

Weekly Devotions 20th April – 26th 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 20th April:

Prepare: 'Father God, thank you that you are a community in and of yourself, Father, Son and Spirit.'

Read: Ephesians 3:14-21

Write: 3:16-17a

Learn: 3:16-17a

Focus: How many times is each member of the trinity mentioned in this passage?

Reflect: How relevant to your everyday life is the truth that God is trinity?

Pray: 'Father, draw me deeper into the profound reality of the godhead.'

Tuesday 21st April:

Prepare: 'Father, thank you for your hidden hand of providence.'

Read: Genesis 37:1-11

Write: 37:11

Learn: 37:11

Focus: Why does Jacob favour Joseph?

Reflect: Do you think the brothers had a right to be jealous of Joseph.

Pray: 'Father, guard my heart.'

Wednesday 22nd April:

Prepare: 'Father, help me focus on the depth, breadth, and height of your love in Christ.'

Read: Ephesians 3:14-21

Write: 3:17b-18

Learn: 3:17b-18

Focus: What is it about the church that aids us in grasping the extent of God's love in Christ?

Reflect: How could you benefit the church in helping us grasp the immensity of God's love in Christ?

Pray: 'Father God, melt my heart, blow my mind, and transform my life through a fresh appreciation of your love.'

Thursday 23th April:

Prepare: 'Father God, thank you that you are sovereign.'

Read: 37:12-36

Write: 37:22

Learn: 37:22

Focus: List some of the ways that God is working out his purposes through Joseph's life.

Reflect: What ways have you seen God work providentially in the last 6 months?

Pray: 'Father, help me trust you more in the small things of life.'

Friday 24th April:

Prepare: 'Father, give me a greater vision of all that you're able to do.'

Read: Ephesians 3:14-21

Write: 3:20

Learn: 3:20

Focus: How does God accomplish more than we could ever dream?

Reflect: When was the last time that God surprised you by doing more than you could ask or imagine?

Pray: 'Father God, help me see you at work in surprisingly powerful ways.'

Saturday 25th April:

Prepare: 'Help me understand the significance of this chapter.'

Read: Genesis 38:1-30

Write: 38:26

Learn: 38:26

Focus: Why do you think Genesis now focuses on the beginning of Judah's tribe?

Reflect: How encouraging is it that Judah's tribe begins with an issue of covenant faithfulness? Why might this be significant?

Pray: 'Father, thank you that you are faithful to all your promises, kind in all your deeds, and righteous in all your ways.'

Sunday 26th April:

Read Ephesians 3:14-21 before the morning service

Read Genesis 37-38 before the evening service