



FIRST DEVO





WELCOME TO THE “FIRST” DEVO SERIES.

For the next 21 days, you are joining with kids all across the world as we go on a journey together. What are we searching for on this journey? We are in search of what it looks like to put God **FIRST** in every area of our lives.

Together, as we dedicate ourselves each day to read our Bibles and pray, we are not only going to learn, but we are going to experience what it’s like to put God FIRST!

For the next 21-days, we want to challenge you to read the devotion that we’ve prepared for you in this book. You are welcome to go through the devotion with a parent or older sibling. Each day we will have a theme or topic that we will be discovering. We also are introducing to you a simple method that you can use in your devotional time after you’re finished with the 21 days. That method is simply called **S.O.A.P.**

Should be easy to remember, right? Here's what it stands for:



Scripture – Each day we will give you a scripture or two from God's Word to read.



Observation – Each day we will give you some observations from the scripture. This is where we learn to allow the Holy Spirit to help us understand what we've read.



Application – Each day we will give you a chance to write down how you will apply what you've just learned to your life. To help you, we will give you a question to answer.



Prayer– Finally, each day we will ask you to end your time of devotion in prayer. To help you out, we've written a prayer for you to pray. Feel free to use your own words as you talk to God.

Again, we are SO PROUD OF YOU for taking the next 21-days and giving them to the Lord.

Together, we are shouting loud for everyone to hear: "God, you are and will always be FIRST in our lives!"



God replied to Moses, " I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel. I AM has sent me to you."

Exodus 3:14



How do you introduce yourself to people? We usually say something like, "Hello my name is ____." When God talked to Moses through a burning bush He was asking him to go to the Pharaoh to free the Israelites from slavery. When

Moses asked who to say sent him to do this God responded with a very clear message, I AM WHO I AM. God was introducing Himself as THE GOD, the one and only. Nothing in the world can change this fact that our God is the only true God. He is the creator and leader of all. He has always been here and



He will never leave. Knowing this, we must decide to rely on Him knowing and trusting who He is.

Do you know who God is? Even though God already knows you, introduce yourself to Him and spend time getting to know Him.



God, I trust that you are the one and only God. There is no one else but you. God when the world tries to distract me please help me to stand on the truth that there is only one God and that is you. I want to listen to your voice alone and follow it closely. Show me who You are. Amen.





Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35



Have you ever eaten at a restaurant that brought rolls to the table? They are so good that if we are not careful we can gobble up all of them before our food ever reaches the table! In this verse Jesus was letting the people know, "I AM the bread of life." He is like a food to us that will

fill us up so that we never will be hungry again. He is full of goodness, mercy,

and grace that if we are hungry He has what we need. Sometimes we can fill our lives up with things that always leave us wanting more. More gadgets, more activities, more stuff! But if we come to Jesus and follow Him we will never be hungry for the "food"



of this world. He provides us with all we could ever need or want. We should be hungry to learn more about Him by spending time reading the Bible, praying with Him, and learning more about Jesus. He will always keep us satisfied with a full heart and life!

We usually eat 3 meals a day to keep our bodies full. We should make it a habit to spend time with Jesus learning how to eat this bread of life. Make sure that today you spend time reading your Bible, praying, and learning more about Jesus. What things are you filling up with that are taking time away from Jesus?



Jesus, only You can fill my life up completely. The things of this world always leave me hungry and wanting more. Help me to come to You every day to fill up my heart, mind, and body. I don't want to chase after things that leave me hungry. I want to eat the bread of life. I trust that You will always give me what I need. Amen





Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8:12



We have an old train tunnel in our town that is very long and very, very dark. If you are brave enough to walk through it you most definitely will need a strong flashlight to guide your way. Some try to go through without a light at all! Jesus is a light to our world. We live in a world that has been darkened by sin. As we go

through life we can feel like we are in the dark and not sure where to go and we may even stumble at times. But Jesus came into this world to shine His light in the dark. He is the light because God is the light! He spoke the light of the world into existence in the very beginning. When you choose to follow



Jesus you are being guided by a light that won't lead you wrong. You don't have to fear the dark of the world because He brings light wherever He is. Let Jesus be your guiding light today and always.

Are you ever afraid of the dark? Let Jesus be the light in your life to guide you through dark times. His light leads to a better life.



Jesus, sometimes this world feels very dark and scary. But Your light can chase away that darkness. Help me to carry You with me always. I want Your light to guide my path everyday. Help me to choose to follow you closer today. Shine Your light in my life. I don't want to go alone in this dark place. Thank you Jesus for being the light of the world. Amen.





"I am the door. The person who enters through Me will be saved. He will be able to come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came to give life-life in all its fullness.

John 10:9-10



How do you get into your house? Do you climb through a window? Slide down a chimney? That's a silly thought! We of course go through a door. It lets us in and we know we are home once we step in through that door. The thought of Jesus saying He is a door seems odd. But what

He is talking about is heaven. Jesus is the only way to get to eternal life in heaven. We must come to Him and say that He is Lord and trust that after He died on a cross, God raised Him from the grave 3 days later. Only by trusting and believing in this can we be saved (Romans 10:9) and go through that door to heaven. Does He want us to do





I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. Just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I give my life for the sheep.
John 10:14-15



Have you ever felt unpopular? Sometimes we look around and wonder, does anyone know me? Am I noticeable? In a group of people we can feel very alone. In this I AM statement, Jesus says that He is a good shepherd. A shepherd watches over a big group of sheep. Jesus says I know my sheep. He knows you.



He sees you. You are not out of His sight and not away from His thoughts. In fact Jesus thinks so highly of you that He gave His own life so that you could live. If you ever begin to feel alone or ignored, know that Jesus knows you. He sees your heart, knows your thoughts, and how you are feeling. He

loves you. A shepherd goes to great lengths to protect his flock of sheep. They work hard to protect them, feed them, and make sure they are well taken care of. Jesus is this same good shepherd. Aren't you glad to be in His flock? You are noticed and you are loved.

Jesus is a good shepherd. Can you draw a little sheep today? Let this little sheep be a reminder to you that you are in His flock and you are taken care of.



Jesus, thank you for being a good shepherd. I am so thankful that you know me. If I ever start feeling alone help me to remember that You know me. I am seen and I am so loved. You want to take care of me. I am so thankful for that. Thank you Jesus for who you are. Amen.



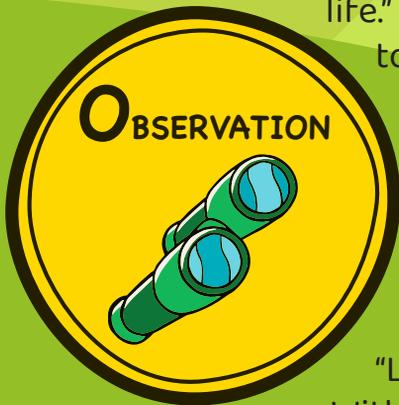


Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will have life even if he dies."

John 11:25



Have you ever met someone who talked a whole lot about doing things, but then never did any of them? Or maybe they promised to do a task, but didn't follow through? In this I AM verse Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." That's a pretty bold statement



to say I will bring someone out of death and bring them back to life! But Jesus didn't just say these words He did these words! His good friend Lazarus had died and He went to the grave, prayed, and simply said "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43)

With Jesus we can trust that when He



says He will do something, He will do it. He is a powerful God who holds both death and life. No one but Him holds this power.

If you promise to do something today make sure and put it in action. Jesus followed up His words with action. What is something you can do today? Write it down and then make sure to do it!



Jesus, You are so powerful. You hold the power to bring the dead back to life. No one else but you can do this! Jesus I want to have that eternal life with You. Today, help me to do the things I say I will do. I don't want to be all talk and no action. Help me to think clearly and work hard at the tasks ahead. Amen.





**Jesus answered, "I am the way.
And I am the truth and the life.
The only way to the Father is
through me."**



Once I was driving on a one way street. Suddenly a car was coming towards me from the wrong direction! I had to do some fancy driving skills to keep from getting hit by this driver. Didn't they read the sign? One way means one way! Jesus is making this clear in this statement. He

is the **ONLY** way. There are no side streets around it, you can only get to God the Father by coming through Jesus. We have to trust in Jesus in order to gain that life He promises. Don't be like the other driver who ignored the signs. Choose to follow the one way!



You now know there is one way to Jesus, can you tell someone about it today? Think of it as posting a ONE WAY sign for someone else to see while driving through life!



Jesus, I know that you are the only way to eternal life. When the world tries to tell me there are many ways, please help me to stand on the truth. You are the only way. You are the truth. You are life. I want my life to go in your direction! I will not go anyway but towards You! Thank you Jesus! Amen.



DAY 8

"I am the vine, and you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I remain in him, then he produces much fruit. But without me he can do nothing.

John 15: 5



Our blackberry plant had a strong vine that had several branches on it. One of the branches got a little too close to a weed eater and it was cut off from the main plant. It stayed green for a short time, but eventually yellowed, withered, and died completely producing no blackberries.

If it would have stayed attached it would have been healthy and produced fruit. We are much like these branches. We must stay connected to Jesus, the vine, in order to produce fruit (good works) for His kingdom. Cut off from Him we simply do not have the power or the life that He gives

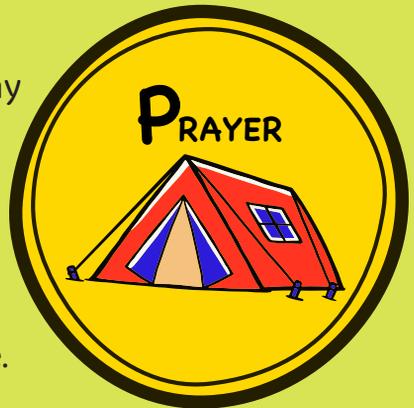


us. Apart from Jesus, some may feel like they are living well but eventually they too will wither away. We must be connected to Jesus to truly live life to the fullest.

Are you fully connected to the vine of Jesus? What areas of your life are trying to pull you away from staying connected? Are you producing good fruit?



Jesus, You are the vine. I want to stay connected to You always. Please help me to see areas of my life that are trying to separate You and I. I want to produce a lot of fruit for Your kingdom. Jesus help me to grow stronger in my relationship with you so that I can do great works in Your name. Amen.





See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1



Did you know a hippopotamus can run faster than a man? That snails take the longest naps with some lasting as long as three years? Or that the world's longest french fry is 34 inches long? These facts may not be that useful but they are fun to know. Did you know that God loves you?

This is a fact that will never change or go away. God **LOVES** you! To lavish on someone is to give something in huge amounts. God gives His love to us in huge amounts each day whether we deserve it or not. We are loved deeply by Him and we are called His children. This is a useful fact to know on the days where you feel like no one cares

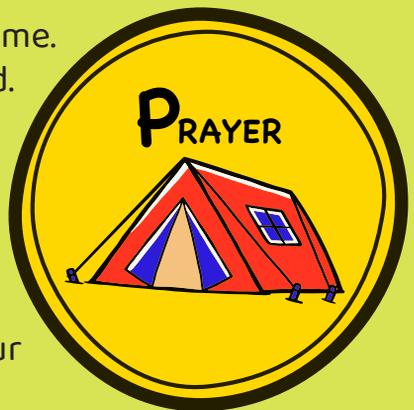


about you or you feel unloved. God loves you more than anything. That's a fact you can keep with you every day.



Some days we don't feel very loved. This verse assures us that God loves us and we are His. Write down some ways that God shows His love for you.

Jesus, thank you Jesus for loving me. I am so happy to be a child of God. On days when I feel unloved or unseen, please remind me that I am Yours and I am deeply loved. Help me to stand firm on that promise and to not let anyone make me feel less than loved. Your love is enough. I love you Jesus. Amen.





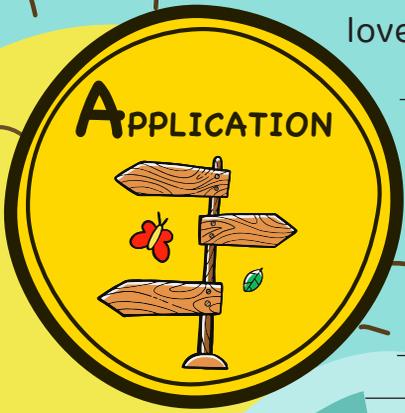
**For we are God's masterpiece.
He has created us anew in
Christ Jesus, so we can do the
good things he planned for us
long ago.
Ephesians 2:10**



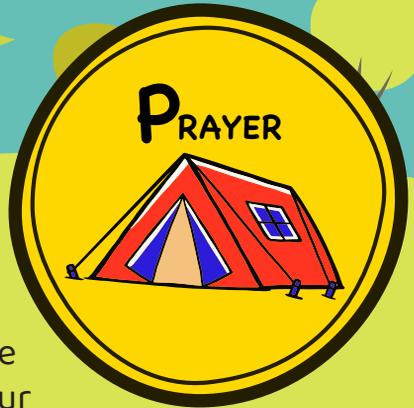
Have you ever painted a picture of something? Your loved ones, being so proud, hung it on the refrigerator door and stood back and enjoyed your masterpiece on display. This verse tells us that we are God's masterpiece. Which can only mean if God had a refrigerator, YOUR picture would be front and center! He created you so perfectly and beautifully. But He didn't create you just to look good, He created you to do good. He has plans for you to go out and be the good in the world and to shine for Him. God loves you and is so proud of His masterpiece. Be confident that you, with all your flaws, were created by a master artist.



God planned for us to do good things. What good thing can you do today for someone that shows God's love and glory?



Jesus, thank you for creating me. Lord when I don't feel like a masterpiece, please remind me that I am loved and created for good things. You created me for a purpose on purpose. When the world tries to distract me please help me to see the good in things and be the good that the world needs. Help me to show your love and goodness everywhere I go. Amen.





The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.

Psalm 37:23-24

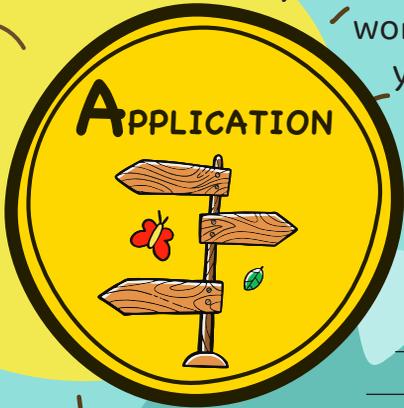


I love it when my children hold my hand. When they do I feel they are a little safer and closer to me. If they start to stumble I am there to hold them up or if they start to head off in an unsafe direction I am there to guide them back to our path. God is much like that loving parent's hand. When we stay close to God He leads us and directs us along the right path that we should go. When hard times come or there are bumps in the road and we start



to trip a little, His strong hand holds us up. Through Him we are steady. He won't drop us, He stands next to us, watches each moment in our lives and guides us along. We are steady.

Do you ever feel like hard things come and you stumble? Maybe you get scared, worried, or let the hard times cause you to sin? Go to Jesus and ask Him to hold you close. Don't be afraid when hard times come to ask Him to hold your hand a little tighter.



Jesus, I am so glad you hold my hand. Help me to hold on to yours! When life gets hard please keep me close. I want to follow you and stay on the plans you have for me. Thank you for holding me close. Amen





**Every word of God proves true.
He is a shield to those who take
refuge in Him.
Proverbs 30:5**



This summer, while on vacation, we were caught in a Florida rainstorm. We had ponchos ready to wear because in Florida there is always a chance of rain! But our kids decided that playing in the rain sounded like a lot more fun. They had to spend the rest of the day with wet soggy shoes! In this verse the word refuge means being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger or trouble. When we choose to go to God, He provides us with safety by being our shield. If my kids had decided to wear the ponchos they would have been protected from wet clothes. We can decide to go to Jesus with our



troubles and He will be a shield that protects us from all harm. Decide each day to put on that poncho and go to Jesus for protection from whatever life throws at you!



Are you troubled by something today? Do you have fears? Write them down and give them to Jesus. Ask Him to be your shield and take refuge in the safety He gives.

Jesus, you are my safe place. You are like a shield protecting me from whatever troubles or snares the devil tries to throw at me. I choose now to run to you and stay in your covering. Please keep me close. I will depend on you for every hard time. Thank you Jesus. Amen.





If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9



Jesus Christ came to this earth with a mission. His mission was to be the final sacrifice for the sins of the world. Through His death, burial, and resurrection (brought back to life), He gave us all freedom from sin and death. Now does this mean we are free to do as we please with no penalties? No! While living we should always be striving to live as Jesus did and follow closely to His ways. But when we do mess up we must



confess or seek forgiveness to Him. This verse tells us that if we do that He will be faithful to forgive us and then cleanse us from them. Sin will happen. But thank God we have forgiveness waiting and we can try to do better.

Is there a sin that you are struggling with? Tell God about it. Ask Him to forgive you and to help you move past this struggle. He has forgiveness for you.



Jesus, I am so thankful that you came to this earth to save a sinner like me. Please forgive me Father for the sins that I still do. Help me Jesus to live as you would like me to. I want to be like you. I trust you will forgive me and help me to move past them. You are such a good God. Amen.





**“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.”
Matthew 7:24**



We have spent time learning who God is and who we are in Christ. We have been laying a foundation of our faith. We bought a house that had foundation issues. The house was slowly becoming unsteady and unless we fixed the issues our house may have eventually been ruined! Our



lives are to be built on the foundation of Jesus. He is a solid rock that will not move or be shaken. Would you build a house on the sand near the ocean? NO! One wave could shift everything and all would be lost. When the hard times come in life we must be dependent on our foundation of Jesus, that no matter what comes our

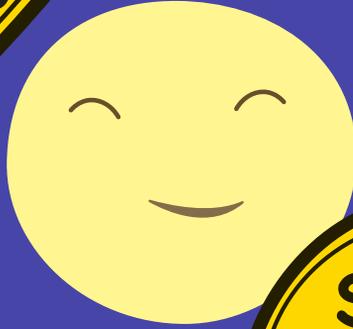
way we will stand strong with Him. You know who He is and who He says you are. Now we can begin to build and grow in life, confident that Jesus will not be changed, moved, or shaken. Remember He is the great I AM.



Today find a rock and write the words I AM. Put it in a place that you will see it often so that you can be reminded that Jesus is your foundation. He is like the rock, steady and strong!

Jesus, Thank you for being my strong foundation. Lord, I know you are the great I Am. You are strong and secure. I can trust that you will not be moved no matter what the world tries to throw at me. I know who I am in You as well. Help me to remember who you say I am when the world tries to tell me differently. I will continue to build my life on you Jesus. You are my foundation. Thank you Jesus. Amen.





**"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Who should I send? Who will go for Us? I said: Here I am. Send me."
Isaiah 6:8**



How many of you are first in line when it is time to eat? My kids will push and fight to be first in line to get their food. But when I need help with something or ask them to do a chore they are definitely not as quick to respond. Isaiah is answering the call of God in this verse. We need to be like Isaiah and be ready to answer the

call. God has a plan and a purpose for each and everyone

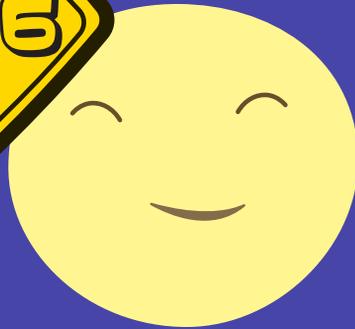
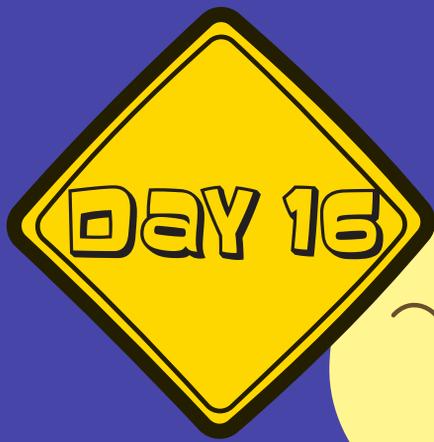
of our lives. It may not always seem this way, but the path that God has planned for each and every one of us is the safest.



The bible says that we should have ears to hear. Have you been listening for God's call?

Jesus, Thank you for having a plan and purpose for my life. Jesus please give me the ears to hear when you are speaking to me. Let me allow the Holy Spirit to guide my steps today and everyday. Please give me the courage to follow your plan even though I may not understand it.





**Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about
you, for I am your God. I will
strengthen you, surely I will
help you. Surely I will uphold
you with My Righteous right
hand.**

Isaiah 41:10



In Judges 6 there was a warrior named Gideon who was given a big task. He was nervous and questioned God and asked for a sign that it truly was God's will for him to go. Once he received his answer of yes, he never looked back and did all that God asked Him to do. When we are led to do something for God we may be nervous and question it all. But in this verse God reminds us that He is with us. Don't worry and look around you and be fearful.





**“You are the salt of the earth.
But if the salt loses its
saltiness, how can it be made
salty again?
Matthew 5:13a**



Most of the foods that we eat have salt in them. Even foods that are sweet, like a milkshake, can be high in salt. Salt makes food taste better. Salt was even more important back when the bible was written. It was so important that people used to get paid in salt! The word salary, or what someone is paid for working, comes from the word salt. That is how important Jesus thinks we are. Jesus has prepared situations for us daily where we can be the salt. We should spend our mornings with God so that we can add “value” and “flavor” wherever we go.





"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16



Are you afraid of the dark? The first thing that many people do when they wake up is turn on a light. I know I don't want to be walking around the room and step on something that I could have seen. There are many reasons to turn on a light, but the main reason is so that you can see the

way. In John 8:12, Jesus referred to Himself as the light of the world. We are to let the light of Jesus shine through us. We are not to hide this light when we get around our friends at school. Let His light shine through you wherever you go today.

Ask Jesus if there are any areas in your life that are not letting His light shine through. Be the light in this dark world that shows people the way.



Jesus, Please help me to shine your light in the world. I know there are people that I know that do not know you. Help me to be the light that leads to you Jesus. Amen





**“Does anyone believe in me?
Then, just as Scripture says,
rivers of living water will flow
from inside them.”
John 7:38 (NIRV)**



There is nothing that tastes better or that is more refreshing after a hard practice or working outside in the sun than an ice cold drink of water.



This verse sounds really weird, but it is a wonderful reminder to us. Jesus was referring to the work of the Holy Spirit in us. One of my favorite stories of the Old Testament is when Moses hits the rock and water is poured out for all the people and animals in the desert. As we spend time with Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, we can



“Don’t let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.”

Ephesians 4:29



Words are important. God created all of the universe with His words. The words that we use can influence people. Yesterday we talked about refreshing people around us. One way we can do this is by using words to build people up and not tear them down. We want to use kind and encouraging words. Always be careful with the words you use. Let the Holy Spirit not only guide your steps but also your tongue.



Really focus on the words you use with your family, friends, and even yourself. Are they words that build up or tear down?

Jesus, The bible says that You are the Word of God. You know how powerful words can be. Please let my words be used for good and not evil. Please help me to use my words to encourage people. Amen





**"Yet you are holy, enthroned on
the praises of Israel."
Psalm 22:3**



Praise is the most important thing that we can do when we start our day. The word enthroned can also mean dwell or inhabit. That means God "hangs out" in our praises. As we "hang out" with God, we become more like Him. This is the only way that we can do what we talked about from the previous days. The more time we spend with God; the easier it is to become the salt, light, refreshing waters, and words of encouragement that this world needs.



APPLICATION



Even though this devotion is over, find time everyday to spend in God's word and praise Him. Make a plan so that you can stay near Him.

Jesus, We praise you for who you are and thank you for everything that you have done for us. Thank you for being everything that we need. Amen

PRAYER

