



LEADER DEVOTIONAL

When I was in high school, my friends and I ventured downtown for a concert one Friday night. Since I'd gotten my license only a few months earlier, the half an hour drive felt to me like a road trip, full of adventure and the sweet sense of freedom. The sound of the radio was blaring in my speakers as we sped down the highway. I was in the middle of belting out a solo when I realized that I had missed the exit into the city.

To my horror, we continued on, into one of the most dangerous neighborhoods not just in the city, but in the country. We ended up turning around in the parking lot of a strip club, of all places, as we searched desperately for road signs that would get us back on course.

That was many years ago, but I still remember the sick feeling in my stomach like it was yesterday.

If I'm being honest, that's not the only time I've gotten off track and ended up somewhere I didn't want to be. More often than I'd like to admit, I've willfully ignored the directions laid out in God's Word. I've chosen to go my own way, rather than to follow Him obediently. I've allowed myself to be distracted by lesser things. I've rejected the very guidance designed to protect and keep me.

Nevertheless, just as He did with the Israelites, God calls me back to Him. He beckons me to remember His perfect law for my life. He calls me to remember that I am chosen and special to Him. He reminds me of the multitude of ways that He has cared and provided for me. And to no surprise, the more I remember His promises and provisions of the past, the more I trust Him with my life in the future.

It's not uncommon to feel "off track" sometimes. If that's you, take some time to remember the many ways God has cared for you in the past. Then praise God that no matter how far off course we stray, there is always a way back.

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GO! Contributor

Sunday Check-In

Sunday morning check-in to build connection, encourage spiritual growth, and reinforce our expectations upstairs.

1. Check-In (5–7 min):

Ask each child:

- What was a high from your week?
- What was a low from your week?
- Any prayer requests?

(Feel free to share your own too!)

2. Rule Reminder (2–3 min):

Go over our 3 rules for upstairs:

1. Respect God – Worship, listen, use kind words
2. Respect People – Be kind, share, follow leaders
3. Respect the Building – Take care of the space & supplies

Thanks for leading with love and consistency!

