

Weekly Devotions

A key way that we are going to be transformed as individuals and as a community is through consistent, meaningful engagement with God's Word. Daily Bible reading and meditating on Scripture is an ordinary means of grace through which God is delighted to work out His purposes in our lives.

Each day is divided nicely into the following sections:

Prepare: Just a simple moment of quiet and then a simple prayer as you set aside time to engage in God's Word.

Read: The day's reading. Some weeks it will be different bits of a passage, some weeks it will be the same passage repeated picking out different elements.

Write: A good way to familiarise ourselves with Scripture is to write it out as we are forced then to really concentrate.

Learn: Hiding God's word in our hearts is a great goal so each day you'll be invited to learn just one verse to mull over during the day.

Focus: This will be a question to help understand the passage. Try and be as thorough in answering as possible, chasing down all the possible angles.

Reflect: This will be an extension question aimed at helping you reflect and relate to what you have read.

Pray: There will be one thing to pray for at the end of each day, hopefully useful as a springboard to launch you in to praying through other things.

Hopefully all this will take no more than 15 minutes in total. There is not a better way we could spend this time.

Week 11: 16th March – 22nd March

Monday 16th March:**Prepare:** 'I praise you that you are my creator, sustainer, and redeemer.'**Read:** Ephesians 2:1-3**Write:** v. 1 _____

Learn: v. 1**Focus:** How does Paul describe the Ephesian Christians before they came to faith in Jesus?**Reflect:** What word at v. 2 summarises our position outside of Jesus?**Pray:** 'Thank you that you are a God that shows mercy to underserving people like me.'**Tuesday 17th March:****Prepare:** 'Thank you that you hold my life in your hand today.'**Read:** Psalm 119:145-152**Write:** v. 151 _____

Learn: v. 151**Focus:** What words indicate what might be going on in the background?**Reflect:** Where are we tempted to turn when difficulties come our way?**Pray:** 'Help me cling to the truth of your Word today Lord.'**Wednesday 18th March:****Prepare:** 'Thank you God that you are a loving God, full of mercy and grace.'**Read:** Ephesians 2:4-7**Write:** v. 4 _____

Learn: v. 4**Focus:** What two things has God done for his people through Jesus (v. 5, 6)?**Reflect:** What words does Paul use to describe the God who has made this possible?**Pray:** 'Help me respond in worship to the Grace that you have shown me.'**Thursday 19th March:****Prepare:** 'Thank you that your Word is true.'**Read:** Psalm 119:153-160**Write:** v. 160 _____

Learn: v. 160**Focus:** What phrase (v. 154, 156, &159) summarises the psalmist's prayer?**Reflect:** How do we see Jesus describing himself in John 14:6?**Pray:** 'Help me know you more closely today.'**Friday 20th March:****Prepare:** 'Father, thank you that you are the author of salvation.'**Read:** Ephesians 2:8-10**Write:** v. 8 _____

Learn: v. 10**Focus:** How are we saved? What is incompatible with grace?**Reflect:** In what ways am I tempted to act as if I can add something to what God has done?**Pray:** 'Lord, help grace fill my life today.'**Saturday 21st March:****Prepare:** 'You are worthy to be praised because you are a great God.'**Read:** Psalm 119:161-162**Write:** v. 162 _____

Learn: v. 162**Focus:** What words and images describe how the psalmist views God's Word?**Reflect:** What similar themes do we see in Matthew 13:44?**Pray:** 'Help me, by your spirit, to treasure the Gospel above all other things in my life.'**Sunday 22nd March:****Read** Ephesians 2:1-10 before the morning service.**Read** Psalm 119:145-168 after the evening service.