

Foundations of Faith

Lesson Two: Devotional Life

God wants to spend time with you! One of God's deepest desires is for you to know Him and have fellowship with Him. We can pray at any time of the day and at any place. God is everywhere and wants to be involved in every part of your life. Developing a relationship with a person requires consistent contact with that person. In the same way, if you want to have a close relationship with God, you need to set aside daily time just for God. This "set apart" time for seeking God is our devotion life.

Read Psalm 27:4, 7-8. Describe the attitude this person has toward seeking God.

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. What does God promise us in these verses?

Read Mark 1:35. What can we learn from Jesus?

God hears us when we pray! Prayer is "talking" with God. We can communicate with God in the same way we can with any other person. Prayer should be natural conversation with God. When you pray you should be honest and sincere. We don't have to pray perfectly. Be encouraged - Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, and He will teach you too. There isn't a magic formula to prayer in regards to how you do it or saying just the right words, but there are some general patterns of prayer seen in the Bible that we can learn from.

***Read the following verses and write in your own words the type of prayer described**

Psalm 135:3 _____

1 John 1:9 _____

1 Timothy 2:1 _____

Philippians 4:6-7 _____

Effective prayer includes...

Verses

Having faith
Confessing our sins
Asking according to His will
Asking in Jesus' name
Praying with perseverance

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt..." (James 1:6)
"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins..." (1 John 1:9)
"...if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." (1 John 5:14)
"And I will do whatever you ask in my name..." (John 14:13)
"That...they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1)

God wants to speak to us through His Word – the Bible.

God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit in a variety of ways. Yet every potential truth about God and the world is subject to the authority of the Bible. The Bible was written over a 1500 year span by over forty authors in three languages. It records over 1000 references to fulfilled prophecies and an eyewitness account of a supernatural miracle of God in most of its 66 books. The Bible is regarded as the most reliable text of any piece of literature ever. It has been translated into other languages more than any other book. And for 2000 years countless lives have been transformed by its message. The Bible is God's Word to us. He said perfectly what He wanted to say through imperfect people. He speaks to us through His Word today.

*Match the verse and the correct truth about the Bible.

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| _____ 1. Psalm 119:89-91 | a. The point of the Scriptures is to lead us to a relationship with Jesus. |
| _____ 2. Psalm 119:160; (Hebrews 4:12-13) | b. God's Word is eternal and, therefore, relevant to us today. |
| _____ 3. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 (see Psalm 19:1-7) | c. God's word is true - our moral standard of right and wrong. |
| _____ 4. John 5:39-40 (see Luke 24:27, 44-45) | d. All Scripture is from God, powerful and useful to transform lives. |

What do you believe about the Bible?

Below are **three simple questions** to ask yourself when you are reading the Bible. Remember **SOS – Say, Obey, Share**. **Read this story from Luke 10:38-42 and answer the following questions.**

What does this passage **SAY**? _____

What do I need to **OBEY**? _____

Who do I need to **SHARE** this with? _____

How to get started with your devotional life

1. **Prepare for God** – Find a time where you can consistently meet with God. Choose a place where you can meet with God without being disturbed. Collect items you may need for your time with God: a Bible, journal, pen, music and a calendar.
2. **Worship God** – Sing songs of praise to God. Thank God for something good in your life. (Psalm 100; Romans 12:1-2)
3. **Bible reading** – Choose a book in the Bible to study using the three simple questions above. If you have never read the Bible before, begin with a gospel. Consider how what you read applies to your life and obey everything Jesus says to do.
4. **Prayer** - Share your concerns for yourself and others with God through prayer.
5. **Wait on God** – Listen for His encouragement, correction and direction. Write down what you sense God saying to you in a journal. (Psalm 143:8)

Make it a part of your daily routine. It is your decision to meet with God. Spending time with God will not make God love you more, but if you seek God everyday, you will grow in your love for Him and obedience to Him. (Matthew 6:33)

*Will you commit to a daily devotional life with God?

Signature

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Decide when and where you will set aside time alone to spend time with God every day and begin!
- Get a journal and make a list of things you want to pray about.
- Spend time with God together with the one taking you through this lesson
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share this lesson with someone who is ready to be trained.