



LINK247

[www.link247.org](http://www.link247.org)

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

*Robin Johnston*

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

*P. Daniel Buford*

*Lee Ann Alexander*

**FIELD EDITOR**

*Evan Zenobia*

**WRITER**

*Nate Smith*

**DESIGNER**

*Colin Zenobia*

**Big Idea** — *When we choose to live radically for God, He will do radical exploits through us. This series will explore the role of young people in the end-time harvest through radical devotion, faith, conviction, and boldness.*

- **Week 1 — Radical Devotion**  
*As disciples in the last days, our deep devotion will give us strength to conquer what's ahead.*
- **Week 2 — Radical Faith**  
*As we radically believe and obey God, He will perform great exploits through us.*
- **Week 3 — Radical Conviction**  
*When we decide to stand up for righteousness and the things of God, we will stand out to this world.*
- **Week 4 — Radical Boldness**  
*Fear and worry does not have to stop us; today through the power of the Holy Ghost, we can walk boldly through our situations to fulfill end-time revival.*

# LESSON MAP



Each LINK247 lesson follows the same lesson map. This map is designed to help you connect students with biblical truth. Each lesson has options to help you tailor the lesson to best fit the group you are teaching. Listed below are the elements in each LINK247 lesson.

1

## LAUNCH

*Begin by choosing a Launch option that will connect with the group of students you are teaching.*



2

## UNLOCK

*Next, using the outline provided, walk through the Bible with the students.*



3

## INTERSECT

*Then provide practical applications for students to apply the truth in their daily lives.*



4

## ARRIVE

*To end, conclude the message by choosing one or more of the Arrive options.*



# RADICAL

"THE PEOPLE THAT DO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG, AND DO EXPLOITS."

## WEEK 1 — RADICAL DEVOTION



### SERIES BIG IDEA

*When we choose to live radically for God, He will do radical exploits through us. This series will explore the role of young people in the end-time harvest through radical devotion, faith, conviction, and boldness.*



### BIBLICAL PASSAGE

*Daniel 1:3–19; 11:32;  
Acts 2:42–47*



### BOTTOM LINE

*As disciples in the last days, our deep devotion will give us strength to conquer what's ahead.*

# LESSON OUTLINE



## 1. LAUNCH

---

Option 1 — How Was Your Day?

Option 2 — Interactive Questions

Option 3 — Share Your Story

## 2. UNLOCK

---

A. Living in the Last Days

B. The Book of Daniel

C. The Book of Acts

D. Radical Response

## 3. INTERSECT

---

A. Defining Devotion

B. Daniel's Devotion

C. The Apostles' Devotion

D. Devotion Creates Distinction

E. Devotion Determines Direction

F. Radical Devotion

## 4. ARRIVE

---

Option 1 — Discussion

Option 2 — Prayer and Share

Option 3 — The Postscript

# 1

## LAUNCH

---

*Begin by choosing a Launch option that will connect with the group of students you are teaching.*



### Option 1 — How Was Your Day?

- A. *Hand each student paper and a pen.*
  - 1. *Ask students to write down the schedule of their day from start to finish, using times and events.*
  - 2. *Example: 7:00 AM—wake up, 7:30 AM—breakfast, 8:00 AM—English class*
- B. *Once students finish writing out their day, ask where they spend time in prayer and Bible reading. If prayer and Bible reading are not included, discuss ways to incorporate daily devotion into their daily schedule.*

### Option 2 — Interactive Questions

- A. What does the term devotion mean?
- B. Why do you think the Lord wants us to live consecrated or separated lives?
- C. *Read Romans 12:1–2.* What do you think these verses mean?
- D. What can you do to become more devoted to Jesus Christ?

### Option 3 — Share Your Story

- A. *Ask a few volunteers to share how they plan and execute their personal devotion time.*
- B. *Have them talk about when, where, and how they pray and what Bible reading method or plan they use.*

# 2

## UNLOCK

*Next, using the outline provided, walk through the Bible with the students.*



### A. Living in the Last Days

1. Second Timothy 3 describes the environment of the last days. Paul used the phrase “perilous times” to describe the environment just before Jesus returns. The word perilous means hard to bear, troublesome, or dangerous.
2. Paul went on to detail people’s attitudes and lifestyles that would mark the time. He stated that people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (II Timothy 3:2–4).
3. These are the days we live in today. By simply viewing recent news stories and cultural trends, it is easy to see all these attitudes and lifestyles present in our current society. We must be aware of our times, and we must be equipped for the challenges ahead.
4. *Read Matthew 16:1–3.*
5. Jesus offered a strong rebuke to the religious leaders for not understanding the times in which they lived. The responsibility to recognize the times and respond appropriately rests on us individually and as the body of Christ.
6. *Read Acts 2:17.*
7. Alongside the evil environment of the last days stands a promise for an end-time revival. God will pour out His Spirit and empower His people to do great exploits. As time marches forward and sin abounds more and more, we are promised to experience greater grace and a greater outpouring.

### B. The Book of Daniel

1. Daniel wrote the Book of Daniel during the Jewish exile in Babylon. It begins with captivating stories of how certain exiled Jews navigated treacherous situations in Babylon. The second half of the book expounds in great detail concerning prophecies, some of which have already transpired exactly as predicted.
2. As we read each passage in Daniel, we are reminded of God’s ultimate control and plan for this world. A day is coming when the kingdoms of this world will fade away and the one true God will establish His own everlasting kingdom.
3. The Book of Daniel teaches how a godly person can live in an ungodly world. The stories and characters serve as an example of how we can keep ourselves from becoming contaminated in



a wicked environment.

### **C. The Book of Acts**

1. A physician named Luke wrote the Book of Acts. He was also one of the disciples who walked with Jesus. The Book of Acts provides the story of the last days of Jesus on earth and the first days of the church.
2. Through Luke's account, we learn of the supernatural birth and explosive growth of the church. As Acts 1:8 describes, what started in Jerusalem with a few rapidly grew to many in Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. The Great Commission that the characters in Acts fulfilled is still propelling God's kingdom forward today.
3. Acts teaches us how to establish and advance God's kingdom on earth. With the fulfillment of God's promise and a commitment to a higher calling, the disciples demonstrated how we can overcome obstacles and be part of establishing God's kingdom in our time.

### **D. Radical Response**

1. Both of these books of the Bible provide profound and powerful blueprints for how we should respond in critical moments. The characters' lives and circumstances happened hundreds of years apart, but the characters' unique responses to events demonstrate principles we should apply today.
2. As we will discover in this series, their responses to their circumstances were radical. They chose to defy customs, commands, and threats. They rejected fear and became a part of the supernatural workings of God. They refused to bow and were labeled as radicals.
3. What will be our response to our current times?

# 3

## INTERSECT

*Then provide practical applications for students to apply the truth in their daily lives.*



### A. Defining Devotion

1. *Read Romans 12:1–2.*
2. The word devotion is defined as love, loyalty, or commitment to something or someone. We define our devotion to God through our personal commitment to Him. Romans 12:1–2 encourages us to devote ourselves to God wholly—body, mind, and soul.
3. Devotion is revealed in our passions. It is easy to determine a person’s favorite sports team by evaluating the person’s clothing, conversation, and investment. In the same way, our true devotion is revealed by our outward and inward pursuits. Devotion is manifested through passion.
4. Devotion is established by our disciplines. Paul admonished us, “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, . . . be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.” His admonition is to discipline our actions and thoughts in order to walk in God’s will. Spiritual disciplines are the foundation for devotion.
5. Devotion is cultivated by time. Time is a precious commodity given to us by God. Ultimately, how we spend it or waste time will determine where we spend eternity, the place without time. When we devote our time to prayer, studying the Bible, and faithful participation in a local church, we are cultivating a relationship with the Lord. Our personal relationship with the Lord is only as strong as the amount of time we devote to Him.

### B. Daniel’s Devotion

1. *Read Daniel 1:3–19.*
2. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego endured many abrupt changes in transition to the Babylonian exile time period. They were examined, evaluated, renamed, and taught a new language in order to facilitate their assimilation into Babylon. Additionally, they were given daily provision of the king’s meat and wine for their sustenance. Most, if not all, of this new lifestyle was in contradiction to their upbringing.
3. To the surprise of the Babylonian authority, these Hebrews refused the king’s meat and drink and proposed a separate dietary plan for themselves. This radical stance was a major risk for these youth to take in such an ungodly environment.
4. Verse 8 states, “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.” Daniel was devoted to the laws and lifestyle given by his God. By partaking of the king’s food and drink, Daniel would be compromising his personal devotion to the God he served. Instead he prioritized his commitment to God and stood firm in his devotion.



### C. The Apostles' Devotion

1. *Read Acts 2:42–47.*
2. The beginning of Acts 2 was the beginning of the church. When the Holy Ghost was poured out, the promise was fulfilled and God's people were empowered to fulfill their mission. The next step for them was to establish daily patterns to cultivate their new and radically altered lifestyle.
3. These new disciples began to devote themselves to doctrine, prayer, fellowship, giving, and many other godly commitments. The arrival of the Holy Ghost brought a supernatural atmosphere of unity and faith. Their response to their new faith was to obey Peter's preaching and save themselves "from this untoward generation" by devoting their lives to the Lord (Acts 2:40).

### D. Devotion Creates Distinction

1. These two stories have striking parallels. The result of both decisions to devote their lives to the Lord brought favor and distinction.
2. *Read Daniel 1:15–17.*
3. When Daniel purposed in his heart to stay true to his God, he opened the door for God's favor to rest on him and his friends. Not only was their countenance better than the other young men, but their wisdom and understanding was ten times better than all the Babylonian magicians and astrologers.
4. Their devotion set them apart in the eyes of men and God. The Lord equipped them with skills and understanding that would not only benefit them in the moment, but also in times to come.
5. *Read Acts 2:46–47.*
6. As a result of the disciples' newfound devotion, two amazing things happened. First, they had favor with all the people. Second, the Lord added to the church daily.
7. The disciples' devotion to their God released miracles, signs, and wonders.
8. The disciples wholeheartedly committing themselves to the Lord attracted the unsaved to these peculiar people. To the world, a devoted life is a radical life.

### E. Devotion Determines Direction

1. It is significant that both of these examples of devotion, in Daniel 1 and in Acts 2, happen at the beginning of their books. These characters were unaware of the trials, testing, and difficulties that lay ahead of them, yet their devotion to God proved to be foundational for their journey.
2. Daniel and the disciples used this radical devotion mindset throughout the stories in Scripture. They were committed to the Lord in body, mind, and soul.
3. The time to deepen our devotion to the Lord is right now. The world may think our devotion is radical, but we view it as our reasonable service.
4. Our devotion will serve as the necessary foundation we will use to stand and endure the evil days around us. It's time to live radically.



## F. Radical Devotion

1. *Read Daniel 11:32.*
2. This verse is the destiny of God's people in these last days. We have a promise, a destiny for great exploits. God will do something radical through this generation.
3. It is important to note that the exploits promised to us can only come to those who know their God. Radical exploits will happen through those with radical devotion.

# 4

## ARRIVE

*To end, conclude the message by choosing one or more of the Arrive options.*



### Option 1 — Discussion

- A. Ask for volunteers to share what it means to be radically devoted to Jesus.
- B. Then have them share examples of people they consider to be radically devoted in prayer, Bible reading, fasting, and so on.

### Option 2 — Prayer and Share

- A. Have a time of prayer, encouraging students to evaluate their personal devotion to God.
- B. After individual prayer, have students link up with someone and share what God spoke to them during the lesson and during prayer time.

### Option 3 — The Postscript

- A. Daniel and the disciples showed great personal devotion to God during critical times.
- B. Lead a group discussion:
  - 1. Read Ephesians 5:15–16. What do you think these verses mean?
  - 2. Why is it important to deepen your personal devotion?
  - 3. What types of actions can you take to increase prayer, Bible reading, fasting, and outreach?