

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 44

Name _____ Date _____



Day 1: 1 Corinthians 9:24

- 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 18

- Summarize. Pick out 1-2 significant things.

- What are differences in this chapter that you notice as to how the false god is approached vs. how the one, true God is approached? (Look at v 26-37)

- What are the differences in the power of the false god vs. Yahweh? (Hint: look at v. 29 and then look at v. 38-39)

Day 3: 1 Peter 4:1-6

- What is your motivation for putting the flesh, or the old man, to death? (Hint: look at v. 1-2)

- In v. 4, why do you think people, or the world, would be surprised if you don't follow them in their example? (Hint: do you think they might be shocked if you didn't want to do something that brought a type of pleasure?) So what is the consequence of those actions outside of Christ? Look at v.5

Day 4: Hosea 11:1-7

- Because humans are so bent towards going away from God, what is the thing that can bring someone back? (Hint: in v. 4, do you see God's mercy on display? How does that connect to the question that was asked?)

- Look at v.7. It seems to indicate that although there would come a point when people cry out to God, He won't hear them. Think more on that point by going to look at Luke 16:24. Use this point as motivation to share the gospel with people.

Day 5: Matthew 6:1-8

- What is one big take away from these verses? (Hint: should you mainly be seen by people or seen by God?)

- What is a main character trait, one that we can all struggle with, that is shown in these verses to be avoided? (Hint: starts with a P or an A)
