centralia church of the nazarene

Dive Deeper Devotional 11/1/2026

Day 1 – A New Center for Our Lives

Scripture: Mark 1:16-20; Mark 1:29-34

Jesus met Simon and Andrew in the middle of an ordinary workday. Their nets represented more than fishing gear; they were part of their routine, income, and sense of security. Then Jesus invited them to follow Him. They could not have known everything that would change, but they trusted His invitation. Following Jesus became the new center of Peter's life, shaping what he valued and how he used what he already had.

That invitation is for us, too, though it does not mean everyone must leave a job or a familiar place. Jesus calls most of us to follow Him right where we live and work. As His grace transforms us, our homes, relationships, time, and ordinary responsibilities can take on new purpose. Discipleship is not one more box to squeeze onto an overloaded shelf. It is letting Jesus help us decide what truly belongs on the shelf in the first place. We begin not with a more impressive schedule but with a willing, surrendered heart.

Reflection: Is Jesus shaping the direction of your everyday life, or are you trying to fit Him into a schedule you have already arranged?

Prayer: Jesus, You know the routines and responsibilities that fill my days. Help me trust Your invitation to follow, surrender what I hold too tightly, and see my ordinary life through Your eyes. **Amen.**

Day 2 – When Good Things Crowd Out the Best

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-16; Matthew 6:33

Most of us do not deliberately decide to neglect the people or priorities that matter most. Life simply gets full. Work, family responsibilities, appointments, and church activities can fill our calendars one reasonable commitment at a time. Good things are not necessarily bad things, but even good things can leave us hurried and unavailable to the people right in front of us.

Paul urges believers to live wisely and make the most of their opportunities. That is not an invitation to do everything or to feel guilty about demanding seasons. Some responsibilities cannot be set aside, and Jesus sees those burdens. Wisdom sometimes means asking what deserves our attention, where we are distracted, and what we might release. A full church calendar is not automatically the same as deep discipleship. Neither is a productive day the same as a loving day. The Spirit can help us notice when busyness has become a barrier to prayer, genuine conversation, or an unexpected opportunity to show compassion. Sometimes following Jesus begins with slowing down enough to be present.

Reflection: Which good or necessary activities are crowding out attention to Jesus or the people He has placed in your life?

Prayer: Lord, give me wisdom for the time You have given me. Where I am overcommitted, help me discern what to release. Where I am distracted, teach me to be attentive and loving. **Amen.**

Day 3 – People, Not Just Programs

Scripture: Mark 1:29-34; Acts 2:42-47

Shortly after Jesus called Peter, He entered Peter's home, healed his mother-in-law, and welcomed the needs of the people who gathered at the door. An ordinary home became a place where others encountered the compassion of Christ. Later, the early church shared meals, prayed, learned Scripture, and cared for one another. Relationships were not an extra feature of discipleship; they were part of how believers grew together.

The church needs gatherings, teaching, and opportunities to serve. But our programs should help people become known, supported, and loved, not simply keep everyone busy. Author Reuben Welch expressed this simply: "We really do need each other." We need people who pray with us and encourage us, and we need to make room for people beyond the circles we already know. A conversation at the Wednesday meal, a moment of encouragement, or listening to someone's story can become a means through which God's grace is shared. Discipleship is not measured only by how many events we attend. It also shows up in the love and attention we give to actual people.

Reflection: Are your church activities helping you build meaningful relationships, or have you become too busy to really know people?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, make our church a community of love. Help me encourage fellow believers and make room for people who need friendship, welcome, and care. **Amen.**

Day 4 – Reordered by Grace

Scripture: Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Jesus teaches His followers to seek first the kingdom of God. He does not ask us to stop caring about our families, work, or daily needs. He invites us to let God's reign and love shape how we care for them. The question is not simply whether we are busy, but what is directing our choices. Are we living from our priorities alone, or are we making room for God to reshape them?

In the Wesleyan tradition, we remember that grace comes first. God's prevenient grace is already at work, inviting us to respond. And as we surrender ourselves to Christ, the Holy Spirit continues to sanctify us, forming holy love in our hearts. We do not rearrange our schedules to earn God's approval. We respond to the love He has already given. Prayer, Scripture, worship, and fellowship are ways of remaining open to that grace, not boxes to check. As the Spirit changes what we love, our decisions begin to change as well. We may find ourselves less focused on getting everything done and more available to be faithful in what matters most.

Reflection: Where might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to surrender a priority or habit so your life reflects the love of Jesus more fully?

Prayer: God of grace, thank You for loving me before I could respond. Shape my desires, free me from needless hurry, and teach me to seek Your kingdom in the choices I make today. **Amen.**

Day 5 – Make Room for One Faithful Step

Scripture: Colossians 4:2-6; Mark 6:7-13

When Jesus sent His disciples, their faith moved from listening to participating in His mission. Most of our next steps will be smaller and more ordinary than a journey through Galilee. We may share lunch with someone, take a walk with a neighbor, call a friend, or linger long enough after worship to ask a meaningful question. God often works through unhurried relationships and simple acts of care.

This week, consider four movements: Pray for the Spirit to open your heart. Name one person already in your life. Make room for a conversation or shared moment. Be present with genuine attention, without trying to control the outcome. These are not requirements for earning grace, nor is there a perfect number of hours we must devote to disciple-making. They are ways to respond to God's love and become available to others. People are not projects. They bear God's image and deserve kindness whether or not a conversation becomes explicitly spiritual. Trust the Spirit with the pace. What matters is not an impressive schedule, but a life increasingly shaped by love. Make room for Jesus. Make room for people. Make room for the Spirit to keep forming you.

Reflection: What is one specific way you can make room for a person God has already placed in your life this week?

Prayer: Jesus, guide my next faithful step. Give me eyes to notice, time to listen, courage to invite, and grace to be present. Let Your love reorder my ordinary days. **Amen.**

Weekly Challenge

- Begin each morning by praying: "Jesus, show me what matters most today."
- Read Mark 1:16-20 and ask what following Jesus means for your present routines.
- Notice one distraction you could set aside to give someone your full attention.
- Make room for an unhurried conversation, shared meal, or thoughtful phone call.
- Choose one person to encourage, pray for, or spend intentional time with this week.

Remember:

Jesus invites us to reorder our lives, not add another exhausting obligation.

Good activities should serve love and relationships rather than crowd them out.

God's grace comes first; obedience is our response, not a way to earn approval.

People are not projects; they are made in God's image and worthy of care.

Pray. Name. Make room. Be present. Keep becoming more like Jesus.