

Deeper Devotions

A Guide to Devotional Intimacy with God!





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Getting Started

You might have used a devotional book before. The stories are nice, and the Bible verses are good to read. But maybe you're at a point where you want more from your time with God. You want something deeper, something you can really think about and hear from God. The focus of this guide is to help you have deeper devotional times in the Word of God. It will help you grow in your devotional time and build a closer relationship with God.

What you will need:

- Your Bible
- A Journal – this may be a paper book or a digital form of writing.

Step 1: Choose a passage to read.

Choose a passage to read. You may want to walk through a book of the Bible over several devotions. The passage may be multiple verses or a single verse.

Step 2: Observe the Text

Read through the text once.

Reread the text slower the second time. Let the words sink into your mind.

Read the text a third time with the following questions in mind.

Examine what the text says and understand what it means. This is not about how you feel about the text or what you think it says. It is about what the text was meant to say. These questions help us understand what is meant in the text. This process is called exegesis, which means to read out of the passage. It seeks to understand what is meant in the passage. The opposite of exegesis is called eisegesis, which means to read into the text. This happens when a person puts their meaning into the text rather than seeking its meaning. Eisegesis should never be used in Bible study.

What do you notice about the text?

What is the context?

What are the keywords and what do those words mean?

What does the text mean?

Step 3: Discover God in the text

The point of devotions is to draw closer to God. Now that we have read and understand the text we want to discover where God is in the text. The text may not necessarily mention God. But we still want to see where God is at work.

Ask the following questions of the text:

Where is God in the text?

How do you see Him at work in the text?

What do we learn about God in the text?

Step 4: Discover yourself in the text

A part of growing closer to God is to discover how we fit into the text. We understand that we are not literally in the text. But there may be something in the text that speaks to who we are and our current life situation.

Ask the following questions of the text:

Where am I in the text?

Does this text reveal any sin in my life that I need to confess to God?

Based on this text what must I change to be closer to God?

Based on this text how am I most like God?

What encouragement can I draw from this text?

Step 5: Discover what God is saying to you through the text

In addition to understanding where we and God are in the text, we want to discover what He is saying to us through the text.

Ask these questions of the text:

What message is God giving you through the text?

What is God revealing about Himself to you?

What is God revealing about yourself to you?

What steps do you need to take based on what God has revealed to you.

Spending time with God through deeper devotions is worth it! This guide gives you a simple way to read the Bible, think about what it says, and find out how God is speaking to you. By following these steps, you can grow closer to God and learn more about who He is and what He wants for your life.

Devotions aren't just about learning new things; they're about getting to know God better. The more you read the Bible and think about what it means, the more you'll see how much God loves you and how He is working in your life.

As you keep spending time with God, remember that He is always with you. Each time you open your Bible, God has something special to show you. Keep listening and growing, and may your time with God help you feel closer to Him every day.

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