

#### Day 1: Welcoming the Kingdom Reading: Luke 18:15-17

Devotional: Jesus' words about receiving the kingdom of God like a little child challenge our understanding of faith. This isn't about childlike innocence, but about welcoming God's kingdom with open arms and hearts, just as Jesus welcomed children. Reflect on how you've been receiving God's kingdom in your life. Have you been fully embracing it, or holding parts of yourself back? Today, practice welcoming God's presence and rule in every aspect of your life - your thoughts, actions, and relationships. Ask God to help you open your heart more fully to His kingdom.

#### Day 2: Seeing the Marginalized Reading: Luke 7:36-50

Devotional: Jesus consistently reached out to those society ignored or rejected. In today's passage, we see Him welcoming a woman deemed unworthy by others. Who are the marginalized or overlooked people in your community? Ask God to open your eyes to see those He wants you to notice and welcome. Reflect on any biases or prejudices that might prevent you from fully embracing others as Jesus did. Pray for the courage and compassion to step out of your comfort zone and show Christ's love to someone unexpected today.

#### Day 3: The Challenge of Comfort Reading: Luke 18:18-30

Devotional: The rich ruler's encounter with Jesus reveals how our comfort zones can become barriers to fully following Christ. What are the "comfortable" aspects of your life that might be hindering your spiritual growth or service to others? It could be material possessions, routines, or even relationships. Today, ask God to show you if there's anything He's calling you to "sell" or let go of in order to follow Him more closely. Remember, the reward of following Jesus far outweighs any earthly comfort we might cling to.

#### Day 4: Living as Christ's Body Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Devotional: As Christians, we're called to be Christ's body on earth, reflecting His character and continuing His mission. This passage reminds us of the diverse yet unified nature of the church. Reflect on how your life and actions represent Christ to those around you. Are there ways you can better embody Christ's love and welcome to others? Consider one specific way you can use your unique gifts or position to extend Christ's love to someone today, especially to those who might feel unwelcome or unworthy.

## Day 5: The Power of Welcome Reading: Romans 15:5-7

Devotional: Paul's exhortation to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us encapsulates the heart of the gospel. Christ's welcome to us was costly, sacrificial, and complete - extending even when we were still sinners. How can you extend this same radical welcome to others today? Think about someone in your life who might be difficult to welcome - perhaps someone who has hurt you or someone very different from you. Pray for the strength to welcome them as Christ has welcomed you. Remember, our ability to welcome others flows from our experience of God's welcome to us.