

Weekly Devotions 24th-30th 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

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 24th August

Prepare: 'Thank you for a new week where your grace is sufficient for me.'

Read: Mark 9:30-50

Write: 9:35

Learn: 9:31

Focus: What is Jesus going to do (9:31)? How does Jesus command his disciples to live (9:35)?

Reflect: What opportunities do you have to be sacrificially servant hearted today?

Pray: 'Lord God, help me put you and others ahead of myself today.'

Tuesday 25th August

Prepare: 'I praise you that are a great God.'

Read: 1 John 3:13-3:14

Write: 3:13

Learn: 3:14

Focus: What does John mean here by the 'World' (John 15:18)?

Reflect: How are you tempted to live your life in cosy cooperation with the 'World'?

Pray: 'Lord God, help me trust in you completely today.'

Wednesday 26th August

Prepare: 'Lord Jesus, thank you that you are good to me.'

Read: Mark 10:1-34

Write: 10:21

Learn: 10:25

Focus: What commands has this young man obeyed? Disobeyed? Therefore, what is impossible for him?

Reflect: Where does Jesus tell him his treasure is to be (10:21)? Where is your treasure today?

Pray: 'Lord, help me not to toil for that which perishes. Help me have my eyes fixed on eternal things.'

Thursday 27th August

Prepare: 'Lord God, thank you that you are a God faithful in keeping his promises.'

Read: 1 John 3:15-18

Write: 3:16

Learn: 3:18

Focus: What is to be the motivation for our love towards others?

Reflect: Practically, what opportunities are yours today to love in 'actions and truth'?

Pray: 'Father God, day by day continue to teach me what it means to love like you have loved me.'

Friday 28th August

Prepare: 'Thank you that your faithfulness continues from generation to generation.'

Read: Mark 10:35-52

Write: 10:43

Learn: 10:45

Focus: By using the word 'ransom' (10:45) what is Jesus saying is the reason for what he is about to do?

Reflect: How often do you stop to thank God for sending his Son to make possible what is impossible?

Pray: 'Lord Jesus, help me, by your Holy Spirit, to see more of you today.'

Saturday 29th August

Prepare: 'Father God, thank you that I can come confidently before you this morning in Jesus name.'

Read: 1 John 3:19-24

Write: 3:20

Learn: 3:21

Focus: How many times does John use the word 'command' in these verses?

Reflect: How might you feel condemned today? What truth do you need to bring to these accusations?

Pray: 'Lord Jesus, thank you that you see the depths of my heart and you love me the same.'

Sunday 30th August - Morning read - 1 John 3:13-24.
- Evening read - Mark 9:30-10:52.