

Day 1

Chrissy

Read

Romans 9:4

4 They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises.

Think

God chose Israel to be the first people who he would have a personal relationship with. God showed them how to represent Himself to all the other nations around them. God made them his children and now we have the same privilege to be his children if we put our trust in him alone.

Reflect

One of the simplest ways to show that we trust God is to treat each day as a gift. God has made it full of moments that we can engage with him. We just have to slow down and turn to him. He wants to meet us in our everyday moments. When we wake up we can greet the day knowing God is with us.

Pray

God, today is a gift from you. Would you awaken your spirit within me so that I may draw close to you? I trust you and believe that though this day may seem ordinary I can find the holy moments with you in it. Amen.

Day 2

Braden Curalli

Read

Romans 9:9

8 In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.

Think

Paul was a Jewish man. About as Jewish as one could be. This may be confusing knowing that Paul believed in Jesus and we often separate the two beliefs, but this was Paul's reality. He was a man who was Jewish and became overturned by the miracle that is Jesus. Paul finds great weight in the Old Testament knowing that his background focuses mainly on the Torah (more specifically - the first 5 books of the bible). Knowing this and knowing that a

lot of chapter 9 addresses other Jewish people, we can understand that Paul is addressing an understanding that Jewish identity comes from one's family. Being Jewish was not only a belief but a part of someone's bloodline. Paul is now stressing that belief in Jesus does not, and should not, simply be a part of one's blood identity but instead should be evident by the way they live.

Reflect

Paul is stressing the importance of actions. Actions are more than just human behavior, they are determined by beliefs, thoughts, and priorities.

Does the way you are living reflect what you believe in?

Does how you spend your time reflect your priorities?

What can you do to actively live for Jesus this week?

Pray

God, I thank you for your mercy. For your miracle and for all that you have done. I pray that I live as a light. That love would overflow from me and that my actions would be telling of what I believe in. Help me to be merciful. Help me to practice patience.

Day 3

Marty

Read

Romans 9:15 - "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

Think

God is merciful! And the Scripture has a lot to say about the mercy of God. Ephesians 2:4 says God is rich in mercy. 2 Corinthians 1:3 says, God is the Father of mercies. Psalm 103:8 says, "The Lord *is* merciful and gracious, **Slow to anger**, and abounding in mercy."

When we say God is merciful, we are saying he is kind, compassionate, forgiving and does not give us the bad that we deserve. He loves to cover our sin, and shower us with His unfailing love.

Reflect

What is mercy? What are some ways you have experienced the mercy of God? Romans 12:1 tells us the Christian life is meant to be lived as a response to the mercy of God. What does it mean for you to respond to the mercy of God in your life today?

Pray

God, thank you for your compassion, kindness, forgiveness and unfailing love. I receive your mercy for my life today. Help me to be merciful with others. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 4

Chrissy**Read**

Romans 9:14

14 Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! 15 For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."

Think

Do you ever think to yourself that life is unfair? Have you ever said why God, is this happening? If so you are not alone in this questioning. This truth is that God is always in control even when life seems out of control. Even when it feels like God is working against you.

Reflect

This verse reminds us that God is in control and he knows what is best in this life, so we don't need to worry and fear. We can turn to God in all our confusion because he is perfect and we are not.

Pray

God your ways are much higher than mine and your thoughts are perfect. I trust that you know how to lead me in my life. Even when I don't understand I trust you and will continue to come to you with my worry. Thank you for allowing me to feel what I do and for leading my to truth when I come to you Amen.

Day 5

Dayne Scanlon

Read

Romans 9:20-21

20 But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’” 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

Think

This verse has pretty significant theological significance, but for this devotional, I want to focus on who God made you to be. When was the last time that you marveled at the fact that God created you just the way he did? When was the last time that you praised God for giving you the parents that he gave you, or the hardships that he gave you. What Paul is pointing out in these verses is that God makes our stories the way that he does so that he may be praised. Far be it for us to assume that we are created for ourselves, all of God’s creation is meant to point back to how wonderful he is, which includes you and me!

Reflect

- Take some time today to thank God for his loving kindness, and for creating you as he did. (Even if there’s parts of yourself that you might not be fond of)
- What parts of your life can you see evidence of God in? Go and share that with someone!
- Ask that God would continue to mold you into someone that he wants you to be.

Pray

God,

First of all, I acknowledge you as my creator, and my God. You are above all things, and I’m grateful for the instrument of prayer and that you desire to connect with us.

I thank you for the way that you’ve made me. My physical body, as well as my emotions, and my story. Thank you for drawing me back to yourself! I pray that you would continue to give me eyes to see your plan for my life!

AMEN