

Philippians 3:8 – Yes, everything else is worthless when compared to the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him.

PRE-INTRO

As Christians we know there is only one thing that really matters: our relationship with God through Christ. This truly is the answer to everything we want; money, security, success, power, love, and anything else is found in Christ and what He has done for us. This life has loads of good things, gifts from God, but we often let them take over our lives. We start wanting the good things rather than the greatest thing. Sometimes we just need to reboot. We will take one week to put aside the lesser things of this life to reset and focus on God. This means putting away movies, TV shows, video games, 9gag, and anything else that sucks time away from us and encourages procrastination. We do this not because these things are bad, but because Christ is so much better. Reboot is a time to put God first.

REAL INTRO

We are really excited you have this booklet in your hands! We have been praying for this for quite some time, asking God to use this week to work in your life and bring you into a closer relationship with Him.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL BOOK

This booklet has six devotionals intended to be read over six days. Each devotional has a few verses to read as well as questions to help you think through that day's topic. At the end of the devotional, we want you to write down a short description of what you learned or what God spoke to you about for that day. There is space at the back of this booklet for these words. Each day has "**WILT**" (©) ("**What I Learned Today**") at the bottom as a reminder for you to go and write this down. After the week is over, you can look at this page and quickly see what God was speaking to you about during Reboot. At the end of each day, there is a "For further study" section. If you have the time and the desire, you may read these passages for a greater understanding of that day's topic. Take your time and go through these, using a separate sheet of paper if necessary to record your thoughts.

It may be difficult, and there will be times it will be tempting to "relax" for a bit, but resist anyway. Think of something to do as an alternative if boredom starts to weaken your will. I always recommend reading the Bible. :D Keep it up! We are praying for you!

List the things you are Rebooting from this week:



REBOOT

Day 1 by Scott Loewen

REBOOT

Philippians 3:8—Yes, everything else is worthless when compared to the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him.

What is the most important thing in your life? That may be sort of a complicated question, but try to think of what you have or what you do and then imagine if you lost it or couldn't do it anymore. If you think you'd die or have a very unhappy life without something, that could mean you are holding it too tightly and it's keeping you from God. Except God. You can't live without God. He wants to be first in your life, and He deserves it. He gives you life, keeps you alive and is the source of all good things that you have. But not only that, putting God first is what He created us for, and our greatest joy and happiness can only be found this way.

And that is what Reboot is all about — finding our joy in God alone. In our lives these days there is constant competition for our attention. We have movies, friends, TV shows, Skype, parents, Facebook, 9gag, homework, sports, video games, student council, and a bajillion other things that want our time. It is so easy for our lives to become filled up with these things. But none of these things bring us complete satisfaction, and many of them always want more. Someone said (I think it was John Piper) that we are the most entertained generation, and we are still bored. We have a moment of boredom, and we instantly reach for the next episode or game controller or next funny picture. And yet it never satisfies, because when it's over we are still bored. So entertainment doesn't fix boredom; it just relieves it for a bit. There must be something more, and that is God. He gives Himself to us through the sacrifice of Jesus so we can find the best joy in Him.

*We worship
things every
day, but we
were made to
worship God.*

This week we set our hearts on God. We do this by putting aside things that normally entertain us so that our longing for TV/video games/9gag/whatever reminds us to put God first. The action of Rebooting itself won't make you holy. It won't make you godly. And it certainly won't make you better looking— sorry. But it will help you move God up the priority list of your life.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is the theme of this Reboot week and Amplified coming on Friday. You'll probably recognize part of it since Jesus quoted it in **Matthew 22:37** as the most important commandment; love God. So through this passage, Reboot is bringing us back to the heart of worship — loving God. We worship things every day, but we were made to worship God.

△ **PRAY.** Thank God for the things you have, including the things you are giving up during this week. Ask God to give you a heart that loves Him more and a desire to put Him first in everything you do.

Read **Deuteronomy chapter 6**. Why does it say that these commands should be obeyed?

Verse 12 warns us not to forget God. Write down the things you are Rebooting from and some reasons they often keep you from remembering God.

How has God led you, like the Israelites in Deuteronomy, to this place? (This could be a real place, like Shanghai, or an emotional or spiritual place as well.)

List some ways you will put God first in your life, not only this week but also in the weeks and months after Reboot.



FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Read **Philippians 3**. Think about (meditate) on what it means to know God and what your life would look like if, like Paul, you considered everything else rubbish compared to knowing Christ. Write out a prayer to God about knowing Him.

REBOOT

Day 2 by Kenny Ly

HEAR

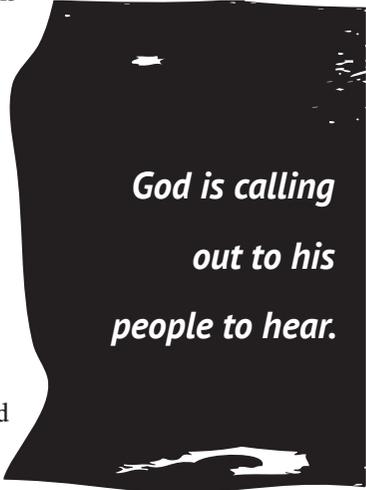
“Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu.”

[“Hear oh Israel, your God is one.” – Deut 6:4]

When I was young, I used to hear this sung every Saturday night in the suburbs of Vancouver, Washington. I grew up going to a Jewish church that believed in Jesus as the Messiah. As a celebration of the Sabbath each week, they would sing the Shema — which means hear in Hebrew. According to Jewish tradition, this word “Shema” can also be understood to mean accept. It is more than simply a function of the ear — it is a receptiveness of the heart. God is calling out to his people to hear. Hear the truth about Him, hear the truth about us, and to hear what He wants us to do.

Sometimes the noises of this world are so loud and enticing that we lose our sensitivity to God’s voice. Instead of finding soft soil to be planted in, the seed of God’s word lands on hardened hearts. That’s what this Reboot week is about - to step aside from the noises of this world, allow God to soften our hearts, and hear.

What are some things in your life that are “noise” and may be keeping you from hearing God?



***God is calling
out to his
people to hear.***

Read **John 8:42-47**.

According to this passage, how can you know if someone is from God?

From reading this, what things sometimes make it hard to listen to God?

Read **1 Kings 19:9-13**.

When you think of God speaking, what do you think his voice would sound like?

Many people think of God having a huge, booming voice, and sometimes he does. But other times it's different. What kind of voice did God speak to Elijah with?

ASK GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU. Then just listen. You may listen to soft worship music if silence is distracting. Have your Bible and pen ready and write it down here if God speaks anything to you.

THINK AND COMPARE WITH SCRIPTURE. Does what you think you heard from God match up with something God as described in Scripture would say? Ask God to show you a Scripture (if he hasn't already) that confirms His word to you.

 **PRAY.** Ask God to help you live each day and moment listening to him and accepting what He says to you. You can write out your prayer here.



FOR FURTHER STUDY.

Read **Psalm 19** and/or **Galatians 3-5**. What are things you “hear” in these passages?

REBOOT

Day 3 by Scott Loewen

ONE

[“Hear O Israel, the LORD your God, the LORD is one.” – Deut. 6:4]

I remember when I was younger and read this verse and thought that it was really confusing. The LORD my God is one what? As it turns out, this is one of those things that are hard to translate from Hebrew nicely. But we can still know what it means. Basically, God is saying, “I’m your God, and I’m your only God.” So what? We already know this, right? Were the Israelites actually that dumb? No, we all are. God reminds both the Israelites and us that He is God and that He is the only God because we often forget, in our heads but especially in our hearts.

As you read through the Bible, God is shown to be very powerful. Most of us remember the stories of God flooding the earth but saving Noah and his family, God parting the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape Egypt, and the walls of Jericho crashing down. In fact, God is in control of everything that happens in the universe! So the problem with having other gods is that we tell the true God that He really isn’t all that powerful or strong after all. Sure, He’s strong enough to put the planets in orbit around the sun and set up the ecosystem so we can have air to breathe, but He’s not powerful enough to make sure I get into the right university or get a good job, so I’ll worship the god of grades. Yeah, I know He provided food for the Israelites while they were wandering in the desert for 40 years, but He’s not strong enough to provide for me, so I can’t give to the church or the poor because I might not have enough for me. How insulting to a holy God, because with our actions we tell Him He is weak! But there’s one other thing to remember; not only is our God strong, but He loves us deeply. (*Psalms 62:11–12*) We can trust Him because He always wants the best for us.

We are called to remember God’s power because we tend to forget and begin to trust in the gifts He has given us rather than in Him.

We are called to remember God's power because we tend to forget and begin to trust in the gifts He has given us rather than in Him. Read **Judges 8:33–35** for an example.

Sometimes we give the name idols to things are not God, such as when we place all our trust in money or success or in the gifts God has given us. What are some idols, or things that you work really hard for, in your life?

Read **Deuteronomy 8**. What are some of the things God did that the Israelites are to remember?

Write down some things that God has done for you and your family that you should remember.

Read **Psalms 33**. Write down things that show God's power.

Spend some time thinking about God's power—both His power as shown in the Bible and His power in your own life. Pray over these things. Thank God for his strength and love and for how He has blessed you. Ask Him to help you remember to always trust in Him.



FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Read **Isaiah 43–44** and/or **Job 38–41**. Reflect on how these chapters show the power and glory of God.

REBOOT

Day 4 by Kenny Ly

LOVE



“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” –Deut 6:5



“All we need is love” the song goes, and, the truth is, we’re desperate for it. And though some of us may deny it, we all feel a real need for it. But not only do we have a desire to be loved, the human heart was created to love. The true object of that desire, though most don’t realize it, is God.

God is showing love to us when he commands us to love Him because loving Him is the greatest thing we could do. You catch that? Read that again and think about it.

The truest love consumes every part of us. Humans cannot love with only part of themselves. “Greater love has no man than this,” said Jesus, “than he lay down his life for his friends,” (John 15:13). That’s why God reminds us—love with everything! Love with all your heart, soul, and might.

LOVING GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Read **Luke 7:36-38**

What does it mean to love something with all your heart? When someone uses the word heart-felt, what does that mean? (i.e. heart-felt praise, heart-felt gratitude, etc.)

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Did this lady love Jesus with all her heart? How could you tell?

What do think motivates someone to have a heart-felt love for something?

Do you love God with all your heart?

LOVING GOD WITH ALL YOUR SOUL

Read ***Exodus 15:1-21***

Your soul includes your will and emotions. What does it mean to love something with all your soul?

If God says to love him with all your soul, is emotionally loving God important? If so, why and how are these emotions expressed? Can you think of examples from the Bible?

In the Exodus passage, the Israelites had just seen God do an incredible miracle for them. How did they respond?

Are you ever afraid to show emotion when you love God? Think of being in a dating relationship where the other person loved you but didn't ever want to show emotion. How would you feel? How do you think God feels when we say we love Him but never let it emotionally show?

LOVING GOD WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT

Might or strength isn't just muscles. It can be any sort of strength or power you have – physical, mental, or even social!

Read **Acts 17:16-32**.

Paul serves God by doing what? He uses his talents and strengths for God's glory how?

What does loving God with all your might (or strength) mean?

What are some ways in your life that you can show God your love for him through your might? What are some strengths you have that you can use for Him?



FOR FURTHER STUDY.

Read **Psalm 150**, **Acts 13**, **Acts 17:10-15**, and/or **1 Corinthians 4**. How is love for God shown in these passages?

REBOOT

Day 5 by Scott Loewen

COMMIT

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.”—Deut. 6:6

The first step towards loving God is obeying Him. In fact, that’s really how we love anyone in our life. While you might have that warm, gooey feeling for someone, they will never believe you love them unless you show it by your actions. I read a joke a long time ago about a guy who gave his wife a hunting rifle for her birthday. Sure, he got his wife a gift, but if he really loved her, he would have found a gift she could appreciate and enjoy. (In the punchline of the joke, by the way, the wife gets her husband a dress for his birthday.) (Check out **John 14:15** for a definition of love as obedience.)

In the Bible, we are fortunate to have many of God’s commands written for us. But as you very well know, it doesn’t have a command or even a suggestion regarding a lot of the decisions we have to make in our lives today. The Bible never says anything about movies or cars or Facebook, for example. This is why **Deuteronomy 6:6** says these commandments are to be upon our hearts. Not only do we obey the commands, but we think about the commands and see how they all fit together in order to understand why God gave them to us. Then we can apply them to our lives today. Sometimes I think of these laws like a connect-the-dots picture. The laws are the dots, and as we start to draw lines between them, the true picture is seen.

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So in this passage, as God asks us to put His commands on our hearts, He is asking us to see for ourselves this picture He has drawn for us because it is beautiful. He shows us His love for us, giving us rules to keep us safe in heart, soul, and strength. He does not give us these commands simply to show that He is powerful and can make people obey Him, but He loves us and these commands are given to us for our joy! Trying to explain this is like trying to describe a beautiful sunset to someone—it might help, but seeing for yourself is always much better. Only by digging into the Bible, with the help

of the Holy Spirit, can we begin to understand all that God has done for us and still wants to do for us, and can we see this picture for ourselves.

Read **Psalm 119:1-16**.

What gives the writer joy?

According to this passage, what are some of the benefits of the law?

Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-7**. We normally read these verses and think how we should love others. But since God is love, read these again thinking about God's relationship with you. Write out a prayer to God thanking Him for His love, or write down some things you can do to show your love for God.



FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Read **Exodus 20:1-21** and/or **Matthew 5-7**. Think about (meditate) on these, and write down some possible reasons why God would give these commands. How do they show God's love for us?

REBOOT

Day 6 by Kenny Ly

LIVE

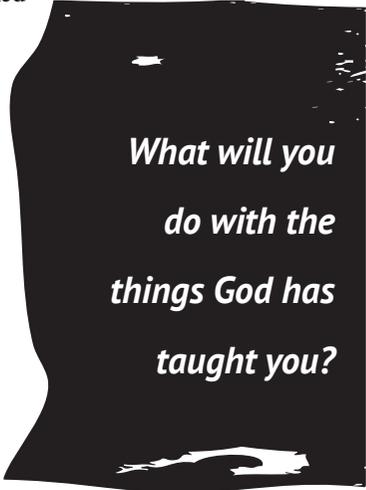
I'm an English teacher. I have a HUGE problem with my students. It's not grammar; they know more grammar rules than I do! It's not vocabulary; every once in a while I'll have to look up a word they used because I don't even know it! It's not even their lack of knowledge about Western culture. It's that they won't speak. It's so frustrating! They know all they need to know to communicate in English, but they are so afraid of making a mistake in front of their classmates that they won't speak up in class. All their head knowledge about English does them absolutely no good because they're too afraid to speak up and use what they've spent so long studying.

God has sent out a call to listen and obey. We've looked at this call all week. But now, as we finish this week of Reboot, what will you do with the things God has taught you? Will you say "Ah, that was a great experience. Let's get back to Facebook and life"? Or will you allow what God has spoken to you during this time to change your life forever? Will you use and practice the things God has shown you during this time?

Read *Hebrews 11*.

Did you notice? Almost all of these examples of faith are together with an action.

Why is this kind of faith (the faith that leads to action) so important (see verse 6)?



*What will you
do with the
things God has
taught you?*

Pick of a few of the Bible stories from this passage that you know or have heard of, and think about how challenging it would be to do what these people did. Then ask God to grow the same kind of faith in your heart.

Read **James 2:14-26**

Faith without works is dead. It's not really faith at all—it's just religiosity.

Is it possible to have a real faith without works? Why or why not?

What's an example of faith in action you can find in the passage?

Are there any things in your life you believe but haven't put into action? List them here. Ask God to forgive you for not doing them and to help you live them out for Him.



FOR FURTHER STUDY.

Read **Colossians 3-4**, **Isaiah 43**, and/or **Hebrews 11-13**. What do these passages show us about living?



What I Learned Today:

© Day 1

© Day 2

© Day 3

© *Day 4*

© *Day 5*

What is your main takeaway from Reboot? Look at the things you learned each day this week, and write yourself a short note about your experiences and what God showed you this week.