

# Weekly Devotions 17th-23rd August 2015



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

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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.

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## **Monday 17th August**

Prepare: 'Teach me true obedience to your Word today.'

Read: Mark 8:31-9:1

Write: 8:34

Learn: 8:36

Focus: What are the 3 commands Jesus gives to his followers at 8:34? Take time to think on these.

Reflect: What will it look like for you to set your mind on the things of God and not of man today?

Pray: 'Lord Jesus, help me be willing to count the cost of following you today.'

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## **Tuesday 18th August**

Prepare: 'Lord Jesus, I praise you that are the living and reigning Saviour.'

Read: 1 John 2:28-3:3

Write: 3:1

Learn: 3:3

Focus: What two great truths does John draw his readers attention to at 3:1 & 3:2?

Reflect: How often do you contemplate Jesus's return? What difference should this make in your life?

Pray: 'Lord God, help me to live today in light of eternity.'

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### **Wednesday 19th August**

Prepare: 'Lord God, the whole earth is filled with your glory.'

Read: Mark 9:2-9:13

Write: 9:3

Learn: 9:4

Focus: What does God confirm and command at 9:7? What are they to listen to (9:34-36) and why?

Reflect: Read 2 Peter 1:16-18. How does Peter say this incident should inspire Christian living (3:11)?

Pray: 'Lord Jesus, help me to have my eyes fixed on you today.'

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### **Thursday 20th August**

Prepare: 'Thank you that your affection for me never ceases.'

Read: 1 John 3:4-3:10

Write: 3:5

Learn: 3:8

Focus: What particular aspect of Jesus' work and life (3:5) does John point to?

Reflect: In light of the grace of Jesus Christ, are you making every effort to live a holy life today?

Pray: 'Lord Jesus, thank you that you are the perfect Saviour.'

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### **Friday 21st August**

Prepare: 'The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. - Psalm 29:4'

Read: Mark 9:14-9:29

Write: 9:27

Learn: 9:24

Focus: How does Mark describe (a)the boys predicament?;(b)the fathers faith?;and (c)Jesus's actions?

Reflect: Why might Mark want us to know this truth in light of Jesus's call at 8:35?

Pray: 'Lord Jesus, help strengthen my weak faith today.'

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### **Saturday 22nd August**

Prepare: 'Father God, thank you that you are near to me.'

Read: 1 John 3:11-12

Write: 3:11

Learn: 3:11

Focus: How often throughout this letter does John come back to the command to 'love one another'?

Reflect: What will it look like for you today to be one who loves your neighbour?

Pray: 'Lord Jesus, help me today to demonstrate your outrageous love for me in the way I love others.'

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**Sunday 30th August** - Morning read - 1 John 2:28-3:12.

- Evening read - Mark 8:31- 9:29.