

YOUR JUNIOR YEAR

5-Day Devotional

Graduation Day — Message 3 | APPLY

Higher Purpose Church | Pastor Lawrence Williams

Real People. Real Life. Real Love.

Bottom Line: An application is required for graduation.

DAY 1: Exposure Is Not Preparation

SCRIPTURE

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." — John 8:31–32

DEVOTIONAL

There is a difference between being enrolled and being prepared, and the most dangerous place to live is enrolled long enough to assume you are prepared. The disciples had already been sent out. They had already seen demons come out. And when the next father showed up, none of that history was enough. Familiarity had started feeling like maturity. You can have credit hours without competency.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Where in my walk with God have I been coasting on what I already know instead of preparing for what is next?

PRAYER

Father, keep me from mistaking what I have heard for what I have become. Search out the places where I have settled and show me the truth about my own readiness.

NOTES

DAY 2: Your F Is Feedback

SCRIPTURE

"After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why couldn't we drive it out?'" — Mark 9:28

DEVOTIONAL

Most of us study what we are already good at, because it feels productive. The parts we struggle with get bypassed and renamed: that is just how I am, I have always been that way. But the disciples did the right thing with their failure. They did not blame the crowd or the scribes or the father. They took the question straight to Jesus, and the answer they got was the whole reason for the failure.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What is the one "why couldn't I" I have been explaining away instead of asking about?

PRAYER

Lord, I do not want to defend my weakness anymore. Show me what my failure is trying to teach me, and give me the courage to name it out loud.

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DAY 3: Go to Office Hours

SCRIPTURE

"He replied, 'This kind can come out only by prayer.'" — Mark 9:29

DEVOTIONAL

While the disciples were failing at the bottom of the mountain, Jesus was at the top of it in prayer. He was not only teaching the principle; He was living it at the very hour they were failing without it. Office hours is not the grocery-list prayer. It is you and Jesus, alone, with one question, quiet long enough for the Professor to answer. Some things do not come out in the crowd. They come out in the office.

REFLECTION QUESTION

When this week will I actually sit down alone with God and bring Him the one question — what day, what time, what place?

PRAYER

Jesus, I am scheduling the time and I am showing up. Meet me there, and help me be quiet long enough to hear what You have been waiting to say.

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DAY 4: He Is Not Disappointed — He Is Expectant

SCRIPTURE

“We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” — Romans 5:3–4

DEVOTIONAL

“How long shall I put up with you?” sounds like contempt until you understand that nobody gets that frustrated over a person they have written off. That was expectation. The professors who were hardest on you are the ones you love most now, because they refused to grade you on the curve of your excuses. God knows your ceiling, and He is not tolerating the floor you have settled for.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What has God already shown me I am capable of that I have quietly stopped reaching for?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that Your correction is love and not rejection. Lift my eyes back to what You put in me and give me the perseverance to go get it.

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DAY 5: An Application Is Required

SCRIPTURE

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” — Ephesians 2:10

DEVOTIONAL

Church is education. The Word is education. Bible study is education. But eventually you have to do the internship. There is a day coming when everything you have been studying comes alive in your hands and makes a difference for somebody other than you, and on that day every hard semester becomes worth it. That is not extra credit. That is your development.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Who is attached to my development right now — and what is the one step I will take this week to be ready for them?

PRAYER

Lord, I am done sitting on what You paid for. Put me where somebody needs what You have already taught me, and use my hands this week.

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