

# THE WORD *for your life*

90-DAY DEVOTIONAL



The Intentional Living Center®

## Introduction

Each day's devotion begins with a promise from God's Word, followed by a short story dealing with everyday life. We all need to take a break from the hustle and bustle of today's fast paced world, and there is no better way than taking a moment to stop and listen for the voice of God.

At the Intentional Living Center, it is our hope and prayer that you will experience God's love and blessing in your life. We hope that this 90-Day Devotional, **The Word for Your Life**, will help get you started into developing or continuing a habit of daily devotions.

The Intentional Living Center Team

## The Perfect Time to Begin Again

*And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.* Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV)

Richard sat on the floor of the living room watching his three-month-old baby girl. She was happy to lie on her back as long as she could look up at him, catch his eye occasionally or hear him speak softly to her. She was the perfect picture of where he was with his life today—everything was brand new for him as well.

He and his wife, Kay, were told they would never have children. The news devastated him and caused him to be angry with God. He walked away from everything He knew about God for the first few years they were married. The road he chose almost cost him his marriage. Then, at the point of divorce, he asked Kay and God to forgive him. It was slow going at first. Even though he fully surrendered to God, his wife had a hard time trusting him. He had to work hard to rebuild their relationship.

Then, just a year ago, Kay told him she was miraculously pregnant. God began to do a work in his life like never before. With the birth of his daughter, he began to see more clearly what God might have felt when he looked at him—as His son. How much it must have hurt God's heart for him to sin against Him.

At their daughter's baby dedication, he made a promise before God and his church congregation to live for his wife and daughter and to love them both as much as he could understand that God loved him.

God is a God of new beginnings. No matter what your past looks like, God is able to give you a fresh, clean start.

### Today's One Thing

What ONE THING would you like a fresh clean start with?

### Going Deeper

Ezekiel 36:25-27; Leviticus 19

## A Heart of Integrity

*For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10 (NIV)*

Nathan's year had been extremely difficult, especially financially. He was going to school full time and had finally caught a break by qualifying for a grant and financial assistance for school and housing. There was one catch—if he got a job during the summer, his housing subsidy could be lost.

An acquaintance approached him after hearing of his dilemma and offered to hire him on a cash only basis. "No one will know, and I won't send you a 1099 at the end of the year," he said. The man's offer was really tempting at first, but Nathan knew in his heart it wasn't honest.

"Thank you for the offer," he told the man, "but I am a Christian and I can't do something like that. Perhaps no one else would find out, but I want to live my life obedient to Christ. He will take care of my needs. I have to trust Him."

As you grow in your faith, you have to decide if you're going to be completely obedient to what the Bible teaches, or you're not. It's a decision you have to make. Living an intentional life in Christ will constantly bring you to a point of decision based on what you really believe and value.

### Today's One Thing

Are you considering something that seems on the edge? Will you choose to be intentional in pleasing Christ today?

### Going Deeper

Proverbs 10:9; Luke 16:1-13

## Lessons from the Little Ones

*And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3 (NIV)*

One Sunday morning at church, Dena took her four-year-old to his Sunday School class. Her son, Christopher, was the only regular attendee that was a boy; normally the room was full of little girls. This particular morning a new little boy was there and he was a little different—he didn't have any hands.

Dena was actually a little nervous about how Christopher might respond to the child. She stood back and watched as Christopher hung his coat on his hook. He then walked directly to the table where the new little boy stood and introduced himself.

Interestingly, he looked at the little boy and said, "I'm Christopher! Who are you?" The other child said his name was Michael. Dena gasped when Christopher blurted out, "You don't have any hands, so what can you do?" The little boy was not upset with Christopher's words, but rather proceeded to show Christopher how he used the end of his arms to move things around. He pulled out Christopher's chair and his own and they both sat down. Christopher pulled a toy car out of his pocket and showed it to Michael.

Dena let out her breath and realized that another mom she didn't know was standing behind her. She introduced herself to Michael's mother, who replied to her, "We're new in town and it looks like Michael has his first friend."

In the eyes of God, we are all His children. We are all unique with different gifts, abilities and challenges. It's important to see one another from the perspective of what we can do—and not what we can't do—as we grow together in our faith.

### Today's One Thing

What are some things you admire in someone else that perhaps you can't do? Share that admiration with them today.

### Going Deeper

Mark 10:13-16; Matthew 18:1-9