# Dive Deeper Devotional 11/15/2026

## Day 1 – The Plan Is Not the Journey

**Scripture:** Mark 1:16-20; James 1:22

A carefully prepared itinerary can be exciting. We can choose the destination, study the route, and imagine what we will experience. But a plan is not the same as a journey. At some point, we have to leave home and take the first step. The same can be true in our relationship with Jesus. We can learn a great deal about discipleship without actually responding to His invitation.

When Jesus called Simon and Andrew, they were working with their nets. They did not know everything their future would hold, but they responded by following Him. James reminds us that hearing God's Word and putting it into practice belong together. We do not obey in order to earn God's love. We respond because His grace has already reached toward us. After five weeks of BECOME, ask yourself what you have learned that is ready to become part of how you live. The next step may be simple, but it matters.

**Reflection:** What have you learned about following Jesus that is ready to move from intention into action?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for inviting me to follow You. Help me move beyond good intentions and respond to Your grace in one faithful, practical way today. **Amen.**

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## Day 2 – Courage Comes from the Spirit

**Scripture:** Acts 1:8; Acts 2:14-41

Think about Peter before Pentecost. He loved Jesus, but he also stumbled, misunderstood, and denied knowing Him. After the Holy Spirit came, Peter stood with the other disciples and proclaimed the good news of Jesus. The difference was not simply that Peter had developed a stronger personality. He had received the Spirit's power for witness.

We began BECOME by remembering that we can begin again. We then learned that becoming Christlike disciples requires the Holy Spirit, not willpower alone. That remains true when it is time to engage. God does not send us into ordinary life to prove ourselves. He equips us to respond in love, courage, and wisdom. Sometimes courage looks like speaking about Jesus when the opportunity is welcome. Sometimes it looks like asking forgiveness, making a difficult phone call, or listening patiently. You do not have to manufacture spiritual power. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide the step before you.

**Reflection:** Where do you need the Holy Spirit's courage rather than trying to rely on your own strength?

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, fill me with Your love and courage. Guide my words, quiet my fear, and help me recognize one faithful way to respond to Jesus today. **Amen.**

## Day 3 – Notice the Person in Front of You

**Scripture:** Acts 3:1-10

Peter and John were on their way to the temple for prayer. Along the way, they encountered a man who had been unable to walk since birth. He asked for help. Instead of simply passing by, Peter and John stopped and looked directly at him. In Jesus' name, the man was healed, and his life changed dramatically.

Acts 3 describes a particular miracle of God's power. It does not promise that every person we pray for will experience the same physical healing. Yet it shows something important about Peter and John: they noticed the person before them. They did not let their destination make them inattentive to another person's need. Earlier in BECOME, we practiced three words: Notice. Listen. Invite. Today we can add: Respond. Who do you already see at school, work, church, or home? You may not be able to solve every problem, but you can offer attention, compassion, encouragement, or prayer when it is welcome.

**Reflection:** Who might you be walking past because you are focused on everything you need to accomplish?

**Prayer:** Lord, open my eyes to the people You place in my path. Teach me to slow down, listen carefully, and offer the love of Jesus in ordinary moments. **Amen.**

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## Day 4 – Grace Is Already at Work

**Scripture:** Acts 10:19-35; Ephesians 2:8-10

Peter continued learning throughout his discipleship journey. In Acts 10, the Holy Spirit led him beyond familiar boundaries and into the home of Cornelius, a Gentile. Peter discovered that God was welcoming people he once would have kept at a distance. His next step required both courage and a willingness to have his assumptions changed.

In the Wesleyan tradition, we speak of prevenient grace: God is graciously at work before we recognize or respond to Him. That means we do not need to create a spiritual opportunity or treat someone as a project. We can enter relationships with humility because God already loves the person before us. Ephesians reminds us that we are saved by grace, not by works, and created in Christ for good works. Our actions are the fruit of grace, not the price of it. Ask God where He may be inviting you to listen, welcome, or cross a barrier in love. A faithful step may begin with a changed heart.

**Reflection:** Is there someone you could welcome or understand more fully if you listened with greater humility?

**Prayer:** God of grace, thank You for going before me. Challenge my assumptions, grow my love, and help me join Your work without trying to control the outcome. **Amen.**

## Day 5 – One Person. One Step. One Time.

**Scripture:** James 1:22; Hebrews 10:24-25

The final E in BECOME is Engage. It does not mean we have finished the journey. It means we are learning to live what Jesus has been teaching us. We will need to begin again, depend on the Spirit, connect with people, reorganize our priorities, and encourage one another as we continue to grow in grace.

So keep your next step small enough to take. Think of one person God has placed in your life. Consider one loving action: send a message, share a meal, apologize, ask how someone is doing, offer prayer, or invite a trusted friend to walk alongside you. Then choose one time when you can follow through. If an opportunity changes, do not turn it into shame. Pray, adjust, and continue. Hebrews reminds us that we can encourage one another toward love and good works. You do not have to engage alone. The goal is not to become busy or impressive, but to become more like Jesus, one faithful step at a time.

**Reflection:** Who is one person, what is one faithful step, and when can you take it this week?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You that this journey continues by Your grace. Show me one person, one step, and one time. Give me the courage to respond and the humility to keep growing with others. **Amen.**

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## Weekly Challenge

- Begin each morning praying, “Holy Spirit, show me my next faithful step.”
- Read Acts 3:1-10 and notice how Peter and John responded to the person before them.
- Choose one person already in your life whom you can encourage or serve with genuine care.
- Decide on one specific step and one time to take it; share your intention with a trusted friend.
- At the end of the week, reflect on what God taught you, regardless of the outcome.

**Remember:**

BECOME is not a completed program; it is a journey of following Jesus.

The Holy Spirit empowers our witness and forms us in Christ like love.

God’s grace goes before us; our faithful actions are a response to that grace.

People are not projects. Notice, listen, and love them as people.

One person. One step. One time. Keep becoming, together.