

DISCOVERING WHAT WE BELIEVE: Week 1 | *DEVOTIONAL*

EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Day 1

Psalm 90:12

Today's scripture, Psalm 90:12, encourages us to seek wisdom by numbering our days. The main theme of this devotional is the importance of understanding theology, the study of God and Christian beliefs. Theology forms the foundation of our worldview and informs every aspect of our lives, guiding us through life's challenges with God's wisdom.

Theology answers questions about our existence, our purpose, and our relationships with the world around us. It offers clarity in navigating the complexities of life, helping us see through the lens of God's character, presence, and ultimate purpose. As we embark on this five-day study, remember to ground your knowledge in scripture and let God's word be the source of truth in your life.

- What does numbering your days mean to you?
- How has your view of God shaped your worldview?
- In what ways can you seek wisdom in your daily life?
- Pray for a heart of wisdom.
- Ask God to reveal His purpose for your life.

Day 2

Ephesians 4:3-4

Ephesians 4:3-4 calls us to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. The main theme today is the significance of unity in the essentials of our faith, allowing liberty in non-essentials, and showing love in all things. This approach balances grace and truth in our theological understanding, fostering harmony among believers.

Unity does not mean uniformity; it embraces the diversity within the body of Christ. While there may be differing views on certain theological points, our core beliefs bind us together in perfect harmony. This perspective encourages us to love and respect one another despite our differences, focusing on what truly matters in our walk with God.

- What are some essential beliefs that unify all Christians?
- How can you promote unity within your community of faith?
- What does showing love in all things look like in practice for you?

- Pray for the unity of the Spirit in your church.
- Ask God to help you show love and grace to those with differing views.

Day 3

2 Timothy 1:7

2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us that God has given us a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind. Today, we focus on the role of reason in theology. God has endowed us with the ability to think critically and understand His truth through the use of our minds. This is essential in discerning His will and applying it to our lives.

Reason helps us interpret and understand scripture, tradition, and experience. It allows us to engage with God's creation thoughtfully and meaningfully. While reason alone cannot grasp the fullness of God, it is a valuable tool in our theological reflection and in making sense of the world around us.

- How does reason help you in understanding your faith?
 - In what ways can critical thinking strengthen your relationship with God?
 - What are some reasonable steps you can take in your spiritual growth? ●
- Pray for a sound mind that seeks God's wisdom.
- Ask God to guide your thoughts and understanding.

Day 4

Colossians 3:14

Colossians 3:14 speaks about putting on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Our focus today is on tradition and its role in theology. Tradition serves as a guide, helping us to stay true to scriptural truths and providing a historical context for our beliefs and practices.

While some may view tradition as outdated or rigid, it can offer stability and continuity in our faith journey. By understanding and respecting the traditions of the Christian faith, we can deepen our connection to the broader faith community across time and space, all while remaining grounded in the timeless truths of God's word.

- What role has tradition played in your faith journey?
- How can you balance tradition with personal growth in your faith?
- What traditions do you find most meaningful in your spiritual life?
- Pray for a deeper understanding of your faith tradition.
- Ask God to help you appreciate the value of tradition in your spiritual growth.

Day 5

2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Corinthians 5:17 declares that if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. Today, we reflect on the role of experience in our theological understanding. Personal experiences of God's presence and transformation are vital in making our faith real and relatable.

Experiencing God's work first-hand reinforces the truths found in scripture and makes them tangible and practical. As we witness God's transformation in our lives and the lives of others, our faith is strengthened, and our understanding of His nature is deepened. Let your experiences with God inspire you to live out your faith authentically and passionately.

- How has your personal experience with God shaped your faith? ● In what ways can you share your experiences to encourage others? ● What are some recent experiences that have deepened your understanding of God?
- Pray for an open heart to experience God's work in your life.
- Ask God to help you see His presence in everyday moments.