



MAY 2026 DEVOTIONAL

WALKING IN PURPOSE

31 Days of Calling, Obedience & Kingdom Impact

The Historic St. James Missionary Baptist Church

Love • Grow • Transform • Live

St. James Family,

God has placed purpose inside each of us. Sometimes purpose feels big, and sometimes it shows up in small daily decisions—but every step of obedience matters.

This month, my prayer is that you will see God working in your everyday life, guiding your steps, strengthening your faith, and using your gifts to bless others.

Remember:

You don't have to do something extraordinary to live with purpose.

You simply have to walk faithfully where God has placed you.

Let's walk in purpose together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Lowder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Pastor Jonathan Lowder







ST. JAMES

Living Our Purpose

LOVE. GROW. TRANSFORM. LIVE.

FIVE WEEKS. FIVE TRUTHS. ONE PURPOSE.

WEEK ONE

GOD HAS A PLAN



MEMORY VERSE

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



WEEKLY CHALLENGE PURPOSE AWARENESS

Ask God each morning:
"Lord, show me where You are working, and help me walk with You today."

WEEK TWO

WALKING IN OBEDIENCE



MEMORY VERSE

James 1:22

"Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."



WEEKLY CHALLENGE OBEDIENCE IN ACTION

Choose one area this week where you will obey God immediately.

WEEK THREE

SERVING WITH IMPACT



MEMORY VERSE

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."



WEEKLY CHALLENGE SERVE SOMEONE INTENTIONALLY

Look for one opportunity each day to help someone.

WEEK FOUR

LIVING ON MISSION



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."



WEEKLY CHALLENGE SHARE YOUR FAITH

Tell one person about God's goodness this week.

WEEK FIVE

FINISHING WITH FAITHFULNESS



MEMORY VERSE

2 Timothy 4:7

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."



WEEKLY CHALLENGE FINISH STRONG

Complete something you started this month.



Love God. Love People. Change the World.



DAY 1 – CREATED WITH PURPOSE

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10

Biblical Insight

Paul reminds believers that they are God’s workmanship—carefully designed and intentionally created to carry out good works prepared in advance. Your life is not random; it is handcrafted by God.

Bridge to Daily Life

Some days may feel routine—work, responsibilities, family obligations—but purpose often shows up in ordinary moments. When you show kindness, remain faithful, or help someone in need, you are living out God’s design.

Hope Principle

Your life carries purpose—even on ordinary days.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me see the purpose You have placed in my life and use me for Your glory.

Reflection Question

Where have I seen God use me recently?



DAY 2 – GOD KNOWS MY FUTURE

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

Biblical Insight

God spoke this promise to people living in uncertainty. Though their circumstances were difficult, His plans for them were still good.

Bridge to Daily Life

When life feels confusing or unpredictable, remember that God's plan is not shaken by your circumstances. He sees what you cannot see and is already working ahead of you.

Hope Principle

God's plan remains steady—even when life feels uncertain.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me trust Your direction even when I don't understand it.

Reflection Question

What situation do I need to trust God with today?



DAY 3 – MY STORY STILL MATTERS

Scripture: Romans 8:28

Biblical Insight

Paul assures believers that God works all things together for good—not just the pleasant moments, but also the painful ones.

Bridge to Daily Life

Mistakes, setbacks, and disappointments can feel like failures, but God can transform them into lessons and testimonies that help others.

Hope Principle

Nothing in your life is wasted in God's hands.

Guided Prayer

Lord, use every part of my story for Your purpose.

Reflection Question

What part of my past can God use to help someone else?



DAY 4 – PURPOSE REQUIRES OBEDIENCE

Scripture: John 14:15

Biblical Insight

Jesus teaches that obedience is the evidence of love for Him. Purpose is not just discovered—it is practiced through daily obedience.

Bridge to Daily Life

Sometimes purpose looks like doing the right thing when it's inconvenient—telling the truth, forgiving someone, or staying faithful when you feel discouraged.

Hope Principle

Obedience unlocks purpose.

Guided Prayer

Lord, give me the courage to obey You today.

Reflection Question

What step of obedience is God asking me to take?



DAY 5 – SERVING WITH PURPOSE

Scripture: Galatians 5:13

Biblical Insight

Paul reminds believers that freedom in Christ is not meant for selfish living but for serving others.

Bridge to Daily Life

Purpose often appears when we meet the needs of others—offering encouragement, lending a hand, or showing compassion.

Hope Principle

Serving others reveals your purpose.

Guided Prayer

Lord, show me someone I can help today.

Reflection Question

Who can I serve this week?



DAY 6 – PURPOSE IN EVERY SEASON

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1

Biblical Insight

Solomon teaches that every season of life has meaning—even seasons of waiting, change, or difficulty.

Bridge to Daily Life

You may feel stuck or uncertain, but God is still working. Growth often happens quietly beneath the surface.

Hope Principle

Every season carries purpose—even the hard ones.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me trust You in this season.

Reflection Question

What lesson might God be teaching me right now?



DAY 7 – TRUSTING GOD’S PLAN

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5–6

Biblical Insight

Trusting God means relying on His wisdom rather than your own understanding.

Bridge to Daily Life

You don’t have to figure everything out. Trust grows when you take the next faithful step, even without full clarity.

Hope Principle

Trusting God brings direction.

Guided Prayer

Lord, guide my steps today.

Reflection Question

Where do I need God’s direction right now?



DAY 8 — LISTENING TO GOD

Scripture: John 10:27

Biblical Insight

Jesus describes His followers as sheep who recognize His voice. Hearing God is not about perfection—it is about relationship.

Bridge to Daily Life

God often speaks through His Word, wise counsel, and the quiet prompting of the Holy Spirit. When you slow down and listen, clarity follows.

Hope Principle

God still speaks to those who listen.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me recognize Your voice today.

Reflection Question

What distractions keep me from listening to God?



DAY 9 — SMALL STEPS MATTER

Scripture: Zechariah 4:10

Biblical Insight

God encouraged His people not to despise small beginnings because every great work starts with a small step.

Bridge to Daily Life

Progress in your spiritual life often happens slowly. A small act of obedience today can lead to a major breakthrough tomorrow.

Hope Principle

Small steps lead to big results.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me stay faithful in small things.

Reflection Question

What small step can I take today?



DAY 10 — COURAGE TO OBEY

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

Biblical Insight

God commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous because obedience often requires stepping into the unknown.

Bridge to Daily Life

Fear may show up when God calls you to act, but courage grows when you trust His presence.

Hope Principle

God's presence gives courage.

Guided Prayer

Lord, give me strength to obey You today.

Reflection Question

What fear is holding me back?



DAY 11 — TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING

Scripture: Habakkuk 2:3

Biblical Insight

God reminded Habakkuk that His promises may seem delayed, but they will come at the right time.

Bridge to Daily Life

Waiting can feel frustrating, but God's timing is always purposeful.

Hope Principle

Delay does not mean denial.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me trust Your timing.

Reflection Question

Where do I need patience right now?



DAY 12 — FAITHFUL IN LITTLE

Scripture: Luke 16:10

Biblical Insight

Jesus taught that faithfulness in small responsibilities prepares us for greater ones.

Bridge to Daily Life

Consistency builds trust—with God and with others.

Hope Principle

Faithfulness opens new opportunities.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me stay faithful.

Reflection Question

Am I consistent in my responsibilities?



DAY 13 — DOING WHAT IS RIGHT

Scripture: Micah 6:8

Biblical Insight

God calls His people to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

Bridge to Daily Life

Living with integrity means doing what is right—even when it is difficult.

Hope Principle

Integrity reflects purpose.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me live with integrity.

Reflection Question

Where do I need to choose what is right?



DAY 14 — OBEDIENCE BRINGS PEACE

Scripture: Isaiah 48:18

Biblical Insight

God promised peace to those who followed His commands.

Bridge to Daily Life

Peace often follows obedience.

Hope Principle

Obedience produces peace.

Guided Prayer

Lord, guide me in Your ways.

Reflection Question

What decision will bring peace through obedience?



DAY 15 — HELPING OTHERS MATTERS

Scripture: Galatians 6:2

Biblical Insight

Paul encourages believers to carry one another's burdens.

Bridge to Daily Life

Helping others is one of the clearest expressions of love.

Hope Principle

Serving others fulfills God's purpose.

Guided Prayer

Lord, show me who needs my help today.

Reflection Question

Who can I support this week?



DAY 16 — USING MY GIFTS

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10

Biblical Insight

God gives every believer gifts to serve others.

Bridge to Daily Life

Your abilities are not accidental—they are tools for ministry.

Hope Principle

Your gifts are meant to be shared.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me use my gifts wisely.

Reflection Question

What gift can I use today?



DAY 17 — ENCOURAGING SOMEONE

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Biblical Insight

Encouragement strengthens faith and builds community.

Bridge to Daily Life

A kind word can change someone's day.

Hope Principle

Encouragement creates hope.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me lift someone up today.

Reflection Question

Who needs encouragement from me?



DAY 18 — GIVING GENEROUSLY

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:7

Biblical Insight

God loves a cheerful giver.

Bridge to Daily Life

Generosity reflects trust in God.

Hope Principle

Giving opens doors for blessing.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me give freely.

Reflection Question

What can I give today?



DAY 19 — SHOWING KINDNESS

Scripture: Ephesians 4:32

Biblical Insight

Kindness reflects God's character.

Bridge to Daily Life

Small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Hope Principle

Kindness spreads hope.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me show kindness.

Reflection Question

How can I show kindness today?



DAY 20 — BEING AVAILABLE

Scripture: Isaiah 6:8

Biblical Insight

Isaiah responded to God's call with willingness.

Bridge to Daily Life

God often uses those who are willing.

Hope Principle

Availability leads to opportunity.

Guided Prayer

Lord, use me today.

Reflection Question

Am I willing to serve?



DAY 21 — MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Scripture: Matthew 5:16

Biblical Insight

Jesus calls believers to shine their light.

Bridge to Daily Life

Your life can inspire others.

Hope Principle

Your example matters.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help my life reflect Your light.

Reflection Question

What example am I setting?



DAY 22 — SHARING HOPE

Scripture: Romans 10:14

Biblical Insight

Paul reminds believers that people cannot believe in Christ unless they first hear about Him. Sharing faith is part of God's plan to reach others.

Bridge to Daily Life

You don't need a sermon to share hope. Sometimes it's as simple as telling someone how God helped you through a difficult moment.

Hope Principle

Your story can lead someone to hope.

Guided Prayer

Lord, give me courage to share my faith.

Reflection Question

Who in my life needs to hear a word of hope?



DAY 23 — BEING A LIGHT

Scripture: Matthew 5:14

Biblical Insight

Jesus calls His followers the light of the world, meaning their lives should reflect His truth and love.

Bridge to Daily Life

Your attitude, kindness, and integrity can shine even in difficult environments—at work, at school, or at home.

Hope Principle

Your life can brighten someone's darkness.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me shine Your light today.

Reflection Question

Where can I be a light today?



DAY 24 — SPEAKING TRUTH WITH GRACE

Scripture: Colossians 4:6

Biblical Insight

Paul teaches that our words should be gracious and wise so that others can receive them.

Bridge to Daily Life

Truth is most effective when delivered with kindness. People listen more when they feel respected.

Hope Principle

Grace-filled words build stronger relationships.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help my words reflect Your wisdom.

Reflection Question

How can I speak with kindness today?



DAY 25 — LIVING BOLDLY

Scripture: Acts 4:29

Biblical Insight

Early believers prayed for boldness to continue speaking about Jesus despite opposition.

Bridge to Daily Life

Living boldly doesn't mean being loud—it means being faithful even when it's uncomfortable.

Hope Principle

Faith grows when courage replaces fear.

Guided Prayer

Lord, give me boldness to live for You.

Reflection Question

Where do I need courage today?



DAY 26 — TRUSTING GOD IN PUBLIC

Scripture: Psalm 40:10

Biblical Insight

David openly declared God's faithfulness before others.

Bridge to Daily Life

Your faith should not be hidden. Trusting God publicly encourages others privately.

Hope Principle

Public faith strengthens private confidence.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me stand confidently in my faith.

Reflection Question

How can I show my faith openly?



DAY 27 — LOVING OTHERS WELL

Scripture: John 13:35

Biblical Insight

Jesus taught that love is the defining mark of His followers.

Bridge to Daily Life

Love is not just a feeling—it is an action shown through patience, forgiveness, and compassion.

Hope Principle

Love is the strongest witness of faith.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me love others the way You love me.

Reflection Question

Who needs my love and patience today?



DAY 28 — REFLECTING CHRIST

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:18

Biblical Insight

Believers are transformed into Christ's image as they grow in their relationship with Him.

Bridge to Daily Life

The more time you spend with God, the more your character begins to reflect Him.

Hope Principle

Spiritual growth changes how you live.

Guided Prayer

Lord, shape my life to reflect You.

Reflection Question

What part of my life needs transformation?



DAY 29 — STAYING THE COURSE

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1

Biblical Insight

The Christian life is compared to a race that requires endurance and perseverance.

Bridge to Daily Life

There will be moments when you feel tired or discouraged, but finishing strong requires steady faith.

Hope Principle

Endurance leads to victory.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me keep going when life feels hard.

Reflection Question

What helps me stay committed?



DAY 30 — TRUSTING GOD TO THE END

Scripture: Psalm 37:5

Biblical Insight

God promises to guide and sustain those who commit their lives to Him.

Bridge to Daily Life

Even when the outcome is unclear, trusting God brings peace.

Hope Principle

God remains faithful to the finish.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me trust You completely.

Reflection Question

Where do I need to trust God more?



DAY 31 — WALKING IN PURPOSE DAILY

Scripture: Colossians 3:23

Biblical Insight

Paul encourages believers to do everything as if they are serving the Lord.

Bridge to Daily Life

Purpose is not only found in big moments—it is lived in everyday responsibilities.

Hope Principle

Purpose is practiced daily.

Guided Prayer

Lord, help me live each day with purpose.

Reflection Question

How can I serve God in my daily routine?



St. James Family,

Purpose is not about doing everything perfectly—it is about walking faithfully with God each day.

As we close this month, remember that God is still guiding your steps, using your gifts, and working through your life to bless others.

Keep trusting.

Keep serving.

Keep walking in purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Lowder Sr." in a cursive style.

Pastor Jonathan Lowder

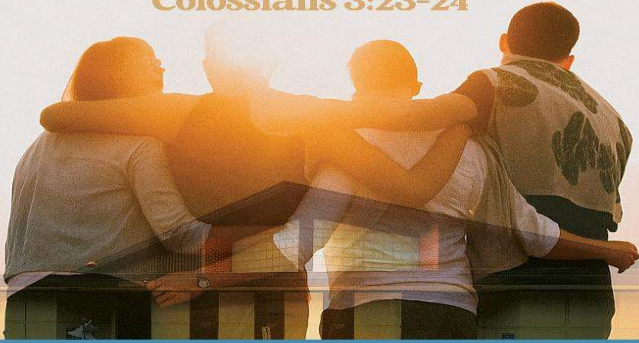


**20
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YEAR OF BETTER



Colossians 3:23-24



After the "Year of Victory": We are Rooted and Rising!



*We Are St. James
The Year of Better: Rooted & Rising!*



