

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Seeing the Image of God in Others

Devotional

Have you ever walked through a crowded place and realized you didn't really see anyone? We often move through life focused on our own thoughts, needs, and schedules, missing the precious individuals God has placed in our path.

God's Word gives us a radical command that runs counter to our self-focused tendencies. We're called to "honor one another above yourselves." This isn't just polite advice—it's a fundamental reorientation of how we view and treat others.

What does it mean to honor someone? It means recognizing their inherent value as someone created in God's image. Every person you encounter today—the barista making your coffee, your challenging coworker, the family member who frustrates you—bears the divine imprint. They are masterpieces of the Creator, worthy of dignity and respect not because of what they've done, but because of whose they are.

Honoring others above ourselves requires us to truly see people. It means pausing our busy lives long enough to learn names, ask questions, and show genuine interest. When we do this, we reflect the character of Jesus, who never treated people as interruptions but as divine appointments.

Today, challenge yourself to truly see someone. Look beyond the surface and recognize the image of God in them. This simple act of honoring others becomes the foundation of a legacy that truly matters.

Bible Verse

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." - Romans 12:10

Reflection Question

Who is someone in your daily routine that you typically pass by without truly seeing? How might your interactions change if you consciously recognized them as bearing God's image?

Quote

What does it mean to honor another person? Well, it means to treat that person as valuable and precious. And because they have been created in the image of God. You realize that this applies to every person everywhere. There is not one exception.

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes today to see others as You see them—precious, valuable, and worthy of honor. Help me to set aside my self-focus and truly recognize the divine imprint in each person I encounter. Give me courage to honor others above myself in practical ways. Amen.

Day 2: The Path of Humility

Devotional

Our culture celebrates self-promotion. Social media platforms encourage us to highlight our accomplishments, curate our image, and build our personal brand. In this environment, the biblical call to humility seems almost foreign.

Yet Scripture consistently warns about the dangers of pride. "Pride goes before destruction," Solomon wrote, "and a haughty spirit before a fall." These aren't empty threats but spiritual principles woven into the fabric of reality. Pride distorts our vision, damages our relationships, and ultimately leads to painful consequences.

True humility isn't thinking less of yourself—it's thinking of yourself less. It's not self-deprecation or denying your gifts. Rather, it's a proper understanding of who you are in relation to God and others. Humility recognizes both our value as God's creation and our complete dependence on Him.

Jesus modeled this perfectly. Though equal with God, He didn't cling to His divine privileges but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant. The Creator became the servant of all. If Jesus—perfect and all-powerful—chose the path of humility, how much more should we?

Humility isn't something we can manufacture on our own. It requires divine intervention. Rather than praying, "Lord, keep me humble" (which assumes we're already there), we should pray, "Lord, make me humble." This honest prayer acknowledges our natural bent toward pride and our need for transformation.

Bible Verse

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." - Proverbs 16:18

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to practice humility? What might be one practical step you could take today to put someone else's interests above your own?

Quote

True humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.

Prayer

Father, I confess my tendency toward pride and self-focus. Please make me humble. Transform my heart so that I naturally consider others above myself. Help me follow the example of Jesus, who emptied Himself for the sake of others. May I decrease so that You might increase in my life. Amen.

Day 3: Building Bridges in a Divided World

Devotional

We live in fractured times. Political divisions, cultural differences, and social media echo chambers have created deep chasms between people. Conversations quickly become battlegrounds, and relationships suffer under the weight of disagreement.

In this divided landscape, followers of Jesus have a unique opportunity—and responsibility. We're called to be bridge-builders, people who honor others regardless of differences. This doesn't mean abandoning truth or convictions, but it does mean approaching others with genuine respect and care.

When we honor others above ourselves, we create space for real connection. We listen before speaking. We seek to understand before being understood. We recognize that every person, regardless of their views or background, bears God's image and deserves dignity.

The early church modeled this radical community. Despite vast differences in ethnicity, social status, and background, they demonstrated a unity that astonished the watching world. They were known by their love for one another—a love that transcended the divisions of their day.

Today, in a world quick to cancel and condemn, Christians should stand out by our commitment to honor all people. This doesn't mean we never disagree, but it does mean we disagree with respect, humility, and genuine care for the other person. When we do this, we create bridges where others see only chasms.

Bible Verse

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited." - Romans 12:16

Reflection Question

What relationship in your life is currently strained by differences or disagreement? How might intentionally honoring that person above yourself help build a bridge of understanding?

Quote

We live in a culture that is so divided and so broken. We live in a culture in which if you say the wrong thing the wrong way, man. We as followers of Jesus ought not to be that way. We as followers of Jesus, should be the people who are out in this culture building bridges by honoring one another above ourselves.

Prayer

God of reconciliation, in a world that's quick to divide and slow to understand, make me an instrument of Your peace. Help me to honor others above myself, especially those with whom I disagree. Give me the courage to build bridges where others see only walls. May my life reflect the unity You desire for Your church. Amen.

Day 4: The Ministry of Presence

Devotional

In our busy, distracted world, one of the greatest gifts we can offer is our full presence. Too often, we're physically present but mentally elsewhere—checking our phones, thinking about our to-do lists, or planning our next words instead of truly listening.

Honoring others above ourselves means being fully present with them. It means setting aside our agendas and distractions to truly see and hear the people God places in our path. This ministry of presence reflects God's heart—He is the One who sees us completely (Psalm 139) and knows us by name.

Jesus modeled this beautifully. Despite crowds pressing in and urgent needs all around, He gave His full attention to individuals—the woman at the well, blind Bartimaeus, the children others tried to send away. He wasn't just physically present; He was emotionally and spiritually engaged.

Sharing Christ with others isn't primarily about memorizing evangelistic formulas. It starts with caring enough to learn names, ask questions, and enter into others' joys and sorrows. When we bear one another's burdens and celebrate one another's victories, we create space for authentic relationship—the soil in which spiritual conversations naturally grow.

Today, practice the ministry of presence. Put away your phone during conversations. Make eye contact. Ask questions and truly listen to the answers. Remember names and use them. These simple acts of honoring others create ripples of impact we may never fully see this side of heaven.

Bible Verse

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." - Romans 12:15

Reflection Question

Who in your life needs your full presence today? How can you set aside distractions to truly honor them with your undivided attention?

Quote

What I've learned about sharing Christ with people around me, it isn't a matter of going in and taking my big Bible and telling them the four spiritual laws. It's about caring for them, seeing them, knowing them, calling them by name.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being fully present with me. Forgive me for the times I've been physically present but mentally absent with others. Help me to honor the people You place in my path by giving them my full attention. May I reflect Your love by truly seeing others, knowing their names, and entering into their joys and sorrows. Amen.

Day 5: Creating a Legacy of Honor

Devotional

What kind of legacy are you building? Many of us instinctively think about achievements, possessions, or financial security. But the most powerful legacies aren't built on what we accumulate or accomplish—they're built on who we become and how we treat others along the way.

A legacy of honor is created one interaction at a time. It's formed through daily decisions to put others first, to extend kindness when it's not convenient, to show respect when it's not required. These seemingly small choices compound over time, creating an influence that outlasts our physical presence.

The beautiful thing about a legacy of honor is that it's available to everyone. You don't need wealth, position, or special talents to honor others above yourself. You simply need a willing heart that's being transformed by God's grace.

When we commit to honoring at least one person every day, something remarkable happens. What begins as an intentional practice soon becomes a joyful habit. We develop eyes that naturally see opportunities to elevate others. Our hearts become more attuned to needs around us. We find ourselves reflecting Christ's character without even trying.

Today, begin building your legacy of honor. Choose one person to intentionally honor above yourself. Tomorrow, do it again. As this becomes your daily practice, you'll find that you're creating something far more valuable than any material legacy—you're creating an enduring influence that points others to Christ.

Bible Verse

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." - Ephesians 4:32

Reflection Question

What is one specific way you can honor someone today? How might consistent acts of honor create a legacy that outlasts your lifetime?

Quote

I want you to be intentional and think about how you can honor another person above yourself. And I suspect by the time you get to Tuesday or Wednesday, it's not going to just be one. It's going to be a joyful habit.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I want to leave a legacy that matters eternally. Help me to focus less on achievements and possessions and more on becoming a person who consistently honors others above myself. May my daily choices create an enduring influence that draws others closer to You. Make honoring others a joyful habit in my life that reflects Your character to a watching world. Amen.