

Weekly Devotions 7th April – 12th April



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.

Thursday 7th April:

Prepare: *'Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right Spirit in me.'*

Read: Acts 1:1-11

Write: v. 8

Learn: v. 8

Focus: What key things in this passage are written to increase our faith in Jesus?

Reflect: The apostles are to wait to receive power from the Holy Spirit, how much of your everyday life is dependent on the Spirit's power and enabling?

Pray: 'Father God fill me with your Spirit this day that I might glorify your Son.'

Wednesday 8th April:

Prepare: *'Reveal more of the mystery of Christ to me through your Word.'*

Read: Ephesians 3:1-6

Write: v.3

Learn: v. 3

Focus: What does the word mystery mean in this context?

Reflect: How has the mystery of Christ been made known to you?

Pray: 'Father God, lead me deeper into this glorious mystery of your Son.'

Thursday 9th April:

Prepare: 'Father God, thank you for your work in the church.'

Read: Acts 1:12-26

Write: v. 24-25

Learn: v. 24-25

Focus: What were the qualifications needed to be chosen to replace Judas?

Reflect: The priorities in this passage are Word, Prayer and Fellowship, how do these align with your priorities?

Pray: 'Father God, help me love your church and enjoy your Word, prayer and the fellowship of your people.'

Friday 10th April:

Prepare: 'Thank you for your mercy shown in bringing gentiles in.'

Read: Ephesians 3:1-6

Write: v. 6

Learn: v. 6

Focus: Is making gentiles heirs with Israel a new plan or an old plan?

Reflect: What does this passage teach us about unity?

Pray: 'Father God, thank you for the unity that is uniquely available in your Son.'

Saturday 11th April:

Prepare: 'Father God, give me an awareness of your Spirit.'

Read: Acts 2:1-13

Write: v. 4

Learn: v. 4

Focus: How many different people groups are present at Pentecost?

Reflect: How does this story begin to reverse what happened in Gen 11?

Pray: 'Thank you for your global gospel that is growing and bearing fruit all over the world.'

Sunday 13th April:

Read Ephesians 3:1-6 before the morning service

Read Acts 1:1-2:13 after the evening service