

✝ tallowood
kingdom
basketball

**2022 Season Tallowood Kingdom Basketball
Devotional Series**

You are encouraged to add your own examples to this year's devotional series, to help players have a better understanding. Make it your own, be creative!

P.U.R.P.O.S.E

Main Scripture Theme: 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Week 1: P – Priceless | Luke 12:7 | Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Week 2: U – Unique | Psalm 139:13 | No One Just Like You

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Week 3: R – Righteous | 2 Corinthians 5:21 | Jesus Makes Us Righteousness

God made him who had no sin to be sin^a for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Week 4: P – Priorities | Romans 8:28 | God's Ways Are Our Ways

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^a have been called according to his purpose.

Week 5: O – Obedience | Ester 4:14 | Focus on Being Obedient

. . . And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Week 6: S – Servants Heart | 1 John 3:18 | Serve Others In All Ways

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Week 7: E – Eternal | John 10:28-30 | Your Purpose in Jesus Lives Forever

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all^a; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Week 1: P – Priceless | Luke 12:7 | Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

What does the word “priceless” mean? Priceless is being so precious that the value cannot be determined or calculated. Some items that are considered priceless are diamonds, or a beautiful piece of art. But diamonds can be replicated, as well as art. You, however, are not replicated and you are not created from a mold.

Before your mom and dad even knew who you were – a boy or a girl – God had already considered how you were to be created, down to the very number of hairs on your head. Each one of us is carefully “hand-made” and irreplaceable. That means no one can replace what God created in you, and you cannot replace anyone else.

Although God created everything on Earth, down to the tiniest bug, plant, bird and animal, we are more priceless to Him than any of his other creations. God created us in His image. We think, create, and have free will – the ability to choose. Our individual value cannot be calculated or compared to anything on Earth. Be amazed and humbled that God would make you PRICELESS!

Today's Prayer: Give thanks that God created you priceless, completely irreplaceable. Thank him for his amazing love and all that he provides you. He is a good Father indeed!



Week 2: U – Unique | Psalm 139:13 | No One Just Like You

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

This week's devotional is a continuation on last week's "Priceless" devotional. You were created by God and are completely irreplaceable and your value is indescribable.

Today we will discuss how UNIQUE you are.

There is no one on Earth that is just like you. No one can do exactly what you do, feel like you do, or live like you do. Even identical twins have special differences that God created just for them. Although families share in common likenesses – eye color, hair color, talents, interests – there are unique or differences in everyone. No one person is alike – we are completely "individual"!

Unique means being the only one of its kind. That means you are very special and everyone else is very special. We should be proud of how God created us.

Sometimes it's very difficult to love our individuality – love ourselves. Maybe you can't shoot a basket as well as your friend, but, maybe you are a better guard than they are, or great at dribbling and not traveling! Sometimes we get jealous and wish we were more like others – the way they look and what they can do. Maybe you get down on yourself for not being as good. Whenever this happens, stop and remember you are special – UNIQUE – and you have very special looks and talents you can do that others can't. Don't let anyone, even yourself, put you down for what you don't look like or can't do, because you look and do things you were specially designed for!

Today's Prayer: Think about the things that are special about you today and thank God for your uniqueness. Ask him to help you to embrace and be happy with your individuality! Freckles included!



Week 3: R – Righteous | 2 Corinthians 5:21 | Jesus Makes Us Righteous

God made him who had no sin to be sin^{ful} for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What is righteousness? Is it being right about everything – knowing the right way to do everything? Not really. Righteousness is right living - right standing with God, who create us. So, being right about something doesn't necessarily mean you are righteous.

A man named Adam and a woman named Eve, the first human beings to be created by God had to decide right from wrong. God told them they could eat from any tree except THAT one. They chose to eat from the Tree of Life. Because they did not do as God told them, they committed the first sin, which separated man from God and His righteousness.

God sent His son, Jesus, to be a sacrifice for our sins, to forgive all the wrongs we have done. God had Jesus carry our sins – past, present and future, to die on the cross forever. Jesus did this willingly, for you and me – that in Him we might become the righteousness of God once again.

To the righteousness of God we must accept we are sinners (just like Adam and Eve) and believe that Jesus died for our sins on the cross and rose from the dead so we could have a new, righteous life in Him!

Yes, it's very hard to admit we aren't always right and we definitely are not in right standing with God, unless we accept Jesus. However, how incredibly PRICELESS we must be that Jesus would die in our place! You are so special that Jesus did it all for us just so we can spend the rest of our lives with Him and be in His righteousness!

Today's Prayer: Thank God for sending His son Jesus to save us from sins. Ask God to help you understand what it means to believe in Jesus and to become righteous in Him.



Week 4: P – Priorities | Romans 8:28 | God’s Ways Are Our Ways

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^① have been called according to his purpose.

Do you ever feel tired whenever you wake up in the morning? You just slept all night, but you are still tired? Do you get tired of all the school work, chores, even maybe basketball practice? Everyone is very busy aren’t they? There is so much to do and we get tired!

When you get tired, do you get frustrated? That means basically, being grumpy and starting to dislike the very things you like to do. That doesn’t seem right does it? So, how do you get over being tired and frustrated?

PRIORITIES – live according to your UNIQUE (week 2) purpose God has called you to. What does that mean and how does that look? What do you think God would consider important in your life:

1. Loving and thanking God for your life and all he has given you?
2. Doing your best in school?
3. Honoring your mother and father (guardian)?
4. Helping others?

Your priorities look different than someone else’s, except for loving and thanking God. Priorities change as you get older too, but never the need for God in your life, this is our very first PRIORITY every day. It’s as necessary as breathing.

So, tomorrow morning when you wake up, feeling tired, stop and thank God that you have the opportunity to go to school, enjoy your friends, and that he loves you. Try to remember throughout the day that you are priceless and God made you special for this very day. Ask him throughout the day to help you with your frustrations - with others, even with Him! Ask Him what he has planned for your day, you might be really surprised! God is constantly by your side, ready and able, to take your tired days and help you feel better, you just have to let him help you!

Today’s Prayer: Thank God for always being by your side, even when it doesn’t feel like it. Ask him to help you to spend time with him every day, and for Him to help prioritize what is really important one day at a time!



Week 5: O – Obedience | Ester 4:14 | Focus on Being Obedient

. . . And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Last week we discussed PRIORITIES – making God our first priority and asking Him to help us with all of our frustrations and tiredness.

Do you have things in your life that you have to do, but you really don't like doing them? Maybe you have to babysit your younger brother or sister. Perhaps you have to mow the lawn on the week-ends, or take the dog for a walk. We all have things we have to do that we would rather not do. Maybe you have to move to a different city, or transfer to a new school and leave all of your friends behind?

In the Old Testament, there was a beautiful woman named Ester who became a queen. She didn't like her husband, the king, at all. Little did she know her position as queen was her unique purpose in life and the lives of others too. God used Ester in her unpleasant circumstances to see her family and the Jewish people freed from terrible circumstances. She was OBEDIENT to God's purpose for her life.

Sometimes our circumstances, like Ester's, are unwanted and don't make any sense to us. We often times will question what is God thinking? However, even then, we can make God our priority and be obedient to his requests - to stay on course. Maybe you too will realize you were created "for such a time as this" in your life purpose.

Today's Prayer: Thank God for His continuous care over us, even when it doesn't feel like it. Ask God to help you to continue to make His purpose for your life your objective, your goal every day.



Week 6: S – Servant’s Heart | 1 John 3:18 | Serve Others In All Ways

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Can you image your life without a cell phone, tablet or computer? These devices help us communicate with one another, entertain us, help with our work, even talk to us! It is nice to be able to send an emoji with a big heart to let someone know we love them and are thinking of them. Sending an email or texting gives the receiver an instant message instead of waiting on the mail to be delivered. Calling each other or facetimeing is almost like being there in person!

There is unfortunately a down side to this marvelous technology. Some people misuse it to send messages full of hate or start rumors and gossip about others. Bullying has taken on a whole new meaning with Facebook and Instagram. Many have taken a useful tool for communication and turned it into a weapon against one another.

A servant’s heart does not make hateful remarks about other, does not gossip or tell untrue stories about others to harm them. Instead, our words and speech should encourage and express love for each other. In fact, we should be doing more than encouraging and loving one another with our words, but DO what we say.

Knowing and believing in Jesus will lead us to having a servant’s heart. SERVE one another in action and in truth, not just with words. Remember, each of us is priceless, so treat and serve each other as irreplaceable through every word and action.

Today’s Prayer: Thank God for the opportunities he provides to us to be a good friend, a servant to one another. Ask God to help you to show encouragement and love through your actions and words to others.



Week 7: E – Eternal | John 10:28-30 | Your Purpose in Jesus Lives Forever

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all^a; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Over the past 6 weeks we have learned about several factors that lead to our personal purpose in life that God created just for us:

1. You are Priceless
2. You are Unique
3. You are Righteous in Christ
4. You have Priorities, God being the biggest priority in your life
5. Be Obedient, because God asks us to be
6. You have an overflowing Servant's Heart through Christ

Everything about you – when you were born, the way you look, your talents, where you live, what you have been through is your personal PURPOSE. God has designed you for something special that only he can show you. By you putting your trust and belief in Jesus Christ is the key to discovering who and what you were created for.

Every experience on Earth (good and bad), every step you take when Jesus Christ becomes your Savior and Lord, is one step closer to your priceless unique purpose. That's great news right? What an incredible adventure! Well, it gets better, because your purpose in Jesus will live forever – in Jesus Christ you are ETERNAL! Imagine your life being full of joy, peace, happiness, good health and no pain!

Eternal means forever – without beginning or end. That's a long time. We think living for 100 years is amazing, being eternal is A LOT longer, time just keeps going without end.

Following Jesus Christ ensures we will live with Him for eternity and never perish. What we leave behind one day on Earth may be forgotten or it may inspire others to follow Jesus. Regardless, we are eternally secure and safe - NOTHING can keep us from that, it's God's promise to us for believing in His son, Jesus.

We are priceless and unique and have a special purpose. God gave His son Jesus to help us live that purpose through our acceptance and belief in Him. We get to have a life purpose unique to us and eternal life. Sounds like a win, win!

Today's Prayer: Thank God for His son, Jesus and all that He provides us through just believing in Him! Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin and guide you throughout your life to achieve your priceless and righteous purpose, forever!

