



5 Day Devotional

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore the themes of rescue, sacrifice, and the unwavering faith that compels us to reach out to those in need, following Jesus' commandment to spread His word.

Day 1

Mark 16:15

The essence of rescue is woven deeply into the fabric of our faith. Just as the Coast Guard placed the highest priority on rescuing those stranded on the SS Pendleton, Jesus has made it the church's mission to rescue those in need of spiritual salvation. Our calling is to "go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone," regardless of the challenges and fears we may face.

These brave Coast Guardsmen faced an impossible task, yet they did not waver. Similarly, we are called to reach out to the lost, understanding that while we may face obstacles such as fear, excuses, and spiritual warfare, our mission remains crucial. The life of every lost soul is invaluable, and our efforts could mean the difference between spiritual life and death for them.

- Consider a time when you felt overwhelmed by a task but pressed on regardless. How did you find the strength to continue?
- Who in your life needs to hear the Good News? What holds you back from sharing it with them?
- How can you make those in need of spiritual rescue your highest priority this week?
- Pray for the courage to overcome your fears and share the Gospel with someone in need.

- Ask God to open doors and provide opportunities for you to speak about your faith to others.

Day 2

2 Corinthians 1:10-11

Rescue is never a solitary effort. The crew of the SS Pendleton couldn't save themselves—they depended entirely on the Coast Guard. In the same way, those who are aware of their spiritual peril without Christ are entirely reliant on others to guide them to salvation. It's through partnership and collective effort that we are able to bring others to Christ.

Throughout history, God has used people as instruments of His rescue operation. Many people lack the knowledge or are deceived about their spiritual standing. They need someone to reveal the truth to them. As believers, it is our duty to overcome our fears, set aside our excuses, and face the spiritual warfare head-on to ensure that those in need can find their way to Jesus.

- Reflect on someone who helped you grow in your faith. How did their actions impact your spiritual journey?
- What are some common fears or excuses you find yourself making about sharing your faith?
- How can you navigate these obstacles to become more effective in your mission?
- Ask God to give you a burden for souls who are lost and to show you the practical steps to reach out to them.
- Pray for those who are spiritually lost, that their hearts may be open to the Gospel message.

Day 3

John 3:16

The greatest act of rescue in history is exemplified in God's sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ. The willingness of the Coast Guard to risk their lives for the crew of the SS Pendleton mirrors, albeit on a much smaller scale, the immense love and sacrifice Jesus demonstrated on the cross. This ultimate act of love reminds us of the lengths to which we must go to rescue others.

Jesus' sacrifice demonstrates that true rescue comes at a cost. It requires selflessness and a willingness to place others' needs above our own. As we engage in our mission to rescue the spiritually lost, we must be prepared to face hardships and sacrifices. But in doing so, we emulate the very essence of Christ's love and commitment to humanity.

- Think about a time when you had to make a significant sacrifice for someone else. How did it feel, and what was the outcome?
- In what ways can you demonstrate the selfless love of Christ to those around you?
- How does understanding Jesus' sacrifice motivate you to share the Gospel with urgency?

- Pray for a heart that is willing to sacrifice for others, just as Jesus sacrificed for you.
- Ask God to show you specific ways you can demonstrate His love and commitment to those in need.

Day 4

Ephesians 6:12

The rescue operation of the SS Pendleton was fraught with challenges, just as our spiritual rescue missions are. The harsh elements, the bar to be crossed, and the overwhelming odds were obstacles that could have easily led to failure. In our spiritual journey, we contend with fear, rejection, and spiritual warfare. Yet, just as the Coast Guard pressed on, so must we, equipped with the armor of God.

Understanding that our struggle is "not against flesh and blood" helps us to see the bigger picture. It is in the spiritual realms where the true battle lies, and it is with spiritual tools that we must equip ourselves. Prayer, the Word of God, and the support of fellow believers fortify us for the task at hand, enabling us to persevere and be effective rescuers in God's kingdom.

- Identify a current obstacle that you face in your spiritual walk. How can you address it with the tools God has given you?
- Reflect on how understanding spiritual warfare changes your approach to sharing the Gospel.
- How can you better equip yourself and others to face these spiritual challenges effectively?
- Pray for strength and wisdom to recognize and overcome spiritual obstacles.
- Ask for God's guidance and protection as you engage in spiritual warfare for the sake of spreading the Gospel.

Day 5

2 Peter 3:9

Every person in need of rescue has someone praying for their safe return. The scene of the townsfolk shining their headlights to guide the rescue boat is a beautiful analogy for intercessory prayer and collective hope. This imagery reminds us that while we work to rescue the lost, many are praying for those we aim to reach.

God's desire is for everyone to be rescued, and He often uses our collective efforts in fulfilling this mission. As His Church, we are the light that guides the lost home. Recognizing the power of prayer and the importance of being the hands and feet of Jesus in this mission instills in us the commitment to not only pray but also to act.

- Recall a time when someone's prayers helped guide you through a difficult period. How did those prayers impact you?

- Who comes to mind as you think about people praying for their loved ones to come to Christ?
- How can you be a light that helps guide others to spiritual safety?
- Pray for the individuals and families who are fervently seeking salvation for their loved ones.
- Ask God to help you be a beacon of His love and truth to those who are lost.