Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**:Matthew 12:46-50

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

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**Day 2:** Galatians 4:26

But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

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**Day 3:** 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

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**Day 4:** Isaiah 66:13

As a mother comforts her child,
    so will I comfort you;
    and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”

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**Day 5:** Revelation 12:17

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What is your response to the question “what is [the] church?”?

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2. When you hear the word “church” what thoughts and emotions come to mind?

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3. Have you ever experienced the church family be as relationally or as important as your human family?

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Read the following scriptures:

Mark 3:31-35 (near the beginning of Jesus’ ministry)

John 19:26-27 (while Jesus was on the cross)

4. What insights do we gain by reading, comparing, and contrasting the teachings of these two scriptures? As individuals, how can we put into practice Jesus’ teachings on our responsibilities to family and the church as revealed in these passages?

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5. Which of the process of the church are you most gifted in? Birth (evangelism), Feeding (discipleship), Nurturing (serving), Releasing (sending/missions)?

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6. Have you ever experienced love through birth, feeding, nurturing, and releasing of the church in your personal life?

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7. Pastor Aaron mentioned that many times in the New Testament (read almost any of Paul’s letters for context), the English word “you” is meant for a group of people, and not singularly “you”. In what ways do you see our more individualistic culture potentially keep us from being the collective “mother” to the “brothers and sisters” of the body?

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