

ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

WEEK 2: SACRIFICE

DAY 1: READ ROMANS 12:1-2

Paul calls our active choice to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God an act of spiritual worship. Every moment of our daily lives can be consistent acts of worship, holy and pleasing to God! How can you consistently sacrifice your selfish wants, needs or plans and, instead, choose to serve Jesus this week? Practically speaking, how can you choose to demonstrate your submission to God and commitment to the call of Jesus today? Do it!

DAY 2: READ ROMANS 12:3-8, 1 CORINTHIANS 12, EPHESIANS 4:11-16

As people who all share the common blood and promise of Jesus Christ, we share one body, but we are all called, equipped and prepared by the Holy Spirit for different tasks for different purposes. What about you, right here, right now? Where do you feel God calling you? If you're already serving, how have you seen God prepare you for the role you're in now? What about those around you? Sometimes, it's easier to see God's calling, purpose and gifts in others around us. Find a way to tell that person/those people how you see God preparing them for His glory. We all need love and encouragement!

DAY 3: READ 1 PETER 1:3-25

A living sacrifice makes a conscious decision and effort to continually submit to the Lord and humbly, fervently pursue His call at the cost of his/her life. Jesus is our perfect model of humility and love and we are the living proof of His righteousness. Just as Jesus had every right to choose not to endure the humiliation and death we thrust upon Him, He still chose to do it because He was obedient and a living sacrifice. We also must choose: we can humble ourselves and commit the rest of our lives to serving Jesus, no matter the cost or we can choose to live comfortably until we die. What's your conscious decision today? Tomorrow? The day after?

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DAY 4: READ 1 PETER 2, 1 PETER 4

Sacrifice implies a cost and the Bible is pretty clear about what needs to be thrown away and why. Take time to pray for God to reveal the areas in your heart that haven't yet been put on the altar and sacrificed. When the Lord reveals it, get rid of it.

DAY 5: READ 1 PETER 3:8-22

Though the path of a lifetime of sacrifice for Jesus isn't easy, be encouraged that He's worth every bit of it. We now know Jesus because of a multitude of other people who sacrificed big and small to go near and far to spread the Good News. By being obedient to the call of Jesus, we get to participate in that great legacy of hope! Be encouraged that our sacrifices are not in vain!

DAY 6: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-23

As we learn more about serving as Christians at Mt. Horeb, it can be easy to lose perspective of our various roles, purposes and chosen areas to serve. Let's remember that while we sacrifice and choose to serve those around us, God is at work. He is the only reason for lasting healing and the only hope for salvation. We can slip into thinking our efforts and the importance of our roles are more crucial than the sole source of our salvation - Jesus Christ. He must be our one foundation and the sole purpose for our efforts; anything else will fail, tire, hurt us and those we're trying to serve. Time to ask the hard questions: do you truly believe that God will still accomplish His ministry whether you accomplish your tasks or not? Take time to consider how you might be placing more importance on your role in serving than on God's authority and ability to revive and rescue.

DAY 7: READ 1 PETER 5

Let's stay humble, resisting the devil by the power of the Holy Spirit, casting all our love, affections, cares and wants at the feet of Jesus. Let's remember today to treat our lives and the way we spend our aging bodies as acts of worship, desiring for them to be holy and pleasing to the God who loves us so well.