

The Essential Practice of Daily Devotion!

HOW?

11th Sunday after Pentecost / 10th Sunday after Trinity – 2012
Sunday, August 12 → 8:00 & 10:45 ♦ Monday, August 13 → 7:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, over the past six sermons in this series, we have ♦grown in our confidence that the Bible is God’s very Word to us and ♦learned that the way of true prosperity and success comes through our daily meditation of God’s Word. Therefore, today, we learn HOW!

1. **When is a Good Time of the Day?**

- a. Morning: *Guidance for your whole day!*
- b. Evening: *On your mind as you go to sleep!*

2. **How to Get Started?**

- a. **Find your Bible.** *If you need a Bible, please ask; we will gladly provide one!*
- b. **Find a quiet place.**
- c. **Choose a place in the Bible to begin:** *Some ideas:*
 - Genesis – The first eleven chapters are *super-significant (creation, marriage, fall, Savior, clothes, flood, languages)!*
 - The Gospel of John – It has 21 chapters; *read one chapter per day for the next three weeks!*
 - Ephesians – The first three chapters tell of God’s super-powerful work to save us; the second three tell us how to function in our daily lives as God’s forgiven children.

- d. **Start reading and/or listening** (*short and daily is better than longer and infrequent*):
- Some simply *read*.
 - Others *listen* to the Bible being read; use a smart phone, I-Pod, computer, CD, etc.
 - Still others *read and listen* by following the Bible as they listen to it being read.
- e. **Do the following** as you read and/or listen:
- i. **Hear it!** → Pay attention because God is speaking to you!
 - ii. **Read it!** → Read carefully because God wants to bless you!
 - iii. **Mark it!** → Underline key words or phrases to help you remember them!
 - iv. **Learn it!** → Begin to apply God's Word to your daily life!
 - v. **Inwardly Digest it!** → Allow God's Word to direct your thoughts, words, and deeds!

3. **What is a Beneficial Method?**

- a. **Use a steno notebook** (it's about the size of a Bible).
- b. **Basic steno notebook layout:**
 - i. 26 lines per page
 - ii. 8 lines per devotion
 - iii. 3 devotions per page
 - iv. Skip a line in between each devotion
 - v. Line 1: day – date – number – verses read
 - vi. Lines 2-4: significant verse or phrase
 - vii. Lines 5-8: prayer related to the verse/phrase

Day 1

c. Write this information across the first line:

Sunday	8/5/12	1	John 1:1-18
[Day of week]	[Date]	[Days]	[Read]

- i. **What are Days?** The consecutive days in a row you have completed your daily devotion without missing; if you miss, go back to 1.
Writing the number of consecutive days will encourage you to do a Daily Devotion every day!

- ii. **Reading example:** John 1:1-18 NIV:

“The Word” is the Son of God: ¹

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. (See v. 14)

The Father created all things through the Son: ³

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John the Baptizer pointed people to Jesus: ⁶

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

By grace through faith we are born of God: ¹⁰ He was in the

world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Son of God put on flesh to save us: ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus is God from eternity and our Savior: ¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" ¹⁶ From the fullness

of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through

Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

d. **Write these items on the other lines:**

- i. Lines 2-4: Verse – Write the most significant *verse* or *phrase* you read today.
- ii. Lines 5-8: Prayer – Write a prayer that is related to your verse or phrase.

e. **Now: *READ* the verse and *PRAY* the prayer.**

Day 2 and Following

- f. ***Read* the verse and *pray* the prayer from the *previous* day.**
- g. **Follow the Day 1 steps again.**

Once Each Week

- h. **Go back seven days; then *read each verse* and *pray each prayer* up to the present day.** As you read and pray, notice how God has been at work to answer your prayers!

CHALLENGE

→ **Continue without missing for 21 days!**

SUPER CHALLENGE

→ ***Continue for the rest of your life!***

Conclusion: We are so blessed to have God's Word – *showing us ♦our sin, ♦His gift of salvation through Jesus, and ♦how to live as Christians!* So let us dig into God's Word and benefit from its treasures every day! And all God's people said: ***Amen!***

For Much More: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Live God's Word; then share it with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!

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