

How To Do a Devotional

SCRIPTURE - Read the passage from the Bible.

You'll be amazed at what God will reveal to you when you slow down to write or meditate on what you are reading. In this devotional, we have selected passages for you. However, as you continue beyond the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, our desire is that you use this tool for journaling. As you read the Bible, scriptures will jump out at you. Write them down and go deeper using this tool.

OBSERVATION - Examine the text and write down what you notice.

- What jumps out to you in the passage?
- Who is it written by?
- Who is it written to?
- What's one thing you didn't notice before?
- What seems interesting or unusual?
- What comes before and after the text?
- Is there repetition, comparison, or contrast?
- What is the main lesson or theme?

APPLICATION - How does this apply to my everyday life?

- What is God saying to me today?
- How can I apply what I just read to my life?
- Are there any changes I need to make?

PRAYER - Write a personal prayer based on your observation and application.

- If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it.
- Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.
- Take time to thank Him for His goodness in your life.

Example Devotional

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

OBSERVATION:

I find this verse interesting because it starts by highlighting God’s mercy. I notice that I should live a life that is “holy and pleasing to God” because of his *mercy*. In other words, it should be His mercy that motivates me to live a life that pleases Him, not guilt or shame. I sometimes find it difficult to live a life that always pleases God. But according to this verse, I need to view myself through the lens of God’s mercy. This will propel me to true worship. And, by the way, this goes beyond singing or playing an instrument. It’s my whole body as a living sacrifice.

APPLICATION:

I want to view every area of my life through the lens of God’s mercy. That includes my family, relationships, academic career, and goals. I start to look at what God’s mercy has done in my life and I’m filled with gratitude. He had mercy on me by forgiving me of my sins, restoring my life, and giving me a second chance.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your mercy. I confess that I’ve forgotten just how blessed I am to receive your mercy every day. Your forgiveness has marked my life in such a way that I desire to live for you. I want to live a life of holiness out of gratitude. Help me to remain close and sensitive to your mercies every day. In the name of Jesus, amen.