

This devotional is for individuals and small groups
Groups discuss each day's question(s) together.

GOOD STORY

MEMORIZE MATTHEW 28:19-20

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Take time to finish reading the book of Mark by reading chapters 11 -16.
As you read, insert the words GOOD STORY in place of *good news* and/
or *gospel*.

DAY ONE

Use the PRONOUNCE IT method as you study Matthew 28:19-20.

READ it several times aloud, emphasizing a different word each time.

Is baptism a recommendation from Jesus or a command?
Have you consummated (*perfected*) your part in God's GOOD STORY
through the sign of baptism? If so, describe what that experience meant
to you. If not, what has kept you from doing so?

DAY TWO

READ Mark 14:3-9 using the PICTURE IT method.

Can you picture yourself in the place of the indignant (*resentful*) guests?
In Jesus' place? In place of the woman pouring perfume on Jesus?

Jesus says, "Wherever the GOOD STORY is preached throughout
the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed."
What thoughts/feelings come upon you as you realize how much
God desires you to be a part of His GOOD STORY? Has replacing the
words *good news* and/or *gospel* with GOOD STORY changed your
understanding of the text? If so, in what way?

DAY THREE

READ Galatians 3:26-27 utilizing the PERSONALIZE IT method.

Are you a son or daughter of God through faith in Jesus Christ?
Have you been baptized into Christ?
Have you clothed yourself with Christ?
Have you fully surrendered everything to Christ?
Have you made God's good story, your story?

DAY FOUR

READ 1 Peter 3:20-21 using the PARAPHRASE IT method.

Why is the ark a good symbol of baptism? Is it because of the water?
Is it because of Noah's step of faith as he followed God's call?
Can you see how baptism is a beautiful picture of Jesus' life, death,
and resurrection?

Baptism is our response to God for what He has done for us.

DAY FIVE

READ the story of Saul's conversion in Acts 9:1-6, 17-19.

CONSIDER this picture of baptism as it relates to Saul's story.

We live our own story.
We recognize Jesus as Lord.
We choose to follow and obey him (*die to our own version of the story*).
We bury the "my story" receiving forgiveness.
We're brought up from the water (*resurrected*) to now live differently
as a part of His good story.

How important was the sign of baptism to Saul? (*verses 18-19*)

Christ has called us to take this step, but many of us haven't taken it yet.
Baptism is a sign that we're part of Jesus' story!

As you realize this, are you ready to take your next step for Jesus?
Are you going make your story a part of the GOOD STORY?