

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

A 5-Day Reflection Guide

Joy



SERMON SERIES:
MORE THAN FRUIT

WEEK & TOPIC:
WEEK FOUR: FROM HERE TO THERE

DATES:
SEPT 28–OCT 2, 2026

This Week's Big Idea

We were made for here, but we're built for more. God has placed us in this time, this season and this generation with gifts, opportunities and an assignment. But He has also placed eternity in our hearts. The longing for "more" isn't satisfied by simply getting more—it points us beyond what is temporary toward something eternal. We have eternity in here, but we have an assignment out there. What God has placed in us is meant to become seed in someone else's world.

More than Fruit

Day 1: Made for Here, Built for More

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV) “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV) “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”



TODAY'S SEED

Have you ever finally gotten something you really wanted—and discovered it didn't feel quite as good as you thought it would? Remember the new car? At first you park way out in the parking lot so nobody can ding it and six months later there are french fries fossilized between the seats.

We spend a lot of energy trying to get from **here to there**. When I graduate, when I get married, when I make enough money, when I finally get through this season. Somewhere inside us is the assumption: **There will finally give me what here can't, the problem is**, every “there” eventually becomes another “here.”

We usually treat that restlessness like something is wrong with us. But what if at least part of that longing isn't a human flaw, but a divine feature? Solomon says God has placed **eternity in the human heart**.

You were made for here. You were born in this time, living in this generation, surrounded by these people, with your gifts, experiences and opportunities. There is purpose for you **here**. But you were also built for more. God put eternal longing inside temporal people. That's why money, success, experiences, recognition and upgrades can never completely satisfy us. We correctly sense, there must be more, but sometimes we're looking for the right “more” in the wrong places.

We were made for here, but we're built for more. We live inside time, but eternity is in our hearts. We experience days, but something inside us reaches beyond the horizon. We stand in “now,” yet somehow, we sense forever. That doesn't make this life less important, it makes what we do here **eternally significant**.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Hebrew word translated “**eternity**” in Ecclesiastes 3:11 is **’olam** (עוֹלָם) . It carries the idea of long duration, antiquity, futurity or forever—something stretching beyond the horizon of what we can presently see. Solomon describes an interesting tension: God has placed an awareness of something beyond time within us, yet we cannot see His entire work “from beginning to end.” **We sense more than we can see**. That tension isn't necessarily evidence that something is missing from your life; it can be evidence that you were made with eternity in view.

DON'T MISS THIS

We were made for here, but we're built for more.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. What “there” have you believed would finally make you satisfied?
2. Have you ever reached something you wanted only to discover that you soon wanted something else?
3. Where might you be trying to satisfy an eternal longing with something temporary?
4. What changes when you begin viewing this season as an assignment instead of something you simply need to get through?

WATER THE SEED

Pay attention today whenever you catch yourself thinking, **“When I finally...”** When you do, stop and ask: What am I expecting “there” to give me that I’m not experiencing “here”? Thank God for where He has placed you today, then ask Him to show you the purpose and opportunity already present in this season.

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Thank You for placing me in this time, this generation and this season. Help me recognize that I’m not here accidentally. You have given me gifts, experiences, relationships and opportunities for a purpose. Thank You also for placing eternity in my heart. When I feel the pull of “more,” keep me from trying to satisfy an eternal longing with temporary things. Teach me to enjoy Your blessings without expecting them to give me something only You can provide. Help me live fully here while keeping eternity in view. Open my eyes to the assignment in front of me today. Let what You have placed in my heart affect how I use my time, how I love people and how I live this season. I was made for here, but I’m built for more.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**GOD PRODUCES THE FRUIT. WE CREATE THE CONDITIONS.
STAY CONNECTED TO THE VINE. STAY PLANTED. TRUST THE
PROCESS. THE FRUIT IS COMING.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Day Two – Something Great Inside Something Small

When we hear “more,” we usually think bigger, better or more impressive. But Jesus compared His Kingdom to a mustard seed. Tomorrow we’ll discover why we shouldn’t confuse **small with insignificant** —and how ordinary moments can carry eternal possibilities.



More than Fruit

Day 2: Something Great Inside Something Small

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:31–32 (NLT) “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.”

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV) “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”



TODAY'S SEED

What comes to mind when you hear the word **more**? More money or influence? A bigger opportunity? Something new, exciting or impressive? We tend to measure “more” by size, but Jesus didn’t.

When Jesus wanted to explain the Kingdom of God, He pointed to something you could hold between two fingers. A seed. And not just any seed—a mustard seed. Something so small it would be easy to overlook. Jesus said, in effect, Don’t judge what something can become by what it looks like right now.

We often confuse **small with insignificant**. We think if God is doing something important, it should feel important. It should be obvious, dramatic or spectacular! But much of the Kingdom doesn’t begin that way. It begins with a seed. You encourage someone—and they simply say thank you. You serve for an hour—and Sunday comes and goes. You give—and you may never know where your generosity ends up. You teach a child—and wonder how much they actually

heard. It can feel small, but that’s because seeds always do. You can’t see the tree in a mustard seed, or the branches, or even the birds that will someday find shelter there. But it’s all there in potential.

Paul says we carry **treasure in earthen vessels**. Something extraordinary has been placed inside something ordinary, and that includes you. God has placed His Word in you. His Spirit lives in you. He has given you gifts, experiences, opportunities and grace. And sometimes what God does through you may not feel spectacular at all, but never underestimate it.

Yesterday we discovered that eternity in our hearts doesn’t make this life meaningless—it makes what we do here eternally significant. That means ordinary moments can carry eternal possibilities.

There may be something much bigger hiding inside the small thing God is asking you to do today.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Greek word Jesus uses for “seed” is **sperma (σπέρμα)**, referring to seed that contains within itself the capacity to reproduce. A seed may appear small, but its significance isn’t determined by its present size—it’s determined by the life and potential contained within it. That’s why Jesus could use a mustard seed to describe His Kingdom. **God measures a seed by what He put inside it, not simply by what you can see outside it.**

DON'T MISS THIS

Don't confuse small with insignificant

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Have you ever dismissed something because it seemed too small to really matter?
2. What ordinary opportunities has God placed in front of you right now?
3. Are you waiting for something spectacular while overlooking something supernatural?
4. What small act of obedience could contain more potential than you presently realize?

WATER THE SEED

Do one small thing today with great faith. Pray for someone. Send the text. Make the phone call. Encourage the coworker. Help the neighbor. Serve where you're needed. Don't measure its significance by the immediate response. **Plant the seed and trust God with what's inside it.**

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Thank You that Your Kingdom often begins in ways that look small. Forgive me for the times I've confused bigger with better or spectacular with significant. Open my eyes to the ordinary opportunities You place in front of me every day. Help me recognize the treasure You have placed in me and the seeds You have placed in my hands. Give me faith to obey when something feels small. Keep me from needing recognition, immediate results or visible proof before I believe You are working. Use my words, my gifts, my time and my ordinary moments for something greater than I can presently see. Teach me to see what You see—the extraordinary potential You have hidden inside something ordinary.

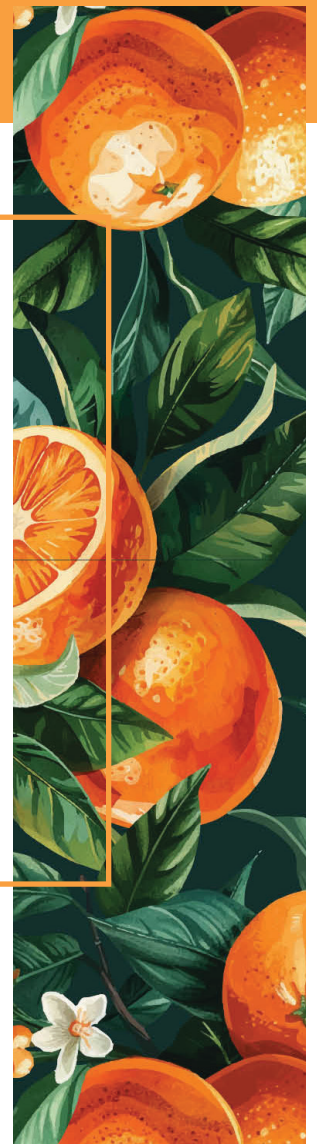
In Jesus' name, Amen.

**GOD PRODUCES THE FRUIT. WE CREATE THE CONDITIONS.
STAY CONNECTED TO THE VINE. STAY PLANTED. TRUST THE
PROCESS. THE FRUIT IS COMING.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Day Three – There's a Treasure in You...But It's Not for You

God comforts us, teaches us, encourages us, provides for us and forgives us—but His work rarely stops with us. Tomorrow we'll discover a Kingdom pattern: **what God puts in you, He eventually intends to flow through you.**



More than Fruit

Day 3: There's a Treasure in You...But It's Not for You

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV) “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

John 15:16 (NKJV) “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.”



TODAY'S SEED

Have you ever received something and immediately realized, **this isn't all for me?** Maybe it was a whole pan of dessert, or a basket of fruit, hopefully you thought, who can I share this with, and not, where can I hide it!

That's a Kingdom principle. God puts things **in us** that He eventually intends to flow **through us**. Paul said God comforts us in our trouble so that we can comfort others with the same comfort we received from Him. God comforts you—and eventually you comfort somebody. God teaches you—and eventually you teach somebody. God provides for you—and eventually generosity flows through you. God forgives you—and eventually forgiveness flows through you.

There's a pattern, receive, grow, give. Peter says we are to be “good stewards” of the grace God has given us. A steward understands that what has been placed in their hands has

a purpose beyond simply possessing it. That means the question isn't only, what has God given me, but also, who is it for? Maybe God brought you through something because someday you'll sit across from someone going through it. Maybe God taught you something because someone else will need you to teach them. Maybe God has been generous to you because He wants generosity to have a way into somebody else's life.

This is how The fruit of the Spirit is to work as well, love or kindness needs to be given to somebody who doesn't deserve it. Fruit isn't produced for the tree, **fruit is produced for somebody else to taste. Paul said that we have a treasure on the inside, but** it's not just for you, it's for others. You've got eternity on the inside but you've got an assignment **on the outside**.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Greek word translated “**stewards**” in 1 Peter 4:10 is **oikonomos (οἰκονόμος)**. It describes someone entrusted with the management of something belonging to another. A steward doesn't create the treasure and doesn't ultimately own it—the steward faithfully manages what has been entrusted to them. Your gifts, experiences and the grace God has worked into your life are not merely possessions to enjoy. **They are something God has entrusted to you for the benefit of others.**

DON'T MISS THIS

What God puts in you, He eventually intends to flow through you.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. What has God given you that someone else could benefit from?
2. Is there something God has brought you through that could help someone who is walking through it now?
3. Which fruit of the Spirit has God been developing in you that someone in your world needs to experience?
4. Who might God have placed near you because you're carrying something they need?

WATER THE SEED

Make a simple list today of three things God has put into your life—perhaps encouragement, wisdom, resources, experience, forgiveness or a particular gift. Beside each one, write the name of someone who could benefit from it. Then choose one and **let it flow through you today.**

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Thank You for everything You have placed in my life. Thank You for the comfort You've given me, the truth You've taught me, the encouragement I've received, the provision You've supplied and the forgiveness You've freely given. Help me never treat Your blessings as though they end with me. Make me a faithful steward of Your grace. Show me who needs what You have placed in me. Let Your love become love through me. Let Your kindness become kindness through me. Let Your generosity, encouragement and forgiveness find their way into somebody else's life through mine. Thank You for the treasure You've placed in me. Now show me the assignment You have for me out there.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**GOD PRODUCES THE FRUIT. WE CREATE THE CONDITIONS.
STAY CONNECTED TO THE VINE. STAY PLANTED. TRUST THE
PROCESS. THE FRUIT IS COMING.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Day Four – Everybody Has a “There”

You don't have to travel across the world to find your mission field. There's somewhere you go when you leave here. There are people you encounter every week that most of us will never meet. Tomorrow we'll discover why your workplace, neighborhood, school, family, gym or coffee shop may be more than part of your routine.

It may be your “there.”



More than Fruit

Day 4: Everybody Has a “There”

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”



TODAY'S SEED

When you hear the words “**mission field**,” where does your mind go? Africa? South America? Somewhere overseas? Maybe a missionary standing in a place you’ve never been, speaking a language you don’t understand. That certainly can be a mission field. But you have one too.

Jesus told His disciples they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and eventually to the ends of the earth. There was a global assignment—but it started right where they were.

There’s a principle here that is much closer to home. Everybody has a “there.” There’s somewhere you go when you leave here. There’s somebody you encounter when you leave here. There’s a world you walk into every morning that most of the people sitting in church with you will never enter. Whether it’s your workplace, your neighborhood, school, the gym, coffee shop, the people you do business with ... that’s your THERE!

Sometimes we miss our assignment because it looks too much like our ordinary life. We’re waiting for God to send us somewhere significant while overlooking the people He has already placed around us. But what if your workplace isn’t just where you earn a paycheck? What if the ball field isn’t just where your kids play? What if your neighborhood isn’t just where your house happens to be? What if God has strategically placed you in those spaces because there are people there who need what you’re carrying?

We’ve learned that there’s treasure in you—but now we know where some of that treasure is supposed to go. It’s supposed to go ... There! You don’t have to preach a sermon. You don’t have to force a conversation. You simply show up carrying Jesus into places where God has already given you influence. Share your story when the opportunity comes and keep planting seeds - None of us can reach everybody, but everybody can reach somebody.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Greek word translated “**witnesses**” in Acts 1:8 is **martyrs** (μάρτυς), meaning a witness—someone who testifies to what they have seen, heard or experienced. Jesus wasn’t merely asking His followers to know something about Him; He was empowering them to carry what they had experienced into the world around them. **A witness doesn’t have to know everything. A witness simply tells what they know and lives from what they have experienced.**

DON’T MISS THIS

None of us can reach everybody, but everybody can reach somebody.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. Where is your “there”—the places you regularly go when you leave church?
2. Who are the people in those places that God has already given you relationship or influence with?
3. Have you been overlooking your everyday world because it feels too ordinary to be an assignment?
4. What could change if you began entering those places thinking, “**God sent me here with seed**”?

WATER THE SEED

Make a short “**My There**” list today. Write down three places you regularly go and one or two people you know in each place. Choose one person and intentionally plant a seed this week—encourage them, serve them, pray for them, invite them, or simply take time to listen. **Don’t make it complicated. Reach your world.**

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Open my eyes to see my everyday world differently. Help me recognize that my workplace, neighborhood, family, friendships and routines can all become places where Your love is seen. Holy Spirit, empower me to be a witness for Jesus. Give me sensitivity to recognize opportunities. Give me courage when it’s time to speak and wisdom to know when simply loving, serving or listening is the seed that needs to be planted. I know I cannot reach everybody. But I can reach somebody. Show me my “there.” Show me my somebody. Then help me faithfully carry what You have put in me into the world You have placed around me.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**GOD PRODUCES THE FRUIT. WE CREATE THE CONDITIONS.
STAY CONNECTED TO THE VINE. STAY PLANTED. TRUST THE
PROCESS. THE FRUIT IS COMING.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Day Five – Planting Beyond Your Lifetime

What if the seed you plant produces a harvest you never personally see? Hebrews 11 describes people who saw promises from a distance, believed them and embraced them—even though they didn’t experience everything their faith was preparing. Tomorrow we’ll finish the week with a bigger view of faith: **I don’t have to see the harvest to believe in the power of the seed.**



More than Fruit

Day 5: Planting Beyond Your Lifetime

TODAYS SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV) “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (NKJV) “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”



TODAY'S SEED

What if some of the most important things you do in your lifetime produce fruit after your lifetime? We like to plant—and harvest. Pray—and see the answer, or give—and see the difference. But Hebrews 11 describes people whose faith reached further than their lifetime. They saw promises from a distance, and they believed them, they even embraced them, but they didn't personally experience everything their faith was preparing. And God still calls that faith.

They understood something about seed. You don't have to see the harvest to believe in the power of what you're planting. Think about how much of your life exists because someone before you planted something they couldn't fully see. Someone prayed. Someone sacrificed. Someone built. Someone gave. Someone taught. Someone believed God for something that eventually became part of your story.

Now it's our turn. This entire series has reminded us that there's more than fruit. Fruit is evidence of what God has

already done—but inside the fruit is seed for what He wants to do next. That's why your faith can't stop with the harvest you're able to enjoy. There are people you may never meet who could someday benefit from seeds you're planting now. There are children who haven't been born yet. Families who don't know yet how desperately they're going to need Jesus. Leaders who haven't discovered their calling. People who will someday walk into places we're preparing today. Faith says, I may not see all of it—but I'll plant anyway.

Someday every one of us will leave this life. But until then, you and I are here. And while I can't see everything that God is going to do with my life—I have seed and I have an assignment, so I'm going to keep planting!

Faith doesn't only plant for what I can harvest. Faith plants for what God can harvest.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Hebrews 11 says they saw the promises from “**afar off**.” The Greek word **porrōthen** (πρόρρωθεν) carries the idea of from far away or at a distance. Their faith allowed them to value something they could see only from a distance. They didn't require personal possession of the entire promise before investing their lives in it. **Kingdom faith can plant today for something that may remain “afar off” from us but is already visible to God.**

DON'T MISS THIS

I don't have to see the harvest to believe in the power of the seed.

TEND THE GARDEN

Spend a few quiet moments reflecting.

1. What are you enjoying today because somebody before you planted something in faith?
2. Are you willing to invest in something God is doing even if you may never personally see the full result?
3. What are you planting right now in your family, church and “there” that could outlive you?
4. If someone someday lives in the harvest of what you’re planting now, what do you hope they find?

WATER THE SEED

Identify **one seed worth planting beyond yourself**. It could be investing in a younger person, teaching something you’ve learned, giving toward something that will outlast you, praying for the next generation, serving somewhere that builds the future, or sharing Jesus with someone in your “there.” Plant it without requiring immediate results. **Trust God with a harvest bigger than your lifetime.**

GROW THIS IN ME

Father,

Thank You for every person who planted before me. I’m living in harvests I didn’t create, enjoying fruit from seeds I didn’t plant and receiving blessings from prayers I never heard. Now help me do the same for someone else. Give me faith that reaches beyond what I can presently see. Keep me from measuring obedience only by results I can personally experience. As long as I’m here, I have seed. I have opportunity. I have an assignment. Show me where to plant. Help me faithfully reach my world, invest in another generation and prepare something for people whose names I may never know. I don’t have to see the harvest to believe in the power of the seed. I’ll plant, trust and leave the harvest to you.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**GOD PRODUCES THE FRUIT. WE CREATE THE CONDITIONS.
STAY CONNECTED TO THE VINE. STAY PLANTED. TRUST THE
PROCESS. THE FRUIT IS COMING.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Next Sunday

Over these four weeks we’ve followed the process: **Seed, ground, roots, fruit, more seed**. We’ve celebrated the fruit of yesterday and recognized that **the fruit of yesterday contains the seed for tomorrow**. We’ve learned that good seed needs good ground—and sometimes preparing that ground requires us to get our hands dirty. We’ve discovered that God often hides something great inside something small. And finally, we’ve discovered that the fruit God produces in us was never intended to stop with us.

We were made for here, built for more, and everybody has a there.

And trust God with what grows next.

