

# "Eyes Open, Hands Ready: Harvest Thankfulness for God's Gifts"

## Weekly Devotional Journey

### Monday - Eyes Wide Open

#### Morning Devotion

##### Today's Verse

Genesis 1:28 - God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'

##### Devotional Thought

God has entrusted us with an incredible responsibility - to be stewards of His magnificent creation. Like the potato with its eyes, we're called to truly see what's around us. When we look with intention, we witness breathtaking beauty: the intricate patterns of flowers, the majesty of mountains, the endless variety of creatures. Yet our eyes also reveal a sobering truth - we've made rather a mess of things, haven't we? The same eyes that marvel at God's handiwork must also acknowledge the damage we've caused through poor stewardship. This isn't meant to discourage us, but to awaken us to our calling as caretakers of God's world.

##### Reflection Question

What aspect of God's creation have you perhaps taken for granted that deserves your renewed attention and care?

##### From Sunday's Sermon

"You can use your eyes and see God's world - beautiful and amazing, yet messed up in all sorts of ways, because we have failed to look after it properly."

## Today's Application

Today, spend 10 minutes outdoors observing God's creation. Notice both its beauty and any signs of environmental concern. Ask God to open your eyes to how you might better care for what He's entrusted to you.

### Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of being stewards of Your beautiful world.

Open my eyes to see both the wonder of Your creation and the areas where I can make a positive difference. Help me to look with Your eyes of love and responsibility. Amen.

## Evening Devotion

### Seeing Beyond the Surface

#### Evening Reflection

As evening draws near, we reflect on what our eyes have truly seen today. Beyond the surface beauty lies a deeper reality - every creature, every landscape, every person bears the fingerprints of our Creator. When we see with spiritual eyes, we recognise that caring for creation isn't just environmental activism; it's worship. It's acknowledging that 'the earth is the Lord's and everything in it.' Tonight, let your eyes rest knowing that tomorrow brings fresh opportunities to see and serve.

#### Evening Reflection

How has your perspective on your role as a steward of God's creation shifted after today's reflection?

### Evening Prayer

Lord, as I rest tonight, help me to dream of ways I can better care for Your world tomorrow. Thank You for the gift of sight - both physical and spiritual. Amen.

## Tuesday - When God Weeps

### Morning Devotion

#### Today's Verse

Proverbs 19:17 - Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,  
and he will reward them for what they have done.

#### Devotional Thought

The onion teaches us something profound about God's heart - He weeps over the suffering in His world. When we cut an onion, tears flow naturally, and so it is with our heavenly Father when He sees His precious children going hungry whilst others have abundance. Many live on less than £1 a day, surviving on small bowls of rice or beans mixed with dirty water. This isn't the world God intended. His heart breaks over inequality, over children who cry themselves to sleep from hunger, over the injustice that exists when there's actually enough for everyone. God's tears aren't tears of helplessness, but tears of a loving Father who has equipped His people to make a difference.

#### Reflection Question

What situation of injustice or need in the world moves your heart to tears, as it does  
God's?

#### From Sunday's Sermon

"When God looks upon all of His hungry precious children, He weeps."

#### Today's Application

Research one specific area of global poverty or hunger. Find a reputable charity working in that area and consider how you might support their work, whether through prayer, financial giving, or raising awareness.

**Morning Prayer**

Compassionate God, Your heart breaks for those who suffer. Help me to share in Your compassion and move beyond tears to action. Show me how I can be part of Your solution to the world's pain. Amen.

## Evening Devotion

### Tears That Transform

**Evening Reflection**

God's tears aren't signs of defeat but catalysts for change. When we allow ourselves to feel what God feels about injustice and suffering, something beautiful happens - our hearts align with His. The onion's tears remind us that genuine compassion often begins with allowing ourselves to be moved by what moves God. Tonight, don't be afraid of the tears that come when you truly see the world's pain. Let them water the seeds of action in your heart.

**Evening Reflection**

How might God be calling you to transform your compassion into concrete action?

**Evening Prayer**

Lord, let my heart be tender towards the things that break Yours. Transform my tears into determination, my sorrow into service. Use me as an instrument of Your love. Amen.

## Wednesday - Peas in a Pod

### Morning Devotion

#### Today's Verse

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

#### Devotional Thought

The pea pod reminds us of an uncomfortable truth - we're all in this together, and we've all contributed to the world's brokenness. Like peas in a pod, we share the common condition of sin. We've been greedy, taking more than we need whilst others go without. We've been selfish, prioritising our comfort over others' basic needs. We've failed to love as God loves, hoarding His gifts rather than sharing them generously. This isn't meant to condemn us but to humble us. Recognition of our shared failure is the first step towards shared responsibility and shared hope. In Christ, we find both forgiveness for our failures and power to live differently.

#### Reflection Question

In what specific ways have you contributed to the world's problems through selfishness or indifference?

#### From Sunday's Sermon

"Forgive us Lord where we have been greedy; eating more than we need and taking more things than we need, while many people around the world go hungry."

#### Today's Application

Practice confession today - acknowledge to God one specific way you've been selfish or greedy. Then take one concrete step to act more generously, whether by sharing something you own or choosing to consume less.

**Morning Prayer**

Merciful Father, I confess that I've been part of the problem. Forgive my greed, my selfishness, and my failure to love as You love. Transform my heart and help me to be part of Your solution. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Evening Devotion

**United in Grace****Evening Reflection**

The beauty of being 'peas in a pod' isn't just our shared sinfulness, but our shared hope. We're united not only in our need for forgiveness but in the grace freely offered through Christ. This evening, rest in the assurance that God's mercy is greater than our failures. Tomorrow is a new day to live out the forgiveness we've received, showing the same grace to others that has been shown to us.

**Evening Reflection**

How does knowing that you're forgiven change your perspective on serving others?

**Evening Prayer**

Thank You, Lord, for Your amazing grace that covers all my sins. Help me to extend that same grace to others and live as one who has been truly forgiven. Amen.

## Thursday - Listen and Learn

### Morning Devotion

#### Today's Verse

1 John 3:17-18 - If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

#### Devotional Thought

The ear of corn calls us to use our ears - to listen carefully to what God is saying. Through His Word, God speaks clearly about our responsibility to care for the poor and needy. He tells us that kindness to the poor is like lending to Him personally. He reminds us that when we feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, we're serving Christ Himself. Most challengingly, He questions whether His love truly lives in us if we see others in need and do nothing. God's voice isn't harsh but loving, calling us to a life of authentic love that shows itself in action, not just words.

#### Reflection Question

What is God specifically saying to you about how you should respond to need around you?

#### From Sunday's Sermon

"My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love. And we should show that love by what we do."

#### Today's Application

Set aside time today to listen - both to God through Scripture and prayer, and to others who might share about needs in your community. Ask God to make His voice clear regarding how He wants you to serve.

**Morning Prayer**

Speaking God, help me to be still and listen to Your voice today. Open my ears to hear Your heart for the world and Your specific calling on my life. Give me courage to respond obediently to what You say. Amen.

## Evening Devotion

### The Sound of Love

**Evening Reflection**

True listening involves more than just hearing words - it requires a heart ready to respond. As you've listened to God's voice today, you've likely heard His consistent message: love in action, not just intention. The sound of God's love isn't just in gentle whispers but in the call to justice, mercy, and humble service. Tonight, commit to being someone who not only hears God's word but acts upon it.

**Evening Reflection**

What specific action is God calling you to take based on what you've heard from Him today?

**Evening Prayer**

Lord, thank You for speaking to me today. Help me to be a doer of Your word, not just a hearer. Give me wisdom and courage to act on what You've shown me. Amen.



## Friday - Lend a Hand

### Morning Devotion

#### Today's Verse

Matthew 25:35 - For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

#### Devotional Thought

The banana reminds us to 'lend a hand' - to move from awareness to action. God isn't asking for perfection; He's asking for participation. We can all give something, can't we? Perhaps it's time, money, skills, or simply a listening ear. The beautiful thing about being God's church is that we're not meant to solve the world's problems alone. We're called to be generous with whatever we have, trusting that when we all contribute our part, God multiplies our efforts. Let's not be people who just take and never give. Instead, let's be known for lending a hand up, not just a handout, following Jesus' example of generous service.

#### Reflection Question

What specific gift, skill, or resource has God given you that you could use to help others this week?

#### From Sunday's Sermon

"We are God's church and that is exactly what we can do! We can all give something can't we? We can give our time or money, our gifts and skills."

#### Today's Application

Take concrete action today. Whether it's volunteering, donating to a food bank, helping a neighbour, or supporting a charity, do something practical that demonstrates God's love to someone in need.

**Morning Prayer**

Generous God, You have blessed me with so much. Help me to be a blessing to others. Show me where You want me to lend a hand today, and give me a heart that gives freely as You have given to me. Amen.

## Evening Devotion

### Hands and Hearts United

**Evening Reflection**

As this week draws to a close, remember that you're part of something bigger than yourself. Every hand that serves, every heart that loves, every act of kindness contributes to God's kingdom work on earth. You don't have to change the whole world - just be faithful with the corner of it that God has entrusted to you. Tonight, rest in the knowledge that when God's people lend a hand together, His love becomes visible to a watching world.

**Evening Reflection**

How has this week changed your understanding of your role in caring for God's world and people?

**Evening Prayer**

Father, thank You for the privilege of being Your hands and feet in this world. Help me to continue serving faithfully, knowing that You use ordinary people like me to do extraordinary things. Bless all those who will benefit from the love You've shown through Your people. Amen.