



LEADER DEVOTIONAL

You might say I'm a bit of an organizing junkie. I can consume a book on "simplifying life" like a paperback beach read. Why? Because for years I have had this notion that if I could just get down to the basics of life, with less stuff to take care of and fewer distractions, I just might find a sweet spot. And in the sweet spot, I could focus on what really matters in life.

Isn't this similar to God's direction on prayer? Jeremiah 29:12 says, "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Simple. When we push away all the words we say to sound important, or spiritual, we can get to the basics. What if we actually did what Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:6: "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen." What if we pushed aside the feeling that we need to say overly verbose, beautifully worded prayers and, instead, said genuine prayers that came from our gut and followed the pattern that Jesus taught us through the Lord's Prayer?

When I think back to my richest moments with God, I think back to one summer when I was getting up early in the morning and meeting God at a tree stump to pray. I was alone, but I could feel God listening. So much so, that I often left the prayer time with my eyes full of tears, having encountered His powerful presence. Seek Him, and He will listen. He wants to meet us in that beautiful, sweet spot.

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Sunday Check-In

Sunday morning check-in to build connection, encourage spiritual growth, and reinforce our expectations upstairs.

1. Check-In (5–7 min):

Ask each child:

- What was a high from your week?
- What was a low from your week?
- Any prayer requests?

(Feel free to share your own too!)

2. Rule Reminder (2–3 min):

Go over our 3 rules for upstairs:

1. Respect God – Worship, listen, use kind words
2. Respect People – Be kind, share, follow leaders
3. Respect the Building – Take care of the space & supplies

Thanks for leading with love and consistency!

