

Discipleship Pathway 1

Session 8: Daily Devotions/Bible Reading

“Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.”
-Charles Spurgeon

One of the most important _____ a believer must develop to maintain a lasting and fruitful walk with God is a strong _____.

What is a devotional life? (Open this up for discussion with your group.)

A devotional life is the habit of setting aside time, regularly, to be with the Lord so that we may hear from Him through time spent in God’s Word.

Take a moment to discuss what each of your current devotional lives look like. What materials do you use? How much time do you spend? What compromises your time spent with God (such as bible reading, worship, prayer)? Do you use your Bible? An App?

Study (Discovery), _____ (Contemplation), Application and _____ are at the heart of a vibrant devotional life.

I. Study (Discovery)

“Merely reading the Bible is no use at all without we study it thoroughly, and hunt it through, as it were, for some great truth.” - Dwight L. Moody

When it comes to studying scripture the main objective is not to grow merely in knowledge, but rather to grow in our _____ with its Author. The Word of God is designed to reveal God to us and to reveal who we are in Christ. Jesus speaking to the religious leaders of His day made this bold statement:

“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!” -**John 5:39**

Scripture points us to _____. That is why it is so important that we develop a daily routine of looking for Him there. Scripture reveals His _____, His _____, His _____, and His _____. To know God is to know His Word. In addition, Scripture reveals how God sees you and I.

Read: Ephesians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:37, Psalm 139:14

Part of growing in our faith is growing in our relationship with God. It is learning how we _____ with Christ and how we fit into God’s family. God reveals that to us in His Word.

II. Meditation (Contemplation)

Although reading the Word of God _____ our life, it is meditating on God's Word that _____ our thinking. Before Joshua entered the Promised Land, God gave him a very special promise:

Read: Joshua 1:8

What do you think when you hear the word mediation?

Meditation is to give careful thought to the _____, implications and _____ of God's Word on your life. King David was probably the most vocal about how he would take the promises and precepts that he had learned and then meditate on them as part of his daily devotional life.

Read: Psalm 119:15, Psalm 119:97, Psalm 119:99, and Psalm 119:148

Meditating on God's Word keeps our hearts and minds stayed on Christ and moves us from appreciation to _____.

III. Application (Doers of the Word)

Read: Proverbs 4:10-13

God's Word is intended to direct us in the way of _____. It is to guide our daily walk and help us to navigate the fallen world that we live in. It is our instruction in _____. However, we must apply the things that we learn.

Read: James 1:22, Romans 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16, Psalm 119:105

IV. Prayer (That our eyes would be open.)

"Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions."-**Psalm 119:18**

Prayer is a powerful component of our devotional life. By it we can _____ God into our time in His Word and ask Him to open our eyes to the wonderful truths found there.

Read: Luke 24:44-45

Jesus opened their eyes to _____ the Scriptures and he will do so for you too.

Application: If you are looking for a great way to study through scripture you can use a method known as S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer). Choose a passage of Scripture. Write it down, then make notes about things you observe in the passage. Consider the ways you can put that passage into practice and then pray for God to help you live it out. (If you have time, do it together using John 3:16)

This week's reading plan: Read: Exodus Ch. 21-30, Proverbs 8