

Weekly Devotions – 3rd - 10th 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:

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 3rd August

Prepare: "Father God thank you that you are in the business of making outsiders into insiders."

Read: Mark 7:24-30

Write: Mark 7:28

Learn: Mark 7:28

Focus: What attitudes does the Syrophenician woman exhibit in her interaction with Jesus?

Reflect: Does a similar attitude describe your approach to the Lord Jesus?

Pray: "Father God humble me by your grace, restore me by your grace, welcome me in your grace."

Tuesday 4th August

Prepare: "Turn my eyes upon Jesus, may I look full in his wonderful face."

Read: 1 John 2:15-17

Write: 1 John 2:15

Learn: 1 John 2:15

Focus: What does John write about the relationship between love for the world and love for the Father?

Reflect: Are you trying to have a foot in both camps, trying to exhibit love for two masters?

Pray: "Lord may the things of the earth grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

Wednesday 5th August

Prepare: "Lord may my ears be opened to your voice, my eyes be opened to see your face and my tongue loosed for your glory."

Read: Mark 7:31-37

Write: Mark 7:37

Learn: Mark 7:37

Focus: Why do you think Jesus charges them not to tell anyone about it? Has this happened before in the gospel?

Reflect: How much do you trust Jesus to do all things well in every area of your life?

Pray: "Father God without your grace I would be as blind, deaf to your gospel and mute in my worship of you."

Thursday 6th August

Prepare: "Father God may my heart be devoted to you and not captivated by temporal desires."

Read: 1 John 2:15-17

Write: 1 John 2:16

Learn: 1 John 2:16

Focus: Where does love for the world come from? How does love for the world manifest itself?

Reflect: In what areas of your life are you most tempted to wander into worldly desires?

Pray: Father God give me a myopic focus on your Son.

Friday 7th August

Prepare: "Father God thank you that you are compassionate, merciful and satisfying."

Read: Mark 8:1-10

Write: Mark 8:2

Learn: Mark 8:2

Focus: In what ways is this miracle similar to 6:30-44? In what ways is it different?

Reflect: What is your theology of leftovers?

Pray: "Father God help me be generous to such an extent that it proves my trust in your provision."

Saturday 8th August

Prepare: "Father God thank you that you are worth it all, thank you I can give it all because Jesus gave it all for me."

Read: 1 John 2:15-17

Write: 1 John 2:17

Learn: 1 John 2:17

Focus: Why is pursuing the desires of the world utterly and ultimately futile?

Reflect: What areas of your life need to be addressed if this is true?

Pray: "Father God re-orientate my life around your will that I might abide forever."

Sunday 9th August

Read Morning & Evening: 1 John 2:14-17 & Mark 7:24-8:10