

# 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.

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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 12: 23<sup>rd</sup> March – 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March:**

**Prepare:** Thank you Lord that through Jesus you have made a way for me to know you.

**Read:** Ephesians 2:11-15

**Write:** v. 13 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Learn:** v. 13

**Focus:** What has God done in Christ to Jew and Gentile believers?

**Reflect:** 'Christianity only causes hatred and division' is a popular idea in our society. What could you say to that from this passage?

**Pray:** 'Help me understand more of Jesus and His work today.'

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March:**

**Prepare:** 'Thank you father that you hear my prayers.'

**Read:** Psalm 119:169-176

**Write:** v. 170 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Learn:** v. 170

**Focus:** What does the psalmist pray for at vs. 169 & 170?

**Reflect:** How do you know that God hears your prayers? (Heb. 7:25 & Rom. 8:34).

**Pray:** 'Help me know you more today.'

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March:**

**Prepare:** 'You are the God of all grace.'

**Read:** Ephesians 2:16-18

**Write:** v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Learn:** v. 18

**Focus:** In what two ways do we have peace through Jesus in these verses?

**Reflect:** What two words at vs. 16 & 18 summarise the purpose of Jesus work on the cross?

**Pray:** 'Thank you that you brought me near to you through Jesus.'

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March:**

**Prepare:** 'Thank you that you are the anchor in the storms of my life.'

**Read:** Psalm 119:169-170

**Write:** v. 171 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Learn:** v. 171

**Focus:** What words and images does the psalmist use to convey how he feels about God in vs. 171-175?

**Reflect:** What stops you feeling this at times during the day?

**Pray:** 'Give me a rejoicing heart and spirit today.'

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March:**

**Prepare:** I thank you that you are the God who saves.

**Read:** Ephesians 2:19-22

**Write:** v. 19 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Learn:** v. 19

**Focus:** What three pictures (in vs. 19 & 22) illustrate Christ's community and our part in it?

**Reflect:** Do you feel connected or disconnected to your fellow believers in church?

**Pray:** 'Thank you for the unity we have in Christ in our church family.'

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March:**

**Prepare:** 'Thank you that you hold the world in your hands.'

**Read:** Psalm 119:169-176

**Write:** v. 176 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Learn:** v. 176

**Focus:** What is the attitude the psalmist displays at v. 176?

**Reflect:** Confess your utter dependence on God today and ask that he will guide you.

**Pray:** 'Help m drink deep from your well of grace today.'

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March:**

**Read** Ephesians 2:11-22 before the morning service.

**Read** Psalm 119:169-176 after the evening service.