

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONALS

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i dare you

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I DARE YOU

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intro

LET'S SET OUR PRIORITIES FOR
THE NEXT SIX WEEKS:

Learn from Scriptures. Explore it. God has something to say in the mystery of the ancient text and it's relevant to your life. He will open you up to what he is daring to create through you. Throughout the next six weeks we will go through Genesis 1-3 together and you are encouraged to revisit the scriptures throughout the week. See what happens as you listen to him daily.

ASK THREE QUESTIONS AS YOU
READ:

1. What is God saying to me personally?
2. What do I need to change?
3. What action is required of me?

so here we go!

the first dare

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

- Genesis 1:1-5

week one

the first dare

BEGINNING

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

God has the ability to take nothing but space and put HEAVENS in it and to take darkness and say, “Be EARTH,” and it all became real. The formless took on shape and substance.

Think of 2019 as your beginning! “Old things are passed away. Behold all things are new.”

God in his creative capacity creates anew. It will take a mental reset for you to take on YOUR new beginning and let the old go.

Let it go. Hands open and release it. We can't start strong with hands and minds full of the weight that keeps us weak. We will start over together.

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What do you need to release in order to take on your new beginning?
2. How can you step into your full strength?

week one

the first dare

FORMLESS

And God said, “Let there be light and there was light.” He You were created in His image and his image is in you. His strength is to be strength in you. Let God inhabit your body, mind, decisions, and course in life.

WHAT INFORMS YOU, FORMS YOU. Give him space to form you. Stop the struggle and ceaseless hustle of your own image making and be formless and see what he will create when you allow his presence and authority in your life. Be careful here because God often comes on low volume so don't miss the teaching because you expect flash and sparkles. He isn't interested in making you always feel the “feels” but in Spirit and truth he comes with raw honesty to help you rise. He is your greatest trainer, wisest counselor, and profound teacher. Follow in his way and be okay to let your own master life plan submit to his most perfect way. Learn well and it will pay big.

According to Genesis 1:2, the earth was once formless and its original palette was empty. Our excellent Creator began the investment to make it exist, take shape, to bring to life his imagination of Earth.

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What does not yet exist that you are called to create?
2. Do you allow space in your life to let God shape who you are?
3. What has God's raw honest truth taught you this past year? How have you decided to move forward with what He has told you?

week one

the first dare

LIGHT

And God said, "Let there be light and there was light." He separated that light from darkness. The darkness was called Night.

From the beginning, "God saw that the light was good." Light was essential in creation and spiritual light is imperative in generating healthy patterns.

Shine a light on your deepest desire for this year. Don't be afraid to look at it and for some it would mean admitting that you want it.

I dare you to say it out loud!
I dare you to ask for it!

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What are your deepest desires for 2019?
2. Are there dreams that you have that are so big you are afraid to ask God for them?
3. What are healthy patterns you need to implement to become who you want to be?

week one

i dare you challenge

For the I DARE YOU challenge, we will take time each evening and morning this week to reset and refocus.

I dare you to say it out loud!

I dare you to ask for it!

I DARE YOU to write in one short statement the one challenge you declare for 2019.

EVENING

Each evening this week, take time to pray about your challenge. Ask for wisdom from God about your challenge and listen for answers or clarity or hope.

This week, help your group by responding to each individual about their challenge with one sentence of meaningful encouragement or a word of help.

I DARE YOU to end your day by thanking God for his goodness toward you and by writing down any positive or negative movement you have had toward your challenge.

MORNING

I DARE YOU to begin your day with Jesus. Pray for his guidance and light on your path. Acknowledge that he leads and you follow.

I DARE YOU to reread the scriptures in this week's bible study and meditate asking God for insight and application.

I DARE YOU to do two healthy things daily towards your challenge.

I DARE YOU to write at least five major steps that must happen for your challenge to succeed. Bring them to the next group!

Caution: if your challenge is too small, trust your friends to tell you, then be brave enough to change it.

week one

the second dare

WHAT ARE YOUR STEPS FOR SUCCESS?

Plot out five steps for success that will help you achieve and conquer your challenge over the next five weeks:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Be prepared to share one or all of your steps with your group!

week two

the second dare

SCRIPTURE

And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

- Genesis 1:6-8

SKY

God created a “vault” or expanse between the waters. So there was water. When was water created? Be okay with asking questions of what is written in the Bible?

On the second day, God created the vault and called it SKY. Sky is seen in the ancient world as a dome like barrier between heaven and earth. It was the expanse as God separated creation into realms.

The Hebrews believed there was a heavenly ocean in the SKY.

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. When you look at the sky, what captures your attention?
2. What sky do you love the most? Describe it. It will tell us about you, so do not be afraid to share.
3. What do you feel when you look out the window of an airplane?

week two

the second dare

SCRIPTURE

For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

-Psalm 108:4

HEAVENS

Humans have always wanted to reach the heavens. We learned to fly to explore the expanse of sky. We reach further still in going from our skies to the universe beyond.

In his great love for us, God created humans uniquely designed

1. with a longing for destiny and eternity
2. with a driving curiosity
3. for creating meaning out of chaos
4. with the ability to accumulate knowledge
5. for personal growth and change
6. with an ever expanding imagination
7. for creating beauty
8. with a spiritual heart longing for its connection to God.

God has gifted you with abilities to use your longing for destiny, curiosity, imagination and creativity to connect to him and his eternal purposes for you. You were never supposed to live without meaning and purpose in life. The sky is filled with meaning.

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What is the poet saying about God as he looks up to the sky? Describe love that big.

week two

the second dare

SCRIPTURE

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

-Psalm 19:1-4

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. "The heavens declare the glory of God." Glory is God's raw presence.
How do the heavens declare that?
It says "the skies proclaim the work of his hands." How is this happening?
2. "Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge." How does the sky pour forth speech and knowledge?
Reread verses 3-4, what is the messaging in the heavens for us that we must learn?

i dare you challenge

For the I DARE YOU challenge, we will take time each evening and morning this week to reset and refocus.

This week, engage your challenge with blue sky thinking:

What is blue sky thinking? It is a mindset that removes limitations.

It is thinking about your life without self- doubt, financial constraints, and even ignoring laws of physics. Believe it is possible. Dream, imagine and pray about the 2019 you want!

Some tools that promote Blue Sky Thinking are:

1. Allow change and surprise to challenge you.
2. Attack routine with adventure, inquiry and investigation.
3. Awaken your curiosity by wrestling with life questions.
4. Make sense out of something ridiculous.
5. Create meaning out of chaos.
6. Let the world be your classroom.
7. Explore creation for signs of God. What is he saying to you?
8. Exercise Faith. "Everything is possible for one who believes." (Mark 9:23)

week two

i dare you challenge

EVENING

- I DARE YOU to reread Psalm 19:1-4 and look for signs of God in the sky.
- I DARE YOU to start a list of all the ways God is speaking in the heavens.
- I DARE YOU to lay down and watch the sky and study its changes. Let it teach you.
- I DARE YOU to text a team member and encourage them.

MORNING

- I DARE YOU to post your challenge on your mirror and read it out loud daily.
- I DARE YOU keep a journal of your progress.
- I DARE YOU to review your five challenge steps and chart your progress.
- I DARE YOU to be curious this week. Share what you learn.
- I DARE YOU to review blue sky thinking tools. How can they help you?

week two