

Time Travel

[IF YOU WERE 14 YEARS OLD AGAIN]

Set of nine devotions linked to three video testimonies



Themes you will be exploring:

Mark Kelly's Story

D1 / Nobody likes a 'know-it all' / [Proverbs 4:1-5](#)

D2 / Why is the Bible so special? / [Psalm 119:1-16](#)

D3 / Is Jesus really the only way? / [1 Timothy 2:5-6](#)

Lottie Jones' Story

D4 / Love is all you need / [Ephesians 3:16-19](#)

D5 / You know me completely / [Psalm 139:13-16](#)

D6 / Peer Pressure / [Romans 12:2](#)

Sarah Davison's Story

D7 / What's trust got to do with it? / [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

D8 / What does it mean to 'acknowledge God'? / [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

D9 / What role do I have to play? / [Jeremiah 29 v11](#)

These devotions are linked to three sets of testimonial videos
which you can download for free via

www.missionalgen.co.uk





Meet Mark Kelly Story 1

Q 1. If you could go anywhere in the world for a holiday where and why?

A. New Zealand, it's Lord of the Rings country! The geography is simply amazing.

Q 2. If you could have any meal cooked for your birthday what would it be?

A. Pretty much anything Italian!

Q 3. What is your favourite film?

A. Highlander

Q 4. If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be and why?

A. Patrick Stewart. A good Yorkshireman who has made it big in acting. As someone who loves acting he was a huge inspiration to me growing up.

Q 5. What three things would you take onto a desert island?

B. Kindle, my family, a pillow.

Q 6. If you had to listen to one song for the rest of your life what would it be?

A. "It's a kind of magic" by Queen.

Find Mark's Story Via www.missionalgen.co.uk

Nobody likes a 'know-it all'

Read Proverbs 4:1-5



Opener:

Let's face it, nobody likes a 'know-it all'.

So-called 'know-it alls' like to think they know and understand everything. They think that there is no quiz, exam or dinner conversation they won't ace, but the key characteristic of the 'know-it all' is exactly the opposite: they don't know it all!

The smartest people in this world are those who acknowledge that they don't know-it all', they know that there is more to learn and they want to learn it. 'Know-it alls' pride themselves on their topical knowledge, but they often don't know very much in detail. Those who want to learn more want to understand things more deeply. In his video Mark discusses how he understood that he didn't know everything, but he wanted to get more knowledge, wisdom and understanding. So he was willing to look in different places until he found the true knowledge, wisdom and understanding that comes from God.

**“Get wisdom, get understanding; Do not forget my words or turn away from them.”
Proverbs 4:5 (NIV)**

Probably the biggest theme in the book of Proverbs is wisdom, which is no surprise considering it was written by Solomon who was a pretty wise guy. In fact, Solomon is said to have written three books of the Bible: Proverbs, Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes - all books of wisdom. This is confirmed in yet another book in the Bible (1 Kings 4:30) which says Solomon was wiser than anyone in the East. When it comes to knowledge, understanding and wisdom, Solomon is your man! In the Proverbs verse above Solomon tells us we should want understanding, but even that isn't enough. We also need wisdom and the desire to remember what we learn.

Solomon tells us not to forget what God is saying, or turn away from it. Asking us not to turn away from what God is saying shows us he understand human nature: he knows that God's words might not always be that popular with us. But if we ask God for wisdom and understanding we have to be willing to listen to what he says! Essentially, what Solomon is saying is don't be a 'know-it all' but look for the best understanding that comes from God.

Reflection and Application:

Miles Kington was a British journalist and broadcaster who is probably most famous for saying "Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit, wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad." A 'know-it all' is full of knowledge, but they put tomatoes in their fruit salad. They lack true understanding and wisdom. Wisdom and understanding is yours for the taking, but they're not attributes you can receive via osmosis, they are gained through prayer and practice. Prayer is simple, God is completely wise and has all the knowledge and understanding anyone could ever want and he's offering it to you. All you need to do is ask him to teach you how. Mark and many other Christians like him found the wisdom of God in the Bible - it's the perfect place to look! However, practicing this sometimes feels more difficult. Putting the wisdom and understanding of God into action in our everyday lives is what many of us want to do, and try to do, but it's often easy to forget what the Bible says or turn away from it. If you want wisdom and understanding longterm you have to put in the effort to keep it! A great starting point is to believe that you can have them. God wants you to have both and you don't need to beg him for them, but simply ask. And, when you find yourself in situations where you need wisdom, knowledge, understanding or all of the above, know that simply through prayer and friendship with God, remembering his promises and focusing on him, you can ask for the incredible wisdom not to put tomatoes in your fruit salad. Or, in other words, the knowledge and wisdom to thrive in any situation you might be challenged by.

Questions for discussion:

1. How would you define wisdom? And understanding?
2. Do you know/ how do you think Solomon became so wise?
3. Can you think of any situations you've been in, in which you needed wisdom, but couldn't work out what to do?



"Throughout my life I have always believed that there is something more than just the things we see around us."



Personal response:

If you want the incredible wisdom, knowledge and understanding that comes from God, then all you have to do is ask. So spend some time praying today, and ask God to help you grow in understanding and knowledge of him and ask if he'd give you wisdom for the situations around you.

Group response:

If you are praying and listening to the wisdom of God, you become a fantastic person to give advice to your friends. Spend some time listening to those around you this week and then pray for them, asking God to give you and them wisdom before you give them advice.

Reflection Notes: *{What is God saying to you through this story?}*



Meet Lottie Jones Story 2

Q 1. If you could go anywhere in the world for a holiday where and why?

A. New Zealand, because I love the accent and it's pretty.

Q 2. If you could have any meal cooked for your birthday what would it be?

A. Any food made by my dad, because he is the best cook.

Q 3. What is your favourite film?

A. Sister Act 2 or Three Men and a Little Lady. Can't pick!

Q 4. If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be and why?

A. Martin Luther King because he was amazing and made such a difference in history ...all in the name of Jesus.

Q 5. What three things would you take onto a desert island?

A. My Bible, Billy (my teddy bear) and a hammock.

Q 6. If you had to listen to one song for the rest of your life what would it be?

A. "Never too much" by Luther Vandross.

Find Lottie's Story via www.missionalgen.co.uk

Love is all you need

Read Ephesians 3:16-19



Opener:

There is something about celebrity, in particular those made famous through sport, that I find really intriguing. We watch our favourite sportsperson within their chosen discipline and we have a sense of awe and envy as they simply do what they do best. There is no escaping or denying the level of talent they possess, but what is most captivating is the sheer joy and fulfilment they get from their chosen pursuit. They just love their job!

“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.”
Ephesians 3:16-17 (NIV)

Reflection and Application:

When we talk about love, we can mean a great many different things and that is simply because love is massive. But then, it's got to be, because, if "God is love" and God is infinite, then love must be pretty big too. But irrespective of which nuance or flavour of love you experience, at the heart of it all, is, I believe, affirmation and value. When we feel loved we start to believe in ourselves more ; we start to have confidence in our actions and abilities. We feel inspired and, what's more, we feel like inspiring others.

The prayer found in our Bible Focus speaks of being "rooted and established in love", which I think only truly happens when Christ, through the power of his Spirit, dwells in our hearts. The devil has worked hard at trying to distract the world with counterfeit love (fame, fortune, success, popularity, to name but a few), which sells us short of the "fullness of God" that can be ours when we open our hearts to Jesus. This scripture promises a share of God's glorious riches, which boils down to the knowledge of who we are in Christ and the calling on us to live as we were created to.

God wants to release you today to be who he created you to be, not what the world is trying to mould you into, and when you grasp hold of God's love for you and let it seep deep into your heart, then (and only then) can you be released from earthly expectations and take flight upon heavenly promises.

IF YOU WERE 14 YEARS OLD AGAIN

Questions for discussion:

1. What holds you back from receiving God's love?
2. Do you recognise any counterfeit (fame, fortune etc.) love in your life that the devil has been distracting you with?
3. Scripture mentions our connection to the Lord's holy people. Can you think of two or more people who you can encourage to grow in their knowledge and love of God?

Personal response:

Based on your answers above, choose one person from question 3 to talk with about this devotion and to encourage them in their relationship with God.

Group response:

Share with each other the counterfeit loves you think the devil has been distracting you with. Pray for strength against these distractions and work to hold each other accountable when you feel you may be getting distracted again.

Reflection Notes: *{What is God saying to you through this story?}*



"I can't just be a Christian because my parents are. At the age of eight I made a commitment to Jesus to follow Him"



**Meet
Sarah Davison
Story 3**

Q 1. If you could go anywhere in the world for a holiday where and why?

A. The Maldives for its white sandy beaches, turquoise waters and marine life.

Q 2. If you could have any meal cooked for your birthday what would it be?

A. A roast lamb dinner, with plenty of roast potatoes and mint sauce!

Q 3. What is your favourite film?

A. This would have to be About Time.

Q 4. If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be and why?

A. Chris Martin from Coldplay and talk to him about the journey he has been on, what he had learnt along the way, how he has stayed grounded and relevant and what its like to impact and influence so many people.

Q 5. What three things would you take onto a desert islands?

A. My Husband. He's amazing, A Swiss army knife, Phone with solar charger!

Q 6. If you had to listen to one song for the rest of your life what would it be?

A. At the moment it would be the The Voyage by Amanda Cook.

Find Sarah's Story Via www.missionalgen.co.uk

What's trust got to do with it?

Read Proverbs 3:5-6



Opener:

Nowadays, maps seem quite old fashioned don't they? The paper kind anyway. Instead of the dark old days with a huge map strewn all over the passenger seat, today you can quickly type your destination's postcode into your phone or sat nav and, hey presto, your route and estimated time of arrival are calculated for you!

But have you ever thought just how much trust we put into that piece of technology? My husband and I realised that all too late the other weekend, when we suddenly realised towards the end of our journey that, after a wrong turn, the sat nav's instructions had been taking us on a 20-minute detour in completely the wrong direction! And there we'd been, innocently trusting its instructions to the letter, believing that it knew where to direct us.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”
Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

But God is not like an unreliable sat nav. He never guides us down the wrong paths. The Bible passage in Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (NASB)

How reassuring is that – we can ALWAYS trust and rely on God to lead us in the right direction and to give us the right advice; “making our paths straight”.

Reflection and Application:

And that's what Sarah shares with us in her story. Looking back on her life so far, she tells us that she wishes she'd understood earlier that she could trust in God. She realises now that she didn't need to worry so much about having to understand everything, or be concerned with trying to figure out how her life would work out.

Sarah now realises that she would have been more confident as a teenager if she'd understood more that God is always with her, and that she's not going through life's challenges alone.

And the great thing about trust is that it means we're able to enjoy life more, because we're not getting stressed out worrying about achieving things ourselves, or where we'll end up next.

Trust doesn't mean that our journey in life will always be without pot holes or detours – disappointments and unexpected things do happen – but we can trust that God knows what he is doing, and that he's in control, guiding us to our destination safely.

Questions for discussion:

1. What things do you find yourself worrying or getting anxious about?
2. Looking back on your life so far, when has God shown you that he is worth trusting?
3. How could you increase your level of trust in God?

Personal response:

Do you have friends who worry about things? Think about how you could encourage them by explaining your trust in God, and how God helps you to overcome your worries and concerns. You could even offer to pray for them that God will help them and they will feel less anxious about things.

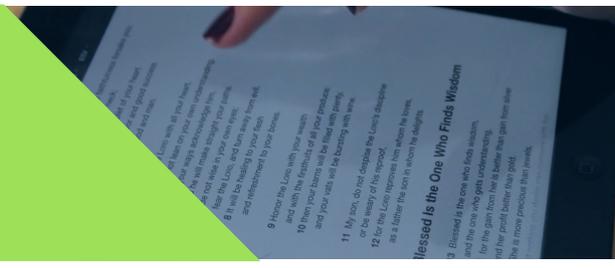


"This verse gave me a lot of hope, comfort and peace."

14

Years

Again



Group response:

As a group, think of people you know who may be going through some situations where they are worried. Spend some time praying for them, and think of some helpful, practical ways you might be able to help them out.

Reflection Notes: *{What is God saying to you through this story?}*

Join with Mark, Lottie and Sarah as they look back at a moment in their life, sharing what they would say if they could go back in time and talk to their 14 year old selves, and how scripture could have helped them.

These nine daily devotions use the stories of Mark, Lottie and Sarah to explore some of the issues faced by young people today, and by looking at what scripture says about these issues, consider ways that we can live for God in every arena of life and show Jesus to all we come into contact with.

These devotions can be used in a variety of ways: as a tool for personal reflection, in one-to-one mentoring sessions, in small groups or Sunday morning discussion groups.



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