

# Weekly Devotions – 27<sup>th</sup> July–2<sup>nd</sup> Aug



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:

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**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 27<sup>th</sup> July

**Prepare:** "Father thank you that your gospel is for the whole world, help me see that afresh today."

**Read:** Mark 6:53-56

**Write:** Mark 6:56

**Learn:** Mark 6:56

**Focus:** Why do you think that landing at Gennesaret is a significant development in Jesus' ministry?

**Reflect:** How does this passage encourage you to be involved in world mission?

**Pray:** "Father God thank you that all over the world is growing and bearing fruit. Help me play my part."

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## Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

**Prepare:** "Thank you that you not only reconcile me to yourself but reconcile me with others."

**Read:** 1 John 2:4-14

**Write:** 1 John 2:6

**Learn:** 1 John 2:6

**Focus:** Is the command to love a new commandment or an old command?

**Reflect:** What is John communicating to us about this command?

Pray: "Help me love your church and in so doing show myself to dwell in the light of your gospel."

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### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July**

Prepare: "Father God thank you that though men look at the outside, you probe the heart."

Read: Mark 7:1-13

Write: Mark 6b&7 (the quote from Isaiah 29:13)

Learn: Mark 6b&7

Focus: What is Jesus saying about their interpretation of the law in these 13 verses?

Reflect: How prone are we to take God's good commandments and make them into human traditions?

Pray: "Father God help me focus on the inward reality rather than the external trappings."

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### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July**

Prepare: "Thank you that Jesus will build his church from every, tribe, tongue and nation."

Read: 1 John 2:4-14

Write: 1 John 2:8

Learn: 1 John 2:8

Focus: Can you love Christ truly but not his people?

Reflect: If love for brothers and sisters in Christ is a mark of authentic Christianity how are you doing?

Pray: "Father prevent me from thinking I can love you but not your people. Give me a heart for your people."

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### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Prepare: "Lord search me, know me, try me and see, every worthless affection hidden in me."

Read: Mark 6:14-23

Write: 6:16

Learn: 6:16

Focus: Where is sin conceived according to Jesus in this passage?

Reflect: When fighting sin how much effort do you expend on the symptoms rather than the root?

Pray: "Father God thank you that you are in the business of heart transformation, purify my heart I pray."

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### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

Prepare: "Thank you Father that what you say about me is all that matters eternally."

Read: 1 John 2:4-14

Write: 1 John 2:10

Learn: 1 John 2:10

Focus: How are verses 12-14 reassuring to John's readers? What is he saying to each group of believers?

Reflect: How confident are you that you are forgiven, that you know God and have overcome the evil one?

Pray: "Father God give me real confidence in you today. May I know you, know myself forgive and the evil one overcome."

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### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

Read Morning & Evening: Mark - 6:53-7:23 & 1 John 4:4-14