

## **Making a Difference**

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- DAY 1     1 Timothy 4:7-16
- DAY 2     Daniel 3
- DAY 3     James 2
- DAY 4     Matthew 28:16-20
- DAY 5     Matthew 25:31-46
- DAY 6     Mark 12:28-34
- DAY 7     1 Samuel 17

## BEING A PAWN

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*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*

—1 Timothy 4:12

### INTRODUCTION

Do you ever get frustrated because it seems like you're not old enough to do anything important? Maybe you'd really like to serve God in a meaningful way, but you have to be all grown up to be a pastor or a missionary or something like that. Well, you don't have to wait for years before God can begin using you to build his kingdom. Jesus made it very clear that children are a vital part of God's family. In fact, he told everyone else that they needed to become *like* children if they wanted to be part of that family! So don't feel bad because you're "just a kid." We're going to take a look at what you can do right now to make a huge impact in the world.

Today's devotion is based on 1 Timothy 4:12, which says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." The devotion is called "Being a Pawn."

### DEVOTION

Kelly stood on a giant chessboard at the Renaissance fair. She'd been chosen to be a pawn in a human chess match! As part of a show, two noblemen were playing the game. "Bishop takes rook!" said the nobleman controlling the black "pieces." The black bishop moved three squares diagonally to replace the white rook.

Kelly feared her side was losing. But the other nobleman said, "Pawn to knight's eight." He meant her! She moved ahead one square. Then she understood. When a lowly pawn reaches the end of the board, it can become a powerful queen. A crown was placed on her head, and now she had the black king trapped.

"Checkmate!" an official declared.

Never imagine you don't matter because you're little. A pawn can win a chess game! Likewise, God can use a young kid like you to make a big difference in the world. God is making great changes in your heart. The way you talk and act as a result sets a powerful example for others. You can inspire people (even adults) to live a more godly life.

**PEOPLE IN BIBLE TIMES**

Young Timothy made a big difference in the world. Traveling with the apostle Paul, Timothy helped spread the gospel. And his behavior set a good example for others. (See Philippians 2:22.)

**QUESTIONS**

1. If you were old enough, what kinds of things would you like to do to serve God?
2. Can you think of other young people in the Bible, besides Timothy, whom God used in a powerful way?

Some examples are: David, who killed Goliath, which encouraged the whole Israelite army to attack the Philistines; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who refused to bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue, inspiring the king to give glory to God; the boy in the crowd of five thousand people, who offered his food to Jesus so that everyone could be fed.

3. Have you heard of any kids living today who have done great things to serve God and help others?
4. How can obeying your parents, learning the Bible, and growing spiritually at this stage of your life be a way of serving God?

One answer: It trains you and prepares you so you'll be able to do important work for God later. Remember, even Jesus went through a period of training and spiritual growth (see Luke 2:41–52) before he began his ministry!

5. In what other important ways, besides setting a good example for others, can you serve God, even at your young age?

Some answers are: praying for people; teaching others your age what you know about Jesus, God, and the Bible; giving some of your own money to the church or to Christian organizations; writing letters of encouragement to missionaries; etc.

## HEROES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

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For each hero on the left, draw a line to the matching deed(s) on the right.

Peter (Matthew 4)	was a tax collector who promised to pay back the people he cheated
Mary (Luke 1)	helped a man who had been robbed and beaten
Joseph (Matthew 1)	baptized many people, including Jesus
Matthew (Luke 5)	agreed to become the mother of Jesus
Zacchaeus (Luke 19)	went back to thank Jesus for healing him
John the Baptist (Matthew 3)	believed that Jesus could heal his servant just by giving a command
Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27)	chose to spend time with Jesus even though there was work to do
Nicodemus (John 19)	was a rich man who buried Jesus in the tomb he had made for himself
the Good Samaritan (Luke 10)	was a fisherman who left everything to follow Jesus
the poor widow (Mark 12)	took Mary as his wife and raised Jesus as his son
Mary (Martha's sister) (John 12)	was a Pharisee who secretly visited Jesus one night and later helped bury him
the Samaritan leper (Luke 17)	gave God two small coins, which was all the money she had
the centurion in Capernaum (Luke 7)	was a tax collector who left everything to follow Jesus

## HEROES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT *Answer Key*

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For each hero on the left, draw a line to the matching deed(s) on the right.

Peter (Matthew 4)	was a tax collector who promised to pay back the people he cheated <b>[ZACCHAEUS]</b>
Mary (Luke 1)	helped a man who had been robbed and beaten <b>[THE GOOD SAMARITAN]</b>
Joseph (Matthew 1)	baptized many people, including Jesus <b>[JOHN THE BAPTIST]</b>
Matthew (Luke 5)	agreed to become the mother of Jesus <b>[MARY]</b>
Zacchaeus (Luke 19)	went back to thank Jesus for healing him <b>[THE SAMARITAN LEPER]</b>
John the Baptist (Matthew 3)	believed that Jesus could heal his servant just by giving a command <b>[THE CENTURION IN CAPERNAUM]</b>
Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27)	chose to spend time with Jesus even though there was work to do <b>[MARY (MARTHA'S SISTER)]</b>
Nicodemus (John 19)	was a rich man who buried Jesus in the tomb he had made for himself <b>[JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA]</b>
the Good Samaritan (Luke 10)	was a fisherman who left everything to follow Jesus <b>[Peter]</b>
the poor widow (Mark 12)	took Mary as his wife and raised Jesus as his son <b>[JOSEPH]</b>
Mary (Martha's sister) (John 12)	was a Pharisee who secretly visited Jesus one night and later helped bury him <b>[Nicodemus]</b>
the Samaritan leper (Luke 17)	gave God two small coins, which was all the money she had <b>[THE POOR WIDOW]</b>
the centurion in Capernaum (Luke 7)	was a tax collector who left everything to follow Jesus <b>[MATTHEW]</b>