

# FIRST things FIRST...

## *Daily Devotions*

### Devotional Guide ~ March 2-8, 2026

Devotions are prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

#### Monday: March 2

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##### **Scripture: Genesis 3:8-10 & John 4:5-42**

After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God in the garden. Of course, God already knew where they were. Even though He knew, He still asked, "Where are you?" God's question wasn't about location. It was about relationship. We do the same thing. When we feel ashamed, disappointed in ourselves, or maybe we feel like we have lost our faith. We tend to connect to God less. We pull back. We pray less. We avoid honesty. We pretend everything is fine. But hiding never heals anything. The first step toward healing is simply answering honestly: "Here I am, Lord. I'm struggling."

**Prayer:** God, You already know my heart. Help me be honest with You and trust Your grace.

#### Tuesday: March 3

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##### **Scripture: Psalm 139:7-12 & John 4:5-42**

The psalm says there is nowhere we can go where God is not present. Even darkness is not dark to Him. Sometimes we hide behind busyness. Sometimes behind humor. Sometimes behind church 'Stuff'. We think if we avoid the hard conversations with God, we can avoid facing ourselves. The truth is comforting: you don't have to clean yourself up before coming to God. You can come exactly as you are.

**Prayer:** Lord, give me courage to stop pretending and to meet You honestly today.

#### Wednesday: March 4

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##### **Scripture: Luke 18:9-14 & John 4:5-42**

Jesus tells about two men praying. One impresses everyone with his religious words. The other simply says, "God, have mercy on me." The honest man goes home right with God. We often think God wants polished prayers. But what He really wants is truthful hearts. Honesty opens the door for grace; pretending keeps it closed. God already knows the truth, why hide it?

**Prayer:** Merciful God, teach me to pray honestly instead of trying to impress You.

#### Thursday: March 5

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##### **Scripture: Psalm 32:3-5 & John 4:5-42**

David says that when he kept silent about his sin, it was a large burden. But when he confessed, he found relief. Hiding is exhausting. Carrying secrets takes away our joy and peace. Many people think confession makes things worse, but David discovered the opposite. God is not waiting to punish you. He is waiting to free you. The moment we stop covering our hearts is often the moment healing begins.

**Prayer:** Lord, I bring You what I've been carrying.

#### Friday: March 6

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##### **Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8 & John 4:5-42**

When Isaiah sees God's holiness, his first reaction is shame: "I am ruined." He becomes aware of his own brokenness and thinks there is no way he can make this right. But God doesn't push him away. God makes him clean. Then God gives him something to do! Honesty with God doesn't eliminate possibilities. It prepares us. The people God uses most are not those who pretend perfection, but those who admit their need for grace. When we stop hiding, we discover God still wants to work through us.

**Prayer:** Holy God, help me bring my true self before You.

#### Saturday: March 7

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##### **Scripture: 1 John 1:5-9 & John 4:5-42**

John says that walking in the light means living honestly before God and others. Light can feel uncomfortable at first because it exposes things we'd rather keep hidden. But light is also where healing happens. God promises that if we confess our sins, He forgives. Notice that honesty comes first, then renewal. You don't meet God by pretending you're already whole. You meet Him by stepping into the light and letting Him make you whole.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me walk in the light today.

#### Sunday, March 8, 2026

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**Title:** Actually

**Scripture:** John 4:5-42

**Worship at 10:00am**

Pastor Clint Phillips