

This is Us: Inspired Growth

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The God Who Sees You

Reading: Luke 8:1-3; 1 Samuel 16:7

Devotional: Mary Magdalene was a "hot mess" when Jesus found her, yet He didn't look away. He saw her. Unlike people who judge by outward appearance, God looks at the heart. Perhaps you feel invisible today—overlooked, dismissed, or forgotten. Maybe your struggles are too obvious to hide, or maybe you've become expert at concealing your pain. Either way, Jesus sees you exactly as you are. He doesn't recoil from your chaos or require you to clean up first. Before transformation comes recognition: you are seen by the God of the universe. This isn't passive observation; it's active love noticing you in your need. Today, receive this truth: you matter to God, not for what you can become, but for who you are right now.

Day 2: Radical Grace Changes Everything

Reading: John 4:1-30, 39-42

Devotional: The woman at the well came to draw water at noon—the hottest part of the day—likely to avoid the condemning stares of her community. Yet Jesus was waiting there for her. He offered her living water, knowing her entire story of brokenness and shame. This is radical grace: acceptance without prerequisites, love without conditions. Jesus always takes the first step toward us. We don't fix ourselves to earn His attention; He pursues us in our mess. Like the Samaritan woman, we're invited to drink deeply from grace that transforms. She couldn't keep this gift to herself—she immediately invited her whole town to meet Jesus. When you truly encounter radical grace, gratitude becomes the natural response, not obligation.

Day 3: Love Builds Up

Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-3; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Devotional: "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." No clever argument or theological brilliance will draw you closer to Jesus—only love. Mary Magdalene didn't stay at the cross because she understood crucifixion theology; she stayed because she loved Jesus, who had first loved her. This distinction matters profoundly. You can accumulate Bible knowledge, attend every study, and still miss the heart of faith. But when you fall in love with Jesus, transformation becomes inevitable. Love creates devotion. Love outweighs self-preservation and logic. It keeps you close to Jesus in both mountaintop moments and valley experiences. Today, ask yourself: am I pursuing knowledge about God or intimacy with God? The latter changes everything and leads naturally to inspired growth.

Day 4: Called By Name

Reading: John 20:1-18; Isaiah 43:1-7

Devotional: Grief-stricken and confused, Mary stood weeping outside the empty tomb. Then Jesus spoke one word: "Mary." Her name. In that moment, everything shifted. She was seen again, pulled from her obsessive focus on loss into the reality of resurrection. Sometimes we get stuck in feedback loops—replaying past hurts, fixating on disappointments, unable to move forward. We miss that Jesus is right there, speaking our name, trying to redirect our attention. God knows you by name. You're not anonymous in the crowd, not a number or statistic. When Isaiah writes, "I have called you by name; you are mine," it's personal and particular. Today, listen for Jesus speaking your name, calling you out of whatever tomb of grief or disappointment holds you captive.

Day 5: Sent With Purpose

Reading: John 20:17-18; Matthew 28:16-20

Devotional: Jesus sent Mary to the disciples with resurrection news, knowing they wouldn't believe her. Yet her obedience wasn't about their response—it was about her devotion to an audience of One. She became "apostle to the apostles," a title the church took 150 years to acknowledge, though Scripture declared it immediately. You are seen by God, sought by His love, and sent with purpose. Your calling isn't contingent on others' approval or understanding. Like Mary, you're better off trusting the One than the many. The path of inspired growth means responding to Jesus' invitation to participate in His mission, regardless of reception. What is Jesus sending you to do today? Your faithfulness to Him matters more than the crowd's reaction. Trust that He equips those He sends.