

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: Divine Interruptions

### Devotional

Have you ever noticed how the most meaningful moments in life often come disguised as interruptions? We live in a world obsessed with schedules, productivity, and staying on track. Our calendars are packed, our to-do lists are endless, and we've convinced ourselves that being busy equals being important. But what if God has a different perspective on our perfectly planned days?

Think about the last time someone unexpectedly needed your attention. Maybe it was a friend calling during your lunch break, a coworker stopping by your desk when you were focused on a project, or a family member needing to talk when you had other plans. Your first instinct might have been frustration or impatience. That's completely normal – we're wired to protect our time and energy.

But here's the beautiful truth: God often works through interruptions. When we're so focused on our agenda that we miss the person right in front of us, we might be missing a divine appointment. The next generation – whether that's your children, students, younger coworkers, or neighbors – desperately needs people who will pause their plans to invest in their lives.

Investment doesn't require a theology degree or years of experience. It simply means taking what you've learned in your relationship with God and sharing it with others. It's about being present, being available, and being willing to let your schedule bend when someone needs you.

Today, consider how you might view interruptions differently. What if that unexpected conversation could be exactly what someone needs to feel seen, heard, and valued?

### Bible Verse

Read Luke 8:40-48 NIV

### Reflection Question

When was the last time you allowed an 'interruption' to become an opportunity to invest in someone's life, and how might God be calling you to be more available to those divine appointments?

### Quote

When you build relationships and invest in that next generation, what often seems to happen in those moments are interruptions.

## **Prayer**

Lord, help me to see interruptions through Your eyes. Give me the wisdom to know when to set aside my plans to be present for others. Make my heart available to the divine appointments You place in my path today.

# Day 2: Rearranging Our Priorities

## Devotional

Imagine you're rushing to the most important meeting of your career when someone stops you with what seems like a trivial problem. Your natural response would be to politely excuse yourself and keep moving, right? After all, you have somewhere important to be. But what if that 'trivial' moment was actually the most important thing you could do that day?

Jesus faced this exact scenario. He was on his way to heal a twelve-year-old girl who was dying – a literal life-or-death situation. Yet when a woman who had been suffering for twelve years reached out to him, he stopped everything. He didn't just heal her and move on; he took time to hear her story, to see her as a person, not just a problem to solve.

This challenges everything we think we know about priorities and time management. We've become so schedule-oriented that we often miss the people God places in our path. We're so focused on the destination that we forget the journey is where relationships are built and lives are changed.

How much of your time, energy, and schedule do you have intentionally planned out to invest in people? It's a convicting question because most of us would have to admit that people-investment rarely makes it onto our calendars. We schedule meetings, appointments, and tasks, but we don't schedule time to simply be available for others.

Maybe it's time to rearrange our priorities. Maybe it's time to build margin into our lives not for more productivity, but for more people. When we orient our schedules around things that truly matter – like the person standing in front of us – we begin to live more like Jesus.

## Bible Verse

Read Luke 8:40-48 NLT

## Reflection Question

What would need to change in your current schedule and priorities to create more intentional space for investing in the people God has placed in your life?

## Quote

Maybe would you start orienting your schedule around things that matter?

## **Prayer**

Father, help me to see people the way You see them. Give me the courage to rearrange my priorities and create space in my life for the relationships that matter most. Show me how to invest in others with the same intentionality that You invest in me.

# Day 3: Every Problem Matters

## Devotional

We live in a world that ranks problems. Big problems get attention, small problems get dismissed. Life-threatening situations get immediate response, while everyday struggles get pushed aside. But what if God doesn't operate with the same ranking system we do?

There's something powerful about someone who treats your 'small' problem like it's the most important thing in the world. Think about the people who have made the biggest impact in your life. Chances are, they weren't the ones who only showed up for your major crises. They were the ones who cared about your everyday struggles, who listened when you needed to vent about work, who took your concerns seriously even when they seemed trivial to everyone else.

When people come to us with their problems, our first instinct is often to measure them against our own experiences or against what we think really matters. We might think, 'That's not such a big deal,' or 'They'll get over it.' But here's the truth: if it matters to them, it should matter to us. Not because the problem itself is earth-shattering, but because the person is valuable.

Most of the time, people aren't coming to us because they think we have all the answers. They're not seeking our expertise or our ability to fix everything. They're coming because they know we care, because they trust us to shoulder the weight with them, because they need someone to walk alongside them on the path.

Listening is one of the most powerful gifts we can give someone. When we truly listen – not just waiting for our turn to speak or thinking about how to solve their problem – we communicate something profound: you matter, your feelings are valid, and you're not alone.

## Bible Verse

Read Luke 8:40-48 MSG

## Reflection Question

How can you become known as someone who treats every person's concerns with dignity and care, regardless of how big or small they might seem to you?

## Quote

I've learned even with the smallest things, people just want somebody to listen. Nine times out of 10, they're not coming to you because they like your expertise. They know you have a degree. No, what they're coming to you is because they know you care and that you're willing to shoulder the weight with them and walk along this path.

## **Prayer**

Lord, give me a heart that sees every person's struggles as important. Help me to listen with compassion and to be present with those who need someone to care. Teach me to shoulder burdens with others just as You shoulder mine.

# Day 4: You Belong Here

## Devotional

There are few things more powerful than hearing someone say, 'You belong.' In a world that constantly makes people feel like outsiders, like they don't measure up, like they're too much or not enough, the simple declaration of belonging can change everything.

The woman who touched Jesus' robe had been an outcast for twelve years. Her condition made her ritually unclean, which meant she couldn't participate in religious life, couldn't be touched, couldn't even be in crowds without making others unclean. She had been pushed to the margins of society, forgotten and ignored. Yet when Jesus healed her, he didn't just fix her physical problem and send her away. He called her 'daughter' – a term of endearment that communicated family, belonging, and love.

Every person you encounter is carrying some version of that woman's story. Maybe they don't feel like they belong in their family, their workplace, their friend group, or even their church. Maybe they've been told they're too broken, too messy, too different. Maybe they've convinced themselves that they need to get their life together before they can truly belong anywhere.

But here's what Jesus shows us: belonging comes before believing, acceptance comes before perfection, and love comes before change. When we look at people and communicate through our words and actions that they belong with us, that they're part of our family, that they matter regardless of their struggles or mistakes, we're reflecting the heart of God.

Some of the most important people in your life are probably those who never made you feel smaller than you were, who never threw your problems in your face, who looked at you in your messiest moments and said, 'I will still be here. You matter. You belong.'

## Bible Verse

Read Luke 8:40-48 ESV

## Reflection Question

Who in your life needs to hear that they belong, and how can you communicate that message through both your words and actions this week?

## Quote

He looked at this woman who hasn't belonged anywhere and says, you belong with me. You're a part of my family.

## **Prayer**

God, thank You for welcoming me into Your family just as I am. Help me to extend that same unconditional belonging to others. Show me who needs to hear that they matter and give me the courage to speak life and belonging into their hearts.

# Day 5: Planting Seeds of Hope

## Devotional

Gardeners understand something that the rest of us often forget: you don't always get to see the harvest from the seeds you plant. You prepare the soil, plant with care, water faithfully, and trust that something beautiful will grow – even if you never see the final result. Investing in people works the same way.

When you choose to show up for someone, to listen to their struggles, to speak belonging into their life, you're planting seeds. You might not see the immediate impact. You might not witness the moment when your words of encouragement help them through a dark season years later. You might not be there when they pass on the same kindness to someone else. But that doesn't make your investment any less valuable.

The most transformative relationships in our lives are often built through countless small moments – a text message at just the right time, a conversation over coffee, showing up when everyone else is too busy, remembering what matters to them. These moments might seem insignificant in isolation, but together they create a foundation of trust and love that can sustain someone through life's biggest challenges.

As followers of Jesus, we're called to be a people who invest in others not because we'll get credit, not because we'll see immediate results, but because every person has inherent worth and deserves to be loved well. We show up because Jesus showed up for us. We invest because we've been invested in. We plant seeds of hope because we know that God can grow something beautiful from even the smallest acts of love.

Today, remember that your investment in others matters more than you know. That conversation you had, that encouragement you gave, that time you simply listened – it's all making a difference, even if you can't see it yet.

## Bible Verse

Read Luke 8:40-48 (In your favorite translation)

## Reflection Question

What seeds of hope and encouragement is God calling you to plant in someone's life today, even if you may never see the full harvest of your investment?

## **Quote**

You might not get to see the fruit of your investment, but you could plant some seeds.

## **Prayer**

Lord, help me to be faithful in planting seeds of love, hope, and belonging in the lives of others. Give me patience to invest without needing to see immediate results, and trust that You will grow something beautiful from every act of love I sow.