



REVIVAL 2026 DEVOTIONAL

Discovering the Creator through His Own Words

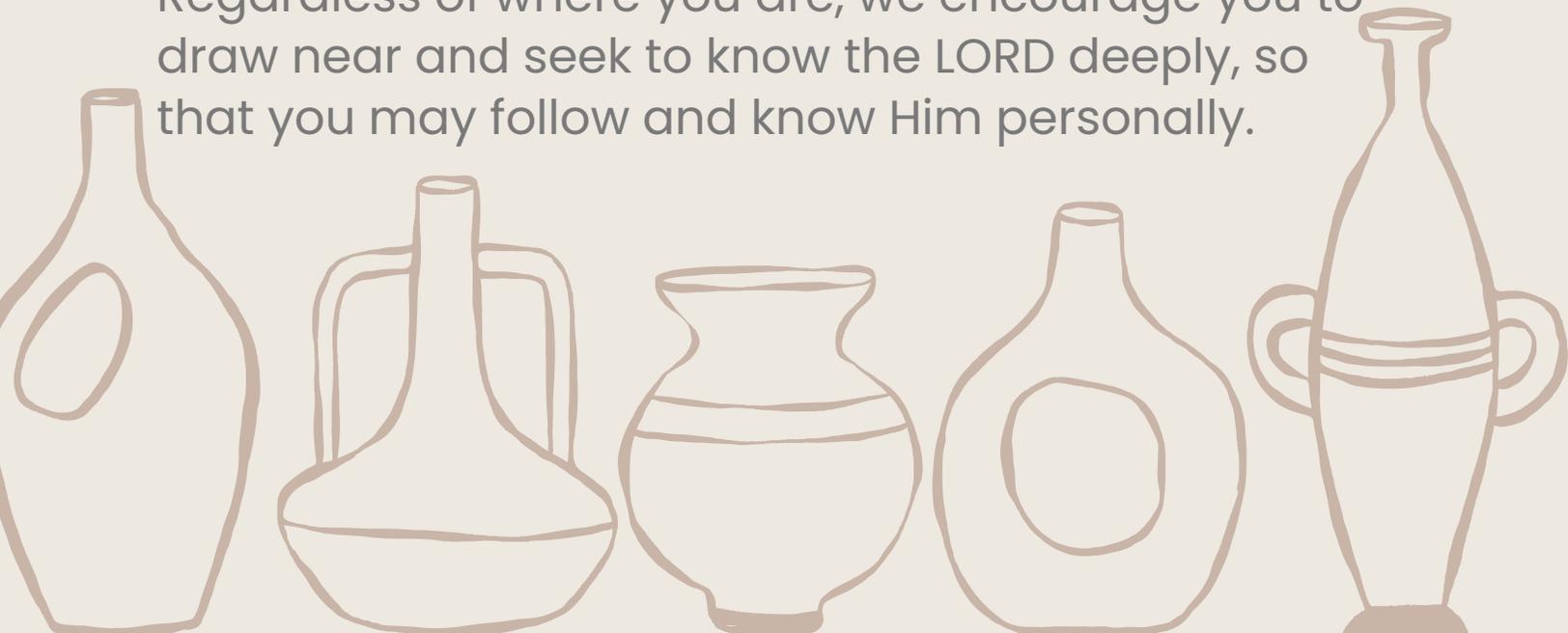


INTRODUCTION

WHO DOES HE SAY HE IS?

What words would you use to describe your favorite food or your favorite hobby? You might reach for words like *incredible*, *awesome*, or *thrilling*. We use these labels to try and bridge the gap between our experiences and our language. But have you ever wondered: What words would the Creator of the universe use to describe Himself?

Many people try to give different titles to God based on their own opinions, but through this devotional, we are going to look at the words God Himself uses to describe His character throughout the Bible. Some of these attributes might catch you off guard; others you may have heard a thousand times. Regardless of where you are, we encourage you to draw near and seek to know the LORD deeply, so that you may follow and know Him personally.



WEEK ONE:
GOD IS LOVE
1 JOHN 4:7-9

PICTURE A MOVIE THEATER SCREEN: a girl is sprinting through a train station to catch a ride to a life-changing interview when she slams into a man. Her books scatter across the floor. They both bend down to pick them up, their eyes lock, and in that instant, it's "love at first sight." The movie follows them through a brief breakup and a grand sacrifice, eventually ending in "happily ever after."

This is the picture society paints for us, but it's an unrealistic one. Our world gives us a new interpretation of love every single day through songs, movies, and social media. One day, love means "never having to say you're sorry"; the next, "love conquers all". It is an ever-changing trend. How can we find security in a definition that shifts with the wind?

In a world of changing trends, there is one God whose love never wavers. The Bible gives us a definition that is profound in its simplicity: **God is love**. The book of 1 John reminds us that love is not just a feeling God has; He is the very embodiment of it. If you look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, you see the attributes of love—patience, kindness, a lack of envy or pride.

These aren't just things God *does*; they are who He *is*. He made you in His image and wants a relationship with you. He loves every part of you, even the parts you hate about yourself. Yet, in this love, He desires to transform you. He loves us so much (John 3:16) that He sent His only Son to die for the sins of every person on the planet—past, present, and future. Jesus came down from heaven, lived a perfect life, and showed everyone how to live and love others the way God does. By believing in Jesus, we are called and empowered to love others the way God loves us.

PRAY:

Father, thank you that your love is not a trend or a fleeting feeling. Thank you for loving me even in the moments I don't love myself. Help me to rest in the truth that you ARE love, and teach me how to reflect that perfect love to the people around me today. Amen.

REFLECT:

In what ways has your view of love been shaped by the world (movies, social media, past relationships)? How does that compare to the steady, sacrificial love described in 1 Corinthians 13?

JOURNAL:

Write down one specific part of yourself that you have a hard time liking. How does it change your perspective to know that God loves *that specific part* of you right now?



WEEK TWO:
GOD IS HOLY
1 PETER 1:14-16

WHEN WE THINK OF SOMETHING “holy,” we usually think of something ‘religious.’ We may imagine holiness as being spotless, sacred, or pure. An image used in the Bible and often by us today is snow. Imagine fresh snow covering a mountain—no footprints, no dirt, simply pure white.

God is like this. He is pure; never sinned. While we on the other hand, are not spotless. Sin creates a separation between a perfect, holy God and us. Because we are sinful, and God is absolutely holy, we cannot, in our own fallen nature, be in His presence. But the good news is that He did not give up on us and leave us in that fallen nature! He sent Jesus to die a sinner's death and rise again, defeating death and creating a bridge between God and man.

God's holiness makes Him different from all of His creations; it sets Him apart. To be holy is often defined as being set apart. Throughout the Bible, God is praised for His holiness because if He were not holy, He would not be able to forgive our sins.

From all eternity, God has been and will always continue to be holy. In fact, the word holy is the only attribute used three times consecutively to describe God across the entire Bible. (Isaiah 6) As Christians, we are made holy through Jesus' blood. We are still humans who fall short, but because of the blood of Jesus, we are cleansed and invited to strive to be holy as He is holy.

PRAY:

Holy Lord, I stand in awe of your purity. Thank You for being a God who is perfectly good, perfectly honest, and perfectly pure. Thank you for sending Jesus to wash me white as snow so that I can walk with you. Help me to live a life that is "set apart" for your glory today. Amen.

REFLECT:

Holiness means being "set apart." In your daily life, what are the things (habits, words, or attitudes) that make you look "set apart" for God?

JOURNAL:

Think about the "gap" created by sin. How does it feel to know you don't have to build the bridge to God yourself, but that Jesus has already completed the work?



WEEK THREE:

GOD IS FAITHFUL

I CORINTHIANS 1:9; MATTHEW 18:10-14

IMAGINE YOU ARE ON A HIKING trip at the Grand Canyon with your best friends. The gear is packed, and you're greeted by your tour guide, Tony, who knows every trail like the back of his hand. He goes over all the safety rules, potential hazards, and what equipment is needed. When the group comes to a fork in the road, something catches your attention. You see this gorgeous flower that is so stunning that you have to take a picture. You notice your shoe lace is untied, so you bend down to tie it and take a quick drink of water. When you look up, the group is gone.

Frantically, you look around, but there is no sign of Tony or your friends. You have no cell service, so you pick a direction and hope for the best, but an hour later, you realize you're completely lost. As the sun begins to set, you lose hope—until suddenly, you hear your name. You turn around to see Tony. He didn't leave you; he came back to find you and lead you safely to camp.

We may not all get lost in the Grand Canyon, but many of us have been lost spiritually—wandering through life looking for purpose, love, or security. Yet God, in His faithfulness, meets us exactly where we are.

In the parable of the lost sheep (Matthew 18:10–14), the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine safe sheep to find the one lost. We are that sheep, and God is that Shepherd. He never leaves us nor forsakes us. Even when we wander away from Him, He is never far. God's faithfulness is the reason we can rely on Him in the hardest seasons of life. As Romans 8:38–39 reminds us, nothing can separate us from that faithful love.

PRAY:

Faithful Shepherd, thank you for never giving up on me. Even when I wander off the path or get distracted by the world, thank you for coming to find me. I choose to trust your faithfulness today over my own feelings. Thank you for being the anchor that never moves. Amen.

REFLECT:

When you feel "spiritually lost" or overwhelmed, what is your first instinct—to try to find your own way out, or to listen for the Shepherd's voice?

JOURNAL:

Look back at a difficult season in your life. Can you see "trail markers" where God was actually pursuing you, even if you didn't feel His presence at the time?



WEEK FOUR:

GOD IS RIGHTEOUS AND JUST

NAHUM 1:3; PSALM 7:17

REMEMBER BEING A CHILD and the sting of someone taking a toy that was 100% yours? As kids, many of us were taught that "sharing is caring," but there is something deep within us that cries out for things to be "right."

We have an inherent desire for justice—the idea that good actions should have good outcomes and bad actions should have bad consequences.

Let's imagine a courtroom where a man is appearing for his third speeding ticket. He almost hit someone this time. If the judge looked at him and said, "I'm just going to let this slide because I'm a kind guy," we would be outraged. Even if the man was the judge's own son, a just judge must uphold the law and require the fine to be paid for the third speeding ticket. If the judge does not uphold the law, he is an unrighteous judge.

Similarly, our God is just. He will not let sin go unpunished, because if He did, He would be unrighteous. Nahum 1:3 tells us that while the Lord is slow to anger, He will not leave the guilty unpunished.

This reality of God as a just judge raises a question that can be very frightening to us: "What about me?" If the wage or payment of our sin is a debt like the man above had to pay for the speeding tickets, this sin debt would be an amount we could never pay.

So the question arises again: how do we pay for our sin debt in the courtroom? If we cannot pay the debt, then we need someone to pay the debt on our behalf. Jesus lived the perfect life we couldn't. He has the requirements that we do not, to pay our fine. Because Jesus paid the price, God can remain a just judge while now allowing us walk free. On the cross, Jesus was treated as if He committed our crimes, so we can do as Psalm 7:17 says: *"I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High."*

Jesus takes our sinfulness, and we get his sinlessness.

PRAY:

God, thank you that you are a fair and just Judge. I recognize that you do not ignore sin, but deal with it perfectly through Jesus when we turn from our sin and trust in Him. Thank you for paying the debt I could never earn. I stand today in freedom by your righteousness. Amen.

REFLECT:

Have you ever struggled with the idea of God's judgment? How does the realization that Jesus paid your specific "fine" change your view of God as a Judge?

JOURNAL:

If you stood in that courtroom today, what sins would be on your list? Take a moment to write "PAID IN FULL" across that physical list and thank Jesus for His righteousness.



WEEK FIVE:
**GOD IS MERCIFUL
AND GRACIOUS**

EXODUS 34:6; 1 JOHN 2:1-2

“AHHHH DADDY!” SCREAMS five-year-old Lucy, as her older brother continues yelling at her for taking his favorite toy truck away. Their dad comes running into the room to make sure Lucy is alright. He soon gets Robby, his seven-year-old son, to stop yelling. Dad assesses the situation, and after making sure Lucy is alright, he hands her to her mother. Dad looks at Robby and quietly tells him to go get in the car. Robby obeys because he knows he is going to be in ‘big trouble’ if he does not listen to Dad.

As Dad gets into the driver's seat, Robby sees that Dad is very calm. This is different than usual because Dad really loves Lucy, and when Robby acts mean to his sister, Dad does not like it. Dad then starts driving into town, and while driving, he gives Robby his phone to play his favorite game, as he waits to see where they are going. They arrive at Robby's favorite ice cream store, and they walk inside to the counter. Dad softly asks Robby, “What would you like?” He asks for his favorite, a chocolate milkshake. Dad says, “You got it, son!”

“But why was Dad getting a milkshake for me?” Robby thought. “Did he forget I just hit Lucy?” Confused, Robby asks why. Dad, after paying for the milkshake, hands it to Robby and kneels down and asks, “What did you do a few minutes ago?”

Robby admits to yelling at his sister. Dad then replies, "Yes, you yelled at *my daughter*, and *your sister*. What do you think you deserve, son?" Robby knew he deserved to be punished for his actions, so he replied to Dad, "To be punished." Dad then said, "But I am choosing not to punish you even though you deserve it. That is **mercy**. And this milkshake? You didn't earn this by being good; in fact, you acted in the wrong way. You acted in a way I did not teach you, but I'm giving this milkshake to you anyway. This, my son, is **grace**."

This is how our Good Father treats us daily. This does not give us the right to sin, but it means that when we do, we have an Advocate – a helper, comforter, or mediator. As 1 John 2:1–2 says, Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. He stands in our place, offering us grace and mercy for our past and our future.

REFLECT:

Think through Hebrews 4:16. What does this mean for you each day?

JOURNAL:

Who in your life is the hardest to show mercy to right now? How can remembering the "milkshake" God gave you help you extend grace to that person today? Write/think about one way you can extend mercy to them this week.

PRAY:

Gracious and merciful Father, thank you for the moments in my life when you give, and I do not even notice. Thank you for not giving me the punishment I deserve and for showering me with gifts I could never earn. May your mercy and grace be the reason I smile today. Help me to show that same grace and mercy that you choose to give me to others around me this week. Amen

WEEK SIX:

GOD IS WRATHFUL

ROMANS 1:18; PSALM 7:11

THE IDEA OF A "WRATHFUL" God can be uncomfortable. Isn't wrath a bad thing? Not necessarily. Just as there is a "righteous jealousy" (like a husband desiring the exclusive heart of his wife), there is a "righteous wrath." Think about it: if God saw someone murdered or a child abused and felt completely neutral or "loving" toward the attacker without any regard for the victim, would He be a good God? No. We want God to be against evil. Praise God that He does not see the horificness of sin and turn his eyes away from it and act as if it is not happening. For if He acted this way, how would He be caring for the person who is being hurt? We see this idea in movies when an older brother steps in to save the younger one; he is angry at the bully because he loves his brother.

God's wrath is His holy opposition to sin—the very thing that kills His creation. God is set-apart in his hate towards sin because of his set-apart love. For if He loves perfectly, He must hate perfectly the thing that is tearing the thing He loves most to shreds. If God loves you perfectly, He will absolutely hate it when you do something that is wrong, why, because it is killing and dragging you further away from Him. He is so against sin that He gave His only Son to defeat it.

We must remember that the horrific weight of sin—the stuff we don't even want to think about or feel uncomfortable speaking about—is exactly what the Father looked at when Jesus was on the cross. Jesus was treated as if He were full of our sin on the cross so that we could be filled with His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). God's wrath was satisfied at the cross because of how perfect Jesus was; so now, we can understand this wrath and rest in complete forgiveness.

PRAY:

Lord, thank you for being a God who hates evil because you love people. Thank you for not turning a blind eye to the things that break your heart. Thank you also that Jesus took the wrath I deserved so that I can experience the peace that I do not deserve. Amen.

REFLECT:

If God wasn't angry at sin, He wouldn't be loving. What is a specific injustice in the world that makes you angry? How does it comfort you to know God is even more grieved by it than you are?

JOURNAL:

"God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us." (2 Corinthians 5:21)
Spend a few minutes writing a prayer of gratitude for Jesus taking the weight of that wrath so you wouldn't have to.



WEEK SEVEN:
GOD IS
COMPASSIONATE
AND GENTLE

HEBREWS 4:15, JOHN 8:1-11

DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE you're alone in your struggles? It is a game-changer to realize that we do not have a God who is unable to empathize with us. Jesus came to Earth and was tempted in every way that we are! Think of Him in the wilderness (Matthew 4). He was tempted with pride and physical hunger, yet He used the Word of God to stand firm.

Jesus knows the temptations you face, which is why He brought His compassion down to us. Because of Him, we can approach God's throne with confidence—not because we are perfect, but because Jesus' work is enough.

Consider the woman in John 8 who was caught in adultery. The religious leaders wanted to stone her, but Jesus stepped in. He told them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." When they all walked away, Jesus looked at her with total compassion. He didn't condemn her, but He did tell her to "leave her life of sin."

He was showing her that His grace is a gateway to a new, better life. No matter your story or the shame the enemy tries to chain you to, Jesus has compassion for you today.

PRAY:

Jesus, thank you for your gentleness. Thank you for not casting stones at me when I fail, but for lifting me up and pointing me toward a better way. Help me to hear your voice of compassion today louder than the voice of my own shame. Amen.

REFLECT:

When you fail, do you imagine God looking at you with a scowl or with the compassion Jesus showed the woman in John 8? Why do you think that is?

JOURNAL:

Jesus told the woman to "go and sin no more." What is one "life of sin" habit or thought pattern God is gently inviting you to leave behind today?



WEEK EIGHT:

GOD IS RESCUER AND SAVIOR

ROMANS 6:23, EPHESIANS 2:8-10

I LOVE ANALOGIES—THEY help the truth click in my brain. One of the most influential lessons I learned (shoutout to JP at Passion) was about the gift of salvation.

Imagine you're asked: "On a scale of 1-10, how sure are you that you'd go to heaven?" Many people say somewhere between 5-8. Why? Because they feel they haven't read their Bible enough, or they've done too many bad things. This is a "works-based" mindset. We think we have to be "good enough" to claim a 10. But that's the whole reason Jesus came: We aren't good enough, but He is.

You may be wondering, but what if I still doubt this? What if I really want to be a 10 but doubt that He would really save me after what I have done? This is not an uncommon feeling to have. In fact, God tells us to come to Him with these feelings of anxiety in 1 Peter 5:7! Jesus even speaks with a man who says, "I believe; help my unbelief!" During this story, Jesus still heals the man's son in the midst of his partial unbelief. So continue to trust day after day that, " [He] who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Ephesians 2:8 says we are saved by grace through faith—it is a gift. Think of it like you are given free courtside tickets to a Dallas Mavericks game. If you show up at the arena and they ask you why you should be let in, you don't list your basketball stats from high school, but you say, "Because I have this ticket that was given to me for free. This is why I am allowed to come in." You didn't pay for it; it was a free gift given to you. Our eternal salvation is the same. Jesus paid for the ticket. Our job is to accept the gift. As you pray today, ask God to show you His character as a Savior. No good father takes away a gift once it's given, and neither does your Heavenly Father.

PRAY:

Lord Jesus, my Savior and Rescuer, thank you for the gift of salvation. Help me to stop trying to earn my way into your presence today and instead simply say "Thank you" for the ticket you bought for me. The price was your Son, and He is enough. Help me to live today out of gratitude, not out of a pressure to perform. Amen.

REFLECT:

Be honest: where are you on that 1–10 scale today? Is your confidence based on your performance this week or on the "ticket" Jesus bought?

JOURNAL:

Describe what "eternal life" means to you. Is it just about what happens after you die, or is it about the "new life" you get to walk in each day?



CONCLUSION

WALKING FORWARD

Wow! It has been eight weeks since Revival. We want to encourage you to keep looking back on these truths as you grow in your relationship with the Lord. There are so many other characteristics of God that we didn't have time to cover—this is just the beginning of your journey in falling in love with Him.

