

FBC TODAY

U N L E A S H I N G T H E G O S P E L

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ARTICLE

Devotion, One Day at a Time

**Prayer Spotlight
Prayer for Mothers**



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MAIN SERVICE

| Physical & Youtube |

Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

YOUTH SERVICE

| Physical |

Sundays 8:45am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Ages 3 to 12
(Preschool to std 6)

Physical Classes

8:45am / 11:15am

Devotion, One Day at a Time

(Taken from FBC Staff Devotion on 26 April 2023)

I have contemplated multiple times before scheduling my name in to do this. So bear with me as I go and I promise it will be a short and simple one. My question here is – besides the hope in embracing unity or trying to achieve it, how can weekly staff devotion help you or help one another? Have the devotions thus far help you, minister to you or benefit you in any way?

When my kids were younger, I would do devotions with them every night using a children's picture bible, as well as illustrating real life stories or events as easy examples for them to understand. In the same way, I learned too. And I believe for me to be able to do that it is definitely not me but the work of the Spirit.



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Let me share a little bit on how devotion has left the footprints of God for me and my family. Do I still do devotion with my kids today? Not anymore. Instead we try our best to come together in our family altar to pray for one another and for others. It's not easy for us to do as everyone is older now and having our own set of schedules and sometimes difficult, where at times the unpredictable happens like when one of them has a silent tantrum, or when I am tired or when some have fallen asleep.

In a way, devotion and scriptures has somewhat become a personal parental guideline from GOD. For one, I am on my own, I cannot obtain parental guidelines unless it's from another parent who shares the same plight as I do. But how many of us are also experiencing trials and errors of our own even not as a single parent? Hence God is the perfect Father and His words become life and live guidelines to those He loves, to those who He never turns His back on, who never leave nor forsake them.

Even though, as an incomplete and incompetent parent - ever so imperfect in my parenting way, but one thing for sure and it's an undeniable fact that it is by the grace of GOD I am here with them thus far.

"But He said to me, MY grace is sufficient for you, for MY power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ' power may rest on me"

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

(YOUTH Camp 2022) - Devotion Night for Micah

Micah hardly texts me but on the last day of Camp Night, he did the unexpected.

Mom, make sure you don't worry too much, don't stress out. Your struggles and suffering will be lifted up to God. You can share it with people you trust. God has a plan for everyone, you are playing a part in the wonderful and amazing plan raising us up. Thank you



And he continues with another note:

Hi mom,

Thanks mom for signing me up for this youth camp. Anyways if I have hurt you in any way I would like to apologize and would like to ask for your forgiveness. This is my gift to you. It is nothing expensive but what comes for the heart is cherished. So once again I am sorry. And have a great time at home. Thank you for everything.

Love Micah

Why Micah, and not the rest? Micah is the only one who shares deeply of his encounter with God. The things he shares with me are very deep in the Lord and sometimes I am amazed at His wonders about God. And yes the things I share about him today are with his consent. You see, Micah has little to no connection with his earthly father since birth. He is an insecure boy and he is selective with people he talks to due to trust issues. So I chose Micah because Micah has a deep connection with His heavenly Father who is His faithful friend and God.

One of our random conversations alone in the car that I penned down:

You know in the Bible it says to put God first. So you should also put God first and not worry about us. Because you are also learning about God. And you know that God is always there for us and He will provide for us. So continue learning about Him and dive deeper into Him. Even if you leave your family behind because you put God first, God will always bring you back to them and find a way to provide for them. Because in this world we are one big family built in Christ.

He marvels at His creation, the details of how small we are, and allows us to have free will. He has the authority and power and could have created us to obey Him. But God didn't. He created us to have free will. We are the ones who constantly rebel against him. But God still loves us.

How we should be disciplined in our devotion

Devotion is a discipline. Think of it as doing a workout. We work out to be fit, to be stronger. It's a discipline to do it. After a while, our schedule may be filled or fully occupied at times that we may miss a training session. Then it leaves that desire Like something is amidst and makes time to do it regardless just to maintain the consistency, the habit of doing. As a kid, we were always told to do devotion as a discipline. I remember there this one time, we were all instructed to go to our quiet space and talk to God. After a while, you have come to understand how amazing God is and the way He works changes you and then it becomes a natural desire to talk to Him like a friend who understands you even in the circumstances you are.

Devotion is not a checklist, something to be done and submitted but rather it is out of our heart's desire and a natural pull to God because of our relationship with Him. Devotion is not a scheduled timetable like in a class or an assignment but rather it's an event for edifying and uplifting each other in our community. Although we have since stopped doing devotion like we used to due to circumstances, I grew up knowing God because of the devotion that was done when I was younger by the constant discipline.

~ Micah Andrew

I was told long ago that my ministry begins at home. Back then when I did devotion, I had no end goal, I just did because that was what impressed upon me to do, to **"train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."** Proverbs 22:6. Now that when I look back at them and how they even remember bible stories like the chariots of fire, they remembered the story of Naaman who washed himself in the Jordan river and many more that I could not even recall doing with them.

So, is devotion important? Yes. Why? Because I believe all things work two ways. Like ministering to others may also be reflected and benefiting back to ourselves. Same goes with devotion being sown as early at the young age in hopes that one day it may ripen to bear its fruits.

As a mom, my greatest fear when I have kids - was to see my kids leave God. I was reminded that in Proverbs 22:6, it does not guarantee my children will not fall astray, but I can be assured that as the Word puts it, when they are older the foundation that has been laid in them will surface and will remind them of what was taught. That is where coming back to the Lord will make them a fervent Christian.

My only hope is to see them grow in Him, to follow Him and be with Him all the days of their life.

The song "One Day At A Time" reminded me to take one day at a time, not to worry what tomorrow will bring:

**One Day At A Time sweet Jesus,
That's All I'm Asking Of You
Just Give Me The Strength,
To Do Everyday What I Have To Do
Yesterday's Gone Sweet Jesus,
And Tomorrow May Never Be Mine
Lord Help Me Today, Show Me The Way
One Day At A Time**



Written By Ann Lim
Ann serves as a full-time staff at FBC



Prayer for Mothers

- Thank you, Lord, for our mothers and sisters. Thank you for the unique role You have purposed for them in the lives of their children, in their families, in the church, and in the community. We pray that You would keep their homes warm with love, give ear to their heart's desires, and bless them with Your favour as they journey through the different seasons of life in faith and perseverance.
- For our single mothers, we pray You would lavish Your goodness and grace upon them. Sustain them as they take on the sole responsibility of parenting and providing for their children. As they rise to face each day, open their eyes to see Your great faithfulness and Your mercies that are new every morning.
- For our mothers who grieve the loss of a child, we pray You would be so very near to their aching hearts. May they experience comfort and compassion through Your Spirit and Your people. Keep them in Your loving embrace and saturate them with Your peace that surpasses all understanding.
- For our mothers who are expecting, we pray for Your hand of protection to cover them. Help them to put their confidence in You, the Creator and Giver of life, as they deal with the challenges of pregnancy, celebrate the miracle of life, and eagerly await the birth of their child.
- For our sisters who long to be mothers, we pray for Your peace and comfort as they pass through the time of unmet request. You open and close wombs according to your will. All powerful God, help them to trust the goodness behind Your will and timing.