

1. Harris, Alex & Brett, *Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations*, Multnomah; 2008
2. IBID
3. IBID

## **THE FOLLOW UP**

***Be sure to get these FOUR devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done as well as read pages 131-164 in Do Hard Things***



Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. ~ 1 Timothy 4:12

## DEVO #1—The Little Things

### READ: Matthew 25:14-30

For months, Joanna had been excited about going on a summer mission's trip to Romania with her dad, but the trip had to be cancelled for her. Joanna's mom was seriously ill, and Joanna needed to stay home and take care of her younger siblings, do the laundry, help with meals, etc. It sure wasn't what she had hoped for! A summer of great experiences had just turned into a summer of endless chores.<sup>1</sup>

Many of us have dreams of doing big things for God and going on great adventures for Him. Yet, before God is going to trust us with big things, we need to show that we can be faithful in the little things, the every day things, the things that no one sees but need to get done just the same.

1. Because the first two servants were faithful with the little they have been given, what did the master say would happen?
2. The third servant was not faithful with the little he had been given. Was he given bigger things?
3. How faithful are you at completing all the little everyday things that need to get done (with a good attitude)?
4. In what areas do you need to work?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for giving you little things to be faithful with
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not being as faithful as you should
- ~Ask God to strengthen your resolve to do the little things well

## ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

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## POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Read pages 131-164 in *DO HARD THINGS*
- ◆ Pick a chore that you hate which must be done daily (or regularly) and commit to doing it with a great attitude
- ◆ Be praying, asking the Lord where He wants you to stand for Him in your home, your neighborhood, your school, among your friends, etc.
- ◆ Keep praying about doing "God-sized" things

## QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

### NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

### HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend five to ten minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

### PART 1 — READ: Colossians 3:17 and 3:23

### PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain these verses in your own words:

How would your life look different if you did everything as a representative of Jesus?

### PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you where you need to change and live more fully for Him. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

## DEVO #2 — All for the Glory of God

### READ: Romans 6:5-14; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures; sweep streets like Beethoven composed music...sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well."

*Do Hard Things* adds, "Like the street sweeper, your actions at home, at school, at church, and elsewhere in your community can bring honor and glory to God if you are willing to throw yourself into them one hundred percent just because they're things *He* has given you to do."<sup>2</sup>

1. Romans 6:13 says that every part of our lives are to be used for the glory of God. Rate how you are doing at this on a scale of 1 to 10 (with one being "bad" and ten being "great").

Explain:

2. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says we should reflect God's glory. How well are you reflecting God's glory through the every day chores of life?

3. How can you reflect God's glory in your tasks this week?

### PRAYER

~Thank God for loving and caring for you

~Confess to God, if necessary, not doing everything for His glory and/or not reflecting His glory well

~Ask God to make you into a great reflector of His glory

## DEVO #3 — High Expectations

**READ: Mark 8:34-38; Luke 14:25-35**

The country of Niger in Africa is a poor, landlocked country that is riddled with dust and desert. Many people there are Muslim and want nothing to do with Jesus. Yet, when Bolley came to the Lord, he was excited to talk about his faith in Christ with all who would listen. But when Bolley tried to tell his father, his father angrily insulted Bolley and threatened to kill him. Yet, in spite of this, Bolley refuses to abandon his faith and is dedicated to loving Jesus above all else.

God has high expectations for His followers. He expects us to follow Him no matter what, to love Him above all, and to be willing to pay any price.

1. In your own words, what is Jesus saying in Mark 8:34-37?
2. What does Jesus mean in Luke 14:26,27 and 33?
3. How well are you showing that you love Jesus above *everyone else*?
4. How well are you showing that you love Jesus above *everything else*?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for putting you above all else and dying on the cross for your sins
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, putting people and things ahead of Him
- ~Ask God to strengthen you to put Him first above all else

## DEVO #4 — Resolved!

**READ: Acts 12:1-5; 14:19,20; 21:26-32**

For sixteen year-old Eva and her friends, everything revolved around partying. Understand, partying was not a *part* of their social life, it *was* their social life. Yet, Eva had just accepted Christ and she said, "If being a Christian doesn't change the way I act on the outside, how can I say there is any real change on the inside."

Going along with her friends was no longer an option. Soon she was just a "boring outsider" to her once close friends, and she became the subject of a lot of gossip. But she knew that you don't just follow Jesus when you get a pat on the back for it, you need to follow Him when it hurts too. She knew that the price she was willing to pay to stand for Jesus would show how much value she put into the relationship.<sup>3</sup>

1. How were Christians being persecuted in Acts?
2. Did they give up?
3. Are you resolved to follow Christ no matter what?
4. What are some things that cause you to shrink back instead of stand strong?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God because He is with you through every storm
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, shrinking back too often and standing strong too little
- ~Ask God to strengthen you to stand strong