



HANOVERDALE CHURCH

PSALM 127 | *The Pinnacle of a Pilgrim's Playlist*

Windows Down, Volume Up!

DEVOTIONALS FOR THE WEEK OF:

August 16, 2026

Let's dive deeper into what it means to be God's House, His Family, the new temple!

Monday: PSALM 127

Read through this entire Psalm, again, keeping in mind that it is truly the center of the center of the Psalms of Ascent! How does understanding all the different layers of meaning to "the house" that is being described here actually help this Psalm fit together for you? Does the idea of a family that brings peace, security, & rest resonate with you or feel hard to connect with? How about seeing church as a family that brings with it that sense of deep peace, security, & rest? How can you contribute to making Hanoverdale a church that provides that kind of experience for its members? Who in the church do you have a deep enough relationship with that would cause them to feel these kinds of things about our church? How might God be calling you deeper?

Tuesday: 1 PETER 2:4-10

Read this beautiful passage from Peter... keeping in mind that Peter himself was physically present and incredibly changed by the *wind & fire of Pentecost* on that first day the Holy Spirit descended upon the followers of Christ. For Peter it couldn't have been more clear that we are now God's *new temple!* In light of both Psalm 127 & Pentecost... What does Peter's imagery here about us being built together as *living stones* into a *spiritual house* mean for the church? What are the *spiritual sacrifices* Peter is thinking of that we should be offering to God through Jesus Christ? How will doing so help the church to be a light in the darkness? If the church consistently operated from a posture of understanding our identity as *a people who have been shown mercy* how would that impact or change what we do? *How* we do it?

Wednesday: MATTHEW 10:34-39

Before you read this passage take time to ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart so that it might receive the truth of this message deeply and fully. This is one of the most strongly worded messages of Jesus in all the gospels. If you want to wrestle with it even deeper, read this section again, in context of the rest of the chapter and the potential persecution that Jesus was launching His followers into. What is at stake for our church if we don't realize how high our calling of allegiance to God's Kingdom truly is?

Thursday: MATTHEW 12:46-50

Read this passage that comes just two chapters later following yesterday's reading. This comes at the tail end of a series of intense events and encounters for Jesus when He is teaching a crowd on some very serious, complex, and delicate matters. What do you think this passage is telling us about the state of mind of Jesus' biological family members? What things in our time cause our church family to "interrupt" Jesus or lose sight of the priorities that He is concerned about? How do we stay aligned individually and collectively with the teachings and mission of Christ? Combining this with yesterday's passage: In a world that teaches us to be comfortable in looking out for our families more than we look out for our brothers and sisters in Christ... What price does our church community pay? Obviously, we all hope and desire to lead our families in a way that they too are fully a part of God's kingdom family... How do we teach and model for the families we are leading that God's Family and God's Mission are our top priority?

Friday: JOHN 13:31-38

Read this intimate passage that captures some of Jesus' final and most crucial words to His disciples that come following His washing of their feet. Jesus is talking very clearly about them being near the end of His earthly journey, and verses 34 & 35 are the message that He wants to make sure His disciples remember the most. Do we put enough emphasis on these words as a church who is seeking to walk in the footsteps of these disciples? How can this calling of Jesus be more than a slogan that sounds good? What can we learn from Peter and his passionate verbal commitment that he was unable to follow through on in action? What does it teach us about Jesus? What does it mean for our church?

Saturday: PSALM 133 & 134

Read these last two Psalms of the entire collection of the Songs of Ascent. Think about the group of Israelite travelers singing this together after the journey that these songs have taken them through while they are journeying to Jerusalem. Think about the clarity of mind, the solidarity of spirit, the deep encouragement of the heart that singing these songs together has inspired in them individually and collectively. What obstacles do you / we need to overcome in order to lift your life / our community up into that kind of an experience? How might keeping God truly at the center of our lives and our church family allow us to sing these kinds of praises with deeper meaning and testimonial strength? What role is God calling you to play, what gifts might He be calling you to bring, what relational complications might He be calling you to deal with, what sin struggles might He be calling you to repent from, what connections might He be calling you to lean into,

what posture might He be calling you to shift as He forms us into a God-centered family?