



Reclaim Today: Devotional Reflections Description

At Reclaim Today, devos are a short-form style of writing that allows for a deeper exploration of a verse or topic. They are usually around 300 words, use relatable language, and are centered on a specific verse or passage of Scripture. They often open with a personal hook/story, but quickly transition to the key verse, and wrap up with a practical "Why It Matters" (for everyday life) section. An example is attached to this document, but more can be found [here](#) :].

Daily Devotional Writing Instructions:

- Each reflection will open first with a hook, transition into the verse, and close with "Why It Matters"
- 250-300 words. The entire piece should not be more than 1500 characters, including spaces
- Each reflection will incorporate a key verse or passage with consideration of the passage's original context
- "Why It Matters" will be its own section, and it will be written directly to the reader, using second-person "you" language; the goal will be to address the reader's felt need associated with the passage, and to help bring home the practical application piece of the message
- Written toward an audience who are Gen Z/Millennials
- The tone should be friendly, personal, and conversational– as if you're talking with a friend.
- Consider what verse and topic you are trying to unpack. A devotional is more for application and encouragement vs. teaching a deep theological truth.

Tips: avoid relying on words like sin, glory, holy, etc. too heavily unless it's the key concept you're unpacking. These can be complex words for some new believers, and this is a short reflection. As an alternative, try more accessible language (brokenness, honor, set apart, etc.).

Devotional Sample:

TOPIC: Transformation

FELT NEED: *It doesn't feel fair that I have to go through this painful situation.*

MESSAGE: God can work through our struggles to create life change and transformation.

SCRIPTURE: "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

Written by Abby Ciona

I've been in a university painting class for several weeks, and I'm amazed at how effortlessly and quickly my art professor swirls together colors and sketches realistic faces. He makes it look so easy! But I know behind every great artwork, there's a lifetime of practice.

Often, we skip past the long process to admire a finished project. But masterpieces aren't created in a day: they take months and years of hard work. The process of creating brings to mind what Paul wrote to the church of Philippi. He prayed that God would continue to help them grow in love, wisdom, and righteousness: becoming pure, just, and more like Jesus. Paul was confident that God would complete the work he started in them.

God is the artist and Creator of the whole world. The elaborate creation story in Genesis reminds me that God cares about creating, not just the product. The *process* of transformation in your life is important to him. Similarly, Isaiah 64:8 says that God is our potter, and we are the clay: he's molding and shaping us to be who he made us to be.

Why It Matters

Maybe you're in a challenging situation right now. But God can work through the struggles in your life to bring you closer to him. Art isn't easy. Art takes time. But we can trust that our artist, God, is good. He makes everything beautiful in its time (Ecclesiastes 3:11), and he will finish the masterpiece that he started in your life.