



Invisible Lives

6 Daily Devotions

*Extract from crime thriller novel 'Scar Tissue'
by David Skivington*

Sample

*Amazing Stories of the World's
Unseen Heroes*

Within this devotion you will explore the following:

- Day 1: Giving My All - Luke 21 v1-4
- Day 2: Getting Creative! - Psalm 139
- Day 3: Freeing The Slaves - Exodus 12 v31-42
- Day 4: Seeing Jesus - Matthew 25 v 31- 46
- Day 5: Who's your Favourite? - James 2 v 2-10
- Day 6: Children of God - Exodus 2 v1-9

- Extract from the crime thriller novel *Scar Tissue*.
- List of charities and organisations fighting against injustice.
- Scriptures and prayers to provoke a prayerful response.

Day 1: Them: Giving My All

Read Luke 21: 1-4

Nobody paid any attention as the poor widow shuffled through the temple to give her small donation. Nobody except Jesus. Everyone else nudged each other as the rich members of the community approached, heads held high as they made a show of their generosity and wealth. The size of their contributions was noted and discussed with admiration by the onlookers.

In the widow's hand though were only two tiny coins, so small in value they were known locally as the 'thin ones'. As she gave them, Jesus called to His disciples and pointed her out. "This woman has given more than anybody else," He told them. They probably looked at each other puzzled, wondering if Jesus needed glasses. Others had put in hundreds of times the amount she had; did He not see the tiny coins she gave? She had given next to nothing.

Knowing the questions they had, Jesus continued, "They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything she had to live on."

This story shows that God cares more about our attitude to giving than the gift itself. He doesn't want us to give grudgingly, or to do it as a big show so that people talk about how kind we are. He wants us to give generously because we can't help but share with others after all that we have received from Him. He also shows us that true generosity may cost us something - the lady put in everything she had to live on because she wanted to give her all to God.





Reflections:

While volunteering in India, I worked in a home for orphaned boys. The boys literally had two pairs of clothes each and every day they only had rice and dhal (lentils) to eat, so for a boy called Sukumar's birthday I brought in a chocolate cake as a treat. I gave him a nice big slice and sang 'Happy Birthday'. Before he ate it though, he came up and offered me a bite. Thinking he didn't understand, I explained it was his, to celebrate his birthday. He looked at me and said, "I know, but Jesus told us to share."

Nobody told Sukumar to give me a bite of his cake. He didn't do it grudgingly or because he felt he had to. He did it because he wanted to share the joy of what he had been given. His kind response definitely taught me a lesson or two about generosity! As Shane Claibourne states, "The best thing to do with the best things in life is to give them away." We receive far more joy by giving away to others than we do by just keeping things to ourselves. We can see in both the case of the widow and of Sukumar, they gave out of the little which they had because of this spirit of generosity. Even though it cost them, they were happy to give.

So what does that look like for you today? You may feel like the widow or Sukumar and feel you have very little to give. However, we all have something to offer, no matter how small. It doesn't have to be money or even cake (although cake is always good!). You can give your time, kind words or let someone go first on the Xbox. Thinking about how much God has done for us, see if this week you are able to share some of that with others, even if it may cost you.

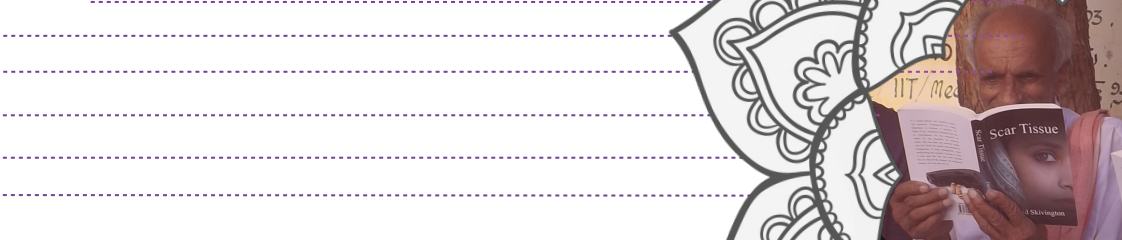
Questions for discussion:

1. What can you be thankful to God for today / this week?
2. Is there something you can share with others? What might be the cost to you in giving?

Group response:

1. How can we as a group encourage a spirit of generosity?
2. What can we do to show generosity to others not in our group?

Notes:



Scriptures to use to pray freedom from oppression:



When praying, think of the following categories:

Orphans, people in poverty, *criminals*, lawmakers, government, law enforcement, education, traffickers, Churches, Christian Charities and individual believers. Spend time asking God reveal Himself to these people and to see freedom come alive within them.

Use the following Bible verses to help direct your prayers.

Luke 4:18:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

Pray: For those that are oppressing others for self gain, to see people instead as God views them, and set them free.

Psalm 9:18:

For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

Pray: That you and your peers will not forget the needy people we see from day to day and will have the compassion to help.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Pray: That we can stop and reflect on our actions, humbling ourselves as we seek how God feels about injustice and crying out in prayer that others will repent and turn from their wicked ways.

Psalm 82:3-4

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Pray: Pray for the Government to create and enforce just laws, both in the UK and the rest of the world.



At the age of 18 I volunteered with a Christian charity in Kolkata, India, which involved teaching English to street children and also children living in the slum areas. One day as I was walking down a busy street I was approached by a man offering me young girls. This moment broke my heart, leaving me needing to do something to challenge this horrendous injustice.



My response was to write my debut novel, Scar Tissue. This is a crime thriller set in Kolkata, which is a real page turner, delving into a dark world of crime and corruption, while raising awareness of human trafficking and the charities trying to tackle it.

As a Christian I feel compelled to challenge injustice wherever I find it, whether in the slums of Kolkata or on my local high street in Leeds. I have written these devotions to share with you beautiful stories of people I have met, as well as inspiring words from the Bible on what you can do to make a difference in our world.

I hope they challenge you to stand against injustice!

For more on Missional Generation and our resources, check out our website: www.missionalgen.co.uk



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