

Rooted and Growing Deep: Learning

5-Day Devotional



ROOTED AND GROWING DEEP

CLC CORE VALUES

WELCOME | WORSHIP | **LEARNING** | SERVICE | GENEROSITY

WEEK THREE

LEARNING

October 18, 2026

PATHWAYS TO GROW CLOSER TO JESUS
OUR RESPONSE TO WHAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE FOR US.

1 THE INVITATION

LIVE ROOTED AND GROWING



"Continue to live in Christ, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught."
Colossians 2:6-7

Nobody in that verse taught themselves. Who taught you, and who are you letting teach you now?

2 WHERE WE'VE BEEN

WELCOME AND WORSHIP



WELCOME

- Jesus invites and welcomes us here.
- He asks us to do the same for others.
- When we feel welcomed, we open our hearts.



WORSHIP

- True worship can't be separated from how we live (Amos 5).
- God accepts our worship when we love and care for others.
- God's Spirit shows up when we actually live like a community.

3 WHY WE LEARN?

TWO THINGS BREAK US OPEN



LIFE COLLAPSES
You want to make sense of it. (Sorrow)



JOY FINDS YOU
It piques your interest.

BOTH CREATE A HUNGER TO KNOW MORE.

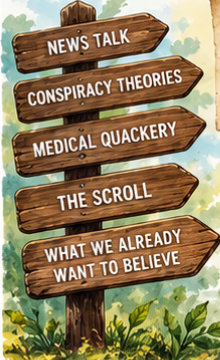


THE "JUST OKAY" ZONE

- If everything is fine, we keep doing what we're doing.
- You only notice an empty plate when you're hungry.
- If the answer is "fine," that's the one to be worried about. (Revelation 3:15-17)

4 WHAT WILL YOU REACH FOR?

IT'S A BUFFET OUT THERE



"Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare." Isaiah 55:2

- Hunger is going to come, one way or another.
- Amos 8:11 warns of a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.
- Colossians 2:8 calls out hollow and deceptive philosophy.
- Titus 3:9 gives simple guidance: "Avoid foolish controversies..."

5 SOME REACHED FOR THE BETTER THING

LEARNING CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE

A ROCK IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE Genesis 28



- Jacob was on the run, with only a rock for a pillow.
- In a dream, God showed up: "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go..." (Gen 28:15)
- "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

God isn't confined to a classroom. Learning moments can show up when we least expect them.

A ROAD AND A TABLE Luke 24 (Emmaus)



- A long walk, a stranger, and the Scriptures opened.
- "We had hoped..."—they shared their disappointment, and Jesus taught them.
- Their hearts burned as he explained the Scriptures, and they urged him, "Stay with us."
- At the table, their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus.

The teaching on the road made the bread mean something. It was worship, unknowingly.

6 OPENED

CHRIST OPENS OUR MINDS AND HEARTS

Luke uses the same verb three times:



Their eyes are opened.



The Scriptures are opened.



Their minds are opened.

They never open themselves.





LEARNING CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE...

BUT DON'T LET IT HAPPEN BY CHANCE.

Day 1: You Are Welcome at the Table

Reading: Luke 14:15-24

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

Devotional: Jesus tells a parable about a great banquet where the host extends his invitation far and wide, reaching people who never expected to be included. The welcome was not earned. It was given freely. This is the nature of God's love toward you. Before you did anything worthy, before you cleaned yourself up or figured out your theology, God sent the invitation. The question the parable raises is personal and direct: having received such a welcome, are you extending that same grace to others? Today, consider one person in your life who needs to know they have a seat at the table.

Day 2: Worship That Goes All the Way Through

Reading: Amos 5:21-24

*“I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.*

*Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.*

*Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.*

Away with the noise of your songs!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.

*But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!*

Devotional: God speaks through the prophet Amos with striking directness, declaring that He will not accept worship from those whose lives contradict what they sing. This is not a comfortable passage, but it is a necessary one. Worship is not confined to a Sunday morning. It is expressed in how you treat the person who frustrates you, the neighbor you disagree with, the stranger who looks nothing like you. Lifted hands and a hardened heart cannot coexist in the presence of God. Today, ask yourself honestly: does the way you treat others reflect the God you claim to worship?

Day 3: Even on the Run, God Finds You

Reading: Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Devotional: Jacob had made a mess of his life. He had deceived his father, stolen from his brother, and was now sleeping alone in the wilderness with a rock for a pillow. He was not in a church. He was not in a season of spiritual discipline. He was on the run. And yet God showed up. Jacob woke and said that surely the Lord was in that place, and he had not known it. God's presence is not limited to the places you expect to find Him. No matter how far you have run or how much you have broken, God has not stopped watching over you. He is in this place, right now.

Day 4: We Had Hoped

Reading: Luke 24:13-27

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Devotional: The two disciples walking to Emmaus were not celebrating. They were grieving. Their hopes had collapsed into past tense. We had hoped, they said, as if the story was finished. But it was not finished. It was only beginning. Jesus walked alongside them in the very moment they had given up on Him. He meets us the same way, in the middle of our disappointment, in the wreckage of our unmet expectations. The diagnosis that came back wrong. The relationship that did not hold. The door that closed. God has not abandoned the story. He is walking with you in it, even when you do not yet recognize Him.

Day 5: Hearts on Fire

Reading: Luke 24:28-35

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Devotional: After Jesus opened the Scriptures to the two disciples on the road, they could not let Him go. They urged Him to stay, and when He broke bread and they finally recognized Him, their first response was not about the miracle of His appearance. It was about the Bible study. They asked each other whether their hearts had not been burning within them as He opened the Word to them. That burning is what God intends for every person

who engages with Scripture. He wants to open the Word, open the mind, and open the eyes to see His presence. Today, come to the Word not as an obligation, but as an invitation to let your heart be set on fire.