

Four Steps for Devotional Reading

Clarify

When we read God's Word, God is speaking. The job of devotional Bible reading is to clarify what God is speaking about. All scripture is designed for one of the following four purposes, to show: what is right, what is not right, how to get right, how to stay right. As you seek clarification aim to be as specific as possible.

Personalize

Once you've identified what God is saying in His word, it is important and appropriate to personalize the lessons, teaching, principles, example, or topic addressed in the text. Aim to be as precise as possible connecting the teaching to something actually going on in your life right now.

Pray

Once you've figured out what God is communicating in His word and how it has application for you, prayer is your opportunity to complete the conversation by talking to Him about that which he has spoken in His word. If God talks to you about forgiveness, then you should talk with him about forgiveness: Your forgiveness toward others, God's forgiveness toward you, conflicts that may remain unsettled, grudges you are holding, etc...

Meditate

Your goal most days should be to have a simple biblical thought to take with you to think about throughout the day. And you should be looking for opportunities to put that thought into practice. If a given Bible text doesn't give you something to meditate on, choose a meditation from a day earlier in the week.

Wk 29

Name _____ Date _____



Day 1: Matthew 16:24

- Memorize. Study verse in context
- How does the context impact the meaning of the verse?

- How does it apply to you?

Day 2: 1 Kings 8:1-21

- Summarize. Pick out 1-2 significant things.

- What is the significance of verse 11? (Hint: look at verses 12-13 and then Isaiah 6 as well)

- How do verses 14-21 describe God's faithfulness? How does God's faithfulness apply to what is going on in the world right now? (Hint: think about words like covenant and promise talked about in verses 14-21)

Day 3: 1 Peter 1:17-21

- What is your response to this passage? (Because this is an incredible passage that gives us some amazing truths.)

- How does verse 17 apply to you? (Hint: think about what is going on right now and how our time here is temporary.)

Day 4: Hosea 6:7-11

- If you think of verse 7 in terms like we have betrayed God with our sin; that basically makes us like Judas. How should that make you feel in relation to your sin?

- Go back to the first sin in Genesis 3 and compare the account of Adam and Eve to the first part of verse 7. Does that make you think about the passage any differently?

Day 5: John 19

- Look at verse 11: what a statement by Jesus (especially in the context of what is going on). What is your response to that verse?

- Why is verse 21-22 significant? What type of prophecy did that fulfill? (Hint: look back at Zechariah 9:9 and Micah 5:1-2)
