

WEEK 1 - CATCH A WAVE

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

1. Waves are a powerful force. They move water and shape the land. What waves have shaped who you are today? Think of people and events. How did these waves affect you?
2. In what ways have you been a wave impacting people and the world around you? What skills, resources, and experiences do you have that could be used to create a positive impact?
3. Do you know what some of God's dreams for your life are? If so, share one of those dreams with the group.
4. God's dreams for our lives are discovered through prayer. What benefits have you experienced from prayer? How have you experienced prayer changing you personally?
5. We go where our best prayers lead us. What do you think about praying the prayer: "Lord, use me to create waves of grace." How do you think God might respond to this prayer?
6. Describe what you think your life will be like five years from now. How close is this to where you think God wants you to be five years from now? What would you need to do to get there?
7. Think about something you may be withholding from God. If you surrendered that something to God, what kind of waves could be created?
8. What fears might be holding you back from creating more waves?
9. We sometimes want God to prove Himself to us so that we can trust Him. However, God wants us to trust Him so that He can prove Himself. What is the difference between these two scenarios? What is your personal experience in this situation?
10. Part of God's dream is that you create waves so that others can benefit from the beauty and power you helped create. What is something God might be leading you to do? Think of things that keep popping up in your mind or in conversations with others. What is your next step in making this dream a reality?

Catch a Wave this Week

Pray this daily:

"Lord, use me to create waves of grace."

During your prayers and conversations with others, listen for an opportunity to do something new and different that fits your life dream. Set aside any fears that are holding you back and give it a try. Look for God's presence and encouragement before, during, and after. If you recognize an opportunity or dream God may be inviting you to act on, catch the wave!

Guided Prayer

Dear God,

Throughout time You have shown repeatedly that You have big dreams for people's lives. You have big dreams for each of us. Your dreams for my life are bigger and better than I could ever imagine myself, and I can't make it come true on my own. Please show me the dreams You have for me. Lord, what do You want to do through me?

My desire for comfort and security are high. I have duties and responsibilities. I am busy with many things. It's difficult for me to imagine what my life would be like if I started to make changes and take risks. Being different can be uncomfortable. Our society scorns failure. Please help me overcome my fears and reservations about pursuing Your dreams for me. Specifically, I need to work on my fears of...

Thank You for loving me enough to have a big dream for my life. Help me to open my heart and my mind to understand Your dreams for me. Please help me overcome my fears that are preventing me from pursuing these dreams. Keep moving me in the right direction...always towards You. And, Lord, thank You for continuing to be patient with me as I grow.

Amen.

WEEK 2 - MAKE MORE WAVES

1. Why would people rather be known as “generous” than “stingy”? What difference does it make?
2. Describe a time when you gave a gift to someone and in return you were also blessed. What was that like for you? What wave was created from the gift?
3. What are some of the best gifts God has given you? How have they created waves in your lives and the lives of others?
4. Jesus says: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.” If you reviewed your spending habits, what would they say about where your heart is?
5. How are you currently investing your time, money, and energy? What waves are being created from that investment? What are you receiving in return from that investment?
6. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rank how you feel when you give your financial resources? 1 = Reluctant – 10 = Cheerful. How can you move closer to cheerful?
7. Generosity is God’s gift to us. How do you feel about that phrase? How has generosity—either giving or receiving—been a blessing to you in the past?
8. God can do more with your 90% than you can do with your 100%. Do you believe this statement? How have you experienced this to be true?
9. If you aren’t tithing or practicing generosity, what is holding you back from moving forward in this area of life? What effect might tithing have on your life? What kind of waves do you think you would experience through greater generosity?
10. The three times we most look like God are when we serve, when we forgive, and when we give. What waves are created when we do these things? What is your next step in being restored in God’s image?

Make More Waves This Week

Generosity makes waves whose impact reaches farther than we know. Practice generosity sometime this week. Reflect on your experience. Write down how you felt while giving. Make a list of all the possible waves that could result from you giving this gift.

Guided Prayer

Dear God,

Money is a constant topic on my mind. I spend most of my days working to earn it while I'd rather be spending time with the people I love. Money seems to cause stress. I have to decide where and how to spend it. I let it define my success. I always desire more and am never content. There are so many issues that money brings into my life, but I specifically need help with...

I don't want money to control my life. I would much rather give control to You. I know that tithing is important. It supports the ministries of the church and helps spread the Kingdom of God. It also helps me to be wise with money and prevents me from worshipping it. Yet, it is still so hard to give sometimes. Help me trust You instead of my bank account. Help me remember that my money is a gift from You in the first place. Help me see how my giving is multiplied through the ministry of the church. I want to give cheerfully and abundantly. In order to become a more cheerful giver, help me experience...

Thank You for all the blessings that You have given me. I want to use them to bless others. Help weaken the power that money has over me. Comfort me when money causes stress on my family. I trust You with my finances. I choose to give cheerfully knowing that my gift will multiply. It is more rewarding to give than to receive.

Amen.

WEEK 3 - RIDE THE WAVE

1. How well do you do when it comes to sending thank-you notes? Are you the person who gets them out right away, weeks later, or maybe never? Why do you suppose this is?
2. How do you respond when you receive gratitude? Is it difficult for you to accept gratitude from others? Why or why not?
3. Expressing gratitude can bless the person expressing it and the person receiving it. Describe a time when you have felt blessed because you expressed gratitude toward someone else. How was that a wave for you?
4. What are some reasons people are not as grateful as they could be?
5. The Bible teaches us to give thanks even when our circumstances aren't ideal. How would this be helpful? How can we be grateful when things aren't going our way?
6. What are some of the biggest blessings in your life right now that you could thank God for? Is gratitude toward God something you practice regularly? What are some ways we can express gratitude toward Him?
7. Greed says if I have more, then I will be happy. Gratitude says I'm blessed and content with what I have. Do you struggle with greed? What negative impact does greed have on your life?
8. How does gratitude create positive waves?
9. Materialism says I am what I own. Generosity says I am who I help others become by gratefully creating waves from my abundance. What kind of waves does materialism create? What kind of waves does generosity create?
10. How does gratitude lead to generosity?

Ride the Wave this Week

This week try keeping a Gratitude Journal. Each day write down all of the things that you're thankful for. Include people, material blessings, events, and the little things. During your daily prayer time, thank God for everything on your list and ride the wave of gratitude.

Guided Prayer

I have so much to thank You for. You have given me every blessing in life and have even more in store for me in the future. Help me remember that every good thing is from You. Create a more grateful spirit within me. Forgive my ungratefulness. When I forget to give thanks, I become less content. I become less aware of how much You love me. Sometimes I still struggle to show You the gratitude You deserve because...

I want to give You gratitude for all that I have. When I'm grateful I experience more satisfaction, joy, and hope. I could never list all the things that You've given me and done for me. You are responsible for giving me every great person, opportunity, and moment in my life. Often I get so focused on what I don't have and on what's going wrong, that I don't even notice what I do have and what's going right. Today, I'm especially thankful for...

Thank You for all the blessings that you have given me. Help me become a more grateful person. Help me notice the little things. Help me to show gratitude to the people in my life. Replace dissatisfaction with contentment, stress with joy, complaining with appreciation. I give You gratitude.

Amen.