

Weekly Devotions 13th April – 19th 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.

Monday 13th April:

Prepare: 'Give me a fresh appreciation of grace today.'

Read: Ephesians 3:7-13

Write: 3:8

Learn: v. 3:8

Focus: How does Paul preach to the Gentiles about the boundless riches of Christ?

Reflect: How reliant upon grace are you in your everyday life?

Pray: 'Father God, may your grace abound in my life today.'

Tuesday 14th April:

Prepare: 'Father, thank you for your grace towards Abram.'

Read: Genesis 17

Write: 17:5

Learn: 17:5

Focus: What promises does God make concerning Ishmael? How is that different from Isaac?

Reflect: Have you ever laughed when God told you to do something? What happened next?

Pray: 'Father God, increase my faith that I might trust you in all things.'

Wednesday 15th April:

Prepare: 'Father, give me a great love for you Word, your Church, and the lost.'

Read: Ephesians 3:7-13

Write: 3:10

Learn: 3:10

Focus: Who are the heavenly rulers & authorities mentioned in this verse?

Reflect: What is it about the church that makes God look infinitely wise?

Pray: 'Father, help me love your church and edify your church through the gifts you've given me.'

Thursday 16th April:

Prepare: 'Father God, draw me deeper into your faithfulness.'

Read: Genesis 24:1-27

Write: 24:27

Learn: 24:27

Focus: How do we see God's faithfulness in this chapter?

Reflect: How much time do you spend not only praying to God but thanking him?

Pray: 'Father God, help me give thanks in any and every situation.'

Friday 17th April:

Prepare: 'Father, help me live in the knowledge that through your Son I have unhindered access to you.'

Read: Ephesians 3:7-13

Write: 3:12

Learn: 3:12

Focus: Why do we have freedom and confidence to approach God?

Reflect: What does this freedom and confidence look like in everyday life?

Pray: 'Father, help me run to you not from you when I stumble and make mistakes.'

Saturday 18th April:

Prepare: 'Father God, help me appreciate more the eternal inheritance secured in Christ.'

Read: Genesis 25:19-34

Write: 25:23

Learn: 25:23

Focus: Is Esau rash or is Jacob opportunistic?

Reflect: How much of your life is spent pursuing temporal pleasure rather than living out eternal joy?

Pray: 'Father God, make me heavenly minded so I might be useful on earth in this momentary life.'

Sunday 19th April:

Read Ephesians 3:7-13 before the morning service

Read Psalm 105 after the evening service