

GOD-SENT

A DEVOTIONAL FOR YOUR SUMMER

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God is a sending God.

God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us; **God sent** his Word to guide us; **God sent** his church to change the world; **God sent** his Spirit to empower us to take steps of faith; and **God sent** you to be a part of changing the world. In other words, you are **God-sent**.

The question is not whether you are sent by God, but for what purpose? How can you live out your identity as a sent follower of Jesus?

This guide is meant to help us as we ask God how we can glorify him this summer. Each day, we will study one of the above ways that God sends. As you read, meditate on the passage and reflect on the questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to truth. Ask him to help you obey and trust him.

Most importantly, ask him to help you to adore Jesus. As we behold Jesus, we are transformed from one degree of glory to the next (2 Cor. 3:18), becoming the people he created us to be and, in turn, living how he created us to live.

Ultimately, this guide is not just about helping you make a one-time decision. We pray that this helps you learn how to seek God in all of your decisions, for the rest of your life!

*“Jesus said to them again, ‘... As the Father has **sent** me, even so I am **sending** you.’”*

– John 20:21



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GOD SENT JESUS - Day 1

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not **send** his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

– John 3:16-17

Don't let that be familiar to you. Let that sink in. Re-read it. Reflect on this timeless truth:
God sent Jesus because he loves us.

In our sin, God would have been just to condemn us and to pour out his wrath on us. But because of his love, *God sent Jesus* to live a perfect life, to die the death we deserved, and to rise to new life, conquering sin and death! Jesus also himself said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God ... for I was sent for this purpose” (Luke 4:43). In other words, Jesus came first and foremost to save, and then to preach the salvation he earned for us.

Jesus' sacrifice and example should change everything about our lives and the way we make decisions. Both big and small decisions should be made in response to what Jesus has done for us, and our lives should be modeled after the way Jesus lived.

We invite you to go through this guide open-handed with your summer. Let the gospel shape the way you view decision-making. Let the truth of God's Word speak louder than the pressures of the world. And let the Spirit lead you to see the worthiness of Jesus.



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Reflection Questions:

Reflect on how you came to believe the gospel. What sins or lifestyle did God save you from? Who did God use to help you believe the gospel?

How does knowing you have eternal life change the way you view your future?

How can you follow in Jesus' footsteps and preach the good news to those who need to hear it?



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GOD SENT HIS WORD - Day 2

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Think about the value of God’s word in your own life. How did you first hear of Jesus and his gospel? Through hearing or reading the Word, either in church or from another person. The Word of God has the power to transform lives, and you are living proof!

The entire Bible is the authoritative, inspired source of Truth that brings blessing and fruit to our lives when we obey it. Through his Word, God teaches us how to live holy and righteous lives. He convicts us of our sin. He corrects us when we stray. God knows what is best for us, so his instruction and his guidance is ultimately what is best for us. In all decision-making, the Word of God should be the driving force as we seek to obey God.

The Word also helps to show us God’s will for our future. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Imagine walking a dark path. You may not be able to see everything around you, but if you have a lamp, you can see where you are going.

The Word of God similarly shows us where we ought to go, even when we can’t see every step of the way.

Look to God’s Word to light your path as you pray through your summer decision.

Verses for further reflection: Matt. 6:25-34; Rom. 10:13-17; Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 10:13



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Reflection Questions:

Do you believe the Word of God is true and authoritative for your life?

Over the next several weeks, how can you make the Word of God your driving force making a decision for next summer?

What are some ways you can obey Jesus' command to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19) next summer?



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GOD SENT THE CHURCH - Day 3

*“And [Jesus] called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he **sent** them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.” – Luke 9:1-2*

What started with twelve disciples quickly became a world-changing movement. God began working through to Christians plant churches throughout the entire world, turning the church into a dominant, unstoppable force for world change.

Today, the church still engages in church planting efforts all over the world and advocates for positive societal change. When healthy, gospel-centered churches take root, blessing and healing often follow.

But God doesn't bring his blessing through isolated individuals: he blesses the world through His church! Jesus died for the world, but he uses broken people to proclaim the gospel message that brings healing to those who believe it.

As a college student, you have seemingly endless options for your summer. Most of them are good options; but why not consider spending your summer serving and bringing gospel hope to people who need it?

Thankfully, just as Jesus sent out the twelve disciples, he also sends us out together. We can be on mission and serve the Lord alongside brothers and sisters who are making a similar sacrifice.

Reflection Questions:

What opportunities are you considering for next summer?

How can you impact people with the gospel in those opportunities?

How can you invite other believers—the church—into your decision for next summer?



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GOD SENT HIS SPIRIT - Day 4

*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth... when the Helper comes, whom I will **send** to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth... he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness” – John 14:15-17, 26-27*

Without the Holy Spirit, how far do you think you would make it in the Christian life?

Not very far. Without the Spirit—the Helper—we will fail quickly. Without him, we cannot obey him, follow his will, or bear witness to Jesus.

The Holy Spirit enables us to prioritize God and serve him sacrificially, rather than focusing on ourselves and doing what is comfortable.

The Holy Spirit also leads and guides us into God’s will. At times, the Spirit will make God’s will undeniable to us—through dreams and desires, through conversations and circumstances.

But sometimes the Spirit may not make it clear and we may struggle to discern God’s specific will in certain seasons. God allows uncertainty to help us exercise faith and trust him when we can’t see his path or understand his reasonings.

When we don’t know where the Spirit is leading us, we can trust that the Spirit will lead us somewhere we can bear witness to Jesus. If the Spirit leads you to take a bold step of faith, he promises to be with you!

Will you trust the Spirit in where he may be guiding you next summer?

Reflection Questions:

Do you feel like God's will for your summer is clear right now?

If so, how do you see him leading you there? If not, how can you depend on the Spirit to guide you?

Where may the Spirit be leading you to bear witness about Jesus next summer?



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GOD SENT YOU - Day 5

*“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I **send**, and who will go for us?’*

*Then I said, ‘Here I am! **Send** me.’ And he said, ‘Go ...’” – Isaiah 6:8-9*

The Lord asked, “Who is willing to be sent?” Isaiah responded, “I am willing; send me!”

What about you? Are you willing to be sent?

Christians have been entrusted with the gospel message that can change the whole world. It’s the church’s collective job to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19), but individuals have to take up the task of going to the nations.

Being sent doesn’t mean you commit to moving overseas. Being sent involves responding to God’s call by having open hands: being willing to sacrifice your comforts if God asks, proclaiming Christ in word and deed, and knowing that he will provide for you as he sends you!

We all have different roles to play in God’s mission, but you have a specific role to play! Only through prayer, discernment, humility, and time can you fully know your role in bringing gospel change to the world. But start now by praying for God to reveal his will for your summer!



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Reflection Questions:

How can you live like you are sent today?

After going through this devotional, what do you feel like God is leading you to do this summer? What is one next step you can take in obedience?

(ex. Apply for City Project; talk to your parents; invite others into your decision)

Who is a trusted brother or sister that you can text to get their input? Text them now and ask them to meet up to discuss what you learned.



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What Now?

*“As the Father has **sent** me, even so I am **sending** you.” – John 20:21*

Remember, **God sent** his Son Jesus to save us; **God sent** his Word to guide us; **God sent** the church to change the world; **God sent** his Spirit to empower us to take steps of faith; and **God sent** you to be a part of changing the world. You are **God-sent**.

Again, the question is not whether you are sent, but how you will live sent. College summers are an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime chance to spend two months serving God and making him known around the world!

Consider the following summer opportunities to make disciples with Summit College:

- **City Project:** Students spend two months serving locally, nationally, and internationally: one week at a Summit church plant serving the city alongside members of a church, 5 weeks in Wake Forest being trained in practical theology and disciple-making, serving the community, and a 2 week international trip serving alongside some of Summit’s international missionaries.
- **Second City:** Students spend two months in an international context serving alongside some of Summit’s international missionaries or one of our domestic church plants (for students who have previously completed City Project).

For more information on Summit College’s summer projects, visit summitchurch.com/gonow, talk to a staff member, or email Richard Marshall at rmarshall@summitchurch.com.

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” - Matthew 6:33

