



5 Daily Devotionals

Day 1 — Why Do You Need the Church?

Key Verse: “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together.” — Hebrews 10:24–25

Reflection

Why are you part of a church? It can be easy to treat worship as simply another item on the weekly calendar. Sometimes we'd rather sleep in, watch a game, clean the house, or enjoy a beautiful morning outside. Yet gathering with God's people is far more than a weekly routine.

The good news is that **church attendance does not save you**. Your salvation does not depend on how many Sundays you attend, how much you serve, or how well you perform. You are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection accomplished what you could never accomplish for yourself.

But because Christ has saved you, He has not called you to live the Christian life alone. God gathers His people together around His Word and His promises. The church is where we receive His gifts and encourage one another in faith.

You don't go to church to earn God's love. **You go because, in Christ, you already have it.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for saving me through Jesus Christ. Help me see gathering with Your people not as an obligation, but as a gift. Give me a heart that desires Your Word, Your presence, and the fellowship of Your people. Amen.

Day 2 — Gathered Around the Word

Key Verse: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.” — Colossians 3:16

Reflection

One of the greatest gifts we receive when we gather as God's people is His Word.

We live in a culture that encourages us to customize everything. We choose our music, our entertainment, our news, and even our food according to our individual preferences. It can be tempting to approach Christianity the same way: “I’ll have Jesus, my Bible, and my faith—but I don’t really need anyone else.”

But Scripture presents a different picture. God's Word is not merely private information for individual Christians. It is something we receive together. We teach one another. We encourage one another. We remind one another of God's promises.

That is why sound teaching matters. The church should remain anchored to God's Word rather than simply telling us what we want to hear. When God's Word is proclaimed faithfully, we hear again the truth we so desperately need: we are sinners who cannot save ourselves, but Christ has accomplished our salvation for us.

So today, don't simply ask, “What did I get out of church?” Ask instead, “**What gift did God give me through His Word?**”

Application

Open your Bible today and read Colossians 3:12–17. Ask God to use His Word to shape the way you love and encourage others.

Day 3 — You Don't Have to Do This Alone

Key Verse: “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2

Reflection

Imagine someone claiming to belong to a family because they had read every history book, looked at every family photograph, and memorized every family document—but they hadn't spoken to another family member in twenty years.

Something would be missing.

In the same way, Christianity is more than knowing information about Jesus. Christ brings us into a family. The Christian life is lived in relationship with other believers. Scripture repeatedly calls us to “one another” relationships: love one another, encourage one another, forgive one another, pray for one another, serve one another, and bear one another's burdens.

We cannot do those things by ourselves.

Christian community can sometimes be messy because churches are filled with sinners—including us. People will disappoint us. Misunderstandings will happen. Yet that doesn't mean community is unnecessary. It means we need the grace of Christ in our relationships.

Jesus didn't save you to be isolated. **He saved you into a family.**

There may be someone around you today who needs encouragement, prayer, forgiveness, or simply a listening ear. Don't underestimate how God might work through you.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for making me part of Your family. Help me move beyond isolation and invest in the people You have placed around me. Give me opportunities today to encourage, serve, forgive, and love another believer. Amen.

Day 4 — More Than Bread and Wine

Key Verse: “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” — Luke 22:19

Reflection

There are moments when we need more than advice. We need God's forgiveness.

The Christian life includes the painful reality that we stumble and fall. We sin against God and against others. We carry guilt, regret, shame, and the consequences of our failures. We need something outside ourselves that assures us that our sins really are forgiven.

That is one of the precious gifts God gives through His church.

When Christians gather around the Lord's Table, we aren't merely participating in a symbolic meal. Christ is truly present with His body and blood in the Sacrament, giving His gifts to His people. As the sermon emphasized, Communion is one of the tangible ways God delivers the forgiveness Christ won for us on the cross.

This is why Christian worship is not primarily about what we accomplish for God. It is about what **God gives to us**.

Christ died once for all. His sacrifice was sufficient. In the Lord's Supper, He gives us the benefits of that sacrifice—His forgiveness, grace, and promises.

You don't come to the altar because you've been good enough. You come because **Jesus is good enough for you**.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Yourself for me. When I am burdened by my sin, turn my eyes away from myself and toward Your cross. Help me trust Your promise of forgiveness and receive Your gifts with faith and gratitude. Amen.

Day 5 — Saved Into a Family

Key Verse: “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.” — 1 Timothy 2:1

Reflection

There are moments in life when we simply need someone to pray with us.

We may be celebrating a tremendous joy or walking through a devastating loss. We may feel lonely, overwhelmed, afraid, or uncertain about what comes next. In those moments, Christian community becomes incredibly precious.

The church gives us people who can pray for us, encourage us, carry our burdens, and remind us of God's promises when we struggle to remember them ourselves. The sermon described this as one of the great gifts of Christian community: we don't have to face life's hardest moments alone.

That's why isolation is so dangerous. We can find information almost anywhere. We can search the internet, ask technology questions, or look for something that makes us feel better. But Christian community offers something fundamentally different: **real people who know us, love us, and bring our needs before the real God in prayer.**

So don't simply attend church and leave unnoticed. Stay. Talk to someone. Join a group. Serve alongside someone. Pray for someone. Let people into your life.

Jesus has not merely saved you *from* something. He has saved you **into a family**—a body of believers gathered around His Word, His forgiveness, His promises, and His love.

Application

This week, intentionally reach out to one person from your church. Ask how you can pray for them—and then actually pray.

Do I Really Need the Church?

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Question:

What is one thing you enjoy most about being part of a church community—and what makes it meaningful to you?

The Big Idea

We are not saved by going to church, but Jesus does not save us to live the Christian life alone. Salvation is God's gift, received by grace through faith in Christ, not something we earn through church attendance, Bible reading, or good works. Yet God gathers His people into a community where we receive His Word, His gifts, encouragement, forgiveness, prayer, and opportunities to serve one another.

The early Christians **“devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”** (Acts 2:42). The Christian faith is personal, but it is never meant to be lived in isolation.

1. We Need God's Word

God creates and strengthens faith through His Word. When Christians gather, we hear Scripture proclaimed, study it together, and encourage one another with the truth of Christ.

Supporting Verses:

- Acts 2:42 — “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”
- Colossians 3:16 — “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”
- Hebrews 10:24–25 — “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together...”

Discuss:

1. Why is regularly gathering around God's Word important for our faith?
2. What can happen to our faith when church and Scripture become optional?
3. How can our group help one another remain rooted in God's Word?

2. We Need One Another

The church is more than a place where we receive information. It is a family and a body. Scripture repeatedly calls Christians to **love, encourage, forgive, serve, pray for, and bear with one another**—things we cannot faithfully practice by ourselves.

Supporting Verses:

- Galatians 6:2 — “Bear one another’s burdens...”
- Romans 12:10 — “Love one another with brotherly affection.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 — “Encourage one another and build one another up.”

Discuss:

1. Which “one another” command is easiest for you? Which is hardest?
2. When have other Christians encouraged or supported you during a difficult season?
3. Who might God be calling you to encourage or serve right now?

3. We Receive Christ’s Gifts

God does not merely give us information about forgiveness—He gives us forgiveness. In the Lord’s Supper, Christ is truly present with His body and blood, giving His people His gifts of forgiveness and strengthening faith.

Supporting Verses:

- Matthew 26:26–28 — Jesus gives His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins.
- 1 Corinthians 10:16–17 — We are united as one body through the one bread.
- Ephesians 2:8–9 — We are saved by grace through faith, not by works.

Discuss:

1. Why is it important to remember that church attendance does not earn our salvation?
2. What comfort do you find in knowing Christ gives His forgiveness through His gifts?
3. How does receiving God’s grace change the way we participate in church?

4. We Need Prayer and Encouragement

Life can be hard, lonely, and overwhelming. God gives us fellow Christians who can listen, encourage us, carry our burdens, and pray for us. The church becomes a place where we both **receive care and become people who care for others.**

Supporting Verse:

- 1 Timothy 2:1 — “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.”

Discuss:

1. Why is it sometimes difficult to let other Christians know when we are struggling?
2. What makes Christian prayer different from simply receiving advice or encouragement?
3. How can our group become a safer and more supportive place for prayer?

Take It Home

The goal isn't simply **“go to church more.”** The deeper question is: **Am I living as part of the family Christ has made me part of?**

This week, choose **one person** to encourage, **one opportunity** to serve, and **one prayer** to bring before God with another Christian.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for saving us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, not because of our works, but because of Your grace. Thank You for gathering us into Your family and giving us Your Word, Your forgiveness, prayer, encouragement, and one another. Forgive us when we become apathetic or treat Your church as something we can take or leave. Help us treasure the gifts You give through Your people and use us to encourage, serve, forgive, and love one another. Strengthen our faith and help us live as members of the body of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.