



5-Day Devo

for Individuals and Groups

based on

**Church in the City, Chapter 9 |
Run to Get the Prize**

Pastor Brady Boyd
October 6, 2024

Day 1: The Global Nature of Worship

Devotional The experience of Pastor Brady's son, Abram, in Tokyo, Japan, finding a passionate worship community despite the small Christian population, is a beautiful reminder of the *global* and *continuous* nature of worship. Worship is not confined to a specific place or group; it transcends borders and cultures. This truth encourages us to see ourselves as part of a larger, global body of Christ. No matter where we are, we can find and contribute to a community that worships God passionately! Let this inspire us to appreciate and engage with the diverse expressions of worship around the world, running together to get the good prize.

Bible Verse "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." –1 Corinthians 9:24

Reflection Question How can you participate in the global nature of worship this week?

Point to Ponder We are part of a community that stretches around the globe, all worshipping the one, true God.

Prayer "Father in heaven, thank you for your big-c Church. Help me to see and appreciate the diverse expressions of worship of you around the world and stir in me a passion to contribute to your purposes in and through us all. Amen."

Day 2: Serving Beyond the Church Walls

Devotional We are in the city for the sake of the city, and the strength of the church is felt most impactfully when we start serving outside its walls. True strength and impact are seen when we engage with our community at large, offering our time, resources, and love to those in need. This outward focus not only helps others but also strengthens our faith and deepens our relationship with God. Be encouraged today to step out and serve, knowing that our collective efforts can make a significant difference.

Bible Verse “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” –1 Corinthians 9:25

Reflection Question What is one way that you can serve our community at large this week?

Point to Ponder The strength of the church is felt most acutely when we serve outside its walls.

Prayer “Lord, give me the courage and compassion to serve people outside of New Life Church. Help me to see the needs around me and respond with love and generosity. Strengthen my faith as I step out to serve others. Amen.”

Day 3: Embracing Our Calling

Devotional At some point in our lives, we must get up, take up the calling and the mantle that God has placed on us, and get involved. This involves overcoming our fears and stepping out in faith. The fear of failure and criticism often holds us back, but we must remember that there is no effort without error and shortcoming. Embracing our calling means being willing to be average before we can be great. It requires daily discipline and a commitment to pursue God's purpose for our lives.

Bible Verse "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." –Philippians 3:14

Reflection Question What is one fear that's holding you back from embracing your calling, and how can you overcome it?

Point to Ponder There are no sidelines in the kingdom in heaven. We all are called to *run*.

Prayer "Father, help me to embrace the calling you have placed on my life. Give me the courage to overcome my fears and step out in faith. Help me to be disciplined and committed to pursuing your purpose for my life. Amen."

Day 4: Running with Purpose

Devotional Running the race with purpose means redefining the prize we are pursuing. Often, we chase after worldly achievements and accolades, but the true prize is knowing Christ and being known by him. This requires us to evaluate our current actions and make necessary changes. We must ask ourselves what we should stop doing and what we should start doing to align our lives with God's purpose, recognizing that training involves preparation, discipline, persistence, grit. Our daily disciplines and small, consistent efforts lead to significant spiritual fulfillment and growth.

Bible Verse "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." –Philippians 3:12

Reflection Question What is a singular change you could make in your daily life this week to run your race more deeply connected to the purposes of God?

Point to Ponder What the world needs right now is an actively engaged Church that is clear about what it's on earth to do.

Prayer "Lord, help me to run the race with purpose by showing me the areas of my life that need change and giving me the discipline to make those changes. Help me to pursue the true prize of knowing you and being known by you. Amen."

Day 5: The Courage to Be Average

Devotional Before we find the courage to be great, we must first find the courage to be average. This means accepting that we will make mistakes and face shortcomings along the way. It is through these experiences that we grow and develop the strength to achieve high accomplishments. God is not waiting for us to be perfect; he is waiting for our daily disciplines and willingness to step out in faith. Let us dare to run, get ready, and embrace the journey with all its ups and downs, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

Bible Verse "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." —Philippians 3:13

Reflection Question What would it look like this week for you to find the courage to "be average" in one aspect of serving God and others?

Point to Ponder Before we find the courage to be great, we must first find the courage to be average.

Prayer "Father, give me the courage to be average and embrace the journey you have set before me. Help me to learn from my mistakes and grow stronger in my faith. Thank you for being with me every step of the way. Amen."