

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 9/14/2020-9/18/2020

The following content is based on the message on 9/13/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // USING OUR MINDS

Read Psalm 8. Christians start believing things of the world and don't even know it. So we might ask ourselves, "How can we be shaped into the image of God when we've bought into the narrative of the world?" C.S. Lewis says this about Christianity: "God is no fonder of intellectual slackers than of any other slackers. If you are thinking of becoming a Christian, I warn you, you are embarking on something which is going to take the whole of you, brains and all.... One reason why it needs no special education to be a Christian is that Christianity is an education itself." When we believe that God created all things, we don't have to ignore our minds.

God invites us to use our minds to think critically.

- *How have you understood faith in God and science to be compatible?*
- *How could science be described as the discovery of God's truth?*
- *Set a two minute timer. Sit in silence and reflect on God as trustworthy.*

TUESDAY // GOD CREATED ORDER FROM CHAOS

Read Genesis 1:1-5. In the very beginning, God said that the earth was without form and that it was in chaos. But out of that chaos, God ordered everything into vibrant life. According to Psalm 8, He created everything with His fingers like an artist creates a beautiful painting or sculpture. Most every mythical creation story involves creation being a by-product of a battle. However, God tells a different story. He tells us that He created the world as artist thoughtfully creates art.

God created the world in beautiful artistry.

- *What specific areas of creation make you feel most connected to God (i.e., deserts, forests, mountains, rivers/lakes)? Try to schedule time this week to spend some time of solitude in that area of creation.*
- *What about that part of creation that you identified in the question above speaks to you about the nature of God?*
- *Set a two minute timer. Sit in silence and reflect on God as the Creator of everything.*

WEDNESDAY // GOD IS MINDFUL OF MAN

Read Psalm 8:3-6. We spend a lot of time talking about how scripture and science are compatible with each other. We need to do that because God wants us to use our minds. He wants us to discover things in science. However, the most important

argument for creation is humanity. Scripture tells us that we are not an accident. We were created in the image of God with a purpose. Our purpose is two-fold. All of humanity was created to reflect the image of God. We all do this collectively. However, we also have unique purpose that God breathes into our own life.

God specifically created you with a collective purpose and a unique purpose.

- *What does the diversity of humanity reveal about the nature of God?*
- *In what ways are you discovering how God uniquely made you to reflect God's image? How can you pursue this even more today?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Ask God to show you some of the uniqueness in which He created you. Sit in silence as you ask Him to speak.*

THURSDAY // WHAT IS YOUR BREATH?

Read Genesis 2:4-24. God breathed His life into humanity in order to give us life. Our breath represents the life that God gives us. When a baby is born, he or she inhales breath as their first act. When a person dies, he or she exhales as their final act. Everything in between represents our life. Every breath is the breath of God. God made us rational beings and gave us a soul with morality. He gave us personal dignity.

Every breath of yours comes from the very breath of God.

- *Reflect on how you live your life. Would you say that you find the source of your breath in God or in yourself? Do you feel like you use your breath for God or for yourself?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Take deep breaths in and out. Imagine breathing the life-breath of God as you reflect on God's presence with you.*

FRIDAY // GOD VISITS YOU.

The King James Version of Psalm 8:4 says, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou **visitest** him?" God doesn't just create everything and walk away from His creation. In fact, He does the opposite of that. Jesus loves us so much that He came to earth to rescue His creation. Jesus put on human flesh to walk with us and give Himself for us.

God cares so much that He visited us to save us!

- *What does it tell you about God that He didn't just create us and leave us to our own devices—even after we rebelled against Him?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on the nearness of God to you today. Jesus is with you.*