

# Jesus Followers

## A 6-DAY DEVOTIONAL

BY

ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ &  
RACHEL-RUTH LOTZ WRIGHT

We each want to pass on our faith to the next generation, but sometimes we wonder what that looks like in today's world. In this six-day devotional, Anne Graham Lotz and Rachel-Ruth Lotz Wright—the daughter and granddaughter of Billy Graham—use story and Scripture to give us ideas, biblical inspiration, and encouragement about living in a way that invites others to experience God's incredible grace and love, with joy!

## Day One

### Passing the Baton of Truth

**Scripture:** [Genesis 17:7](#); [Psalm 22:30](#)

*From Anne*

Almost every weekend during the spring months, my husband, Danny, would take our three young children to watch the track-and-field events at the University of North Carolina, which was his alma mater.

One of their favorite events was the four-by-one-hundred-meter relay race, in which four runners compete as a team, each running a lap around the track before passing a baton to his teammate, who continues running at full speed ahead of him.

Winning a relay race depends not only on the speed of the runners but also on each team member's ability to transfer the baton. If the baton is dropped or even bobbled, precious seconds are wasted, and the race may be lost.

You and I are in a race called life. The Baton is Truth that leads to faith in Jesus Christ. Each generation receives the Baton from the previous generation, runs the race to the best of its ability, then is responsible for passing it to the next generation.

Passing the Baton of Truth traces all the way back to the first generation of humanity. Following Adam and Eve's disobedience, when sin entered the human race, each person faced the decision of whether to seek a right relationship with God or pursue his or her own selfish desires.

In Genesis 5, we find a genealogy that lists ten generations and reveals the passing of the Baton from one to the next. Amid the wickedness of Cain's civilization, these ten men stood out like giants surrounded by spiritual dwarfs. Like a ten-man relay team, each received the Baton of Truth from the one who had preceded him, then grasped it for himself, running his own race with diligence and perseverance, regardless of his wicked surroundings.

As parents, grandparents, and mentors, we must strive to be giants among spiritual dwarfs relaying to the next generation the Baton of Truth that leads to personal faith in Jesus Christ.

In order to be successful, it's imperative that we be genuine Jesus Followers ourselves. In this devotional, my daughter, Rachel-Ruth, offers a story from our family for each segment in the race of life: our witness, our worship, our walk, and our work. Our hope is to encourage you to be intentional as you, too, seek to be a Jesus Follower who successfully passes the Baton to the next generation.

*What are the names of people in the next generation who you would like to intentionally pass the Baton of Truth to?*

## Day Two

### Our Witness | Making the Most of Every Opportunity

**Scripture:** [Matthew 28:19](#); [1 Peter 3:15](#)

*From Rachel-Ruth*

Anyone familiar with Billy Graham—known to my family as Daddy Bill—knows he shared his faith boldly. Whether witnessing to individuals or preaching in a crowded arena, he did not speak with rehearsed precision. He spoke with passion and conviction because he believed every word he said with every fiber of his being! His deep love for Jesus was always evident in the fire in his piercing blue eyes and the passionate conviction in his familiar voice.

Thousands, even millions, came to faith in Jesus because Daddy Bill's passionate heart for the gospel came through in everything he said and did. Nothing brought him more joy than seeing someone come to Christ!

My grandmother, whom we called Tai Tai, told my mom that she and Daddy Bill were once the guests of some friends at a beautiful beach resort. At dinnertime, no one could find Daddy Bill. When Tai Tai went looking for him, she found him behind their building, sharing the gospel with one of the groundskeepers.

My paternal grandfather, whom we simply called Grampa, also shared the gospel with everyone with whom he came in contact, whether a pedestrian on a street corner in New York City or the waiter at the delicatessen he frequented.

One Thanksgiving he and Gramma were driving down from New York City to spend a week with us. When they finally arrived about eight hours later than expected, we learned Grampa had picked up a hitchhiker, then driven the guy to his destination—six hours out of the way—because Grampa wanted him to know Jesus!

Grampa would say he “didn’t give a rip” about what people thought of him; he cared only about what Jesus thought of him. When we get to Heaven, I can’t wait to meet all the people who he led to Christ. At Grampa’s funeral, a man told my dad he had seen the notice of Grampa’s death in the paper and had come to the service because he wanted the family to know that Grampa had led him to Christ at the local McDonald’s, where Grampa went every morning for a cup of coffee.

It’s clear that the witness of my grandparents made an impact on both of my parents, instilling in them the importance of sharing the gospel at every opportunity.

*Who first told you about Jesus? In what ways did that person’s life influence your decision to follow Christ?*

## Day Three

### Our Worship | A Love for the Word

**Scripture:** [Deuteronomy 6:1-2](#); [Psalm 119:97](#)

*From Rachel-Ruth*

Both sets of my grandparents and my dad played a vital role in cultivating my love for God's Word. But hands down, the one who has most influenced me to love, cherish, and rely on my Bible is my mother. Growing up, when I would come down the stairs in the mornings, I would find her either on her knees praying or studying her Bible. From that study has come a wealth of wisdom and knowledge that has gotten her through many major storms and has also equipped her to counsel me through my storms. She loves the Bible with all her heart, and that love is evident in how she lives out what she learns in humble obedience.

As I observe how my mom immerses herself in the Bible, I feel like I get to witness what someone is like in Heaven, living in the presence of God. It's as if she is already there. Problems don't matter, sickness doesn't matter, an unstable world doesn't matter, because her eyes are on Jesus, her loving heavenly Father . . . through the pages of His written Word.

My girls have grown up seeing me in my Bible on a daily basis. They gather around and do their homework while I work on Bible study. Often I'll stop and share something the Lord has shown me. I want my girls to be saturated in God's Word, which means I have to be too. One of Tai Tai's quips was "You can't teach your children to love spinach if every time they see you eating yours, you gag." While funny, that's true! Our children learn more by what they see us doing than by what we tell them.

If I told people that I loved someone but they could see that I often refused to listen to him, dismissed his advice, and didn't care to spend time with him, those people would emphatically disagree with my declaration of love for him. It's one thing to say I love someone, but it's another thing to actually live out my love for that person. If we truly love God, then we will love His Word. We will be eager to listen to what He has to say.

*What view of the Bible are you passing down to your children? As your children, your friends, or your coworkers look at your life, do they see the Bible as being important to you?*

## Day Four

### Our Walk | Breaking Bread and Making Memories

Scripture: [Deuteronomy 11:18-21](#); [Acts 2:46](#)

*From Rachel-Ruth*

The distant ringing of the cowbell signaled dinnertime. Mom always rang the big old rusty bell when she wanted us to come home, knowing we would hear it wherever we were in the neighborhood. As we barreled into the kitchen, she would be dishing out spaghetti with her homemade meat sauce, toasted and buttered French bread already on the table.

During dinner, we would each talk about our days. Then at the end of every dinner, my dad would ask me to go grab his Bible so that he could lead us in devotions. Dad would ask us questions about what we each thought a passage meant. We would try to answer but usually got the giggles because we seemed to never give him the answer he was looking for. Eventually Dad would grow frustrated and simply declare, nearly every time, that the answer was the blood of Jesus. Until Dad went to Heaven, if one of us couldn't figure out what answer Dad was looking for during our family devotions, we just answered, "It's the blood."

Nothing super special took place at our family dinner table, but those years of eating together, sharing countless conversations marked by laughter, and discussing Scripture all had a profound impact on me.

I am now married to a head high school football coach, which means that, for over half the year, he eats dinner with us only on the weekends. My girls' soccer and basketball schedules have also complicated our family mealtimes. Often we grab fast food or find something to eat late at night when we get home.

One of the blessings of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 was that for the first time in years, we consistently ate together, and the blessings were enormous. Steven was able to lead us in family devotions. The girls' interactions with him were invaluable since his normal schedule so rarely allowed them time together.

If you, too, have been missing the beauty of connecting spiritually and personally with your family in the daily-ness of life, maybe you could set aside at least one night a week for time together—whether it's dinner or a game night or cookies and a movie. Being together will strengthen your family bonds and give your kids a sense of security, not to mention providing opportunities for unscripted conversations about living out your faith.

*How can you rearrange your schedule to allow for regular opportunities to share life with your loved ones and create memorable moments of joy, connection, and spiritual development?*

## Day Five

### Our Walk | The World Awaits

Scripture: [Matthew 25:40](#); [Mark 16:15](#)

*From Rachel-Ruth*

One critical aspect of passing the Baton of Truth to the next generation is to give our children firsthand experiences of the impact truth makes in the lives of those in another culture or those who are less fortunate.

My parents intentionally directed our attention beyond ourselves to nurture in us a compassion that mirrors God's love for people. While I was in high school, I began to feel a stirring in my heart for Africa. The burden really grew when I traveled with my mom on one of her speaking trips to South Africa. Witnessing the devastating poverty in some areas of the country, seeing the vast and beautifully rugged land, and getting to know the people left an indelible mark on my heart.

Then, my sophomore year in college, my uncle Franklin asked whether I would like to go to Rwanda for the summer, along with his son Will and another cousin, Noelle, to help out in the orphanages run by Samaritan's Purse.

Noelle and I spent day after day holding and hugging babies and toddlers that God had created and protected through the awful days of the recent genocide. When I headed home to America, my perspective on what matters had shifted. My worldview had expanded infinitely, putting a spotlight on the blessings I had previously taken for granted as well as making me keenly aware of the greed and self-centeredness in my life.

Sending kids on mission trips, telling them missionary stories, or taking them to serve at a local soup kitchen or hospital will open their eyes to a world bigger than themselves, a world that needs Jesus.

Who knows? When our children are grown, we may discover that what seemed to be a small effort to open their eyes and hearts to a needy world had a long-lasting impact. They may look back and say that the highlight of their upbringing was not the beach vacation, the trip to Disney World, or the new cell phone. I wonder whether they will say that the highlight was the times we responded to the needs of others together.

*Pray that God would give you a heart of compassion and open your eyes to the needs He wants you and your family to meet.*



## Day Six

### Faith to Faith

**Scripture:** [Hebrews 12:1-2](#); [Luke 3:23-38](#); [Jude 24-25](#)

*From Anne*

Noah received the Baton of Truth that started its journey with Adam and Eve and was passed on by each successive generation until it reached him. He preserved it; then it was passed on in an unbroken line to Jesus, the Messiah.

Noah handed the Baton to Shem, who passed it to Eber, to Terah, to Abraham, to Isaac . . . Jacob . . . Joseph . . . Moses . . . Joshua . . . Deborah . . . Gideon . . . Samson . . . Ruth . . . Samuel . . . David . . . Solomon . . . Elijah . . . Elisha . . . Hezekiah . . . Josiah . . . Haggai . . . Zechariah . . . Ezra . . . Nehemiah . . . Malachi . . . to John the Baptist...and for a short while, people's faith became sight as they gazed on God face to face in the person of Jesus of Nazareth!

John the apostle received the Baton of Truth directly from Jesus. He then passed it by faith to Polycarp, an early-church leader who received the Baton, and before he was burned at the stake for his faith, Polycarp passed it to Ambrose, who passed it to Augustine, to Anselm, to John Wycliffe, to John Huss . . . Martin Luther . . . John Calvin . . . John Wesley... George Whitefield . . . Francis Asbury . . . William Carey . . . Charles Haddon Spurgeon . . . Dwight L. Moody . . . I. M. Haldeman . . . Billy Sunday . . . William Franklin Graham Sr. . . . Billy Graham . . . to Anne Graham Lotz, to Rachel-Ruth Lotz Wright... And on and on to the next generations.

The Baton of Truth was received face to face and then relayed faith to faith from generation to generation. But it's the same Baton, the same Truth, the same good news that God loves you! He wants you to know Him in a personal relationship.

Now it's up to you: Don't drop the Baton. It's been passed to you through all the generations of human history. Receive it as the treasure that it is, and then pass it on to someone else.

*Which of the stories in this devotional resonated with you most? Which theme (Our Witness, Worship, Walk or Work) inspires you to pass the Baton of Faith on to others?*

STUDY GUIDE + STREAMING VIDEO

FIVE SESSIONS

ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ  
RACHEL-RUTH LOTZ WRIGHT

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ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *JESUS IN ME*  
and  
RACHEL-RUTH LOTZ WRIGHT

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Real-Life  
Lessons for  
Igniting Faith  
in the Next  
Generation



AVAILABLE WHEREVER  
BOOKS ARE SOLD