

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 60

Name _____ Date _____



Day 1: 1 Corinthians 3:13

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

- How does it apply to you?

Day 2: 2 Kings 12

- Summarize. Pick out 1-2 significant things.

- How does verse 3 apply to you? (Hint: is God pleased when we hold on to particular parts of our sin?)

- Now that you've thought about verse 3, think about verses 2-3 together. Does God want full obedience or does He mind if our obedience is only partial?

Day 3: 2 Peter 3:1-2

- Notice the importance of "remember" in these verses. How does that apply to you? (Hint: remember is the most numerous command in all of Scripture, so why would that be important for you?)

- What is it we're commanded to remember? (Hint: look at verse 2 closely)

Day 4: Zephaniah 3:9-13

- What is God concerned with? (Hint: look at verse 9)

- What kind of character does God desire out of His people? (Hint: look at verse 12)

Day 5: Matthew 9:14-17

- Are you currently doing any type of fasting, food or otherwise? Fasting isn't the point of these verses but it's mentioned here so it's important to think about.

- The point of these verses is to show that the Pharisees were putting unjust, man-made laws on the people. Jesus is saying that as He has come, the New Covenant has been established so the ceremonial and symbolic aspects of the Old Law don't apply anymore. We don't have to live in fear of the Law anymore because Jesus has fulfilled it and kept it perfectly for us, so now we can joyfully obey the Words of God.
