

# Weekly Devotions 18<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> May



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.*

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## Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May

**Prepare:** 'Help me sit under your authoritative Word.'

**Read:** Ephesians 4:1-6

**Write:** 4:2

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**Learn:** 4:2

**Focus:** In verses 4-6 how many things are described as one?

**Reflect:** Are you making every effort to be in unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

**Pray:** 'Help me celebrate and unite with your church about all the things that we have in common.'

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## Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May

**Prepare:** 'Help me see I am my brother's keeper.'

**Read:** Genesis 43:1-18

**Write:** 43:14

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**Learn:** 43:14

**Focus:** Why do they need to make a second journey to Egypt?

**Reflect:** Can you think of a time where you needed God to grant you mercy in the eyes of someone else? What happened?

**Pray:** 'Father, help me trust you in the hard times.'

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

**Prepare:** 'Help me love your church.'

**Read:** Ephesians 4:7-13

**Write:** 4:10

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**Learn:** 4:10

**Focus:** What did Christ give the church (11)? Why were they given? (12)

**Reflect:** Do you realise that church leaders are given for your equipping that the body of Christ might be built up?

**Pray:** 'Father, help me learn from and love our church leaders.'

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**Prepare:** 'Help me not live by bread alone but be nourished by your every Word.'

**Read:** Genesis 43:19-34

**Write:** 43:26

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**Learn:** 43:28

**Focus:** How does this chapter link perfectly with Genesis 37?

**Reflect:** How do these events give you confidence to trust God's Word?

**Pray:** 'Father, help me understand and trust your will in my life.'

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Prepare:** 'Grant me discernment.'

**Read:** Ephesians 4:14-16

**Write:** Ephesians 4:15

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**Learn:** Ephesians 4:15

**Focus:** What is the flow of this passage as 14 moves into 15 into 16?

**Reflect:** How do you go about speaking the truth in love to your brothers and sisters in Christ?

**Pray:** 'Help me grow with your body in the church into the maturity that you desire.'

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Prepare:** 'Let your Word reverberate in my life today.'

**Read:** Genesis 44

**Write:** 44:33

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**Learn:** 44:33

**Focus:** How has Judah's life been transformed during the course of this story?

**Reflect:** How is the doctrine of substitution illustrated in this chapter?

**Pray:** 'Thank you that Jesus took the punishment that I deserved.'

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Read Morning: Ephesians 4:1-16

Read Evening: Genesis 43-44