



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 63:1-8

- ¹You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.
- ²I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
- ³Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.
- ⁴I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
- ⁵I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
- ⁶On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.
- ⁷Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.
- ⁸I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

Pray: Gracious God, as we open your Word together, quiet our hearts and minds and help us to listen. By your Holy Spirit, draw us closer to you, deepen our trust in you, and shape our lives according to your will. Keep our hearts centred on Jesus and bring your living word alive in us. Amen.

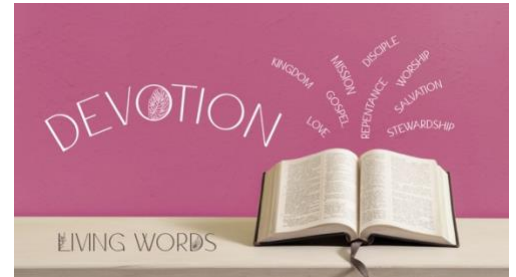


SHARE life together

1. What are your highs and lows since you last met?
2. What has been taking up most of your time lately or attention?
3. What is something you're really committed to—something you happily make time for even when life gets busy? Why do you think you are committed to that thing particularly?

Week beginning:
Monday 5th October 2026

Worship series:
Living Words
#4 DEVOTION



VERSE for the week

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7



REMEMBER this week

Your devotion to Christ is always a good investment because of his devotion to you!

If you've ever watched a potter working at a wheel, one of the first things you discover is how important it is to centre the clay. Before the potter can begin shaping a bowl, cup or vase, the lump of clay needs to be properly centred on the spinning wheel. If it is even slightly off-centre, it begins to wobble. The faster the wheel turns, the more obvious the problem becomes, and shaping the clay becomes increasingly difficult.

The Bible sometimes describes God as a potter and us as the clay in his hands. It's an image that invites us to think about this week's Living Word: **devotion**. Because devotion is about much more than having a regular "devotion" or setting aside some time for God. It raises a much bigger question: What is our life centred on? As we explore Jesus' words about the cost of following him and Paul's encouragement to continue living our lives "in Christ," we'll keep returning to that image of clay on the wheel. What might it mean for our lives to be centred on Christ—and what happens when we place ourselves in the hands of the Potter?

Read **Luke 14:25-33** and **Colossians 2:6-10** [HERE](#) or in your own Bible.

4. **What verse/concept/teaching in these readings caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about them for you?**
5. **In Luke 14, What does Jesus say a person must be willing to put behind their commitment to following him?**
6. **Jesus gives two illustrations in Luke 14—building a tower and a king preparing for war. What similarities do you notice between them, and what does Jesus ask people to consider in each?**
7. **In Colossians 2:6–10. What words and phrases does Paul use to describe the relationship believers already have with Christ and how they are to continue living in him?**
8. **What warnings or challenges do you notice in both passages? What does each passage identify as something that could compete with or interfere with following Christ?**



A potter cannot properly shape clay that is constantly pulling away from the centre of the wheel. In a similar way, both of these passages invite us to think about what sits at the centre of our lives. Jesus' words in Luke are confronting because he names some of the things—even good and precious things—that can compete for that place. Paul encourages us to remain rooted and built up in Christ, while warning us about other influences that can pull us away from him. But Christian devotion is about more than simply trying harder to keep Jesus at the centre. As we dig deeper into these passages, let's explore why Christ belongs at the centre, what threatens to displace him, and how God continues to hold and shape lives that are centred in Christ.

9. **Jesus names family, possessions and even our own lives in Luke 14:25–33. Many of these are good gifts from God. So, what do you think Jesus is teaching by using such confronting language about them? What does this reveal about the kind of devotion he calls for?**
10. **In Colossians 2:8, Paul warns about ideas and influences that can take us "captive" and draw us away from Christ. What are some of the voices, values or influences in our culture that can subtly compete with Christ for the centre of our lives?**
11. **Look again at Colossians 2:6–10. Before Paul warns the Colossians about what might pull them away from Christ, what does he remind them they have already received *in Christ*? How does this change the way we think about Christian devotion?**
12. **Think again about the image of clay being centred on a potter's wheel. Isaiah 64:8 says, "We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." What difference does it make to remember that God is not simply demanding that we keep ourselves perfectly centred on him, but is himself at work holding, forming and shaping us?**



LIVE purposefully

MAKE IT REAL:

If God is the potter and we are the clay, then devotion is not simply about trying harder to hold ourselves in the right place. It is about continuing to place our lives in the hands of the One who loves us, holds us and shapes us. Yet both Jesus and Paul remind us that there will always be other things competing for the centre—some obviously distracting, others genuinely good. So living devoted to Christ involves paying attention to what is shaping our priorities, choices and habits, and continually allowing God to draw us back to Christ. As we think about living purposefully this week, let's consider what our lives reveal about where our devotion lies, and where the Potter might be shaping us next.

13. **If someone looked at how you spend your time, energy, attention and resources, what might they conclude you are most devoted to? Does anything in your answer surprise or challenge you?**
14. **What good things in your life can sometimes begin to compete with Jesus for the centre? How might you recognise when something good is becoming too important?**
15. **Where do you sense God shaping you at the moment? Is there an attitude, priority, habit or part of your life that you need to place more freely into the Potter's hands?**
16. **What is one practice you could build into this coming week that would help keep your life centred on Christ—not to earn God's love, but because you already belong to him?**

Plan your weekly devotions or **download the Church Central app** for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



PRAY intentionally

You might like to pray together the following prayer, or spend time sharing together your prayer needs and praying for one another.

Gracious God, thank you for your faithful love and devotion to us, and for all you have given us in Jesus. By your Holy Spirit, keep Christ at the centre of our lives. When other things compete for our attention and devotion, draw us back to you, and continue to shape us according to your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

[Name], God is 100% devoted to you. Amen.