

Relevant Students



a three week devotional about the seasons of our life
and how God is with us through them all

Seasons Explanation:

Right now our world is in an unprecedented season. We're in a season of panic for some, isolation for many, and uncertainty for all. Our lives have been upended for at least the next few weeks and for many of us we're not sure what is going on or why God is doing this. It's during these type of scary and uncertain seasons of our lives that we have a tendency to pull away from God. During these times we're ready for a new season, but we feel stuck and not sure how God can help us. After all, He put us in this season didn't He?

The truth is: God is not punishing the world with COVID-19 (coronavirus). How do we know that? Because sickness, hurt, struggle, these are the characteristics of what a fallen world looks like. These are the times and situations when we're reminded what it looks like to live in a fallen and broken world. God isn't working against us and hurting us with this virus, but He I know He is attempting to work through this to reach you. He is working right now to reach this world during this season to draw us closer to Him. The truth is: God is using this season to draw us closer to Him.

We all go through seasons in life. Our seasons are all different, but we all share the same general seasons of life. We have seasons of new things, seasons of good things, seasons of struggle, seasons of hurt, and seasons of waiting. We all have a season, but our seasons can be confusing and long.

During this season that for most of us is isolating, confusing, and scary let's look to draw closer to God, not further. During this devotional we are going to look at our seasons. We're going to unpack what God's Word says about our seasons, how to START a new season (even when we're in a season right now where we might feel stuck), how to respond in the WAITING season (for most of us that is this current season), and how to GO toward what He has for us (how to respond when this season is done).

“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.”

-Ecclesiastes 3:1 NLT

Week One: START

Day One

Today is day one of our three week devotional. First steps are big and important. Starting something new is scary and intimidating, so congratulations on starting this new and exciting next step of diving deeper into your relationship with Jesus. What you are embarking on for the next three weeks is really important. This isn't just another homework assignment. This is an intentional tool to allow you to draw close to God, grow in our relationship with Him, and discover what His better plan is for you.

With that said, this is important, and with anything that is important we need to prioritize our time for it. So today as we begin this journey, take out your phone and make a daily reminder to START your morning with this devotional. We say start intentionally because when we begin our day growing closer to God, we open our hearts, minds, and lives to welcome and experience Him throughout our day.

Make these daily reminders for the next three weeks. Each day's devotional should take about 15-20 minutes, so plan ahead for how early you need to wake up in order to maximize and not rush your time with God. Also, remember **next steps are done one day at a time**, so if you miss a day, don't give up. Pick it right back where you left off and keep going.

Each day your devotional will include a link to go and listen to worship during your time with God, a passage to read, a thought to internally process and then journal, and finally something to intentionally pray. These are the elements to help make your time with God a powerful and heart-changing experience. For today, spend five minutes praying that during these three weeks you would see God more clearly, know Him more deeply, and discover what He has for you more fully.

Week One: START

Day Two

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- The theme of this devotional is seasons. Why? Because we all are going through seasons, not just the seasons of the earth like fall, winter, spring, and summer, but seasons in life. Seasons are a marker of time, and we all go through different seasons in life. For some of us we are in a season full of fun, energy, excitement. These are the summer seasons of our life when everything is going right. For some we are in a season of new things. We are going to a new school, we have new friends, or are beginning new things. This is our spring season when new is beginning. Some of us though are in a season of struggle, hurt, or sadness. We are in a winter season that is cold, long, and lonely.

Believe it or not, God uses all of these seasons to grow and develop us. God calls us to go through these seasons to grow, not just as people, but in a relationship and in dependence of Him. During the next three weeks we're going to look more in depth at these seasons, but to begin read the truth of the seasons we experience in Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 and why God gives them to us.

Journal- What is something that stands out to you from this passage? Why?

What season do you think you're currently in? Why?

Pray- Our seasons are difficult. When we're in a season of things going well we tend to push God aside and think we're fine on our own. When we're in a season of struggle we tend to push God away because we think He is cruel for doing this to us. Remember, our seasons are meant to draw us nearer to Him, not further. Spend some time praying to God to help you during your current season. Ask Him to help you to see why you're in this season, and to help you trust in Him during this season.

Week One: START

Day Three

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- One of the things that make seasons so difficult to embrace is their uncertainty. Why are we in this season? How long will this season last? Does God even care that I'm struggling? Confused? Hurting? Even when we are in a season where things are going well we have the fear lurking of how long will it last.

Uncertainty is scary and not fun. We have an encouragement though in scripture that God is still with us. The bible is clear that God has a plan for each and every one of us, and His plan for us is ultimately good. We may go through seasons of struggle and hardship, but through that season God is working to create something good in our lives. We may not know what that is now, but we can trust God has our best prepared for us. We can trust His plan.

Read Jeremiah 29:11 to discover an important truth about God's plan for us.

Journal- When do you struggle to trust God's plan? Why?

How might God be using your current season to make something good?

Pray- Pray that God would give you direction and comfort in your current season. Seek His help and guidance during this season. Take 5 minutes to simply sit in silence and ask God to show you what He might be planning in your current season of uncertainty.

Week One: START

Day Four

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Everyone is going through a season. Some of our seasons look similar, but we're all going through a unique season. None of our seasons are exactly the same, but what we do share is that no matter what season you're in God is calling us to START something in our current season.

Throughout scripture we read of God starting a new season for His people or of God encouraging His people to start something new while they're in a familiar season. There's encouragement in knowing God has been working with His people since creation on starting something new during their seasons of life. God is doing the same for and through you.

Take a moment and read about one of those people that God called to start a new season named Abram in Genesis 12:1-9. God called Abram to leave His comfortable home and go to start something in a new and scary land.

Journal- In day two we acknowledged what season we're in, but today ask yourself: what is God calling me to start in this season? Think about it, maybe pray over it, and write down what you think God may be telling you. Maybe He's calling you to patience, or dependence on Him. Maybe God is calling you to kindness; to start being kinder to others. He could be calling

you to start giving up a sinful habit that you have held onto for a season. Write down what you think it might be below.

How can you begin to start this new thing today, this week, and for the next month?

Today:

This week:

This month:

Pray- Pray that God would show you clearly what He wants you to start today. Ask Him to help you follow through with this thing today, this week, and throughout this month. Finally, thank Him for starting new things in our life. It's a reminder that He is not done working in us.

Week One: START

Day Five

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Yesterday we acknowledged something God may be working in you to start. Yesterday's devotional ended with a big challenge to discover what that thing is that you're supposed to start this season, and then to make a plan of how to embrace that over the next week and month. This is a lot to do, but it is possible. Remember what we learned on day one of our devotional: **next steps are done one day at a time.**

One of the things that distracts or gets in the way of next steps is insecurities. Our insecurities have a tendency to throw us off from what God has for us. Our insecurities are a tool that Satan uses against us to keep us from starting, and continuing, what God has for us. Our insecurities say we can't do it, or that we're not worthy of what He's calling us to, but Jesus responds differently. Read Mark 10:46-52 to see how Jesus responded to a man who should have been the most insecure of His time: a man blind not even secure in what was right in front of Him.

Journal- Notice what the blind man does with His cloak. What does He do with it? Why is this significant?

The blind man throws off his cloak, because this was previously his only form of security. It's where he collected money to survive and live off of, but now he has tossed it away to start the new scary life God has for Him, and he's excited to do so. This is what security in God looks like. It looks like giving up what is hindering us from starting the new God has for us.

What insecurity is hindering you from starting the new God has for you? How can you throw that off and give it to God?

Pray- Thank God for giving us the security to throw off our insecurities. He gives us strength when we ask and draw near to Him. Draw near to Him now and tell Him your insecurities about starting the new thing He has for you. Ask Him for strength and courage to do the thing you know He has called you to start in this season.

Week One: START

Day Six

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Yesterday we looked at the blind man that Jesus healed and called to start something new. We looked at his insecurity in not being able to see, and we see how he made up for that with his security in his cloak that helped collect money to live off of.

We learned an important truth about insecurities through this man yesterday: **our insecurities cause us to put security in the wrong things.** For a lot of us, we are being hindered in starting the new God has for us because we have put our security in the wrong things like our athleticism, our looks, our intelligence, our humor, our possessions, our care-free attitude, etc. These things aren't inherently bad but are wrong when they become our security aka our identity (what we live for).

God has called us to place our security not in ourselves, our abilities, or our friends, but on Him alone. Only when we place our security in Him are we able to truly start and embrace the new He has for us, no matter what season of life we're in. Read Hebrews 12:1-3.

Journal- What do you think you have placed your security in? Why?

How can you begin to throw off placing your security in that thing, or things, and begin to place it on Jesus?

Pray- Thank God for giving us the security in Him to know who we are and what He is starting in us. Ask Him to help you to begin to place your security fully in Him and His plan.

Week One: START

Day Seven

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- All week we've been looking, reading, and praying for the new God has for us. Maybe that's a new season or maybe that's starting something new while we're in our current season. Whatever it may be, God is starting something in each and every one of us. He is always working something new in us.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. This passage reminds us of the incredible truth that Jesus begins something new in us. He made us new when we received Him, but He is continuing to make us new each and every time we draw near to Him and embrace the new He has for us. In other words: **when we START what God is calling us to we START to be made new.**

Journal- Reflect and write what you think God is calling you to start in your current season. It may be the same thing you wrote at the beginning of the week, or maybe it has changed after learning more about Him and your season this week.

How can you start to be made new by embracing this thing that God has called you to start?

Pray- This has hopefully been an impactful first week of our three week devotional, but before moving on to our second week and closing this week out, thank God for all He has shown you this week. Think through the things you learned or heard from God this week. Thank Him for each one of those things individually. Finally, ask Him to continue to embrace and start the new He has for you.

Week Two: WAITING

Day One

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Last week we looked at addressing and understanding our seasons, specifically embracing what God is calling us to START whether that is a new season or something specific within our current season. This week we are going to look at the next thing God often calls us to in the midst of our seasons, waiting.

Waiting is one of those things none of us like to do. Waiting is really difficult for many reasons that we will be unpacking during our devotional this week. One of the main struggles with waiting is faith. Our lack of faith is the primary reason why we struggle with waiting, but God calls us to wait for a reason. We don't quite know what that reason is yet, but this week we will spend time looking at some possibilities. Before we do any of this though, let's look at where we lack faith.

Read Hebrews 11:1. Don't read this passage just once. Read it several times. Next, write it down somewhere you will see it every day this week (on a sticky note and place it on your bathroom mirror, a notebook, a planner, google it and make it your phone background, etc.)

Journal- What does Hebrews 11:1 say about faith? How does this change your previous views on faith?

What is something you're waiting for God to do right now?
How can you wait more confidently with faith?

Pray- Thank God for giving us direction on how to have faith in Him. Ask Him to help you see what you're waiting for, and to have faith in your waiting season. Finally, ask Him to give you strength as you continue to prioritize drawing close to Him in this second week.

Week Two: WAITING

Day Two

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Yesterday we began our study on waiting. God calls all of us to wait for many reasons, and one of those reasons is to grow our faith. Faith is the foundation of our relationship with Jesus. Without faith we have nothing. Why? Because God is bigger than our logic, He is greater than our capacity for relationships, He is better than we can ever try to be. Faith is the foundation that pulls us closer to God. Faith bridges the gap where we fall short.

But faith is really hard. Faith is incredibly abstract. How do we grow our faith? How do we tap into it in our season of waiting? Well one thing we see through scripture is that faith grows when we feed it. What this means is that when we lean on God daily our faith grows. That means we have to take practical daily steps toward God to grow our faith. Those steps show up in several forms. The way our steps toward Jesus reveal themselves is through the practice of worshiping God, studying Him, praying to Him, and giving back to Him and His people.

You see, these practices aren't just more school work, they are the tools to draw us near to God and develop our faith in Him. Read Hebrews 11:6.

Journal- What does Hebrews 11:6 say that we have to do to please God? And how do we develop our faith?

It's important to know what develops our faith in our season of waiting, but what is even more important is knowing what is keeping us from doing that after. Out of those 4 tools for drawing near to God and developing our faith, which do you struggle with most? Why? (Worshiping God, studying Him, praying, or giving)

Pray- Thank God for showing us how we can grow our faith. Ask Him to help you with the area of faith you seem to struggle with consistently. Ask Him to help you seek Him with faith in your season of waiting.

Week Two: WAITING

Day Three

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- To grow in faith we have to draw close to God using the tools of worship, study of God, prayer, and giving. These aren't optional activities we can decide to do or not. It's vital to growing our faith, and we need faith to get us through and to fully embrace our season of waiting. All of this is important to know, but many of us are probably still asking the same question: why do we have to go through seasons of waiting? Why can't we all receive every good thing God has for us all at once?

One thing we see in the Bible is that just like all of our other seasons, God uses our waiting. God has a plan for us in our waiting, but in the waiting that is hard to see. Read Isaiah 43:19 Look at what this passage says about the way God works through and uses our times of waiting.

Journal- Have you ever thought of waiting as something that is good for us? Why or why not?

What may God be working through you in this season of waiting?

Pray- Thank God for working in and through us in every season. Ask Him to make His work known clearly to us in our time of waiting, or that our faith would grow through the uncertainty. Finally, pray that your season of waiting would grow you closer to Jesus.

Week Two: WAITING

Day Four

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Read Acts 2:1-21 and Acts 2:41-42. In this passage we see something pretty amazing happen. Can you tell what it is? If we're honest most of us can't, and that's okay! Here's what is going on: the book of Acts is a book all about the beginning of the church. The book of Acts takes place directly after Jesus' incredible sacrifice on the cross for our sins, His resurrection, and His ascension to heaven. In other words, Jesus has just left earth.

Jesus' physical presence was something that believers had been waiting for for hundreds of years. The Old Testament is essentially about God developing the faith of His people as they waited for this to happen. Finally Jesus comes and lives within the world for 33 years and then leaves again. He leaves with the promise that He would one day return and make the earth into the heaven it was meant to be. You and I currently live in this period of waiting. We're waiting for this to happen. But what does that have to do with what we just read in Acts 2?

Well just before Jesus left He promised His disciples that He would send His Spirit to dwell in the world and our hearts. We call this the Holy Spirit. But before this happened, guess what the disciples had to do? Wait. Do you see a pattern here? God calls us to wait. Because **in the waiting God prepares us for what He has next.**

Acts 2 shows us the culmination of that waiting. This miraculous thing happens to the people where God moves in them in ways they could not imagine (they start speaking in different languages!), and His Spirit leads to over 3,000 people saying yes to Jesus! You see, God is working something in you in your season of waiting.

Journal- What do you think God may be doing in and through you in your season of waiting?

What is something you would like to see change in your life during your season of waiting?

Pray- We saw in Acts 2 that God made miracles happen through His Spirit during this season of waiting for the early church. He can do the same for you today. Ask Him to make a

miracle happen in your life during this season of waiting. Be really clear about what you hope that miracle is.

Week Two: WAITING

Day Five

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Yesterday we ended our devotional by asking you to pray over a specific miracle you're hoping to see God do in or through your life during your season of waiting. We hope it was a powerful and intentional time for you. Scripture is clear that our prayers have power. God hears them. God works through them. But also, real authentic prayer is a powerful measure of our faith.

Prayer is essentially our faith placed into words. Prayer is how we tangibly begin to practice our faith. Often though, in our waiting we struggle to believe anyone is there. We struggle to believe anyone is listening. Read Luke 11:9 This passage is powerful, but can be confusing. God is not a cosmic genie that is saying, "wish and I will grant", but He is saying, "ask and I will answer." His answer may not have been exactly what we hoped would happen, but it will be something better than we could imagine: closer contact with our Father.

God calls us to pray. Why? Because He wants to hear from His children. He promises to answer us when we pray, which means in our season of waiting we have an assured Helper with us through it all. But it requires faith. Faith in the fact that He is there and can work a miracle through your prayer, even if you don't see exactly what that is.

Journal- What is something you want to ask God for? Why?

What do you hope His response is to your prayer? What can you be assured of that He will do with your prayers?

Pray- Thank God for always hearing our prayers, but thank Him deeply for always answering us when we pray. Tell Him what you're praying and hoping He will do in your life right now. Ask Him to do it. Finally, ask Him to show you how He is answering it.

Week Two: WAITING

Day Six

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Waiting isn't fun. We've talked about it all week, but it's nothing you had to be taught. We all know it, but this week we've looked at the good that God works in us and through us from our waiting. And sometimes it's just really hard.

When we have been hurting from a bad relationship, or when someone we love has been sick for so long, or when we have been waiting for God show us what to do with our lives, it makes waiting harder to do each day. In our seasons of waiting some days just require us to ask for courage and strength to continue to wait. Read Psalm 27:14. That's where the Psalmist is. The Psalmist here is reminding himself and us to find courage and strength in the Lord.

What he's getting at is this: lean on God in your times of weakness during your waiting. We may be weak, but God is strong. The key to faith is knowing that it's not about your ability to do anything, but His ability to work through you. That means waiting is more about you leaning on God for strength and courage than yourself and your own reserves.

Journal- How do others give you strength when you feel weak?

How can God give you strength and courage when you're feeling weak and tired of waiting?

Pray- Thank God for being our source of strength and courage. Ask Him to help you grow in courage and strength through His help. Ask Him to help you today through whatever it is you're waiting for.

Week Two: WAITING

Day Seven

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- This has probably been a tough week to get through devotion wise. It's not a very fun topic. What we want is an answer for how to end our season of waiting, but God instead calls us to embrace it. All week we've looked at the truth that God calls us to seasons of waiting in order to embrace Him more fully and to experience His work more clearly. You see, **our seasons of waiting are meant to free us from distraction.**

Our season of waiting is meant to grow our faith in God, meaning that our hearts and minds are drawn more towards God during these season and less towards the distracting things of this world. Without our seasons of waiting a lot of us would be blind to who God is and what He is doing in our lives. We would be far more focused on ourselves and what's going on for us in the world. So, as we end this week long look at how to embrace our waiting season here's what is obvious: our waiting season isn't over, it isn't easy, but it's necessary, and it's actually good for us. God makes us His in our seasons of waiting.

Read Micah 7:7 and carry this encouragement with you as you end this week's study. The world may be distracted, but as for you- look to the Lord and wait for Him. He's not finished with you yet.

Journal- What has been the hardest thing to accept or embrace from this week's study of waiting? Why?

How might God be using that hard/difficult thing to develop your faith?

Pray- Go and look at where you wrote down, placed, or saved the passage from Hebrews 11:1. Thank God for His Word that is meant as an encouragement for all of us. Ask Him to help you to continue to trust/have faith in His timing and His plan.

Week Three: GO

Day One

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Today marks the first day of the last week of our devotional on our seasons. We've been looking over an in depth study the last two weeks of what it means to embrace the START of our seasons with God and how to WAIT when we are in a difficult season with God. This week we are going to wrap up by looking at how to GO forward in our faith that we began and grew during our START season and WAIT season.

One of the things that is clear throughout scripture is that God is calling us to go somewhere. He has a specific plan for each and every one of us. We see this clearly in a biblical passage we're going to be unpacking this week in the book of 1 Samuel. 1 Samuel is a book devoted to the prophet God speaks to named Samuel. God called Samuel to GO and do things in his name many times, and at times what Samuel thought God was going to do didn't happen, meaning he spent a lot of time waiting on God and having to have faith in Him.

For example, God called Samuel to appoint Saul as king of the Israelites, but then Saul disobeyed God and so God took away his crown. But God's plan is always better, so he called Samuel to GO again. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-3.

Journal- What did God call Samuel to GO and do? Why might this be hard for Samuel?

How do you think Samuel is going to respond? What does this encourage us to do when God is calling us to go and do something we're not sure about?

Pray- Thank God for His special plan for you. Thank Him for caring about you enough that He has a plan and is calling you to something. Ask Him to work in your heart even now to be open to do what He may be calling you to go do for Him.

Week Three: GO

Day Two

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Yesterday we read 1 Samuel 16:1-3. In this passage we saw God call Samuel to go appoint a new king that He would show him. This call was difficult for Samuel because the last king he found ended up disobeying God and losing his crown. Samuel was obviously hurt, maybe insecure, probably frustrated with God.

Samuel shows us a lot of the emotions we feel toward God after we have gotten out of our various seasons, but notice what he does next. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-4. It says that Samuel went to where God directed him. This may seem like a small thing to us, but this was a big thing for Samuel. Samuel trusted God even when he was struggling with what happened to him in his former seasons, his past.

Samuel's response should be an encouragement for us today. No matter where we've been, what season we're in now, or what season we're going to be in, God is calling us to GO and do something. We need to be willing to be obedient toward that call. But what might that call be?

Journal- What might God be calling you to GO do? Why do you think He is calling you to that?

How can you be obedient toward this call from God?

Pray- Thank God for calling us to something. God uses each of us to do His good works on earth. Thank Him for using you. Ask Him to make it clear to you what He is calling you to.

Week Three: GO

Day Three

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- God called Samuel to GO even when he was probably struggling to do so. As Samuel follows God's call, God makes it clear to Him that He is going to show Him what to do next. God told Samuel what He was looking for in a king. Read 1 Samuel 16:4-7.

We read here an incredibly important trait of God. We see what God looks at within each of us. God looks at our hearts. That means God cares more about who we are on the inside than who we act like on the outside. Often when we're in a certain season of life we may act like we've got everything put together on the outside, while we are deeply struggling on the inside. We also may be going through the outward motions of drawing near to God by doing a devotional, while not intentionally seeking to develop and apply what we've learned on the inside.

God explains to Samuel what we all need to know about how to GO when God is calling us to a season of something new. **In order to GO toward what God has for us, our hearts have to be all in.** We can't GO when our hearts aren't in it. God requires every part of us when He calls us to something.

Journal- Why do you think God cares about our hearts?

Do you think your heart is fully ready to GO to whatever God calls you to? Why or why not?

Pray- There are only two beings who can ready your heart for God, you and God. Thank God for looking at who we truly are, not just who we pretend to be. Take intentional time to ask God to transform your heart toward Him. Ask Him to prepare your heart for where and what He is calling you to GO do.

Week Three: GO

Day Four

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Yesterday we discovered an incredibly important truth about God, that He looks at our hearts, not our outward actions or appearance, to discover who we truly are. This is profound and so important. It shows us that God cares about who we really are, and that when He calls us to GO we have to be all in.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7-13. Now I know that many of us may know this story oh too well. We knew the twist was that God had chosen David, this young scrawny boy to be king, but let's look back for a second at how significant this is. It shows that our hearts are deceiving. That what is on the inside can be far stronger than what is on the outside, and vice versa, but it also shows us that God has a plan for all of us, even the ones that society would ignore typically.

The truth is God calls all of us to GO because God is able to use each and every one of us for His good and redemptive work on earth. God is calling you to GO because He wants to use you, YES YOU! Believe it or not, God has a plan for you. If you don't see that yet maybe go back and look over the truths we covered during week 1- START or week 2- WAITING. Otherwise, let's try to answer the question what can I GO and do for God today?

Journal- What can I begin to GO and do for God today?

What is something I feel insecure or incapable of going and doing for God? Why?

How can I begin to overcome what is hindering me from going and doing what God has called me to do today?

Pray- Thank God for giving us a work to do for Him. Ask Him to make it clear to you now what you're being called to GO do.

Week Three: GO

Day Five

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- All week we've been preparing ourselves to GO and do what God is calling us to. Hopefully you feel even the slightest bit more confident in the truth that God is calling you to GO and do something for Him. He has a plan for you.

But as the story of David's call to GO and do continues, we see an obstacle approach. This obstacle is in the form of a nine foot tall foreign warrior-invader named Goliath. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-15. Goliath is a physical representation of the truth we all face in the call to GO. At some point there will be new challenges, new temptations, and new struggles that will come about to hinder us from the GO God has called us to.

For some of you this is exactly where you are. You know God has called you to GO do something, but you're not sure how to do it, because you are facing a major obstacle. You're facing a giant like Goliath, but in the form of guilt from your past, or fear over what others might think, or doubt because you like your current and comfortable way of living. Let's look at what our obstacles may be.

Journal- What is a giant you feel like you're currently facing in your walk with Jesus? Why is this in your way?

Pray- The beautiful truth is that no matter how big our obstacle or giant may seem, God is bigger. Tomorrow we're going to look at how David overcomes his giant to continue to GO and do what God has called him to. But for now let's simply pray for God to reveal our giant and to give us the strength to seek Him to help us overcome it.

Week Three: GO

Day Six

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- David is facing a giant named Goliath. We are all facing a giant of some kind. Yesterday we identified what that is. Let's look today at how to overcome the giant that attempts to keep us from going toward the call God has for us.

Read 1 Samuel 17:16-51. David overcomes the giant before him. He does this not with sword, arrow, or shield, and not even with the rock that knocks Goliath down, but with courage and faith. Notice that before David ever approaches Goliath he was ready to take down the giant. David was ready to remove anything that hindered him from going and doing what God called him to.

David's response to the giant before him is the exact thing God saw in him before anyone else could. God saw the heart of David. God saw David's heart of strength, courage, and faith, when no one else could. God sees the same in you. God sees the future you can't see for yourself. God sees the courage He is capable of granting you, the strength He is able to give you, and the faith that calls upon all of this.

The key to defeating your giants are seeing the same in yourself. I'm not saying the cliché line that culture feeds us today that if you believe in yourself you can do anything. That's not true and that's not biblical. What I am saying is that God sees something in you that not even you can see, but

when you believe in Him He is able to bring those characteristics, once blind to you, out of you.

Journal- What is something you think God may see in your heart? Why?

How does a heart focused on God help you to defeat your giants?

Pray- Thank God for seeing something in us that we can't even see on our own. Ask Him to help you see what He has placed in each of our hearts, so that we may GO toward what He has for us.

Week Three: GO

Day Seven

Worship- Go to Relevantstudents.com/Seasons and click on the worship link to begin your time with God in worship to God. Worship allows us to prepare our hearts to experience God, to keep us focused on Him and His goodness and presence, and to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

Read- Well here we are. It's our last day of a 21 day, 3 week long, devotional. This journey may be coming to a close, but the work is just beginning. If we learned anything from this series it is hopefully that God is able to use a small amount of time to create BIG changes in our hearts and lives. It is our prayer that this devotional will be the catalyst that does the same for your life.

I wonder, have you noticed the trend over the last three weeks about embracing and experiencing our seasons that God has for us? It's the thing that allows us to START what's new, WAIT for what's new, and GO toward doing the new. Any idea? It's faith. Cliché, right? Obvious? Here's the truth: **God uses our seasons to grow our faith.** It's what He has been doing since the very beginning. We hear all the time that we have to grow and develop our faith, but after so long it just seems like empty words and bad advice, but here's what I believe: if you have fully embraced this devotional, you have grown in some way closer to God. He has in some way shown you something, and you have grown your faith in some way.

If that's true then the cliché must mean something more than we have given it credit for. So what's next? That's up to you to decide, but if you want to continue the work that He has begun in you then lean on a daily time to draw close to God

through worship, reading His Word, journaling what He is teaching and working in you, and praying to Him through it all.

It won't be easy, but it's a giant we must be ready to defeat, a season we must be willing to GO in. So as we wrap up read Joshua 1:9. Remember these words to be strong, be courageous, and to grow in faith.

Journal- What has God shown you through this study?

What do you plan to do next to GO and continue to draw near to God daily?

Pray- Thank God for this time you've had with Him and all He has revealed to you. Ask Him to continue to make this time a priority and to grow in faith.