OF THE LORD PROCLAIM THAT
HE HAS REDEEMED
THEM FROM
THE POWER OF THE FOE.
PSALM 107:2


Monday

READ: Psalm 107:1-43.

THINK: Scripture is full of people's stories, but nowhere else are you commanded as clearly to *Tell Your Story* as in Psalm 107. If you are redeemed, then you should *Tell Your Story*. Spend some time today thinking though who God has been in your life and what He has done. It might sound obvious, but as you look to *Tell Your Story*, it is important that you know it first.

PRAY: with God to seek out what He has been doing in your life and who He has shown himself to be.

Tell Your Story today.



BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN
THE HOLY SPIRIT
HAS COME UPON YOU,
AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN
JERUSALEM AND IN ALL
JUDEA AND SAMARIA,
AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.

ACTS 1:8

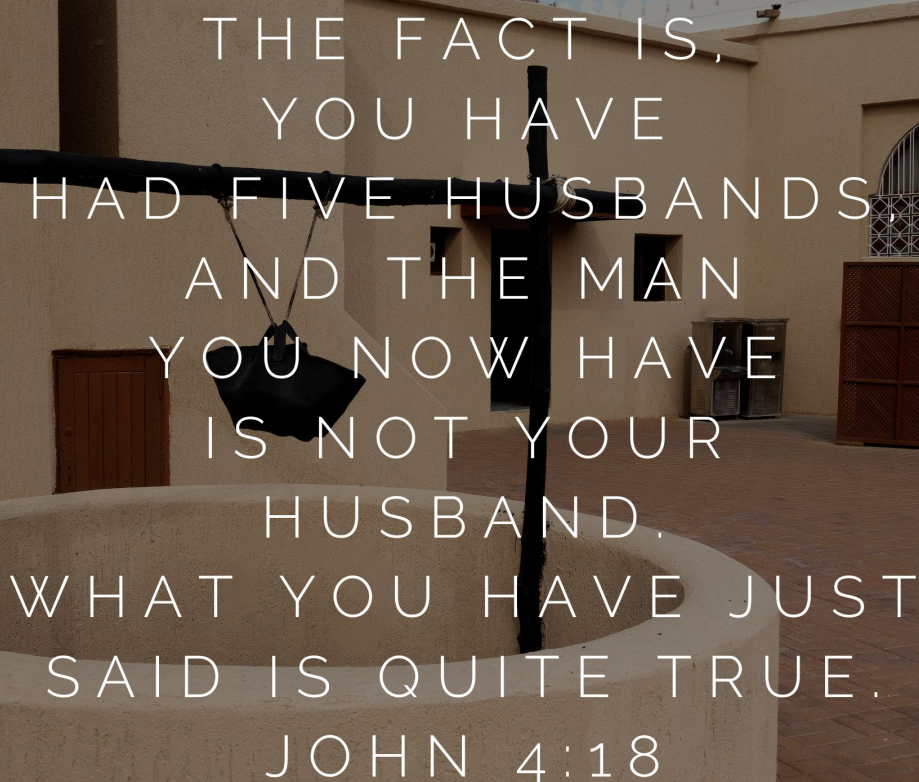
Tuesday

READ: Acts 1:1-11.

THINK: Those who receive the Holy Spirit are called to be “witnesses.” You and I have received that same Spirit. We can offer evidence of God’s character, might, faithfulness, and work. You are the one who makes the case for others to believe in and trust God because of what His Spirit has done in your life. It is as integral for you to *Tell Your Story* as it is for a witness at trial to share their evidence.

PRAY: God would give you opportunities to *Tell Your Story*.

Tell Your Story today.



THE FACT IS,
YOU HAVE
HAD FIVE HUSBANDS,
AND THE MAN
YOU NOW HAVE
IS NOT YOUR
HUSBAND.
WHAT YOU HAVE JUST
SAID IS QUITE TRUE.
JOHN 4:18


Wednesday

READ: John 4:1-18.

THINK: Sometimes our story seems too shameful to share. We worry that if others knew they would look down on us. So we hide it away and we hide ourselves away. Jesus doesn't expose the woman's shame to degrade her but to let her know that He knows and accepts her anyway. Before we can rightly expect people to *Tell Their Story*, we need to become a community that accepts people anyway.

PRAY: the Church would be a safe space for people to share hard stories.

Tell Your Story today.



AND MELCHIZEDEK,
THE KING OF SALEM
AND A PRIEST
OF GOD
MOST HIGH,
BROUGHT
ABRAM SOME
BREAD AND WINE.
GENESIS 14: 18

Thursday

READ: Genesis 14: 17-24.

THINK: The life story of Melchizedek has to be the greatest life story never told. This guy is a priest completely outside of the call of Abraham and God's chosen people. How did God reveal himself to Melchizedek? We don't know because his story is never told. You may not be a priest who blesses Abram, but you have stories of God's goodness and grace which should not be lost. *Tell Your Story.*

(If you want to know more read Hebrews 7).

PRAY: God would give you the boldness to
Tell Your Story.

Tell Your Story today.



I AM ONE WHO HAS SEEN
AFFLICTION UNDER
THE ROD OF GOD'S WRATH;
LAMENTATIONS 3:1

Friday

READ: Lamentations 3:1-6 and 55-60.

THINK: Sometimes your story isn't happy and uplifting. Sometimes your story wrestles with how God can actually be good in the middle of all this mess. *Tell Your Story* anyway. Faith is rarely simple, though we try our best to make it seem that way. We need more stories of struggle and uncertainty in our church if for no other reason than to tell those who are wrestling, "You are not alone."

PRAY: that God would show you how to wrestle with Him well.

Tell Your Story today.



ANNA THE PROPHETESS
was also there,
LUKE 2:36

Saturday

READ: Luke 2:36-38.

THINK: The Bible is written in a patriarchal society, yet stories of strong women are still raised up. Maybe not as many as our modern sensibilities would like, but more than were common in that day. Christianity was once at the front line of hearing and telling the stories of the shunned or oppressed, and we can be again. When we become a community who looks to *Tell Your Story*, we normalize, value, and empower all walks of life.

PRAY: that God would bring up the stories in our community which are undertold.

Tell Your Story today.