



a 31-day devotional journey through the life of Jesus  
by R.Brian Phillips

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

There are two things I'd like you to know about me . . .

One, I'm no better or different than anyone else. I, too, have faced troubles in my life, and made poor choices along the way. And, all too often (or, maybe not often enough), I've prayed the words of King David, of David and Goliath fame, "Oh Lord, have mercy on me. Heal me, for I have sinned against You" (Psalm 41:4). Like every human being alive—or who has ever lived—I'm in desperate need of a Savior.

Two, I can't take much credit for the content of this devo, as the majority of the text comes straight from the Bible, and the inspiration for writing it comes from, well, you know Who. All I did was, hopefully, present it in such a way you would see how relevant the life of Jesus is for all of us, today.

So, if you really want to know who the Author is, I'd simply share these words from John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved":

*"Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is—nothing exists that he didn't make. Eternal life is in him, and this life gives light to all mankind. His life is the light that shines through the darkness—and the darkness can never extinguish it." (John 1:1-5, The Living Bible)*

As does everything of any value in my life, God gets all the credit.

## SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

Congratulations! You just went through the birth, life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus in 31 days. That's more than most people do in a lifetime!

So, you might be asking, "What's next?"

This devotional was intended to be a jump start to a regular routine of listening and talking to Jesus. Or, put another way, reading the Bible\* and praying. More importantly, it was intended to be a jump start to living the Christian life—becoming a person known for loving God, and loving others.

So, you may want to explore that more. As I mentioned at the beginning of this devo, it's easier to do so with another person, or with a group of others. But, if you don't know where to find people interested in doing the same thing, we'd love to help. Email us at [wheredoibegin@brianphillips.org](mailto:wheredoibegin@brianphillips.org), and we'll try to connect you with a group of people near you, who are on the same journey.

One last thing, though. I would be doing you a disservice if I didn't make this clear: The Christian life doesn't equal a trouble-free life. Jesus tells us, "Here on Earth you will have many trials and sorrows" (John 16:33). But, in the same breath, he reassures us, saying, "Take heart, because I have overcome the world." In other words, while Jesus doesn't magically rid our lives of troubles, he does provide us strength to get through them.

My hope for you, now that you've gotten to know Jesus better, is that you'll spend more time with him. Namely, because he offers you the strength, love, comfort and direction you'll need to navigate through life's good times, as well as the not-so-good times.

Remembering that, I encourage you to start each day by asking him, "Where do I begin?"

*\* If you don't have a printed version of the Bible and would like one, we'd be happy to have one sent to you at no cost! A coalition of Christian organizations have teamed up to make Bibles available to literally anyone in the world who would like one. Simply email us at [wheredoibegin@brianphillips.org](mailto:wheredoibegin@brianphillips.org), include your name, shipping address, and what language you'd like it in (English or Spanish), and we'll arrange to have one sent to you.*

3. Traditional Jewish burial preparation (the Taharah): <http://bit.ly/WDIB GTKJ DAY28 3>
4. Jesus' references to his resurrection (<http://bit.ly/WDIB GTKJ DAY28 4>)

**Day 29 – Amazing Grace, The Sequel**

1. The disciple whom Jesus loved (<http://bit.ly/WDIB GTKJ DAY29 1>)

**Day 30 – Not A Fortune Teller**

1. Names given to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament (<http://bit.ly/WDIB GTKJ DAY30 1>)

**Day 31 – No More Tears**

1. Overview of the Book of Revelation:
  - a. Part 1: <http://bit.ly/WDIB GTKJ DAY31 1a>
  - b. Part 2: <http://bit.ly/WDIB GTKJ DAY31 1b>
2. Why is Jesus referred to as a Lamb?: <http://bit.ly/WDIB GTKJ DAY31 2>

*“The man who knocks on the door of a brothel is seeking God.” ~  
G.K. Chesterton*

### Day 21 – To Cheer Or Jeer

1. Other accounts of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY21\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY21_1))

### Day 22 – Virtue Or Vice

1. When was the first Passover?
  - a. [http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY22\\_1a](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY22_1a)
  - b. [http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY22\\_1b](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY22_1b)
2. Did Jesus heal Simon's leprosy? Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers and Benson Commentary find it likely. ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY22\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY22_2))
3. The perfume's value: [http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY22\\_3](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY22_3)
4. The value of 30 pieces of silver: [http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY22\\_4](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY22_4) (if each piece is equal to a denarius, 30 would be equivalent to \$3,000, based on the calculation of the value of the perfume)

### Day 23 – Be An Example

1. Other accounts of The Last Supper ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY23\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY23_1))
2. Washing of feet in the days of Jesus ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY23\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY23_2))

### Day 24 – Love Jesus, Love Like Jesus

1. Is Jesus really the only way to God? ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY24\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY24_1))

### Day 25 – Discipline + Sacrifice = Love

1. The value of pruning ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY25\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY25_1))

### Day 26 – Abandoned & Alone

1. Jesus sweats blood ("Hematohidrosis is a rare condition in which a human being sweats blood." See [http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY26\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY26_1))

### Day 27 – What Does It Take?

1. What is the significance of the temple curtain? ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY27\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY27_1))
2. Details about the temple curtain: ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY27\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY27_2))

### Day 28 – Just as He Promised

1. Facts about Joseph of Arimathea
  - a. A rich man, and follower of Jesus ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY28\\_1a](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY28_1a))
  - b. Honored member of the high council ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY28\\_1b](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY28_1b))
  - c. Good and righteous man, and member of the Jewish high council ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY28\\_1c](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY28_1c))
  - d. Did not agree with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY28\\_1d](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY28_1d))
  - e. Secret disciple of Jesus, because he feared the Jewish leaders ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY28\\_1e](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY28_1e))
  - f. Acquaintance of Nicodemus ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY28\\_1f](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY28_1f))
2. Why it was unusual for Pilate to agree to give Joseph of Arimathea the body of Jesus ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY28\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY28_2))

Dear Friend,

When you pick up the Bible for the first time, it can be pretty intimidating. Many people, on their first attempt to read it, start at page one and try to read straight through to the end. First-timers often make it just past Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament, and give up.

Someone may have told you, "Start in the New Testament." But, even that can be discouraging. If you begin with Matthew, the first book of the New Testament, you'll find it starts with a long genealogy leading up to the birth of Jesus. Someday you'll discover some fascinating reasons why it was included in the Bible. But, until then, you might be tempted to stop after reading a family tree made up of 42 generations.

It's my hope this devotional will help you experience the joy of reading the Bible, by giving you just a taste for what's in it.

This particular booklet will take you through the life of Jesus in just 31 days. You won't read the whole Bible, or even the whole New Testament. But, you'll read about Jesus' life, and you'll become familiar with several books of the Bible in the process.

The daily readings are intended to be read in order. So, don't skip a day just because you missed it. If you miss a day, don't sweat it. Just read it the next time you pick up this devo.

Some days include modern-day stories to help make the Bible passages relevant to today. Other days, the Bible verse needs a little more fleshing out, so I've given some context to help it make more sense. And, sometimes, you may see additional Bible verses within the devotional readings, which I found necessary to confirm a specific incident not mentioned in that day's assigned verse, but still relevant to the context. Reading those extra verses will help you verify the accuracy of the commentary.

For those who REALLY want to check for accuracy, I've also provided footnotes regarding customs, culture, and even the source of the modern-day stories shared within the devotional.

Let me mention here that the assigned Bible passages associated with each day are REALLY important. So, I've provided them at the beginning of each day. While you don't have to read them, the daily devotional will make more sense if you do.

I'd like to encourage you, though, to flip open a Bible to read the daily passage, so you get a feel for where it is in the Bible. If you don't have a Bible, go to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and type the Bible passage of the day into the search field, then select New Living Translation (NLT) from the drop-down menu to its right and hit enter. It will then display the appropriate verses.

I hope reading this devotional leaves you wanting to read more of the Bible. If so, find someone you trust to help you navigate through it (like a parent, relative, friend, mentor, coach, or teacher who first talked to you about Jesus; a minister, or youth pastor; a Young Life leader, Youth for Christ volunteer, etc.). Or, find a group of people who are studying the Bible together. Like any journey, it's easier when you have company along the way, rather than going it alone.

I promise that once you begin reading the Bible—the story of God's love for us—you'll find yourself on an exciting new journey!

Now, let me introduce you to Jesus.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

Before we begin, let's talk about prayer.

In its simplest form, prayer is having a conversation with God. It's talking WITH Him, not just TO Him. In other words, it's having a heartfelt, honest, two-way conversation with Him about things that are on your mind each day.

So, before reading each of the following devotionals, you might start by praying this:

"Lord, is there something You want to tell me, today? I'm listening."

Then, after reading the devotional, take a moment to chat with Him. Talk to God like you would talk with a friend (silently, or even out loud). Tell Him anything that came to mind as you read the daily devotional. To help get you started, I've provided a sample prayer, based on each day's topic. But, I encourage you to use your own words when you talk to God, not mine.

Be real with Him. He cares more about you being open and honest, than saying things just the right way. So, be yourself.

Remember this, though. Just like when you're with a friend, you don't do all the talking. You listen as your friend talks, too. So, after you're finished telling God what's on your mind, take at least 30 seconds to a minute to be silent, in order to give Him a chance to speak.

Now, you might be asking, how does God speak to us? He speaks to us in a number of different ways. He speaks to us through the Bible. He speaks to us through devotionals like this one. He speaks to us through other people. He speaks to us through our thoughts. He sometimes speaks to us in our dreams. And on very rare occasions, He may even speak to us audibly, meaning we may actually hear His voice.

As for me, I've never heard God speak audibly. But, I have heard Him speak to me through all the other ways mentioned above. And they're no less miraculous than hearing His voice. So, be expectant that He WILL speak to you, one way or the other, either during your time of silence, or possibly throughout the day.

So, now that you know what prayer is, let's get started . . .

### Day 10 – Giving While Living

1. Chuck Feeney story ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY10\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY10_1))

### Day 11 – Lean On Me

1. Rolling Stone Magazine's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY11\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY11_1))

### Day 12 – Right There with You

1. At the beginning of Mark, chapter 4, Jesus is teaching on a lakeshore when the crowd starts to grow so large, he climbs into a boat to teach. This is when he starts using parables to drive home his points. It's following this day of teaching that Jesus and the disciples climb into a boat and encounter the storm.

### Day 13 – Giving All You Have

1. The cost of feeding five thousand – In some translations, Philip replies it would cost two hundred denarii (an ancient Roman currency) to feed the crowd. A denarius was worth about a day's wages. So, two hundred denarii would equal about 200 days' wages, depending on how many disciples would be included in the work. ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY13\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY13_1))

### Day 14 – Get Back On The Horse

1. Jesus gives Simon a new name ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY14\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY14_1))
2. "Get back on the horse" meaning ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY14\\_3](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY14_3))

### Day 15 – Mountain Top Experiences

1. Other accounts of Jesus' transfiguration ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY15\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY15_1))
2. The life of Moses (see Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy)
3. The life of Elijah ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY15\\_3](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY15_3))

### Day 16 – Amazing Grace

1. *Why Mom Sang Compassion to Son's Killer* ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY16\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY16_1))

### Day 17 – Let It Go

1. About Corrie ten Boom story ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY17\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY17_1))
2. For more about Corrie ten Boom, read *The Hiding Place*, the story of her triumphant life during the Holocaust ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY17\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY17_2))

### Day 18 – His Timing, Not Ours

1. Some thoughts on God's timing ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY18\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY18_1))

### Day 19 – Unanswered Prayers

1. Lyrics to Garth Brooks' "Unanswered Prayers" ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY19\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY19_1))

### Day 20 – You Can Change

1. *Ex-convict helps neighbors cope in Morocco virus lockdown* ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY20\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY20_1))

## Where Do I Begin: Getting to Know Jesus

Footnotes

### Day 0 – Introduction

1. It may seem intimidating when you discover some Bibles contain thousands of pages. But, you'll find a lot of the content and pages are there to help you understand what you're reading (e.g. the *NLT Illustrated Study Bible*, published by Tyndale, is almost 3,000 pages long). See [http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY0\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY0_1).

### Day 1 – Ordinary People

1. Abraham Lincoln ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY1\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY1_1))
2. Harriet Tubman ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY1\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY1_2))
3. Rosa Parks ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY1\\_3](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY1_3))

### Day 2 – Peace On Earth

1. Expanse of Augustus Caesar's rule ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY2\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY2_1))

### Day 3 – Jealousy Kills

1. The Magi's trip ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY3\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY3_1))
2. King Herod's sickness ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY3\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY3_2))
3. The Wise Men's Gifts
  - a. [http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY3\\_3a](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY3_3a)
  - b. [http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY3\\_3b](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY3_3b)

### Day 4 – Titles

Strong's Greek-English Lexicon:

1. Jesus ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY4\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY4_1))
2. Messiah ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY4\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY4_2))
3. Rescuer ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY4\\_3](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY4_3))
4. God's Son ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY4\\_4](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY4_4))

### Day 5 – Battle Of Humility

1. William Henry Harrison biography ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY5\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY5_1))

### Day 6 – I'm Not Him

1. Quote from Matthew Henry about John the Baptist (Matthew Henry Commentary, John 1:19-28 ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY6\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY6_1)))

### Day 7 – Practice Makes Perfect

1. Strong's Greek-English Lexicon: Devil (Tempter) ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY7\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY7_1))

### Day 8 – Do It With Excellence

1. Example of excellence within Young Life: Non-Negotiables of Young Life Camping ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY8\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY8_1))

### Day 9 – It Just Takes One

1. The bitter divide between Samaritans and Jews ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY9\\_1](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY9_1))
2. What was considered inappropriate between men and women in Jesus' day ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY9\\_2](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY9_2))
3. It was inappropriate for a religious leader to interact with a woman with a sketchy reputation ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY9\\_3](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY9_3))
4. Story of TJ Kim ([http://bit.ly/WDIB\\_GTKJ\\_DAY9\\_4](http://bit.ly/WDIB_GTKJ_DAY9_4))













DAY 29

AMAZING GRACE, THE SEQUEL

READ: John 21:1-17

ANSWER THIS: Who in your life do you wish would forgive you?

THE BREAKDOWN

Seven of Jesus’ disciples, Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James and John (the sons of Zebedee), and two others who aren’t named, are standing on the shore of Galilee, where Jesus often preached to the crowds.

Out of the blue, Peter says he’s going fishing. The others join him, and they fish through the night without any luck.

At dawn, when the light was low and the disciples were too far away to recognize him, Jesus yells out to them from the shoreline, asking if they’ve caught anything. When they tell him no, he instructs them to throw their net out on the right side of the boat, where they’ll catch some fish. When they do, the net fills up with so many fish, they can’t pull it in.

At that moment, John (“the disciple whom Jesus loved”) says to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” and Peter throws on some clothes, jumps out of the boat, and swims to shore. While Peter’s swimming to Jesus, the others start paddling the boat to shore, dragging the net full of fish with them.

Once there, they find Jesus and Peter waiting for them, along with some fish cooking over a fire, and some bread. Jesus tells Peter to bring some of the fish they caught, so Peter goes back to the boat and helps drag the net full of fish to the shore—more fish than their nets could ordinarily hold without tearing.

Once everyone is gathered, Jesus invites them to have breakfast with him. Even though this is the third time they’ve seen him since his crucifixion, they’re still surprised by his presence. But, it’s undeniably Jesus.

Then, in an incredibly grace-filled exchange between Jesus and Peter, Jesus asks Peter three times, “Do you love me?”, once for each time Peter denied he knew him. And, each time, Peter replies, Yes!” And, each time Jesus instructs him to take care of his lambs and sheep (meaning his followers), showing Peter he trusts him to carry on the ministry.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Certainly, Peter was overwhelmed with guilt, having denied he even knew Jesus three times, prior to Jesus’ crucifixion. He must have wondered if Jesus could ever forgive him for such a betrayal.

Earlier in his ministry, Jesus told the story of the rebellious son, whose father showed amazing grace when he accepted him back into the family with much fanfare (see Day 16). Jesus told that story to illustrate how much God loves us, no matter what poor choices we make in life.

Now, Jesus extends that same kind of grace to Peter, offering his love and forgiveness. By doing so, he removes the heavy burden of guilt from Peter’s shoulders, and restores their friendship.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?

Jesus offers all of us the same grace he showed Peter. But, it takes a great deal of humility to admit our faults, ask for forgiveness, and accept his grace. Yet, every one of us has it in us to swallow our pride and admit we’ve made selfish choices in life. When we sincerely ask Jesus to forgive us, he does. And, in so doing, our relationship with God is restored, and a party breaks out in Heaven (see Luke 15:7).

So, now, the big question is will you respond, “Yes!” when Jesus asks, “Do you love me?”?

PRAYER

“Lord, I do love you. But, I don’t feel very lovable. Forgive me for the poor choices I’ve been making in my life. I want to experience Your amazing grace and forgiveness.”

Write down your response to *Answer This* here, along with your prayer, and/or any thoughts you might have about today’s devo.

Horizontal lines for writing responses.























DAY 9

IT JUST TAKES ONE

READ: John 4:5-30, 39-42

ANSWER THIS: What's one, small thing you can do to show kindness toward someone, even if it's someone who's not be very popular?

THE BREAKDOWN

In our modern culture, it's almost impossible to comprehend how countercultural Jesus was in his time.

In today's passage, Jesus does three culturally offensive things during his visit with the Samaritan woman:

- One, Jesus was a Jew, and he has the nerve to speak to a Samaritan (there existed a bitter divide between Samaritans and Jews that dated back more than 700 years).
- Two, he speaks to a woman (it was inappropriate for a man to publicly speak to a woman, unless they were related).
- And, three, he speaks to a woman with a questionable reputation (she admits she's had 5 husbands, and was currently living with a man, which was very strongly looked down upon in those days).

But, Jesus cares more about people than he cares about social norms. In the words of author Trillia Newbell, "This was part of his appeal. People who were used to being dismissed, ridiculed, and rejected were suddenly talking with someone who both saw them and loved them."

Jesus' disregard for social taboos was so profound, and his declaration that he was the Messiah so shocking, the woman breathlessly runs away, leaving her water jug behind, to tell everyone in the village about the man she just met. Her excitement causes people to drop what they were doing and go see this man who might "possibly be the Messiah." Jesus' care for one socially outcast individual lead to the salvation of an entire community.

One unlikely person, sharing her story, was all it took to change the lives of many.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The movie October Sky is a true story about Homer H. Hickam, Jr., who grew up with few opportunities in a West Virginia coal mining town, but eventually became a successful NASA engineer.

Homer, a popular boy in high school, was fascinated with rocketry. In one scene from the movie, while eating lunch with his friends, Homer eyes the school's smartest (and "nerdiest") kid, Quentin Wilson, eating alone at his table. Needing help to build a successful rocket, and to the horror of all the kids in the lunchroom, Homer moves over to Quentin's table, and befriends him.

That one, small gesture led to changing everyone's attitude toward Quentin, and eventually impacted the lives of everyone in the community.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?

Have you ever asked yourself what difference can one person possibly make? Well, you can start by helping someone at your school, in your neighborhood, or even in your own home. Just be observant and ask God to point out someone who could use your help. You never know how much a kind gesture to one person might affect many others.

PRAYER

"Lord, there are times when I want to help others, but I'm not sure how. Please give me compassion for people who need my help, and show me what gifts You've given me to offer people in need. And Lord, when asked why I'm helping, give me the courage to tell them what I'm learning about Jesus, and how he helped others. And how that makes me want to do the same."

Write down your response to **Answer This** here, along with your prayer, and/or any thoughts you might have about today's devo.

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