

Weekly Devotions 1st June – 7th June



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 1st June

Prepare: 'Give me an appreciation of Jesus' sacrifice for me.'

Read: Ephesians 5:1-2

Write: 5:1-2

Learn: 5:1-2

Focus: Who does it say that Christ gave his life up for?

Reflect: How readily does this corporate dimension of salvation appear in your thinking about Christ's sacrifice?

Pray: 'Father, thank you that you didn't just save me individually, but you saved me and bought me into a family corporately.'

Tuesday 2nd June

Prepare: 'Help me trust you when I can see and when I can't.'

Read: Genesis 45

Write: 45:5

Learn: 45:5

Focus: Why isn't Joseph angry with his brothers?

Reflect: How readily do you see God's hand of providence even in unfortunate situations?

Pray: 'Father, give me eyes to see you amidst the struggles and difficulties of my life.'

Wednesday 3rd June

Prepare: 'Help me live a life worthy of the gospel in accordance with this word.'

Read: Ephesians 5:3-7

Write: 5:5

Learn: 5:5

Focus: What reasons does Paul give for not indulging in unfitting behaviour in these verses?

Reflect: The use of the term partners in verse 7, is that talking about those within or out with the church? How do you know? What does this mean for your everyday life?

Pray: 'Father, continue your work of sanctification in my life that I might be full of thanksgiving and have a part in the Kingdom of Christ.'

Thursday 4th June

Prepare: 'Speak Lord, your servant is listening.'

Read: Genesis 46:1-27

Write: 46:3b-4

Learn: 46:3b-4

Focus: How do God's words to Jacob confirm the Covenant made with him & his ancestors? Which parts are missing?

Reflect: There are hints in the names that Jacob's family, proto Israel, includes gentiles, can you spot them?

Pray: 'Father, thank you that by your grace you welcome everyone who put their faith in your Son, thank you that grace is a great invitation and universally available.'

Friday 5th June

Prepare: 'Send your Holy Spirit to illuminate this passage for me.'

Read: Ephesians 5:8-14

Write: 5:8

Learn: 5:8

Focus: Tease out the themes of darkness and light in this passage.

Reflect: How can you live as a child of light today?

Pray: 'Father shine the light of your Son on me today that I might shine for you in dark places.'

Saturday 6th June

Prepare: 'May your Word accomplish your work in my life.'

Read: Genesis 46:28-34

Write: 46:30

Learn: 46:30

Focus: Taking into account that Hebrews were unwelcome at Egyptian tables (43:32) how else are Jacob's family potentially detestable to Egyptians?

Reflect: How would you have felt if you were Jacob in this passage?

Pray: 'Thank you that your plans are perfect and your providence is according to your matchless wisdom.'

Sunday 7th June

Read Morning: Ephesians 5:1-14

Read Evening: Genesis 45-46