

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

REJECTION

One of the hardest hurts to overcome is the feeling of rejection. Nobody wants to be rejected and God doesn't want us to reject Him as well. This week you'll look at all of the ways you can handle rejection and learn what God says about acceptance and rejection. As cherished children of God, let's have an un-offendable heart and embrace the joy of never feeling rejected again.

DAY 1

GOD DOES NOT REJECT HIS PEOPLE

"DON'T MISINTERPRET GOD'S SILENCE
AS REJECTION."

- T.B. JOSHUA

New International Version

Psalms 66:20

Praise be to God, who has not rejected
my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Psalms 94:14

For the Lord will not reject his people; he
will never forsake his inheritance.

DAY 1

PRAY: Dear God, I praise You, for You have not rejected my prayer or withheld Your love from me! I know, Lord, that You will not reject Your people and You will never forsake me, for I am Your inheritance. I praise Your holy name and embrace You as You have embraced me, in Jesus' name, Amen.

REFLECT: Oh, if only we could live our lives in a constant state of praise to our almighty and awesome God! That may only be possible if we don't reject ourselves, through having bad self-esteem, insecurity, or even depression. If we look at ourselves through God's eyes, and not through our own distorted mirror, then can we be free to praise Him and truly believe in our heart that the Lord will NOT reject us as one of His people. He loves you so much that you are His inheritance. Can you praise Him for that and truly believe it?

ACT: Take a look at how you feel about yourself. Are you too hard on yourself? Do you have a low self-esteem? Or, do you genuinely believe that God is crazy in love with you? If not, you may be rejecting God's inheritance for you. You could believe that God is rejecting you or your prayers because you think He doesn't consider you worthy. But that's not true! Is there any area of your life where you are rejecting God's truths and thus not believing that you are valued, loved, and that you can make a positive difference in this world just by being you? Look deep within yourself and start praising God for who He made you to be, believing that you are His rich inheritance!

DAY 2

DON'T REJECT PEOPLE BY THEIR APPEARANCE

"FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL ACTOR OR ACTRESS, THERE ARE COUNTLESS NUMBERS WHO DON'T MAKE IT. THE NAME OF THE GAME IS REJECTION. YOU GO TO AN AUDITION AND YOU'RE TOLD YOU'RE TOO TALL OR YOU'RE TOO IRISH OR YOUR NOSE IS NOT QUITE RIGHT. YOU'RE REJECTED FOR YOUR EDUCATION, YOU'RE REJECTED FOR THIS OR THAT AND IT'S REALLY TOUGH."
-LIAM NEESON

New International Version

1 Samuel 16:7

"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

DAY 2

PRAY: Dear Heavenly Father, please give me the wisdom to not judge, accept, or reject people by their outward appearance, but to be like You and look at people's hearts. Thank You that nothing is more important to You than my heart and my intentions. How sobering that You reject people who appear to be great in our eyes but whom You can see as hypocrites, phonies, or liars. Don't let me reject anyone whom You see as beautiful on the inside! Amen.

REFLECT: It's so easy to reject people based on their appearance. That's one of the main reasons Christians reject Hollywood entertainment celebrities. They think they are arrogant, selfish, narcissistic, too rich or immoral. And yet the Lord does not look at people the way we do. He loves EVERYONE, even the Hollywood celebrities, or anyone else you have trouble loving. How do you change your negative views of people? Maybe it's to pray that you can see them through God's eyes and have His heart for them.

ACT: Think of someone in Hollywood whom either you have rejected, or you think God has rejected, or whom you have idolized because of what you see on the outside. Now start praying for them. Ask the Lord to see that person's heart and to embrace them with His unconditional love. Don't let the outward appearance of anyone in Hollywood stop you from praying for them, with love, to find Jesus. You can start right now!

DAY 3

WHOEVER REJECTS US REJECTS GOD

REJECTION: THE ACT OF THROWING AWAY;
THE ACT OF CASTING OFF OR FORSAKING;
REFUSAL TO ACCEPT OR GRANT.

-WEBSTER'S 1828 DICTIONARY

New International Version

Luke 10:16

Whoever listens to you listens to me;
whoever rejects you rejects me; but
whoever rejects me rejects him who
sent me.

DAY 3

PRAY: Dear Jesus, In Luke 10 You tell us that You equipped 72 people and sent them out to tell others about You, giving them the power and authority to speak truth to the masses. Your promise to them is the same as it is to me today. Thank You that You empower me to represent You and to live a Christ-like life, and if anyone rejects me they will be rejecting You. Please remind me that I can't take people's responses personally, as long as I'm living for You. It's all about You, Jesus! Amen.

REFLECT: The Dictionary defines rejection as: "the dismissing or refusing of a proposal, idea, etc." That means that if you're feeling rejected, it's because that person is dismissing or refusing your proposal or idea. Jesus says if you talk to others about Him and they reject your truths, then they are rejecting Him, not you. So, you shouldn't be afraid of rejection if Jesus isn't! And, more so, if they reject your words and truths about Jesus, then they are dismissing or refusing not only Jesus, but God the Father as well. It's our job to bring the love and truth of the gospel to others, regardless of the possibility of rejection.

DAY 3

ACT: Choose one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus and choose to pray about how to share your faith with them. Ask the Lord to take away your fear of rejection. It's not about you, it's about them and the message of salvation through Jesus. He was rejected so we can expect to be rejected at times, especially when talking about Him. So don't give up. You are offering them a relationship with the Creator of the Universe, the One who offers us unconditional love, joy, peace, hope, and salvation. Push through your concern about being dismissed or rejected, and remember that God already knows what will happen and has told us how to handle it in Luke 10:16.

DAY 4

DON'T REJECT JESUS AS OTHERS HAVE

"WHEN CHRIST WAS IN THE WORLD, HE WAS DESPISED BY MEN; IN THE HOUR OF NEED HE WAS FORSAKEN BY ACQUAINTANCES AND LEFT BY FRIENDS TO THE DEPTHS OF SCORN. HE WAS WILLING TO SUFFER AND TO BE DESPISED; DO YOU DARE TO COMPLAIN OF ANYTHING? HE HAD ENEMIES AND DEFAMERS; DO YOU WANT EVERYONE TO BE YOUR FRIEND, YOUR BENEFACTOR? HOW CAN YOUR PATIENCE BE REWARDED IF NO ADVERSITY TEST IT? HOW CAN YOU BE A FRIEND OF CHRIST IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO SUFFER ANY HARDSHIP? SUFFER WITH CHRIST AND FOR CHRIST IF YOU WISH TO REIGN WITH HIM."

-THOMAS À KEMPIS

DAY 4

DON'T REJECT JESUS AS OTHERS HAVE

New International Version

Psalms 118:22

The stone the builders rejected has
become the capstone;

1 Peter 2:4

As you come to him, the living Stone –
rejected by men but chosen by God and
precious to him –

DAY 4

PRAY: Lord, it's sobering to know that You were rejected by the people You loved and that we too can be rejected by people. But thank You that You are the living Stone, that I am chosen by You and I'm precious to You. Don't ever let me reject You, Lord, for You, the living Stone, have chosen me! Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: We all know people who have rejected the truth of the Gospel and live for themselves; family members and friends who love us and know what we believe, but reject Jesus. Keep praying for these people, and also check to see what part of God's Gospel you might be rejecting. Do you lie or cheat? Are you prideful, jealous, angry? God wants you to be living stones that are acceptable to Him. If you are rejected by other people because of your faith, remember that you are chosen by God and precious to Him!

ACT: Think about something in your life that you are compromising on because you don't want others to reject you. Look at the possible sins you could be committing on today's. Reflect and then ask God to make you more precious to Him. Spend some time in worship, draw close to Jesus and let Him transform you from the inside out. Ask Him to take away any fear of rejection as you commit fully to Him. Do a check list of how you're doing in God's eyes and then recommit every part of your life to Him right now.

DAY 5

REJECT EVERY KIND OF EVIL

“TO REJECT THIS INHUMAN COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY IS SIMPLY TO BE A HUMAN BEING. SUCH A REJECTION IS MORE THAN A POLITICAL ACT. IT IS A PROTEST OF OUR SOULS AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE US FORGET THE CONCEPTS OF GOOD AND EVIL.”

-ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN

New International Version

1 Thessalonians 5:22

Avoid every kind of evil.

DAY 5

PRAY: Jesus, I pray in Your name, to avoid every kind of evil in my life. I want to love people but I want to see where the enemy is working, reject His evil deeds and avoid his fiery darts. Please give me wisdom to see evil for what it is and the discernment to know when to turn away and flee and when to stand up against it. Help me to fight the spiritual battles, without fear, in Your name. Thank You for protecting me against evil and showing me how to reject it, but not fear it, so I can stand strong against the spirits and principalities in the heavenly realms. Amen.

REFLECT: "Reject every kind of evil." That's a powerful statement, but what does it really mean? Does it mean to flee every time we approach evil? Or do we reject people who are sinning? In reading the fuller context of the verse, it tells us not to quench the Spirit, not to treat prophecies with contempt, but to test everything against the scriptures. God wants us to hold on to what is good and to avoid every kind of evil. That's a wide and far reaching command, which requires us to study the scriptures, understand the spiritual battle between good and evil, and then avoid evil as a godly response, not an emotional reaction.

DAY 5

ACT: Reread all of I Thessalonians 5 and prayerfully study how to wisely understand evil. Understand that it's not avoiding people, but it is avoiding the devil's lies that come out of people. False prophets are not to be avoided, but what they say is to be rejected. So, as you read the chapter, ask God to teach you how to discern evil so that you can avoid the work of the devil and yet not avoid the people whom the enemy is using. For God loves them and they need His love through us. Maybe you'll want to start memorizing scripture by learning these five words from I Thessalonians 5:22: "Avoid every kind of evil."

DAY 6

DON'T REJECT ONE ANOTHER

"THE GREATEST GIFT THAT YOU CAN GIVE
TO OTHERS IS THE GIFT OF
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND
ACCEPTANCE."

-BRIAN TRACY

New International Version

Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as
Christ accepted you, in order to bring
praise to God.

DAY 6

PRAY: Oh Lord, teach me how to accept all people, regardless of their color, education, background, attitudes, lifestyles, or personal choices. Please help me to remember that You have accepted me, just as I am, so, I need Your help to understand that this isn't about me, but I need to accept others so that it can bring praise to You. I pray this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

REFLECT: It's hard to be totally accepting of other people. We all have prejudices, and some people force us out of our comfort zones by being difficult or even evil. But God tells us to accept one another. We don't have to be close friends with everyone, and we don't have to hang out with just anybody. But in our words, our attitudes, and our actions, we are to accept everyone, just as Christ accepted us. How can you bring praise to God by accepting someone whom you don't like, or whom you see is making bad choices? And what would that look like, practically?

DAY 6

ACT: Identify one person in your life whom you don't like. It may be someone close to you who has hurt you or someone you have written off because you have nothing in common with them. Now pray about how you will change your attitude about him/her. Even if you don't have personal contact with them, in your heart, you don't want to reject them as a child of God. You want to bring praise to God by praying for them and being kind, even encouraging them, or just accepting them in your heart. Ask the Lord to change you, from the inside out, so that you don't reject anyone! And start with the one person you've identified today.

DAY 7

NOTHING IS REJECTED WITH THANKSGIVING

"EVERY TIME I THOUGHT I WAS BEING
REJECTED FROM SOMETHING GOOD, I
WAS ACTUALLY BEING RE-DIRECTED TO
SOMETHING BETTER."

-DR. STEVE MARABOLI

New International Version

1 Timothy 4:4-5

For everything God created is good, and
nothing is to be rejected if it is received with
thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by
the word of God and prayer.

DAY 7

PRAY: God in heaven, I know that everything You have created is good and nothing is to be rejected. I want to receive everything You give me, with thanksgiving, even if it doesn't appear to be good. I know that everything that happens to me, everything You give me and everything around me, is consecrated by Your word and my prayers. So, let me embrace everything that comes my way as good, or as something that You can turn into good. Amen.

REFLECT: It's hard to imagine that we are not to reject anything that comes at us, but we need to receive it with thanksgiving – because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. My husband taught me years ago to thank God for everything that comes our way – whether it be good or bad. We started thanking Him for the rejections, the jobs we didn't get, the financial stresses, the emotional hurts, and the physical pains, because we wanted to live lives of thanksgiving. It totally changed me as I learned that what I thought was a curse, sometimes turned into a blessing, and that God really is in control of everything. I Timothy 4:4-5 opens up the challenge to not reject things that don't make sense, but to thank God for them.

DAY 7

ACT: Choose to thank God for something bad in your life right now. Don't reject a mean person or an unfair situation, or a heavy burden, as bad or evil, but choose to embrace it or them, thank God for it and then see how He will consecrate it by His Word and by your prayers. Don't give up on thanking Him for whatever it is and wait to see how He will change your heart, your perspective, your pain, and your relationships, into something beautiful!