

Weekly Devotions – 20th–26th July



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 July

Prepare: "Father God send the Holy Spirit to be my teacher in order I see Jesus afresh."

Read: Mark 6:1-13

Write: 6:4

Learn: 6:4

Focus: Who is marveled/astonished in this passage? Why are they unbelieving?

Reflect: Why do you think there was so much unbelief? How assured is your faith in Jesus?

Pray: "Lord Jesus help me trust you implicitly so you will be glorified in and through my life today."

Tuesday 21st July

Prepare: "Open my hears that I might hear your truth, open my eyes that I might see your Son."

Read: 1 John 1:1-2:3

Write: 1 John 1:5

Learn: 1 John 1:5

Focus: How many times does John use sensory words in this passage (hear, touch, see)?

Reflect: Is the apostolic testimony about Jesus reliable? Can we know Jesus by other means?

Pray: "Father God thank you not just for the life of your Son but also for the written record of that life."

Wednesday 22nd July

Prepare: "Help me understand the promise, 'Blessed is the man who hears these words and does them.'"

Read: Mark 6:14-29

Write: Mark 6:26

Learn: Mark 6:26

Focus: Describe the attitudes to John the Baptist in this passage? Why did Herod kill John?

Reflect: How much of a hindrance is peer pressure to your walk with Jesus?

Pray: "Father God help me be sold out for your Son Jesus and a desire to live for him alone."

Thursday 23rd July

Prepare: "You are light, shine on me today, illuminate this word and shine it into the recesses of my life."

Read: 1 John 1:1-2:3

Write: 1 John 1:5

Learn: 1 John 1:5

Focus: Think of all the things that John is meaning in 1 John 1:5... for example revelation, goodness etc.

Reflect: What are the implications of this for your life?

Pray: "Father God help me know you in all your fullness, thank you that you have revealed yourself fully."

Friday 24th July

Prepare: "Help me see these truths afresh and draw me deeper into the glorious mystery of the gospel."

Read: Mark 6:30-52

Write: 6:34

Learn: 6:34

Focus: What allusions to Psalm 23 are there in 30-44?

Reflect: What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us and the disciples in 45-52?

Pray: "Father God thank you that in Jesus there is satisfaction and certainty in the storms of life."

Saturday 25th July

Prepare: "Help me see the depth of my sin so I might cling to Christ and know his cleansing."

Read: 1 John 1:1-2:3

Write: 1 John 1:9

Learn: 1 John 1:9

Focus: What is John saying about sin in this passage, its presence, persistence and solution?

Reflect: From this passage is it possible to attain sinless perfection in this life?

Pray: "Father God thank you that in Christ I am cleansed, forgiven and have one to speak in my defence."

Sunday 26th July

Read Morning & Evening: Mark 6:1-52 & 1 John 1:1-2:3