

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 4 (5/2)

Name _____ Date _____



Day 1: Psalm 33:13-15

- Probe: Memorize Verse
- Ponder: How can you apply this verse to your life?

- Personalize: Look closer at the context: how can you, more specifically, apply this verse to your life given the context?

Day 2: Ezra 4

- Probe: How did the people answer their opposition? (Hint: look at verse 3)

- Personalize: How can you apply this to your life? (Hint: could you take the principle from how they respond? They spoke with truth and yet it was gentle.)

Day 3: 2 Timothy 1:6-7

- Probe: How can you ask God to rekindle, or renew, His gift that is in you today?

- Personalize: How can you apply verse 7 to your life right now?

Day 4: Habakkuk 1:6-11

- Probe: What truth of God's character do you see in verse 12? How does it apply and add to your view of Him?

- Personalize: What truth of God's character do you see in verse 13? How does this aspect of His holiness add to your view of Him?

Day 5: John 13:31-35

- Probe: What significance do these verses have for you?

- Personalize: Evaluate yourself in light of verses 34-35? How are you doing in loving others?
