

Diary Devotions

Term 1

Week	Devotion
1	<p>Chosen</p> <p>“But you are a chosen generation...”–1 Pet 2:9a</p> <p>Think about what it means to be chosen for a moment: selected, picked, preferred, appointed at a specific time, by someone, for a reason and for a purpose. Being intentionally chosen by God means you are special, unique, exceptional, and extraordinary. This verse is about being chosen by God for salvation; being called and set apart for something amazing in God’s overall plan. This year we’re going to explore and discover together what this means.</p> <p>How does being chosen make you feel? What does it mean for your life right now?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deut 7:6-8• Ex 19:5• 1 Pet 1:1-2• Col 3:12
2	<p>Generation</p> <p>“But you are a chosen generation...”–1 Pet 2:9a</p> <p>What are the defining characteristics of your generation? Online media? Social networking? Terrorism? Immediate and constant communication? Globalisation? How are you going to contribute to the legacy of your generation? God has called us to be together, to love and respect one another and to always strive to understand one another. The term “generation” can also refer to all the people alive on the planet at any one time; let’s work together and make the very best of this moment in history.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mal 4:5-6• Rom 8:28-30• Josh 24:21-23 – let’s choose Jesus in this generation!• Eph 6:1-4
3	<p>Royalty</p> <p>“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...” –1 Pet 2:9a</p> <p>When Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visited our shores, we saw how royal figures act and how they are treated can be very interesting indeed. Such dignitaries are revered, respected, treated differently and usually admired. We learn from Galatians 3 and Romans 8 that we are adopted brothers and sisters of the High and Royal Priest Jesus Christ and therefore we are also royalty.</p> <p>If your classmates are brothers and sisters <u>and</u> royalty, how are you going to treat them this</p>

	<p>week? How about your teachers?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eph 1:5 • Gal 3:26-29 • Romans 8:14-17 • Deut 17:18-20
4	<p>Priesthood</p> <p>“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...” –1 Pet 2:9a</p> <p>What image does the word “priest” conjure up in your mind? Flowing robes and grey beards? White collars? It is easy to become familiar with a term and assume a certain meaning for it. Moses’ brother Aaron, Israel’s first High Priest, made intercession and atonement for the nation once a year; Jesus is our High Priest and has made permanent atonement for our sins, and He calls us all to do the work of a priest in our here and now. The functions of a priest include reconciling people back to God, worshipping Him and facilitating peace.</p> <p>How can you be a peacemaker this week? How can you bring people to Jesus?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lev 16:29-34 • Heb 7:26-8:2 • Matt 5:9 • Rom 12:1
5	<p>Holy Nation</p> <p>“But you are...a holy nation...” –1 Pet 2:9a</p> <p>As followers of Christ we are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven first and foremost. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7), Jesus outlines the code for Kingdom citizens to live by: be humble and inherit the earth (all you could want or need!); expect persecution and rejoice over it; do good works for God’s glory; watch your words as calling your brother or sister an “idiot” is as serious as murder; keep your promises; lend and give generously; love your enemies (and your friends!); pray in secret; store treasure in Heaven; don’t judge one another; treat others as you want to be treated; build your life on Jesus and His Word.</p> <p>What are you going to do differently this week? What can you do to follow Jesus’ Kingdom code more fully?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 5:1-12 • Matt 5:21-26 • Matt 5:43-48 • Matt 6:5-15
6	<p>His Own Special People</p> <p>“But you are...a holy nation, His own special people...” –1 Pet 2:9a</p> <p>When was the last time you felt truly special? What were the circumstances? Our loving</p>

	<p>God desires to know us intimately and be in relationship with us as He was with Adam in the Garden of Eden. He loves us so much that He sent His son Jesus to build a bridge between us and Him; Jesus laid down His life so we could be His special people.</p> <p>Who makes you feel special? How do they do that? How does God’s love make you feel about yourself? How do you receive God’s love for you on a daily basis?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 3:14-17 • Is 43:18-21 • Titus 2:13-17 • Heb 8:8-12
7	<p>Proclaiming?</p> <p>“But you are a chosen generation...[who] proclaim the praises of Him who called you...” –1 Pet 2:9</p> <p>What do you proclaim? What message does your life and lifestyle proclaim? “Praises” in this verse refers to the characteristics of God – His virtues and excellencies and qualities. How do you draw attention to the nature of God? Our pride seeks its own glory and continually wants to flaunt our own goodness, when what we truly need is God and His abundant goodness and love. This week let us explore as a class some of the attributes of God and how we can better promote and parade those, rather than our own.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Col 1:15-19 • 1 Cor 8:5-6 • John 8:56-59 • 1 Cor 13
8	<p>Out of Darkness in to Light</p> <p>“But you are a chosen generation...called...out of darkness into His marvellous light...” –1 Pet 2:9</p> <p>Darkness and light are very common symbols throughout Scripture. “Light” refers to the truth of the God’s Word compared to the “darkness” of lies and deception. “Light” also refers to purity and holiness contrasted with the “darkness” of sin. Prior to receiving Jesus we are bound by sin and the ultimate end of sin: death. The Apostle Paul teaches us in Romans 6, “You have been set free from sin. God has made you his slaves. The benefit you gain leads to holy living. And the end result is eternal life. When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.” (v22-23 NIRV). Have you received Jesus? How do you know? Also how do you respond to this statement from the Apostle John? “If anyone claims, ‘I am living in the light,’ but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness” (1 John 2:9 NLT).</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 John 1:5-10 • Ps 18:25-31 • Eccl 2:12-14 • Is 58:9-12

9	<p>Mercy</p> <p>“But you are a chosen generation...who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” –1 Pet 2:9a, 10b</p> <p>In the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18, we read a powerful illustration from Jesus about mercy. As we have received forgiveness from God for our sins, we need to treat our classmates, teachers and family with the same sort of grace that He has shown us. However like the servant in Jesus’ parable, we can so easily forget God’s mercy and grace and can be angry, impatient and unforgiving towards others. Let us walk every day in the light of His mercy and treat those around us with grace and love.</p> <p>How can you better remember God’s mercy this week? Do you need to change how you treat others? If so, how?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 18:21-35 • Dan 9:18-19 • Rom 9:14-17 • Eph 2:4-13
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Term 2

Week	Devotion
1	<p>Picked!</p> <p>To be chosen by the sports coach or the theatrical producer for a star role or to be appointed to a prestigious post is to be strongly affirmed and given significance.</p> <p>God chose YOU. God chooses you everyday to fulfil the life mission He has intended for you. You are His ambassador and agent. Your honour, nobility and significance are grounded in who He has chosen you to be and in your calling.</p> <p>Do you know the call of God on your life? Where does God want you to head? How could you discover more about His plan for your life?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Tim 1:8-11 • Jer 29:11-12 • 1 Cor 12:12-19 • Eph 4:11-16
2	<p>Selected</p> <p>You look at all the shoes in all the shoe shops you have the opportunity to visit. Then you pick one pair. This is the best looking, best fitting and best value pair. Like the prince kneeling at Cinderella’s feet where the lost shoe fits her perfectly and means she is elevated from slave to princess, God reaches to you today. God calls you out from amongst your peers for a major role in the Divine Narrative; the Author and Director has selected His star: it is You!</p>

	<p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 15:14-17 • Is 45:4-6 • John 6:68-71 • 1 John 4:10
3	<p>“No!”</p> <p>Because you have been selected for God’s pivotal role, you will be saying “no” to a lot of things. This is because you are choosing the best over the good. Most of your energies are taken from diversions and focused onto this one project. You can’t be distracted and, like an Olympic athlete or a professional musician, you will not do things that endanger the pursuit of your goals and ultimately your divine vocation.</p> <p>Is there anything you need to say “no” to this week? Share it with someone you trust and respect and ask them to keep you accountable for your decision.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 7:15-17, 24 • Gal 5:16-18 • 1 Cor 15:55-58 • Col 3:8-11
4	<p>Accident</p> <p>Well before your parents got romantically involved and “begat” you, God created and assembled your attributes. He, not blind chance, decided your birth address, hair colour, height, gifting, personality foundations and interests. Perhaps your parents didn’t celebrate over your birth, but YHWH and all of Heaven certainly did! Yours was no chance birth; you were born for and are matched to a high destiny.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ps 139:13-16 • Jer 1:4-8 • Is 49:1, 5 • Job 10:8-9
5	<p>How?</p> <p>God called Samuel in an audible voice and Jesus called his followers in the same way; communication from God can come in a progressive way also. Over time you might feel inclined towards a vocation or Kingdom activity. Your personality and gifting complement a situation that God is setting up for you. God will release a dream which he is putting within you, and people as well as situations will inspire you to take this pathway.</p> <p>What is your wiring? What are you passionate about? What gifts and talents has God given you? How might you be able to use them this week? This year?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 25:14-30 • 1 Sam 3:1-10 • Mark 8:34-35 • Is 55:8-9
6	<p>When?</p>

	<p>You were chosen from before the genesis of the cosmos. God looked forward to the day when you would crawl, toddle along, walk and then run before Him. Now God looks on you with supernatural tenderness, pride and love. He loves you so much that He has carved your name into His hand and sings songs of joy over you in Heaven.</p> <p>How do you feel knowing God saw you before the foundation of the world? He is a mighty God full of purpose and intent and He loves you so much. This life on Earth is short; don't waste it.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zeph 3:17 • 2 Tim 1:9 • Deut 30:9-10 • Jer 32:38-41
7	<p>High</p> <p>Yours is a high calling, so you will be doing your utmost for YHWH. God loves you <u>so</u> much. He is proud of you. He calls you "son" or "daughter" ennobling your heritage. The punishment Jesus took on your behalf means that God sees you as blameless and has pronounced you "not guilty" because of Jesus. God has a storehouse of miracles to release through your life.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eph 3:20-21 • 1 Cor 2:9 • Heb 9:24-28 • Rom 8:34
8	<p>Omni</p> <p>YHWH is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. He is your healer, redeemer, protector, parent, provider, comfort, security, creator and faithful friend. This incredible supernatural personality surrounds you and your calling. Right now and in the years to come you are stepping forward into the antechamber of a fantastic life adventure.</p> <p>How close do you feel to God right now? How would you describe your relationship with Jesus at the moment? Which of those adjectives for God in the above paragraph is most true for you?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ps 90:1-2 • Rev 19:11-16 • Ps 104:1-4 • Mal 3:6
9	<p>Bloodlines</p> <p>Some of the key ingredients of your makeup travelled through your mum's bloodline and others via your dad's genetic ancestry. God chose these elements with forethought and care. He combined them at conception and watched over you in utero. God then put you into your geographical situation, which is your laboratory – a place for you to learn and for your character to be fashioned.</p>

	<p>When we read the Bible sometime we encounter long boring genealogies and wonder why they are there. However, these lists of names point to the intentionality of God crafting a man or a woman through the centuries. Do you know much about your family history and where you came from? Perhaps you can discuss it with your Dad or your Grandma this week.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 1:1-16 • Luke 3:23-38 • Prov 13:22 • Deut 5:16
10	<p>Time</p> <p>Time is money. You will never get today or this week or this month back. You spend time in the places you value most. By all means have fun and do wholesome recreational things. But first and foremost each day invest in your calling, in prayer, and into your future: building up now what you will draw upon in your future. A multi millionaire can't buy back yesterday. God gives us all the same 24 hours a day to invest; use them wisely.</p> <p>How are you going to use your 10 080 minutes this week? Have you ever kept track of your time throughout a week minute by minute, hour by hour? You might be surprised by the results...</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eccl 3:1-8 • Prov 31:17-18 • Eph 5:15-16 • Matt 6:33
11	<p>Now</p> <p>Now is the day of salvation. Now is the time to conform to the contours of God's plan for your life. Now is the time to take on board the skills and learn those things essential for mission success. These will lie in the areas of maths, grammar, sporting skills, performing arts principles, Bible study techniques and more. You are exposed to none of this by accident. God puts you where you are with the people about you so that you may thrive in your vocation. Don't miss the opportunities this week to learn and to grow.</p> <p>How do your lessons today and this week fit in with the broader picture of your life? What is your attitude going to be to learning this week?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prov 6:9-11 • Prov 20:13 • 1 Th 5:6 • 2 Th 3:10

Term 3

Week	Devotion
1	<p>Tyrants</p> <p>My ego is a tyrant; I want my way and I want it now! The Lord is my shepherd. He saves me from my jealousies, doubts, insecurities, greed and the perpetual desire to help myself rather than look to God. Abraham tried to play god and made an illegitimate heir; Moses killed a fellow and became an outlaw and a wanted murderer. I am a priest, and I am saved from trying to fashion my own destiny or to play god. Instead, I point people to God and seek to live for Him in all that I do.</p> <p>When was the last time my ego got the better of me? How can I ensure it doesn't happen again this week?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gen 16:1-4, 17:15-22• Ex 2:11-15• Prov 16:18• Prov 29:23
2	<p>Works</p> <p>You are called and set apart for good works. However you can't work your way into Heaven as other religions claim. Salvation is a gift as is your status as a royal priest. The whole deal is 100% on God's terms. You can't alter the covenant by an iota. Because you are saved and confident of your salvation, you will live a life which releases words, prayers and actions which impact the world. You will challenge injustice and naturally give support to projects undertaken by the people of God.</p> <p>What are you going to DO this week to point people to God?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matt 5:14-16• 1 Pet 2:11-12• James 2:14-17• Matt 16:27
3	<p>Guilt</p> <p>My calling saves me from feelings of shame and guilt. My postcode does not determine my worth or destiny. My family bank balance is no measure of my stature in Heaven. I am saved from any shame regarding what my ancestors did or failed to do. My sins are irrevocably taken from me by Jesus. Royal blood flows in my veins. My future prospects are great because the Spirit of Jesus lives within me.</p> <p>What will my outlook be today and this week? What will I do with any feelings of guilt and shame which may arise? How will I keep a repentant heart before God always?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rom 8:1-2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 5:16-18 • Phil 3:8-9 • John 17:1-3
4	<p>Temple on Wheels</p> <p>You are a walking talking cathedral. The Holy Spirit within you helps you to discern what’s going on around you, guides your decision making and acts as your advocate. The Holy Spirit joins you in praising God and in interceding as His priest. This Spirit contains an arsenal of weapons to assist you in your struggles, and is a resource of blessings and empowerment. The Spirit is a seal and sign that you have been chosen.</p> <p>If I am a walking, talking, moving cathedral housing the very Presence of God, how am I representing Him to those around me? Also where am I walking with Him and what am I doing? Would He be pleased? What spiritual weapons are available to me and how do I take them up in battle?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 6:19-20 • Eph 6:10-17 • 1 Cor 10:31 • 2 Cor 10:3-5
5	<p>Time</p> <p>Planet earth is cocooned in a time dimension. Your calling by God is within a temporal frame. Around and about you is the backdrop of Heaven where sunrise and sunset and the Earth’s seasons have minimal significance. Your calling to be a priest and a transformation agent is set against the backdrop of eternity. You are homeward bound; Earth years are like seconds in Heaven.</p> <p>If your life is indeed a “vapour” as the Psalmist says, ensure to make the most of every moment; how you use your vapour will have implications for eternity.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ps 39:4-6 • Is 55:8-9 • Ps 103:11-12 • James 5:14
6	<p>Sacrifice</p> <p>Priests of old would sacrifice and bring offerings to the Lord on a regular basis. At God’s direction they would kill animals and apply the blood in strategic ways to bring atonement and temporary covering for sin. In order to do this the priests had to be trained in killing – they worked with their hands and got dirty, smelly and bloody for the good of the people. While we no longer need to kill animals because of Jesus’ final sacrifice, there are still many other things we need to kill. What could they be? Pride? Lust? Greed? Gluttony? Insecurity? Fear? Anxiety? Do you know how to kill these things? If you’re not sure perhaps you can ask someone older whom you trust this week for some help and advice.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lev 16:6-14 • Gal 5:16-26

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 6:11-13 • 1 Pet 2:24
7	<p>Discrimination</p> <p>There is discrimination at the heart of the cosmos. Some humans will spend eternity in heaven and some will spend eternity separated from all that's good and from God. In choosing to respond positively and faithfully to Jesus, you will gain entry into heaven and be a transformation agent while on this planet. You are set apart for a special future; you are an heir to greatness.</p> <p>As light is both a particle and a wave, (ask the Science Department for more on that!), so your response to Jesus is both a one-time decision and an everyday choice. How are you going to respond to Jesus today? Tomorrow?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 16:24-26 • John 12:25 • Mark 9:34-38 • Rom 1:16
8	<p>Grumpy</p> <p>If God should choose for you to live to be an old man or woman it would be tragic to find yourself sitting in your easy chair feeling bitter with regret. You might berate yourself with comments like, "I could have done great things for God!", or "I should have tried harder in my studies or my sports or my music..." Don't die with your dream inside you. You will never regret not watching enough TV or spending enough time on the net on your favourite social networking site...</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil 3:12-15 • 2 Chron 15:7 • Ps 144:1-2 • 2 Tim 4:7
9	<p>Worship</p> <p>Peter reminds us that one of the primary duties of a priest is to "proclaim praises" or acknowledge the characteristics of God through worship of Him. We know from Romans 12:1 that we are to bring our bodies as living sacrifices; instead of offering dead animals on an altar we are to bring our everything as a living, breathing sacrifice to Him. Hebrews also says, "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Heb 13:15).</p> <p>If a "proclamation" is a "public announcement" what are you going to do this week to publicly praise God? How are you going to live your life as a living sacrifice for Him today? This week?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heb 9:11-12 • Heb 10:1 • 2 Sam 6:13-15 • Ps 30:11

10	<p>Priest or Pastor or...?</p> <p>As you consider what it means to be a priest for Jesus remember that you do not have to be in the Church ministry to do it. Jesus wants priests in the media and journalism, in the arts, in the medical field, in industry, in finance, farming and the firehouse! You can be a priest as you're a husband or wife and father or mother, as you're a doctor or accountant or lawyer or teacher... He wants you! Whether you're in Year 5 or year 12, walk prayerfully as you consider your future knowing that in any and every field Jesus desires you to be active with and for Him.</p> <p>How can you be a priest for Jesus this week? As you consider your future and the many possibilities, how do you feel God is leading you? How could you be a priest in your field?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Col 3:17 • Col 3:23 • Gen 39:20-23 • Dan 6:1-5
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Term 4

Week	Devotion
1	<p>"Holy Nation" revisited</p> <p>Back in week 5 of Term 1 we looked at one aspect of "Holy Nation": that we, as followers of Christ, are first and foremost part of the Kingdom of Heaven, and that Jesus' code for Kingdom living can be very different to our own. One striking section of The Sermon on the Mount reads, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt 5:44 NKJV). Love your enemies?! Bless those who curse you?! Is Jesus serious? There's a profound saying of Solomon's which says: "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you" (Prov 25:21-22 NKJV). As metal melted when burning coals were applied, so our good deeds melt the hearts of those who oppose us.</p> <p>What can you do to help melt a heart today? This week?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Kings 6:22 • Ex 23:4 • Rom 12:19 • Prov 24:17
2	<p>Holy?</p> <p>What does it mean to be holy? Set apart? Special? Different? Unique? Righteous? Chosen? When we think about being holy, we often focus on what it isn't, or in terms of turning away from ungodliness. We choose not to gossip, use bad language or put someone down and while this is right and good, let's instead concentrate on the characteristics of God which make Him holy. These include unconditional love, patience, mercy, being slow to</p>

	<p>anger and abounding in grace; let's ask God to help us always become more like Him, and remember what Peter also said: "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Pet 1:15-16 NKJV).</p> <p>How can you discover more what it means to be holy this week? Ask your aunty, youth pastor, favourite teacher, and the principal and see what they think.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Pet 1:13-16 • 2 Cor 7:1 • Lev 11:44-45 • Rom 13:14
3	<p>The First Holy Nation</p> <p>In these verses the Apostle Peter is referencing the first Holy Nation, Israel. After God brought Israel out of Egypt He said to Moses in Exodus 19:6, "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (NKJV). Now, as we are the Church saved by grace through faith in Jesus, we have been "grafted in" to the tree and have become like the spiritual offspring of Abraham. Let us walk circumspect in humility knowing that it is only through faith in Jesus that we are saved. The Apostle Paul was a learned Israelite who seemingly had it all together and yet he considered everything worthless in light of Christ.</p> <p>Is there a person or group of people who you consider to be less than yourself? Are you walking with pride in any area of your life? We are all equally dependent on the Cross.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 11:11-20 • Phil 3:3-7 • Ex 19:1-9 • Matt 13:44
4	<p>Set Apart</p> <p>To be holy is to be set apart; to be holy is to be separated for a purpose. Separated from what? From whom? For what? For whom? What do you think?</p> <p>Have you noticed how easily you can be influenced by others? If a somewhat dominant personality within a group begins to use a certain word or phrase, pretty soon the entire group are also using that phrase. Fashion comes and goes and changes so readily because of an influential figure or a popular television show. Negative or destructive habits or ways of thinking can be so easily picked up and taken on board, even subconsciously. Being set apart means we are aware of the influences in our lives and choose our friends wisely.</p> <p>Who is someone in your life right now who influences you in a positive way? Is there someone who is influencing you in a negative way? How do you know? Do you need to make a change this week?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prov 13:20 • Prov 12:26 • 1 Cor 15:33 • Prov 22:24-25

5	<p>Nazirite... Right?</p> <p>How does this sound as a lifestyle choice: no alcohol or grape juice; no shaving, hair cutting or hair removal of any description; no touching dead people? Maybe the first and third of those wouldn't be too hard for you but that middle one might just be a bit tough. Way back in the time of Moses, when an Israelite who wasn't a priest wanted to especially dedicate some or all of their life to God, they took the vow of the Nazirite. This meant denying themselves the pleasures of the world and not cutting or shaving hair to communicate and illustrate to everyone the vow that was taken. If the vow was broken in any way before it was properly concluded, it had to be taken again from the start! It was not something entered in to lightly.</p> <p>When we give up something pleasurable and spend more time focused on God, our relationship with Him strengthens and deepens. What is something you could give up this week to more fully focus on your relationship with Jesus?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Num 6:1-6 • Eccl 5:4-5 • Matt 5:34-37 • Ps 66:13-15
6	<p>Generation Chosen</p> <p>The final weeks of the year are upon us and there is much that has happened. Friends lost and made, assessments written, games played, tasks achieved, examinations sat, challenges overcome, adversity endured, prizes won. What have been the highlights for you so far? What has God taught you? How do you feel differently about yourself? About God? You are precious and chosen and cherished and loved.</p> <p>This week make sure to share a highlight of 2012 with a friend or family member, and make it one to do with our Lord Jesus.</p> <p>What have been the Scriptures you remember most from the year? Write them here and review them again this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •
7	<p>Priesthood Royal</p> <p>A Royal Priest is not just one who intercedes and worships and sacrifices and is dedicated to the Lord; a Royal Priest <i>rules</i>. In Christ's future Kingdom we will ultimately rule with Him. Right now, however, we can rule the following with Him and because of Him: our minds, our flesh, our doubts, our anxieties, our fears... we can put our full trust in Him because He is faithful and will never let us down.</p> <p>Following Jesus can be a strange thing sometimes. We are 100% dependent upon Him for the very breath that we breathe and for our salvation, and yet we must also bring our 100% to Him as a daily act of sacrifice.</p> <p>What do you need to rule today that perhaps has been getting the better of you? How can</p>

	<p>Jesus help you?</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor 6:1-4 • Rev 5:10 • Rev 20:6 • 2 Cor 4:5
8	<p>Nation: Holy</p> <p>You are blessed to live in the prosperous and privileged nation of Australia. As you look to 2013 and beyond, begin to consider the possible role God would have you play in the future of your country. Australia is far from holy with much inequality and injustice, immorality and suffering, depression and despair. What can you do about it? What has God called you to do? How can you make a change and contribute positively to the future of your nation? There is so much more than yourself to live for and with a powerful God at your back, anything is possible.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is 1:17 • Micah 6:8 • Prov 31:9 • Is 58:6-12
9	<p>Special People of His Own</p> <p>Our Heavenly Father knows how to give good gifts to His children; Jesus promises this in Matthew 7: “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him” (v9-11, NLT). While you do not have a perfect father (no one does!) your Heavenly Father IS perfect: He created you, He understands you, He loves you, and He wants to be in intimate relationship with you.</p> <p>What do you need from the Father as you finish this year? Take some time to ask Him today and throughout this week.</p> <p>This week check out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 7:7-11 • James 1:5-6 • Ps 84:11 • 1 John 3:1
10	<p>In to Light, out of Darkness</p> <p>At the end of 2012, looking ahead to a new year with new subjects, new teachers, new challenges, new friends, new questions, new possibilities... how are you going to live? What is your attitude looking like? What is your approach going to be to those people around you? Do you remember way back in term 1, week 8, we looked at this verse: “If anyone claims, ‘I am living in the light,’ but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness” (1 John 2:9 NLT). In our community here at Lighthouse there is nothing more important than unity: that we grow together, encourage one another and support one another in all things. Jesus prayed four times in His amazing prayer in John 17 that we would be in unity and walking together.</p>

At the end of this year, are there any offences from 2012 that you need to make right? Any grudges you need to get rid of before 2013 begins? Take the initiative; make things right today and have a great Christmas break!

This week check out:

- John 17:20-23
- Eph 4:4-6
- Matt 5:23-26
- Jude 3